

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

4.00pm 20 JULY 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, Knight, Marsh, Taylor, Wealls and O'Quinn

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

13 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13(a) Declarations of substitutes

13.1 Councillor O'Quinn declared that she was substituting for Councillor Daniels.

13(b) Declarations of interest

13.2 There were none.

13(c) Exclusion of press and public

13.3 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).

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

14 MINUTES

- 14.1 Ms A Holt noted that paragraph 1.5 recorded her as being a governor at Downs View Schools, but said that was incorrect.
- 14.2 Councillor Marsh said that she had declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was a governor at Bevendean Primary School and Coombe Road Primary School.
- 14.3 **RESOLVED:** That subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

15 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 The Chair advised the Committee of the following:

The Chair was pleased to say that following three recent Ofsted inspections, 84% of schools in the city were now rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. The most recent inspections were for Royal Spa Nursery which was rated as 'Outstanding' and for City Academy Whitehawk and King's School who were both rated as 'Good'. The results would be formally published by Ofsted later in the year. The Chair congratulated those schools.

The University of Brighton Academies Trust had submitted an application to the Department for Education to establish a secondary free school in the city; all parties had supported the application.

With regard to apprenticeships, the Chair said he would write to all schools in the city asking them to review the number of apprenticeships they could offer.

The Chair said that he had asked officers to undertake a review of the forecasting methodology used to assess the number of secondary school places required. A report would come to the next meeting of the Committee.

16 CALL OVER

- 16.1 It was agreed that all items be called

17 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

17a Petitions

- 17.1 There were none.

17b Written Questions

- 17.2 A written question was submitted by Mr H Lambert, and presented by Mr J Stanley.

The question was:

This September, Portslade schools such as Brackenbury are again shouldering the fixed costs of providing places for sixty children, whilst only having a school roll of thirty four. Meanwhile the Council has continued to over expand primary schools in central Hove resulting in inadequate provision of outdoor space for the children attending them.

With 76 spare reception spaces in Portslade schools this September, is this new Council prepared to face up to the mistakes of the previous administration, reverse the over expansion of schools in Central Hove and provide badly needed support to schools in Portslade and other outlying areas?

The Chair and Head of Education Planning and Contracts gave the following response:

Schools in South Central Hove have not been over expanded. This is a part of the city where there have been significant increases in the number of children over the last twelve years and additional places have been provided so that these children can attend a local school.

It is not feasible, and nor would it be right, to reverse the provision of local places in South Central Hove schools which are popular with local people and to require children in future year groups to attend schools which are some distance away. The need for these places is demonstrated by the fact that the schools in this part of Hove are full or almost full in all year groups, reflecting local preference for a local school.

Since 2008 the council has provided five new permanent forms of entry in the infant and primary schools in South Central Hove, including the additional form of entry at St Andrew's CE Primary School commencing in September this year. We have also during this time provided five temporary bulge classes in the schools in this area so that children did not have to travel long distances to alternative schools.

Even with these additional places in central Hove there is still a shortfall in local primary school places with the result that we have to allocate places outside this area to some children each year.

We are very aware that schools with spare places face challenges in organising their classes and managing their budgets. These challenges will not however be resolved by removing places in areas where there are more children and directing children to fill these spare places.

At 10 July there were 60 unallocated places in the Portslade primary schools, almost all of them in three of the seven schools. One of these schools, Mile Oak Primary School, is in the north of Portslade, and Hove children would have to travel more than two miles and in some cases over three miles if they were allocated a place at this school.

A variety of factors, and not just pupil numbers, may contribute to schools finding it difficult to set a balanced budget. Officers work closely with schools which have budget difficulties and where appropriate allocations are made from contingency where these budget difficulties arise at least in part from exceptional circumstances.

The Chair asked Mr Stanley if he had a supplementary question, and he asked the following:

Benfield was in Special Measures in 2013; what is the position with the school now?

The Chair stated that the school was no longer in Special Measures, and the latest Ofsted report stated that it now 'Required Improvement'.

17c Deputations

17.3 There were none.

18 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

18a Petitions

18.1 There were none.

18b Written Questions

18.2 There were none.

18c Letters

18.3 There were none.

18d Notices of Motion

18.4 There were none.

19 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2015-2019

19.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which set out the strategic priorities of the Children Young People and Skills Committee for the next four years. The report was introduced by the Executive Director of Children's Services.

19.2 Councillor Barradell noted that the Directorate Plan made no reference to working with school governors and asked if that could be included. The Chair said it would

19.3 Councillor Brown asked how the strategic priorities would be monitored. The Chair said that all reports coming to the Committee would have to state which of the priorities it related to. Councillor Brown referred to paragraph 4.1 of the report and suggested that it should refer to young people up to the age of '25' rather than '19'. The Chair agreed.

19.4 Councillor Wealls asked why the strategic priorities were being introduced. The Chair said that it was a new administration who felt it was important to be more proactive and engaged in setting out its priorities. The administration wanted to set out the benchmark of what it wanted to achieve. He added that although there was no legal requirement to have an action plan, it was good practice.

- 19.5 Riziki Millanzi (Youth Council) referred to the first Directorate Objective, and asked if young people would be consulted. The Chair said that they would.
- 19.6 Councillor Marsh referred to the second and third Directorate Objectives and suggested that it could be better worded to include the Council's responsibility as Corporate Parents. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that children in care and corporate parenting had a number of statutory responsibilities and those responsibilities sat with the Corporate Parenting Board. The Directorate Plan would be looking at actions to reduce the number of children in care.
- 19.7 Councillor Knight referred to paragraph 3.4 and asked why children in receipt of 'free school meals' was used. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that 'free school meals' was one of the indicators used by central government.
- 19.8 Councillor Wealls asked if the Committee would have updates on any changes to the 'closing the gap strategy'. The Chair confirmed they would.
- 19.9 RESOLVED** - That the Committee:
- (1) Noted the report
 - (2) Agreed the Strategic Priorities set out in the report
 - (3) Agreed that future reports to the Committee should clearly state which priority (or priorities) they support the delivery of

20 YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2015/16

- 20.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services on the Brighton and Hove Youth Justice Strategy 2015/16. The report was introduced by Youth Offending and Substance Misuse Services Manager.
- 20.2 Councillor Barradell asked why the percentage of reoffending was so high in the city. The Youth Offending and Substance Misuse Services Manager said that the data was from 2012/13, and although the number of reoffenders had reduced the percentage had increased. It wasn't known why that had happened, but the Authority would be working with the Youth Justice Board to look at the data.
- 20.3 Councillor Brown said she agreed with the key priorities in the strategy and it was good that the authority were working with other agencies. However she referred to the partnership arrangements and the fact the Youth Offending Service would be represented on a large number of multi agency groups, was concerned about the amount of officer time involved in attending so many meetings. The Youth Offending and Substance Misuse Services Manager said that she attended some of those meetings, but some were shared with East and West Sussex County Councils.
- 20.4 Councillor Taylor noted that of the 14 volunteers currently working with the Youth Offending Service (YOS), 12 were women and suggested that it might be appropriate to try and increase the number of male volunteers. The Youth Offending and Substance Misuse Services Manager agreed and said that interviews were being held the following week for a male YOS worker.

- 20.5 Councillor Wealls understood that other authorities had numerical targets to meet and asked if this authority did. He asked if there were comparative data on how this authority compared to others. The Youth Offending and Substance Misuse Services Manager said that all authorities had different targets, this authority did have their own, but they hadn't been included as they were complicated and too detailed to be covered in the report.
- 20.6 The Chair noted the Strategy was for 2015-2016 and asked for the exact dates. He was advised it 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.
- 20.7 RESOLVED** - That the Committee approved the Youth Justice Strategy for Brighton and Hove 2015-16

21 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

- 21.1 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.
- 21.2 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion stated that King's School and City Academy Whitehawk had undergone an inspection in June 2015 and both had been rated as 'Good'. The Royal Spa Nursery had also been inspected in June 2015 and had improved from 'Good' to 'Outstanding'. As of May 2015, 84% of schools in the city had been rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
- 21.3 The Committee were advised that the Common Inspection Framework (CIF) would be used for inspections from September 2015. CIF would look at overall effectiveness, effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching learning and assessment, personal development behaviour and welfare, outcomes for children and learners, and the effectiveness of early years and sixth form provision where applicable. There would also be changes to the timings of inspections. The main changes were: 'Outstanding' schools would not have an inspection unless there was a decline in outcomes or there were other concerns; 'Good' schools would be inspected every three years; there would be no change to schools which were judged to 'Require Improvement' or 'Inadequate'.
- 21.4 Councillor O'Quinn understood that 'Good' schools were only inspected for one day, and asked if the school would have advance notice of any inspection. The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion said that the school would be notified the day before, and the inspection would be conducted in one day if the inspectors felt they had obtained a view of the school in that time.
- 21.5 Councillor Taylor congratulated the King's School and City Academy Whitehawk and the Royal Spa Nursery on their successful Ofsted Inspections. The Chair said that they were excellent outcomes, and he would be writing to the schools to congratulate them.
- 21.6 **RESOLVED:** That the presentation be noted.

22 CHILDREN'S SERVICES OFSTED INSPECTION AND REVIEW OF LSCB 2015

- 22.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which provided an update of the recent Children's Services Ofsted inspection. The report was introduced by the Executive Director of Children's Services.
- 22.2 The Committee thanked the Executive Director of Children's Services for the report and congratulated him and the department.
- 22.3 Councillor Phillips asked if the Committee would receive updates on the implementation of the Action Plan. The Chair confirmed they would.
- 22.4 Councillor O'Quinn referred to paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Inspection Findings, which commented on the 'weak quality of management oversight by practice managers', and noted that the Action Plan 5 stated that service would 'remove a layer of management'. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that post of Practice Manager had been deleted and the Team Manager would now make decisions.
- 22.5 Councillor Barradell referred to the Action Plan 6, and asked what the time scale would be for the return interview and risk assessment. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that it would be held within 15 days. However, if there were serious concerns the case would be prioritised.
- 22.6 Councillor Brown asked why the percentage of initial child protection conferences taking place within 15 working days of a strategy discussion being held, had dropped from 77% in March 2014 to 52% in February 2015. The Executive Director of Children's Services said that it was due to prioritisation of other work. Ofsted were clear that if there are concerns over a child that that case should be prioritised. However, it was accepted that it was necessary to get a better balance of work, and the matter was being looked at.
- 22.7 RESOLVED** - That the Committee agreed:
(1) That the report be noted
(2) That the Local Authority post Ofsted Action Plan be agreed

23 DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CITY EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN (2015-2020)

- 23.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services regarding the development of a new City Employment & Skills Plan (2015-2020). The report was introduced by the Head of City Regeneration.
- 23.2 Councillor Phillips thanked officers for the report and welcomed the new ideas being suggested. Councillor Phillips noted that paragraph 3.2 referred to 'rising employment' and suggested that should read 'rising unemployment'. The Head of City Regeneration agreed it was a typo and should read 'unemployment'. Councillor Phillip asked whether the Economic Development & Culture Committee would consider this report, and was advised the Children Young People & Skills Committee was the primary policy committee for this area, but other committees including the Economic Development & Culture Committee would be advised.
- 23.3 Councillor Phillips noted that one proposal was to work in partnership with local providers such as the Apprenticeship Training Academy (ATC), and asked if that were

necessary. Head of City Regeneration said that no decision had yet been made, but the ATC model had been successful elsewhere, particularly in supporting small employers to take on apprenticeships

- 23.4 Councillor Brown said that she supported the Employers Task Force and asked if they would work with schools. The Head of City Regeneration they would.
- 23.5 Councillor Wealls noted that the report didn't make reference to those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and suggested it could be included. The Head of City Regeneration agreed.
- 23.6 Councillor Barradell noted that a report, requesting approval for the final plan would come to the Committee in January 2016 and to Full Council in March 2016, and asked if the those dates could be brought forward in order that any financial implications could be considered in the budget discussions for next year. The Head of City Regeneration said that that would be difficult as the timetable was tight and there were a number of stakeholders who had to be consulted before the final plan could be prepared. He said the Local Authority were not the primary funders of the skills sector.
- 23.7 Councillor Marsh noted that apprenticeships would be available for all ages but suggested it would be better to prioritise young people. The Head of City Regeneration said that there was a need to target all groups that were furthest from the labour market, for example increasingly older people within the city were looking to re-enter the labour market who might benefit from having an apprenticeship.
- 23.8 Riziki Millanzi said it would be useful for the Employer Skills Task Force to liaise with employers to ascertain what skills they would be looking for. The Head of City Regeneration agreed and said better engagement between employers and schools would be useful.
- 23.9 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.
- 23.10 The Chair said that the name of the Chair of the Employer Skills Task Force would be confirmed shortly. It was important to engage with all stakeholders including local businesses and the city's three MPs.
- 23.11 RESOLVED** - That the Committee:
- (1) Agreed to the development of a new City Employment & Skills Plan (CESP) (2015-2020) for the city
 - (2) Noted the intention to convene an Employer Skills Task Force to provide the business leadership that will support the development and delivery of the plan

24 INTERIM REPORT: PROGRESS ON THE MERGING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) REVIEW IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE LEARNING DISABILITY (LD) REVIEW IN ADULT SERVICES

- 24.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services regarding the merging of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) review in Children's Services and the Learning Disability (LD) review in Adult Services. The report was introduced by the Assistant Director (Children's and Adult Services).
- 24.2 The Committee were concerned that the report did not say that the matter would be considered by both the Children Young People & Skills (CYPS) Committee and the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB). The Executive Director of Children's Services said that a joint meeting between the HWB and the CYPS Committee was held in February 2015 to discuss the matter, and a future similar meeting could be held. The solicitor said that as a joint meeting had already been held it would be appropriate for that to continue and for both groups to hold another combined meeting in October 2015.
- 24.3 Councillor Brown referred to Appendix 1 to the report, and asked which secondary schools would pilot the new way of working. The Assistant Director (Children's and Adult Services), said that they were Cardinal Newman, Dorothy Stringer and Patcham High. There had been a lot of interest from schools, and it was hoped that primary schools could be included in due course.
- 24.4 Councillor Barradell proposed an amendment to Recommendation 2.2, to read '*That the Committee is asked to note that concrete proposals to amalgamate specialist provision for children with SEN and disabilities, including behavioural, emotional and mental health difficulties, will be presented to the joint Health & Wellbeing Board and Children Young People & Skills Committee in October 2015.*' The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Quinn. The Committee agreed the amendment.
- 24.5 RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed:
- (1) That the Committee noted the report to the Health & Wellbeing Board and approved the direction of travel
 - (2) That the Committee noted that concrete proposals to amalgamate specialist provision for children with SEN and disabilities, including behavioural, emotional and mental health difficulties, will be presented to the joint Health & Wellbeing Board and Children Young People & Skills Committee in October 2015
 - (3) That the Committee approved the setting up of a cross party members' reference group to oversee both reviews during the implementation phase.

25 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 25.1 The Committee agreed that item 22, Children's Services Ofsted Inspection and Review of Local Children's Safeguarding Boards, be referred to the Council meeting due to be held on 22 October 2015 for information.

The meeting concluded at 6.25pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of