

CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2016 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman), Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Atiquel Hoque, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr Philip Whalley, Dr M Thompson and Wilkins

Also Present:

Cllr Laura Mayes

31 Election of Chairman

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Jon Hubbard as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

32 Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Jacqui Lay as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

33 Membership and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Helen Osborn.

Following the meeting of Council on 10 May, Councillor Bill Moss had been moved from a full to substitute member of the Committee. Councillor Atiquel Hoque had been appointed as a full Member of the Committee.

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March were presented for consideration. Note was taken of the interest from the Assembly of Youth on the issue of mental health.

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a true and correct record.

35 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

36 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman drew attention to items of interest to the Committee that would be considered at the May and June meetings of Cabinet, including action on loans to schools if undertaking academisation with a deficit.

The Chairman also formally noted the passing of the late councillor Jeff Osborn, who had served as substitute on the Committee in addition to his vast contributions with other scrutiny work. On behalf of the Committee the Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Osborn, and expressed their best wishes to Cllr Helen Osborn, who remained unwell in hospital.

37 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

38 **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education**

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on updates from the Department for Education was considered, with input from Julia Cramp, Associate Director, Commissioning, Performance, School Effectiveness.

It was stated a new inspection framework had recently been introduced, looking not just at roles of councils but entire local areas, with a remit looking at schools, health and areas such as special educational needs. Wiltshire was expected to be considered early in the new cycle.

Details were also sought on the extended entitlement of up to 30 hours of free child care and the update on assessment and accreditation of social workers, and the committee requested further updates on how efforts to work with aspiring managers and improve multi agency working with social workers was proceeding.

The Committee also discussed the government white paper 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' which proposed making every school an academy, and noted a special meeting would be held on 21 June 2016 to explore the paper and its implications for Wiltshire in depth.

Resolutions:

To note the update provided.

39 **Adoption West Update**

The Chairman provided a verbal update on regional progress of Adoption West and efforts to map out processes on adoption across the region, and efforts to engage with staff and stakeholders, with a view to considering proposal in the next few months, with consultation and final decisions by the end of 2016.

The new adoption agency had a final implementation date of September 2018, when council work will transfer to the new agency, and effort was needed to shape the delivery of the new service.

Resolutions:

To note the verbal update provided.

40 **Re-commissioning Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

A Cabinet report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) was received in May 2016, approving recommissioning of a new integrated service delivery model. Two contracts with the same organisation were concluding, and testing would take place to see who would be the most capable provider for any replacement.

The Committee commented upon the Cabinet paper, discussing the rising demand for mental health services, causes of mental health problems for young people and challenges in helping young people access services to provide help, particular those less likely to seek assistance. It was also noted that those not at a highest priority level could find issues are not addressed at an early stage before they develop into something so serious they reach the highest priority level, and more effort was needed to reach people before that stage, including working closely with third sector providers, not just combing contracts.

Resolutions:

To notify the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee of the intention to establish a task group to look at the recommissioning of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

41 **Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations 2015**

At its meeting in January 2016 the Committee considered data on pupil performance, and some information regarding post 16 education was unavailable at the time. A paper was presented providing an overview of performance, and compared attainment in Wiltshire with national, regional and statistical neighbour authorities.

Academic results were noted to be good, but some committee members expressed concern at vocational results and it was suggested more detail be sought from Wiltshire College.

Resolutions:

To note the Post-16 Key Stage 5 Academic and Vocational Qualification 2015 data provided.

42 **Early Help Strategy Task Group**

The Early Help Dataset is a quarterly dataset first created in September 2014 following review from the Task Group and the Early Intervention Subgroup overseen by the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children's Board and the Children's Trust. The Committee was presented with an updated set of information and asked to provide comment upon its suitability as an assessment mechanism and guidance for further work to be undertaken by the Task Group.

The Committee was supportive of presentational changes made at the request of the Task Group which made the information simpler to note, and suggested at least biannual updates to the committee.

Resolutions:

To recognise that the revised Early Help Dataset remains a suitable mechanism for providing oversight and delivery of the Early Help Strategy.

To recognise the continued complexity of developing this dataset and be assured that it's further development is a key deliverable for the Early Intervention Sub Group and is under careful governance and scrutiny of both the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust.

To endorse the revised Early Help Dataset as striving to meet the requirements defined and recommended by the Early Help Task Group.

43 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group**

The Committee received the Executive Response to the final report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group, presented to the Committee on 22 March 2016. The Cabinet Member, Councillor Laura Mayes, was in attendance with Amy McNaughton, Public Health Consultant.

The Committee considered the response to each recommendation of the Task Group and sought more details of further action that could be taken, for example inviting the Cabinet Member for Planning to future meetings to discuss the extent of any influence that could be had on proliferation of fast food outlets and implementation of exclusion zones.

Resolutions:

To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group subject to its endorsement by the Health Select Committee on 21 June 2016 and to invite the Cabinet Member for Planning

to respond in more detail to points raised on exclusion zones for fast foot outlets.

44 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Children's Community Health Services Rapid Scrutiny Exercise**

The Committee received the Executive Response to the Final Report of the Children's Community Services Rapid Scrutiny Exercise, considered at its meeting on 22 March 2016.

The Committee were informed the new provider would be spoken to shortly about the issues raised in the recommendations, and there was some concern the contract had already started before details on recording systems and data management had been agreed, but it was stated by the Associate Director that as part of the contract bidding process details would have been provided on such details.

It was noted that some data would not be available for 12 months, and it was requested a briefing be arranged in 6 months in the interim.

Resolutions:

To note the executive response to the Report of the Children's Community Health Services Rapid Scrutiny Exercise.

45 **Academisation Task Group**

At its meeting on 10 May 2016 Council received a motion regarding proposed academisation of schools and the implications for Wiltshire. Following consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 24 May 2016 at the request of Council, the motion was referred to the Children's Select Committee.

Resolution

To establish an Academisation Task Group and to begin scoping exercises and formulating a terms of reference.

46 **Task Group Updates**

The Committee considered updates from the task groups as listed in the agenda.

Resolutions:

To note the update on task group activity provided.

To endorse the terms of reference for the School Improvement Strategy Task Group.

To remove Mr Ken Brough as a member of the CSE task group.

47 **Forward Work Programme**

Resolution

To note the forward work programme

48 **Date of Next Meeting**

A special meeting would be held on 21 June 2016 to consider the government white paper, Educational Excellent Everywhere.

The next ordinary meeting would be held on 26 July 2016.

49 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 2.30 - 5.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line 01225 7130358504, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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