

## Minutes

of the Meeting of the

## Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel Friday, 15th January 2016

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am Meeting Concluded: 12:45 pm

### Councillors:

P Ann Harley (Chairman)

P Bob Garner (Vice-Chairman)

A Karen Barclay

P Mary Blatchford

A Judith Hadley

P Tom Leimdorfer  
(substitute for Donald Davies)

David Shopland

P Richard Tucker

P Martin Williams

P Deborah Yamanaka

Ericka Blades

A Donald Davies

David Hitchins

P David Oyns

A Kate Stowey

P Liz Wells

P Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Colin Hall (Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services), Jill Iles (Assistant Executive Member Public Health), David Jolley

**Added Members:** Caroline Hostein (Diocese of Clifton), Claire Hudson (Diocese of Bath and Wells)

**Right to Speak:** Fiona Walters (Weston College)

**Other apologies:** Councillor Lisa Pilgrim (Assistant Executive Member)

**Officers in attendance:** Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Eifion Price, Sue Ivermee, Louise Malik (People and Communities Directorate), Shauni Brocklesby, Philippa Penney (Corporate Services)

**CAY Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)**  
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None.

**CAY 16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2015 (Agenda item 4)**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**CAY 17 Annual Report of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (Agenda item 6)**

Independent Chair of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board, Tony Oliver, presented the Board's Annual Report for 2015/16.

Commenting on the need for financial savings, Mr Oliver told the Panel that in order to make better use of the available resources it had been decided to reduce the number of sub-groups, thereby releasing people to do work other rather than meetings' administration. In addition to this change, the Children Sexual Exploitation sub-group has been combined with the Adult Sexual Exploitation sub-group and would focus on both vulnerable children and adults. The purpose was to focus on prevention, as many abused children become abused adults.

Mr Oliver presented the terms of reference for each of the sub-groups, as follows: Child Sexual Exploitation; Communications; Early Help; Training, Development and Promotion; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Policy and Procedures.

Members discussed a number of areas including: housing provision and the use of the hotel scheme, CSE policy development and the commitment for it to be robust, FGM being a key part of the Board's agenda despite the reassurance that it was an exceptionally small problem within North Somerset in terms of numbers

Some Panel Members expressed concern about the recruitment and retention of Social Workers and it was noted that options such as incentives were being considered.

In discussing the rise in reported cases of CSE, Members were informed that this was for a number of reasons, including encouragement for reporting by way of greater police awareness, training and publicity, and engagement with experienced and trained staff.

Members thanked Mr Oliver for his informative and reassuring report and subsequent discussion.

**CAY 18 Strategic Schools Forum- budgetary implications for 2016/17 (Agenda item 7)**

By exception the Chairman agreed to accept this as a late item of business, the reason being the receipt of the Dedicated Schools Grant settlement and the data on which funding for 2016/17 was based, which were issued on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Understanding the implications of this announcement and the detailed calculations which followed were essential in considering

the budgetary implications for the 2016/17 financial year and the impact on education providers.

On behalf of the Director of People and Communities the Service Leader (Resources) presented the report, which covered the predicted implications for 2016/17. Discussion focused on the methods of savings whilst highlighting the areas of overspend outlined within the report.

It was emphasised that, whilst the budget was not being finalised until March, the amount being distributed to schools required an earlier decision.

Members discussed the responsibilities of the Strategic Schools Forum and that these were laid down in regulation and legislation, with the Executive Member having the delegated powers for North Somerset Council.

**CAY  
19      The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda item8)**

Members noted that a vacancy for a Parent Governor Representative for each of Primary and Secondary schools had been advertised on two occasions. However, it hadn't been possible to make an appointment due to no nominations having been received. The Scrutiny Officer invited Members' ideas/suggestions for filling this position.

In discussing a review of virtual schools, Members were reminded that this fell within the remit of the Children's Champion Group.

Members discussed the 'new ways of working', and that the intention was to reduce costs and be more time efficient.

**Concluded:** that the work plan be agreed and updated.

**CAY  
20      Performance and Finance Monitoring (Agenda item 9)**

The Panel was updated on the OFSTED progress and how well all schools were doing. It was highlighted that referrals were still at 0 and monitoring continued to ensure that nothing was being omitted.

Members expressed concern about that the number of looked after children who receive three or more placements in twelve months, especially in teenagers due to the nature of their challenging behaviour and it was noted that further work was focused on exploring this issue.

**CAY  
21      Response from the Executive Member to the CSE Working Group Recommendations (Agenda item 10)**

The Panel considered the Executive Member's response to the CSE working group's recommendations.

Councillor Hall thanked the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board and all those who work in child protection for their hard work.

**CAY 22      Response from the Executive Member to the CYPS Working Group Recommendations (Agenda item 11)**

The Panel considered the Executive Member's response to the CYPS working group's recommendations.

Councillor Hall thanked the working groups for their hard work, advising that he supported and had accepted all of the recommendations made.

**CAY 23      Report of the Assistant Executive Member (Agenda item 12)**

The Assistant Executive Member had been unable to attend this meeting and had submitted her apologies.

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Chairman

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