

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 21 January 2015

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Councillors:

p John Bennison	a Ken Moon
p 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
p Marge Harvey	p Malcolm Wade
p Roger Huxstep	p Patricia West
p Warwick Lovegrove	p Christopher Wood
p Martin Lyon	

Substitute Members:

n/a

Co-opted Members:

a Ursula Topp: Roman Catholic Schools Representative
a Jeff Williams: Church of England Schools Representative
p Claire Dodd: Primary School Parent Governor Representative
p Andrew March: Secondary School Parent Governor Representative
Vacant: 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
p Alex Maynard – Youth Voice Representative
a Amelia Wrigley – Youth Voice Representative

71. **BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

72. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ken Moon and co-opted member Rev. Jeff Williams.

73. **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.

74. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputation requests had been received.

76. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Louise Vardy, the co-opted member representing special schools had resigned from the committee. Louise made a very valuable contribution to the work of the committee and on behalf of the Committee the Chairman put on record his thanks for her hard work and commitment.
- He congratulated two Hampshire couples who had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's new year honours for services to children and families. Michael and Valerie Andrews and Ken and Cynthia Blake had provided stable and loving homes for Hampshire children and over the years had fostered 245 children between them.
- He also congratulated a Hampshire County Council social worker, Carole Kloss, who had won the 'Adoption Social Worker of the Year' award at the British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) annual awards in

November. The award celebrated good practice and exceptional achievement among those working or involved in adoption in the UK, and recognised Carole's work in helping children in care find families, where they could grow up safely and reach their full potential.

77. **EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
DECISION DAY REPORTS - FINANCE**

The committee received and considered the following two reports (item 6 in the minute book) of the Director of Children's Services and Director of Corporate Resources to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on finance related decisions:

a) Revenue budget report for Children's Services for 2015/16

The committee received a presentation (a copy of which is published on the County Council's website) from the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Children's Services outlining the background to the budget, the reserves position and an update on the Transforming the Council 2015 programme. The committee received the proposed 2015/16 budget for the Children's Services department.

Responding to questions from the committee, the Director confirmed the following:

- The pupil premium amounts were set by government and were currently approximately £900 for secondary aged pupils, £1300 for primary aged pupils and £1900 for children in care. There had been a slight increase for primary aged children and a new pupil premium for early years had been introduced.
- The department was closer to providing only statutory services, but there was a degree to how those duties were performed to ensure that they were in the best interests of children.
- The department was constantly recruiting social workers and caseload volume was monitored monthly. Recruitment strategies were currently being reviewed as part of the usual review and refresh approach. The attractiveness of working for Hampshire County Council would always be the quality of environment in terms of performance and safety and security of practice.
- The financial gap created by the proposed decision to not go ahead with changes to funding for short breaks for disabled children in 2015/16 would be retained, in the context of transformation work for 2016/17.
- The savings outlined within the report and during the presentations were savings which were already resolved having been identified in the two year budget report proposed and agreed twelve months previously. There were no new savings proposed.

In respect of funding for short breaks for disabled children, although the Executive Lead Member could not give an assurance that the funding would be retained at the current level in the longer term, he confirmed that the department would work closely with the voluntary sector in future years, which could include exploring different ways of providing the service. He thanked the committee for the work of the Task and Finish Group and all those who responded to the consultation.

It was proposed and resolved that:

- The Select committee supports the recommendations to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services as set out in the report.

b) Children's Services Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18

The committee received a presentation (a copy of which is published on the County Council's website) from the Director of Children's Services on the Children's Services Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18. The committee heard that the priority investment areas were new school places, education centres, children's homes and maintenance of existing buildings. It was confirmed that 11,000 new primary school places would be provided between 2011 and 2018.

With new housing and new schools being provided, Councillor Lyon emphasised the need for appropriate infrastructure to support growth and therefore proposed the following additional recommendation:

- i) That the County Council broadly considers the impact of transport and highways provision on decisions relating to the capital spend.

Proposed by Cllr M. Lyon and seconded by Cllr A. Moore.

For: 11

Against: 1

The amendment was carried.

It was therefore proposed and resolved that the Select committee supports the recommendations to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services as set out in the report, with the addition of the following:

- That the County Council broadly considers the impact of transport and highways provision on decisions relating to the capital spend.

78. **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION DECISION DAY REPORT - EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

The Committee received a report to the Executive Member for Education (item 7 in the minute book) and a presentation from the Director of Children's Services on Educational Attainment in Hampshire 2014: Results and Priorities. The Director explained that although benchmarking was carried out with both statistical and close neighbours, benchmarking with statistical neighbours was used for reporting purposes.

The committee welcomed the report and during the discussion, the Director responded to questions confirming the following;

- The data within the report included all schools, such as maintained, faith, free and academy, with the exception of independent schools. Figures for academies and free schools had not been provided separately in the past, but as there were now a number of them in Hampshire, that data could be extracted in future.
- The data for writing at KS2 was very similar to the national average because the physical act of writing was a motor skill which developed more slowly.
- A careers service was available for schools in Hampshire to purchase from the County Council.
- The gap between girls' and boys' achievements had not narrowed.
- School improvement and intervention was very robust in Hampshire, with the County Council being one of only two local authorities highlighted in the most recent Ofsted annual report for the quality of this work.
- Independent schools were effectively accountable to government, although they were able to purchase services from Hampshire County Council in the same way as other schools.

The Executive Member for Education emphasised the high quality education in Hampshire, reminding the committee that 82% of primary pupils and 75% of secondary pupils attend schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding. He thanked the committee for its comments.

It was proposed and resolved that the Select committee supports the recommendations to the Executive Member for Education as set out in the report.

79. **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN - PRIORITIES**

The Committee received a brief presentation (a copy of which is published on the County Council's website) from the Director of Children's Services (item 8 in the Minute Book) on proposed priorities for the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan. Due to time constraints the committee agreed to make any comments in writing to the Director.