

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2015 to March 2016

Select Committee: Children and Young People

Report of Chairman: Councillor Ray Bolton

In-depth Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: N/A

Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored: N/A

Statutory Duties Undertaken:

Review of Children and Young People Plan 2015-18

Members commended the Plan, noting that the main five priorities would include outcomes for children and young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic wellbeing. The Committee resolved that the Children and Young People Plan be endorsed, and that an annual progress update on the Plan be provided to the Committee.

Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions: N/A

Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions: N/A

Referrals: N/A

Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:

Transformation to 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals

‘Transformation to 2017’ revenue budget savings proposals and public consultation feedback. The Committee additionally held a seminar for all Members of the Committee, in order to more fully understand the implications of the Children’s Services ‘Transformation of 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals’ report. The Committee also made a recommendation to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services, requesting that the total percentage of cuts be reconsidered to enable the reinstatement of £1.8m for short breaks, without jeopardising other areas of provision within Children’s Services.

Revenue Budget for Children’s Services 2016/17

The revenue budget for Children’s Services for 2016/17 outlined the overall County Council financial position, setting out the complex and significant announcements made by Government in relation to the Revenue Support Grant settlement and other budget-related matters. The Committee resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services.

Capital Programme for Children’s Services 2016-17 – 2018/19

The capital programme for Children’s Services for 2016/17 – 2018/19 was the largest capital programme embarked upon by Hampshire County Council, in order to ensure suitable provision for school places. The Committee resolved to request that the

Executive Lead Member specifically note the high level of risk on the capital programme relating to the receipt of capital resources from developer contributions, and also supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

Policy Review:

Home Schooling

The Committee received an overview of elective home education in Hampshire, and the role of the Department in supporting children who are home schooled. The Committee resolved to write to Hampshire MPs and the Government requesting that they legislate to give Local Education Authorities the right to monitor the education of those children whose parents elect to give them education at home. Correspondence to this effect was sent to various parties, and a response was received from Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, thanking the Committee for widening the Government's knowledge on this area, and suggesting that there may be a review of this subject.

School Place Planning (Secondary Provision)

Members scrutinised the strategy for planning secondary school places from 2015 to 2025, and supported the strategy.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Schools Syllabus

The Committee received an update on the work of Hampshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the review of the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 'Living Difference revised 2011'. The Committee noted the report and supported the approach taken by the Hampshire SACRE.

Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

The Committee received items on the following issues:

- Children's Safeguarding
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Reform
- Teenage Pregnancy

Upcoming topics: The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) – further update
- Public Health in Schools
- Revenue and capital budgets 2017/18
- Safeguarding (to include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE))
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform - further update