

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle, Winchester on 9 MARCH 2016

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p Councillor Peter Edgar

Vice-Chairman:
a Councillor Rita Burgess

p Zilliah Brooks
p Roz Chadd
p Charles Choudhary
p Jacqui England

p Philip Fawkes
p Warwick Lovegrove
p Jackie Porter

Co-opted Members:
p Carolyn Clarke
p Liz Muir

Invitation of the Chairman:
p Jonathan Glen

115. 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. This did not apply to the confidential part of the meeting.

116. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received on this occasion.

117. 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 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.

Cllr Edgar declared an interest in Item 7 below as a Life Member of the National Association of Headteachers.

118. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

119. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman told the Panel that he had visited an event organised by the Hampshire Music Service at Ferneham Hall for Children with Special Needs called Star Squads. Every child present took part in the performance whatever the extent of their disability. The Chairman stated that this was an example of Hampshire carrying out its aim for all its young people to have access to the best quality education and truly demonstrated that every young person matters to Hampshire County Council.

The Chairman announced that this would be the last Education Advisory Panel attended by Melanie Saunders, County Manager for Educational Improvement and expressed his thanks on behalf of the Panel for all her good work over the years.

120. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received at this meeting.

121. RAISING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN UGANDA – A CONTRIBUTION FROM HAMPSHIRE

The Panel received a presentation from John Wilkinson, previously an Officer of Hampshire County Council, on the work his charity has done to improve educational attainment in Uganda (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Cllr Glen introduced the item, explaining that he became aware of the work of John's charity 'Education Uganda' through his role as Chairman of the County Council. Cllr Glen noted that it was indicative of the quality and passion of Hampshire's Officers that they go onto to undertake such projects upon retirement.

The Panel were informed that John set up the charity upon his retirement from Hampshire County Council in 2004. The charity started by donating slate and chalk and educating teachers in Uganda in their use to facilitate learning. The Panel heard that there had been 8 trips to Uganda since 2007 with multiple ex-Officers and that the Charity had three members of staff there. The slates have

made the teaching child focused and they have encouraged work for sight and hearing impaired children.

Since the charity has started its work in Uganda, 550 schools have been trained and 200,000 slates have been donated. Each year, attendance and drop out rates have improved along with test scores. The charity is now branching out into building and stocking libraries for these schools.

The Chairman congratulated the charity for its work and the exceptional success it had achieved.

122. **THE NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT**

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services regarding the recent changes to the National Curriculum and associated assessments for Primary Schools (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Panel heard that the National Curriculum had been updated to reflect an approach on pupil progression that emphasises high expectations for all and a focus on the extent to which the curriculum has been learned instead of abstract expressions around levels. The Panel heard that expectations are currently set on 'flight paths', with the assumption that children learn at the same pace, however only 9% of children follow these. In addition, levels represent a 'best fit' approach and so do not describe attainment accurately.

The Panel were informed that the intended benefit of moving away from the levels system was to give a focus on deeper and secure learning and to decrease the administrative burden on teachers. To achieve this, teachers will be expected to teach in ways that enable almost all children to reach the same minimum standard or higher. The emphasis is on using day to day assessment to focus teaching on what different pupils need to learn and to move at a pace that ensures what is learned is secure. Currently, workload has increased due to the demands arising from substantial professional changes which will take some time to take place.

The new assessment is based around mastery of subjects and fluency over time, with progress tracked along a scale of how 'on track' pupils are to their Age Related Expectations (ARE). In the Hampshire Assessment Model, there are four increments in the scale; 'not on track', 'close to being on track', 'securely on track' and 'on track to attain beyond ARE'. In order to obtain 'securely on track' a pupil would need to have a mastery of all aspects, not simply the majority. The arrangements for National Statutory Assessment at the end of Key stage 1 and 2 have caused significant concerns to schools due to their timing, workload implications and the lack of clarity about the expected standards and relative performance that might be anticipated and used for school accountability.

123. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN

The Panel received and noted a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) identifying the schools in western Hampshire that are currently judged inadequate by Ofsted or below Government floor standards.

During discussion it was agreed that Cllr Edgar would write a letter to Hampshire MPs on behalf of the Panel, expressing their frustration with the current Academy Policy and its affect on Hampshire Schools.

124. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following items, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the public were present during those items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the exempt minutes and appendix.

125. EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2015 (Item 10 in the Minute Book) were confirmed as a correct record. On this basis, the Exempt Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

126. PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN (EXEMPT APPENDIX)

The Panel considered an exempt appendix and verbal update to Item 7 on the Agenda from the Director of Children's Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book) on schools in Hampshire that are currently judged inadequate by Ofsted or below Government's floor standards.

Members of the Panel discussed in detail issues relating to those schools shown in this report.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]