

## **Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2012 to March 2013**

**Select Committee:** Children and Young People

**Report of Chairman:** Councillor Ray Bolton

### **Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:**

The Committee received an update on the issues surrounding the 2012 GCSE results, which had led to unusually low GCSE English results. Members welcomed the Department's and the Executive Member's response to the situation, and it was agreed that they would be kept informed of further developments as they arose.

### **Scrutiny of Executive Decisions:**

A number of decisions by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services were considered by the Select Committee prior to the decision being taken. Of particular significance were the annual revenue and capital programmes. A number of other matters that had been subject to decision by the Executive Lead Member were also reported to the Committee and given consideration, these included: school places, youth services, the school funding formula and the children and young people's plan.

**Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:** None in this period.

### **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

Members pre-scrutinised the revenue and capital budget for 2013/14 onwards at their January 2013 meeting. Members agreed with the recommendations set out to the Executive Member for Children's Services in relation to both the revenue and capital budget.

The Committee regularly received quarterly Budget Monitoring reports and were reassured that the department was successfully managing budgets in a pressurised and difficult environment.

The SACRE Annual Report 2011/12 was considered by the Committee, and it was noted that the Hampshire SACRE was taking on a wider leadership role in organising joint meetings with SACRE committees from other Local Authorities.

In addition to giving particular consideration to issues surrounding GCSE results, the Committee received the annual educational attainment report, noting the particularly high attainment at Key Stage Two.

### **Policy Review:**

The Committee received an update on changes to the present school funding formula which were agreed by the Executive Lead Member following an extensive consultation process. Members heard that while there would not be a reduction to the total amount of money available to schools, individual schools may experience changes as a result of the new distribution.

Members considered and commented on a report regarding Youth Support Services in Hampshire. Members requested a further update 12 months later.

The Committee received and commented on the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-15, noting that it was an umbrella document by nature and focussing in particular on the targets in the Plan.

**Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:**

In September, Members received a presentation on the pioneering work of Teaching Schools which was part of a government drive to encourage schools to increasingly take responsibility for developing and managing improvements in education through school to school support.

The positive impact of the work of EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service) was presented to the Select Committee, who welcomed the initiative that was being taken in this area and urged the Service to continue to develop, in particular in the area of cross-boundary support.

**Upcoming topics:**

In light of the County Council elections and potential subsequent changes to the membership of the Committee, it is anticipated that the work programme will be given careful consideration at the first meeting of the new Council. It is expected that the Committee will continue its strong interest in policy and performance relating to the protection of children and education and that it will continue to provide advice and support to the Executive Lead Member in relation to executive decisions.