

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 2 February 2010.

Chairman:
p Councillor M.J. Tucker

Councillors:

p A. Evans	p D. Keast
p Mrs Charlotte Bailey	a Roz Muschamp
p R. Bolton	p Mrs Pamela Mutton
a B.D. Dash	p Mrs Jackie Porter

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman: Councillor D.A. Kirk (for part of the meeting)

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Dash and Roz Muschamp.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter considered at the meeting declared that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, considered whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the code.

10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kevin Greenhough to the Panel. Kevin will be joining the Business Advice and Member Support (BAMS) Unit on 1 March 2010 as the Business Manager for the Children's Services Executive and associated panels.

11. YOUTH JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Panel received a detailed presentation from officers which commenced with Steve Crocker, Deputy Director for Children's and Families, outlining the work of the Youth Justice Service. The Deputy Director highlighted the work of the Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT) which is a multi-agency partnership working across a number of authorities and is co-terminous with the Police, Crown Prosecution, Probation and HM Courts' Services. Its aims to prevent youth crime

and the re-offending of young people aged between 10 and 17 years of age. The Deputy Director expanded on the partnership element of the YOTs work, including statistical data and answered Members detailed questions.

The Panel then received a presentation from Colin Hardy, Head of Partnerships covering three key partnership areas:

- a) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) providing specialist services to children and young people with mental health needs.

Members questions focused on the current level of service provisions, future provision and the use of the voluntary and community sector.

- b) Aiming High for Disabled Children is a funded national programme to develop services for children with a disability.

Members emphasised the importance of information being available to Parish Councils for example, to make them aware of how playgrounds can be made more accessible for physically disabled children. Availability of low floor transport services to help disabled children and appropriate modifications in schools to support children with hearing difficulties were also discussed.

- c) The Hampshire Children's Trust, its purpose and function and the further work needed as a result of a number of key drivers to influence improvement for all outcomes for all children and the likely need for approximately 20 local partnerships based around school clusters. Consultation was underway with stakeholders and once this exercise was completed the structure of the partnerships would be known in approximately four to six weeks. The partnerships would expect to have three to four meetings per year and would go through the usual planning and delivery business cycle.

In response to Members questions, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services reported that the position with children not in employment, education or training (NEETs) was not as good as was thought when the County Council took over from the Connexions Service. Work was underway to improve the outlook for this grouping of young people but it would take time. Members also noted that there was no one indicator that covered child poverty and the work being done on this issue was also longer term.

12. **CORPORATE PARENTING**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services

(Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the inspection judgements awarded by Ofsted in 2009 of the 11 children's homes managed by the County Council. Members noted the outcome of the inspections and the action plans that had been drawn up to address the recommendations arising.

Members also noted and agreed the proposed schedule of visits to children's homes. Rachel Walker in the Children's Services department would organise the visits, accompany the Members and jointly host the visits with the manager of the respective homes. These visits will be one aspect of fulfilling the Panel's corporate parenting responsibility. A number of Members expressed a desire to visit more than one home and Rachel would facilitate this.

13. HANTSIRECT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) outlining the role of the Children's Reception Team (CRT) based at Hantsdirect in Fareham. Members attention was directed to the helpful flow chart detailing the Children's Services Hantsdirect Process Operating Model.

Members noted the call volumes from October 2009 which had risen to over 1800 calls during November and December with approximately 60% of these calls being resolved by the CRT.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed the business coming forward for future meetings of the Panel such as meeting Care Ambassadors, young people who had previously been in the care system; performance updates; implications for the County Council arising from the Laming 2 report and updates on "Care matters" regarding the quality of services for children in care.

15. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the earlier start time of 1.30pm for meetings of the Panel should continue and would therefore apply to all future meetings of the Panel. The Calendar of Meetings on the web would be updated accordingly.

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 1 June 2010.