

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at Ashburton Hall, Winchester on Wednesday, 26 September 2012.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice Chairman:
p Councillor John West

Councillors:

a Charlotte Bailey	p Keith Evans
p Graham Burgess	p Jonathan Glen
p Rita Burgess	p David Keast
p Roz Chadd	p Roger Kimber
p Brian Collin	p Anna McNair Scott
a Brian Dash	p Pam Mutton
p Sam Darragh	p Jackie Porter
p David Drew	p Jenny Radley
a Adrian Evans	a Bruce Tennent

Co-opted Members:

p Mohammed Ansar – Parent Governor (primary)
p Rosemary Olivier – RC schools representative
a Tony Blackshaw – CoE schools representative
p Phil Watson – Parent Governor (secondary)

At the invitation of the Chairman:

p Councillor Roy Perry, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services;
p Councillor Peter Edgar, Assistant Executive Member for Education and
p Councillor Marilyn Tucker, Assistant Executive Member for Safeguarding.

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Brian Dash, Adrian Evans and Bruce Tennent.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the recent changes to the County Council's code of conduct, following the County Council meeting on 19 July 2012.

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

The following Members declared a non-pecuniary interest:

Cllr Brian Collin	Wife employed by NHS.
Cllr Jackie Porter	Chairman of Trustee Charity, which was in receipt of money from Youth Services budget.

114. MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 July 2012 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman raised one matter arising from Minute 110 in relation to Children's Centre's. The Chairman confirmed that the note from Cllr Dash was circulated to Members after the Committee meeting. The Director tabled a response and acknowledged that there had been some issues during the period of transition, but these had been resolved. In particular, issues relating to staff turnover had been resolved as posts had been filled. The Chairman invited Members to forward other concerns to the Director of Children's Services with a copy to himself.

115. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor McNair Scott and Councillor Glen to their first meeting of the Select Committee.

Members heard that a recruitment process was currently underway for the appointment to the Committee of a Parent Governor representing Hampshire Special Schools.

The Chairman highlighted a forthcoming Member Briefing Session on School Funding Reform, and encouraged all Members to attend.

The Chairman praised the positive outcome of the recent Olympic and Paralympics Games, and the impact they have had in inspiring people to participate in sport.

116. TEACHING SCHOOLS IN HAMPSHIRE

The Committee received a presentation from the Head Teachers of Harrison Primary School and Baycroft School.

Members heard details of the pioneering work of Teaching Schools, part of a government drive to encourage schools to increasingly take responsibility for developing and managing improvements in education via school to school support. It was emphasised that Teaching Schools work closely with the Local Authority to enhance existing support, and confirmed that seven schools were taking part in this initiative in Hampshire.

Members discussed a range of issues relating to teaching schools, including the importance of continual professional development (CPD), the role of advanced parenting skills courses and the benefits that Teaching Assistants bring to a school.

The ability to measure the success of the Teaching Schools was questioned and it was explained that an externally moderated assessment had confirmed benefits for all partners. In particular that results had improved in both the schools being supported and the Teaching Schools as a result of the two way exchange of ideas and expertise.

The geographical spread of Teaching Schools was raised and it was explained that Teaching School partnerships had been established on the basis of strong local alliances rather than geography, although it was hoped that an extension of the programme would lead to greater coverage in the future.

The Select Committee thanked both Head Teachers for their informative and enthusiastic presentation and discussion.

117. GCSE RESULTS

The Committee received a verbal update on issues surrounding the 2012 GCSE results from the Director of Children's Services.

The nature of the unusually low results in GCSE English was outlined to Members and it was explained how these went against normally reliable trends and expectations. It was confirmed that this had potentially disadvantaged at least 400 children in Hampshire and the actions of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in response the issue were detailed.

The timescale for resolution of the issue was raised and it was acknowledged that there was little that could be done to immediately help disadvantaged children as re-grading of the papers was an unlikely outcome. The option of re-sitting the exam was discussed and it was confirmed that colleges had measures in place to help their students to do

so. It was unclear who would pay for the cost of re-sitting exams and would likely depend on what the child was doing following their GCSEs.

It was asked whether the problem extended beyond the English GCSE and the Director explained that as the final statistical breakdown of results was not yet available, it was difficult to know. Members were reassured of the support mechanisms in place to support students and of the Department's commitment to achieve the best outcome for Hampshire children.

It was resolved:

That the Select Committee support the actions of the Children's Services department and of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to seek a swift and satisfactory resolution for Hampshire children who have been disadvantaged by GCSE grading.

That Officers keep the Select Committee informed of developments relating to this ongoing situation.

118. BUDGET MONITORING – 2012/13 QUARTER 1

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Children's Services, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding the budget monitoring position at the end of the first quarter.

Members heard that this report reflects a more focussed budget monitoring approach and would feed into the Cabinet report. Questions were asked about a number of the figures included in the report and these were explained by the Director of Corporate Resources, who also reported that projected savings were on track. It was noted that the area of looked after children provided the greatest budgetary pressures and that the department was succeeding in managing this and other pressures in a difficult environment. .

It was resolved:

That the Select Committee note the budget monitoring report.

119. SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

Members received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Children's Services regarding changes to the school funding formula. It was explained that this was similar to a series of presentations given to representatives of the school community as part of the consultation process on the changes being proposed.

Members heard details about the changes to school funding, including the

various factors to be included in the formula and the way in which the proposals for how each of these should be set had been determined. Particular explanation was given to the cost of pupil premium which was rising from £619 to £900 per pupil from 2013. It was also noted that Hampshire has a formula for pupil mobility in place, and travelling families and military families would be included in this remit. It was confirmed that pupils classified as having “high needs” would receive top-up-funding, which would be based on pupil and school characteristics.

Members noted that following many years of fine-tuning, the introduction of an entirely new formula was a significant step and that considerable efforts had been made to ensure that the new method would be as fair as possible. It was confirmed that there was no reduction in the total amount of money available to schools, although some individual changes may be noticed as a result of the new distribution.

It was resolved:

That the Select Committee note the changes to the school funding formula being proposed and the extensive consultation process undertaken by the department in their development of those proposals.

120. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive, setting out the work programme, item 10 in the Minute Book.

It was agreed that the Committee would hold an additional meeting on Monday 3 December 2012 to address some of the existing topics on the work programme. Proposed items for the agenda included:

Key Stage 2 results,
The Work of EMTAS” (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service),
Youth Provision,
Principles of Budget Setting

The timing of other items on the work programme was discussed and Members requested the inclusion of additional items, including Schools Places Plan and Pupil Premium for future meetings. It was also agreed that consideration be given to the inclusion of an update on the work of SACRE at future meetings. .

Chairman, 3 December 2012