

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.00PM – 13 JUNE 2006

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Battle (Chair); Councillors Young (Deputy Chair), Allen, Giebeler, Lepper, Morgan, Older, Simson and Wrighton.

Statutory Co-optees with Voting Rights: Mr F Myers – Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Non-Voting Non-Statutory Co-optees: Mrs A Antonio – National Union of Teachers; Mrs S Llewellyn-Powell – Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Ms R Mattacks – Brighton and Hove Governors Network; Ms J Sell – NASUWT.

PART ONE

ACTION

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A. Declarations of Substitutes

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| 1.1 | <u>Substitute Councillor</u> | <u>For Councillor</u> |
| | Older | Peltzer Dunn |

1B. Declarations of Interest

1.2 Councillor Morgan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest because his partner is a teacher employed by the local authority.

Councillors Simson and Lepper declared personal interests in item 7 being governors of primary schools the subject of Ofsted inspections.

1C. Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the

nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.
- 1.5 Councillor Battle welcomed everyone to the meeting including an inspector for the Joint Area Review, Mr Watson. He reminded the meeting that this was a new committee and this its first meeting could be regarded as a form of 'scoping' to start the process of planning and setting the foundations for the committee's work for this year and for the future.
- 1.6 In a change to the agenda Mr Watson would be asking Members questions following item 4.

2. MINUTES

- 2.1 It was noted that minute 55.3 should read '**RESOLVED** - that the report be noted.'

Item 54 referred to a request for call-in of the decision by Children Families and Schools Committee not to change the current secondary school admissions arrangements for 2007.

- 2.2 Asked for clarification, the Principal Solicitor said CYPOSC was responsible for overview and scrutiny of both children and adult learning.

The Committee remarked on the size of its remit and noted the wide range of reports received by its predecessor committee, the Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

- 2.3 Members felt that the themes of work undertaken by EOSP should continue to be followed up. In reply to a question about information for staff on the Children and Young People's Trust integration plans, (minute 56.2 refers) the Director said following on from a staff meeting in February, consultation on the proposed structure had started in March. A number of replies had been received and after further meetings between staff groups and management a further consultation paper had been circulated to all staff for reply by the end of July. The Plan would be implemented in October. Unions had been kept informed and all workforce unions would be meeting this Friday.

2.4 **RESOLVED** - That subject to the amendment at 2.1 above, the minutes of the meeting of the Education Overview & Scrutiny Panel held on 28 February 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair. **MvB**

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

3.1 There were none.

4. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST AND CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD

4.1 The Director of Children's Services gave a presentation concerning the governance arrangements for the Children & Young People's Trust and Children & Young People's Trust Board. (See minute book)

4.2 He said the key question for the Children and Young People's Trust- 'What does the City think of its Children? – was also a relevant question for CYPOSC.

4.3 The 5 outcomes for 'Every child matters' encapsulated the council's work in all Departments related to the needs of 52,000 children and their families in the City. However of an estimated 7,000 professionals working with children and young people locally only around 5,000 of these worked for the Council. A prevention strategy for early intervention was a key principle of 'Every Child Matters.'

A range of performance data would be available to the Committee from the Assistant Director, Quality and Performance.

4.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) that the report be noted

(2) That the Children and Young People's Plan be sent to all Members of CYPOSC.

4.5 ITEM 4A – JAR INSPECTION

Inspector for the Joint Area Review, Mr Watson, explained the role and purpose of the JAR; to judge how well the area was delivering on its five outcomes for Every Child Matters; and the link with the Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment which was inspecting the Council as a whole.

4.6 Mr Watson said it was too soon to judge the work of the new committee because the Membership terms of reference and work plan were still to be discussed. He asked Members for their views on the role and main issues for the committee.

4.7 Discussion points included:

Important to build on lessons learned from adult social care working in partnership with health organisations with the introduction of S31 of the Health Act

Need to prioritise and balance CYPOSC focus between all children's services, including: education, health, social services, youth justice and other services

Need to consider the self-assessment document prepared for the JAR

Working constructively together as a Committee and separately from the executive committees in a non-political way to analyse data

Information/Training and support in children's services issues and scrutiny skills

Using Committee Members' current skills/interests to help identify existing expertise and identify gaps for further training and development.

Comparisons/benchmarking with other local authorities

Specific challenges such as early pregnancies, drug abuse

5. CONSTITUTION AND REMIT OF THE NEW CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 The Principal Solicitor introduced the report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the arrangements for the new Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee in place of the Education Overview & Scrutiny Panel (EOSP). (See minute book)

5.2 Suggested changes to the scrutiny arrangements for children and young people had been reported to EOSP, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) and approved by Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee (OSOC), Policy and Resources Committee and full Council. However if necessary CYPOSC could propose amendments to the arrangements. Any such proposals would need approval as before.

5.3 As Chair of HOSP and HOSC Councillor Allen said it needed to be clear how HOSC and CYPOSC would work together.

Following discussion it was agreed that more detailed consideration of the committee membership was needed and a working group was set up comprising Councillors Allen, Giebeler, Simson and Wrighton, overseen by CYPOSC Chair Councillor Battle.

5.4 **RESOLVED** – 1) that the current arrangements be noted

2) that a working group of Councillors as minuted above be established to consider the membership of the committee and report back to CYPOSC.

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6. DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR CYPOSC

6.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services on the draft annual workplan for CYPOSC. (See minute book)

6.2 The Chair said the report provided a good framework for the committee's workplan. Ownership of the workplan by all the Members of the Committee was important.

6.3 The Committee discussed the process for developing its workplan. The Chair asked each Member to write down suggestions for the development of the workplan using a 'one-minute ideas generator.' (See minute book).

6.4 The results would be used by the workplan subgroup. Councillors Allen, Giebler, Wrighton and Young agreed to serve on the sub-group, overseen by CYPOSC Chair Councillor Battle.

6.5 The Chair proposed a minor amendment to paragraph 2.2 of the report's recommendations, seconded by Councillor Allen which was agreed by the Committee as follows:

RESOLVED – 1) that the basis of the workplan be noted as set out in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5.

2) that a small sub-group as minuted above work with officers as required to produce a draft workplan for approval at the next meeting (19th September).

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7. SUMMARY OF OFSTED REPORTS

7.1 The Assistant Director, Learning introduced the report of the Director of Children's Services concerning the outcome of the Ofsted inspections which took place in the Spring Term 2006. (see minute book)

7.2 Members discussed the detail of the inspections at Bevendean Primary, Hertford Junior, Downs Park School and Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary School.

7.3 It was agreed that in future the full inspection reports would be sent to the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair and be

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available to other Members on request from the scrutiny support office.

7.4 The Committee thanked the officers and in particular for the significant progress at Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary. It was agreed the Chair would write on behalf of the Committee to the Head and Chair of Governors to congratulate the school.

7.5 **RESOLVED** – 1) that the report be noted

2) that the Committee write to congratulate Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary school on its progress.

MvB/Cllr B

8. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

8.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 18.40

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2006