

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 23 July 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Councillors:

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

Substitute Members:

p Keith Evans	p Chris Lagdon
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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
p 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

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Anne Briggs, Marge Harvey, Martin Lyon and Ken Moon and co-opted members Rosemary Olivier and Richard Wharton.

48. **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 and, having regard to 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 Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

49. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50. **DEPUTATIONS**

Deputations were received from Denise Wyatt, Sharon Smith and Carol Dixon regarding the Report of the Short Breaks Task and Finish Group (Item 8 on the agenda).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Denise Wyatt addressed the committee and stated that she was alarmed at the proposed cuts, believing that short breaks were vital to ensure love and care continued at home and to prevent families reaching breaking point/the moment of crisis as described by Mencap. She believed that the cost of short breaks was a fraction of the overall budget and were therefore cheap and vital. She felt that a promise made by the Prime Minister regarding disabled children had not been kept. She expressed insistence that the committee held the Executive Lead Member to account to stop the cuts and asked that a preventative approach be adopted to prevent high care costs in the future.

Sharon Smith, co-Chair of the Hampshire Parent/Carer Network, addressed the committee in a personal capacity. She acknowledged the unprecedented austerity and funding cuts faced by Local Authorities. However, she felt that disabled children not under a social work team were being disproportionately affected. She believed that Short Breaks providers were not ready to go it alone and needed more help over a longer period to enable them to secure funding from elsewhere. She appreciated the need to find savings from within the children's services budget and asked that the short breaks funding be protected for a further two years. She felt that taking away the short breaks opportunities for children would be more damaging than them never having been provided.

At this point, a petition from the Hampshire Parent/Carer Network was handed to the Executive Lead Member. The petition had been started the previous week and would be submitted in full as part of the consultation response.

Carol Dixon of Parent Voice addressed the committee speaking as a parent. She had recently heard the Director of Children's Services speaking at a Hampshire Parent/Carer Network event about how proud he was of Hampshire. She felt that the short breaks programme was something else to feel proud of. In a recent survey, parents said their children had improved health, wellbeing, confidence and felt included as a result of short breaks. One of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group was to appoint a strategic partner and although she believed this to be a sound idea, she did not think there was sufficient time to procure before April 2015. She touched on the use of volunteers, which in her experience were expensive in terms of recruitment and supervision. She also explained that much of the short breaks provision was through the summer play schemes and if it were to cease there would be large gaps in provisions. The Children and Families Act placed a duty on local authorities to provide a holistic support for health, education and other outcomes, which short breaks was already doing. Finally, she acknowledged that provision of short breaks could be run more efficiently and felt that a phased approach was required to ensure it could work properly.

The Chairman thanked the deputees for addressing the committee and invited them to stay and hear the committee's consideration of the Task & Finish Group's report.

51. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the two Youth Voice representatives, Alex Maynard and Amelia Wrigley. Their role was to interact with young people in Hampshire and allow them to engage with active participation to shape services, as well as improve the coordination between young people and the decisions that were made by the County Council.

The Chairman explained that he would vary the order of business in line with Standing Order 9 to bring forward item 8 on the agenda to consider the report of the Short Breaks Task and Finish Group.

52. **REPORT OF THE SHORT BREAKS TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Committee received a report (Item 8 in the Minute Book) from the Short Breaks Task and Finish Group. The Chairman introduced the report explaining that the Task and Finish Group was established in January 2014 as a result of this committee's

discussions around the budget proposals for 2015/16 to make savings of between £2.5m and £3.5m from the Children with Disabilities budget. The terms of reference of the Group were agreed as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report and section 3 of the report outlined the meetings that the Group had held and the information received at those meetings.

The Chairman explained that during the deliberations, the Group tried to achieve savings through efficiencies wherever possible to reduce the impact on the short breaks programme as much as possible, and explore innovative solutions to back office systems and processes so that as much of the funding as practicable could be focussed on the short breaks programme.

The final recommendations of the Task and Finish Group were set out in the report at section 6 and sought to ensure that the opportunities for short breaks were not diminished.

On behalf of the Group, the Chairman thanked County Council officers for their considerable knowledge, expertise and assistance to the work of the Group. The Group had heard from Hampshire Parent/Carer Network, the Rose Road Association and Parent Voice, Disability Challengers and KIDS, and the Chairman also thanked the representatives from those organisations for sharing their considerable knowledge and experiences.

At the invitation of the Chairman the Director for Children's Services clarified the process explaining that the Task and Finish Group was commissioned by this Select committee and had determined its own report. The Executive Lead Member was expected to make a decision later that week to consult only and a 12 week consultation would be carried out before any final decision was made.

In discussing the proposals, the committee was generally of the view that some form of short breaks service for disabled children should continue to be provided. The funding position was also recognised. However, Members accepted that the existing programme was inefficient and costly in terms of back office functions. Members generally supported the proposals within the report, although several members requested that the service continued to be funded in the same way for a further two years whilst providers prepared for and implemented changes enabling them to make savings and seek alternative funding.

Therefore, the following amendments to the recommendations contained within the report were put and voted upon:

- a) This short break funding is not only retained but is a county council run service in the children's services budget.

Proposed by Cllr M. Wade and seconded by Cllr W. Lovegrove.

For: 5

Against: 9

The amendment was lost

- b) That this is not to reduce the current level of provision offered but to achieve the same level at reduced cost.

Proposed by Cllr C. Wood and seconded by Cllr A. Moore.

For: 17

Against: 0

The amendment was carried

- c) That the proposed savings are effected in the 2016/17 year and that the service remains for the 2015/16 year to enable sufficient time for the organisations to seek alternative funding.

Proposed by Cllr K. Evans and seconded by Cllr P. West

For: 17

Against: 0

The amendment was carried.

The substantive recommendations were then proposed by the Chairman and agreed by the committee.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services that:

- a) officers explore the potential for sharing costs with schools, academies and other venues hosting short break activities with a view to achieving between £250,000 - £360,000 of savings.

- b) a full business case is developed for appointing a single strategic partner for the delivery of the short break programme with a view to it realising a further £100,000 in savings by removing the infrastructure within the county council. Further, that if a strategic partner is appointed, it will be required to distribute a proportion of the funding to other organisations via an application process.

- c) all providers seeking short break funding submit details of their collaborative proposals to share management and

overhead costs with other non-uniformed providers as feasible.

d) officers explore the viability of using the volunteer recruitment scheme currently being set up as part of the Olympic Legacy or via the Early Help Hubs in order to support the use of HCC grant funded organisations to develop short break provision where they have the use of appropriate venues.

e) providers be encouraged to collaborate with other providers to enhance and maximise their fundraising activity.

f) all recipients of short break funding are required to provide match funding in order to deliver their short break offer. This would ensure that an additional £1million would be made available for the delivery of short breaks sourced from the voluntary and independent sector. Further, that the Executive Lead Member for Children Services identify temporary additional funding of at least £800,000 for the year 2015/16 in order to provide a reasonable time period for providers to source that match funding.

g) officers explore the opportunities for Direct Payments to be used for families to purchase short breaks themselves.

h) this is not to reduce the current level of provision offered but to achieve the same level at reduced cost.

i) the proposed savings are effected in the 2016/17 year and that the service remains for the 2015/16 year to enable sufficient time for the organisations to seek alternative funding.

53. **PUBLIC HEALTH IN SCHOOLS**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Public Health (item 6 in the Minute Book) summarising key aspects of the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme for 5-19 year olds.

During the discussion, the Director of Public Health confirmed the following points:

- Historically communications between schools and parents was prescribed. In future a more local supportive approach would be taken with the school nursing service facilitating conversations with families.
- There was good uptake of the immunisation programme within Hampshire. However, NHS England was looking at ways to resolve an inconsistency in provision of boosters for schools leavers, with some currently undertaken in schools and others at GP surgeries. In respect of Tuberculosis, there was an ongoing issue around who should and shouldn't receive the immunisation due to its effectiveness in areas where the disease was not circulating.
- The Public Health Nutritionist worked closely with the school

meals service to ensure that meals are appropriate and nutritious.

The committee thanked the Director of Public Health for a very informative report and asked for a future report to cover the following topics: sports provision in primary and secondary schools, information flow between local authorities and the NHS, oral health and fluoridation, statistics around rickets and obesity.

RESOLVED:

That a future report be presented to the Select committee in due course covering the points raised during the discussion.

54. **HAMPSHIRE ETHNIC MINORITY AND TRAVELLER ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EMTAS) ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee received the annual report of the Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) (Item 7 in the Minute Book). The Director explained that EMTAS was a central service that Hampshire schools chose to put their funding into. Schools were able to access the service as and when required. It was a very positive and important service with multidisciplinary staff that were good at reaching minority groups and the ripple effect was very important for the whole community with improved outcomes being achieved for everyone.

It was noted that there had been some very good progress at key stage 2 where results improved by 10%, and GCSE results were at the national level. The Director confirmed that achievements were analysed against 20 ethnic groups and that poverty and eligibility for free school meals did not generally effect attainment.

The committee heard that tracking of the three main traveller groups had shown that their level of attainment lagged behind. However, attainment had increased greatly that year, from 26% to 47%.

RESOLVED:

That an update on the work of the Service be provided in 12 months.

55. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered and approved the work programme for the remainder of the 2014/15 year.