

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL  
held at The Castle, Winchester on 18 December 2013

**PRESENT**

Councillors: P Edgar (Chairman), R Burgess (Vice-Chairman), F Cowper, J England,  
P Fawkes, J Porter, W Lovegrove and C Choudhary

Co-opted: D White, P Clarke, D Mewes

At the Chairman's invitation: Richard Wharton – Diocesan Director of Education's  
substitute

**21. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Blackshaw

**22. DECLARATIONS 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.

With relation to items on the agenda, Councillor Edgar declared a non-pecuniary interest as a life member of the National Association of Head teachers.

**23. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**24. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman informed Members that he had lead a delegation with three officers to David Laws, Minister of State for Schools, to make a presentation about a federation that had been created with West Sussex, Reading and Surrey Councils to deliver school buildings. He felt that the presentation had been well-received by the Minister, that the meeting had been productive and this type of federation could be a model to be used in other areas. The Chairman agreed to pass on the Panel's congratulations to Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development in Children's Services for his tremendous work

on school buildings and on his appointment as the National Chairman of the Education Buildings Development Officer Group (EBDOG).

He mentioned the very successful Schools Challenge which had asked the young people to suggest policies for how society could meet the challenges caused by the growing number of elderly people in our communities. Of the five finalists, he highlighted the superb and moving presentation by the pupils of Baycroft Special School.

The Chairman informed the Panel that he had represented Hampshire County Council at The Academies' Show in Birmingham. He stressed how important it was to ensure that quality local authorities, such as Hampshire, were not misrepresented and spoke on Hampshire's policies with regard to its mixed family of schools to redress the balance. He explained that Hampshire's maintained schools have similar freedoms to academies and that the local authority had an excellent relationship with its academies. He showed Members two posters that had been drawn at the Show, one of which linked Hampshire with scepticism about academies, and a second, which he had commissioned to rebut this view, which he felt was an inaccurate depiction of his comments

## 25. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made.

## 26. **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Tracey Sanders, Head of Services for Young Children, reported to Members on the information obtained from the analysis of the data from the first year of the new profile measurement in the Early Years Foundation Stage. (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Councillor Jackie Porter registered a personal non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Kingsworthy Preschool.

Tracey Sanders was pleased to report a very positive picture, with Hampshire pupils producing better than the national average results across all aspects of the new profile. She urged some caution when comparing these results with previous ones, as the figures relate to the revised measures under the new framework being used to determine attainment. She indicated that the assessment system had been made simpler with only 3 levels of attainment and that snapshot observations would be made in May each year. It was commented that although the 117 targets had been reduced to 17, each of these targets is made up of a number of individual statements. Assessments were based on the expected level of children aged 5 and it was highlighted that 42% of children in Hampshire were not yet 5 when these were made. 59% of children in Hampshire, compared with 52 % nationally, achieved a 'good level of development' and the gap in attainment between all children and the bottom 20% was 28.9% in Hampshire compared with 36.6% nationally. She was pleased to note that in the most deprived areas of the county 45% of children had achieved a good level of attainment. She praised the work of teachers and helpers in Children's Centres, Nurseries, Pre-schools and

Schools for these very successful results and indicated that early years' providers were working together to share good practice and that there was a very sound assessment process.

An electronic achievement logging system for the Early Years stage, known as 'Tapestry', was mentioned to Members; a child's achievements are recorded in an electronic 'book' and are easily accessible to parents, which encourages greater participation in their child's development.

The Panel was pleased to hear that nurseries and pre-schools were beginning to be more confident in taking on two year olds. It was pointed out that the provision of places for two year olds was having a positive impact with deprived families, but there were pockets of the County where it was hard to engage families and to provide enough places. Members were informed that there was, generally, a 98% take-up of Early Years' provision in Hampshire. Members expressed concern about the potential removal of funding from the EYFS and Post 16 and that there would be a problem finding funding to look at attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage and at the end of Key Stage 1. It was noted, however, that only 16% of Early Year's providers had returned questionnaires regarding funding to the Schools Forum.

During discussions it was indicated that the time it takes to get speech and language therapy varies throughout the County and that it was too early to see the effect of the spending cuts made eighteen months ago in Children's Centres. The Panel noted with interest that Basingstoke schools had the highest 'good level of development' scores, and felt it would be interesting to discover whether this good early start would transfer through their schooling and lead to improved GCSE results.

Tracey Sanders agreed to meet with Councillor Cowper to explain her report in more detail, in particular as it impacted on his division, and to investigate a concern he raised about the level of support provided for the Children's Centre in his division.

The Panel thanked Tracey Sanders for her report.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Education Advisory Panel noted the progress made to date and the plans for support in 2013-2014.

**27. CO-OPERATIVE TRUSTS**

The Panel received a verbal report and presentation from Brian Pope, Area Director (Eastern Hampshire) on Co-operative Trusts (item 7 in the Minute Book).

Employing a number of slides used by the Co-operative College when making presentations to schools considering forming a cooperative trust, the Area Director explained to the Panel what these were, how the trust model works, and how they differ from academies. He informed Members that Cove School had become a co-operative trust in September 2013 and that Horndean Technology College, Warblington School, Henry Cort Community College, and

Brune Park Community School with 3 of its feeder schools, were considering this option. He highlighted that unlike academies the local authority still had the same rights within trust schools as with maintained schools, including intervention, and that money is not removed from the local authority to them.

During discussion it was commented that co-operative trusts fit in well with the views and values of the teachers' unions. Mention was made of trust schools in other authorities where they share best practice and support each other, do not see themselves as independent of the local authority but are keen to work with them, and, if a clustered co-operative, use this as a procurement tool to commission services.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Education Advisory Panel noted the report.

**28. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN EASTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel received the report of the Director of Children's Services identifying the schools in Eastern Hampshire that were causing concern (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The Panel were reminded that they would be discussing only a small number of schools; only 6 out of a possible 250 schools in the Eastern half of the county were in Special Measures or judged to have serious weaknesses.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Education Advisory Panel noted the report.

**29. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That in relation to the following item the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

**30. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN EASTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel considered the exempt appendix of the Director of Children's Services on schools in Eastern Hampshire causing concern (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]