

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Children & Young People Services Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Friday, 18th November 2016

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

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am Meeting Concluded: 12.05pm

Councillors:

P Ann Harley (Chairman)

P Bob Garner (Vice-Chairman)

A Karen Barclay

A Ericka Blades

P Donald Davies

P David Hitchins

A Kate Stowey

P Liz Wells

P Deborah Yamanaka

P Michael Bell

P Mary Blatchford

A Judith Hadley

P David Oyns

P Richard Tucker

A Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Other Councillors in attendance: Jan Barber, Ruth Jacobs

Officers in attendance: Louise Malik, Philippa Penney, Eifion Price, Sally Varley, Gail Webb

CAY Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

9

None

CAY Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2016 (Agenda Item 4.1)

10

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

CAY 11 White Paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere (Agenda Item 6)

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Education Transformation, a copy of which is filed on the minute book. Members were provided with an update on the implications of education reform, the implications of reductions in the Education Services Grant, and opportunities for providing traded services.

North Somerset Council remained supportive of encouraging academisation by way of Multi Academy Trusts. There was also a strong indication from schools that they would like to continue access to the high quality services provided by the council. Further detail of this was being reported to the Executive on 6th December.

Members expressed concern as to the pace of these changes being instigated from government and that local authorities must remain mindful of keeping abreast of such changes whilst not acting in haste. It was agreed to hold an urgent steering group meeting to formulate a further letter to North Somerset MPs detailing concerns arising.

The Panel thanked the Head of Education Transformation for such an excellent and informative presentation.

CAY 12 Possible Expansion of Flax Bourton C of E Primary School, Flax Bourton (Agenda Item 7)

The Service Leader, Planning and Access presented the report detailing the consultation responses, as overseen by the School Organisation Scrutiny Steering Group. Flax Bourton was rated as an outstanding school which was currently oversubscribed.

Members thanked officers for excellent engagement in the expansion process and gave full agreement to the recommendation.

Concluded: that the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel supports a recommendation to be submitted to the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services to approve the publication, if appropriate, of a Statutory Notice by the Council to expand the provision at the Flax Bourton C of E Primary School from a 105 to a 210-place primary school formally with effect from 1 September 2018.

CAY 13 Performance and Financial Monitoring Report (Agenda Item 8)

The Assistant Director, Children's Support & Safeguarding and The Interim Head of School Improvement presented the report, the theme for which was education achievement statistics.

Members discussed the methods of recording statistics and reasons why non-recording may not necessarily reflect concerns in action taken, e.g. not entering notes in a sufficiently timely manner.

Reassurance was also given for performance regarding specific school improvements. Academic results this year were in the light of a new assessment regime which had been implemented over the last two years. This was reflected in the data nationally and was complex, taking time to embed. It was suggested that similar information should be provided for the Children's Champions Group. Officers were still awaiting progress data, and it was agreed that a working group meeting should be convened to consider this matter further once data had been confirmed.

Concluded: that the Panel is asked to note the financial and performance information presented in this report and to give comment on both areas for improvement and areas of good performance.

CAY 14 Report of the Assistant Executive Member (Agenda Item 9)

Apologies had been received from the Assistant Executive Member for Looked After Children. Whilst Members were grateful for the written report that had been provided, disappointment was expressed that this solely referred to Social Impact Bonds and was silent on any other aspects of the portfolio.

Concluded: the report was noted.

CAY 15 Forward Plan and Scrutiny of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 10)

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Specialist Practitioner. Implementation of New Ways of Working gave rise to this timely reminder of methods available to assist members in remaining aware of decisions being taken as indicated on the Forward Plan and scrutiny arrangements for Executive and Executive Member decisions.

Concluded: that the Panel receives the information regarding the cycle of the Forward Plan and scrutiny arrangements for Executive and Executive Member decisions.

CAY 16 The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)

Concluded: that the work plan be updated to reflect work in progress.

Chairman
