

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 3 October 2013.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice-Chairman:  
Councillor John West

**Councillors:**

p John Bennison	p Warwick Lovegrove
p Ann Briggs	p Martin Lyon
p Rita Burgess	p Andy Moore
p Christopher Carter	p Jackie Porter
p Roz Chadd	a Patricia Stallard
p Criss Connor	a Bruce Tennent
p Marge Harvey	p Malcolm Wade
p Roger Huxstep	p Patricia West
p Jonathan Glen	p Christopher Wood

**Substitute Members:**

p Councillor Keith Evans (Substitute Member for Councillor John West)

**Co-opted Members:**

p Tony Blackshaw: Church of England Schools Representative  
p Rosemary Olivier: Roman Catholic Schools Representative  
p Claire Dodd: Primary School Parent Governor Representative  
p Andrew March: Secondary School Parent Governor Representative  
p Louise Vardy: Special School Parent Governor Representative

**At the invitation of the Chairman:**

p Councillor Peter Edgar – Executive Member for Education

12. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors John West, Patricia Stallard and Bruce Tennent and Councillor Tennent's Substitute Member, Councillor Rupert Kryle.

13. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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.

In respect of the Budget Monitoring Report (Item 6), below, Councillor Wade declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chairman of the Handy Trust, which received funding from the Council. Councillor Wade spoke and voted thereon.

In respect of the Budget Monitoring Report (Item 6) and the Early Year Places (Item 9), below, Councillor Porter declared non-pecuniary interests as a Trustee of organisations which received grants from the Council. Councillor Porter spoke and voted thereon.

14. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee, held on 12 June 2013, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman explained that this was the last meeting attended by Tony Blackshaw (Church of England Schools Representative). The Committee and Councillor Edgar, as Executive Lead Member for Education, thanked Mr Blackshaw for his invaluable work for the Council, and wished him well for his retirement.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the new School Governor representatives, following their successful election to the Committee; Claire Dodd, Andrew March and Louise Vardy.

Items to be actioned on the Committee's work programme:

The Chairman also asked the Director of Children's Services to update the Committee on the fire at Winton Community Academy, Andover. In summary, Members noted:

- That the site and buildings were leased from the Council on a 125 year term and that the Academy was fully responsible for its maintenance, repair and insurance.
- That the Academy had entered into the Property Services Academy Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Council. This meant that Property Services maintained the plant and equipment and would make the premises safe following a disaster, such as a fire; but this did not include any remedial reinstatement works.
- The fire had broken out in the roof space of the sports hall on 19 September 2013 and the Fire and Rescue Service had successfully contained the fire to the sports hall only. Works had been taking place in the roof around the time of the fire and its cause was still subject to investigation. Any lessons learnt from the cause would be shared with the Council's project managers and contractors.
- No one had been injured by the fire.
- Due to the school's location on high ground, the water pressure in the hydrants had failed. Consequently, the incident was attended by 22 Fire Service vehicles.
- Once the fire had been extinguished, Property Services Officers had secured the site and therefore fulfilled their obligations under the terms of the SLA.
- Officers had also confirmed that the damage had not released asbestos dust and that the sports hall was structurally safe.
- The Council's on-going involvement was to ensure, as the landlord, that remedial works were to the appropriate standard.

In the discussion that followed, Members expressed their thanks to all involved in resolving the emergency and commented on the need for sprinklers and the control of construction/maintenance works to the Council's buildings.

Finally, the Chairman asked the Director of Children's Services to update the Committee on the 2013 school exam results. In summary, Members noted:

- That the results could be subject to change, as they had not yet been moderated. A more detailed update would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting, along with national comparisons.
- Early Years Foundation Stage Assessments appeared to show that Hampshire's children were now 7% ahead of the national average and that the gap between children in receipt of free school meals and those that were not, had reduced.

To include  
on Work  
Programme

- That the Key Stage 4 (GCSE) results had appeared to demonstrate an overall slight increase on the national average (with greater increases on the English Baccalaureate suite of exams). However, within this general improvement, there were marked instances of some schools doing better, and others worse, than expected.
- That the Key Stage 5 (A-Level) results had also improved, with 97% of students receiving at least two A-Levels at grades A-E or equivalent.

In the discussion that followed, Members requested that the detailed report to their next meeting include information on trends, together with the results of science subjects; the latter of which would be sent to the Committee as soon as practicably possible.

Officers to circulate

Members also discussed the effect of the changes to the 2012 GCSE English exam. They noted both the representation made by the then Executive Member to the Secretary of State for Education, and an unsuccessful judicial review brought by several parties. In response to Members' concerns, the Director agreed that, if possible, the report to the next meeting should include an analysis of why the changes had particularly affected schools in the south-east region and a review of its affect on individual students.

To include on Work Programme

16. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

17. **BUDGET MONITORING – 2013/14 QUARTER 1**

The Committee received a report (Item 6 in the Minutes Book) from the Director of Corporate Resources (Corporate Services) which outlined the budget monitoring position at the end of Quarter 1, 30 June 2013.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that:

- The schools budget was ring-fenced and that any underspends would be carried forward to the following year's schools budget.
- That the secure unit at Swanwick was undergoing a process of review with regard to the contract with the Youth Justice Board.
- That the Director would respond to a detailed question regarding the budget line "Asylum Seekers (non-schools budget)" and the effect this had on the Council.

Officers to respond

RESOLVED:

That the forecast position for the revenue budget, as at the end of Quarter 1 (30 June 2013), be noted.

18. **SUPPORTING (TROUBLED) FAMILIES IN HAMPSHIRE - YEAR ONE REPORT**

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Troubled Families which outlined the background, progress and future of the Supporting (Troubled) Families initiative in Hampshire.

In response to Members' questions, the Committee noted:

- That 22% of the families supported had current or historic mental health issues and that the initiative had increasingly good links with health service providers and the Police.
- It was clarified that, within the presentation, "substance misuse" included alcohol misuse. It was also suggested that future versions of the presentation should highlight the link of unemployment with Troubled Families.
- That officers would forward to the Committee the summary of Portsmouth University's review of the initiative.
- The success of the scheme was judged against sustained improvement on the three criteria used to define a Troubled Family.
- That the Policy and Resources Select Committee would be considering Supporting Troubled Families in greater depth at its next meeting, due to be held 31 October 2013, and its Chairman, Councillor Glen, extended an invitation for Members to attend that meeting and hear the presentation and debate.
- That local assessments were made as to which families would benefit most from the scheme and this included balancing helping a greater number of families that had less serious problems against a smaller number of more troubled families. Members noted that the majority of cases lasted between 6 months and a year.

Officers to circulate

At the conclusion of debate, Members welcomed the success of the scheme during its first year and noted officers' request to promote the scheme to local schools and to highlight to officers any families they consider could be helped by the initiative.

RESOLVED:

That the success of the first year of the Supporting (Troubled) Families scheme be noted.

19. **PATHFINDER INITIATIVE FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the Pathfinder Initiative for children with Special Education Needs (SEN), as part of the South East 7's work on the Children and Family Bill.

Members heard:

- That, following concerns raised by an earlier scrutiny review, the Council was funding speech and language services for children with SEN.
- That the Council would review its appropriate policies once the Children and Families Bill comes into force and its details known. At this point, any financial impact to the Council should be clearer.
- That the Council's Pledge scheme had highlighted older children's concerns that authorities were focusing too much on their parents', rather than their own, wishes.
- The Committee welcomed the Bill's proposal to provide support to children up to 25 years old, rather than the current 18. Officers were working with Adult Services to ensure that care continued beyond 25.
- A Member raised concerns about the treatment of young people with SEN in further and higher education and it was explained that the Bill proposed to give the Council a greater influence in improving their experiences.
- In response to a concern raised, Members noted that officers continued to work with Special Schools and commissioners to provide appropriate assistance.

At the conclusion of debate, Members welcomed the proposals within the Bill and requested that officers provide a further update on SEN next year, once the Bill is enacted. Furthermore, Members requested an update on the relationship between the commissioners and mental health practitioners, at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted and Members be updated on the relationship between commissioners and mental health practitioners and that a further update be provided to a future meeting of the Committee, once the Bill is enacted.

20. **EARLY YEARS PLACES**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

Officers to circulate

To include on the Work Programme

The Committee noted:

- That the market had responded positively to the additional number of children entitled to Early Years Education and that every parent's request for provision had been met.
- That a review of the initial cohort of 2 year old children to benefit from the early years places had found that they had achieved above the expected level of progress in some areas of development

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

21. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its forthcoming work programme (Item 10 in the minute book).

Following debate, the Committee agreed with the following changes suggested by the Chairman regarding the work programme:

22 January 2014 meeting would consider:

- Budget proposals.
- Children's Centre (including quality assessments).
- The education of children who receive free school meals.
- Update on exam results and national comparisons.
- The effect of the 2012 English GCSE exam.

Chairman  
to decide

Members noted that given the time likely to be spent on the budget, it might not be possible to consider all of the above at the January meeting, and therefore some items might be deferred to the following meeting. In light of this, the Chairman agreed to consider the possibility of adding an additional meeting.

20 March 2014 meeting would consider:

- Apprenticeships and Internships (a member suggested inviting service providers to the Council to explain their experiences of apprenticeships and internships)
- Safeguarding (Members noted that this had been the subject of a recent Members Briefing Session, which was likely to be re-run in the new year).

That the autumn 2014 meeting would consider an update on Special Education Needs.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above, the Work Programme be agreed.

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Chairman, 22 January 2013