

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at Ashburton Hall, Winchester on Monday, 3 December 2012.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice Chairman:
p Councillor John West

Councillors:

p Charlotte Bailey	p Keith Evans
p Graham Burgess	p Jonathan Glen
p Rita Burgess	a David Keast
a Roz Chadd	p Roger Kimber
p Brian Collin	p Anna McNair Scott
p Brian Dash	a Pam Mutton
p Sam Darragh	p Jackie Porter
p David Drew	p Jenny Radley
a Adrian Evans	a Bruce Tennent

Co-opted Members:

p Mohammed Ansar – Parent Governor (primary)
a Rosemary Olivier – RC schools representative
a Tony Blackshaw – CoE schools representative
(vacant) – Parent Governor (secondary)
(vacant) – Parent Governor (special)

At the invitation of the Chairman:

p Councillor Roy Perry, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services;
p Councillor Peter Edgar, Assistant Executive Member for Education and
p Councillor Marilyn Tucker, Assistant Executive Member for Safeguarding.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Roz Chadd, Adrian Evans, David Keast, Pam Mutton and Bruce Tennent and also from Tony Blackshaw.

122. 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 Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 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.

The following Members declared a non-pecuniary interest:

Cllr Jackie Porter	Chairman of Trustee Charity, which was in receipt of money from Youth Services budget.
Cllr Brian Dash	Involved with a youth services trust that has applied for grant funding
Cllr Jonathan Glen	Has a child in the special education system

123. MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 28 September 2012 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Members were updated on the evolving situation with regard to English GCSE results and recent correspondence with Ofqual (Minute 117 refers). It was confirmed that all those affected had an opportunity to re-sit their exam and those results would be known in the new year. It was noted that the cost of re-sits had been borne by schools and the exam Boards. Members welcomed the update but remained concerned, particularly about those affected who were no longer in the education system.

124. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman updated the Committee on the Parent Governors representing Hampshire Schools. It was confirmed that the position of special school representative was being recruited to, that the position of secondary school representative had become vacant as Mr Watson was no longer eligible, since his school had become an Academy and that the position of primary school representative would shortly become vacant as Mr Ansar's term of office as a Parent Governor was due to end. Recruitment to the two vacant positions would commence in the new year.

Mr Ansar thanked the Committee and the supporting Officers for the support he had received during his term of office, explaining that he felt the Committee's work to be particularly important and that he hoped diverse educational interests would continue to be represented. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Ansar for his valuable contribution and wished him every success in the future.

The Chairman highlighted the recently published Ofsted annual report and Members agreed that its results were pleasing.

An Olympic legacy presentation to the CCRA Select Committee was highlighted and the Chairman asked that this be circulated to Members for their reference.

The Chairman praised the positive outcome of the recent Olympic and Paralympics Games, and the impact they have had in inspiring people to participate in sport.

125. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

126. HAMPSHIRE ETHNIC MINORITY AND TRAVELLER ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EMTAS)

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services detailing the work of EMTAS in Hampshire.

The support and services provided were outlined and it was explained how this overcame cultural and linguistic obstacles and reduced isolation for children from an ethnic minority or traveller background. In particular, the Young Interpreter scheme was discussed and its success noted. The academic attainment of children from an ethnic minority or traveller background was considered and it was noted that the gap to other children had closed or was narrowing at Key Stage One and Two. Furthermore that for linguistic reasons, improvement was often non-linear amongst children from an ethnic minority background.

Members questioned the amount of movement of children from an ethnic minority background between local authority areas and the level of support in other areas. It was confirmed that in many areas Traveller services have decreased, however Hampshire had retained strong links at an Officer level. Members agreed that it was important to maintain and build these links wherever possible. It was also noted that Hampshire schools had chosen to fund the work of EMTAS and the service was reliant on that funding.

It was resolved:

That the Select Committee note the presentation and thank the Officers involved.

That the Select Committee urges EMTAS to forge links with relevant cross boundary schools and education departments for the benefit of young people.

127. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Children's Services, item 7 in the Minute Book, regarding Youth Support services in Hampshire.

The background to the Youth Support services work was outlined to the Committee, as were the basis of the changes that had been made to form the current picture. The training of Officers and providers and the monitoring of service provision was questioned by Members and it was explained that training pathways were nationally accredited and that a range of indicators were available to provide quality assurance, which would in turn inform future funding decisions.

Careers advice in schools was discussed by the Committee and it was noted that the majority of schools had chosen to provide this service themselves. It was asked whether NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) were slipping beneath the radar and Members were assured that a tracking mechanism was in place and that the number of NEETs could be calculated with confidence. It was also noted that there was a seasonal fluctuation in the NEET numbers. The grants available for Youth Services were questioned and details were outlined. It was noted that the amount of financial support at the District and Borough level varied across Hampshire.

It was resolved:

That the Select Committee note the content of the report and that an update be considered in 12 months time.

128. BUDGET MONITORING – 2012/13 QUARTER 2

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Children's Services on the budget monitoring position at the end of the second quarter, item 8 in the Minute Book.

Members discussed the budget position with reference to the information in the report, and Officers provided clarity with relation to the use of under-spend and of pupil premium. The increase in numbers of looked after children was questioned and it was confirmed that this was largely a consequence of population growth.

It was resolved:

That the Select Committee note the report.

129. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive, setting out the work programme, item 9 in the Minute Book.

It was confirmed that the 2013/14 Children's Services revenue budget and capital programme would be on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 23 January 2013 in order that they may be pre-scrutinised prior to the Executive Lead Member's decision meeting. It was also proposed and agreed that an opportunity to discuss school places in Hampshire, and an update on the work of SACRE be included on the January agenda.

Chairman, 23 January 2013