

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 20 March 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Councillors:

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

Substitute Members:

None

Co-opted Members:

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

At the invitation of the Chairman:

p Councillor Peter Edgar – Executive Member for Education
p Councillor Keith Mans – Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services

39. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Martin Lyon and Christopher Wood and co-opted members Rosemary Olivier and Richard Wharton.

40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the

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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.

41. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 January 2014 and 3 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

43. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements on this occasion.

44. **HAMPSHIRE YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report (Item 6 in the Minute Book) from the Director of Children's Services, on progress in creating youth employment opportunities within the County Council.

The Director explained that it was a three step offer; an Award offer which was community based, and Internship offer and finally an Apprenticeship. Work had been undertaken with Hampshire Alliance, which support youth employment, and with schools to offer employment opportunities within schools. Commitment from senior officers across the organisation was positive and fundamental to providing a good worthwhile offer. Young people were able to register through Hantsweb to receive alerts when vacancies became available.

Placements were available across the organisation, including within children's services, transport management, vehicle maintenance and customer services. Other opportunities had been created through partners and in the retail, but there were no plans to support the private retail sector. Apprenticeships varied in length depending on the sector, but ranged from 12 months to three years.

Responding to questions, the Director explained that work was

being undertaken to expand the scheme to young carers and young offenders and those on the verge of becoming young offenders. Entry to the scheme was through an open competitive interview process and the Council sought to support young carers with interview preparation. He agreed to look into how those young people could be supported better in the future.

In respect of care leavers, the committee heard that although an offer would always be made, the timing of the placement would depend on how ready each individual was for full time employment to ensure that they were fully supported and enabled to succeed.

The committee thanked the Director for a very informative report, and acknowledged the very important work that the Council was doing.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the progress.

45. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the next item of business, 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. While there may be a public interest in disclosing the information namely transparency in the County Council's business, it is felt on balance that this is outweighed by factors in favour of maintaining the exemption, namely that if members of the public were present during this item this would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

46. **EARLY YEARS TRANSFORMATION**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services regarding early years transformation.

In summary, the presentation explained that:

- More childcare was provided in Hampshire, than in any other county, comprising 372 preschools, 266 day nurseries, 348 child minders, 25 independent nurseries and 11 maintained nursery classes, all delivering early years education.

- A significant percentage (78%) of providers were judged as good or outstanding, which was 4% above the national average
- Early Years Foundation Stage results were significantly above national levels.
- In respect of impact on school attainment, children entering school were much better equipped for learning and were doing better at the end of Key Stage 1 in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

The committee heard that there had been a recent change to statutory guidance on the role of the local authority. Previously, the County Council was required to provide information, advice and training to all early years providers. The new guidance meant that the County Council was required to provide advice only to early years settings which were subject of an Ofsted requirement to improve or were judged as inadequate, enabling targeted assistance where outcomes for children were at risk.

Members welcomed the good progress in respect of early years education. Responding to questions, the Director confirmed that the number of children achieving in the lowest quartile was reducing.

RESOLVED:

That the ongoing work be noted.

Chairman