

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 19th May 2015

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Present: Councillors D Brown (Vice-Chairman), P Brown, S Bywater, B Chapman, D Divine, P Downes, G Kenney (substituting for Councillor D Harty), M Leeke, L Nethsingha, F Onasanya, J Whitehead (Chairwoman) and J Wisson

Apologies: Councillor D Harty and P Stanton (Church of England Diocesan representative)

84. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN/WOMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN/WOMAN

The Committee noted that the Council had appointed Councillor Whitehead as the Chairwoman and Councillor D Brown as the Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2015-16.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

86. CO-OPTION OF DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee co-opted the following representatives as non-elected members with voting rights on those matters relating to the Council's education functions:

- Mrs Polly Stanton, representing the Ely Diocesan Board of Education (Church of England)
- Mr Paul Rossi, representing the Schools Service, Diocese of East Anglia (Roman Catholic).

Members noted that the representatives would be able to speak but not vote on other matters.

87. MINUTES 10TH MARCH 2015 AND ACTION LOG

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman, subject to the inclusion of Mr Paul Rossi in the list of apologies for absence for the meeting.

The Action Log was noted. With reference to Item 83 in the log, concerning membership of the Members' Reference Group for the Children, Families and Adults (CFA) Management Information Systems Procurement Project, it was noted that one of the members appointed, Councillor Clapp, was no longer a member of the Children and Young People Committee. Following discussion, the Committee noted Councillor Chapman's willingness to serve upon the reference group, subject to availability on the dates of the meetings. The Committee accordingly endorsed the appointment of Councillor Chapman to the Members' Reference Group, as a representative of the Committee, to replace Councillor Clapp.

88. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

89. IMPACT OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITES UPON SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

The Committee received a report which advised of the impact of planned housing developments on secondary school provision in Huntingdon and the wider district of Huntingdonshire. The report sought the Committee's authority to make interim secondary provision at Sawtry Village Academy for the first secondary pupils from Alconbury Weald and at St Peter's School, Huntingdon for the first secondary school pupils from the proposed development at Wyton Airfield.

During discussion on the report, the following points were noted:-

- With reference to comments regarding the Ofsted status of Sawtry Village Academy, officers confirmed that they were confident that the Academy would make good progress under its new sponsor and that the increase in pupil numbers would be advantageous to the school, particularly in terms of sustaining the 6th form.
- Referring to discussions with representatives of Sawtry Village Academy, the local member, Councillor Bywater, indicated support for the proposals outlined in the report and emphasised that the school was also a community facility. It was also noted that the Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan provided for additional development in the area of Sawtry which could impact on future demand.
- Reference was made to the likely short term nature of the increase in pupil numbers at Sawtry Village Academy pending the making of secondary provision for Alconbury Weald. It was suggested that it might not be sustainable for Sawtry Village Academy to maintain its 6th form in the long run.
- In response to a question concerning capacity at St Peter's School, reference was made to the expectation that the school could accommodate the existing catchment population and the Ermine Street and Wyton Airfield cohorts until 2021/22. It was however anticipated that, subject to timing considerations, provision would need to be made in the Capital Programme in respect of building extension works at the school.
- Referring to the comments in the report regarding St Neots, some scepticism was expressed regarding the projections for housing growth. In response, it was acknowledged that history had shown that there was always movement in terms of the housing growth forecasts. Whilst planning for current projections, it was important to develop proposals that were flexible and did not prevent adjustments in the future. Where housing numbers did change, it would be necessary to review proposals to deal with demand. Officers also responded to specific comments regarding additional housing in Little Paxton, the impact of which it was suggested had not been taken into account. The Member in question agreed to provide the relevant officer with a list of the houses referred to at the meeting.
- Endorsing the view that housing growth projections were constantly changing, a Member advised that, since the report before the Committee had been written, the number of homes at Brampton Park had risen to 510 and the requirement for affordable housing had been removed. In response, it was reiterated that it was necessary to check and review forecasts around capacity.

- Reservations were expressed as to whether the capacity of Hinchingsbrook School, Huntingdon, was sufficient to accommodate the projected numbers in view of planning constraints affecting the site.
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that under S106 negotiations, the developer would fund the transport costs for secondary age pupils from Alconbury Weald to attend a local secondary school until it was viable for the new development to open.

It was resolved:

- a) to note the identified need for new secondary schools to serve both the Alconbury Weald and Wyton Airfield developments;
- b) to agree to Sawtry Village Academy taking the first secondary pupils from the development at Alconbury Weald; and
- c) to agree to St Peter's School taking the first secondary pupils from the proposed development to Wyton Airfield.

90. TOGETHER WITH FAMILIES PHASE II STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report which sought the Committee's agreement to implement the Together with Families Phase II Strategy and Outcomes Framework. Additionally the Committee received a presentation which outlined the key achievements of Phase 1 of the project and presented the key opportunities and objectives for Phase II. With the aid of a video, a case study was presented to the Committee which highlighted the positive outcomes achieved by adoption of the "Think Family" approach and, in particular, co-ordination by one lead professional.

During discussion:-

- It was confirmed that the criteria used in Phase I to set the target of 805 for Cambridgeshire was based on a mix of deprivation and other indicators.
- Information was sought in relation to the mechanisms to assist families in need of material support and it was noted that each lead professional was able to access a personalised budget for this purpose.
- A Member commented on a proposal to set up a village help group to support families in need. It was acknowledged that such an initiative would support the Council's Early Help Strategy and the opportunity of being able to draw upon volunteer support was to be welcomed.
- Concerns were expressed at the potential for the Government to cut funding for the project and to increase targets. In response, it was reported that discussions had already taken place with partners on how the "Think Family" approach might continue if funding was withdrawn. Whilst the Government funding had been a catalyst, there had already been a shift in the way services were working to adopt the "Think Family" approach.
- It was reported that the distribution of families being supported by the project was consistent with areas of high levels of deprivation.
- It was confirmed that the income projections in paragraph 3.2.1 of the report were dependent on successfully meeting the targets, since funding was on a payment by results basis. However there was confidence that the targets could be achieved.
- In response to a question around capacity to deliver the targets in Phase II, it was reported that the Council was already working with the families and it was anticipated that the adoption of a coordinated response should lead to a reduction

in demand in the future.

- Further clarification was provided upon the cost benefit analysis of 18 randomly sampled families which indicated that for every £1 spent, £3.40 of costs to the public purse were avoided.
- It was confirmed that the project could be expected to support a reduction in the number of looked after children.

In noting a proposal for Together for Families to form part of a future Members' Seminar, it was agreed that the seminar should also consider the role of Members in the programme and that a sufficient period of time should be allowed at the seminar for discussion.

Action required

A view was expressed that the number of items for each Members' Seminar should be reduced to allow adequate time for discussion.

It was resolved:

- a) To note the Together with Families Phase II Strategy provided in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) To agree to the publication and implementation of the Strategy and Outcomes Framework.
- c) To request a further discussion is held at a Members' Seminar to explore the strategy and Think Family concept further.

91. COUNCIL 24/03/15 – MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ONASANYA

The Committee received a report which invited consideration of a resolution by Council, at its meeting held on 24th March 2015, that a motion submitted by Councillor Onasanya about Early Years education should be referred to this Committee for consideration. A copy of the motion, as amended by Council, was attached at Appendix A to the report.

At the request of the Chairwoman, Councillor Onasanya introduced the item and explained her reasoning for presenting the motion, most notably to recognise and value the importance of learning through play.

During discussion:

- It was acknowledged that Members supporting a reference back from Council to the Committee had done so for procedural reasons. Strong support had been expressed for the motion by Council.
- Members spoke in support of the motion and of the need to value the importance of learning through play.
- Concern was expressed that a more formalised approach to early learning might be introduced by the Government.

An altered recommendation had been tabled at the beginning of the meeting with the aim of providing that the proposed letter to the Secretary of State for Education should not be sent solely in the name of the Chief Executive, but should also be sent in the names of the Executive Director of Children, Families and Adult Services, Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman. The altered recommendation (additions in bold) read as follows:

“The Committee is asked to:

- a) note its recognition of the value of play in the Early Years; and
- b) ask the Chief Executive, **Executive Director of Children, Families and Adult Services, Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman** to write to the Secretary of State for Education on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council to confirm this Council’s belief that learning through play remains a vital part of the initial training for those working towards a qualification in Early Years (including qualified teachers status) and also in the continuing professional development for those already working in the sector.”

The altered recommendation was accepted with the consent of the meeting.

Following further discussion upon the recommendation, it was agreed that the letter should also be copied to the Local Government Association. **Action required.**

It was resolved:-

- a) to note the Committee’s recognition of the value of play in the Early Years; and
- b) to ask the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Children, Families and Learning, Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman to write to the Secretary of State for Education on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council to confirm this Council’s belief that learning through play remains a vital part of the initial training for those working towards a qualification in Early Years (including qualified teachers status) and also in the continuing professional development for those already working in the sector.
Action required

92. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

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 March 2015. Members noted that this was the month-end report, not the final outturn report, which would be presented to the Committee’s meeting on 30th June 2015. Members also noted that not all of the budgets contained within the report were the responsibility of this Committee.

The main issues in the March CFA performance report were highlighted in paragraph 2 of the report.

The Executive Director of Children, Families and Adult Services emphasised that the figures presented were for the end of March. It was explained that the figures in the columns for “Current budget for 2014/15” and “Actual to end of March” did not equate to the figures in the “Forecast Variance Outturn” column as there were a number of accruals and recharges still to be processed.

During discussion on the report:

- It was confirmed that an overspend of £1.138K was being forecast, which was a small percentage of the overall total budget for CFA. This would be met from CFA reserves.

- The unpredictable nature of the CFA budget was acknowledged, particularly with regard to Looked After Children.
- The pressures facing home to school transport, both for maintained and special schools, were acknowledged. In response to questions as to whether alternative options could be pursued for special schools, such as working with voluntary organisations or direct provision of transport services, the Executive Director reported that a working group, chaired by the Service Director: Learning, was investigating issues and options around home to school transport. It was suggested that there was a need for home to school transport to be considered in the wider transport context and reference was made to the work of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport programme. Following further discussion which indicated the level of Member interest and concern in this area, it was agreed that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee. **Action required**
- Following comments regarding the use of agency staff and recruitment/retention issues affecting social workers, the Executive Director undertook to submit a report to a future meeting of the Children and Young People Committee and the Adults Committee. **Action required**

It was resolved to note the report.

93. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee received the agenda plan for the Children and Young People Committee. It was clarified that the item entitled "Commissioning Strategy for CFA Services 2016 to 2020" was the Business Plan item. The agenda plan would be amended to reflect this. **Action required.**

Members noted the likelihood that the reserve meeting in October would be needed for discussion on the Business Plan.

The Committee was also invited to consider appointments to internal advisory groups and panels and to partnership liaison and advisory groups relating to children and young people's services. Copies of the schedule for appointments to internal advisory groups had been circulated as Appendix A, whilst the schedule of appointments to partnership liaison and advisory groups had been circulated as Appendix B.

During discussion upon the appointments:-

- The Executive Director undertook to obtain clarity in relation to future Member appointments to the Adoption Panel. **Action required.**
- With reference to the Children's Health Joint Commissioning Board, one of the representatives reported on concerns expressed at the Board regarding children's mental health provision and the funding thereof. Following further discussion, it was agreed that a report should be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 30 June 2015 regarding children's mental health provision. **Action required.**
- In the light of the above discussion, Members queried the mechanism by which representatives on outside bodies could report back to the parent committee. It was suggested that a standing item should be included on each agenda, together with the item on agenda plan and outside body appointments, to allow reporting back by representatives, if required. **Action required.**

It was resolved:

- 1) to note the agenda plan;
- 2) to approve the following amendments to the schedule of appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels (circulated as Appendix A):

Body	Member appointed
Cambridgeshire Culture Steering Group	1. Councillor D Harty (Con) 2. Councillor N Kavanagh (Lab) 3. Cllr L Nethsingha (LD) 3. Councillor P Downes (LD)
Corporate Parenting Executive Board	Councillor J Whitehead (Lab)
(This body has been amalgamated with the Corporate Parenting Board)	
Places Planning Project Board	1. Councillor D Harty (Con) 2. Councillor J Whitehead (Lab)
(There is only one member representative place on this Board)	
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	1. Councillor E Cearn (LD) 2. Councillor T Orgee (Con) 3. Councillor J Scutt (Lab) 3. Labour (TBA)
Transitions Partnership Board	1. Cllr S Bywater (UKIP) 2. Cllr G Kenney (Con) One appointment from Adults Committee and one from Children and Young People Committee
(This body no longer meets)	
Virtual School Management Board	1. Councillor G Kenney (Con) 2. Councillor S van de Kerkhove (ind) 1. Cllr P Downes (LD)
(There is only one place on this body)	
Next Steps Board To oversee continued improvement in social care	1. Councillor D Brown (Con) 2. Councillor J Whitehead (Lab)
(Formerly called Cambridgeshire Improvement Board and transferred from schedule of Appointments to Partnership Liaison and Advisory Groups)	

- 3) To approve the following amendments to the schedule of appointments to Partnership Liaison and Advisory Groups (circulated as Appendix B):-

Body	Member appointed
Cambridgeshire Improvement Board Established following the inspection of the Council's children's services by Ofsted in	1. Councillor D Brown (Con) 2. Councillor J Whitehead (Lab)

September 2012. It has overseen the delivery of a comprehensive improvement plan.	
(Moved to schedule of Internal Advisory Groups and Panels and reconstituted as Next Steps Board at 2 above)	
Cambridgeshire Music Hub:	1. Councillor D Harty (Con) 2. Councillor L Nethsingha (LD) 2. Councillor P Downes
Children's Health Joint Commissioning Board	1. Councillor G Kenney (Con) 1. Councillor P Brown (Con) 2. Councillor L Nethsingha (LD)

Chairwoman