

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE –  
ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

**To:** Council

**Date:** 12th May 2015

**From:** Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services

**Purpose:** To consider the Annual Report 2014/15 for the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee.

**Recommendation:** Council is recommended to note the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee Annual Report 2014/15.

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee was established following the May 2014 annual meeting when the Council resolved to convert from a Leader Cabinet form of governance to a Committee System.
- 1.2 The committee comprises the following Members: D Brown, P Brown, S Bywater, P Clapp, D Divine, P Downes, D Harty, G Kenney, M Leeke, L Nethsingha, F Onasanya, M Rouse, S Van de Kerkhove, P Topping, J Whitehead, J Wisson, and F Yeulett.

The Chairwoman is Councillor Joan Whitehead, the Vice-Chairman is Councillor David Brown and the Spokespersons are Councillors David Brown, Daniel Divine, Peter Downes, Fiona Onasanya and Steven Van de Kerkhove.

- 1.3 Over the last twelve months the committee has met eight times. Section 2 of the report highlights a number of significant issues considered by the committee during this period, a full list of decisions taken can be found via the link included at source documents.

## **2.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE WORKLOAD**

- 2.1 Key Issues decided over this period of time include:

2.1.1 Review of the Council's Residential Children's Homes

The Committee considered a review undertaken to improve the Council's two children's homes for adolescents. The Committee agreed a new service specification and internal commissioning arrangements for the homes. It also considered a recommendation to improve provision for disabled children at London Road through the commissioning of an external provider. The outcome of this is due to be circulated to committee in May 2016.

2.1.2 Children's Centre: exemption from contract regulations for the delivery of five Children's Centres

In September last year it was agreed that two contracts should be extended. These were the extension of Romsey Mill's existing contract to deliver Children's Centres in Romsey and Cherry Hinton for 1 year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 and the extension of Ormiston's existing contract to deliver Children's Centres in Whittlesey, March and Chatteris for 1 year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

2.1.3 School Funding Formula 2015/6

In January the Committee was advised of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Allocations published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 17th December 2014 and approved the local schools funding formula, prior to submission to the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

2.1.4 Cambridgeshire County Council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Personal Budget Policy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Committee considered and agreed a report on the proposed introduction of a Personal Budget Policy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), as part of the requirements of the Children and Families Act (2014).

The policy had been developed jointly with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the proposals had been shared widely with schools, parents/carers and other partners, and feedback had been integrated into the policy.

2.1.5 Formal consultation on the recommissioning of Early Help Services

In March 2015 the Committee considered the outcome of the formal consultation on future arrangements for Early Help services, which incorporated the delivery of £3.5m of savings. Whilst expressing concern about the impact of the savings the Committee recognised the scale of the work undertaken and agreed unanimously with the recommendations arising from the review.

2.1.6 Educational Performance in Cambridgeshire

The Committee received a report giving the overall picture of educational performance across Cambridgeshire in January 2015. This report highlighted the differences between boys and girls in terms of attainment at each Key Stage, the performance of vulnerable groups, including the positive improvement of performance for central/eastern European children at Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The Committee noted that Key Stage 2 performance remained the greatest challenge for Cambridgeshire's schools, despite improvements this year and that 16 primary schools and four secondary schools in the county were "below the floor" i.e. had below expected standard results across key subjects. Cambridgeshire's 55.5% performance for first entry GCSE was above the national average, but below its statistical neighbours. The Committee agreed to establish a review working party to examine their concerns about school performance and to investigate the issues of Key Stage 2 performance.

2.1.7 Ofsted Safeguarding Inspection report and action plan

In June the Committee received an overview of the Children's Services improvement plan and inspection preparations which were noted, Ofsted then inspected services at the end of June. The Committee received a report in November on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board and the action plan developed in response to the inspection findings. The Committee noted the achievement of an overall good rating, that an action plan had been developed in response to the areas for improvement and the establishment of a Next Steps Board to continue to provide oversight and scrutiny of continued improvement.

2.1.8 Together for Families

The Committee considered a report providing an overview and update on the development of the Together for Families programme to date, and an outline of Phase 2 of the national troubled families initiative. The Committee heard how the Together for Families (TFF) project worked, by providing the families with the most problems with focused support in a wide range of areas. The value of the programme to families who had been helped and the reduction in future costs of the County Council and partners, including the Police and Health sector were noted. The Committee approved the proposed direction of travel of the

Together for Families programme in Cambridgeshire.

2.1.9 Business Planning

The Committee considered reports on business planning in July, October, November and December as savings proposals were developed. In December the committee noted the remaining milestones in the Business Planning process and the further detail on the proposed performance indicators for the Business Plan 2015/16. The Committee also agreed the use of additional funding allocated by the General Purposes Committee on 2nd December.

Source Documents	Location
Agenda and Minutes of the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee	<a href="http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=73">http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=73</a>