

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 12 OCTOBER 2015

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bewick (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Chapman (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Barradell, Daniel, Knight, Marsh, Taylor and Wealls

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

26 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

26(a) Declarations of substitutes

26.1 Janice Needham declared that she was substituting for Sue Sjuve
Maram Takriti declared that she was substituting for Riziki Millanzi

26(b) Declarations of interest

26.2 There were none.

26(c) Exclusion of press and public

26.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

26.4 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded

27 MINUTES

- 27.1 Councillor Brown referred to paragraph 15.1, and asked if the Chair had written to the schools about apprenticeships. The Chair confirmed he had. The Assistant Director Education and Inclusion said that no formal response had been received, but it had been discussed at a recent meeting of Head Teachers. Councillor Phillips asked whether the undertaking to pay staff a Living Wage would apply to apprentices, and was advised that apprenticeships were separate. The Chair said that a report on apprenticeships would come to the Committee meeting in March 2016.
- 27.2 Councillor Taylor noted that his comments on Item 23, Development of a New City Employment & Skills Plan (2015-2020) had not been included in the Minutes. It was agreed that the following wording would be included:

Councillor Taylor thanked officers for the report and welcomed the Council's assistance with the development of the City Employment & Skills Plan. Councillor Taylor noted that through the Plan, the Council would explore ways to use its position as a major employer to secure job placements for 18-24 year olds who had been unemployed for longer than 12 months. Councillor Taylor asked whether those placements would be paid jobs, and was advised by the Head of City Regeneration said that it was too early to say as the model had not yet been developed.

- 27.3 **RESOLVED:** That subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

28 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 28.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

Children's Centre Review –

A Review Board chaired by the Director for Children's Services, which included parents and voluntary sector representatives, was considering the future of Children's Centres in the city. As part of the Council budget for 2015/16 temporary funding for children's centres of £670,000 was agreed to maintain the Children's Centre service for this financial year only. Further savings were being considered for 2016/17 and beyond. A briefing would come to the November 2015 Committee with proposals for a public consultation on the future number of designated children's centres and the services they would provide, and a full report would be provided for the February 2016 Committee meeting. Councillor Phillips asked if the report could come to the November 2015 meeting, but was advised by the Executive Director of Children's Services that it couldn't as a formal consultation process had to be undertaken and there would be insufficient time to conclude that before the next Committee meeting. The Chair said that as the Board were still looking at possible areas for savings any suggestions from Committee members on the best way to mitigate the changes would be welcomed.

New member of staff –

The Chair welcomed Mr Richard Barker to the meeting. Mr Barker had replaced Mr Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning & Contracts who had recently left the council.

29 CALL OVER

- 29.1 It was agreed that all items be called

30 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**30a Petitions**

- 30.1 The Committee considered a petition signed by 168 people regarding School Inset Days. Ms A Heath presented the petition to the Committee.
- 30.2 The Chair gave the following response:
Local authorities do not have the power to instruct schools when to take their Inset days. In Brighton & Hove we are unusual in that all schools agree to take the first day of term in September, but the autonomy designed to enable them to best meet the needs of their own institutions would mean that we could not direct them. Some schools do disaggregate some of their inset days (where staff attend a series of twilight meetings rather than a whole day). Again, this was a school decision and some schools in the city already do this, usually at the beginning or end of a school term.
Officers will look in to the impact of the scheme in Wales and also look at practice in neighbouring authorities to see what they do and whether it is possible to look across the region. We will encourage schools to seek the views of parents and consider options.
- 30.3 The Committee thanked Ms Heath for her petition.
- 30.4 Councillor Barradell proposed that a report on this matter be brought to a future meeting of the Committee. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Phillips. The Committee voted and agreed the proposal.
- 30.5 Councillor Phillips said that she was broadly in favour of combining Inset days, but as an ex-teacher she also understood the importance of being able to spread training over a year as it was important for schools to be able to update teachers on changes to legislation, procedures etc. Mr Jones, Councillor Marsh and Councillor Chapman agreed, and said that whilst they supported the proposal they were concerned that training should be provided throughout the school year, however, one option could be to split the five days and add them to weekends during term time.
- 30.6 Ms A Holt supported the proposal but said that if the Inset days were combined and all schools in the city held them at the same time, it could lead to holiday prices being as high as during normal holiday periods.
- 30.7 Councillor Wealls asked if the Local Authority was responsible for setting term dates, and if it was could they be moved slightly. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that it did set term dates for community schools, but it had a duty to consult with neighbouring authorities and that it was a statutory process and dates had to be set two years in advance.
- 30.8 **REOLVED:** That the Petition be noted, and a report be provided for a future meeting of the Committee.

30b Written Questions

30.9 There were none

30c **Deputations**

30.10 There were none

31 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

31a Petitions

31.1 There were none.

31b Written Questions

31.2 There were none.

31c Letters

31.3 There were none.

31d Notices of Motion

31.4 There were none.

32 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SECONDARY PUPIL NUMBERS FORECASTS

32.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which informed them of the outcome of an independent review of the pupil number forecasting used by the Council. The report was introduced by the Head of Education Planning and Contracts and the Head of Capital Strategy.

32.2 Councillor Phillips noted that the officer's predictions were accurate to within 2% and therefore suggested that it wouldn't be necessary to employ an outside consultant again. Councillor Phillips said that she would agree recommendation 2.2, but with regard to recommendation 2.3 did not think that it would be necessary to include school level forecasts.

32.3 Councillor Brown thanked officers for the report and said that the data provided showed that there was a need for another secondary school. Councillor Brown agreed with Councillor Phillips that the Authority knew which schools were popular and so it wouldn't be necessary to include school level forecasts in future methodology. Councillor Barradell agreed that the report indicated a need for an additional secondary school.

- 32.4 Ms Holt referred to Appendix 1 which stated that Kings School was a 'denominational' school, and said that that was incorrect and it was in fact 'non-denominational'. Ms Holt discussed the proposed new Free secondary school in the city, and the fact that the Council had invited the University of Brighton, and not the Diocese, to submit a bid. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that the Council was not involved in the process, and had not invited the University to bid. It would be for the Secretary of State to consider any bids submitted. Councillor Barradell said that the previous administration had agreed that there was a need for another secondary school, and this administration had asked for the data to be reviewed to assess whether that was still the case.
- 32.5 Councillor Barradell referred to the catchment area review and suggested that Sixth Form numbers be included too, and proposed that 'the Authority include Post 16 Sixth Form provision for pupil forecasting systems'. That proposal was seconded by Councillor Brown. The Committee voted and agreed. The Chair said that Central Government had set up a Strategic Area Review for Post-16's, which would commence shortly and conclude next year. Councillor Barradell asked that the Local Authority recommend that the school sixth forms be included in the Strategic Area Review.
- 32.6 Councillor Taylor referred to Recommendation 5 in Appendix 1, and asked if the cost of implementing that had been calculated. The Head of Education Planning and Contracts said that it hadn't. The Chair added that the report in Appendix 1 had been commissioned as there had been some doubt over whether additional secondary school places were needed. The cost of that report was under £5k.
- 32.7 **RESOLVED** - That the Committee agreed:
- (1) That recommendations 1-4 of the review report be agreed and the Cross Party School Organisation Working Party be delegated the task of implementing those recommendation.
 - (2) That the school level forecasts are not included in the methodology

33 PROMOTING EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS - A NEW APPROACH

- 33.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services regarding the provision of emotional and mental health support for children, young people and their families. The report was introduced by the Assistant Director (Children's and Adult Services), the Strategic Commissioner Children's Services and Ms A Kelly (Cardinal Newman RC Secondary School).
- 33.2 Councillor Marsh welcomed the report and, as said that as a Governor at Bevendean Primary School, she was pleased that that school would be involved in the pilot scheme for primary schools.
- 33.3 Councillor Barradell thanked officers for the report, and asked what the cost implications would be of rolling out the initiative across all schools.

- 33.4 Councillor Brown welcomed the report and said she looked forward to seeing the evaluation after the conclusion of the pilot scheme and hoped that, if it was successful, it could be rolled out across all schools.
- 33.5 Councillor Taylor thanked officers for the report and for highlighting the challenges faced by some young people and said that this was a positive step to address the issues facing some people.
- 33.6 Councillor Phillips thanked officers for the report and hoped that it could be expanded for other schools. She was concerned that the possibility of cutting Children's Centres would impact service provision, and lead to knock on effect to young people and their families.
- 33.7 The Executive Director of Children's Services said that funding had been provided by both NHS England through the CCG, and the Council. There was no additional cost to the Authority, with current resources being moved.
- 33.8 Ms Tilly thanked officers for the report and said that early intervention was important. She asked how young people were referred to the service. The Assistant Director (Children's and Adult Services) said that some young people were identified by the School/Authority and some referred themselves. In all cases there was an emphasis on early intervention.
- 33.9 Ms Needham said that Sussex Community Trust was also involved, supplying trained nurses to the project and the feedback had been very positive.
- 33.10 Ms Tilly asked if Year 11-13 would be included, and was advised that at the moment they weren't but the scheme had very recently and it was an age they would consider.
- 33.40 Ms M Takriti suggested that it may be useful to have a website that set out the services and how they could be accessed.
- 33.10 Mr M Jones asked whether those with mental health issues would be identified as being SEND. The Assistant Director (Children's and Adult Services) said that mental health was one category of SEND.
- 33.11 The Chair thanked officers for the report and asked that the Committee receive an update in due course.
- 33.12 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted and approved the direction of travel of the Emotional and Mental Health Project.

34 ANNUAL STANDARDS REPORT

- 34.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which provided an analysis of standards and achievements in the city based on the provisional 2014/15 results at the end of each Key Stage. The report was introduced by the Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion and the Virtual School Head Teacher.

- 34.2 Councillor Wealls said he was concerned on the gap in attainment for those entitled to the Pupil Premium; in 2007 the gap was 27% and it was now 35%. He said that the Closing the Gap Strategy was not working and the Authority must do all it could to close the gap by challenging schools to do better. The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion said that the Closing the Gap Strategy was being reviewed.
- 34.3 Councillor Barradell noted that the results for KS1 were good, but they went down for KS2. The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion accepted that that was an issue and said the matter was being looked at.
- 34.4 Councillor Daniels asked if officers had collated information from Ofsted on how the Pupil Premium money was being used and, if so, whether they could advise the Committee. The Assistant Director Education & Inclusion said that a more detailed report would come to the Committee in March 2016 and that information would be included.
- 34.5 Mr M Jones asked why no data was available for SEN KS4 pupils, and was advised that the information had not been provided by the schools when the report was written.
- 34.6 Mr M Jones accepted that Ofsted would provide information on how Pupil Premium was being spent, but said that a school would only be inspected every four years and that School Governors were responsible for deciding how that budget was spent, and so they should be asked to explain how the money was used.
- 34.7 The Chair said that the Authority needed to challenge schools to raise their attainment. Everyone would agree that the gap in pupil attainment needed to be closed. He said that it would be useful for Chair of Governors and Head Teachers of schools in the city to come to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 34.8 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report.

35 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 35.1 Councillor Barradell suggested that the data provided in Item 34 be referred to Council. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that once all the data were available it would be included in a fuller report which would be referred to Council.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of