

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL held at The Castle, Winchester on 2 February 2011

PRESENT:

Councillors P. Edgar (Chairman); F Allgood; B. Collin; K.D. Evans; M. Kemp-Gee; R.J. Kimber; R. McIntosh; Mrs J. Porter

Co-opted Members: Mr. J. Gawthorpe; Mr D. Mewes

Also in attendance: Cllr Roy Perry, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

37. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Dash and Mr. D. White.

38. DECLARATIONS 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.

With relation to all items on the agenda, Councillor Edgar declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as life member of the National Association of Headteachers.

39. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed that for future meetings, the Minutes relating to the relevant schools causing concern, from the meeting at which they were last discussed would be distributed with the papers for reference.

40. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reported on the visit by members of the Panel to the Hamble College, in particular highlighting the impressive facilities that were on display and commended it as an example of partnership working.

The Panel was updated on the progress of the Education Bill by the Chairman. It was explained that there were potentially some opportunities

for the County Council, however also that it was a very complex piece of legislation and was not likely to be enacted until the end of 2011.

The Chairman reported to the Panel that he had chosen to use half of his devolved member budget for 2010/11 to support schools in his division via a learning outside the classroom experience involving 770 children from 13 schools.

41. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made under this item.

42. **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) on the progress of children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and to highlight the actions being taken in 2010-2011.

The Deputy Director for Education outlined the Early Years Foundation Stage for children below the age of five, explaining that there were six curriculum areas and performance was decided on the basis of observation rather than formal testing. This led to a "threshold score" and an "attainment gap" being measured. The Deputy Director confirmed that as a result of significant investment in the pre-school sector, performance had improved and was reflected in a three percent increase in the threshold score.

The Panel discussed the Early Years performance, focusing particularly on language development in bi-lingual children such as in the Nepalese community and also on the growing gender gap between girls and boys. They noted research suggesting that attainment in Year R was important for future attainment. The pilot programme offering 10 free hours of childcare per week for two year old children was discussed and it was explained that this also included an element of family support, that take-up had been good and that it was hoped the programme would be extended.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel note the report.

43. **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN HAMPSHIRE 2010: RESULTS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding the latest information on educational attainment in Hampshire.

The Deputy Director for Education outlined the report to the Panel. Members discussed key aspects, in particular the possible introduction of an “English Baccalaureate”, the significance of the SEN (Special Educational Needs) figures for Hampshire, the progress of Hampshire’s ten “Gaining Ground” Schools and the nature of Key Stage Three and post 16 monitoring. The level of support for children in youth offending programmes was questioned and it was noted that problems often began in primary school for children who did not expect to achieve academically.

It was noted that the recommendations in the report had been approved by the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services at his decision day on 28 January 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel note the report.

44. **PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN NORTH AND EAST HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel considered the report of the Director of Children’s Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) identifying the schools in North and East Hampshire that were causing concern.

It was resolved to note the schools identified in the report.

45. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That, in relation to the following item the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

46. **PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN NORTH AND EAST HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel considered the exempt appendix of the Director of Children’s Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on schools in North and East Hampshire causing concern.

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]