

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

4.00pm 3 OCTOBER 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD, HOVE, BN3 4AH

MINUTES

Present:

Councillors:

Bewick (Chair), Chapman (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Daniel, Greenbaum, Miller, Page, Penn, Russell-Moyle and Simson

Co-Optees:

Ms B Connor, Mr B Glazebrook, Ms A Holt and Mr M Jones

PART ONE

26 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

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26(a) Declarations of substitutes

- 26.1 Councillor Greenbaum declared that she was substituting for Councillor Knight
Councillor Miller declared that he was substituting for Councillor Taylor
Councillor Page declared that he was substituting for Councillor Phillips
Councillor Simson declared that she was substituting for Councillor Wealls
Ms B Connor declared that she was substituting for Ms M Ryan

26(b) Declarations of interest

- 26.2 Councillor Bewick declared that a personal but non pecuniary interest in Item 40 'Review of Post 16 (School Based) Provision in Brighton & Hove', as he was Managing Director of New York Training Limited. Although it was not clear that there would be any conflict, on the advice of the Monitoring Officer and to ensure there was no perceived conflict, he stated he would leave the room during that item.

Councillor Simson declared a personal but non pecuniary interest in Item 39 'Youth & Employability Trust Proposals', as she was a trustee of the Deans Youth Project.

Councillor Russell-Moyle declared a personal but non pecuniary interest in Item 39 'Youth & Employability Trust Proposals' as he was a trustee of the Crew Club.

Mr B Glazebrook declared a personal but non pecuniary interest in Item 39 'Youth & Employability Trust Proposals' as he was a trustee of the Youth Collective.

Mr M Jones declared a personal but non pecuniary interest in Item 33 'SEND Review Phase 2/Special School and Pupil Referral Unit Reorganisation' as his wife worked at Hillside School.

26(c) Exclusion of press and public

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).

26.3 RESOLVED- That the press and public not be excluded

27 MINUTES

27.1 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2016 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

28 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

28.1 The Chair stated the following:

Councillor Russell-Moyle was welcomed to his first meeting of the Committee.

Children & Young People Now Awards 2016

We are delighted that three of the Council's Families, Children and Learning teams have been shortlisted as finalists in the 'Children & Young People Now' Awards for 2016:

- The breastfeeding team
- The Early Parenting Assessment Programme (EPAP)
- The 'Virtual School' for their work developing Adoption Support

The LGA Peer Review – Safeguarding

Over the last week the council has been engaged in an LGA peer review of Safeguarding, which has been a rigorous look at our processes and practice. I attended the feedback on Friday and I was very proud of the positive feedback about our Families, Children and Learning directorate. While there were a few things they thought we might want to do differently in the future, most of which we were already aware of, they were overwhelmingly positive about our direction of travel. Their view is that we are doing the right things and that the experience of children and young people as a consequence is

improving. They remarked at numerous points on our positive culture which involves us being reflective of our practice, open to learning and child focussed.

While we must, of course, never be complacent, we should be proud of the work our services are doing and the difference they are making to the lives of very vulnerable children and young people across the city.

Nurseries Review

A consultation with staff in four of the Council nurseries has concluded, and the response is being sent to staff today. The Council is committed to providing high quality childcare in its most disadvantaged communities. However it must ensure that the nurseries are run efficiently to improve their financial sustainability. The aim of the consultation was to reduce the Council subsidy by introducing a consistent and fair staffing structure and more efficient shifts so that the number of staff matched the number of children in the nurseries. Considerable work had been done on the original proposals to reduce any negative impact on staff including agreeing to voluntary severance and protecting pay for staff whose grade is reduced for three years. The new structure retains a graduate Early Years Teacher to ensure quality and introduces at least one apprenticeship post in each nursery. Work will now start on implementing the changes. There will continue to be discussions with staff about their future role in the new structure.

Primary School Standards

I would like to offer congratulations to all Head Teachers and school staff on a fabulous set of results for our primary children in the city this year. Brighton & Hove is now one of the top Local Authorities in England for its performance at Key Stage 2. Figures released by the Department for Education in September show that 58% of pupils in the city this year have achieved the expected combined overall standard in reading, writing and maths. This is against a national average of 52%, putting Brighton & Hove at joint 22nd nationally out of 150 local authorities. In addition, 7% of pupils have achieved an even higher overall standard in reading, writing and maths, against a national average of 5%. This is alongside strong sets of improved results in Early Years, Secondary (GCSE) and A and AS levels. This is a testament to the leadership of our Head Teachers/Principals and the hard work and skills of the teachers and support staff in our city schools, working in partnership with our council Local Authority teams. I'm proud of this collective drive across the Brighton & Hove Education Partnership to continue to improve outcomes for our children.

29 CALL OVER

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

- Item 33 - SEND Review Phase 2 / Special School and Pupil Referral Unit Reorganisation
- Item 34 - Youth Justice Strategy
- Item 38 - City Employment & Skills Plan 2016-2020
- Item 39 - Youth & Employability Trust Proposals
- Item 40 - Review of Post 16 (School Based) Provision in Brighton & Hove

30 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

30a Petitions

30.1 There were none

30b Written Questions

30.2 There were none.

30c Deputations

30.3 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 OFSTED INSPECTION

32.1 The Committee noted the handout provided prior to the meeting, which advised that five schools in the city had recently been inspected by Ofsted. Downs View Special School had been rated as 'Outstanding', and Hove Junior, Woodingdean Primary, St Margaret's CE Primary and St May Magdalen RC Primary had all been rated as 'Good'.

As of 31 August 2016, 86% of schools in the city had been judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

33 SEND REVIEW - PHASE 2

- 33.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning which set out the background and rationale for the proposed changes to special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision across the city. The report was introduced by Assistant Director, Health SEN and Disabilities.
- 33.2 In response to a question from Councillor Simson, the Assistant Director, Health SEN and Disabilities advised that many of the children who may have gone to Patcham House were now attending mainstream schools. Whilst Patcham House provided a good standard of education, secondary schools now had very good facilities for those with additional needs, and so children who attended there could receive both the necessary support and have access to a wider curriculum.
- 33.3 In response to questions from Councillor Page the Assistant Director, Health SEN and Disabilities advised that the proposed changes were not lead by a need to cut budgets but rather to run the service more efficiently. With regard to the provision for 19-25 year olds, there was no additional budget available so funding for that could be used from any potential savings. Any additional money would be retained for those with SEND.
- 33.4 In response to questions from Councillor Miller, the Assistant Director, Health SEN and Disabilities confirmed that those with complex needs and those with severe learning difficulties would not be in the same classroom. The proposed changes were intended to improve the integrated support for both pupils and their families. Downs View Link School would be included in the proposals.
- 33.5 In response to questions from Mr Jones, the Assistant Director, Health SEN and Disabilities confirmed that if the number of children with SEND increased more places would be made available at schools. Where possible, parents would be able to give a preference as to whether to send their child to a mainstream or special school. With regard to post 16 provision, the Authority wanted to be able to provide the best environment for all children and was currently working with Downs View School to ensure that that would be provided.
- 33.6 **RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed:**
- (1) That the following proposals should now go out to formal statutory consultation:
 - (i) Extending the age range of Hillside School from 4-16 years to 2-16 years, with a view to implementation in September 2017
 - (ii) Extending the age range of Downs View School from 3-19 years to 2- 19 years, with a view to implementation in September 2017
 - (iii) The closure of Patcham House School for children with complex needs in July 2018.
 - (2) That the outcome of the statutory consultation would be brought back to Children, Young People and Skills Committee meeting on 9 January 2017 in order for a decision to be made as to whether to proceed to the next step of the process, namely the publication of statutory notices.

(3) Noted that there would be a further period of informal engagement with relevant stakeholders regarding the most suitable model of provision for the proposed integrated hubs in the east and west of the city. The results of these discussions would be brought back to Children Young People & Skills Committee on 6 March 2017.

(4) That an options appraisal and further consultation on the location of a new integrated nursery would be conducted, and the outcome brought back to committee in January 2017.

(5) Noted that Homewood College school for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties and the two Pupil Referral Units (the Connected Hub and Brighton and Hove Pupil Referral Unit) were progressing with the setting up of a Federation to provide an integrated hub for young people with SEMH under unified leadership and governance. Subject to agreement, capital funding would be set aside to upgrade the Homewood College site.

34 YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY

34.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning regarding the Youth Justice Strategy for Brighton and Hove for 2016/17. The report was introduced by the Head of Youth Offending Service.

34.2 In response to a question from Councillor Daniel, the Head of Youth Offending Service said that the reduction in young women in the youth justice system had been achieved by targeting all those at risk of re-offending, not just those who were Looked After Children which had previously been the priority.

34.3 In response to a question from Mr Jones, the Head of Youth Offending Service said that drugs were an issue in schools, and where possible problems were addressed before any offences were committed. This was achieved through a number of ways such as providing information and support through ru-ok and the Youth Offending Service, and through working with the police and passing on information from young people who may not wish to contact authorities themselves.

34.3 In response to a question from Councillor Brown, the Head of Youth Offending Service said that it was recognised that there was a disproportionate ratio of male and female volunteers. A male support worker had recently started, and the service was also looking to recruit more people from BME backgrounds.

34.5 In response to questions from Councillor Miller the Head of Youth Offending Service said that the average remand period had increased from 27 'bed nights' to 67, because two children had been remanded for a significant length of time. Both those children had cases in the Crown Court. That court tended to take longer to process cases, which in turn led to a longer stay in remand. With regard to those 'Never in LAC', there were some children who became Looked After Children following their involvement with the criminal justice system.

34.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee approved the Youth Justice Strategy for Brighton and Hove for 2016/17

35 THE OUTCOME OF THE OFSTED/CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION IN MAY 2016

- 35.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the positive contents of the letter from Matthew Barnes, Her Majesty's Inspector, and were assured that there was a plan to take forward the small number of areas for further development as identified in the action plan provided with the report.

36 PROMOTING ATTENDANCE AND REDUCING PERSISTENT ABSENCE IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCHOOLS

- 36.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report and endorsed the focus across the city on improving attendance and reducing persistent absence in Brighton and Hove schools.

37 EARLY HEADLINES: STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT IN BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, 2015-2016

- 37.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the Early Headlines Standards and Achievement report for the academic year 2015-2016.

38 CITY EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN 2016 - 2020

- 38.1 The Committee considered the joint report of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning and the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture. The report sought approval from the Committee for the City Employment & Skills Plan (2016-2020). The report was introduced by the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning).
- 38.2 Councillor Brown asked that regular updates on the plan be provided to the committee, and was advised they would.
- 38.3 In response to a suggestion from Councillor Miller, the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning) agreed that schools could provide more information about apprenticeships and said that over the coming year there would be a significant amount of work undertaken with secondary schools to promote apprenticeships as an alternative pathway to academic choices.
- 38.4 In response to a question from Councillor Miller regarding those from minority ethnic groups or who were disabled, the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning) said that there has been recent research regarding BME communities and people with disabilities and there would be a focus on supporting those groups and addressing issues which impacted on their ability to obtain employment.

38.5 In response to a question from Councillor Page, the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning) confirmed that the Department for Works & Pensions (DWP) were one of the agencies involved with the City Employment and Skills Plan.

38.6 RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

(1) Noted the final City Employment & Skills Plan and the steps that would be taken to deliver the Strategic Map

(2) Recommended the Plan to Council for adoption.

39 YOUTH & EMPLOYABILITY TRUST PROPOSALS

39.1 Following a declaration of interest in this item, Councillor Bewick left the room during consideration of the report and Councillor Chapman took the role of Chair.

39.2 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning, regarding the Youth and Employability Trust proposals. The report was introduced by Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning), and the Services Manager Youth and Communities.

39.3 Councillor Daniel said that discussions had been held with the opposition parties, and it was felt that more information should be provided on the business plan before the Committee could agree the recommendations in the report. It was suggested that recommendations 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 be deferred, and only recommendations 2.4 and 2.5 be recommended to the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee.

39.4 Councillor Brown agreed with the comments of Councillor Daniel, and said the Conservative Group supported the idea of a trust but felt that there was insufficient information in the proposals put forward, and that the business case should be more detailed before recommendations 2.1 – 2.3 could be agreed.

39.5 Councillor Greenbaum noted that the intention was to only have one trustee from the Local Authority, and suggested that could lead to a lack of democratic accountability, and asked that a councillor from all parties be members of the trust. The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning said that the membership of the trust had not yet been decided and could be discussed at a later date.

39.6 The lawyer confirmed that the existing Youth Services Contract ended in July 2017, and it was therefore essential that the procurement process be undertaken in order to secure the continuity of service provision.

39.7 Councillor Daniel proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.1.5, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Brown:

Amended recommendation 2.1.5:

That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning to award and let the contracts for this procurement for a period of three years which contracts shall contain a provision providing for the transfer of those contracts to the Youth Employability Trust in the event that the Trust is established in due course.

39.8 The Committee voted on and agreed the amendment to recommendation 2.1.5. The Committee voted on the recommendations and agreed to defer 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3, and agreed to accept 2.1.4 and the amended 2.1.5.

39.9 **RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed:**

That the Children, Young People & Skills Committee recommend that the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee approve the following recommendations:

- (1) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning: to enter into a competitive procurement process to secure the provision of youth services on a neighbourhood open access based model and youth work supporting vulnerable young people for a period of three years commencing on 1 April 2017 in order to secure the continuity of service provision in the shorter term
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning to award and let the contracts for this procurement for a period of three years which contracts shall contain a provision providing for the transfer of those contracts to the Youth and Employability Trust in the event that the Trust is established in due course.

40 THE REVIEW OF POST 16 (SCHOOL-BASED) PROVISION IN BRIGHTON &HOVE

40.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning regarding the Review of Post 16 based provision in Brighton & Hove. The report was introduced by the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning).

40.2 In response to a question from Councillor Page, the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning) confirmed that schools had been engaged throughout the process and had welcomed the Post 16 Data Pack.

40.3 In response to a question from Councillor Miller, the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning said that the Council had carried out the review and shared the results with schools, but it would be for the governing bodies of schools to make any final decisions.

40.4 In response to a question from Mr Jones, the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning) said that schools were addressing the gap in attainment for those in receipt of Free School Meals through initiatives such as providing extra tuition for those struggling with core subjects such as Maths and English.

40.5 In response to a question from Councillor Russell-Moyle the Head of Skills and Employment (Families, Children and Learning), confirmed that schools and academies

understood the need for collaboration and that there was a real commitment amongst them to work together.

40.6 The Chair said that the next step would be for officers to convene meetings with the schools, and invited a representative from each of the parties take part in those meetings. The Chair confirmed that a progress report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

40.7 RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted:

- (1) The governing bodies of schools and academies consider the future financial viability of their sixth form provision
- (2) Where the long term financial circumstances of a sixth form was likely to be challenging, then each school or academy should have a plan to address those challenges. Strategies might include realistic plans for securing greater numbers via collaboration with aspects of provision with other institutions, or possible merger with another provide to achieve scale of provision.
- (3) Governing bodies and schools review their specialisms to meet the needs of their learners, especially the more vulnerable young people.
- (4) Schools and academies continue to build stronger relationships with local employers to ensure students have the skills need for future employment.

41 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

41.1 **RESOLVED:** That no items be referred to Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of