

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Friday, 11 November 2016.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice-Chairman:
a Councillor Roz Chadd

Councillors:

p John Bennison	a Tony Hooke
p Ann Briggs	a Roger Huxstep
p Zilliah Brooks	p Warwick Lovegrove
p Rita Burgess	a Ken Moon
p Christopher Carter	p Jackie Porter
p Criss Connor	p Bruce Tennent
p Philip Fawkes	a Ken Thornber
p Judith Grajewski	p Malcolm Wade
p Marge Harvey	p Christopher Wood

Co-opted Members:

p Caroline Edmondson: Primary School Parent Governor Representative
p Andrew March: Secondary School Parent Governor Representative
p Gary Walker: Special School Parent Governor Representative
a Jeff Williams: Church of England Schools Representative
a VACANT: Roman Catholic Schools Representative

At the invitation of the Chairman:

a Councillor Peter Edgar – Executive Member for Education
p Councillor Keith Mans – Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

148. **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 recordings for broadcasting purposes.

149. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roz Chadd, Roger Huxstep, Ken Moon and Ken Thornber.

Apologies were also received from the Executive Member for Education.

150. **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 Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 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.

No declarations were made.

151. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

152. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee did not receive any deputations at this meeting.

153. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the meeting would be adjourned at 10:45 to allow Members to attend a Remembrance Day service.

154. **ETHNIC MINORITY AND TRAVELLER ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE UPDATE**

The Committee received a report and presentation (Item 6 in the Minute Book) from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the work of the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) over the previous year.

Members heard about the core work of EMTAS to support both children and schools in relation to children with English as an additional language. The context of the variable size and background of ethnic groups across the County was set out and it was noted that average educational performance also varied substantially across ethnic groups. Heritage

language GCSEs were sighted as a particular area of success with a 100% A-C pass rate.

In response to questions, Members heard about how the service engages with Early Years providers including through advice to practitioners. Ways in which children with low initial English language ability could be successfully integrated into schools were set out and the positive impact of the young interpreter scheme was highlighted. Members also discussed reasons behind high levels of home schooling for children from the Traveller community and low average levels of educational attainment for those from black communities.

It was confirmed that selling of EMTAS services was predominantly through professional networks and was underpinned by reputational strength. There were no formal links with County Council partners such as the Fire and Rescue Service or Hampshire constabulary, although occasional training had been provided for other agencies.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the data and results presented in the report and the progress made in addressing the priorities in the service plan.

155. **SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**

The Committee received a report (Item 7 in the Minute Book) from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on children's safeguarding in Hampshire.

The report was introduced and key points relating to: sexual exploitation, child trafficking, the Willow Team, innovations around admin support and family interventions were highlighted. It was noted that there had been a significant increase in safeguarding activity and therefore high levels of casework and an increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan. The provision of Children's Homes by the County Council went against the national trend of utilising the higher cost private sector. The memorandum of co-operation detailed in the report was highlighted as a means to tackle issues relating to the retention of social work staff and social work agency rates.

The progress and likely outcome of emerging deregulation legislation was questioned and it was noted that this was not likely to be used as an opportunity for trialling safe deregulation at this stage. The impact of a shortage of housing was also questioned and it was confirmed that housing was recognised as an important factor. Further

issues relating to the placement of children into care homes were discussed as was access to safeguarding advice for Church and other similar groups working with young people. The role of volunteers was raised and it was confirmed that they were all subject to thorough vetting and provided additional support to social work activity.

The Director of Children's Services took the opportunity to thank the Select Committee for its support and positive feedback on a sensitive subject matter.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the update on children's safeguarding.

That the Chairman communicate (via the Director) the Committee's thanks to all social workers for their hard work.

156. **TRANSFORMING IT FOR CHILDREN IN HAMPSHIRE OVERVIEW**

The Committee received a report (Item 8 in the Minute Book) from the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the 'Transforming IT for Children in Hampshire' ('TITCH') programme in the County.

The report was introduced and the benefits of drawing a number of IT systems together to form one, single holistic package were explained. This included an opportunity to share relevant data with other agencies to form the Child Portal, giving a single view of a particular child in areas such as family, education, health and social work. The advantages of being able to share in this way were set out, but it was also confirmed that information could be restricted to specific users where it was not appropriate to share it. The origins of the new package, including the partnership with Capita were explained and it was noted that Hampshire County Council was able to take a lead in developing the system. A demonstration of the new system was provided to the Committee.

It was questioned whether schools not signing up to the HCC IT provision would pose a risk to the success of the system and it was confirmed that a level of access would continue to be available, but it was anticipated that the addition of the system would increase the overall attractiveness of Hampshire IT provision.

Data security through the sharing and retention of data was questioned and it was confirmed that the County Council had a duty to share information relating to safeguarding and that any organisation holding data had a duty to dispose of it

securely in accordance with retention policies. The Committee also heard that mobile access to the system met social worker demand for the ability to enter notes directly and was therefore time efficient.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the update.

157. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report (Item 9 in the Minute Book) from the Director of Transformation and Governance setting out the Select Committee's future work programme.

It was confirmed that at the January 2017 meeting the Committee would receive reports relating to the departmental budget and school performance and attainment.

It was agreed that an item on the RE syllabus be added to the Work Programme for either the June or September 2017 meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be agreed.

Chairman, 18 January 2017