

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2011 to March 2012

Select Committee: Children and Young People

Report of Chairman: Cllr Stephen Reid (April 2011 to December 2011)

In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:

- None initiated this year
- With the HOSC, continuing to monitor progress in relation to the joint scrutiny of Therapy Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs. Representatives of the SHIP PCT and Children's Services will be reporting progress to the HOSC and for circulation to the CYP in March 2012.

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:

- None initiated this year

Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:

- The Committee had identified a number of risk issues arising out of the 2011/12 budget, including (Apr 11):
 - Children Looked after – whether numbers were stabilising, or if not what the 'knock on' effects were likely to be?
 - Proposals for a 'medium term financial plan' covering 2012-15 – what principles would guide the plan and what changes in service would children/parents/carers experience?
 - What would the proposed 'more graduated approach' to remaining universal services result in for children/parents, eg. changes in access criteria, changes of service model etc?
 - What was the likely prognosis for children's centres and Sure Start centres over the next few years?

Policy development:

Proposal that policy is formulated to make more transparent educational achievement of BME pupils, supported by better granularity for better identification of causes for specific groups and contexts, and thus more focused strategies and support for improvement. (Jul 11)

Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:

Children's Centres (Jun 11)

Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:

Children & Young People Select Committee along with other Select Committees received a 'budget briefing' (Jan 12)

Policy Review:

Typically through 'live scrutiny' of policy issues through challenging but constructive debate at meetings, in relation to:

- Educational attainment in Hampshire schools 2010-11 – results and priorities (Apr 11)
- Academies in Hampshire (Jul 11)– issues of concern included:
 - What would Hampshire do in the event of an academy failing?
 - Are Hampshire's educational services offered to academies, and how does the department intend to respond to the changing educational environment?
- How do we identify if a school is 'punching beneath its weight'? (Sep 11)

- Parenting – its impact on life outcomes for children and interventions when outcomes are not good (Sep 11)

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

Ofsted – safeguarding and looked after children – recent inspection report (Jul 11)

Upcoming topics:

- Monitoring of outcomes in relation to Children’s Centres, but initially circulated as information, only to come to the committee if Members have concerns. (possibly May 12)
- Policy and Strategy options for the provision of services to a evolving schools economy (May 12)
- Children’s Services Capital Programme Strategy (May 12)
- Short breaks: progress in the provision of through the LA (Jul 12)
- Race strategy / policy (Jul 12)