

## CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

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### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 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 Douglas, Cllr Atiqul Hoque, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr Philip Whalley, Dr M Thompson, Mr J Hawkins, Wilkins and Cllr Chuck Berry (Substitute)

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#### 86 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sue Evans (who was substituted by Cllr Chuck Berry), Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Rev Alice Kemp, Miss Sarah Busby and Miss Cathy Shahrokni (who was substituted by Ms Ellen Plowman).

#### 87 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

##### **Resolved:**

**To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2016.**

#### 88 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### 89 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

##### **Cabinet Items**

On 17 January 2017 Cabinet was due to consider the following item:-

- Adoption Agency Six Month Report.

## 90 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present or Councillors' questions.

## 91 **Exclusion Zones for Fast Food Outlets**

The Committee received a report by Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Planning, Property, Waste & Strategic Housing which set out his response to Recommendation 12 of the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Risk Group, which read:-

*“The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, and the Cabinet Member for Planning, Property, Waste and Strategic Housing, to advise if the council currently seeks to influence the proliferation of fast food outlets (particularly near schools) through the planning process and, if not, whether there are plans to consider doing so.”*

Cllr Sturgis informed the meeting that the Council considered each application on its own merits, taking into account of all the material considerations. The planning role was to consider the suitability of each proposal's location, and, in so doing, matters such as highway safety and residential amenity were normally the more critical issues where there were policies in place. He went on to explain that proximity to a school might be considered but would by itself rarely be a determining factor in a planning application in the absence of any planning policy setting out such criteria.

The Committee noted that there was currently no specific policy within the Wiltshire Core Strategy that would enable the provision of new fast food outlets to be restricted near to schools and college campuses.

Public Health and Public Protection were working together to research local data and evidence in order to establish if there were any areas in Wiltshire where there appeared to be a proliferation of fast food outlets near to schools and colleges. Discussions were also taking place with other local authorities to learn from their experiences in restricting fast food outlets near schools through the planning system.

During discussion, Members enquired if representations should be made to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government for some control on the establishment of new fast food outlets near schools and colleges could be included in the National Planning Policy Framework. Cllr Sturgis stated that any change to planning policy would need to be evidence based and it was generally agreed that schools and parents should be encouraged to take more action in educating children to eat healthily.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To note the executive response to Recommendation 12 of the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group.**
- (2) To consider this as a possible legacy issue at the March 2017 meeting of this Committee.**

**92 Activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)**

The Chairman presented James Wilkins, Children's & Young People's representative, with an Annual Young People's Award for his outstanding contributions to the provision of services for youth in Melksham.

The Committee then received an update on the activities of the WAY during the period July to November 2016, which was presented by James Wilkins, assisted by Ed Northeast, another representative from WAY.

He explained that WAY organised its activities in relation to its Agenda for Action which had five priorities as follows:-

- Priority 1: Improve emotional wellbeing and mental health support for young people.
- Priority 2: Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
- Priority 3: Bullying
- Priority 4: Public Transport
- Priority 5: Environment

With regard to mental health support, the Committee was informed that a Children and Young People's Reference Group had been set up, which would include two members from WAY. This Reference Group would be involved in the commissioning of a new child and adolescent mental health service across Wiltshire, Swindon and BANES. Participation of children and young people across these areas would be coordinated by the Reference Group and would take place between January and June 2017.

James Wilkins drew attention to a meeting at which WAY members had met with the Chief Constable who had invited contributions about the role of the police. The WAY representatives had raised issues relating to drugs, cyber-bullying and mental health and had suggested that the police work on intervening earlier to prevent cyber-crime. They also suggested that programmes be drawn up on education around computer awareness, malware checks, using correct settings to prevent cyber-bullying and cyber-crime. The Chief Constable agreed to give consideration to these ideas and finding ways to

invest in policing methods that would prevent crime. It was considered that young people who had suffered in particular from cyber-bullying should be encouraged to come forward and explain their bullying experiences which would really help focus on the problems.

Members requested that updates be provided for the Committee on a regular basis and in particular, what progress was being made by the Police in assisting to overcome these problems.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To note the report from WAY.**
- (2) To receive regular updates from WAY.**

**93 UK Youth Parliament House of Commons Debate**

The Committee received a presentation from James Wilkins and Ed Northeast on the UK Youth Parliament's debate in the House of Commons.

It was noted that members of the Youth Parliament aged 11 to 18 take part in an annual debate in the House of Commons chamber, chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP. Five issues are debated chosen by a ballot of young people from across the UK and then voted to decide which two issues become the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaign for the year ahead.

Members were informed that debates in the Youth Parliament were chosen from the top five issues recorded by ballot, these being:-

- 1. A curriculum to prepare us for life**  
Schools should cover topics including finance, sex and relationships and politics in the curriculum
- 2. Tackling racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish**  
All young people should work together to combat racism and other forms of discrimination, and ensure we know the dangers of such hatred
- 3. Transport**  
Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all.
- 4. Votes at 16**  
Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.
- 5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS**  
Funding that affects the NHS shouldn't be cut. We must keep up vital services to protect young people

Following the debates it was agreed by vote that the campaigns for 2017 should be as follows:-

UK Campaign – Votes at 16

England Campaign – Curriculum for Life

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked James Wilkins and Ed Northeast for their interesting and informative presentation.

**Resolved:**

**To note the presentation on the UK Youth Parliament House of Commons debate.**

#### 94 **Corporate Parenting Panel Bi-Annual Report**

The Committee received a bi-annual update on the progress and achievements of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

It was noted that in January 2016 the Corporate Parenting Panel approved their Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2016-18, which consisted of seven strategic strategies which they would ensure delivery of as follows:-

- (1) Strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function across Wiltshire Council as a whole.
- (2) Continue to improve timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options.
- (3) Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children within Wiltshire which meets the needs of those children. Prioritise placement within Wiltshire.
- (4) Improve care leavers journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: education, employment and training, independent living, housing options and health.
- (5) Improve the educational outcomes for looked after children; closing the gap between looked after children and other children in the County.
- (6) Ensure that looked after children are protected from the risk of child sexual exploitation and reduce the frequency with which some looked after children and care leavers currently go missing.
- (7) Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services.

Cllr Laura Mayes, as Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel thanked its members for their enthusiastic contributions to the work of the Panel but did stress that, although much work was being undertaken, there was still much to do and in particular, assistance for care leavers looking for employment. Apprenticeship schemes were proving to be popular but more such schemes were required to meet these needs. The Council had been establishing a number of these schemes which were proving to be both popular and successful.

It was also noted that more work was required in assisting young care leavers with suitable accommodation and this was being regarded as a key priority.

Cllr Mayes also reported that a smaller working party had been established to find out the level of services that were being provided by other local authorities as a comparison.

**Resolved:**

**To note the bi-annual update report of the Corporate Parenting Panel and to thank the Panel for the valuable work which was being undertaken.**

**95 Final Report of the Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group**

Consideration was given to a report which presented the conclusions and recommendations of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task Group.

Cllr Jacqui Lay as Chairman of the Task Group, introduced the report and explained that it had been established in October 2014 and that it started its work by receiving a comprehensive briefing on all the CSE work being undertaken. The Task Group submitted an interim report to this Committee on 26 January 2016 and the Committee was now being asked to endorse the final report of the Task Group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response at the Committee's next meeting.

During her presentation, Cllr Lay explained the findings of the Task Group and highlighted a number of the recommendations contained in the report. During discussion, reference was made to the serious problem of missing children and it was noted that work was being undertaken to ensure as far as possible that this did not happen.

It was acknowledged that further consideration should be given to appropriate training and especially for all members of the Council after the Local Elections in May 2017.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To endorse the report of the Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response at the Committee's next meeting.**
- (2) To thank members of the Task Group for the valuable in-depth work they had undertaken.**

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

The Committee received an update from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education from October to November 2016 as follows:-

- 30 hour free childcare entitlement delivery model: Government consultation response
- Level 3 early years education: numeracy and literacy requirements
- Primary education
- Constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools
- Induction for newly qualified teachers (NQTs)
- Academies update
- Participation of young people: education, employment and training
- Technical and Further Education Bill
- New apprenticeship funding
- Social work reform policy and proposed changes to the Children and Social Work Bill
- Children's Social Care Innovation Programme
- Knowledge and skills statement for achieving permanence
- Extension of the Inter-agency Adoption Fee Fund

It was noted that further information on several of these items, including the role of the local authority with 30 hour free childcare entitlement delivery model and also with school improvement proposals would be provided when available.

**Resolved:**

**To note the update provided.**

**97 Task Group Updates**

The Committee received an update on the activity of the following Task Groups:-

- SEND Task Group
- School Improvement Strategy Task Group
- Safeguarding & Young People Task Group

The Committee also received an update on the activity of the Education Transformation Board from the Children's Select Committee representative, Cllr Philip Whalley.

**Resolved:**

**To note the update on task group and Education Transformation Board activity provided.**

**98 Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received a document showing the relevant items from the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

**Resolved:**

**To note the Forward Work Programme for this Committee.**

**99 Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**To note that the next scheduled meeting of this Committee was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24 January 2017 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.**

**(Note: Since this meeting the date of the next meeting has been changed. It will now take place on Tuesday 31 January 2017, starting at 2.00pm at County Hall, Trowbridge.)**

**100 Urgent Items**

There were no items of urgent business.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713035, e-mail [roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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