

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday, 16 September 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	p 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:**

Vacant: 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

90. **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.

91. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

92. **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.

Councillor Jackie Porter declared a personal interest, as she is the Chair of two organisations that receive funding from the Children's Services department (Streetreach and Kingsworthy Children's Pre-school).

Councillor Malcolm Wade declared a personal interest, as he is Chairman of the Handy Trust, which receives funding from the Children's Services department.

93. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Under Matters Arising:

- The Children and Young People Plan was due to be agreed at the next Children's Trust board meeting, and once finalised would be shared with Members.
- The Annual Safeguarding report and teenage pregnancy figures would be circulated electronically.

94. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee received one deputation in relation to Item 6 on the agenda (Transformation to 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals):

Ms Gail Bedding, Chair of the Hampshire Parent Carer Network, who spoke on the short breaks service proposals.

95. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made one announcements:

**Resignation of Parent Governor Co-opted Member**

The Chairman provided notice that Ms Claire Dodd, the parent governor representative for Primary Schools, had resigned her position due to no longer being a governor at a primary school. Once schools have been given the opportunity to recruit new parent governors, the necessary arrangements would be made for a new parent governor representative to be co-opted onto this Committee.

96. **TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 – REVENUE SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Children's Services and representatives (item 6 in the minute book) on the departmental 'Transformation to 2017' revenue budget savings proposals and public consultation feedback.

The Chairman outlined areas of the report pertinent for the Committee to consider in their scrutiny of this item. Additional salient points raised during the presentation included:

- The 'Phase One' consultation, 'Shaping Hampshire', had been held over the summer, and sought views of the public, partners and communities in relation to how the Council could reduce spend and generate income.
- From this, the department had shaped proposals totalling £23.3m of savings, meeting the 14.5% required across all departments of the Council. The proposals would see a tighter focus on statutory responsibilities, according the needs of children in Hampshire.
- The proposals would be heard by the Select Committee, and a decision would be taken by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Service to commend the proposals to Cabinet, followed by a final decision at Council on 22 October.
- Decisions were being sought at this early stage in order to build in adequate time for the implementation of any proposals by the start of the 2017 financial year.
- Dependent on the decision-making at Executive Lead Member, Cabinet and Council level, there may be a requirement for the department to go out to a 'Phase Two' consultation, as some service-specific proposals would require further engagement with the public.
- Any further consultation would likely begin in the autumn and conclude in January 2016, although there may be a need for some limited service-specific consultations at a later point in the process.

- The table found in paragraph 4.8 was an amalgamation of previous reports on the budget, and simplified the overall proposed budget reductions.
- Two areas previously considered as offering potential reductions in budget had been carried forward to the 'Transformation to 2017' proposals; short breaks services, and youth services, both totalling £2.8m.
- The proposals had been informed by the department's best professional judgement of which services could transform further, and which could make greater efficiencies without impacting significantly on delivery.
- The department and Council had a reputation for providing high quality Children's services, and the aim would be to continue to sustain this throughout any period of transformation.
- The report before Members assumed that £1.8m would be removed from the budget related to provision for short breaks services. The Cabinet report due to be considered on 5 October contained wording which suggested this may be subject to 'reconsideration', which would be for political decision-makers to determine.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the equitable application of the 14.5% reduction to all departments had been a political decision.
- All departments have worked closely together to ensure that proposals do not adversely impact on other services, ensuring that an ethos of joint working exists in relation to finding efficiencies.
- The department were confident that the plans in place would enable the budget savings to be made in a timely way without adversely impacting on delivery.
- Additional revenue budget provision has been received by the department to meet the increasing demand on placement costs for children in care.
- The Council would be making any appropriate arrangements and subsequent bids to Government for the resettling and support of any families and children with refugee status in Hampshire.

Discussion was held amongst Members as to whether a further seminar-style briefing would be helpful in assisting the Committee to better understand the proposals being considered in advance of the Council meeting on 22 October, The Director of Children's Services agreed to support this request.

During debate, Members discussed their views on the 'Transformation to 2017 – revenue budget proposals', both generally in terms of the Council's approach to applying budget reductions, and specifically in relation to the department's own proposals, taking into account the report

and presentation from officers. Support was heard for the department's approach and ability to reduce budgets to date, but concern was expressed by some opposition members that a further round of departmental spending reductions would impact on services to an unsustainable level.

Discussion was also held on the political approach to applying the 14.5% budget reduction equitably across all departments of the Council, and some opposition members declined to support any potential recommendation to commend the proposals to the Executive Lead Member on the basis of disagreeing with this approach.

The Chairman moved to proceed to recommendations.

A recommendation was proposed by Councillor Thornber and seconded by Councillor Moon. A recorded vote was requested and agreed by a quorum of Members present. A vote took place on the recommendation as set out below:

*'That a seminar be held for all Members of the Children and Young People Select Committee, in order to more fully understand the implications of the Children's Services 'Transformation of 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals' report. That this seminar be held prior to the 22 October Council meeting.'*

For: Cllr Bennison, Cllr Bolton, Cllr Briggs, Cllr Brooks, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Carter, Cllr Chadd, Cllr Connor, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hooke, Cllr Humby, Cllr Huxstep, Cllr Lovegrove, Cllr Lyon, Cllr Moon, Cllr Porter, Cllr Tennent, Cllr Thornber, Cllr Wade, Cllr Wood

Against: None

Abstained: None

A recommendation was proposed by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Wade. A recorded vote was requested and agreed by a quorum of Members present. A vote took place on the recommendation as set out below:

*'That the total percentage of cuts be reconsidered to enable the Executive Lead Member to reinstate the sum of £1.8m for short breaks, without jeopardising other Children's Services.'*

For: Cllr Connor, Cllr Hooke, Cllr Lovegrove, Cllr Lyon, Cllr Porter, Cllr Tennent, Cllr Wade, Cllr Wood

Against: None

Abstained: Cllr Bennison, Cllr Bolton, Cllr Briggs, Cllr Brooks, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Carter, Cllr Chadd,

Seminar on the Transformation to 2017 proposals to be arranged.

Cllr Harvey, Cllr Humby, Cllr Huxstep, Cllr Moon, Cllr Thornber

A recommendation was proposed by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Wade. A recorded vote was requested and agreed by a quorum of Members present. A vote took place on the recommendation as set out below:

*'That the Executive Member reconsiders the percentage cut of Children's Services as a proportion of the total HCC cuts taking into account that Children's Services serves the most vulnerable in our society in Hampshire.'*

For: Cllr Connor, Cllr Hooke, Cllr Lovegrove, Cllr Lyon, Cllr Porter, Cllr Tennent, Cllr Wade  
Against: Cllr Bolton, Cllr Briggs, Cllr Brooks, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Carter, Cllr Chadd, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Humby, Cllr Huxstep, Cllr Moon, Cllr Thornber  
Abstained: Cllr Bennison, Cllr Wood

RESOLVED

That:

1. A seminar be held for all Members of the Children and Young People Select Committee, in order to more fully understand the implications of the Children's Services 'Transformation of 2017 – Revenue Savings Proposals' report. That this seminar be held prior to the 22 October Council meeting.
2. The total percentage of cuts be reconsidered to enable the Executive Lead Member to reinstate the sum of £1.8m for short breaks, without jeopardising other Children's Services.

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

97. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORM**

The Committee received a report from representatives of the Director of Children's Services and the Hampshire Five Clinical Commissioning Groups (item 7 in the minute book) on the progress made to implement reforms to special education needs and disability (SEND) statements.

Additional salient points raised by presenters included:

- The legislation makes a three year allowance for transferring SEND statements to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). To date, approximately 1,000

statements had been transferred against a target of 1,200. It was hoped that a further 1,500 would be completed by the end of 2016. Feedback from parents and guardians had been that time should be taken to ensure that conversions are primarily undertaken thoroughly, rather than quickly.

- That a post had been recruited to in order to work with and sign schools up to the 'Hampshire Local Offer' – to date, 97% of all schools were linked into this scheme, compared to the national average of around 50%. Hampshire has resultantly been seen as a sector leader in this area.
- The volume of requests for new assessments has increased substantially, with a 38% increase in numbers over the summer period. Work was ongoing to understand the reasons for this.
- As of 1 September, 5,270 pupils in Hampshire have SEND statements or EHCPs.
- The focus when implementing the reforms has been on improving outcomes for children.
- The reforms had included a duty for Local Authorities to co-operate with the NHS on EHCPs. A contract had recently been let for one provider to offer all services across Hampshire, and this had been awarded to Solent NHS Trust.
- The Ofsted pilot inspection on the SEND reforms would take approximately 4.5 days. The outcomes wouldn't be published, owing to it being a pilot inspection, but a narrative report would be provided and recommendations made to the Council. Taking part in the pilot would have no bearing on Hampshire's possible selection for a full inspection on the five year cycle for the regime commenced in May 2016.

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

In response to questions, Members heard:

- The SEN reform service restructure has taken account of the staff consultation outcomes.
- The current offer to children with EHCPs from the NHS didn't currently include sensory integration therapy. However, one of NHS England's strategic aims is to offer children and their parents/guardians personal health budgets, which can be used to purchase a wide variety of offered therapies.
- Analysis of the number of children with a severe and complex statement of needs or EHCP shows that Hampshire has a higher than average number of children attending specialist provision. Part of the future work of the SEN service would be to ensure that children are in appropriate placements.
- Part of the annual review process for children with

statements or EHCPs should be a consideration as to whether their needs can be catered for in the mainstream school system, in order to attempt to try to normalise life with peers, if appropriate.

RESOLVED

That:

1. The report is noted.
2. The outcomes of the pilot Ofsted inspection into the SEND reforms is received by the Committee when timely.

98. **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS SYLLABUS**

Owing to the time taken to consider other items on the agenda, the Chairman proposed that this item be deferred to the October meeting of the Committee.

Work programme to be updated.

RESOLVED

That the item be deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

99. **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:

- Home schooling.
- Use of mobile phones, laptops and tablets by pupils in Hampshire schools.
- School crossing patrols (to be forwarded to the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee for consideration).

Work programme updated.

The topic of school crossing patrols in forwarded to ETE SC Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme, subject to any amendments made during the meeting, is agreed.

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Chairman, 14 October 2015