

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday, 3 June 2015.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:

p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Roz Chadd

**Councillors:**

p John Bennison	p Roger Huxstep
p Ann Briggs	p Warwick Lovegrove
p Zilliah Brooks	a Martin Lyon
p Rita Burgess	p Ken Moon
p Christopher Carter	p Jackie Porter
p Criss Connor	p Bruce Tennent
p Marge Harvey	p Ken Thornber
p Tony Hooke	p Malcolm Wade
p Rob Humby	p Christopher Wood

**Substitute Members:**

n/a

**Co-opted Members:**

p Claire Dodd: Primary School Parent Governor Representative  
p Andrew March: Secondary School Parent Governor Representative  
a Urzula Topp: Roman Catholic Schools Representative  
p Gary Walker: Special School Parent Governor Representative  
a Jeff Williams: Church of England Schools Representative

**At the invitation of the Chairman:**

p Councillor Peter Edgar – Executive Member for Education  
p Councillor Keith Mans – Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services

80. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recordings for broadcasting purposes.

81. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin Lyon, and the Church of England Schools Representative, Jeff Williams.

82. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations of interest were made.

83. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

84. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at the meeting.

85. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made two announcements:

**New Membership**

The Chairman welcomed new Members of the Committee, which included Councillors Zilliah Brooks, Tony Hooke and Rob Humby, and a new special schools parent governor representative, Gary Walker.

**Gold Schools Games Event**

The Chairman provided Members with an overview of his recent visit with the Executive Member for Education to the Gold Schools Games event, held at the Ageas Bowl, which aimed to reward excellence in sports for school children

from across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, and provided a range of activities supported by Sport Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

#### New Committee Meeting Date

Following a recent communication from the Chief Executive, Members were informed of the additional meeting of the Select Committee taking place on 16 September, in order to review the proposals for 'Transformation to 2017'.

#### 86. **CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services (item 6 in the minute book) on Children's Safeguarding in Hampshire.

The report described the progress made with children's safeguarding since the OFSTED inspection related to this topic in 2014. Since this time, Hampshire County Council's outcome of 'good' with elements of 'outstanding' was still the best outcome of all inspections undertaken thus far, with approximately 80% of all inspected Local Authorities receiving a 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' rating.

One of the main national developments in child safeguarding noted in the report related to the topic of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and the actions being taken by Children's Services to respond to this emerging threat. A joined-up review of historical cases taking place in the same time periods as some of the national cases received attention, such as those in Rotherham and Oxford, was requested by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (and the Isle of Wight). This case review had to date seen the Police, Children's Services and Health services across Hampshire undertaking their own internal audits, and to date, neither a systemic problem or a failure to respond to such a problem with regard to the local authority's responses had been found. However, Hampshire must always retain an open mind and not be complacent in relation to this topic, ensuring that robust sharing of information between agencies and open routes for reporting concerns continues to take place.

Other salient points discussed on the report included the continued increased activity and workloads around child safeguarding, specifically in relation to open cases, initial contacts and new referrals. The need to ensure sufficient resource and ongoing capacity to be able to respond to increases in demand was noted, but it was hoped that the monies attached to the new innovation programme successfully bid for in Hampshire would enable both the recruitment of additional staff, and upskilling of the current

workforce. Work was taking place with the University of Winchester to train new social workers, and to make the role accessible and appealing to those exploring new career opportunities.

The increasing use of agency staff, and the headhunting of current social workers by agencies, continued to be a focus of the Department, with work taking place with South East England Councils to develop a protocol with preferred agencies. Additionally, discussions were taking place to explore a range of measures that might be applied across the region

Positive news was reported as Hampshire currently had the highest number of foster carers ever recorded in the County, but more homes were needed to provide a greater number of stable placements for children placed into care. The Council would be undertaking activities in line with National Fostering Week, which was taking place the week of this Select Committee.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That new Children's homes were being built or remodelled by the Council, the planning for which had been undertaken in consultation with the young people who would be accommodated. Some disruption would be caused to those young people who would need to temporarily be placed elsewhere whilst buildings were demolished and rebuilt, but plans were in place to ensure that ties with schools, friends and support services were not affected during this time.
- The movement of children placed in care between foster homes and children's homes is monitored, with performance against three plus moves strengthening in the past year. However the Council were not nationally a lead performer in this area, and more needed to be done to identify how to increase the stability of care placements.
- The Police had placed additional resource into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), although this wouldn't be reflected in the data until the next reporting quarter.
- The new wilful neglect legislation powers hadn't yet been enacted, but it was felt that as Members and officers were aware of the clear reporting mechanisms for concerns on the welfare of a child, these duties in principle were already well known by Members and officers in Hampshire County Council.
- There was currently a vacancy rate of approximately 12% for social workers in Hampshire, against a national average of approximately 20%. These vacancies were covered by agency staff, and regular caseload monitoring took place in order to ensure that vacancies

- caused by absence were covered to reduce pressure.
- The number of social workers employed by Hampshire had increased, assisted by the investment of £2.5m towards this aim in 2012/13, and a recent £12m towards the costs of care. Hampshire County Council has approximately 300 social workers, with an average of 25 open cases per individual. It was thought that providing good management and support enables social workers to manage a higher number of cases.
- Staff wellbeing and the impact of workload was a high priority for the Department, and a sense of morale could be taken from the Annual Survey undertaken each year. Exploration of what further can be done to support staff would take place as part of the review of the social work employment and retention policies.
- It was hoped that the Innovation project would identify new ways of working for social workers, enabling staff to use evidence-based interventions which made a difference rather than following the same traditional processes which focus on monitoring children at risk.
- Supporting mobile working was a key focus of the Department and software had been trialled to see if it met the complex needs of Hampshire's social workers. Currently the products on the market did not meet these needs, so work would be taking place with developers to produce technology fit for the future.

IT update to be included in next safeguarding report.

A request was made that the next update on child safeguarding included details of progress with mobile working IT support to social workers.

#### RESOLVED

That an update on Children's Safeguarding is received annually by the Committee.

#### 87. **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2015-18**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services (item 7 in the minute book) as well as a draft of the Children and Young People Plan 2015-18.

It was outlined that the main headlines of the Plan had previously been reported to the Committee in January 2015, and since this time work had been taking place to draft a purposefully condensed but dynamic document which aimed to establish the vision and priorities for Hampshire's Children's Trust for a period of three years, and to provide a strategic framework for local activity.

The main five priorities of the Plan included outcomes for children and young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve

economic wellbeing.

Some minor amendments had been made to the draft Plan since being sent to Members of the Committee, which mostly related to the language used and aimed to improve the narrative. It was envisaged that the Plan would build on the previous version, with enhanced reference to Child Sexual Exploitation, and the role of independent schools. The Plan was predicated on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as the Children's Trust believed it to be consistent with the aims of Hampshire County Council. Additionally the work of the troubled families programme and public health has been enhanced in the Plan.

It was intended that the final draft of the Plan would be discussed at Cabinet for agreement, and the final version would be published and shared with Members of the Committee.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the Plan would be accomplished through a partnership approach; it would not be possible for the Council to achieve the aims on its own.
- The achievements of the Plan and monitoring of its outcomes would be undertaken regularly by the Children's Trust. The Plan itself was aimed to be a high-level strategy document.
- Schools improvement was featured in the Plan, and good progress in all categories had been evidenced following the previous Plan.
- A continued outcome strived for by the Department was that all young people leaving full-time education have literacy and numeracy skills, focusing on attainment rather than ability.
- Should the Education and Adoption Bill pass in its current form, it would make it easier for schools rated as 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' by OFSTED to become Academies. Although this ability already exists, it would be important to consider the legislation carefully.
- The Department was no longer directly responsible for further education college syllabi. but wished to continue to work in partnership with these organisations to ensure that the skills that are taught equip people for work, and the qualifications received are accepted by employers.

## RESOLVED

That:

1. the draft Children and Young People Plan is endorsed.
2. the final version of the Plan is forwarded to

- Members, for information.
3. an annual progress update on the Children and Young People Plan is provided to the Children and Young People's Select Committee.

87. **TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services (item 8 in the minute book) .

In addition to the slides, salient points that Members heard included:

- Babies born to teenage mothers have a 41% higher risk of infant mortality.
- The provisional 2013 teenage conception data shows that Hampshire had a lower rate than England, but has a higher rate than three out of four statistical neighbours. Additionally, the comparators had also seen a greater percentage reduction against the baseline.. Benchmarking work is ongoing with these Authorities, and it currently wasn't thought that Hampshire's strategy differs significantly. Further work would take place to identify any unknown best practice.
- Over 100 professionals had been trained in the previous year to deliver Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), the majority of which worked in the voluntary sector.
- Partnership working was one of the key factors contributing to the success of reducing teenage conception; interaction with health professionals was especially important, in order to ensure access to evidence-based interventions.

*Councillor Huxstep left the meeting at this point in proceedings.*

In response to questions, Members heard:

- Trained practitioners offer targeted single gender (girl and boy) Sex and Relationships Education in target schools.
- Trained professionals deliver Girl Talk, Boy Talk programme in schools. In order to encourage discussion, professionals discuss with schools whether it is appropriate for teachers to be present.
- Peer education is promoted in schools, and a DVD with resource pack to support delivery of teenage pregnancy education is in progress.
- Statistics are collected on teenage conception under the age of 15; the 15-17yrs range is the population data used by Office for National Statistics to calculate the rate. All conceptions to under 18s are recorded in the data.. Data on under-16s could be provided to the

Data on under-15 conception rate to be provided to the Committee.

Committee.

- The same training and support is available to independent and academy schools. Young people identified as at risk of poor sexual health or requiring one to one support can be referred to the sexual health promotion team.

RESOLVED

That the update is noted.

89. **WORK PROGRAMME AND ANNUAL REPORT**

The Director of Policy and Governance presented the Committee's work programme (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The Chairman requested that all suggestions for the CYP SC work programme be forwarded to himself or the scrutiny officer for consideration at his next agenda planning session. The following topics were forwarded for discussion:

- Physical health in special schools.
- A presentation from the local area commissioner for academies.
- SACRE's work on the new religious studies syllabus for schools.

RESOLVED:

That:

1. the work programme, subject to any amendments made during the meeting, is agreed.
2. the Annual Report is agreed and forwarded to the Policy and Resources Select Committee.

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Chairman, 16 September 2015