

At a meeting of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 5 February 2013.

**Chairman:**  
**p Councillor Marilyn Tucker**

Councillors:

p Adrian Evans

p Mrs Charlotte Bailey

p Ray Bolton

p Brian Dash

p David Keast

a Mrs Roz Chadd

p Mrs Pamela Mutton

p Mrs Jackie Porter

**82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Roz Chadd for personal reasons.

**83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest 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 is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Code.

**84. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 1 October 2012 were considered by the Panel, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment under Minute No. 78, Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman confirmed that she had visited Tower House Horses where she met with pupils of Farnborough Grange Infant School who had participated in Equine Assisted Learning.

**85. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made at this meeting.

**86. MEMBERS FEEDBACK ON VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES**

No feedback was given by Members on this occasion.

**87. ADOPTION SCORECARD: NOVEMBER 2012**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) setting out Hampshire's performance against the Department for Education's Adoption Scorecard targets.

Members noted this was the second scorecard published since the scheme was introduced. Hampshire had not improved on its previous score but was still within the current threshold. In order to reverse this, the report highlighted several measures to improve the County's performance which included:

- Early pre-matching system for child to identify potential adopters in time for the Placement Order being made.
- Permission from court to advertise harder to place children in advance of the conclusion of care proceedings.
- Re-structuring the Integrated Assessment Team to create two separate teams, one for assessing adopters and the other for assessing foster carers.
- Increasing the target for the recruitment of adopters from 50 – 65 each year to ensure more adopters are available.
- Preparation for the new two stage recruitment process for adopters including re focussing the preparation training.

**RESOLVED:**

The Panel noted the performance indicated by the Adoption Scorecard and acknowledged the measures to improve this performance in order to meet the national thresholds set by the Department for Education.

**88. SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN: SERVICE STATEMENT REVIEW**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the recently approved Short Breaks Service Statement.

Members were made aware that this Statement had been reviewed by officers and parent representatives, as required by legislation, and was a significant revision to the one previously published in October 2011.

It was noted that feedback about the Statement was broadly positive and in fact the Department for Education had signposted other English local authorities to the County Council's draft statement as an example of good practice.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

89. **HAMPSHIRE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (HEP) SERVICE – PEER CHALLENGE**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the process and outcomes of the Peer Challenge which focussed on Hampshire Educational Psychology (HEP) Service.

The Director outlined that the peer challenge process was undertaken in two parts and was a positive experience for both the Department for Education and Hampshire Educational Psychology Service.

The outcomes of the review and the activities undertaken to address some of the areas raised by the process included:

- Revising HEP website to link to the sold services website and make more explicit the core/sold service activity difference.
- Attendance at primary Headteachers' conferences across the County.
- Ensured educational psychologists new to the service have a full understanding of our revised processes and can communicate these.
- A review of the take up of the telephone contact line and revised timings of sessions.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. That the theme of peer challenge, as developed by the South East Children's Services Authorities, be noted.
- ii. That the areas of strength observed in HEP and the outcomes in respect of areas for consideration be noted.
- iii. That HEP continue to develop sold services to schools and the wider community in line with Hampshire's Open for Business Plan 2011-13.
- iv. That the possibility of joining with other child-focused services to deliver sold services to schools be pursued.

90. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Panel received and noted a presentation given by the Director of Children's Services (a copy of which is included in the Minute Book as Item 9) on Learning and Development and in particular, Hampshire's response to the Social Work Taskforce recommendations.

The Director reported on how students were being prepared for the social work profession and that the Department were in the process of forging closer links between the universities and other local authorities to provide development pathways for social workers. This included introducing an Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) course for newly qualified social workers which was due to start in September 2013. It was also

the Department's intention to introduce a Foundation Course in Systemic Family Therapy to a number of social workers in Basingstoke, CAHMS and each of the other districts.

**91. FORWARD PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL**

The Panel received a report from the Director of Children's Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on the proposed work programme for this Panel.

The Director reported on a number of matters, including the Hampshire Youth Justice Plan and a progress report on Troubled Families. In discussion, it was felt that the Training Plan for the Basingstoke "Munro" Pilot, which was based on the Hackney Model and appeared on the agenda in the previous item, be included in the Plan for future consideration.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Forward Plan, with the addition of the update on the Basingstoke "Munro" Training Pilot be noted.