

REPORT OF THE  
**Cabinet / Leader**  
PART II

**157. CHILDREN'S SERVICES SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**

1. At its meeting on 22 June 2015, Cabinet received and noted an update on Children's Services Safeguarding in Hampshire.

2. A year ago, Ofsted had carried out an inspection of Hampshire Children's Services' safeguarding practice and associated arrangements for children in care and adoption services under their new, explicitly tougher, Single Inspection Framework. The outcome of that inspection was that the local authority's performance was assessed as being 'good' with 'outstanding' leadership and management and adoption services.

3. Cabinet noted that, with more than fifty local authorities having now been inspected, Hampshire remains the best outcome of any inspection carried out under the new framework.

4. Hampshire has strong (as assessed by Ofsted) multi-agency arrangements in place to address the issue of children who go missing, are at risk of exploitation and trafficking via an operational working group which regularly meets to exchange information and draw up plans to protect any children at risk of these issues. Membership of this group includes Hampshire Constabulary, Children's Services, health, voluntary and third sector colleagues and a link to District Council groups.

5. Cabinet noted that the annual Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board report was due for publication in July 2015, which would include an overview of all agencies' safeguarding activity during the past year. The report would also make reference to the participation of independent schools in the annual self-assessment of safeguarding practice as well as their participation in a new annual conference for independent schools sponsored by the Board. This represented a positive development in our engagement with the sector.

6. Hampshire Children's Services was successful in a bid to the Department for Education's Innovation Fund. The purpose of the innovation programme was to transform children's social care in Hampshire in order to safely reduce the demand for high cost, complex placements for children in care through creating the conditions for more interventionist and change-oriented social work practice with families as well as ensuring that earlier help was available for families in local areas. As such, the programme builds upon the proven track record of Hampshire County Council in delivering high quality services for vulnerable children as well as building upon the work of our Supporting Troubled Families programme and the Early Help Hubs.

7. Cabinet welcomed the achievement of Children's Services and endorsed the future direction of travel.

**158. DEVOLUTION - POSITIONING THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

1. At its meeting on 22 June 2015, Cabinet considered a report on Devolution – Positioning the County Council.

2. It outlined discussions which had taken place with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association, the Hampshire Partnership, and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) around suitable models for devolution. In addition, there had been discussions with adjacent County Council's recognising the importance of skills, capacity and road and rail infrastructure. The Leader had, throughout these discussions, emphasised the importance of a model based on the two tiers of Local Government in Hampshire with the adjacent Unitaries Portsmouth, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight. This is known as the Wider Hampshire Model, and is similar to those being developed elsewhere, for example in Derbyshire.

3. The new Government as with its predecessor, does not appear to show support for any form of structural reorganisation of local government. Whilst the debate so far on devolution and combined authorities has focused on large cities, rather than non-metropolitan local government, it is clear all parts of the Country will be considered. The models most being considered are those that build on existing boundaries and groups of local authorities. Cabinet noted that a County Council policy should be developed into a position recognising the preference for a Wider Hampshire Model, which builds on the two-tier system in Hampshire.

4. Early agreement with the local authorities in a Wider Hampshire model about the shape of devolution in Hampshire and beyond would leave the county and partners well placed to seize what opportunities the new Government's devolution agenda may extend to areas that demonstrate strong political consensus and a shared will to use devolved powers to deliver more efficient and responsive public services.

5. Cabinet welcomed the work already undertaken and the approach for future development of the County Council's preference for the Wider Hampshire Model.

## **159. SHAPING HAMPSHIRE – 2014/15 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. At its meeting on 22 June 2015, Cabinet considered a report on Shaping Hampshire – 2014/15 Annual Performance.

2. Key performance highlights for the County Council for 2014/15 were:
- £83.6 million of efficiency savings were delivered - against the target of £102.5 million, keeping the Council on course to achieving a total of £240m by March 2015.
  - The bulk of the above-mentioned savings coming from business efficiency in procurement and reductions in staff, IT and office costs.
  - Services to over 52,000 staff across Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire County Council, as well as to 500 schools were being delivered from the Integrated Business Centre (IBC).
  - 1,150 outcomes were delivered to families on the Supporting Troubled Families Programme, as at March 2015.
  - Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme reached a total of 54,000 premises, and enabled 237 cabinets. Take-up of services by residents and businesses was within the top five programmes in the country and currently stands at over 9,000 premises.
  - 58% of Hampshire pupils attained five or more GCSEs at A\*-C including English and mathematics (excluding retakes), compared to a national average of 56%.

- 
- 98.4% of parents were offered a place for their child at a secondary school of their choice, compared to 96.8% nationally. Furthermore, 97.6% were offered a place at their first or second preference school for September 2015, compared to 85.2% nationally.
- The County Council gained top position for public satisfaction in street lighting and highway enforcement (dealing with obstructions to pavements and highways) in the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey, a national survey of residents' satisfaction with local Highway Maintenance services. The County Council was placed second for winter maintenance, and placed third for the overall condition of the highways.
- Levels of CO2 emissions continued to reduce from 122,000 tonnes in 2013/14, to 101,000 tonnes in 2014/15.

3. Cabinet welcomed the high level of achievement attained thus far, enabling the County Council to remain a high performing authority, providing value for money and quality public services to the residents of Hampshire

Further details can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm) by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Children's Services Safeguarding Update (search item reference 6607)
- Devolution - Positioning The County Council (search reference 6749)
- Shaping Hampshire – 2014/15 Annual Performance Report (search item reference 6736)

**COUNCILLOR ROY PERRY**  
**Leader of the Council**

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK