

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 18 October 2011

Present:

Councillor Stephen Wells (Chairman)
Councillor Diana MacMull (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Anne Manning, Judi Ellis, Ian F. Payne,
Neil Reddin, Alexa Michael and Kathy Bance

Tom Clements, Father Owen Higgs, Brian James, Tom
Clements, Alison Register and Michael Youlton

Also Present:

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

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Papworth, Councillor Getgood (Cllr Bance attended as his alternate), Mrs Dolores Bray-Ash, Mrs Joan McConnell, Mrs Karen Nicholson, Mrs Nancy Thompson and Dr Jenny Selway.

The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Ernest Noad also sent his apologies.

The Chairman noted that some members of the Committee had not yet attended any meetings so far this municipal year, and informed the Committee that he would be writing to these individuals.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Declarations of Interest made at the meeting on 14th July 2011 were taken as read

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

Mr Michael Youlton declared that he was the Headteacher of Tubbenden Primary School.

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

There were none.

**31 MINUTES OF THE CYP PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
6TH SEPTEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Ian Payne requested that his declaration of interest as a Governor at Edgebury Primary School should be added.

RESOLVED that the minutes from the meeting held on 6th September 2011 be agreed.

Under matters arising, the following points were noted:

Minute 15 (6 September 2011) - The CYP Portfolio Holder would hold a special meeting in mid-November (17th) in order to formally release documentation for consultation relating to foster carers' payments; a further report seeking comments from the PDS Committee as part of this consultation would be put to the next meeting on 29th November, alongside other financial issues scheduled on the agenda.

Minute 21(c) (6 September 2011) - a paper on recruitment and support for foster carers for children with complex needs would be put to the January 2012 meeting of this Committee.

**32 PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2011/12: 1ST QUARTER, AND
PDS WORKING PARTY ON PERFORMANCE MONITORING
DATA
Report DCYP11114 and DCYP11121**

The Committee considered a report providing an update on progress against key performance indicators for Children and Young People Services in Bromley for Quarter 1 (April to June) 2011. The Committee was pleased to see that targets had so far been exceeded in a number of areas, and noted other areas where performance was behind target.

The Chairman reported that Councillor Papworth had expressed some concerns about a number of the targets that progress was measured against, a number of which had already been identified by the CYP Working Party on performance monitoring data (whose report had been circulated as Item 10a elsewhere on this agenda) for changes in either the nature or frequency of presentation. The individual targets had previously been established each spring by the department's Senior Management Team as part of their work on drawing up the Portfolio Plan, and the Committee noted that future involvement by the Working Party was envisaged at that stage in 2012. The Chairman expressed thanks to Working Party colleagues who had turned around a complex piece of work in a very tight timescale.

Mrs Regester raised concerns about the fact that early years providers currently received no systematic feedback about subsequent progress made by each cohort, which they could use to assist them in assessing whether performance might be enhanced at the foundation stage; the Director undertook to follow up on this issue.

RESOLVED that

- (1) progress against key performance indicators be noted; and**
- (2) the conclusions of the Working Party on changes to future presentation of performance monitoring data be supported**

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

There were none.

34 PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S UPDATE

The Committee noted the decisions taken by the Portfolio Holder since the last meeting.

On behalf of the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Humphrys updated the Committee on the pursuance of shared services and best practice initiatives with both Bexley and Croydon. This built on existing joint working in areas such as admissions, youth service contracts, etc.

A range of potential areas were being actively explored, including

- various Special Educational Needs services, such as shared contract/placement monitoring, joint commissioning, shared transport and an Invest to Save initiative to fund less costly in-Borough provision for secondary age pupils
- sold services to schools, covering governor support, school improvement initiatives, HR, finance, property and IT
- Children's social care and safe-guarding provision such as emergency duty cover, QA and statutory regulation and foster carers' recruitment strategies

Stakeholders and service users would be consulted wherever any of this work was likely to result in appreciable changes to provision.

35 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 DCYP11116

The Director, Children and Young People Services, introduced a progress update report on the policy developments within the Government's reform

programme for education and wider children's services. The report also provided an update on the academy programme, developments within Bromley and the strategic implications for the Council.

The Committee asked for their congratulations and thanks to be extended to staff who had been involved in the successful achievement of the Pathfinder Bid mentioned in the report. The opportunity to be at the forefront of testing out principles such as personal budgets for parents of children needing SEN services was welcomed.

The Director drew particular attention to key change on the horizon, most notably:

- the consultation exercise being undertaken on statutory guidance relating to the future role and responsibilities of the chief officer and lead member responsible for children's services. Given the wide-ranging implications for corporate governance the Council's response would not only seek to take this Committee's and the Portfolio Holder's views into account, but also other leading Members' views. In answer to questions, the Director clarified that this guidance would not preclude a Council restructuring such as that currently under consideration.
- The news that the Department for Education (DfE) had not approved the application by the Paxton Free School in the current wave; although this could be revisited when next year's applications were considered by the DfE.
- No further school governing bodies had notified the Council that they were considering transition to Academy status, nor had the Secretary of State determined any transitions locally.
- There were some concerns about suggestions that the Government might be considering the possibility of in-year clawbacks of dedicated school grant contingencies used to finance SEN, family support, etc

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the approach being taken by the Director CYP in response to the overall policy changes including local Academy developments.

B) CYP BEHAVIOUR SERVICE RESPITE PROVISION Report DCYP11115

The Director, Children and Young People Services introduced a report providing the background to respite provision in Bromley, updating Members on the number of pupils attending the Behaviour Service Respite Provision in Chipperfield Road, and progress made by officers on finding an alternative location for the service.

A reduced number of students was now on the site, with others undertaking programmes of activity elsewhere. An update on the costs and timescales involved in moving the service to a new location would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that information relating to the number of students within the Behaviour Service Respite Provision and the progress made on finding an alternative location be noted.

C) INTEGRATED TRANSITION STRATEGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES
Report ACS11052

The Director, Children and Young People Services introduced a report providing an update on the development of a draft Integrated Transition Strategy for young people with learning difficulties/disabilities. The report had been produced jointly by Adult and Community Services and Children and Young People Services with input from colleagues in health.

The Committee noted the suggestions for amendments made by the Adult and Community Services PDS Committee. They requested that the draft also be amended to make specific reference to the opportunities that should be open for pursuing educational opportunities but, subject to this, otherwise were supportive of its release for consultation.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- (a) agree to the release of the draft strategy for consultation for a period of 3 months from November 2011; and**
- (b) note the results of the consultation will be reported back to the Portfolio Holders prior to the final strategy being endorsed.**

D) CYP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2011/2012
Report DCYP11117

The Director, Children and Young People Services introduced the budget monitoring report based on spending to the end of August 2011. The schools' budget, funded from the Dedicated Schools' and specific grant was forecast to spend in line with the budget. The non-schools' budget, funded from Council Tax, Revenue Support and specific grants was forecast to overspend by £349,000.

The analysis currently underway of sold services, and the pricing policy required to achieve full cost recovery was noted; this would feed into strategic discussions and decisions about future approaches, which this Committee would have a chance to contribute to either in December 2011 or January 2012.

The Committee noted that Government had indicated that there could be further top-slicing of grant funding; representations had been made against this, but outcomes were still awaited and would be reported to the Committee once anything further was known.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to

- (a) note the pressures and endorse the action to reduce the overspending; and**
- (b) note contracts of £50,000 and above that have been exempted from the normal requirement to obtain competitive quotes.**

**E) SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION
Report DCYP11118**

The Committee considered a report outlining proposed Schools' Forum constitution changes. A wide-ranging discussion was held on how to achieve the correct balance of membership within the regulations that governed the constitution given the need to achieve representation that reflected the pupil numbers in academy and non-academy schools; and also the numbers covered by both early years and special needs provision. It was emphasised that, given the changing nature of the education landscape, the constitution would need to be revisited annually for the future.

Whilst taking a majority view that the draft constitution circulated with the agenda should be accepted as written for the coming year, the Committee requested that further information should be circulated on the numbers behind the proposals made and the basis for them (e.g. the use of pupil numbers or numbers of places for different categories of membership), and that any future reports on this issue should state these explicitly at the initial stages of consideration.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree the Schools' Forum constitution.

**F) MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
Report DCYP11113**

The Director, Children and Young People Services introduced a report outlining LA Governor Appointments to two schools and academies in the Borough. The report also sought confirmation of appointment of LA representatives to eight academies in the Borough.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the following LA Governor appointments, subject to CRB checks:

Darrick Wood School	Mr Michael Green (Orpington)
Wickham Common Primary School	Mr Tony Warren (West Wickham)
	Ms Katherine Cowley (West Wickham)
Balgowan Primary School	Mr Paul Brady

	(West Wickham)
Biggin Hill Primary School	Cllr Gordon Norrie (Biggin Hill Ward)
Darrick Wood Infant School	Cllr Charles Joel (Farnborough and Crofton Ward)
Green St Green Primary School	Cllr Samaris Huntington-Thresher (Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom Ward)
Hayes Primary School	Mr Steven Whittle (London)
Valley Primary School	Cllr Michael Turner (Plaistow and Sundridge Ward)
Ravens Wood School	Cllr Robert Evans (Farnborough and Crofton Ward)
The Ravensbourne School	Mr Anthony Wilkinson (Beckenham)

**G) CYP FORWARD ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012
Report DCYP11119**

The Director, Children and Young People Services introduced 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 Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee.

The January meeting would also consider consultation on the draft Children's Partnership Strategy for 2012- 2015.

It was noted that a special meeting of the CYP Portfolio Holder had been arranged for 17 November 2011 to consider the release for consultation of proposals for foster parent payments.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the work programme.

36 QUESTIONS ON THE CYP PORTFOLIO HOLDER BRIEFING

The Portfolio Holder briefing comprised four reports:

- Annual Update Report on Bromley Youth Offending Team (YOT) Partnership

The Committee noted the expected HMI inspection in November, and agreed that it would be useful to hold a join meeting with the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee to consider the outcomes once known. They also congratulated the YOT team on their success in meeting a number of their targets.

- Annual Report of Adoption Activity 2010-2011;
- Bromley Safeguarding Children Board 2010-2011 Annual Report,
- Childcare Sufficiency Report

A co-opted member commented that there was concern being expressed by certain out of school providers about the impact of family centre closures on their ability to stay in business to provide services for the future, in particular because many schools were not geared up to host school holiday provision. The Director provided assurances that the position was being monitored and alternative provision sought.

**37 UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2012/13 TO
2015/16
Report RES11105**

The Committee considered a report providing the latest budget projections and highlighting the further budget gap identified for 2012/2013 to 2014/15.

Councillor Bance's opposition to a phased deletion of school crossing patrols was noted.

**38 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.

**39 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE CYP PDS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

RESOLVED that the exempt minutes from the meeting held on 6 September 2011 be agreed.

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

The Committee noted the exempt decisions taken by the Portfolio Holder since the last meeting.

**41 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 REPORTS TO THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**A) OUTCOME OF TENDERING FOR ADULT AND YOUNG
PEOPLE SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES
Report RES11105**

At the Adult and Community PDS meeting on 27th September 2011 the Adult and Community Portfolio Holder considered a report by the Director of Adult and Community Services (ACS 11051) outlining the outcome of tendering for adult and young peoples' substance misuse services and seeking agreement from the Portfolio Holder to the award of the contract for young peoples' services and to the Council's contribution from the Young Peoples Substance Misuse grant. The Adult and Community Portfolio Holder resolved that the report be referred to the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder for consideration and endorsement.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the decision of the Adult and Community Portfolio Holder

**B) CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES CONTRACTS
REVIEW
Report DCYP11120**

The Committee considered a report which provided a review of all payments to external suppliers with a cumulative value of £30,000 or higher made by Children and Young People Services for the period 2008/09 to 2010/2011 (financial years). An addendum providing further information was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to note:

- (a) the outcomes of the review of payments for £30,000 or higher made by Children and Young People Services to external suppliers for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11;**
- (b) the suggested management actions to be implemented, or in place, by Children and Young People Services to ensure that all payments to suppliers are in compliance with the London Borough of Bromley Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules.**

The Meeting ended at 9.44 pm

Chairman

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