

At a meeting of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday 3 February 2015

Chairman:
p Councillor David Keast

p Ann Briggs
p Rita Burgess
p Roz Chadd
p Jacqui England

p Marge Harvey
p Jackie Porter
p Malcolm Wade
p Christopher Wood

38. BROADCASTING 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.

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

40. 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.

Councillor Jackie Porter declared a Personal Interest as Chairman of the Wessex Youth Offending Team.

41. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 30 September 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman invited Members to provide feedback on recent visits to children's homes within their division. Cllr Burgess reported on a visit she had recently made to Cypress Lodge Children's Home in Basingstoke.

43. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE 2013-2014

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) regarding an overview of educational outcomes for children in care for 2013-14, as well as the current priorities for Hampshire's Virtual School.

The report was outlined to Members, who were informed that educational outcomes for children in care in Hampshire had improved across Key Stages 1, 2 and 4 during 2013-14 and were higher than the South East region average as well as the national average.

The role of the Virtual School in co-ordinating aspects of teaching for looked after children was explained to Members. Members discussed this and noted how the Virtual School provided schools in Hampshire with a 'toolkit' to enable schools to more accurately identify children's needs and to also provide continual support, whilst monitoring outcomes.

Members noted how the SPARK website provided an input for children in care and care leavers, and a SPARK website poll enabled children to voice opinion on their personal education plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Families Advisory Panel notes the improvement in examination results of children in care for 2014 and supports the Virtual School in building on the successful practice which has contributed to current success.

44. WESSEX DANCE ACADEMY

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 and Appendix 1 to Item 6 in the Minute Book) providing an update on the work of The Wessex Dance Academy, including a full evaluation of the activity and outcomes of the Academy. A short film was also shown to the Panel, which demonstrated the Academy's work.

The structure of the 12 week Dance Academy programme was highlighted to Members, and it was explained that this programme was primarily aimed at young people aged between 15-25 who are not in education, employment or

training (NEET); in care or care leavers; offending or at risk of offending; or excluded from school or school refusers.

It was highlighted to the Panel that in addition to learning dance skills, the programme taught young people other positive life skills which they could take forward beyond completion of the programme. Members also noted that young people achieved, by virtue of the programme, a healthier lifestyle as a result of the physical aspects of the programme.

Members expressed their support for the programme, and asked to receive notifications of future Wessex Dance Academy performances.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Families Advisory Panel receive and note the work and outcomes of the Wessex Dance Academy with relation to engaging young people aged 15-25, as set out in Appendix 1 and demonstrated in the film presented at the meeting.

45 **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE HAMPSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM AND THE HAMPSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014-15**

The Panel considered a report from the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) providing an overview of the work and an update of recent developments within the Hampshire Youth Offending Team (YOT). The Members also received the annual Hampshire Youth Justice Plan for information and reference (Appendix 1 to Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Director presented the report and highlighted the background of YOT's as well as explaining the work of the Hampshire team, and the links to the Troubled Families programme. Members heard that the Hampshire YOT was a multi-agency partnership comprising the County Council, health service, police service probation and the central government Youth Justice Board. It was explained that in addition to the four YOT teams geographically located across Hampshire, the eight Early Help Hubs in Hampshire provided a youth crime prevention service which had strong links to schools and the police service.

Members noted the challenges facing the Hampshire YOT going forward, and were mindful that although there had been a significant downward trend in children and young people entering the criminal justice system, evidence suggested that while caseload numbers may have fallen, this did not necessarily equate to a falling workload. Members heard that these children and young people were presenting more complex behavioural mental health issues, but the performance of the Hampshire YOT in relation to other comparable YOT's had remained strong.

Members raised a number of queries in relation to re-offending rates. It was noted that challenges facing the YOT's were continually changing and the service was mindful of these when responding.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the work of the Hampshire Youth Offending Team and the Youth Justice Plan for Hampshire .

46. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) REFORM: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) providing an update following the implementation of the SEND Reforms in Hampshire which took effect from 1 September 2014.

It was highlighted that the SEND Reforms were a key priority for 2014/15, and one of the key areas of change was the 'Hampshire Local Offer' website, on which the Panel received a short demonstration. The new website looked to provide details of all local health, education, social care, leisure services and support for children and young people with special educational needs or physical disability needs. It was heard that the Hampshire Parent/Carer network also provided help and advice to parents who needed support to navigate the website. Members were supportive of the website.

The other key areas of change were explained to Members. It was noted that the reforms would look to improve the co-ordination of services across education, health and social care for children and young people from birth to age 25. Two non ring-fenced grants totalling £2.4million had been allocated for 2014/15, with an additional implementation grant of 0.72million in 2015/16.

Members heard that the education, health and care plan (EHCP) would replace statements of special educational needs and learning difficulty assessments in supporting children and people with SEND. The framework of the EHCP would be devised by the Local Authority in conjunction with the Department for Education. The Statutory timeframes require the EHCP to be completed within 20 weeks, rather than the previous 26 week deadline and the potential difficulties of this shorter timescale were discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the progress that has been made during 2014 to implement the SEND Reforms, which took effect from 1 September 2014.

That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note that a further progress report will be prepared in late Spring 2015 following the March SEND Reform Implementation Board meeting, to update on progress made, risks, and issues and lessons learnt.

47 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following items 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 these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the cases, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the reports.

48. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) REFORM: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE (EXEMPT APPENDICES)**

The Members of the Panel received and noted the exempt appendix (Item 10 in the Minute Book).