

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle Winchester on Friday, 14 July 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Stephen Reid

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frederick Allgood

Councillors:

p Charlotte Bailey

p Ray Bolton

p Rita Burgess

p Brian Dash

p Adrian Evans

a Keith Evans

p David Keast

p Roger Kimber

p Anna McNair Scott

p Roz Muschamp

p Pam Mutton

p Sam Payne

p Jackie Porter

p Jenny Radley

p David Simpson

a Bruce Tennent

a John West

Co-opted Members:

Tony Blackshaw – Diocese of Winchester

Urszula Topp – Diocese of Portsmouth

p Sally Dace – Parent Governor (special)

p Phil Watson – Parent Governor (secondary)

Also in attendance Councillors: Peter Edgar, Assistant to Executive Member for Children's Services (Education) and Marilyn Tucker, Assistant to Executive Member for Children's Services (Safeguarding).

25. **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.

Councillor Jackie Porter declared a personal interest in Street Reach and the Children's Fund Local Partnership Board.

26. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 15 April 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

a. **Parent Governor vacancies**

The Chairman welcomed Parent Governor Representative candidates for primary schools who had come to observe the working of the committee prior to selecting one from among them for the vacancy.

(The candidate selected is Mohammed Ansar, Parent Governor at Kingswood Primary School, Chandlers Ford)

The Chairman also welcomed Phil Watson, Parent Governor at Wyvern Technology College, Eastleigh as Parent Governor for secondary schools.

b. **Visiting workplace students**

The Chairman welcomed workplace students, Luke Sylvester and Alex Ainsworth-Lay who came to observe the work of the committee. The Chairman invited them to share their views which the Committee found interesting and informative.

28. **Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)**

The Director of Children's Services presented an update on progress with addressing the reduction in those classified as NEET. He outlined some of the possible causal factors as well as a number of initiatives undertaken by the County and its partners that are designed to support young people to achieve greater success in either accessing education, training or work.

Key points included:

- The importance of recognising that for most NEETs the experience of being NEET is short term and part of a journey, typically following the period immediately following the end of secondary schooling. Overall the NEET population is characterised by a fairly high rate of churn.
- For the relatively few who are NEET for a longer period, specific initiatives are being targeted to help the young people overcome the barriers they experience.
- Statistics suggest that Hampshire work with NEETs is effective and has good potential to steadily reduce the numbers of young people involved.
- The need for more apprenticeship opportunities was identified – Members suggested that local authorities, including HCC could take more of a lead in this type of provision as significant employers in the county.
- Colleges and training providers should aim to provide more flexible training programmes to accommodate the needs of NEETs rather than academic calendars.
- Flexibility designed into education/training routes was considered to be a potentially important means of avoiding young people becoming NEET and well as a positive means of encouraging NEETs to take up education/training offers
- Early intervention in the lives of children whose circumstances indicate a potential risk of them becoming NEET was essential, particularly in families that have a history of subsequent generations becoming NEET. Members recognised that the generational cycle might be best broken, where possible, even before a child was born through supportive work with young parents.
- The Assistant Executive Member (education) noted the importance of diplomas as a way to recognise

the achievements of YP who have successfully undergone education or training programmes because they build the esteem of the graduate of the programme and provide valuable information for prospective employers.

- The Chairman acknowledged that through the process of 'live scrutiny' of how the County was addressing the problem of NEETs it became apparent that there were significant examples of good practice and targeted initiatives – this raised the question of how such good practice became replicated across all parts of Hampshire. It was also clear that these 'successes' and their impact on YP and communities were not necessarily well known to all members.

RESOLVED:

- That the positive work undertaken be commended.
- That members of the committee communicate greater awareness of NEETs in their dealings with officers and use their influence to encourage wider consideration of apprenticeship opportunities to their LA(s) where appropriate.
- That consideration be given to NEETs as a candidate review topic

Further details of the presentation can be found on the County Council website at:

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/meetingsummary.htm?date_ID=448

29. **Joint Review of Therapy Services**

The Chairman of the review panel summarised the findings in the report, she identified three themes:

- Theme 1: The importance of a strategy for, and development of, a jointly designed, funded and sustainable service provision that is fit for purpose
- Theme 2: The importance of parental / customer support
- Theme 3: Opening up choice of provider to include independent sector

Other Children and Young People Select Committee members of the panel confirmed the findings of the report and indicated it was important for the committee to press

the Children's Services Department and the NHS to deliver on the issues identified in the recommendations of the Panel.

The Director of Children's Services thanked the Review Panel Chairman for the report and described it as "helpful". He indicated it was the intention of the department to address the recommendations identified, although a full response would be provided at the Committee's October meeting. He also indicated that to fully address the panel's recommendations would require joint commitment of both the department and the NHS to delivering the outcomes sought. In that respect it would be a 'test' of the ability of Health to work together successfully with the County.

The Chairman of the Committee noted that whilst there was some uncertainty arising from the current economic climate and emerging new policy directions from Government, he said the committee would not accept that actions to address the report be 'put on hold' – there should be no grounds for continuing to accept a situation in which the needs of children were not being met, and which arguably leads to the County paying higher than necessary costs to fund out of county placements.

Although the HOSC would continue to take the lead role in following up the joint review as action would be required by both the NHS and Children's Services the Children and Young People Select Committee would maintain an interest in the Children's Services role in improving the experience of children and parents.

Members thanked Cllr McNair Scott for her knowledgeable contribution to this work and expressed the hope that she would be able to continue to contribute to the follow up of the responses received from the NHS and Children's Services as and when this was appropriate.

RESOLVED:

- That the findings of the Joint Review of Therapy Services for Children with Special Educational Needs be accepted
- That the Committee continue to play an active role in monitoring progress against the recommendations in

- the report in discussion with the HOSC
- That the Committee asks the HOSC to follow-up progress with the implementation of the recommendations as part of its work programme.

A summary of the presentation can be found on the County Council website at:
http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/meetingssummary.htm?date_ID=448

30. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

The Director of Children's Services presented a report summarising the draft findings of a review of progress during 2009-10 against the 2009-12 Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

The presentation included:

- The overarching priority aspirations for Hampshire Children's Trust
- An overview of progress against Improvement Plan targets
- How far the Children's Trust has moved towards achieving its targets during the year
- What the Children's Trust sees as emerging challenges, and
- Areas for renewed focus for 2010-2011

The Hampshire Children's Trust, to which the County Council is a contributor, has achieved well

Three emerging challenges were identified as significant issues:

- The need to support an increasing number of vulnerable children and families
- The financial climate and the consequent budgetary constraints
- Child poverty and the need to undertake a needs assessment

Members welcomed the presentation, but noted that it drew its evidence on the basis of national performance indicators. It was suggested that for future presentations on performance in relation to service provision for children and young people, that progress against national indicators be balanced with

achievements and challenges of specific interest and concern for Hampshire. The Director indicated he would welcome discussion with the Committee on what additional areas might be introduced as part of future reports.

RESOLVED:

- That the report be welcomed and that consideration be given to an augmented report format for the six monthly performance review.

31. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved subject to the issues raised at this meeting, and that the update version be distributed to the Committee.