

EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE: BROMLEY BEHAVIOUR SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00pm on 14th November 2012

Present

Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP (Chairman)
Councillor Alexa Michael
Darren Jenkins – Co-opted Member representing Parent Governors
Paula Farrow – Head Teacher, Farnborough Primary School
Patrick Foley – Head Teacher, Southborough Primary School
Denise James-Mason – Head Teacher, Marjorie McClure School
Neil Miller – Head of School, The Priory School
Paul Murphy – Head Teacher, Ravensbourne School

Also present

Councillor Stephen Wells
Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe
Rob Higgins – Former Head Teacher, Charles Darwin School and Chair of PRU Management Committee
Craig Channell - Former Principal of Wealden Skills Centre
Dr Tessa Moore – Assistant Director (Education)
Mike Barnes – Head of Access & Admissions
David Bradshaw – Head of Education and Care Services Finance
Keith Pringle – Democratic Services Officer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P was appointed Chairman of the Working Group.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan McConnell.

3. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW/TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following Terms of Reference were proposed:

- (1) to monitor funding for the provision of Behaviour Services;
- (2) to monitor progress towards a new structure for Behaviour Services and to make recommendations to the Education PDS Committee;
- (3) to look at strategies to improve behaviour standards;
- (4) to monitor exclusions and suspensions;
- (5) information sharing and working with other groups;

(6) improving outcomes of pupils referred to Alternative Provision and the Kingswood and Grovelands Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) schools;

(7) analysing pupils referred to the above and the relationship of the above providers with schools e.g. individual contracts; and

(8) any other relevant matter.

It was agreed that the Working Group would continue to the end of the Council year. On strategies for improving behaviour standards, Councillor Alexa Michael referred to a significant influence at home.

4. BEHAVIOUR SERVICES IN BROMLEY – CURRENT SERVICE

The Behaviour Service is 100% funded from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Page 35 of the agenda papers indicated relevant costs. Secondary services are provided at Kingswood and services for primary age pupils provided at Grovelands. Respite provision is also undertaken along with outreach work to schools – the respite provision being provided at the former Walsingham school. This comprised mainly purchased places by schools. Some Special Educational Needs (SEN) places were also located at the premises. The Chairman requested that visits be arranged to Kingswood, Grovelands and the former Walsingham school. **(Action: ECS)**

The Behaviour Service also included home tuition for pupils unable to attend school for medical reasons, full time education for pregnant schoolgirls and school-aged mothers, and daily education to in-patient children on the children's ward at the Princess University (PRU) Hospital. Pupils unable to attend for medical reasons includes some children with mental health issues. It was agreed that the scope of the Working Group's remit should not include the "*Home and Hospital*" aspect of the service's work although a breakdown of children with mental health issues and reasons etc would be helpful. **(Action: ECS)**

It was also advised that the Schools Forum had agreed to part of the Behaviour Service (Primary Outreach) funding being delegated to schools.

5. FUTURE STRATEGY FOR BEHAVIOUR SERVICES IN BROMLEY

The Working Group had received a report of the review led by Rob Higgins into the Behaviour Service currently delivered by L B Bromley. In addressing the Group, Rob Higgins referred to growing numbers of excluded pupils at the PRU and associated cost. Such pupils staying on at the PRU were extra pressures and there was potential to have more disaffected pupils at age 14. Rob Higgins indicated that there was interest in having a Free School to provide Behaviour Services e.g. a studio school along with a potential funding stream.

As a case study for consideration, Craig Channell gave a presentation on Wealden Skills Centre, East Sussex. The Centre was initiated through the collaboration of four local Head Teachers who set out to meet behaviour needs in the locality. Two former industrial units were leased and the facilities re-

equipped to provide for up to 300 learners at a cost of some £1.5m. Details were outlined of facilities offered and delivery models.

It was necessary to close the Skills Centre as Local Authority funding ceased. There were close links with industry/businesses and measures of success for the initiative were outlined. The initiative was successful – the Centre had its own commercial catering facility, a Hairdressing Salon and provision of vehicle pre-checks for customers in advance of subsequent MOT tests. Such activities provided income. Detail was also presented on the work environment and income generation. Reference was made to £7.5k at five days per week per pupil at the Centre compared to £17k in school at the PRU. Pupils were interested in functional Maths and English.

In discussion, Rob Higgins suggested it was unclear where accountability rested for student provision under the current model. He felt that it was unworkable and the Government's direction of travel was for more independence. The Government was keen for PRUs to become academies. Some autonomy was necessary in running the PRU and Behaviour Service.

The Chairman was interested to see OfSTED reports for Kingswood - changes had previously taken place at Head Teacher/Principal level. It was indicated to the Group that since the last Head Teacher left, the role was being undertaken by two members of staff and the school was being run as well as it had been before. This arrangement was pending the outcome of the ongoing review. There had been five Head Teachers in seven years at Kingswood.

Concerning Grovelands, the school was carrying a number of temporary staff and the Head Teacher would soon be leaving. There was restructuring and temporary staff were being replaced with permanent posts. The early intervention staff would offer a limited sold service to primary schools.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Group was advised that from April 2013 PRUs will have their own delegated budget - academies would follow as the next stage. Academies were interested in running PRUs - nevertheless, the LA continued to maintain a statutory duty for any pupil excluded. There remained a statutory duty for the LA to provide education from the sixth day of exclusion although it was not necessary for this to be at the PRU.

Behaviour services for schools were undertaken on a needs basis. Some schools were buying into the service whereas other schools had their own services, although there was no buying from other local authorities. Following a successful bid, Harris Beckenham had been granted permission for an alternative provision free school (Harris Aspire Academy) from 2013. This would be for their own pupils and pupils from other schools.

Paul Murphy indicated that secondary headteachers were keen on managing behaviour through a Charitable Trust. He suggested that language related to behaviour services e.g. PRU needed to change and the language of Alternative Provision (AP) was not being used enough. The PRU at Kingswood and Grovelands was all that was currently offered; if pupils had severe behaviour problems they would be placed at the PRU. He felt that this was no longer

appropriate. He suggested that 14 year old students with behaviour problems did not want to go to another school for two days a week. Secondary headteachers were supportive of transformation and he suggested that the needs of students with behaviour problems be based on advice from schools. He added that Harris could charge Secondary Heads for use of its new alternative provision free school and this was interesting.

The Portfolio Holder understood that a Harris PRU would be in L B Croydon on L B Bromley's western border. Harris might be in a favourable market position based on what they charge. He indicated that the model of Charitable Trust with an Executive Board below had merit. The Chairman referred to outcomes being clear in any contract with a new organisation.

Patrick Foley commented that primary schools had different needs. He was concerned that that a future service may have a secondary bias in a Charitable Trust. He suggested a separate trust for Grovelands with Kingswood and Grovelands as separate schools. He also enquired how pre-school outreach might work. He felt that a separate Primary Behaviour Service was needed - perhaps having an umbrella trust between Grovelands and Kingswood - but primary needs were different from secondary needs.

Paul Murphy indicated that secondary schools were not advocating a "revolution" but over time he saw the two services being much more collaborative – it was an "evolution" rather than "revolution".

Denise James-Mason indicated that Graham Ingram, Head Teacher of Burwood School, would be more appropriate than herself on the Working Group.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

For the next meeting a comprehensive report was requested on the challenges for primary and secondary behaviour services and future direction for different parts of the service (**Action: ECS**)

It was proposed that the next meeting be held in early February (Democratic Services Note: it has since been agreed that the next meeting will be held on 13th February 2013 at 5.30 p.m.).

A meeting of primary/secondary headteachers was also suggested before the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.07pm