



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Date and time	THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2020 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), Debbie Andre, George Cameron, Stephen Hendry, John Howe, Karl Love
Co-opted Members (voting)	Shaun Arnold (Parent Governor)
Cabinet Member	Cllr Paul Brading
Officers Present	Marie Bartlett, David Hardcastle, Dave Harvey, Eric Halton, Chris Jones, Kathy Marriott, Karen Potheary, Paul Thistlewood, Andy Tickner

8. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [28 November 2019](#) be confirmed.

9. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Debbie Andre declared an interest as she was a governor at the Cornerstone Federation.

Councillor Stephen Hendry declared an interest as he was a governor at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Shaun Arnold declared an interest as he was a governor at Dover Park Primary and Medina College.

Councillor Vanessa Churchman declared an interest as she was a governor at Haylands Primary School.

10. [The attainment of pupils in Isle of Wight schools](#)

The District Service Manager for Education and Inclusion gave the committee a presentation which explained that in early years the Isle of Wight was broadly in line with national figures. It was noted that parents played a key role in their child's education.

Key Stage two results had been too low on the Island and last year had seen a decline in results, this was due to intensive support being withdrawn from schools that had been unable to sustain the standards attained. Standards were based on the lowest attaining subject (Reading Writing and Math), analysis showed that maths was the subject that needed attention and a government grant was requested and granted, this has seen a significant improvement. Project schools had continued to receive support, the annual visit to these schools had been replaced with term visits to ensure continuous involvement.

The committee discussed the support provided to schools to improve and where concerned that when the support was removed there had been a reduction in standards They were advised this was partially caused by the fact that the year 6 teachers last year, who benefitted from the additional support, may not teach year 6 this year. This indicated that each school needed to ensure that the principles learnt from the support was then applied across all classes.

The County Education Manager advised the committee that he believed the Isle of Wight secondary schools were at the end of an unprecedented period of change. This was the first set of results from the new leadership team in secondary schools. Support that was provided by the local authority to maintained schools had led to improvements from previous performance.

The committee questioned the Attainment 8 programme which measured pupil's average performance across eight subjects which included English, mathematics, three EBacc subjects and three other subjects. A national improvement had been seen this year, although there was still a lot of work to do to continue the level of improvement and sustain this.

Members discussed a number of related issues in connection with attainment including the actual numbers of pupils that were entered for examinations. In addition the reduction in the number of pupils taking qualifications in subjects such as art and religious education was of concern.

RESOLVED:

That the school attainment for 2018/19 be noted and the improvements be welcomed.

11. [School attendance update](#)

The Inclusion Manager informed the committee that schools attendance had stayed relatively stable during 2017-18, and the Island followed the national figures. Reasons for absence were also in line with national figures, schools are challenging repetitive absence by students. It was noted that figures for 2018-19 would not be available until April 2020.

Persistent absence reduced slightly during 2017-18. In secondary schools the figures for persistent absence was around 85 – 89% attendance. Work was being undertaken to understand why children were out of school and the

team tried to help resolve the issues to ensure attendance.

It was noted that there was a range of issues that could stop a child from attending school these included:

- An issue with a teacher
- Mental health issues
- Transport problems
- Issue between a parent and teacher

A secondary behaviour partnership had been set up for heads to bring cases that were high profile and cause for concern. The group problem solved after consideration of all the relevant individual factors of each case and this had shown great success.

The committee were assured that children with long term unauthorised absence were not being ignored and this was continually monitored.

Concern was raised in relation to the impact fines could have on some families and they were advised that each case was dealt with individually with the aim to improve attendance at school.

The data that would be available for 2018-19 would enable a more detailed breakdown to be available on related issues such as absence of pupils with SEND, or free school meals.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the School Attendance Update be noted
- b) THAT the 2018/19 attendance figures would be circulated to the Committee when available and the future workplan include an item on attendance at the appropriate time.

12. Careers and Participation

The Service Manager, Strategy and Commissioning advised the committee that the Local Authority had a statutory duty to ensure children participated in education or training until the age of 18. Schools and academies had a duty to provide impartial careers guidance to their pupils (years 8-13). The Local Authority had provided free impartial careers advice, although funding had not been allocated and schools had been contacted to ask if they wanted to buy into the scheme.

Eight out of 10 Secondary schools on the Island had bought into the Local Authorities careers advice which had been offered at a lower cost for the first year, to help with budget constraints. Carisbrooke and Medina schools had invested in their own careers guidance and the Local Authority were working with them to ensure impartiality. An increase from 160 days to 200 days advice had been achieved.

The Island Futures team had coordinated a careers fayre at the Isle of Wight College during the whole two weeks of the October half term, which had seen

an increase in the number of students attending.

Funding had been secured until March 2023 to support young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) for young people aged 15-24. All the money had to be allocated by March 2020.

A virtual college had been launched on the Island which had been grant funded. This provided children in care and care leavers with intensive careers advice.

The committee were advised that they worked with the voluntary sector and other organisations when a young person had a lack of confidence to try and improve this.

The committee asked if there was any careers guidance offered to children at primary level or before they picked options for GCSE's. They were advised that a pilot scheme was being trialled in Hampshire and if successful would be rolled out on the Island.

RESOLVED:

That the arrangements for careers guidance and participation on the Island be noted

13. OFSTED and CQC SEND Inspection

The Education Officer (SEN) provided a power point presentation to the committee, highlighting the issues raised by the recent Ofsted inspection. It was explained that the outcome from the inspection was positive with areas of strength and areas for development identified.

Strengths included:

- Leaders worked well together and had a good understanding of the needs of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) on the Island,
- improving school system for all children
- Vulnerable children and young people with SEND were well supported.

Areas for development included:

- Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) need updating following annual reviews and specify targets/outcomes needed for health and social care.
- Communication of strategic direction
- Co-production with Parents/Carers and children and young people at all levels.

Suggested actions had been identified which would ensure information was disseminated to parents/carers, children and young people, and other professionals about work going on across the board to support children and young people with SEND. Processes for an EHCP annual review would be updated to ensure these were completed in line with statutory guidance.

The committee asked if the EHCP followed a child when they moved school, either primary to secondary or an in year transfer. They were advised that it was a legal document and when a child transferred schools the plan would be sent to the new school.

An action plan was being drafted and would be available in the next few weeks which would be circulated

RESOLVED:

- (i). THT the outcomes of the recent Ofsted/CQC inspection be noted
- (ii). THAT the action plan be circulated to the committee when available.
- (iii). THAT the answers to the questions submitted by the committee prior to the meeting would be provided.

14. Committee's work Plan

The committee's work plan was considered. This would include a report on the Ofsted inspection of adult learning and community education at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

THAT the Committee's work plan be noted.

CHAIRMAN