

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at Ashburton Hall, Winchester on Wednesday 13th October 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Stephen Reid

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Frederick Allgood

Councillors:

p Charlotte Bailey	p Roz Muschamp
p Ray Bolton	p Pam Mutton
a Rita Burgess	p Sam Darragh
p Brian Dash	p Jackie Porter
p Adrian Evans	p Jenny Radley
p Keith Evans	p David Simpson
a David Keast	p Bruce Tennent
p Roger Kimber	a Pat West
p Anna McNair Scott	

Co-opted Members:

p Sally Dace – Parent Governor (special)
p Phil Watson – Parent Governor (Secondary)
p Mohammed Ansar – Parent Governor (primary)

Also in attendance Councillors:

40. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider 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.

41. **MINUTES**

There was only one amendment required before the

Minutes of the Committee held on 14 July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. This was raised by Mohammed Ansar who asked that the reference to Knightwood Primary School on p.2 should be corrected to read Kingswood Primary School.

42. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

a. **Cllr Sam Darragh**

Cllr Reid announced that Cllr Sam Payne had now become Cllr Sam Darragh following her recent marriage and offered congratulations on behalf of the committee.

b. **New Executive Lead Member**

Cllr Roy Perry had been appointed the new Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. He had another meeting which he must attend at 10am but he was planning to attend later.

43. **CLLR DAVID KIRK: EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Cllr Reid introduced tributes to Cllr Kirk from Cllr Allgood, John Coughlan and Cllr Jackie Porter, recording the Committee's appreciation for his support as well as his leadership of Children's Services.

A County Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Cllr Kirk will be held in Winchester Cathedral on Tuesday 16 November. Further details can be found at <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/news/071010.htm>

44. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE**

John Coughlan updated the Committee on the state of Children's Services, both within Hampshire and the national context.

The key points for Hampshire were as follows:

- £6.2 million government in year cuts.
- £3million in year pressures
- £15.9 million anticipated grant reduction for 2011/12
- Building Schools for the Future projects withdrawn.

Faced with these pressures, Children's Services were looking at losing around 185 FTE posts, 22% of which would be expected to come from senior management

with just 5% from front-line staff on Grade G or below. The department would be holding a county wide staff briefing to explain the reasoning behind these cuts.

The withdrawal of grants would have an impact on partnership working as it would mean partner organisations would be forced to make cuts themselves.

Despite the bleak outlook, John emphasised that it was important that performance was maintained as far as possible while the cuts were being discussed. He was pleased to report that schools, in general, were currently performing strongly with encouraging results at GCSE and A level across Hampshire. However, he was unable to report on the attainment in terms of recipients of free school meals, gender and BMEs as the figures were not yet available.

Mohammed Ansar as Chair of Hampshire Equality and Diversity Forum interjected and implied that it was not acceptable that the figures for BMEs were not available at the same time as the general figures were released.

Cllr Bolton raised the possibility of the encouraging GCSE results being made available to the public as good news in the face of cuts. He suggested the details were passed to Councillors who could circulate them during their contact with the public in the community. In response, The Director of Children's Services suggested that the Committee arrange for his colleague, Melanie Saunders to speak to them on performance issues.

As regards the national context, John remarked that under the coalition government the role of local authorities would evolve significantly from the current position, bringing important implications for Hampshire. The Munro review of child social work was also expected to have an impact on the county.

The Chairman concluded this item by asking the Director of Children's Services what Councillors could do to help the officers in Children's Services during this period of instability. John suggested that they should direct any communications through Councillor Perry.

John Coughlan to arrange for slides to be emailed to Councillors.

45. **SCHOOL FUNDING: PUPIL PREMIUM**

The Committee was asked to contribute responses to the National consultation on school funding, aimed at introducing a pupil premium to help address the

attainment gap and ensure that all children had equal access to education.

The Committee agreed that it was disappointing that implementation of the pupil premium is not being managed locally and that special schools, pupil referral units and early years settings were not to be included. A Parent Governor raised the point that those schools not included would lose that funding. Cllr Darragh felt it was important that special schools, in particular, were emphasised as many of their pupils would stand to lose out significantly.

There was unanimous support for a pupil premium for service family children and recognition of budget distortions caused by troop movements. The Chairman was adamant that this was a crucial factor for Hampshire as the home of both the army and the navy and it was vital that schools were given substantial support for pastoral care.

After a robust discussion, it was agreed that using eligibility for free school meals within the last three years with a weighting for Reception pupils was the least unsatisfactory factor out of an unsatisfactory list.

46. **CONSIDER RESPONSES TO JOINT REVIEW OF THERAPY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

The Director of Public Health who has responsibility for commissioning of children's health care in NHS Hampshire and Steve Crocker, Deputy Director of Children's Services opened this item by stressing the importance of the two organisations working together to deliver integrated services in the area of special needs education.

The Committee welcomed the joint response and were pleased to see the NHS and County Council working together as the Joint Child Health Commissioning Board. The response was seen as generally positive but also high level and general, therefore members had questions on several issues related to the detail, for example that the joint statement was excellent as far as it went but there appeared to be no grounding in timescales and it was unclear how it would be possible to monitor progress. In response, the Director of Public Health acknowledged that while much of the detail cannot be found in the responses, the Committee could

be assured that significant work was being done and that the progress of the joint review had now moved beyond talking to doing. She expected that by the next Health Scrutiny Committee meeting, she would have further information available on detail and timings.

An action plan was to be developed at an NHS meeting later in October. This was to be discussed to ensure it was service specific and had included the correct care pathways.

When concern was expressed by members about the changes expected in the NHS and the consequential impact on planning, for example, GP consortia, The Director of Children's Services indicated that they expect to have the service fully redesigned and specified before GP consortia take on any commissioning responsibility. Questions were asked about how it would be possible to know whether this review has provided real value. In response, the Board concluded that if the number of SEN tribunals reduce as a result of this review and complaints from parents diminish it will have provided a significant benefit to the children concerned, their parents and the department.

47. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee approved the topics put forward for the updated work programme and it was suggested that the 14-19 curriculum was added to the topics for potential review.

48. **A.O.B**

Cllr Perry wanted to record that he had found his first meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee very interesting but added that he, personally was not keen on using Ashburton Hall as a venue as the acoustics and décor were not ideal.

The Scrutiny Officer updates the work programme.

Chairman, 27 January 2011