

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 1 October 2012.

Chairman:
p Councillor Marilyn Tucker

Councillors:

a Adrian Evans	p David Keast
p Mrs Charlotte Bailey	p Mrs Roz Chadd
p Ray Bolton	p Mrs Pamela Mutton
p Brian Dash	p Mrs Jackie Porter

Councillor Roy Perry, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and John Coughlan, Director of Children's Services also attended for part of this meeting.

75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Adrian Evans.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest 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 is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Code.

No declarations were made at this meeting.

77. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2012 were considered by the Panel, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on her recent visit to Farnborough Grange Infant School. She met with pupils who had participated in Equine Assisted Learning. This method of learning was proving to be beneficial for children and young people who experience difficulty in traditional learning situations. They participate in therapeutic learning activities with horses and ponies which can dramatically improve their self-awareness, confidence, communication skills, literacy and numeracy and many behavioural problems.

79. OFSTED THEMATIC INSPECTION OF THE IMPACT OF VIRTUAL SCHOOLS – HAMPSHIRE

The Panel received a report from the Director of Children's Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) regarding the Ofsted's thematic inspection of the impact of virtual schools in Hampshire.

Members were advised that Hampshire was one of nine visits by OFSTED to local authorities across the country, which took place during 15-16 May 2012. A report detailing information captured on these visits was likely to be published in the Autumn and it would include examples of the County Council's good practice.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

80. RESIDENTIAL STRATEGY

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) outlining the County Council's strategy for achieving excellence in the provision of residential childcare placements for Hampshire's most vulnerable looked after children..

It was reported that the key underpinning to the residential strategy was the implementation of the "Pillars of Parenting" (POP) programme (an appendix on this was circulated at the meeting). This transformational project would create a Hampshire "vision" of residential care with high expectations and an ethos of confident parenting through the provision of training and support for staff, delivered by the POP model. To support this model, a review had been undertaken on the County Council's current residential estate.

It was noted that a multi-agency working group had been set up to support the direction of the project and oversee the management and review of it.

Members raised a number of queries around the style of the proposed accommodation, which were answered at the meeting both verbally and by a number of presentation boards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the Residential Strategy going forward be supported.

81. SUPPORTING TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME IN HAMPSHIRE

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) on the Supporting Troubled Families Programme in Hampshire.

It was reported that the programme, which involved key partners such as, local authorities, Children's Services, Police, Youth Offending Team, local voluntary sector and Health, would seek to engage with 1,590 families across Hampshire over the next three financial years and deliver a number of new interventions through local partnership arrangements. Target programme outcomes would include increased school attendance, reduced worklessness and less crime.

Members noted that the programme had the ambition to deliver:

- Improved outcomes and lasting positive changes to the lives of families in Hampshire;
- Greater inter-agency coordination and joined up working with whole families;
- Demonstrating the benefits (financial and non-financial) of early help, intervention and prevention;
- A transformational ambition for a new funded and sustainable delivery model for working with troubled families.