

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

**4.00pm 17 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD,  
HOVE, BN3 3BQ**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors: Councillor Chapman (Chair)

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

Co-optees: Adam Muirhead, Bernadette O'Connor, Karen James, Josh Cliff, Trevor Cristin

**PART ONE**

**13 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**(a) Declarations of Substitutes**

- 13.1 Adam Muirhead was present in substitution for Ben Glazebrook
- 13.2 Bernadette O'Connor was present in substitution for Marie Ryan
- 13.3 Trevor Cristin was present in substitution for Ann Holt.

**(b) Declarations of Interest**

- 13.4 There were none.

**(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public**

- 13.5 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).
- 13.6 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded.

**14 MINUTES**

- 14.1 Councillor Wealls referred to Page 9 Item 9.2 and requested the sentence be changed to read, "Councillor Wealls requested officer's remarks on the reasons for low numbers of outstanding judgements in Brighton."
- 14.2 **RESOLVED** – That minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

## 15 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 The Chair provided the following Communications:

*"There is a full report later on the agenda but I am proud that the good work with the most vulnerable children & young people in the city has been recognised and that our overall judgement for children's social care in the city is now good.*

*Again, there is a report later on the agenda but I want to say congratulations to the city's nursery's schools and colleges on the good results archived across all phases this year.*

*Good news from Blatchington Mill that that they have been successful in a bid to establish a modern foreign languages hub within B&H. They are one of 7 schools nationally that have been successful, and this is a major achievement for the school and for the city. The project will involve supporting other secondary schools to improve outcomes in MFL, important for EBACC success and also reflective of the city we live in and the life skills we want young people to have, including the ability to be bilingual in a globalised and increasingly interconnected world.*

*I am pleased to say that St. Paul's CE Primary School and Nursery has been reaccredited International School Award status by the British Council. The assessors found that the "international dimension is firmly embedded in the school's curriculum and whole-school ethos, promoting citizenship and foreign language learning, and celebrating cultural diversity across the school and wider community". They also praised the well-established and active links with two schools, in Spain and in Uganda. Well done to all at the school.*

*Between Oct 2012 and Sept 2017 the Brighton & Hove Youth Collective consisted of 8 community and voluntary sector organisations: Brighton Youth Centre, The Crew Club, The Deans Youth Project, Hangleton & Knoll Project, Tarner Community Project, The Trust for Developing Communities, YMCA Downslink and the Young People's Centre (YPC).*

*It was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to deliver universal youth work across the city to young people against a number of targets and outcomes for young people under the overall strategic outcomes of 'Young*

*people are able to enjoy their leisure time’ and ‘Young people have the opportunity to be active citizens and shape the services that affect their lives’. The Youth Collective worked collaboratively with each other and other organisations in the city to run events and put on activities for young people; everything from local community events to city wide events like the B.fest youth arts festival, which is part of Brighton Fringe Festival – a report has been compiled that celebrates the work that took place and the outcomes achieved. The organisations involved continue to work collaboratively as part of the BHCC youth grants programme, providing some amazing opportunities for young people across the city*

*More detail including the report can be found on the youth collective website – a link will be shared in the minutes of this meeting.*

*I would like to welcome Councillors Lucy Care, Lisa Eldret, Alan Graves and Richard Hudson from Derby City Council who are part of a delegation to observe our committee system in practice.*

*There has been a minor adjustment to the Financial Implications of Agenda Item 23. The change will now read: “The cost of the TESU service per year is £66,800 paid for by the High Needs Block within the DSG.*

*There are no direct financial implications for the Local Authority as a result of the recommendations in this report.”*

*These changes have been applied and are available online for public consumption.”*

## **16 CALL OVER**

16.1 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

## **17 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **17 (a) Written Questions**

17.1 There were none

### **17 (b) Deputations**

17.2 There were none

## **18 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

### **18a Petitions**

18.3 There were none

**18b Written Questions**

18.4 There were none

**18c Letters**

18.5 There were none

**18d Notices of Motion**

18.6 There were none

**19 PRESENTATION BY PETER CHIVERS**

19.1 The Committee considered a presentation by Mr Chivers, Head of Brighton & Hove Music and Arts. Various projects were detailed by way of a powerpoint presentation, it was stated that there was currently an effort to involve other forms of art from many different sources. A thousand people were involved in creating starting points from which a wider network had been established as a foundation in order to foster new projects. The Committee considered a video introducing the World of Fairlight program.

19.2 Councillor O'Quinn asked if students were being helped to find apprenticeships in these specific areas.

19.3 The Head of Brighton & Hove Music and Arts stated that through the Cities of Learning work, it was hoped that a scaffolding for children to move into apprenticeships may be implemented.

19.4 Councillor Allen praised the positive work being achieved despite the juxtaposition of a program formerly run by the Council and later outsourced.

19.5 Councillor Phillips enquired what opportunities were available for low income students and disadvantaged children in the city.

19.6 The Head of Brighton & Hove Music and Arts confirmed that there were programmes being run to provide and teach musical instruments across the city.

19.7 Councillor Brown welcomed the positive approach and outcome of the projects highlighted.

19.8 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to note the presentation.

**20 OFSTED UPDATE**

20.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievements and Head of Service Early Years Youth & Family Support provided an update on schools which had recently been inspected by Ofsted.

- 20.2 The Head of Education Standards & Achievements was pleased to advise that the results put Brighton and Hove above the national average for good schools or better including attendance. A video was played showcasing the Roundabout Nursery and its success.
- 20.3 Councillor Phillips enquired what could be done to help nurseries falling behind.
- 20.4 The Head of Service Early Years Youth & Family Support stated that Ofsted carried out inspections every 4 to 5 years in which time criteria could change. It was noted that within this time the Committee would also often change and that BHCC had a team that was working with safeguarding to address this.
- 20.5 Councillor Taylor enquired what had been done to address the issue regarding phonics and further enquired if strategies could be implemented ahead of the next Ofsted inspection.
- 20.6 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that phonics had seen an increase however there were some ongoing issues. It was emphasised that a strategic approach was in place along with a support from other areas.
- 20.7 Councillor Taylor requested assurance that BHCC was addressing the issue regarding Brackenbury and Mile Oak.
- 20.8 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that a school improvement board was convened every 6 weeks to address serious issues,
- 20.9 The Assistant Director Education & Skills stated that at both school improvement boards issues had already been identified with work underway to resolve them. It was further stated that in both cases the issue laid with the leadership and that since, BHCC had engaged with school partnerships and had developed audits for these.
- 20.10 Councillor Hamilton expressed concerns at the large loss of income brought on by the deficit of children available to fill an abundance of classes provided.
- 20.11 Councillor Penn enquired what steps were being taken to address parent's concerns.
- 20.12 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that communication was identified as an issue and that it was established that the head teacher's presence at many different events was key.
- 20.13 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to note the report.

## **21 EARLY HEADLINES STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCHOOLS**

- 21.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning. The report was introduced by the Head of Education Standards & Achievement. The report outlined the early headlines of the results of the national tests in Summer 2018.

- 21.2 Councillor Brown enquired when BHCC would know about coasting and floorstandard.
- 21.3 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that there may be a change of definition in future and that coasting and floor standards was likely to not exist.
- 21.4 Councillor Phillips enquired what new tests were currently in place for 7 year olds.
- 21.5 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that the national system was a test that was surreptitiously being carried out so as to not appear as a test.
- 21.6 Councillor Wealls commented that there was a risk regarding people achieving the expected standards.
- 21.7 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that many efforts were taken to address this with the aim for every pupil to reach their full potential.
- 21.8 Councillor Wealls further enquired if BHCC had worked with Governor Support with a view to supporting more abled children.
- 21.9 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement offered to look in to this for Councillor Wealls.
- 21.10 Ms Mortensen welcomed the positive results attained.
- 21.11 The Assistant Director Education & Skills agreed and noted that there was support for mental health for young people.
- 21.12 Josh Cliff stated that GCSE's had increased in complexity and that stress was an issue brought on by the weight of expectation.
- 21.13 The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning reminded the Committee that the item was in regards to the learning as a whole.
- 21.14 Councillor Taylor requested EBacc schools be included to further information brought in future.
- 21.15 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement confirmed EBacc schools would be included in the full standards report.
- 21.16 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee noted the Early Headlines Standards and Achievement Report for the academic year 2017-2018.

## 22 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21

- 22.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Families, Children, & Learning. The Head of School Organisation introduced the report regarding the proposed school admission arrangements for the city's schools.
- 22.2 Councillor Phillips enquired if there was a plan to review the current admissions arrangements, she further requested if the expanded capacity at Dorothy Stringer and

Varndean was likely to accommodate the projected number of catchment children for September 2020.

- 22.3 The Head of School Organisation stated that BHCC expected to meet the projected number of catchment children for September 2020. It was concluded that there was high level of support for the current arrangements.
- 22.4 The Chair stated that there was no appetite for changes to the current arrangements and reaffirmed that there was no support for change to catchment areas.
- 22.5 Councillor Penn requested clarification in reference to the potentially exclusionary use of the word “England” within the report.
- 22.6 The Head of School Organisation stated that the Department of Education had specifically stipulated use of “England” however it was noted that this proposal covered England and Wales. The Head of Organisation stated that clarity would be provided in future following further correspondence with the Department of Education.
- 22.7 Ms Mortensen enquired of any further changes to primary admission numbers.
- 22.8 The Head of School Organisation stated that proposals were made in January and that this was a complicated process. It was further stated that efforts to hold more discussions with head teachers regarding pupil numbers and spare spaces with a view to reaching agreements in developing ways forward, were underway.
- 22.9 **RESOLVED:** That a consultation on the proposed changes to the school admission arrangements for 2020-21 be undertaken as detailed in the report namely:-
- (i) Amending the admission priorities which will apply in the event of oversubscription to include children who have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, within the definition of looked after and previously looked after children
  - (ii) Agreeing to make no change to the “relevant area”.

## 23 TRAVELLER EDUCATION

- 23.1 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement provided a brief overview of the Traveller Education report which outlined an analysis of the educational outcomes for Traveller Children.
- 23.2 Councillor Brown expressed concern with the drop to secondary level attendance and enquired if there were any children at school at that age who would remain to attend and take the GCSE exams.
- 23.3 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that there was a mix of reasons for the drop to secondary level and further stated that the objectives of the teams involved was to promote education among travellers.
- 23.4 Councillor Brown enquired if schools were encouraging children to stay and take exams.

- 23.5 The Assistant Director Education & Skills stated that efforts were being made however it was not known how many year 11 students were involved in the report.
- 23.6 Councillor Penn enquired what could be done to reach hidden children, specifically those that were not transitory and not part of a minority group.
- 23.7 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that BHCC were actively seeking out ring-fenced and vulnerable groups.
- 23.8 Mr Muirhead welcomed the report and briefly detailed some projects currently underway as a result of this.
- 23.9 **RESOLVED:** That the contents of the report be noted.

## 24 HIDDEN CHILDREN

- 24.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning. The Head of School Organisation introduced the report regarding the Hidden Children strategy and provided an update on new work processes.
- 24.2 Councillor Penn requested assurance that the 400 children referred to in the report were receiving mental health support via the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 24.3 The Head of School Organisation stated that BHCC currently ran process that provided access education to children who had been unable to attain this. It was further clarified that there was a criteria in place to assess need. An assurance was made that, where required, support was available.
- 24.4 Councillor Penn in reference to tier 3 stated that there was a long waiting list.
- 24.5 The Head of School Organisation recommended that the inclusion support service would be better placed to give a greater level of assurance to this concern.
- 24.6 Councillor Brown enquired of the figure pertaining to home schooling across the city.
- 24.7 The Head of School Organisation said the Council would conduct visits within the initial weeks and risk assess over 200 homes. It was stated that home education was on the rise of the last few years.
- 24.8 Ms Mortensen enquired how many of the 439 children had special education needs and disabilities, she further enquired how BHCC compared nationally.
- 24.9 The Head of School Organisation clarified that BHCC were collecting information with a view to developing a clear idea for future work. It was clarified that nationally BHCC were more forward thinking than other authorities.
- 24.10 Councillor Wealls requested an update which included SEN review as this was integral.



- 24.11 The Assistant Director Education & Skills noted that the SEN review was due in November.
- 24.12 Councillor O'Quinn expressed concern regarding the rise of home schooling.
- 24.13 The Head of School Organisation agreed there was a lot to be done on this.
- 24.14 The Executive Director Families, Children & Learning confirmed that the reason for the Children Strategy was to ensure there was a single consultation for schools.
- 24.15 Councillor Phillips enquired if anything like this had been attempted previously.
- 24.16 The Head of School Organisation clarified that this was the beginning of a process to highlight and develop answers to a problem.
- 24.17 Councillor Knight enquired how many children were diagnosed with ill mental health as a result of bullying and other external factors.
- 24.18 The Head of School Organisation stated that a range of statistics were being considered and developed however specific data had not yet been gathered.
- 24.19 Councillor Knight requested that this be gathered.
- 24.20 The Head of School Organisation gave an overview of the efforts currently undertaken in this regard and planned to address issues in future. It was further agreed that Councillor Knight's request for data regarding mental health would be included in future.
- 24.21 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee:-
1. Approve the Hidden Children strategy attached as Appendix 1
  2. note the activities being undertaken to develop this approach
  3. Receive a report in June 2019 on the progress made as detailed in the Hidden Children strategy action plan.

## **25 SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES INTO EMPLOYMENT**

- 25.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning. The report was introduced by the Head of SEN Statutory Services and the Head of Service Fostering, Adoption & Permanence and outlined the support available to people with complex barriers to employment.
- 25.2 Councillor Brown welcomed the additional funding and gave support for apprenticeships.
- 25.3 Councillor O'Quinn requested clarity on the number of officers currently employed.
- 25.4 The Head of Service Fostering, Adoption & Permanence stated there were now 6 full time officers.

- 25.5 Councillor Phillips enquired if extra funding would be enough.
- 25.6 The Head of Service Fostering, Adoption & Permanence stated that in terms of access to work, Central Government had put aside some money towards unpaid work, it was clarified that BHCC was currently running internship forums to provide help for access to work and attaining funding.
- 25.7 Councillor Phillips sought further clarification regarding the form of employment being sought.
- 25.8 The Head of Service Fostering, Adoption & Permanence stated that one of the fundamental principles of supported employment was that this was comprehensive and sustainable.
- 25.9 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the changes to the support and services available to people with complex barriers to employment be noted;
  - (2) That the committee should receive annual updates specifically on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) work for those over 19 years of age.

## **26 INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES - BRIGHTON & HOVE 2018**

- 26.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning. The report was introduced by the Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding & Care and the Service Manager Directorate Policy & Business Support which provided an update on the recent Children's Services Ofsted Inspection and sought approval on the required post inspection action plan.
- 26.2 Councillor Brown stated that the experience of children required improvement and noted that paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 appeared contradictory.
- 26.3 The Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding & Care stated that item 3.8 implied that the work carried out with children subject to children in need plans needed to be improved and that item 3.9 stated that response from front door services regarding referrals was prompt and timely.
- 26.4 Councillor Phillips enquired if cuts to the service had impacted capacity.
- 26.5 The Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding & Care stated that the introduction of the model of social work in 2015 specifically the removal of transition points meant that there was zero reliance on agency workers as a result money was not reapportioned from frontline services. It was further noted that morale among social workers was high.
- 26.6 The chair praised the report and noted that following discussions and presentations there was cross party positivity.

**26.7 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) report as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (2) That the Chair write to Children's services staff on behalf of the committee to thank them for the work they have done to improve services and outcomes for vulnerable children and young people; and
- (3) That the post Ofsted ILACS action plan as detailed in appendix 2 to the report be agreed.

**27 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**

27.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 18:40.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

