

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

4.00pm 11 JANUARY 2016

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bewick (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Chapman (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Barradell, Daniel, Knight, Taylor, Wealls and O'Quinn

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

48 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

48(a) Declarations of substitutes

48.1 Councillor O'Quinn declared that she was substituting for Councillor Marsh

48(b) Declarations of interest

48.2 There were no declarations of interest

48(c) Exclusion of press and public

48.3 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).

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

49 MINUTES

49.1 Councillor Daniels referred to paragraph 42.7 of the Minutes of the Children Young People & Skills Committee held on 16 November 2015, and said that it should read

'Councillor Daniel said the Labour Group would not support the amendment as it did not improve the recommendation and it was not helpful to name a specific organisation and would therefore abstain from voting to agree the proposed amendment'.

49.2 Councillor Wealls referred to paragraph 44.4 of the Minutes of the Children Young People & Skills Committee held on 16 November 2015 and said he referred to unauthorised absence as being 'high' rather than 'low'.

49.3 **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That subject to the amendments above, the Minutes of the Children Young People & Skills Committee meeting held on 16 November 2015 be agreed as a correct record.
- (ii) That the Minutes of the Joint Health & Wellbeing and Children Young People & Skills Committee meeting held on 10 November 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

50 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

50.1 The chair stated:

Since this committee first met in June 2015, after the May local elections, there has been a lot of activity and a number of achievements to report on. These are too numerous to provide in detail here, so I have tasked officers with a report to be brought to the June 2016 meeting of this committee to set out our progress and achievements for the year.

Companies often report bi-annually to their customers and stakeholders on progress, and I believe it is important that we also report via this committee on what progress we are making against the four strategic priorities agreed by the Administration in the area of children, young people and skills.

Our priorities, and what we would invite you to hold us to account on, is to target increasingly stretched council budgets and public resources on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community; second, we want to take this council on an improvement journey so that Ofsted grades our children's services as at least good or outstanding by 2019; third, it is important that we continue to work collaboratively with our schools to raise attainment standards, closing the gap; and fourth, we want to end the scourge of long-term youth unemployment in the city by 2020, by boosting apprenticeships and reforming the youth offer.

- Over the last 6 months we've seen some great individual school and residential home Ofsted inspection reports. The percentage of children attending good and outstanding schools in Brighton and Hove is higher than the national average with primary schools doing particularly well.

There are no inadequate schools in the city

- We had very good 2015 exam results with GCSE results being the most improved in the country – now both Key Stage 2 & Key Stage 4 results

are well above national average.

- The percentage of young people entering the criminal justice system is now the second lowest in the country.
- Our Early Years offer continues to be very strong with one of the highest percentage take up of free nursery provision in the country at 90%
- We have seen further reductions in the number of permanent and temporary school exclusions together with improving school attendance.
- The Pride Buddies pilot project was a great success in August. Police and other agencies praised the work of children's services staff in providing support to young people. On the same day the prize for the best float was awarded to our young people's float
- We have started a pilot in several schools across the city to better support those children & young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health issues. We hope to roll this out across all schools in time
- In October the new model of practice in social work was launched - this new way of working ensures consistent unbroken support for vulnerable children and young people
- A Children & Young People's Health and Wellbeing strategy has been developed between the local authority and the clinical commissioning group which sets out expectations on how partners will work together to achieve joint priorities
- Last term ended with a great Christmas concert involving hundreds of young people facilitated by our excellent Music Service

I would like to put on record our thanks to all those involved in delivering these achievements, including our officers, teachers and staff.

There have been some major challenges too. We inherited a budget from the previous council that quickly began to overspend, including in children's services, until we took aggressive action to get things back on track. Similarly, our children's services are not immune from the decimation of local government finances undertaken by this Government since 2010.

It is interesting to note that the independent Children's Commissioner has recently warned central government to think again about cuts to children's centres, like the kind, sadly, we are discussing here in committee today.

Despite these difficulties, we are acting with our social democratic values and fairness agenda in mind:

- Setting a four-year budget strategy to bring more certainty to council finances
- We are planning to protect the part of the youth service budget that commissions support from the community and voluntary sectors
- We are in discussions to leverage the resources of other players in the city to better support young people
- We will protect front-line services for those with special educational needs
- Subject to the committee's decision today, we plan to freeze council nursery fees in real terms, increasing them in line with inflation
- And while we recognise the difficult decision to propose reducing statutory children's centres from 12 to 7; we are planning to protect 7 centres for the lifetime of this Administration, providing parents and staff with greater stability
- We agreed to take 10 un-accompanied migrant children from Kent; nearly a quarter of the total for relocation across the country;

- We are putting local business in the driving seat when it comes to boosting apprenticeships and developing the new city plan
- And there are other progressive things we are looking to introduce, like the changes to school terms dates; which potentially could save local families thousands of pounds a year;
- Finally, I am in discussion with officers and others about how we take our corporate parenting role to the next level by introducing Individual Trust Fund accounts for our foster children when they leave care.

Of course, all these plans will be discussed and agreed by council and committee in due course.

51 CALL OVER

51.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

Item 54	Ofsted Inspection
Item 55	Children's Services Fees and Charges 2016/17
Item 56	Alignment of INSET Days and the Pattern of School Holidays
Item 57	Children's Centre Review
Item 58	Special Educational Needs and Disability Review – Update on Proposals to Reorganise Special Provision
Item 59	School Admission Arrangements 2017/18
Item 60	Closing the Gap and Use of Pupil Premium

52 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

52(a) Petitions

(i) Proposed Re-organisation of the EPS/Learning Support Services – Ms S Gillett

52.1 The Committee considered the petition which had been presented to Full Council on 17 December 2015

52.2 The Chair provided the following response:

Thank you for your Petition which has been referred from Full Council.

On behalf of the Administration, I would like to make an important statement having had chance to reflect since Full Council on the issues raised by parents, including staff delivering the service; and other stakeholders during this nearly year-long review process.

The number of signatories to the Petition was over 10,000. It demonstrates a huge degree of interest and concern out there in our community about these proposals. When we came to office last May, we stated clearly that we would be a listening council. And listening, as well as hearing, is what we have been doing in the context of these reforms.

As I've said on several occasions, the purpose of these proposals has only ever been to deliver better outcomes for parents with children with special educational needs and disability. Senior professionals managing the service care passionately about these children, as I know do front-line staff.

They have learned from other parts of the country and the plans being put forward, we believe, set out some really innovative proposals to integrate and modernise the current learning support service to children with SENDs.

However, it is clear that there are very strong passions in this debate and various accusations and counter-accusations, many of them misinformed, about whether or not these proposals will deliver the better outcomes we all want to see. As a consequence, it has become increasingly difficult to have an informed and rational debate about the efficacy of these reforms; what sits behind them; and crucially how to ensure we take parents, staff and stakeholders with us on this important journey to provide the world-class provision for SENDs that I have described.

These reforms are far too important to get wrong. Similarly, given that austerity cuts are not the underlying factor for these changes, it is much better that we take a comprehensive stock-take now, before implementing major changes to the learning support service in future.

For that reason, the Administration has agreed that when the current staff consultation regarding the reorganisation of the learning support service concludes at the end of January, we will in addition, commission an independent review and assessment of the council's plans – undertaken by an independent expert in the area of SENDs from outside the local authority.

The person appointed will be asked to prepare a report for this committee on the efficacy of the council's planned reorganisation of the Learning Support Service, taking into account best practice from other local authorities. It will not be their job to adjudicate or to decide whether these reforms should go ahead, but rather to provide the city with a very clear assessment of how these proposals will deliver better outcomes for children with special educational needs and disability in future.

They will be required to meet with parent groups, affected children, staff and stakeholders to consider the proposals then being put forward by the council. I will consult with opposition party spokespeople in terms of drawing up the terms of reference for the independent assessor, as well as involve them in the appointment of the independent assessor in due course.

When the report comes back to a future meeting of this committee, Members will have the opportunity to discuss and note the report; both in terms of the council's final decisions in regard to the operational review of Learning Support Services, as well as the independent assessor's view of them. Both reports will be published.

I will be making no further comments about the current proposals for the reorganisation of the Learning Support Service until the staff consultation has concluded on 31st January and the independent review is has also completed.

I hope members of the public that have come along today to ask me questions about this service will keep this in mind. It is of course, in light of this statement, up to them whether they still want to continue to ask questions.

In the meantime, this specific aspect of our reform of SENDs continues to be closely examined, but the other elements of the review of SENDs of course will continue as planned. Indeed, there is a committee paper for discussion about this later on today.

52.3 **RESOLVED-** That the petition be noted.

52(b) Written Questions

(i) Learning Support Services – Mr O Sharpe

52.4 Mr Sharpe presented the following question:

The pre-school element of the Learning Support Service (PRESENS) provides vital, early support to children and parents, often during the stage when a child's SEN issues are first being suspected.

At the full council meeting on 17th December the lead Councillor for CYPS, Councillor Bewick, stated that there are no plans to reduce front line support for children with SEN (see at 30mins 10sec into webcast). In this context, what are the current staffing levels in PRESENS and what are the proposed levels of staff committed to delivering support to pre-school children in the latest version of the LSS redesign?

52.5 The Chair provided the following response:

I refer to my earlier statement in response to the petition

52.6 Mr Sharpe asked the following supplementary question:

Would parents be advised of the options being considered during the consultation process?

52.7 The Chair provided the following response:

The consultation between the Council and staff was underway, and when that was completed an independent expert would be invited to look at the recommendations. They would then meet with parent groups, affected children, staff and stakeholders to consider the proposals then being put forward by the council. At this time no decision had been made on specific details.

(ii) Learning Support Services – Mr S Elliott

52.8 Mr Elliott presented the following question:

Proposed figures for the learning support service show a decrease from 21fte teachers to 14. This is a real-terms decrease in front line staff capacity, "disguised" by an increase in assistant posts and the addition of staff to the Learning Support Service from teams that are already in existence. Can the council explain how they will ensure that this decrease doesn't affect the quality of support the new service can provide, particularly in relation to children in the early years, who will be disadvantaged by having no dedicated team of specialist pre-school teachers to support them at this critical age?

52.9 The Chair provided the following response:

I refer to my earlier statement in response to the petition

52.10 Mr Elliott asked the following supplementary question:

Given that there will be fewer specialist advisers who will have a wider remit to work with schools and families, this new team will not be able to offer the full range of support, across all age ranges, to schools and pre-schools currently available. Can the committee outline which parts of service currently offered to schools, will not be provided by the new specialist advisers?

52.11 The operational detail was subject to consultation, and an independent expert would look at the plans.

(iii) Learning Support Service – Alison Muir

52.12 Ms Muir asked the following question:

The redesign proposes that the Literacy Support Service (LSS) continue to operate as a traded service. The service is currently funded 40% by DSG and 60% by schools' buy back. Cutting DSG funding would require an increase in schools prices by up to 66% for each unit of time, rendering the service unsustainable, and leading to the loss of support for up to 400 pupils and loss of jobs for up to 8 f.t.e teachers. Can the councillors guarantee current levels of DSG funding for the LSS, or ensure that any cut is explicitly included in consideration of the impact?

52.13 The Chair provided the following response:

I refer to my earlier statement in response to the petition

(iv) Learning Support Service – Sadie Gillett

52.14 Ms Gillett asked the following question:

Downsview school and Hillside school provide outreach support for school-age children with complex needs attending mainstream schools; PRESENS currently make sure that the needs of these children are met within their mainstream pre-school settings, i.e. children with severe learning difficulties, moderate learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Please could the council explain which team within the proposed Learning Support Service would be responsible for meeting the needs of

these children in the pre-school phase, given that there appears to be no identified team covering these needs in pre-school within the proposed re-design

52.15 The Chair provided the following response:

I refer to my earlier statement in response to the petition.

52.16 Ms Gillett asked the following supplementary question:

If the review finds changes need to be made, will there be an opportunity to redesign the redesign.

52.17 Decisions would be made in due course, and those decisions would be shared with all relevant parties.

52(c) Deputations

(i) Playbus Service - Natalie Stow and Aleya Khatun

52.18 The Deputation was introduced by Natalie Stow and Aleya Khatun. The Deputation stated:

I and other parents whose children use Playbus are deeply concerned that the Council is considering cutting this well-used and loved service, so much so that we have united as a group to make a formal response.

There are many reasons we all love the Playbus. My son is two and we go to Playbus every week. It is literally the highlight of our week - a sentiment echoed by many other families. I cannot tell my son it is Playbus day until just before we set off, otherwise all I get is 'Playbus! Playbus!' until it is time to go. Another mum describes how her four-year-old exclaims 'Yes!' on Playbus day. Yet another explains how it is the only opportunity her little girl has to see her old friends who went to a different school from her. Many speak of how it reduces isolation and promotes a sense of inclusion and belonging in the community.

Playbus is full of varied and novel play ideas which inspire and challenge children and encourage them to learn and explore. Upside down plastic crates become cookers, wood shavings are casseroles, wooden boxes are dens, climbing frames and stages – all within the space of 10 minutes.

At Playbus, children can decide for themselves what activities they want to engage in, with adults on hand for guidance only if needed; it thus encourages children to use their own imaginations and to organise themselves in their play with other children, which they show quite remarkable ability to do. This helps build their social skills, confidence, self-esteem and independence.

There are both outdoor and indoor activities and Playbus is there come rain or shine. Playbus makes excellent use of the city's outdoor spaces and encourages children – many of whom may not have access to a garden - to play outside and be active, promoting both physical and mental health and helping redce health inequalities .

Playbus currently operates in targeted socio-economically deprived areas of the city – those which most need the service. Its welcoming atmosphere and positive learning opportunities for children bring people together, children and parents alike, thus reducing social isolation and fostering a strong sense of community. It is free, making it accessible to all and worthwhile popping along even if you only have half an hour. Playbus is multi-cultural, embracing diversity and promoting social cohesion.

Playbus travels to us rather than us having to make a big trek out, which is especially good for those who do not drive or have access to a car. On top of this it takes place after school hours, a time of day when even for those with children not yet of school age, there does not tend to be much going on and there is time and energy to be spent before dinner.

Unlike the vast majority of other activities for children, Playbus is open to children of all ages. It is important and beneficial for children to be able to socialise within mixed-age groups. I once sat watching my toddler play 'Connect 4' quite happily for over half an hour with a seven year old he had just met at Playbus. It took a few minutes for them to get the measure of each other, and it was fascinating to observe the older boy get onto my son's level and work out what he could and couldn't understand about the game. You could call it helping to develop empathy and understanding of others. It was heart-warming to watch – and this is not an isolated incident; anyone observing the children at Playbus will see this sort of thing time and again.

Playbus is completely unique as a service. Music classes, swimming classes, language classes, playgroups....you name it, all of these exist in the city in abundance – which is great, and means if one closes down or does not work out for you, you can go elsewhere. But there is nothing else like Playbus.

We should also like to draw your attention to the 2015 report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood, entitled 'Play'. This document highlights the vital importance of non-directed, child-led play for all areas of child development, helping children to acquire skills that will serve them for life. It also acknowledges the role of play in helping to combat the current epidemic of childhood obesity. The report notes that the right to play is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is clear that play should be regarded as a fundamental service rather than an add-on. Crucially, it is explicit in its recommendation that local authorities should ring-fence funding for play.

For all these reasons, we request that the Council ensures the ongoing provision of the Playbus service as we know it. If Playbus goes, children and local communities are really going to lose out.

52.19 The Chair provided the following response:

Thank you for your deputation. The proposal to cease to deliver a play service forms part of the wider budget proposals for the council and will be considered at full council in

February. I fully acknowledge that the Play Service is very much valued by families across the city. Unfortunately with the significant budget pressures that the council is facing we have had to make some very tough choices about where we can reduce expenditure. There is no statutory requirement to provide a play service and most councils do not run such a service. For the past year the main funding has come from the Housing HRA budget which is under enormous pressure next year and from Public Health which has received a cut to its grant. Because I recognise that this is a service that is very much valued across the city, I together with Members of the Administration, supported by officers have been developing proposals for the service to receive external sponsorship. We will be meeting with potential sponsors in the next few weeks and I will be able to provide an update to the committee on the outcomes of these discussions at our next meeting in March. If the city as a whole believes that the play service should be saved then I very much hope that the city will offer financial support to maintain the service.

52.20 RESOLVED- That the Deputation be noted.

53 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

54 OFSTED INSPECTION

54.1 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion provided an update of schools that had undergone an Ofsted inspection since the previous meeting of the Children & Young People & Skills Committee, and provided a copy of an executive summary of the annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2014/15

54.2 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion stated that St Martin's CE Primary School had recently been inspected, with Ofsted rating the school as 'Requires Improvement'; the previous inspection rated the school as 'Good'.

54.3 Councillor Daniel noted that the school was currently without a permanent Head Teacher and hoped that that hadn't impacted on the Ofsted inspection. She added that her daughter attended the school and she would recommend it to others.

54.4 Mr Jones asked if Cardinal Newman RC Secondary School had recently been inspected. He was advised it had, but the report had not yet been published.

54.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the update.

55 CHILDREN'S SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES 2016/17

55.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which set out the review of Children's Services fees and charges in accordance with the corporate policy. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation and Head of Surestart.

55.2 The Chair referred to his earlier communication where he said that, subject to the committee's decision today, the Council planned to freeze council nursery fees in real terms, increasing them in line with inflation.

- 55.3 Councillor Brown asked why there was a difference in nursery subsidies, and was advised that the greatest subsidies were within the most disadvantaged areas.
- 55.4 Councillor Brown referred to the 'late collection' charge and asked if private nurseries already did that. The Head of Surestart confirmed they did, and said that two members of staff were required to be present with a child, and so if they were late being collected two members of staff would need to be there.
- 55.5 Councillor Taylor noted the possible 2% increase in charges was based on inflation and asked why the Retail Price Index was used rather than the Consumer Price Index. The Head of School Organisation said that the increase was in line with the rise in staff salaries, but he wasn't able to say why the Retail Price Index used.
- 55.6 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that:
- (1) The position on fees charged for nurseries as detailed in section 3.3 of the report be agreed.
 - (2) The position on fees charges for Childcare Workforce Development as detailed in section 3.4 of the report be agreed.
 - (3) The position on fees and charges for the Music and Arts Service as detailed in section 3.5 of the report be agreed.
 - (4) The position on the charges for school meals as detailed in section 3.6 of the report be noted.
 - (5) The position on fees and charges for the accommodation of Children under Section 20 of the 1989 Children Act as detailed in section 3.7 of the report be agreed.

56 THE ALIGNMENT OF INSET DAYS AND THE PATTERN OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- 56.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which informed the Committee about the possibility of aligning INSET days in the city's schools and the possibility of changing the pattern of school holidays. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation.
- 56.2 Councillor Brown said that she agreed with the proposal to reduce the summer holiday by one week to allow a two week break during the Autumn term, and would support a consultation. However, she felt that INSET days shouldn't be amalgamated as they were needed by staff throughout the academic year.
- 56.3 Councillor O'Quinn said that she would support a consultation into the possibility of creating a two week break during the Autumn term.
- 56.4 Councillor Chapman agreed that shortening the Summer holiday and creating a longer break in the Autumn term was a good idea and would support the recommendation to consult stakeholders. He agreed with the other members of the Committee that INSET

were required throughout the academic year, and therefore would not support the proposal to align those days.

56.5 Councillor Barradell noted that there was a vast difference in holiday prices inside and outside of school holiday dates, and would therefore support an extra week of holiday outside of the traditional term times. She suggested that rather than have an extra week in the Autumn term, that consideration also be given to alternative dates such as during the Spring term when it would be warmer, and to shorten the Easter break to long weekend to accommodate any change.

56.7 Mr Jones agreed with Councillor Barradell, and said that a long Easter weekend rather than a two week break would enable an additional holiday to be created during the Spring term. He also suggested that consideration be given to creating a holiday during May when many students would be studying for exams.

56.8 Councillor Taylor said he supported a shorter Summer holiday and a longer break elsewhere in the academic year.

56.9 The Committee noted that recommendation 2.4 was ambiguous and considered amending it. Councillor Daniel suggested that the wording be amended to read '*To include one proposal of changing the pattern of existing school holidays as a way of creating an additional week of holiday whilst maintaining 190 days of statutory education*'. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Barradell. The Committee voted and agreed with the amendment.

56.10 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agreed:

- (1) That schools and governing bodies are consulted on the proposal to co-ordinate a proportion of INSET days in an academic year.
- (2) To consult schools and governing bodies on the possibility to align the INSET days to straddle a weekend outside of term dates to provide a potential week's holiday for families when holidays are less expensive.
- (3) To consult with all relevant stakeholders on a proposal to set annual term dates for 2017-18, which would create an additional week of holiday during the academic year.
- (4) To include one proposal of changing the pattern of existing school holidays as a way of creating an additional week of holiday whilst maintaining 190 days of statutory education.
- (5) To consult with stakeholders on the establishment of an additional 'stand-alone' holiday of a week's length outside of term dates to provide a potential week's holiday for families when holidays are less expensive.

57 CHILDREN'S CENTRE REVIEW

- 57.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services on the Children's Centre Review. The report was introduced by the Assistant Director Stronger Families Youth & Communities and the Head of Surestart.
- 57.2 The Chair told the Committee that the administration took no pleasure from reducing the number of Children's Centres, which was a result of cuts to funding from central government and which was affecting all local authorities across the country. He gave a pledge to protect the remaining seven children's centres, and said that the current twelve buildings would continue to provide support to children in the city
- 57.3 Councillor Brown said that no one wanted to see the closure of any of the centres, but it was important to be realistic and by keeping seven of the buildings as Children's Centres would ensure that there would still be provision across the city.
- 57.4 Ms Sjuve asked for assurance that the authority had explored whether health services could be delivered from children's centres. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that there had been a S75 agreement between the Council and Sussex Community NHS Trust to provide integrated services, but the Trust had moved away from this. The authority would be happy to review the matter if the Trust wanted to. Ms Sjuve suggested that s75 wasn't the only way to work, and said that the Trust would be very happy to discuss other ways of working. The Head of Sure Start explained that health visitors and midwives already work from children's centres and the Healthy Child Programme delivered by health visitors is an essential part of the children's centre core offer of services.
- 57.5 Councillor Brown referred to the final bullet point in recommendation 2.5, and proposed that the wording be amended to read '*More focus on support for training and employment and less on parental involvement of advisory groups in children's centre services*'. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Taylor. The Committee agreed with the amendment.
- 57.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agreed:
- (1) That the committee notes the results of the public consultation and the attached Equalities Impact Assessment.
 - (2) That the committee agrees that the following seven children's centres should continue to be designated and provide a reduced range of children's centres services from 1 April 2016: Roundabout (Whitehawk), Moulsecoomb, Tarner, Hollingdean, Hangleton Park, Conway Court and Portslade.
 - (3) That the committee agrees that the following children's centres should no longer be designated but will continue to be used as venues for limited services: The Deans, West Hove, Hollingbury and Patcham and City View.
 - (4) That the committee agrees that the Cornerstone Community Centre (which is not a council building) will no longer be a designated children's centre.

- (5) That the committee agrees to a revised core offer of both universal and targeted services from 1 April 2016. The revised offer is described in Appendix 2 and includes the following:
- The Healthy Child Programme delivered by health visitors;
 - Open access baby groups in venues across the city;
 - One drop-in stay and play group in each of eleven venues across the city with priority for families with identified needs and children under two;
 - Offering more parenting talks and discussion groups to reach more parents at an earlier stage and fewer longer parenting courses;
 - Promoting volunteering and community/parent run groups to run from children's centres including those which are no longer designated;
 - Evidence-based interventions delivered in groups and home visits for families most in need and least likely to attend the centres.
 - Improved support for families with young children facing multiple disadvantage as part of the city's Stronger Families Stronger Communities Programme;
 - More focus on support for training and employment and less on parental involvement of advisory groups in children's centre services
- (6) That the committee agrees children's centres should be developed as hubs for a wider range of services including services for older children, and services delivered by parent run and community groups as part of the City Neighbourhoods Programme.
- (7) That the committee agrees that, following the consultation and discussions with the children's centre review groups, further work should be done to explore new funding and business models including:
- A hiring policy for children's centres so that external groups could use the space and possibly charge
 - Options for using volunteers to provide home visits, whether this could be developed by the voluntary sector and how it could be funded
 - A ring-fenced fund based on contributions from parents and others that could be used to pay for additional stay and play groups or to develop options for using volunteers to provide home visits
- (8) To note that, should any additional funding be available, the Children's Centre Review Group's priorities would be to maintain the same number of stay and play groups in Turner, to maintain the Stories and Play group in Rottingdean and to increase home visiting including exploring the options described in 2.7.

58 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REVIEW - UPDATE ON PROPOSALS TO REORGANISE SPECIAL PROVISION

- 58.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Review. The report was introduced by Head of Behaviour and Attendance and Ms Coe (Consultant).
- 58.2 Councillor Wealls said that the report lacked information on the proposals and questioned how consultation could begin without that information. The Executive

Director of Children's Services said that this report was only to agree the timeline for securing the desired changes for the reorganisation of special educational provision, and that much more detail on the proposals would be provided in due course. Ms Coe said that details would be on the Council's web portal along with a questionnaire for those wanting to engage in the consultation. The Chair suggested that some parents would not use the portal and suggested that officers look at additional ways of engaging with parents. The Head of Behaviour and Attendance said that the authority would not just be using a portal and would also use alternative means of consultation, such as attending meetings with community groups.

58.3 Ms Holt said that changes to SEN provision did concern people, and asked whether a scrutiny review of the proposals could be included in the process. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that some people were suspicious about the changes to the Learning Support Service, that was not the case with this review as there was a wide degree of consensus and therefore he did not feel it was necessary.

58.4 Councillor Wealls asked if this Committee were now taking ownership of the review, and whether the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) would still be involved. He was advised the terms of reference for the HWB did not include educational matters, and so it would just be considered by this Committee.

58.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee approved the proposed timeline for securing the proposed changes and noted that the consultation process would begin in January 2016.

59 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2017/18

59.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services regarding school admission arrangements for 2017/18. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation.

59.2 The Committee were advised that the Portslade Partnership of Schools had requested a reduction in school places, and the Governors at Brackenburg Primary School had requested that the Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2017/18 be reduced from 60 to 30. The Head of School Organisation said that the school had agreed that if, in the future, more school places were needed in that part of the city, they would work with the Council to review the PAN.

59.3 The Chair suggested that the first Recommendation be amended to read '*That the proposed school admission numbers set out in the consultation documents (as set out in appendix 2 to the report - with the exception of Brackenburg Primary School where the Published Admission Number be amended from 60 to 30), be adopted for the admissions year 2017/18*'. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Chapman. The amendment was agreed by the Committee.

59.4 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed –

- (1) That the proposed school admission numbers set out in the consultation documents (as set out in appendix 2 to the report - with the exception of

Brackenbury Primary School where the Published Admission Number be amended from 60 to 30), be adopted for the admissions year 2017/18.

- (2) That the admission priorities for Community Schools set out in the Consultation documents be adopted for all age groups.
- (3) That the co-ordinated schemes of admission be approved.
- (4) That the City boundary be retained as the relevant area for consultation for school admissions.

60 CLOSING THE GAP AND USE OF PUPIL PREMIUM

- 60.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which outlined gaps in achievement for different pupil groups in the city, and the actions being taken to raise achievement. The report was presented by the Head of Standards and Achievements, and was joined by Mr A Harrold (Head Teacher, Blatchington Mill Secondary School) and Ms A Cummings (Assistant Head Teacher, Dorothy Stringer Secondary School).
- 60.2 Mr Harrold said that secondary school Head Teachers within the city were collaborating with each other to look at how standards could be raised. There was a focus on attainment, behaviour and high quality learning. Attainment was the most important issue, and schools were focusing on that. Ms Cummings said that those on pupil premium were generally around a year behind other students and therefore looking at the best ways of assisting them was important.
- 60.3 The Chair asked Mr Harrold and Ms Cummings why they thought there was a variation between the schools. Ms Cummings said there would be a number of reasons, but felt the main issues were the quality of teaching and length of the journey a pupil would have to travel to school; a long journey could impact both on a pupil's performance and their level of attendance at school.
- 60.4 Councillor Barradell asked what was being done to reduce the variation in achievement. Mr Harrold said the schools had been working with both the Head of Standards and Achievements and each other, to look at ways of addressing the issues. One area agreed on, was to compare the best and worst teachers at each school, as that had a big impact on attainment.
- 60.5 Councillor Brown was concerned at the gap in attainment, but was pleased that it was being addressed and that schools were working together to look at the issue.
- 60.6 Councillor Daniel suggested that there were a number of things which could impact on attainment, such as living conditions, distance to travel to school, having the correct uniform etc. and asked if schools took account of that. Ms Cummings said that there were always barriers to learning, and schools would look at each individual child and consider how they could be assisted. For example, there may not be a printer at the child's home or the family couldn't afford the correct uniform, in which case the school would help where it could.

- 60.7 Ms Holt asked how it was ensured that schools were spending the pupil premium funding appropriately. Mr Harrold said that schools had an obligation to publish information about pupil premium on their webpage.
- 60.8 Mr Glazebrook asked if schools shared ideas on how to use the pupil premium funding, and was advised they did. Ms Cummings said that all schools had a 'pupil premium champion', and both primary and secondary schools liaised with each other.
- 60.9 The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion said that the Local Authority and secondary school heads were working closely together to look at ways raising achievement and closing any gaps in pupil attainment.
- 60.10 The Chair thanked the Mr Harrold and Ms Cummings for coming to the meeting.
- 60.11 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report.

61 REVIEW OF POST 16 PROVISION IN SUSSEX COAST AREA TEAM, CHILDREN'S SERVICES (EDUCATION & INCLUSION)

- 61.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the Briefing Note.

62 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 62.1 No items were referred to Council

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of