

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.00PM – 30 JANUARY 2007

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Battle (Chair); Councillors Allen, Giebeler, Lepper, Morgan, Peltzer Dunn, Simson and Wrighton.

Statutory Co-optees with Voting Rights: Mr Nigel Sarjudeen – Diocese of Chichester; Ms Sophie Ricca-McCarthy – Parent Governor Representative.

Others invited by the Chair to contribute: Ann Antonio – National Union of Teachers; Sandra Messenger – NASUWT.

PART ONE

ACTION

29. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

29A. Declarations of Substitutes

29.1 Substitute Councillor For Councillor

None

Apologies were received from Councillor Young and Ms Clare Jackson.

29B. Declarations of Interest

29.2 There were none.

29C. Exclusion of Press and Public

29.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

29.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the

meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

30. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2006

- 30.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

31. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 31.1 There were none.

32. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND MID YEAR REPORT

- 32.1 The Assistant Director, Quality and Performance, gave a presentation on the Overview of Performance Monitoring and the Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services summarising the progress on the development of performance improvement systems for the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT). (See minute book)

- 32.2 The Assistant Director, Quality and Performance outlined the structure of the performance monitoring arrangements for the Children and Young People's Trust, which was organised around five key priorities for each of the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The recent Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection had commented that the Children and Young People's Plan was good and there was to be an annual review and refresh of the Plan. The Committee were also advised of the national context of the Plan, which was increasingly becoming central to assessment.

- 32.3 The Committee was presented with the Children and Young People's Trust's Quarter 2 performance report detailing performance against specific targets and the Mid Year report detailing progress against specific actions and was invited to ask questions and make comments, and received responses on the following points: -

- 32.4 (a) 'Enjoy and Achieve' performance measures

Targets were not specifically related to attainment due to the annual nature of exam results. Attainment was however still a consideration of the CYPT's performance framework.

- (b) Permanent and fixed term exclusions

The Assistant Director, Quality and Performance confirmed that this had been a major concern. Schools

and the CYPT had made efforts to turn this around and there was significant improvement on exclusions, with 8 permanent exclusions last term and none so far this term.

(c) Quality of performance data

The Assistant Director, Quality and Performance and the Assistant Director, Healthcare Management confirmed that there was an ongoing issue with data collection. Recent local and national changes meant that methods of data collection were now different but would be more reliable.

(d) Chlamydia screening

Screening was managed through the PCT Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic. A programme was in place which targeted youth clubs and venues, school nurses and family planning clinics. One area where it was difficult to engage was through GP's, and the Assistant Director, Healthcare Management agreed this needed to be addressed.

(e) Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) assessments for young offenders within 15 days

The Assistant Director, Healthcare Management confirmed that this was an acknowledged concern. The poor performance against target was due to changes in the definition of non-acute mental health which now included a far broader and more difficult to engage group. The use of CAMHS within the Youth Offending Team would help here.

(f) Parents or carers problematically using substances receiving therapeutic interventions

Officers and Members agreed that this was a key issue that related to many other areas of the CYPT's services. This was an issue that was seriously affected by inherent difficulties in engaging these parents.

(g) Strategic Actions – domestic violence

Officers confirmed this was a major issue. There had been an acknowledgement that this strategic action was not going in the right direction and a senior officer multi-agency group was in place to move this action forward.

- 32.5 The Chair drew together the conclusions from the Committee's discussion, which highlighted the key issues of the need for high quality data in order to ensure effective performance monitoring. The Committee also believed that both the Children and Young People's Trust Board and the Committee would benefit from commentary within the performance reports which would assist Members in carrying out their performance monitoring role. The Assistant Director, Quality and Performance informed the Committee that commentary would be included in future performance monitoring reports.
- 32.6 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee notes the actions being taken to improve performance across the CYPT including the format and presentation of the mid year report.

33. OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- 33.1 The Assistant Director, Healthcare Management, gave a presentation on the Overview of Children's Health and the Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services giving an introductory overview of the key health issues relating to children and young people within Brighton & Hove. (See minute book)
- 33.2 The Committee discussed a number of children's health issues. The Committee also considered its role in relation to children's health and how it could make a difference, and observed that there were links both to the Trust and a key role alongside the work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 33.3 **RESOLVED** – that the Assistant Director, Healthcare Management be thanked for giving the presentation.

34. SCHOOL MEALS AND THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

- 34.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services giving an update on the provision of school meals and the wider healthy schools agenda. (See minute book)
- 34.2 The Chair reminded the Committee that this item had been specifically requested by Members of the Committee at its first meeting.
- 34.3 The Healthy Schools Manager outlined the current status of school meals and the healthy schools programme. The Committee discussed the following points:-

- (a) Awards for healthy schools

The Healthy Schools Manager confirmed that National Healthy School Status can be achieved by all primary, secondary and special schools.

(b) Cash-free school meal payment

Options were being actively considered for pre-payment systems, but installation costs were high.

(c) Sustainability issues

Uncertainty over the future of the government Standards Fund for school meal improvements means that long-term protection needs to be considered.

(d) PFI school meal provision

Standards are monitored by the PFI contract officers, who are represented on the School Meals Best Value Review Group. The Committee were reminded that all schools must meet the national nutritional standards for school meals, including PFI schools and those outside the council contract.

34.4 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee notes the content of the report.

35. COST OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

35.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services giving an update on the overspend on home to school transport in the current year and of measures being taken to reduce the budget pressure on home to school transport. (See minute book)

35.2 The report highlighted the reasons for the overspend; the outcomes of an audit report which gave reasonable assurance as to the effectiveness of control mechanisms; and the areas being explored in order that the next financial year's budgetary pressures are eased.

35.3 The Committee discussed sourcing transport contracts outside of the city, the possibility of tendering for smaller contracts so that a wider range of contractors can bid, the importance of quality provision of transport, the costs of an 'in-house' service, and voluntary aided schools transport.

35.4 The Committee received confirmation that whilst assessing overall school places and transport costs together, the overriding consideration for the council would continue to be insuring the

most suitable education arrangements for individuals.

- 35.5 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee notes the content of report and takes no further action at this time.

**36. CORPORATE ASSESSMENT OF BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL:
AUDIT COMMISSION REPORT – OCTOBER 2006 REPORT TO POLICY
AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

- 36.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance to the Policy and Resources Committee on 2 November 2006 setting out the result of the Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment of the City Council under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. (See minute book)

- 36.2 **RESOLVED** – that the Committee notes the content of the report.

37. CYPOSC WORK PLAN

- 37.1 The Committee considered the CYPOSC work plan. (See minute book)

- 37.2 **RESOLVED** - that the Committee notes the CYPOSC work plan.

38. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

- 38.1 **RESOLVED** – that no items be referred to Council.

PART TWO

**39. ITEMS TO REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS AND
PUBLIC**

- 39.1 **RESOLVED** – That none of the items remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 7.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this day of 2007