

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

4.00pm 18 JUNE 2018

HOVE TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Chapman (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Penn (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Allen, Hamilton, Knight, O'Quinn, Taylor and Wealls

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

2 MINUTES

2.1 Jo Lyons to follow up with Ruth, Blatchington Mill, for a response to Councillor Wealls' enquiry regarding the number of A Levels following the merger between Blatchington mill and Hove Park School.

2.2 A clarification added by Martin Jones' scrutiny of 61.12 on page 12.

2.3 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes were an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

3.1 **RESOLVED** – that the minutes were an accurate record of the previous meeting.

4 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

5 CALL OVER

6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(i) Provide Autism Education in Brighton and Hove

6.1 The Committee considered an online petition signed by 824 people, the Chair invited Ms Terri Oatley to present the petition.

6.2 The chair provided the following response:

“We understand that autism is a complex disorder than can lead to great difficulties for children in coping with school. While the City has a good reputation for providing for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, we know there is much to be done to ensure all of our children get the right provision to meet their needs. We want to assure families that we are listening carefully to their experiences and concerns in planning provision for the future.

We have a strong training offer for our schools in the area of autism and 10 of our schools now have achieved the ‘Autism Aware’ accreditation but we know we need to do more and are increasing our resource for training and support in this area.

In terms of the specific request in the petition to open a new school for children with autism, as you know Local Authorities are no longer legally able to open new schools. All new schools must now be Free Schools or Academies.

However we are committed to opening a new secondary special unit within a mainstream school with 20 places for children with autism to complement our two existing secondary special units for autism at BACA and Hove Park Schools and our primary unit at West Blatchington School. We are currently in negotiation with the National Autistic Society about a partnership to create this new unit which we hope to open in September 2019. Our new special school hub provision also offers highly specialist places for children with autism.

At the next Children, Young People and Skills Committee in the September, there will be a report on the City’s plan for developing further our services and provision for children and young people with autism. We are committed to co-production with families and all parent representatives are invited to develop plans and provision with us”.

6.3 **RESOLVED** – that the petition be noted.

7 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(i) There were none.

8 PRESENTATION BY NICK JUBA - POST 16 EDUCATION AT MET COLLEGE AND WIDER CITY REGION

8.1 Nick Juba gave a brief overview of the amount of people engaged in further education. He referred to various statistics to highlight the growing success as a result of implementing and providing more funding. It was noted that this was still not as well funded as other programs. An in depth overview of the current status of colleges was given, including details regarding campuses, students, recommendations, finance and resources. Noted projects that had been built such as the new construction site for onsite training were highlighted. Engagement with upcoming challenges such as industrial strategy, Brexit, technology and demography was emphasised.

8.2 Martin Jones, Parent Governor Representative, noted that focus on special educational needs students seemed to have diminished, he enquired if this had been addressed.

- 8.3 Nick Juba responded by stating that efforts to engage a wide range of groups including special educational needs were made. It was further stated that senior officers were to be consulted in regards to further discussions on engagement.
- 8.4 Councillor Kevin Allen welcomed the presentation. It was remarked that this alternative route was under appreciated and deserved more recognition.
- 8.5 Nick Juba stated that only 4 in 10 people attend university.
- 8.6 Councillor Jacqueline O'Quinn enquired more information on the 9 million pound investment for the building of the department.
- 8.7 Nick Juba stated that 9 million from Coast to Capital provided funding to rebuild half of the site on Wilson's Avenue, specifically 3000 square meters for construction and engineering. Around 1500 tradesmen had been trained there and 150 apprentices had so far studied on site.
- 8.8 Councillor Nick Taylor emphasised that this was a viable alternative for future generations and was a welcome challenge to the current view of vocational qualifications.
- 8.9 Joanna Martindale stated that the element of choice was important and should be maintained. She enquired what the role of the Met was in supporting first ex-community learning.
- 8.10 Nick Juba stated that the Met did not provide a-level qualifications and that use of the accord for 16 and over was necessary. It was further stated that work with adults was high however more could be done.
- 8.11 **AGREED** – that the presentation was noted.

9 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

- 9.1 Mark Storey, Head of Education, Standards and Achievement, gave a brief overview of the Ofsted Update and highlighted various information taken from 11 visits. It was noted that Queen's Park, Dorothy Stringer, St Mary's remained good and Turnerland was outstanding. Brackenbury required improvement. Carlton Hill, the Connected hub remained good, Hangleton and Mile Oak were awaiting judgements due to being subjected to section 5 inspections. It was further stated that 2 monitoring visits took place and that no new grade was alluded to at this stage.
- 9.2 Andrew Wealls requested officer's remarks on the reasons for low number of outstanding schools in Brighton. He further noted that it appeared that BHCC favoured non disadvantaged schools.
- 9.3 Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director - Families Children & Safeguarding, stated that some schools were judged to be outstanding from inspections from 3 different frameworks ago, current schools were unable to maintain the requisite standards expected from the new framework.

- 9.4 Jo Lyons, Assistant Director Education & Skills, clarified that there was a wider range between schools at the bottom to the top end of the spectrum. It was noted that there were many outstanding schools, however focus across the board needed to be maintained.
- 9.5 Mark Storey stated that due to the technicalities in the Ofsted inspection process; an outstanding judgement was not possible to be attained on the day. He further clarified that it was not possible to speculate on the exact reason for the results.
- 9.6 Councillor Caroline Penn stated that the public's understanding of data and the resulting assumption was key, she gave by way of example; the conditions and technical measures under which a judgement of outstanding by Ofsted had changed and that it could be misleading to report on outstanding schools due to the change in metrics where it had been easier to attain in previous years.
- 9.7 Councillor Alex Phillips enquired if the if the result on Brackenbury was expected, she further enquired if Hangleton and Mile Oak were expected to receive the same result.
- 9.8 Mark Storey clarified that the Brackenbury response was expected however a firm response in regards to Hangleton and Mile Oak could not be commented on, it was further noted that Brackenbury had a anew head-teacher and that the governance had changed.
- 9.9 Councillor Jacqueline O'Quinn stated that she was pleased with the current status of the Connected Hub
- 9.10 Martin Jones stated that it was necessary for schools who had received a judgement of outstanding to be mentioned.
- 9.11 Councillor Nick Taylor requested that Brackenbury be brought to the next meeting. It was stated that the report showed that people were not reaching their full potential, assurances were requested that people were being challenged,
- 9.12 Mark Storey stated that there was a lot of feedback taken from inspections. It was further noted that there was no particular pattern of mal-education or lack thereof across the City.
- 9.13 Amanda Mortensen, Parent Governor Representative, stated that it was an error to imply that a judgement of outstanding could not be achieved within 1 day. She further enquired what local authorities outside of Brighton were doing I response to this.
- 9.14 Jo Player stated that many improvement plans were being undertaken.
- 9.15 Mark Storey stated that the framework changed towards the end of 2017, it was stated that it was technically possible to achieve a judgement of outstanding in 1 day, however this was highly unusual. A brief overview of what can happen following an inspection on 1 day was provided.

9.16 The Chair stated there were a vast majority of schools attaining good judgements and a good percentage of schools currently standing as good or outstanding. The Chair concluded that Brighton was above the national average.

9.17 **RESOLVED** – that the report be noted.

10 ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

10.1 Caroline Parker, Head of Service-Early Years Youth & Family Support, introduced Monty Anderson to the panel, who was a member of a cross party working group and stated that there was a noticeable hostility toward Councillors by the youth.

10.2 Caroline Parker stated that all organisations could apply, it was noted that the process had been agreed and hoped the application would be agreed by Autumn. It was further noted that 2 SEND people would be recruited as advisers to other groups.

10.3 Councillor Vanessa Brown referred to 3.17 regarding unaccompanied asylum seekers and noted that this was good for integration. She further noted the positivity of engaging young people. She further stated that simple process for funding needed to be promoted.

10.4 Regan Delf, Assistant Director – Health SEN and Disabilities, stated that the money had provided a welcome uplift for the project which attained a positive outcome. It was further noted that early discussions had taken place on how the money would be appropriate although a date had not yet been set.

10.5 Caroline Parker stated that various alternative methods of engagement, rehabilitation and therapy were being attempted including a fortnightly drop in, equine therapy, sewing projects, projects surrounding photojournalism, table tennis tournaments and walks by Devil's Dyke.

10.6 Debbie Corbridge, Integrated Team for Families Manager, stated that a framework that would outline all issues was being prepared. It was noted that various groups were being consulted. 14 people across 7 youth groups including other groups were part of the consultation.

10.7 Councillor Penn stated that mental health issues were established early on and recommended mental health support to be included in consultations to make this more inclusive.

10.8 Councillor Wealls referred to 3.15 and enquired if gap analysis had taken place and if this had been passed on to people being recruited.

10.9 Caroline Parker noted that BHCC was able to use 90 thousand pounds, it was noted that a report was due to be published later in the year with a full analysis on this.

10.10 Amanda Mortensen referred to 3.3 and noted the positive prospect of extended day options. She enquired if surplus finances would be carried over and not lost, she further enquired how the coordinator role would be funded.

- 10.11 Regan Delf stated learning disability hubs were due to begin in January, she assured the Committee that the existing money leftover would not be lost.
- 10.12 Anna Gianfrancesco, Head of Safeguarding & Performance, stated that there was a rise in criminal exploitation of young people in regards to drug running, it was noted that data and figures were not yet available and that money would also be used to increase the focus on early prevention levels in schools
- 10.13 Josh Cliff, Youth Council representative, stated that no significant events had occurred however that ongoing situation would be addressed
- 10.14 Martin Jones stated that SEND had inspected hubs however engagement between hubs and young people was low. He enquired to what extent the SEND strategy was being engaged with in the report.
- 10.15 Regan Delf stated that SEND was a part of the process being developed for the 2019 strategy and that a review of the strategy was currently being carried out.
- 10.16 Joanna Martindale stated that bus travel had been reduced. Reference was made to the positive projects being undertaken by the Hangleton and Knoll Project despite lack of building space, a youth bus was being developed which would otherwise had been impossible to build without the additional funding.
- 10.17 Councillor O'Quinn noted the positive discussion regarding the cross policy review.
- 10.18 **RESOLVED** – that the committee approved the report

11 BRIGHTON & HOVE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY

- 11.1 Anna Gianfrancesco gave a brief overview of the Brighton & Hove Youth Service Strategy, it was noted that of the number of children in the criminal justice system there was a reduction in the number of court disposals, the rate of re-offenders was discouraging. It was noted that all teams were working with young people and Sussex Police with a view to mitigating the risk of young people from falling in to the criminal justice system. She concluded that results were overall positive however a number of children in the City remained at risk of exploitation.
- 11.2 Councillor Brown emphasised the necessity of prevention work and noted BHCC being 2nd lowest rank as positive. She further stated that it appeared that the re-offending rate was decreasing.
- 11.3 Councillor Wealls praised the work being carried out.
- 11.4 Martin Jones echoed the praise being given and stated that an increase in the number of people in care was positive. He further stated that it appeared the small group of people were re-offending were prolific and enquired if this was being addressed
- 11.5 Anna Gianfrancesco agreed that the frequency rate of re-offence was an issue, she emphasised the necessity of engaging with children and offenders.
- 11.6 Councillor Penn enquired on the status of the management of multiagency approach

- 11.7 Anna Gianfrancesco stated that the Ambit model was used to help look at how various systems engaged with each other. It was further noted that BHCC had worked with Sussex Partnership trust and that 24 people from SPMT to be trained in the Ambit model with the outlook to train colleagues within their own department. She further noted that there was efforts to help build on the relationship model across children and families and that this method was exportable. She concluded that this support could bridge the gap in timescales.
- 11.8 **RESOLVED** - That the Committee approved the Youth Justice Strategy for Brighton & Hove 2018-19.
- 12 FAMILIES, CHILDREN & LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 AND LOOKING FORWARD**
- 12.1 The Committee considered a brief presentation on the Families, Children and Learning Annual Report 2017/2018 by Carolyn Bristow. It was noted that efforts had been made to highlight various different types of information such as adult services that were provided through the directorate and focusing on key pieces of work such as the move the whole family approach. A light touch animated version of the report was to be published later in the month; also that supplementary content was to be provided such as articles and blogs.
- 12.2 Amanda Mortensen enquired how the gap was focused on.
- 12.3 Carolyn Bristow stated that over half the schools had been through the Poverty Proofing Audit, it was further noted that this carefully planned process was implemented well due to positive engagement.
- 12.4 Martin Jones queried the format of the report; he stated that it was best to provide positive information in a format that did not include pictures.
- 12.5 Carolyn Bristow stated that many forms of providing information had been explored
- 12.6 The Chair stated support for the format provided.
- 12.7 Councillor Phillips stated referred to the 2 conflicting issues highlighted on page 77 in regards to future plans. It was noted that a strategy to overcome the issues posed would have been welcome. She further noted that the bullet points provided no response to each other.
- 12.8 Carolyn Bristow agreed to look at this with a view to decide what steps would be taken in future,
- 12.9 Councillor O'Quinn referred to page 76 and praised the achievement. She noted that an increase in house foster carers was important and that overall faith in the system and social workers remained positive.

12.10 Councillor Brown echoed Martin Jones' concerns regarding the format of the report. She stated that she was pleased with the challenges and agreed with Councillor Phillips' request for measures to be taken.

12.11 **RESOLVED** - That committee note the report.

13 YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE AND USE OF HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FUNDING

- 13.1 Caroline Parker gave a brief overview of the Youth Service Update and Use of Housing Revenue Account Funding, it was stated that an effort was made to report how funding was used. Feedback regarding the level of detail was requested.
- 13.2 Councillor Brown stated she looked forward to the participation of Council tenants in future and wondered the Arc project had taken place yet. She noted various that various awards were not available and enquired about the possibility of any further external funding.
- 13.3 Caroline Parker confirmed that the Arc project was delayed. It was stated that funding had already been achieved and that a search for other revenue streams for access to arts council funding.
- 13.4 Martin Jones enquired if youth services were no longer needed due to their status and further enquired as to the reason for the gap in funding and if it had been addressed.
- 13.5 Caroline Parker stated there was a reduction of youth services during the re-commissioning process. She confirmed an additional 90 thousand pounds was to be agreed in consultation with the cross party youth working group. It was clarified that a process was being structured to provide a process for providers to apply.
- 13.6 Martin Jones further enquired if there was a possibility for application of funding for providers that had been previously had been left behind by the re-commissioning process.
- 13.7 Caroline Parker clarified that the process was still ongoing; she noted that the intention was for a wider range of providers to be able to apply including existing youth providers.
- 13.8 **RESOLVED** – that the following recommendations be agreed:
- 1) That the Committee note the report.
 - 2) Agree that a progress report is considered by the Committee in June 2019.

14 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

The meeting concluded at 18:13pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of