

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle, Winchester on 14 June 2012.

PRESENT

Councillors: P Edgar (Chairman), B Collin, B D Dash, M Kemp-Gee, R J Kimber (Vice-Chairman, F Cowper, J Porter, R Perry

Co-opted: D Walker, D White

Observer: Mr D Heck (Independent Remuneration Panel)

The Chairman welcomed the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Roy Perry and David Heck from the Independent Remuneration Panel to the meeting. On behalf of the Panel he thanked David Walker for his contribution to the Education Advisory Panel and wished him a long and successful retirement, as this was his last meeting.

85. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R McIntosh and K Evans, D Mewes, and Tony Blackshaw.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should, normally at the time of the debate, declare their interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 8, 9, 10, and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Code.

With relation to items on the agenda, Councillor Edgar declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a life member of the National Association of Headteachers.

87. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to one amendment.

79. The last sentence of paragraph 2 should read ' He expected that the School could receive some of the government's Troubled Families Initiative money.'

88. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman informed Members of the current situation regarding Academies within Hampshire; since the meeting in March 2012 one school, Wyvern Technology College, had become an academy and there had been no more applications. There were now 23 secondary academies, with 7 still in

the process, 4 primary, with 4 in the process and 1 special school. He stressed that it was important that the County should maintain a strong partnership with all schools in Hampshire and would need to continue to 'sell' a quality product.

He brought Members' attention to newspaper articles which had reported the County Council's lead with the 'troubled families' initiative. He said that the Executive Member for Communities, Keith Mans, was keen to work closely with schools and children's centres as it is within these settings that the early signs of problems were picked up.

The Chairman also mentioned newspaper articles about the new Ofsted regime which has branded 14% of secondary schools as inadequate; he said that Hampshire was 3% better.

Finally, the Chairman drew Members' attention to concerns about the effect on small, often rural, schools of the government's new national formula for revenue funding.

89. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made.

90. **STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

To receive the report of the Director of Children's Services (Education) on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services as outlined in the Statutory Guidance produced by the Secretary of State for Education. (Item 6 in the Minute Book)

Members' attention was specifically drawn to Section 28 of the Statutory Guidance in appendix 1. The Deputy Director commented that the word 'should' rather than 'must' was used in relation to the education aspects of the guidance. The Panel agreed that the section accurately described the role of the local authority in education that Hampshire County Council had adopted.

It was commented that there seemed to be an omission of teachers and unions in the first paragraph of section 28 among the agencies working with the local authorities.

The Deputy Director explained the purpose of the schools forum and it was suggested that it could be organised for members of the Panel to attend a meeting of the forum as observers.

Some members asked for information about whether Hampshire County Council was achieving its requirements under Section 27, Fair access to services, in relation to paragraphs 5 and 6 which were concerned with educational and recreational leisure-time activities and young people's participation in public decision-making.

RESOLVED:

- That the panel noted the report and welcomed the content of Section 28 of the statutory guidance.

91. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN EASTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services identifying the schools in Eastern Hampshire that were causing concern (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members were informed that one of the first clients of the Lennox Centre in Gosport, which deals with students with behavioural difficulties, and after whom the Centre is named, had received a sustained attainment award from Portchester School; it was agreed that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services would write a letter of congratulations.

RESOLVED:

- That the Panel noted the report.

92. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following item the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

93. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN EASTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN

The Panel considered the exempt appendix of the Director of Children's Services on schools in Eastern Hampshire causing concern (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]