



Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Date and time	THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Chairman), Debbie Andre, George Cameron, John Howe, Karl Love, Steve Hastings (Vacancy)
Co-Opted Members Present	Shaun Arnold (Parent Governor Representative), Rob Sanders (Diocesan Representative)
Cabinet Members Present	Cllr Paul Brading
Officers Present	Mrs Jennifer Beresford, Steve Crocker, David Hardcastle, Eric Halton, Kathy Marriott, Brian Pope

20. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2019 be confirmed.

21. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Cllr Debbie Andre declared an interest as a member of the adoption panel. Cllr John Howe declared an interest as a member of the fostering panel.

22. [The Bay – Update](#)

The chairman advised this item would be deferred to the next meeting to allow for the head teacher to attend and present a fuller report.

23. [Children's Mental Health Services](#)

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight (IOW) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Partnership's Deputy Director and Isle of Wight Commissioning Manager delivered a presentation regarding Children's Mental Health Services on the Isle of Wight. Information was provided on the following areas:

- Facts about mental health in children
- National priorities to be met by 2020
- Summary of Local Need
- Mental Health Services for Children
- The Challenges
- CAMHS New Care Models
- Emerging Structure and making the system more coherent
- Wider system reform (0-25 services) and NHS 10-year plan
- NHS Long Term Plan
- Next Steps

Nationally and at a regional and local level there was an increase in mental health prevalence among children and members noted that there had been two attempted and one completed child suicide in Hampshire recently.

Targets on the Island were being met for Eating Disorders, receipt of treatment and in-patient treatment closer to home, though clarification was provided that this meant mainland Hampshire rather than on-island due to the lack of provision available here. Crisis resolution and home treatment teams had been set up. Staffing continued to be an issue as there was limited resource and burnouts were common, but workflow was improving. Details were provided on a pilot of a mobile phone app providing different levels of support which would help address issues around engagement due to small communities on the Island. Clarification was provided that Beaulieu House was not providing bereavement services.

Concerns were raised in relation to transgender figures. Clarity was also sought on the source of the data and numbers behind the percentages. The committee also requested that outcome measurements be provided. It was agreed figures rather than percentages with trends would be provided in further reports.

It was noted that positive feedback had been received in relation to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis services and over 50% of the waiting list had been cleared.

Discussion took place regarding investment in mental health support in schools and future in mind funding. While it was noted that the announcement would be national, reassurance was provided that officers were working to progress this. It was agreed that the committee request that the Cabinet and senior leadership work to encourage central government in bringing this forward for the benefit of children's mental health and attainment.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the committee request that the Cabinet and senior leadership work to encourage central government in bringing investment and support for mental health in schools forward for the benefit of children's mental health and attainment

- (ii) THAT an informal briefing be arranged with the CCG regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder on the Island.

24. **Children's Services Ofsted report**

The committee considered the report detailing the outcomes of the November 2018 inspection of the Isle of Wight Council's Children's Services. All judgements on the service were *good*. The key areas highlighted by the report included:

- Stable and consistent leadership through partnership
- An increased focus on resilience
- Recognising the challenges unique to the Island
- Children's experiences were the focus of all social work: work under taken by the multi-agency safeguarding hub. Participation was also noted as a strength in the report.
- Engagement with partners in Early Help work.

Areas for improvement included:

- Tracking and oversight of children subject to pre-proceedings plans to prevent delays
- Homelessness in 16-17 year olds.
- Availability of suitable housing to meet the needs of all care leavers
- Recording of discussions in case supervision records.

An update was provided on other areas of work:

- A children's mental health worker would be joining the adult mental health and substance abuse workers working alongside children's services
- The service would also be moving to agile working, using technology to allow staff to work more efficiently.
- A new care management system was being implemented.

Reassurance was provided that there was an action plan in place to address the issues raised. It was agreed an update on progress in these areas would be included in the performance review information at future meetings.

RESOLVED:

THAT the committee receive an update on the actions taken in relation to the inspection as part of review of performance data at future meetings.

25. **Annual Attainment Report**

The County Education Manager for School Improvement presented a report and a presentation (attached to and forming part of these minutes) regarding attainment on the Isle of Wight.

Performance in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was strong. However, at performance at the end of Key Stage 2 had not been as strong as expected and the Island was 10 percent behind the national average. 9 schools which had been above the national average had dropped and mathematics remained and issue. The key issues effecting performance were considered to be:

- Surplus places
- Schools that still Require Improvement
- Schools that have been judged good but have low standards
- Schools that have been judged good but are unable to secure strong KS2 outcomes
- Improving the teaching of mathematics

Reassurance was provided that work was being undertaken to address the issues. Funding had been won and Teach First, held in high regard nationally, had been engaged to work with staff and schools. Local Authority schools were now visited half-termly rather than annually, and bespoke support was being provided. Work with years five and six regarding mathematics in twenty schools on the Island continued.

Members were reminded, in relation to results in secondary schools, that there had been an unprecedented level of change and that year on year comparisons were difficult as a result.

The different performance measures were outlined for the committee and discussion took place regarding the inherent difficulties of the new system in relation to subjects which were not part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

RESOLVED:

THAT the report and presentation on annual attainment be noted.

26. **New Ofsted Schools Framework**

The committee received a presentation (attached to and forming part of these minutes) introducing the intentions and key ideas underpinning the consultation documents relating to the new Ofsted Schools Framework.

Overall it was expected there would be a change of focus from data driven measurement to looking at the quality of education provided and move away from poor leadership practices which improved ratings but did not necessarily improve outcomes for children towards a good quality of education and a curriculum which improved outcomes for all children.

The key questions raised by the consultation and the associated risks and unintended consequences were considered. It was suggested the intention was to move away from a focus on data driven inspections and towards the provision of a good education and the curriculum being taught.

Members noted that the presented information was in relation to the consultation and may not appear in the final changes. It was expected that the new framework would be used for inspections from Autumn 2019.

RESOLVED:

THAT the presentation on the consultation on changes to the Ofsted schools framework be noted.

27. [Council's forward plan and the committee's work plan](#)

The committee's work plan was considered and noted.

RESOLVED

THAT the council's forward plan be noted.

28. [Members' Question Time](#)

Cllr John Howe raised a question in relation to safeguarding training for members. It was agreed that details of the safeguarding training available would be shared with the clerk for forwarding to the committee and other elected members.

CHAIRMAN