

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 24 September 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Councillors:

p John Bennison	p 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	a Patricia West
p Warwick Lovegrove	p Christopher Wood
p Martin Lyon	

Substitute Members:

n/a

Co-opted Members:

a Vacant: 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
p Louise Vardy: 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
p Amelia Wrigley – Youth Voice Representative

61. **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.

62. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pat West and co-opted member Jeff Williams.

63. **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.

64. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Select Committee on 23 July 2014 were received, agreed to be a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Thornber updated the Committee on information he had received following the meeting regarding school absence levels amongst children from ethnic minority backgrounds, highlighting that the rate in Hampshire was below the national average.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Select Committee on 12 September were received. Noting that apologies had been received from Andrew March and Claire Dodd, they were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

65. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputation requests had been received.

66. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the two Youth Voice representatives, the representatives of the organisations who were to present on various items on the agenda and to Alderman Peskett.

67. **CHILD AND ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (CAMHS)**

The Committee received a report and presentations from Healthwatch Hampshire and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on the aims, objectives and outcomes of the service.

Steve Taylor and Madeline Close from Healthwatch Hampshire introduced themselves to the Committee and played a short film showing the views of young people on various issues relating to mental health. It was concluded that there was high levels of satisfaction with mental health services, but frustration about access to it.

Ruth Hillman from Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust which provides CAMHS services gave the Committee a presentation that set out an overview of CAMHS provision. The tiers of provision were explained and the progress being made on the basis of feedback was outlined. Challenges around waiting times and the increase in demand as well as the limits on suitable nursing and in-patient capacity were set out and the priorities of the Trust in meeting these described.

Lao Cooper, commissioner on behalf of the five Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups updated Members on the consultation process that had been carried out to lead in to a re-commissioning exercise for CAMHS services.

Members welcomed the presentations and discussed and questioned a number of the issues that had been raised, including in particular the increase in referrals, waiting times, specialist training for staff, and the number of child specialist therapists available. The Committee was told that the increase in referrals had no single cause. The work that was underway to review and reduce waiting times was detailed and it was noted that cases classed as emergency were handled differently. The ratios of staff and training provisions were explained to Members. It was felt that making connections with education professionals during the wait for a CAMHS appointment would be of value and Lao agreed to highlight this through communications to schools.

The use of technology, in particular the training portal for staff and the development of an "App" to assist young people was questioned and it was explained to the Committee that in both cases, these were one of a range of tools available.

The tendering exercise for a re-commissioning of the service was questioned and it was confirmed that it had begun in June 2014. Members noted the different stages that would be undertaken and that a decision was likely in February 2015, for implementation in July 2015.

It was proposed and resolved that:

The Committee notes the current position of CAMHS provision in Hampshire and invites Lao Cooper to attend a future meeting, following the conclusion of the tendering exercise to provide a further update.

68. **SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of planning for school places including the admissions process and waiting lists.

The range of different factors to be taken into account in planning school places were outlined to the Committee. These included unpredictable factors such as parental preference and birth rate, as well as more predictable factors, such as housing development. It was noted that the impact of these factors and trends within them were different in different areas of Hampshire. It was explained that accurate forecasting was not only important to ensure that sufficient school places were available, in the right locations, but also as these predictions were used as a basis for negotiating the rate of developer contributions for large developments.

The Committee heard that provision was being made for an additional 8000 primary school places over the next three years. The process of consulting with schools on expansion requirements was outlined and it was noted that planning was also underway to ensure sufficient capacity in the future at Secondary level. The application and admission arrangements were detailed and Hampshire's success in meeting parents' first choices was noted.

The implications for the Capital Programme were outlined and the scale of the current plans explained. Potential risks to the Programme of cost inflation in the building market and of reliance on government grants were highlighted.

Members welcomed the presentations and discussed a number of points relating to funding for the increase in school places, the management of places where there was a localised increase in demand and in relation to increasing birth rates. It was confirmed that there was no expected shortfall in planned provision. The potential for safeguarding budgets by purchasing materials in advance was raised and it was noted that work to reduce material costs was underway and that this would be examined as part of that.

It was proposed and resolved that:

- The presentation be noted.
- The Secondary School place strategy be reported to a

future meeting of the Committee.

- That the Committee receive an update at a future meeting on possible options to manage building costs and safeguard against inflation.

69. **HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OFSTED INSPECTION, FEBRUARY – MARCH 2014**

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services (item 8 in the Minute Book) providing detailed results of the recent Ofsted inspection of Hampshire County Council's Children's Services.

The Director introduced the results, highlighting the number of staff who had been involved in the inspection and noting the praise that Ofsted had given for the passion of staff. He confirmed that the outcome was positive for the County Council, reflecting the high level of care being provided to vulnerable young people. The new, tougher, inspection framework was detailed and Hampshire's success in this context demonstrated.

The action plan formulated on the basis of the judgement was outlined, in particular with relation to caseload, academic achievement for children in care and engagement with young people. The Director emphasised that there was no room for complacency and still areas that could be improved, notwithstanding the very high performance that had been recognised.

Members welcomed the positive outcomes of the inspection and discussed a number of key points relating to staff retention, caseloads and how lessons could be learnt from elsewhere. It was explained that staff turnover was generally very low in Hampshire and that caseloads were being appropriately managed. It was acknowledged that there had been some very high profile cases of abuse in other parts of the country and that lessons from these were being taken on board. It was confirmed that there was no evidence of any systematic or widespread exploitation of children in Hampshire.

The Director was thanked for his presentation and the scale of the task of safeguarding children was recognised. It was proposed and agreed that:

The Select Committee thank and congratulate Children's Services staff on the clearly outstanding service that they provide to children and families across the County, as evidenced in the Ofsted report.

70. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received the Work Programme (item 9 in the

Minute Book) and made a number of suggestions for the content of future meetings.

