

At a meeting of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday 25 July 2013.

Chairman:
p Councillor David Keast

p Briggs, Ann	p Mrs Jackie Porter
p Burgess, Rita	p Mrs Roz Chadd
a England, Jacqui	p Wade, Malcolm
a Glen, Jonathan	a Wood, Christopher

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jacqui England for personal reasons and Councillor Jonathan Glen as he was chairing a meeting of the Policy and Resources Select that morning.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 5 February 2013 were considered by the Panel, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members of the Panel.

5. MEMBERS FEEDBACK ON VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES

Given the amount of new Councillors serving on this Panel since the elections, no feedback was given by Members on this occasion.

6. OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services (a copy of which is included in the Minute Book as Item 6) on the work of the Children and Families section within the Children's Services Department.

Councillor Jackie Porter declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as the subject matter included the work of the Wessex Youth Offending Team, of which she is Chairman.

The Director gave a brief summary around services it provides including Early Help, Child Protection, Children in Care, Youth Offending, Special Educational Needs and Children with Disability. He reported one of the key issues was that GCSE attainment was much lower for children in care and advised that a report detailing these results would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

Members were advised that there was a shortage of Members serving on the County Council's fostering and adoption panels and that should they be interested to contact him for further details on this.

At the end of discussion, the Director invited Members to submit potential items to the Chairman or the Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services for future consideration by the Panel.

RESOLVED:

1. That the work of the Children and Families section of Children's Services be noted.
2. That a report on GSCE attainment results for children in care be brought back to a future meeting of the Panel.
3. That topics for future items for the Panel to discuss be submitted to the Chairman or the Director of Policy and Governance – Corporate Services and included in the Forward Plan of Business.
4. That a letter be sent to all members of the Panel regarding future visits to children's homes and further details regarding the current vacancies existing on the County Council Fostering and Adoption Panels.