

# **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 14 July 2011

## **Present:**

Councillor Stephen Wells (Chairman)  
Councillor Diana MacMull (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Judi Ellis, John Getgood, Diana MacMull,  
Mrs Anne Manning, Tom Papworth, Ian F. Payne and  
Neil Reddin

Father Owen Higgs  
Brian James and Nancy Thompson  
Tom Clements, Alison Register and Dr Jenny Selway

## **Also Present:**

Councillor Ernest Noad, (CYP Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Lydia Buttinger, (CYP Portfolio Holder Executive Assistant)  
Councillor Brian Humphrys, (CYP Portfolio Holder Executive Assistant)

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan McConnell, Mrs Karen Nicholson and Mr Michael Youlton. Retrospective apologies were offered by Cllr. Alexa Michael for illness on the evening

## **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Prior to commencing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the previous CYP PDS Chairman, Councillor Robert Evans, who had led the Committee for the previous four years. The Committee wished Councillor Evans well in his new role as Adult and Community Portfolio Holder.

The Chairman also paid tribute to Dr. George Searle, Assistant Director (Learning and Achievement) and Lead Officer to the Children and Young People PDS Committee for many years. Dr. Searle would be retiring in the next week after 9 years with the authority and the Committee expressed thanks for the support provided by Dr. Searle and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Committee welcomed Ms. Terri Walters, Assistant Director (Strategy and Performance) who would be replacing Dr. Searle as lead officer for the PDS Committee.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Stephen Wells declared that he was a Governor at Worsley Bridge Primary School and as a prospective Governor of Bromley Road Infants School.

Councillor Diana MacMull declared that she was a Governor at Langley Park School for Girls' and the Council's representative on Bromley Y.

Councillor Judi Ellis declared that she was a Governor at Midfield Primary School and Gray's Farm Primary School, where she was also Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee. Councillor Ellis also declared that her son worked as a Primary School teacher in the Borough.

Mrs Alison Register, the Pre-School Settings and Early Years representative, declared that she ran a private day nursery in the Borough and was a representative on the Schools' Forum.

Councillor Neil Reddin declared that he was a Governor at St Olaves School and that he had a child at a pre school in the Borough.

Mr Brian James declared that he was a Parent Gov at Riverside School; a Community Governor at Parkwood Hall (out of Borough) as well as a Trustee of Friends of Parkwood; a Foundation Governor at Nash College - Livability; a Trustee and Chairman of Family Link ( Mr James declared that his wife was also a Trustee); a Trustee of Advocacy for All (formerly BBA); a LBB Foster Carer and BSAP (Adults) Carer Mr James declared his wife also carried out this role); and finally, Mr James declared that he was the father of adult son attending Bromley College and in LBB Supported Living.

Councillor Ernest Noad declared that his wife worked for Welcare in Bromley as a part-time Finance Officer.

Councillor Lydia Buttinger declared that she was a Governor at Blenheim Primary School.

Councillor Ian Payne declared that he was a Governor at Edgebury Primary School.

Mrs Nancy Thompson declared that she was the Chairman of Governors at Blenheim Primary School.

Father Owen Higgs declared that he was the Chairman of Governors at St Georges Primary School and that he was also the Chairman of St Georges Parish Church Council.

Councillor John Getgood declared that he was a Governor at Alexandra Junior School and Kelsey Park Sports College.

**3 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions were received.

**4 MINUTES OF THE CYP PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MAY 2011 AND MATTERS ARISING**

There were no issues raised regarding the Minutes nor any matters arising not addressed elsewhere on the Agenda

**RESOLVED that the minutes from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 be agreed.**

**5 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions were received.

**6 PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S UPDATE**

The Chairman reported that this item had been added following discussions with the Portfolio Holder and would allow the Portfolio Holder to raise particular issues of which he felt the Committee should be aware.

The Portfolio Holder reported that he had nothing particular to raise at this meeting however, he would make use of the item in the future.

The Committee noted decisions taken by the Portfolio Holder since the last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.

**7 PERFORMANCE MONITORING: 4TH QUARTER 2010/11  
Report DCYP11076**

The Committee considered a report updating Members on progress during Quarter 4 (January to March 2011) and presenting an end of year account on performance against the key actions and indicators for Children and Young People Services in Bromley.

The Chairman questioned why the indicator for underage conceptions was included, as the changes reported were simply natural statistical variations and did not demonstrate a measurable improvement. The Performance and Statistics Manager reported that this indicator had been chosen as it had previously formed part of an Ofsted assessment. This was no longer the case and in future more pertinent measures would be selected. The continuing

measurement of some indicators would be reviewed where the relevance and usefulness of same was questionable.

Following discussions Members of the Committee expressed the view that where specific targets were indicators that the Local Authority was measured against, the Committee should undertake its scrutiny role, reviewing progress and identifying areas for investment and improvement.

Dr Jenny Selway reported that, as part of the strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy, attempts were being made to communicate with young people using social media, as recent studies had shown that communication via this medium had led to improved measurable benefits.

The Performance and Statistics Manager clarified that the recording error referred to in paragraph 3.19 had occurred as a result of the two social work teams being based at different sites and using slightly different methods to record data. Now the teams had been brought together in one location, data was being recorded in the same way and any inconsistencies in recording re-referrals had been resolved.

A Member of the Committee noted that whilst there had been a significant increase in the percentage of initial assessments carried out within timescale; almost half of the cases were still missing the targets. The Assistant Director (Safeguarding and Social Care) reported that there had been further improvements since the statistics had been compiled and 74% of initial assessments had been carried out within timescale. The Committee expressed the hope that this improvement was now a trend. The Chairman expressed the concern that the needs and safety of the child in each case would not be detrimentally overshadowed by any desire to meet tick-box target driven percentages simply to attain certain Inspection criteria.

The Director CYP reminded the Committee that the Executive had established the Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Executive Working Party to monitor the data surrounding children's social care. The Working Party met a minimum of three times a year and was chaired by the CYP Portfolio Holder.

Another Member of the Committee suggested that it may be helpful if there could be references within the report when issues had previously been considered by the Committee. This would allow newer Members of the Committee to review earlier reports and identify issues that had previously been considered.

The Committee considered the issue of attainment in depth. A Member noted that the Local Authority was failing to narrow the gap between the highest and lowest achievers and suggested that this highlighted the need to protect services, such as Children and Family Centres, in the more deprived parts of the Borough. The Head of Standards and Attainment reported that the gap was starting to narrow in early years.

Mrs Regester reported that the reduction to 3 areas of focus following the review of the early year's foundation stage had been welcome and the reduction in bureaucracy had been very helpful.

The Committee also considered the attainment of young people with special educational needs and felt that this target should be monitored throughout the year. The Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion) stressed to the Committee that this was a complex issue and that SEN pupils in Bromley performed above the national average. However, because the attainment of all pupils in Bromley far exceeded the national average, the performance of non-SEN pupils would have to decrease in order to close the gap with SEN pupils. This was one of the anomalies of the national targets that had been set.

A Co-opted Member highlighted that there was very little focus on children with Special Educational Needs in the annual reporting process. The Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion) suggested that this was an area that could be reviewed in the Member Officer Working Group for Special Educational Needs (MOGSEN).

The Portfolio Holder stressed that the statistics collated by the Department were not taken lightly and that Officers within the Department worked hard to meet the targets that had been set. The issues surrounding the attainment of pupils with special educational needs would be considered in depth at the Executive Working Party for SEN which had overseen many improvements in the provision of SEN since it had been established.

**RESOLVED that the CYP Portfolio fourth quarter performance 2010-11 be noted.**

**8 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF REPORTS TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**A) AN UPDATE ON THE RECENT GOVERNMENT REFORM DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THE ACADEMY PROGRAMME Report DCYP11085**

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the Academy Programme, developments within Bromley and the potential strategic implications for Bromley Council. The Chairman provided an introduction and then asked the Director CYP to provide a strategic overview of the issues outlined in the report.

The Director CYP stressed that the reform agenda was changing on a daily basis. The reforms being introduced represented a significant change which Local Authorities would be required to manage on a local level. These changes were highlighted in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.7 of the Director's report. The Director CYP reported that a number of the Borough's primary schools continued to deliberate their position regarding academy status and this led to

a degree of uncertainty for the Local Authority. Following the joint letter sent by the Portfolio Holder and the Director to the Chairmen of Governors of Primary Schools the Department now had a basis on which to describe in clearer terms the range of statutory and sold services the Local Authority would be able to provide, as well as further develop the sold services model.

Sold Services would be further discussed at the next meeting of the PDS

Following a question, the Director CYP clarified that the Local Authority would continue to be responsible for the planning and placement of school places for children resident in the Borough, irrespective of the status of the school.

The Director CYP also reported that following the meeting with Lord Hill at the DfE attending by the Director, Portfolio Holder and the Executive Assistant, the relationship with the DfE had strengthened and there had been a number of follow-up meetings. The Director CYP was also contributing to two ministerial advisory groups and would ensure that the perspective of Local Authorities would be taken into account as further reforms were considered. The Director CYP stressed that Bromley found itself in a unique position in terms of the number of primary schools converting to academy status. Though other London boroughs were also experiencing similar conversion levels. A member suggested lessons might be learnt from their experiences.

The Chairman provided the Committee with an update concerning schools converting to academy status and reported that the Governing Body of Darrick Wood Junior School had informed the Department this week that it was no longer pursuing academy status while another school had changed its intentions twice in the same period.

A Co-opted Member questioned the extent of the legal powers of the Local Authority in respect to vulnerable students. The Director CYP reported that there was an expectation in law that the Local Authority would continue to be responsible for vulnerable young people however the way this would work in practice would have to be negotiated. The Co-opted Member suggested that it would be helpful for the Committee to have sight of a simple table with a baseline of young people with SEN pre-academy. This table could then be monitoring post-academy conversion to ensure that the needs of young people with SEN were being met. The Director CYP agreed to provide an update on this issue.

The Portfolio Holder reported that he had received a very positive letter from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Secondary Head's Forum. This letter stressed that the secondary schools were committed to working in partnership with other schools and the Local Authority. The Portfolio Holder highlighted that this demonstrated a continued willingness to deliver the best outcomes for young people in the Borough and this was very encouraging.

The Committee acknowledged the extent of the work undertaken by the Portfolio Holder and the Director regarding this issue. One Member highlighted that by September 2011, only around 30% of Bromley pupils

would remain with the Local Authority. The Member also requested an update on proposals for Free Schools in the Borough. The Director CYP reported that there was currently very little information available, however there were two sets of proposals, one for a primary school and one for a primary/secondary through school. The letters received by the Department had been purely fact finding and the Director would provide more information to the Committee at the next meeting.

A Member sought clarification surrounding the funding provided to schools that had converted to academy status. The Director CYP reported that conversion had been more financially beneficial to larger schools, with the DSG top-sliced to provide funds as each school converted. It was possible that schools would be awarded additional funding (on top of the DSG) through different grant schemes.

The Chairman reported that the issues that had arisen with Commercial Transfer Agreements were being resolved and the main points of concern had been addressed. The Legal Advisor dealing with the Commercial Transfer agreements would be attending the Committee's meeting in September 2011 to provide Members with an update.

The Portfolio Holder reported that hours of work had been invested in the academy conversion process and thanked the Director and Officers within the Department for their hard work. The Portfolio Holder stated that he had every confidence in the Director and her team in pursuing the Government's reform agenda.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the approach being taken by the Director in response to local Academy developments.**

**B) CYP PORTFOLIO PLAN FOR 2011/2012  
Report DCYP11075**

The Committee considered a report outlining the draft Portfolio Plan for Children and Young People Services for 2011/12 for the Children and Young People PDS Committee's consideration and comment. The Plan sets out the proposed priorities and key actions for the Children and Young People Portfolio for the Council Year 2011/12.

The Chairman provided an introduction and a new bullet point summary of the plan was issued to the PDS with additional points.

The Committee suggested a number of areas on which more emphasis could be placed including:

- Provision for early years in partnership with other agencies;
- Young carers as vulnerable young people;
- Emphasis on In-Borough placements provision for SEN; and

- Recruitment and payments for in-house fostering for children with more complex needs.

The Portfolio Holder agreed to ensure that these areas would be reviewed and the necessary amendments made. The Committee agreed that the Portfolio Holder be afforded the discretion to approve the minor amendments and sign off the Portfolio Plan once the revisions had been implemented.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the Portfolio Plan for Children and Young People Services for 2011/12.**

**C) BRIEFING AND ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING THE OFSTED  
UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF REFERRAL AND  
ASSESSMENT SERVICES IN BROMLEY - APRIL 2011  
Report DCYP11079**

The Committee considered a report outlining the formal outcomes, judgement and recommendations from a two-day unannounced inspection of Bromley's Children and Young People, Referral and Assessment Services by Ofsted on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The proposed action plan to address the areas identified for development was also considered by Members.

The Chairman highlighted that this inspection had been undertaken under a difficult new regime for officers under which also the Department had received no notice of the inspection. The inspection was a 'snapshot' of the two working days with the Inspection team sitting with Officers as they worked live cases, following progress on each case examined.

A Co-opted Member expressed surprise that there had been a focus on service user feedback and questioned how this had been sought from parents whose children had been removed. The Assistant Director (Safeguarding and Social Care) acknowledged that this was a very sensitive area and user feedback would be difficult to gather however, it had been possible to gather the necessary feedback.

In response to questions about the out-of-hours service, the Assistant Director (Safeguarding and Social Care) reported that it was a very lean service that addressed the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority. Officers worked from home from 6pm and dealt with urgent issues raised during the night, other issues were handed over to the duty teams the next day. The Inspectors had identified that handover information could be improved and Officers were now focusing on strengthening the service. The Department was also reviewing the possibilities of shared services with LB Bexley in order to rationalise service delivery.

The Portfolio Holder encouraged all Members of the Committee to take part in the tours of Children's Social Care which were open to all Members of the Committee.

The Portfolio Holder and the Committee congratulated the Director, Assistant Director and Safeguarding Teams on the excellent outcome of the Inspection and the Chairman asked that those congratulations be passed to all Officers involved in the Inspection..

**RESOLVED that the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the Action Plan in response to the recommendations made by Ofsted during the April 2011 unannounced inspection.**

**D) SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE  
POLICY - OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION  
Report DCYP11088**

The Committee considered a report outlining the outcome of the stakeholder consultation and strategic review of the Special Education Needs (SEN) Transport Assistance Policy. The report outlined recommendations to the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder on the scope and nature of the proposed amendments to the SEN transport assistance policy.

The Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion) tabled an additional overarching policy paragraph to be added as part of the introduction in the first paragraph of SEN Transport Policy:

*The Council is aware that the issues surrounding each child with Special Educational Needs are different and every effort will be made to consider individual child and family circumstances when implementing this policy.*

The Committee agreed that flexibility and appropriateness to individuals would be key to the success of the policy and agreed that the additional paragraph should be added to the introduction. A Member also stressed that parents needed to have confidence in the policy and appeals process.

The Chairman noted that it appeared that the young people were more interested in securing their independence than their parents. Mr James suggested that the response provided by the Student Council may have distorted the results as by its very nature, the young people serving on the Student Council were able to express themselves and voice their opinions and would also be naturally more keen to secure more independence.

The Committee also considered that it would be worthwhile to liaise with Bromley College regarding bullying at bus stops for some vulnerable young people, and whilst the presence of the Community Police Officer had helped address the issues identified there was still more that could be done.

**RESOLVED that the proposals for the SEN Transport Assistance Policy be endorsed and that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the draft SEN Transport Assistance Policy.**

**E) CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTRES IN BROMLEY: INTERIM REPORT**  
**Report DCYP11089**

The Committee considered an update on the consultation timetable and an outline of emerging findings in order to seek Members initial views before a full report on the outcome of the consultation was provided to the Committee in September 2011. The report also provided an outline and rationale for the revised commissioning process in light of potential changes following the outcomes of the consultation.

A Member sought assurances that representation that had been sent to the Leader of the Council would be included in the consultation responses, and these assurances were provided by the Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion).

The Chairman noted that paragraph 3.7 of the report highlighted that the Department for Education had notified Officers that if the Centres did not continue to be used primarily by and for children aged 0-5 and their parents and carers, the existing funding stream AND capital (previously granted and expended on these Centres) would be recovered by the DfE. For Bromley, this amounted to £5.4 million for all the centres and should 16 centres close and not deliver services to children, a large proportion of this funding would be recovered. The Committee agreed that it would be prudent to ensure that some centres continued to provide services to children aged 0-5 in order to secure the funding and avoid additional expenditure on accommodation for other Council services.

In acknowledging that savings had to be made, a Member of the Committee highlighted that given the significance of early years learning and early intervention on later outcomes the closure of Children and Family Centres in some of the more deprived areas of the Borough would contribute to the widening of the gap in performance of the highest and lowest achievers in Bromley. The Member agreed that 17 or 18 Centres in the Borough was a lot however, he felt that cutting back to only three Centres was moving too far in the opposite direction.

The Portfolio Holder stressed that savings and efficiencies had to be found and there was no easy solution to finding these savings. The Portfolio Holder reported that all the issues would be examined over the summer and he and Officers from the CYP Department would do their utmost to mitigate against the disadvantages any closures may cause.

Alison Register expressed concerns that the Early Intervention Grant was not being used for early years. The Director CYP responded that older adolescents were included in the terms of the grant and the needs of older vulnerable children needed also to be considered and addressed.

The Committee noted that a further report would be presented in September 2011 and at this time Members would consider the issues in greater depth.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- (i) note the interim report;**
- (ii) note that a full report on consultation outcomes will be provided at the next CYP PDS Committee meeting on 6 September 2011; and**
- (iii) note the revised commissioning process and proposed timetable for statutory, private, community and voluntary sector agencies to bid for delivery of services.**

**F) CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF YOUTH CENTRES IN BROMLEY: INTERIM REPORT**  
**Report DCYP11081**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report providing an update on the consultation on the future of Youth Centres in Bromley and an outline of emerging findings in order to seek Member's initial views before the full outcomes report was provided in September 2011.

The Chairman highlighted that it appeared that there was a high cost per user associated with Local Authority run services and sessions at Youth Centres. Another Member suggested that it was too simplistic to undertake a "counting heads" exercise as Youth Centres provided services to some of the most vulnerable young people in the Borough. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Programme acknowledged that there was a balance to be struck and that it was important to weigh up the costs and benefits of Youth Centres. The Committee requested that an analysis of the young people accessing Youth Centres be provided in the report presented to the Committee in September 2011.

In response to a question regarding why Local Authority Youth Centres did not appeal to the needs of Bromley's young people, the Head of Integrated Youth support Programme reported that there was localised appeal for Youth Centres, however the need to broaden this appeal was a theme that had emerged from the consultation.

In response to a question it was also noted that users were willing to travel considerable distances across the Borough in order to attend sessions that were of interest to them and in which they particularly desired to participate.

**RESOLVED that the emerging outcomes of the consultation be note and that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- (i) note the interim report;**
- (ii) note that the full report on consultation outcomes will be provided at the next CYP PDS Committee meeting on 6 September 2011.**

**G) CONSULTATION ON THE CHANGES TO THE ADMISSIONS  
CODE OF PRACTICE: BROMLEY'S RESPONSE  
Report DCYP11082**

The Committee considered a report providing information on the proposed changes to the Codes of Practice for School Admissions and School Admissions Appeals along with the Director of Children and Young People's Services response to the consultation.

The Chairman noted that this was another agenda that appeared to be rapidly changing and commended the response to the consultation provided by the Director CYP.

The Director CYP confirmed that the Local Authority would continue to carry the responsibility for in-year admissions and whilst academies had been provided with funding to implement admissions, they did not have any responsibility for this function. The Chairman indicated it was not clear how the statutory services of the LA which would be used by all schools in this regard would be paid for by the Academies.

In response to a question, the Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion) reported that Bromley had the lowest number of admission appeals in London (single figures annually) and it was anticipated that the proposed changes would make no difference to the number of appeals received.

The Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion) also confirmed that all children had been placed for the start of September 2011.

The Committee asked the Director CYP to review the response to question 3 of the consultation as there appeared to be a contradiction. The Director CYP agreed to amend the wording of the response.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree the Director's proposed consultation response, subject to a review of questions 3, as set out in appendix 1 of the report.**

**H) BASIC NEED CAPITAL PROGRAMME: UPDATE 2  
Report DCYP11086**

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the provision of additional schools places to address the increase in pupils at reception age for September 2011. The report sought approval to procure facilities for the Hearing Impairment Unit at Darrick Wood Secondary School, and to undertake feasibility studies to address the future increase in reception age pupils with special educational needs.

The Chairman noted that the proposals would be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011 and asked whether any problems were anticipated. The CYP Strategic Property Manager reported that Officer had been involved in a meeting to off-set as many planning concerns as possible and reported that there were no problems anticipated with the planning approval.

A Member of the Committee noted that the costs of the feasibility studies appeared to be excessive. The CYP Strategic Property Manager clarified that the costs outlined in the report were the total costs of taking the proposals through to the planning process, well beyond a mere feasibility study and the costs reflected the time it would take to develop facilities.

Father Owen Higgs commended the feasibility study for St Nicholas, Chislehurst as negotiations for this scheme had been ongoing since 2004.

Councillor Judi Ellis sought assurances of the Grovelands site. The Director CYP reported that there was nothing to suggest that services would not be able to continue on the site and that the site had now been dedicated to CYP Service however, the Director would clarify the position with the Chief Property Officer and report back to the Committee.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- (i) Approve the updated list of schemes within the Basic Need Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.20 of the report.**
  - (ii) Approve the updated Basic Need Programme budget;**
  - (iii) Authorise the Director of Children and Young People Services to seek planning permission for schemes at the appropriate time when required;**
  - (iv) Authorise the Director of Children and young People Services to adjust the programme as circumstances dictate taking account of these priorities.**
- I) SPENDING BY PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN 2010/2011  
Report DCYP11083**

The Committee considered a report providing information on all revenue and capital balances held by Primary, Secondary and Special Maintained Schools as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, along with a comparison with the balances held at the same time in the previous year.

The Interim Head of CYP Finance reported that Malcolm Primary School had purchased Gold Standard support from the Schools' Finance Team. Officers continued to work with Clare House Primary School to overturn the growing deficit. The Director CYP explained that the school had previously had a top heavy staffing structure in terms of support assistant staff and work was ongoing to address this.

Councillor John Getgood stressed the problems that had arisen as a result of the withdrawal of Sports Partnership Funding. Councillor Getgood stated that he felt that it was unfair that the two schools in question had received no additional support in terms of funding redundancies arising from the sports partnership funding as other schools had been eligible for additional funding

for redundancies. Modest redundancy funding was available from the authority if applied for by the school.

**RESOLVED that the financial position of Primary, Secondary and Special Maintained Schools at the end of the 2010/11 financial year be noted.**

**J) GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS ON FUTURE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS & ACADEMIES  
Report DCYP11078**

The Committee considered a report providing an overview of the recent consultations released by DfE regarding future funding for schools and academies and the Authority's response. Following consultation with the Schools' forum, a draft response from the Local Authority had been sent to the DfE.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the report as the Local Authority's response.**

**K) FINAL ACCOUNTS 2010/2011  
Report DCYP11084**

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that the Department had reduced the deficit in the non-schools budget from over £800,000 to £18,000 at a time of severe budgetary constraints. The Portfolio Holder commended the action taken by the Department and congratulated the Director CYP and the Officers within the Department for their achievement.

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report outlining the final outturn for the 2010/11 financial year and highlighting the variations which impact on future years. The Schools' Budget, funded from the Dedicated Schools' and specific grants, was overspent by £427,000 (representing 0.29% of the overall budget). The main reason for the overspending was down to the Government withdrawing the Standards Fund late in the financial year and after the Council had distributed funds to schools. This had, in part, been off-set by management action and the use of other grants. The overspending would be funded from the 2011/12 Dedicated Schools' Grant. The controllable part of the Non-Schools' Budget, funded from Council Tax, Revenue Support and specific grants, was overspent by £18,000 (representing 0.05% of the overall budget). This was after allowing for extensive management action to tackle the rising costs of social care placements, including the flexible use of grants to off-set expenditure.

A Co-opted Member highlighted the issue of payments to foster parents looking after children with complex needs, as all foster payments were currently the same. The Co-opted Member felt that the additional financial resources needed for children with complex needs should be acknowledged. The Director CYP reported that in February 2011, the Department CYP had approached the Council's Organisation Improvement Team to assist with a

review of the structure. This work was still on-going and the Director hoped that a report could be presented to the Committee in October.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- (i) note the comments of the CYP PDS Committee;
- (ii) consider the particular volume and activity pressures on the CYP budget and the management action undertaken by the Director and the Department to contain the related expenditure;
- (iii) approve the final accounts 2010/11 for CYP and note that this information has been referred to the Council's Executive;
- (iv) note that the Executive has been requested to agree carry forwards totalling £10,000.
- (v) note the early indications of the continuing effect of budget variances highlighted in this Report into the following financial year.

**L) MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**  
**Report DCYP11074**

The Committee considered a report seeking approval for LA Governor appointments for nine schools in the Borough. The report also outlined reappointments/confirmation and LAAP authorisation to Hayes School.

Members noted that the decision regarding Bromley Road Infants would be deferred to a later meeting.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the following appointments, subject to CRB checks:**

<b>Darrick Wood Infant School</b>	<b>Cllr Charles Joel</b> <b>(Farnborough and Crofton Ward)</b>
<b>Darrick Wood Junior School</b>	<b>Cllr Charles Joel</b> <b>(Farnborough and Crofton Ward)</b>
<b>Dorset Road Infant School</b>	<b>Mrs Wendy Davies</b> <b>(Greenwich)</b>
<b>Highfield Infant School</b>	<b>Mr Anthony Chase</b> <b>(Bromley)</b>
<b>Marian Vian Primary School</b>	<b>Ms Anuja Prashar</b> <b>(Beckenham)</b>

<b>Riverside School</b>	<b>Ms Jasmine Bery (Anerley)</b>
	<b>Mrs Linda Keeble (Bromley)</b>
<b>St Peter and St Paul RC Primary School</b>	<b>Mrs Christina Alexander (Orpington)</b>
<b>Unicorn Primary School</b>	<b>Mrs Paula Mestre (Beckenham)</b>

**2) The Portfolio Holder be recommended to defer the following appointments:**

<b>Bromley Road Infant School</b>	<b>Mr Andrew Bostridge (Beckenham)</b>
	<b>Mr Stuart Dixon (Beckenham)</b>
	<b>Cllr Stephen Wells (Copers Cope Ward)</b>

**3) The Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the following re-appointments/confirmation and Local Authority Associated Person (LAAP) authorisation to academies:**

<b>Hayes School</b>	<b>Ms Tamsin Mills (Beckenham)</b>
	<b>Ms Susannah French (Hayes)</b>

**M) CYP WORK PROGRAMME  
Report DCYP11087**

The Committee considered the forward rolling work programme for the year ahead based on items scheduled for decision by the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder and items for consideration by the Children and Young People PDS Committee.

The Committee noted that the following reports would be deferred to the October meeting:

- Foster Parent Payments: Consultation Outcomes
- Annual Report on Adoption Activity
- Bromley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11

The report on the structure of the CYP Department would be considered at the November PDS Meeting.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree the Work Programme for 2011/2012, subject to the amendments outlined above.**

**9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.**

**10 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE CYP PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MAY 2011**

**RESOLVED that the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be agreed.**

**11 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO - PREVIOUS PART 2 DECISIONS**

The Committee noted Part 2 decision that had been taken by the Portfolio Holder since the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.

**12 PRE DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS**

**A) CYP CONTRACTS 2011-12 (2)**

Further to a meeting of the Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 this report provided an overview of the status of all contracts held by the CYP Department. This annual report was supplemented by a regular update on contracts and service level agreements as part of the CYP Forward Rolling Work Programme for scrutiny by the CYP PDS Committee.

**B) THE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPITAL SCHEME:  
UPDATE REPORT 1**

The report provided an update on the progress of the reconstruction a Bromley primary school.

**C) BROMLEY SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED AS CAUSE FOR CONCERN**

The Committee considered a report outlining the outcomes of the recent inspection by Ofsted of two primary schools in the Borough and the monitoring inspections of two other schools that were all in an Ofsted category of cause for concern with the last two years.

The Meeting ended at 10.50 pm

Chairman

# Minute Annex

## Matters Arising

Minute Number/Title	Decision	Update	Action	Completion Date
<b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b>				
<b>91/1 Schools Finance Issue (Part 2)</b>	That the Committee be kept updated	Officers continue to work with the school and provide updates at meetings	Director CYP/ Head of CYP Finance	
<b>92/1 Children and Family Service – Referral from Audit Sub (Part 2)</b>	That the Committee be kept updated	Disciplinary proceedings are on-going, a report will be presented to the October meeting of the CYP PDS Committee.	Director CYP	October 2011
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July 2011</b>				
<b>7. Performance Monitoring 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>	That references be provided within reports where issues had already been specifically considered by the Committee. This would allow newer Members of the Committee to review earlier reports and gain a better understanding of issues considered by the Committee.		Performance, Research and Systems Manager	

<p><b>7. Performance Monitoring 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b></p>	<p>Focus on children with Special Educational Needs in the annual reporting process.</p>	<p>This will be reviewed by the Member Officer Working Group for Special Educational Needs (MOWGSEN)</p>	<p>Director CYP/Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion)</p>	
<p><b>8A. Recent Government Reform Developments</b></p>	<p>Sold Services would be further discussed at the next meeting of the PDS Committee.</p>		<p>Director CYP</p>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> September 2011</p>
<p><b>8A. Recent Government Reform Developments – Academy conversion</b></p>	<p>It would be helpful for the Committee to have sight of a simple table with a baseline of young people with SEN pre-academy conversion to enable Members to monitor whether the needs of young people with SEN were being met post academy conversion.</p>		<p>Director CYP/ Assistant Director (Access and Inclusion)</p>	<p>Autumn 2011</p>
<p><b>8A. Recent Government Reform Developments – Free Schools</b></p>	<p>The letters received by the Department CYP regarding two potential free schools in the Borough had been purely fact-finding and the Director CYP would provide further information at the next meeting.</p>		<p>Director CYP</p>	<p>6 September 2011</p>
<p><b>8A. Recent Government Reform Developments – Commercial Transfer Agreements</b></p>	<p>The Legal Advisor dealing with this issue would attend the next meeting and provide an update.</p>		<p>Senior Lawyer – Property, Contracts and Order</p>	<p>6 September 2011</p>

<b>8H. Basic Need Capital Programme: Update 2</b>	Grovelands Site – the Director would clarify the position with the Chief Property Officer and report back to the Committee		Director CYP	
<b>8K. Final Accounts 2010/2011</b>	Payments to foster carers looking after children with Complex needs	The Council's Organisational Improvement Team was assisting with a review of the structure of these payments and hoped to report in October 2011.	Director CYP	October 2011

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