

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 8th September 2015

Time: 2.00pm – 4.10pm

Present: Councillors P Brown, S Bywater, D Divine, P Downes, S Frost, M Loynes, L Nethsingha, F Onasanya, J Whitehead (Chairwoman), J Wisson and F Yeulett (substituting for Councillor D Brown)

Mrs P Stanton (Church of England diocesan representative)

Apologies: Councillors D Brown, D Harty, S Van de Kerkhove and Mr P Rossi

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

109. MINUTES 30th JUNE 2015 AND ACTION LOG

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th June 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman. In connection with Minute 103, the Church of England diocesan representative asked how it was intended to consult further with the Diocesan authorities. In response, the Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, commented on his expectation that the consultation would be by way of further discussions with the Diocesan authorities but that he would make further enquiries and update the Church of England diocesan representative accordingly. **Action required.**

The Action Log was noted. With reference to Item 95 in the log, the Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, undertook to circulate to members of the Committee a copy of the letter to the Secretary of State for Education regarding fragmentation of the co-ordinated admissions process and the response. **Action required.**

110. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

111. BUSINESS PLANNING FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS SERVICES 2016 - 2020

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the development of business planning proposals for Children, Families and Adults Services. The challenging nature of the pressures facing children's services were highlighted in the report, with population growth and growing levels of need increasing demands on an already stretched financial position. The report sought a steer from the Committee regarding the strategic direction for business planning prior to the development of detailed business planning proposals for the next 5 years.

Members were reminded that a Business Planning seminar was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14 October 2015 from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

During discussion:-

- It was noted that subsequent to preparation of the report, the Prime Minister had made a statement regarding the proposal that Britain should resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the remainder of this Parliament. Reference was accordingly made to the expectation that local authorities would be called upon to put in place the necessary arrangements to house and support the resettled refugees. A Member asked whether work was already in hand to prepare for the implications of the Prime Minister's statement and when the Committee might expect to receive a report on this subject. In response, the Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, reported that he had attended a meeting at Cambridge City Council that morning at which initial discussions had taken place on how the local authorities might respond to the anticipated need to support resettled refugees. He outlined the nature of preliminary work being undertaken as follows:-
 - The availability of school places in Cambridge had been reviewed;
 - Arrangements for supporting schools to meet the needs of Syrian children were being developed;
 - Access to Arabic interpreter and translation services was being reviewed;
 - Children's Social Care was reviewing the availability of placements and arrangements were in place to link people volunteering rooms in their homes to the fostering service; and
 - Access to adult and children's mental health services was being reviewed.
- The Executive Director acknowledged that this was an emerging issue but commented that he expected to be in a position to circulate a briefing note to the Committee on the proposals to respond to this issue by the end of the following week.
- With respect to the funding implications of the resettlement of refugees, the Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, commented that the crisis demonstrated the extent to which Children, Families and Adults Services was a demand led service which had to respond to new pressures, notwithstanding the climate of ever reducing responses. It was explained that the Local Authority currently received funding from the Government for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and it was hoped that the same funding mechanism would be used by the Government.
- Reference was made to the Government proposal to double free childcare provision for 3-4 year olds and the anticipated consequential reduction in the number of places available. In response, the Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, confirmed the expectation that there would be a shortfall in places and that the Council would need to work to support the sector, albeit that it would not be possible to provide financial support.
- Members noted the proposal to maximise the impact of preventative work and to seek to reduce the escalation of need for high cost services and care packages. Some reservations were expressed as to whether it would be possible to deliver the aspirations in the Strategy and achieve the necessary savings. Officers affirmed that they were conscious of the risk that it might not be possible to manage demand as envisaged by the Strategy, with consequential implications for balancing the budget.
- As well as considering savings, a Member requested that the possibility of increasing Council Tax should also be analysed with a view to mitigating service reductions. As yet, the Government did not appear to have set the Council Tax cap for 2016/17. Members noted that the Adults Committee had requested that officers provide forecasts for the implications for the budget of a 5% increase in Council Tax.

- Reference was made to the intention to adopt a more personalised approach to the Business Plan/Budget consultation. In terms of seeking public views on Council Tax increases in order to offset service cuts, Members felt that it would be preferable to demonstrate the monthly impact of any increase, rather than the weekly impact. It was also important to make clear to the public that without additional resources, significant service reductions would be unavoidable.
- Whilst commending the aspirational nature of the Strategy, Members indicated the importance of the document clearly highlighting the very significant and difficult challenges facing the service.
- It was suggested that the direction of travel of the Strategy was distilled in the final sentence of paragraph 4.1 and that it would be necessary to open and honest about the need to reduce the budget for high cost care packages.
- Referring to the key role envisaged for local Councillors as set out in paragraph 9.5.1, a Member commented that it was regrettable that the number of elected councillors was going to reduce at a time when demands upon councillors were increasing.
- Attention was drawn to the importance of supporting the workforce to transform the way in which they worked, including promotion of the use of professional judgement and flexibility.
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that alternative ways of delivering services and securing savings were continually under review.
- The importance of working in partnership, particularly with the voluntary sector, in transforming support for people was acknowledged. It was recognised however that the voluntary sector was also facing funding pressures.
- Reservations expressed at the Adults Committee were reiterated regarding the approach for responding to the demographic pressures which the Council faced. In particular, it was suggested that a point might be reached in the future where it was no longer possible to absorb these pressures and additional funding would be required. The challenges presented by demographic changes were acknowledged. Under the Strategy now presented, the assumption would be that no demographic funding would be available and that services would have to justify any additional funding needed to respond to demographic pressures.
- With respect to paragraph 6.7 and in response to a question, it was confirmed that the Adults Committee had been content with the proposed approach to managing inflation.

It was resolved:

1. To note and comment on the draft Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the submitted report, and the principles and direction of travel it sets for the transformation of Children, Families and Adults (CFA) Services over the period to 2020.
2. To note and comment on the suggested approach to the treatment of demographic pressures within CFA Services for the 2016/17 Business Plan, as set out at section 5 of the submitted report.
3. To note and comment on the suggested approach to the treatment of inflationary pressures within CFA Services for the 2016/17 Business Plan, as set out at section 6 of the submitted report.
4. To note the suggested next steps for the development of detailed business planning proposals for the 2016/17 Business Plan.

112. SERVICE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2016 – 17 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the draft Capital Programme for Children and Young People. The detailed draft Capital Programme was set out in Appendix A to the report.

Detailed discussion took place upon Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions to educational infrastructure, during which Members:-

- Noted that the Council could no longer expect that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions would be agreed with developers by the County Council officers as the funding would go directly to Districts. The decision on how to spend CIL would therefore rest with the District who may chose not to allocate funds to the provision of schools to meet the demands of the development. Section 106 contributions would continue to be negotiated by the County Council with developers.
- Were advised of discussions with Huntingdonshire District Council and developers over the cumulative impact of three proposed developments in Hinchbrook Park, Huntingdon, which would necessitate a requirement for expansion of the local primary school. Currently Huntingdonshire District Council had not identified education provision as a priority for use of the CIL which meant that the County Council faced the prospect of having to fund the total cost of the school expansion.
- Noted that the local District Councillor and Councillor P Brown were actively pursuing the case for a CIL contribution with officers of the District Council.
- Expressed concern regarding the lack of CIL funding for educational provision in this instance and noted that the alternative to expanding the local primary school would be to disperse the children to other schools.
- Were advised that, thus far, a similar issue had not arisen with the other District Councils in the County.
- Agreed that a letter should be sent to the District Councils explaining the detrimental impact of failing to allocate CIL contributions to meet the cost of required educational infrastructure and the potential negative repercussions for local children. **Action required.**

During further discussion:-

- In response to a question, it was confirmed that if a primary school became an academy, funding for maintenance would rest with the Education Funding Agency (EFA).
- Some concern was expressed at possible future pressures on the Programme to meet maintained schools' costs.
- It was agreed that in the detailed Capital Programme, appropriate notes should be included to distinguish between capital schemes for new schools and schemes for expanded facilities. **Action required.**
- A Member recorded his praise for the contractors in respect of the standard of the works at Cavalry Primary School. It was noted that the remaining sum shown in the Capital Programme for this scheme was a retention sum.
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that schools could use reserves for maintenance projects.
- Following a question, it was confirmed that the level of maintained school reserves had reduced in the last year. Academies were not obliged to disclose their level of reserves to the Local Authority although the academies had been requested to provide this information. The Department for Education had also been unwilling to

share this information with the Council.

- It was confirmed that the Capital Programme, as currently presented, reflected current known requirements. It was possible that some amendments might be required prior to consideration as part of the Business Planning process, but any changes were anticipated to be minor rather than substantial.
- Officers affirmed that all opportunities to defer capital schemes and reduce borrowing to future years had already been reviewed. The scope for slippage in schemes was acknowledged however.

It was resolved:

1. To note the overview and context provided for the 2016-17 Children and Young People Capital Programme.
2. To comment on and agree the draft Capital Programme and associated funding requirements.
3. To agree that, following the Programme's adoption by Full Council where it proves necessary for new schemes to be added to the Capital Programme in response to unplanned housing development, that these be detailed in the Finance Performance Report for approval initially by the Children and Young People Committee and then General Purposes Committee.

113. CAMBRIDGESHIRE CULTURE AND THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY'S SCHOOL ART COLLECTION

A report was submitted regarding the future of the County's School Art Collection. It was noted that the Cambridgeshire Culture Steering Group had consulted with schools about the declining use of the collection. In the light of feedback received, it was proposed that the majority of the collection should be sold, with the proceeds being invested in the Cambridgeshire Culture Fund to support a broad entitlement to cultural activities for all children and young people in Cambridgeshire. It was further proposed to maintain a small legacy collection.

During discussion, Members:

- Noted that there had been no requests to borrow the collection from 2014 onwards.
- Received an assurance around the level of consultation that had taken place with schools, whilst noting that only around 20% of schools had responded to the consultation.
- Noted that Christie's Auction House had provided advice on the auction process and had recommended that 11 pictures should be sold on an individual basis, with the remainder being sold in lots of 20-30 pieces.
- Were informed that no discussions had taken place with Christies on the timing and promotion of the auction, pending the decision of the Committee to dispose of the collection.
- Were advised that there would not be a significant saving associated with no longer storing the collection, but that if the collection was retained, maintenance costs would arise.
- Received confirmation that the County Council held the appropriate certificates of ownership in respect of the works.

It was resolved unanimously:

To approve the proposal to sell the majority of the County's School Art Collection and to use the proceeds to invest in the Cambridgeshire Culture Fund for the benefit of children and young people.

114. PUPIL FORECASTS – ADOPTION OF REVISED MULTIPLIERS FOR FORECASTING EDUCATION PROVISION FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee considered a report which advised of the outcome of a review undertaken by the Council's Research and Performance Team Group of the multipliers used as the basis for pupil forecasts and 0 – 19 education planning. The report set out the impact of applying new multipliers to new developments and sought approval for the adoption of revised general multipliers for children in the 0 – 3 age range with immediate effect and the adoption of changes to the detailed multipliers for social rented and market housing, as detailed in paragraph 2.19 of the report.

During discussion:

- A Member commented that young people were now required to stay in education or training until the age of 18 and therefore asked why the multipliers did not cover the age range 16–18. In response, it was reported that the Local Authority did not have responsibility for post 16 provision, although it did have a duty to ensure access. Whilst there was no formal multiplier adopted for the post 16 age group, the Council did nonetheless review the implications of housing development for all age ranges and maintained a general overview of the impact for post 16 provision. It was agreed that a note on the position for forecasting post 16 demand should be appended to these Minutes (attached at Appendix A).
- In response to a question, it was reported that for some developments, where the general multipliers had less relevance, it was necessary to use other forecasting methods.
- It was explained that the multipliers were used to inform the *initial* pupil forecasts arising from a new development which were then subsequently reviewed and updated when developing longer term projections.
- Reference was made to the need to take account of factors which might impact on forecasts, for instance, where a number of children in an area were attending private schools. In response, confirmation was given that checks and balances were built into the process to review the robustness of assumptions made in developing forecasts.

It was resolved to:

1. Comment on the matters raised in the report and note the changes to the identified requirements for early years places likely to result from applying the new multipliers.
2. Approve the adoption of:-
 - (i) The revised general multipliers for children in the 0 – 3 age range with immediate effect in order better to inform the planning of early years education places; and
 - (ii) The changes to the detailed multipliers for social rented and market housing with immediate effect.

115. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY 2015

The Committee considered the Finance and Performance report for Children, Families and Adults (CFA) outlining the financial and performance position as at the end of July 2015. Members were reminded that the report was for the whole of CFA services and as such, not all the services were the responsibility of this Committee.

At the previous meeting, Members had requested an explanation as to why four new capital schemes (Hardwick 2nd Campus, Fourfields Primary, Grove Primary and Huntingdon Primary Phase 2) had only just been identified. The requested information was set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report.

The Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, referred to paragraph 2.1 of the report which indicated that, at the end of July, there was a forecast overspend of £3.056m (compared to £3.979m in the May forecast). The Executive Director reported that this overspend had increased during August, owing to pressures on the Looked After Children placement budget, however this would reduce again in September, following an exercise to identify underspends and savings across Children, Families and Adults Services (CFA). An overall overspend of £1.7m was forecast across CFA at year end.

During discussion:

- In response to a question as to what actions were being taken, as requested by the General Purposes Committee, to address in year overspends, the Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services reported that:
 - Each Directorate had been asked to review year end forecasts, identify underspends/savings and check that existing commitments remained valid. As reported above, this had enabled the year end forecast to reduce from £3.979m forecast in May to the current forecast of £1.7m.
 - Measures introduced to restrain spending included a slow down of recruitment, challenging new recruitment and introducing a general restriction on spending across the Department. However, options for achieving further significant savings in the short term were limited.
 - Directors had also been asked to identify any further anticipated pressures. Other than the pressures on the Looked After Children placement budget, no significant challenges were expected but as a demand led service, this could not be ruled out.
- The Chairwoman emphasised again the demand led nature of the services provided by CFA which meant that the Committee had less ability than some of the other Policy and Service Committees to control its budget.
- The Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults, responded to comments regarding the pressures on the foster care service and reported on the forthcoming Foster Care awards which aimed to recognise the value of the services provided by foster carers.
- It was noted that discussions had taken place with LGSS with a view to reducing the unit cost of legal advice provided to the service.
- A Member commented that, whilst there was no room for complacency, the projected overspend was a relatively small percentage of the overall budget.
- Members were pleased to note that the percentage of pupils attending Cambridgeshire Primary schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted was 76.6% and congratulated the Service Director, Learning, on this achievement.
- By contrast, Members were concerned to see that the percentage of pupils attending Cambridgeshire Secondary schools judged good or outstanding by

Ofsted was 44%. The Chairwoman referred to discussions with the Regional School Commissioner for the East of England to express the Local Authority's concerns regarding the level of performance in the secondary academies and the lack of powers for the Local Authority to drive improvement in the academy sector.

It was resolved:

To note and comment on the report.

116 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN; APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND COMMITTEE TRAINING PLAN

The Committee received a report which:

- (a) presented the agenda plan for the Children and Young People Committee, as set out in Appendix A;
- (b) invited the Committee to appoint a representative to serve upon the University Technical College Cambridge Board of Governors; and
- (c) provided an update on progress to date in developing the Committee's Training Plan, a copy of which was attached at Appendix C to the report.

During discussion, Members:-

- Noted the expectation that, in view of the volume of business scheduled for the meeting of the Committee in November and the possible need for further discussions on Business Planning, it would be necessary for the Committee to meet on the reserve date of 8th December 2015.
- Indicated that the Committee usually received a report on school results but that this was not included on the agenda plan. The Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, undertook to liaise with colleagues and arrange for this item to be added to the agenda plan. **Action required.**
- Noted the willingness of Councillor Tony Orgee to serve on the University Technical College Cambridge Board of Governors
- With reference to the training plan at Appendix C, noted that all Committee members would be notified of forthcoming training events.

Members then gave updates on their attendance at meetings of outside bodies as follows:-

Councillor Downes – Accelerated Achievement Group

Councillor Downes reported on the most recent meeting of the Accelerated Achievement Group. In particular, he commented that the biggest improvement in achievement had been witnessed amongst pupils from Central and Eastern Europe living in the County. Members were invited to attend a seminar, to be held on the afternoon of 1st October 2015, to consider how the work of the Accelerated Achievement Group could be carried forward into schools and governing bodies.

Councillor Nethsingha - Children's Health Joint Commissioning Board

Councillor Nethsingha updated the Committee on the discussions at the meeting of the Children's Health Joint Commissioning Board. It was noted that the Board had received a presentation on the "Thrive" approach to working with children. Further details on this

model were available from the Service Director: Strategy And Commissioning. The main issue discussed had been the continuing pressures on the children's mental health service in the County and nationally.

Councillor Bywater – Child Poverty Group

Councillor Bywater gave a brief update on the Child Poverty Group and in particular, advised that the Community Fire Safety Officer would be briefing the Group.

During discussion, it was requested again that future agendas should include an opportunity to enable reporting back by Councillors on the relevant outside bodies on which they represented the Children and Young People Committee.

It was resolved:

1. To note the agenda plan and the anticipated need to use the reserve Committee date on 8 December 2015.
2. To appoint Councillor Tony Orgee to serve upon the University Technical College Cambridge Board of Governors.
3. To note the position with regard to development of the Committee's Training Plan

Chairwoman

APPENDIX A

Explanatory Note on Planning for Post-16 population in New Developments (Minute No. 114)

The current post-16 statutory duties for local authorities are set out in the Education Act 1996, with clauses inserted by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (ASCL Act):

- (i) To secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area, defined as over compulsory school age but under 19, or aged 19 to 25 and subject to a learning difficulty assessment. Also, to secure sufficient suitable education and training for young people subject to youth detention;
- (ii) To secure sufficient education and training for young people who wish to travel into their area to learn.

In addition, The Education and Skills Act 2008 increased the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning, requiring them to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18, effective from 2015. Raising the Participation Age (RPA) enables young people to choose one of the following options:

- Full time education, such as school or college;
- An Apprenticeship or other work-based learning;
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

Whilst we do not use a specific multiplier for the post-16 population, forecasts generated for each new development include the post-16 age range. So, for example, those forecasts have been used, in conjunction with data and intelligence regarding existing provision in the area covered by Cambridge Area Partnership (CAP), in order to plan for post-16 provision in the new development at Northstowe.

The Post-16 Education & Training Capacity Review carried out in 2011 indicated that there is existing significant over-capacity in the post-16 sector across the County in general, which will not be off-set by the post-16 population generated by the new developments planned in Cambridgeshire. This is forecast to continue to be the case until at least 2026/27, the period for which forecasts are available. Capacity forecasts are updated on an annual basis and are based on residency of students rather than where provision is delivered.

There are three local area partnerships in Cambridgeshire which have developed their own response to the needs of the young people in their area in order to promote their successful progression through education and training from 14 to 19 and beyond in the light of current legislation. They are:

- Cambridge Area 14-19 Partnership (CAP) covering Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire;
- Fenland 14-19 Partnership; and
- Huntingdonshire Secondary Education Partnership.