

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle Winchester on Friday, 15 April 2010.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Stephen Reid

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Frederick Allgood

Councillors:

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

Co-opted Members:

Tony Blackshaw – Diocese of Winchester  
Urszula Topp – Diocese of Portsmouth  
p Sally Dace – Parent Governor

Also in attendance Councillors: David Kirk, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services; 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

Item 6 – Reducing Teenage Pregnancy in that the youth project in which she was involved with distributes condoms.

26. **MINUTES**

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

27. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

a. **Michael White**

The Chairman reported that Michael White, (Primary Parent Governor) had resigned as a co-opted member of the Committee. A replacement for Michael was being sought together with that of a Secondary Parent Governor.

b. **Annual Report of Committee**

The Chairman reported that the Annual Report of the Committee had now been circulated.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Committee be approved.

c. **Therapy Services for Disabled Children**

The Chairman of the Therapy Services Review Panel, Councillor Anna McNair Scott, reported that the report of the Panel was in the process of being finalised and would be available shortly. She thanked the Members of the Panel for their work.

28. **HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST – DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIPS**

The Director of Children's Services presented a report outlining the progress being made in delivering Local Children's Partnerships to support the Hampshire Children's Trust in delivering the improvements in outcomes for children and young people as established in the Children and Young People's Plan (Item 4 in the Minute Book). The establishment of the Trust was explained and details were given of the statutory requirements, performance management, the functions

The final report of the Review Panel be sent to Members when published and the Committee receives an update in January 2011.

The Director of Children's Services ensures the involvement of parents and voluntary groups, negotiates more involvement with Health Services and GP Practices and looks at

and purpose of Local Children's Partnerships, the timescale for the development of local delivery plans and the emerging configuration of Local Children's Partnerships. Members stressed:

- The need to involve parents and voluntary groups and especially the need to 'engage with the disengaged' – those parents who were least likely to make themselves available to discuss their children's problems and progress.
- The desire to gain more support from Health Services and General Practitioner practices.
- The need to review the proposed clustering and configuration of partnerships – though it may be instinctive to organise on District Council boundaries this may not be the right answer in all cases.

RESOLVED:

That the progress with the development of Local Children's Partnerships and the implications for partners, including schools, be noted.

29. **CHILDREN IN CARE**

The Director of Children's Services presented a report giving an overview of outcomes for children and young people in care in Hampshire, the current strategies for improvement and the importance of the role of 'corporate parent' (Item 5 in the Minute Book)

There were three main types of care:

A child or young person may:

- be voluntarily living in a home run by a local authority or charity or a foster home, where the child's parents agree to the child being looked after;
- have been legally removed from the child's family without the parents' consent. This happened when a court felt that a child could be damaged by living at home and issues a Care Order. Nationally, three out of every five children in care are under a Care Order;
- have been remanded or detained by the courts to the Local Authority.

There had been steady improvement in:

configuration and clustering.

- the percentage of children in care experiencing three or more placement moves in a year (National Indicator 62);
- health checks;
- participation of children in their reviews;
- attendance at school.

A significant number of improvement activities were taking place in Hampshire as part of the Care Matters project. However, further improvement was needed in corporate parenting; educational attainment (National Indicators 99; 100 & 101); quality of care plans; placement choice, particularly for teenagers; the proportion of care leavers in education, employment or training (National Indicator 148); and suitable accommodation (National Indicator 147).

On the question of Corporate Parenting the minimum expectation was that every elected member and manager within the council would, in conjunction with members of the governing bodies of partner agencies:

- Be aware of the corporate parenting role and the shared responsibility for ensuring that the needs of children in care and care leavers are met.
- Have some knowledge of the profile and needs of the children their authority looks after and how these may be changing.
- Understand the impact on children in care of *all* council decisions.
- Receive information about the quality of care and the quality of services that children are experiencing.
- Consider whether this would be good enough for their own child.
- Ensure that action was being taken to address any shortcomings in the service and to constantly improve the outcomes for children in care.

Activities to improve corporate parenting were being co-ordinated by the Care Matters Implementation Board which included:

- The Care Council – a group of young people who were in care and the role of Care Ambassadors (Young People between 18 and 25 who had been in care) had been developed.

- The Pledge for new children which included extra tuition, individual budget, Care Council, better placement choice and consistent adult and peer mentoring.
- Children and Family Advisory Panel – regular reporting would include issues of the Care Matters Implementation Board. Activities of the Core Council/Care Ambassadors, education of children in care, health of children in care, independent reviewing services, adoption services, fostering services and residential services.
- Voice of the child – a clear service user engagement strategy was being developed, including a systematic use of the outcome of complaints and/or concerns to inform service development.

Members stressed the need for the stability of placement and of a social worker.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the strategies for improvement and the importance of the role of 'corporate parent' be endorsed

### 30. **REDUCING TEENAGE CONCEPTIONS**

The Director of Children's Services presented a report outlining the issues involved in reducing teenage conceptions (Item 6 in the Minute Book). Teenage parents tended to do less well academically, were more likely to become Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and faced a future of low paid jobs or unemployment. The children of teenage parents were more likely to live in poverty and become teenage parents themselves. Reducing teenage conceptions was included in the Local Area Agreement - Hampshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 (Priority 2: Securing children and young people's physical, spiritual, social, emotional and mental health, promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing inequalities); and was a Primary Care Trust 'vital sign' target.

International evidence showed that the measures that had the greatest impact on conception rates were Comprehensive information advice and support – from parents, schools and other professionals - combined with accessible, young people-friendly sexual and

reproductive health services

Key priorities from the 2010/11 Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan were:

- To seek and respond to the information and advice we receive from children and young people and their families.
- To support the development of young people's aspirations and life skills, their well-being and achievement.
- To offer focused support for those who are most vulnerable and at risk.
- To offer timely prevention, early intervention and support when and where young people need them.
- To develop the children's workforce so that they are competent and confident to offer appropriate advice and support to children and young people

Members felt that sex education should be a partnership between parents and schools and that schools should endeavour to ensure that parents were fully involved in the planning and delivery of sex education.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the key priorities from the 2010/11 Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan be endorsed.

31. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive 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.

32. **DAVID PRYKE**

On the occasion of his last meeting, Members thanked David Pryke for his services to the Committee and the Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Scrutiny Officer updates the work programme.

