

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 15 JUNE 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING - SKYPE

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Allcock (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Knight (Deputy Chair), Clare (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Hamilton, Hills, McNair, Nield, Simson and O'Quinn

Co-optees: Trevor Cristin, Bernadette Connor, Joanna Martindale

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Jacqueline O'Quinn was sitting in substitute for Councillor Gary Wilkinson.

(b) Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

1.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

1.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded.

2 MINUTES

2.1 **AGREED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2020 was signed as a correct

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

“There is much talk currently about the move to recovery and renewal work around the pandemic, which is vital work, however I just want to pause and give continued thanks to the many teams and services continuing to provide urgent support for children, young people and their families in response to COVID19. We need to balance the discussions working out what the new normal is with acknowledging many are still in the crisis phase.

One area of work that has been continuing all through this time has been the childcare offer in the city to the children of keyworkers and those deemed vulnerable including those with SEND. I have been proud of the city’s response on this. As we now move towards a wider opening / reopening of settings I know the education and childcare leaders in the city will continue to deliver a safety first approach alongside caring and educating our children to a very high degree.

Update on wider opening of schools and nurseries

When the government announced in May the ask for education and childcare settings to start planning for wider reopening for some specific year groups, we worked with schools, unions and local authority teams to look at how that might best be managed locally. We also developed a generic risk assessment for private and voluntary early years providers to support their decision making. Part of this work has been to acknowledge that all schools and settings are different, in terms of size, staffing levels etc and therefore the response needed from each will be different. However I have been proud of the safety first approach all partners have taken to the wider opening of schools and early years settings, this has been a unifying element.

We liaised closely with our colleagues in public health to ascertain their view on whether there was sufficient reassurance locally to go ahead. Earlier in June we felt we needed further reassurance around the track and trace programme, as it was such early days. We were also mindful of the high footfall seen in the city during the good weather of late May and early June.

During that time much work was underway between schools, our health and safety team, the unions and others to continue to make the necessary plans for wider opening. That work didn’t stop.

Further to discussions held earlier last week, we reached a position where we felt there was sufficient reassurance that the necessary measures were now in place, especially around Track and Trace, to mitigate risks. Measures for managing for potential outbreaks had become much clearer since earlier in June. We therefore released a statement last Wednesday to confirm that schools and council nurseries should start wider opening from Monday 15th June.

Pupils in the priority age groups (nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 for Infant and Primary and Years 10 and 12 for secondary) are expected to return in a gradual way from today with numbers varying from school to school. Many early years settings are already open with more planning to open this week. These are in addition to the key worker and vulnerable pupils including those with SEND already attending. Individual school and nursery risk assessments will inform how best to manage this based on

Government guidance. Control measures are also in place in case of outbreaks, which will be managed working with the Public Health England Health Protection team for Sussex and Surrey.

I give my thanks to those early years setting who have also remained open during this time and recognise the important work they have done to support our youngest children in the city.

Update on the work that has taken place since lockdown / last CYPS committee and a thank you to staff

Since our last CYPS Committee meeting in early March and since full lockdown started later that month, I've been immensely proud and impressed with the effort that teams and individuals across the city have made to support children, young people and their families to navigate and mitigate the impact the pandemic has had on them. People have been going above and beyond in their efforts to support families. This work has included:

- Supporting an increasing number of keyworker children and those who are vulnerable getting in to school during lockdown. We now regularly have over 1500 children in our schools daily and of course that number will now be rising further from today
- 95% of our schools have remained open during this time, including over bank holidays and what would have been school holidays
- Around a third of early years providers including all council nurseries also remained open and we've seen on average 300 children a day attend those settings
- Children with a social worker have continued to receive timely visits from their social workers or other professionals supporting them, some virtually and some face to face where necessary. Social workers have also made sure that their assessments are being completed in a timely way and that Initial Child Protection Conferences are happening on time to safeguard children. Foster carers and the fostering service have also made sure that children in our care are being offered stability in terms of their placements, supported by Brighton and Hove's Virtual School.
- In our children's centre food bank, since 16th April we have delivered 1123 emergency food parcels. Last week food parcels were given to 161 households across the city. The number before Covid was usually around 30-40 per week. 31% of the families are from the most deprived IDACI decile and 66% are from the three most deprived deciles.
- In May an average of 3800 meals were provided in our schools a week, to feed staff and pupils who have been attending the childcare offer.
- We are seeing an upward trend in those eligible for free schools meals and the team have been proactively contacting families who may now be eligible.
- The close liaison we've been able to have with PaCC and Amaze has helped us best support SEND children and young people in the city and their families, including the invaluable insight of families experiences provided by their recent parent/carer survey
- The impressive work undertaken by Adam Muirhead and colleagues to get a clear communication out early on about the range of online youth work available to young people
- Our ethnic minority achievement service (EMAS) has continued to work well supporting BAME families in the city including support to access free school meals, translation of key COVID19 items, support to access home learning from school, delivery of the home

school liaison offer and conducting a thorough survey with families to explore the impact of the virus on particular BAME families and their decisions about their children turning to school.

- Over 30,000 children have been accessing home learning support from their schools and from national offers such as BBC
- PPE have been provided to teams and partners throughout this period when needed, and starter packs of PPE have been offered to all schools and childcare settings to help with their wider opening plans.
- Members of the BHISS team have been supporting parents and carers through regular phone calls, emails and virtual learning platforms. The team has worked alongside parents to problem solve ways to help their child's learning at home and has provided resources, activities, links to websites and ideas. They have also placed emphasis in their conversations with families on the importance of wellbeing and held a variety of parent and carer workshops and virtual coffee mornings focussed on Supporting mental health, Anxiety and Low mood with families having daily access to the Schools Wellbeing Service consultation line should they need additional support.
- The SEN team has been continuing their work virtually so that parents and carers remain able to apply for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment. With the co-production element of EHC Plans being undertaken virtually either through phone conversations or Skype.
- The Specialist Community Disability Service continue to work with families to identify creative and flexible ways to use their Direct Payments differently such as buying equipment and software to enable easier access to IT.
- Our PSHE team have gathered and produced resources that support schools to reintegrate children into schools putting their wellbeing at the heart of planning
- Services to support schools have continued and adapted so for example there is now an enhanced wellbeing offer for heads. Governor services have run networks, training and meetings so that Governance can continue to be highly effective

Of course, there is still more to do and as we move in to our recovery and renewal phase of this work we mustn't lose sight of those in our communities who have suffered more during the pandemic. We need particular focus to be made on those from BAME communities and those who are disadvantaged. This pandemic has shown us that it is of even more importance to look to address the gaps we see in our communities and to better support and work with those who were already at a significant disadvantage when this began.

And in all of this, much of the city's business as usual has had to continue and I've been so impressed with our teams abilities to maintain that work whilst responding to Covid 19 effectively."

4 CALL OVER

4.1 The following items were called:

8. Home to School Transport: Response to the Recommendations from the Independent Review Report.
9. Statutory Relationships, sex and health education.

10. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2020 – 2025: draft for consultation.

4.2 The following item was not called, as a result the recommendations in the report were agreed:

11. Adult Community Learning.

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 There was no public involvement.

6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(a) Written Questions

(i) Youth Services

6.1 Councillor Hannah Clare put the following question:

“1. Could the Chair provide an update on the youth services consultation that was launched in May including:

- How many responses have so far been received?
- Where in the city the young people who have responded are based?

2. How have our city's youth services adapted under Covid-19?”

6.3 The Chair provided the following reply:

“1.a. The Youth Review online consultation was launched on 15th May and will close on 28th June. On 3rd June there had been 199 responses.

1.b. Of the 199 responses, 22 of the responses did not indicate the area the respondents lived and 8 young people that completed the questionnaire lived outside of the city. The rest of the responses from young people came from:

East - 8
 Central - 102
 West - 44
 North – 15

The survey has been widely publicised via youth providers and our Communication’s team. There is a plan to publicise it further, particularly to those areas where there have been low returns to date.

2. Youth providers have adapted well during Covid-19; they transferred promptly to online services (including an online youth club with break out rooms using Zoom) and an individual telephone support, particular for the most vulnerable young people. The various services can be found in their service offer

(<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/directory-youth-services>) which was developed and publicised soon after the initial lockdown.

Youth providers in our city asked to be designated as essential key workers to enable them to respond to reports of young people meeting in groups. This was agreed and detached youth work restarted in the city on 18th May.

This is helpful as there have been reports of anti-social behaviour criminal behaviour from some groups, although it must be noted that this ASB is not exclusively linked to young people.

6.4 Councillor Clare provided the following supplementary question:

“Was there a risk of this happening locally?”

6.5 The chair noted that funding had been to increase youth service across the city. It was noted that the Chair was not aware of any existing youth provision that was threatened.

(ii) Nursery Services

6.6 Councillor Sarah Nield gave the following question:

“Given that the loss of nursery places would have far-reaching consequences both for local families and for the economic recovery of Brighton and Hove, how well are our nurseries managing to weather the Covid-19 storm, and what is this council doing to help them?”

6.7 The Chair gave the following response:

“This has been a very difficult time for nurseries across the city. I want to thank all the nurseries that remained open throughout the lockdown to care for children of critical workers and those who are vulnerable.

Around two thirds of nurseries and most childminders closed after lockdown. All Council nurseries remained open. Those nurseries that closed are now starting to re-open for more children. On Thursday 4 June 74 out of 108 group settings and 30 out of 109 childminders were open. [Will be updated for next Thursday]. Some were waiting for the council’s advice on schools reopening before doing so.

Unfortunately, two settings have closed permanently because they are no longer financially sustainable; they had low numbers of children prior to the pandemic but lockdown prevented recovery. A third setting had planned to close at the end of the summer term (prior to coronavirus) but will not now reopen.

We have continued to pay early years free entitlement funding for the summer term for children at their setting, including for those who would have attended were it not for coronavirus, Nurseries have been given 100% relief on their rates and can apply to the council’s discretionary businesses support fund which has just opened. nurseries have also been able to access the Job Retention Scheme.

I wrote to the secretary of state for education regarding the limitations of the coronavirus job retention scheme for nurseries. This included the fact that Brighton & Hove’s

ongoing low funding rate for EYFE will have an even greater impact on providers during lockdown as they make up for this shortfall with parental fees, which have been very low or non-existent during lockdown.

We have been providing daily updates to all childcare providers in order to give them information on the wide range of financial support from the government, and answering questions regarding this from individual providers.

Our early years development team has been in regular contact with providers with resources and targeted individual support for ongoing operation and reopening. We have shared a significant amount of information on support and resources through [our Early Years and Childcare Facebook pages](#) which has nearly 1,400 followers (around five posts per day).

I recognise that nurseries face continuing challenges when they reopen because of the measures they need to take to keep children safe. There are also likely to be less children attending because their parents want to keep them at home or have lost their jobs.

(iii) Covid 19 Briefings

6.9 Councillor Elaine Hills provided the following questions:

- “1. In our members’ Covid briefings, we were told the number of referrals to Front Door for Families has dropped. Is this still the case, and how are referrals going generally?”
2. Lockdown is difficult for parents and carers of children with SEN needs, as well as the children and young people themselves. What extra support have they had since nurseries, schools and colleges closed?
3. Could you explain to the committee why only elected councillors but not coopted members of the CYPs committee were invited to recent Covid-19 update meetings?”

6.10 The Chair gave the following responses:

- “1 - Our initial contacts into the Front Door for Families dropped by 14% in the first 4 weeks of lockdown. However, in the past 4 weeks they have risen to 95% of that we would expect at this time of year.

Following lockdown there was an initially a significant reduction in the number contacts that became referrals into children’s social work. In the first 4 weeks referrals dropped to 45% of the usual level. Over the last 6 weeks referrals for a social work assessment have picked up and in the 4 weeks to the end of May the rate has increased to 63% of the rate we had prior to the lockdown.

What these figures suggest is that while initial contacts have not significantly reduced the contacts are not reporting harm or risk that require social work interventions. This is something that is being closely monitored and we anticipate that as more children return to school, referrals for social work assessment will increase.

Whilst we are not yet at the level of referrals into social work we would expect at this time of year, the numbers are slowly increasing. This increase in part may be as a

result of the Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Partnerships. See *Something Say Something* campaign. This is encouraging the local community to report concerns about children and this appears anecdotally to be having an effect on contacts to our service, with the increased contact happening after the launch.

Front Door For Families is working well with our key partners Police and Health to operate as near to normal as possible. We have a very small number of Social Care staff, Police and Health in the office with everyone else remote working from home. While we have had a reduction in referrals from schools and health we have seen no reduction in referrals from the police.

What is clear is that when we are contacting families they are in need of people to talk to and offload (due to their limited social contacts), so enquiries and conversations can take longer as staff take on elements of emotional support for families at this difficult time.

- 2 - We recognise and understand the particular challenges faced by parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs in these unusual times. In order to help these families, the council has continued to work closely with PaCC and Amaze and implemented a wide range of support measures.

Throughout this difficult period, it has been important that parents and carers have a voice. Amaze undertook a parent/carer survey that asked the local SEND community about their experiences of COVID-19. The outcome of the survey was cascaded by officers to all Headteachers and SENCOs to help inform their thinking when deciding upon how best to support their children and young people with SEN when learning at home or in school. The outcome of the survey was also discussed at a Secondary Heads phase meeting led by representatives from the parent groups.

Officers have also worked with PaCC and Amaze on designing the 'individual pupil risk assessment' tool for schools to use with their pupils who have an Education Health and Care plan. PaCC also authored a slide on 'communicating with families' for the recent Head and SENCO workshops on SEND and Covid-19, which was well received by the participants. Senior officers have also worked with PaCC and Amaze in dealing with more practical matters such as providing a letter for parents and carers to gain access to the early morning slots at supermarkets and providing answers to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Amaze website.

At the beginning of lock-down the Special Educational Needs team, Brighton & Hove City Council's Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) and the Specialist Community Disability Service worked together to identify our most vulnerable families. SEN caseworkers and our specialist Social Workers contacted all of these families by phone to check that they had the support they required.

Brighton & Hove City Council's Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) have also been using Educational Psychologists, SEND Specialist teachers, Primary Mental Health Workers, SEMH and Early Years Practitioners and Family Support Workers to skilfully apply learning and psychological theories to support these families through this challenging time.

Members of the BHISS team are supporting parents/carers of children and young people known to the service through regular phone calls, emails and virtual learning platforms. The team have worked alongside parents to problem solve ways to help their child's learning at home and have provided resources, activities, links to websites and ideas. For example, the Sensory Team has been providing support for children and families with the use of braille through WhatsApp and Facetime

The BHISS team have also placed emphasis in their conversations with families on the importance of wellbeing as part of home education. The service has held a variety of parent/ carer workshops and virtual coffee mornings that have focussed on specific areas of need such as:

- Supporting mental health - delivered by Emotional & Mental Health -Practitioner trainees
- Anxiety
- Low mood - exploring the link between low-mood and life events
- Supporting a healthy approach to sleep

The school's wellbeing service consultation line has also been open to all parents/carers daily and their contact details are published through the Council's local offer website and through PaCC and Amaze's media platforms.

Looking to the future the BHISS team are helping families to support their child's transition from home back to school, between year groups and between schools. For example, the Autism and Language team have emailed parents of Y6's to offer a video training session to help support them in preparing their child for their transition from Y6 into secondary school. The BHISS Early Years team are also supporting families with transition arrangements for children starting school in September through providing advice, strategies and resources e.g. visual timetables and photo books.

The SEN team have been continuing their work virtually so that parents and carers remain able to apply for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment. Through using a range of IT platforms and software, professionals are also able to work with families to provide advice towards EHC needs assessments. Where possible, the co-production of EHC Plans with parents/ carers is being undertaken virtually either through phone conversations or through Skype.

Although we recognise schools may need to postpone annual review meetings that are due to take place in the summer term, officers are happy to support schools holding a review through virtual meetings by telephone or video.

Social workers from the Specialist Community Disability Service (SCDS) continue to maintain all of their statutory visits and reviews through contacting families by phone or video platforms. Through their conversations with families, social workers are also providing any useful updates on services and checking that parents/carers have enough support. The SCDS is also working with families to identify creative and flexible ways to use their Direct Payments differently such as buying equipment and

software to enable easier access to IT. Respite packages at Drove Road have been continuing as usual; on-the-whole, this has also been the case for Tudor House.

As you can hear there is a great deal going on to support those parents and carers of children and young people with SEN. Further information on the range of provision, services and support available for families during the Covid19 pandemic can be found on the Brighton and Hove Local Offer website link:

<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/sen-interim-working-arrangements-support-families>

- 3 - When it became obvious in late March that that ‘business as usual’ was likely to be disrupted for some time I talked with officers about how we can ensure that elected Member’s were still able to be updated on the key COVID19 response being made to children and young people in the city, especially once it was known that April committee wouldn’t go ahead.

I have held four COVID19 Member briefing sessions since lockdown began, on 7th April, 28th April, 20th May and the 4th June. These sessions were specifically for councillors that sit on CYPs committee to enable them to be able to continue their overview and scrutiny role and to provide a space for questions to be asked about various elements of the COVID19 response.

These meetings have been accompanied by a written officer update. I asked for the first update (shared on the 6th April) to also be distributed to the non cllr Members of CYPs committee so they were kept in the loop and had an officer contact in case of further query. In addition, several of those colleagues have also been involved in a good number of meetings on the COVID response over the last few months.”

6.11 Councillor Hill gave the following supplementary questions:

- 1- Could a written update please be provided on this.
- 2- Will there be a further increase in support for parents of SEND children who will be returning in September?
- 3- Have families been updated on this and if so has there been any response?

6.12 The Chair gave the following responses:

- 1- It was confirmed that a written response would be provided.

The Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning stated that there was a lot of planning undertaken with regard to terms of preparations for the expected increase of social work referrals. It was further stated that referrals had decreased which was linked to schools not being open as usual and that there had been a successful round of recruitment for social workers.

- 2- The chair stated that updates had been provided on a gradual basis and that groups such as PAC and Amaze had been consulted and included in the process. It was asserted that the lack of resources was a challenge however that efforts were being taken to be creative with the response.

(b) Member's Letters**(i) Response to LGA Report**

6.13 The Committee considered a letter from Councillor Wares and Councillor Mears which sought to request an amendment of the recommendation in order that no actions were made while the interim report was undergoing the process of further deliberations.

6.14 The Chair provided the following response:

“Thank you for welcoming the efforts being made by the HTST service to introduce significant improvements.

We will take account for the future the issues you raise about better alignment of the Committee and Panel dates such that each can best influence the other. As you will understand, recent decisions about timings have been influenced by the Covid-19 crisis and the need for urgent decision-making in respect of the HTST service capacity.

You will note that I specifically requested, through the leaders group that the work of the HtST could continue throughout the pandemic when many other council working groups were suspended.

Please note the current CYPS Committee Report into HTST includes reference to the work of the Members' Policy Panel in several places, following the last meeting of the Panel on 3rd June 2020.

We concur with your comments about the excellent contribution of PACC and Amaze to improving the HTST service and are pleased to say there is a co-production working document in place with PACC, and fortnightly co-production meetings are taking place. I'm pleased to say that reports to me from PaCC and Council officers indicate that this work is very constructive and focused on continuous improvement.

In relation to the survey of parents' views, a target of 80%+ satisfaction was felt to be realistic in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, which will inevitably cause significant changes for families using transport for some months to come. The need for social distancing will require the HTST service to source a considerable number of extra vehicles and staff from transport firms and there is likely to be some inevitable disruption to normal arrangements here and across the country as a consequence of the pandemic. When life returns to 'normal', the performance indicator here can be set at a higher level.

Regarding the point raised about the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and the potential alternatives to that system, I am aware that the Interim Lead for the HTST is looking into this currently and will be able to provide some guidance on the various options for the council to consider going forward.

The remaining issues raised in your letter including the contract with Edge Public Solutions, we feel were covered in the comprehensive independent review of HTST by

the LGA and are being tackled via our response to their recommendations, all of which we have fully accepted.

You will wish to note that I've also asked the Chief Executive Officer of the Council to conduct a review of *lessons to be learned from the approach taken by officers in procuring a HTST dynamic purchasing system*. I've asked for this review to be independent and objective and that a report on this is submitted to and considered by the Council's Audit and Standards committee.

Finally, we refute the accusation that anyone within the council 'doctored' this report prior to publication and we have confirmation from the respectable LGA itself on that point. Using such language is unhelpful and risks being potentially defamatory of those involved I would ask that this allegation is withdrawn by you and not repeated. The council welcomes the input from the Member Policy Panel and looks forward to receiving their final recommendations to this committee prior to a fuller HtST service starting in September."

(ii) Re-opening of Schools

6.15 The committee considered a letter from Councillor Nield which sought commitment of support to schools in running effectively during the Covid-19 era.

6.16 The Chair offered to provide a comprehensive and detailed response in letter and gave the following response:

"I want to thank you for your support to our responsible and measured safety-first approach.

You highlight the challenge for schools as they return and are requested to have classes of half the size but with the same space and class numbers. We support headteachers and governors to therefore make local decisions based on individual requests and circumstances. They have to base any provision on what they 'are able to provide safely'.

You highlight the significant challenge for vulnerable and disadvantaged families.

We have been and will continue working with the education partnership to support home learning so it is the best it can be.

We continue to support the mental health pressures on young people and the offer available to schools is all set out on the website we use with schools called BEEM

It will be necessary to revise our own programme for disadvantaged moving forward so that it takes account of this time in lockdown."

(d) Notices of Motion

(i) Supporting BAME communities.

- 6.17 The Committee considered a joint Notice of motion presented by Councillor Hannah Clare regarding anti-racism.
- 6.18 Councillor Kate Knight formally seconded the motion.
- 6.19 Councillor Vanessa Brown stated that the Conservative Party did not agree with depressing description of the City as being institutionally racist. It was stated that Brighton and Hove was a diverse, tolerant and welcoming city to all residents and visitors alike. It was reasserted that the wording of the Notice of Motion was demeaning to teachers as it implied that they were unaware of how to perform their job effectively. It was noted that the Conservative party must abstain due to the divisive nature of the Notice of Motion.
- 6.20 Councillor McNair stated that Brighton and Hove was home to many ethnic minorities who lived together peaceably. A call for evidence based research was proposed. It was stated that education was about learning to discern and not teaching one particular viewpoint. Councillor McNair sought evidence for the claim that Teachers were contributing to racism.
- 6.21 Councillor Hill agreed with Councillor Brown and noted that history was taught from just one perspective. It was stated that examples of history of all people rather than just a “white lens” be taught.
- 6.22 Councillor O’Quinn stated that people should be reassured that this was already being taught in schools. It was noted that colonial history was already a subject being comprehensively taught at A-Level and GCSE.
- 6.23 Councillor Clare referred to the Global HPO report and stated that there was evidence of racism in government. It was stated that people mis-pronouncing names was an example of micro-aggressions.
- 6.24 The motion was passed following a vote.
- 6.25 **RESOLVED** – that the Notice of Motion be agreed.

7 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

- 7.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement and Head of Early Years and Strategy Lead for Whole Family Working gave a brief overview of the current situation regarding Ofsted findings.
- 7.2 The Head of Early Years and Strategy Lead for Whole Family Working stated that Blueberry Nursery and Jean Saunders centre were both outstanding.
- 7.3 Councillor McNair enquired if there were any emerging patterns following the introduction of the new Ofsted regime and what could be learned from this.

- 7.4 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that the quality of education was not fully known and that the inspection was to take in to account all subjects.
- 7.5 Councillor Nield sought an update on the situation with regard to future plans from the Department of Education.
- 7.6 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that, to date, there were no sponsors for Moulsecoomb Primary school.
- 7.7 **RESOLVED** – That the School Ofsted update be noted.

8 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT: RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning which sought to set out the response of the Home to School Transport Service to the recommendations in the Independent Review Report, outlined progress made to date and further outlined issues for the service over the pandemic period. The report was provided by the Interim Lead for Home to School Transport and Assistant Director – Education & Skills.
- 8.2 Councillor Clare proposed the Green & Conservative Joint Amendment. It was stated that the panel would complete work in 2020 however that the panel work was not yet complete.
- 8.3 Councillor Brown formally seconded the amendment and noted proposal to change recommendation 2.1 was minor however this allowed for the recommendations in the report to be modified when all circumstances and problems had been investigated. Further support was expressed for extending the panel by 6 months.
- 8.4 Councillor Simson referred to the management structure and enquired what would be put in place. Further reference was made to the grade structure, clarification was sought with regard to the reason for having previously been so much. Further enquiry was made as to the status of the interim head of service.
- 8.5 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that efforts to work closely with HR was being undertaken and that what was needed was an improved service. It was stated that the figures in the report were in regard to having an interim post in place however this was for only a short amount of time.
- 8.6 Councillor O’Quinn referred to the changes in the amendment and enquired if the committee could be assured that a clear work plan would be provided in the 6 months. A further request for an advanced timetable was made.
- 8.7 Councillor Clare remarked that the hope was this would not take a full 6 months and that efforts to get through all work was being undertaken.
- 8.8 The Lead for Home to School Transport agreed to look at an action plan.

- 8.9 Councillor Hamilton expressed disappointment in the panel taking so long to come to a final conclusion.
- 8.10 Councillor Nield requested an update on plans in place to deal with Covid in September.
- 8.11 The Lead for Home to School Transport stated that the situation was in constant daily development, efforts were being undertaken to reorganise all transport and that BHCC would be going forward with the Government's 2-meter rule. It was noted that extensive planning was in place with regard to the sourcing and running of vehicles. It was further stated that there was a lot of work with respect to trying to help with recruitment of staff as, due to age, health implications were having a negative effect on availability.
- 8.12 Councillor Knight expressed concern on the logistical, practical and emotional stress that officers were under. It was noted that the working hub was not on hold as the Chair recognised how important this was.
- 8.13 Councillor Simson noted that previous administrations had run scrutiny panels instead of a review. It was stated that Councillor scrutiny was paramount and expressed support for the extension until all works were completed as necessary.
- 8.14 Councillor Brown noted that it was important that the panel had to be present through till either August or the beginning of September.
- 8.15 The Managing Principle noted that there had been no scrutiny panels and clarified that this was a member policy panel. It was stated that as a matter of good practice it would be helpful to envisage some dates for reporting to parent committee.
- 8.16 The chair called a vote on the amendment which was carried.
- 8.17 A vote was held on the recommendations as amended which passed.
- 8.18 **RESOLVED-**
1. That the report be noted as an interim report that remains subject to change pending the deliberations and possible report of the Home to School Transport Policy Panel and other investigations by committee.
 2. That the report to Policy & Resources Committee on 27 May in Appendix B be noted by Committee.
 3. That the Use of Officer Urgency Powers in relation to supplier relief in Appendix C be noted by Committee.
 4. That the Terms of Reference for the Home to School Transport Policy Panel agreed by this Committee in November 2019 states it would conclude "early in the new year", but as the panel had not yet made its conclusions then agreement to the extension of the Home to School Transport Policy Panel for a further 6 months for further investigations and deliberations be agreed by Committee.

9 STATUTORY RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning which sought to inform committee of the support being provided to

Brighton & Hove schools ahead of the introduction of statutory relationships, sex education and health education (RSHE) in September 2020. The report was provided by the Partnership Adviser Health & Wellbeing and the Inclusion Coordinator at Carlton Hill (Isabel Reid).

- 9.2 The Committee were provided with a PowerPoint presentation. The Partnership Adviser Health & Wellbeing stated that many were compliant with what was to become statutory. Effective delivery was stated as a key aim of BHCC. It was stated that there was a lack of clarity of the definition of sex education. It was noted that the Local Authority was working hard to be transparent on this and that the aim was to be inclusive and values based.
- 9.3 Councillor Clare sought clarification of the difference between the old and new RHSE.
- 9.4 The Inclusion Coordinator at Carlton Hill stated from a primary perspective it had strengthened the views around inclusivity and health, It was stated that there was particular focus on teaching children how to look after their bodies and mental and health wellbeing. It was noted that work on puberty was not so clearly laid out and that some of this was covered in science classes.
- 9.4 The Partnership Adviser Health & Wellbeing stated that this had not been a statutory subject in the past as schools in Brighton and Hove had always delivered PSHE It was noted that the old guidance was now updated and that this now included work around mental health, sleep and pornography. It was noted that there was scope for looking at economic wellbeing.
- 9.5 Councillor McNair stated that this was not a formal consultation, an enquiry was made as to whether BHCC had involved faith groups and if the faith council would be more involved. Hope was expressed that Brighton & Hove would chose to deliver sex based education and clarification was sought as to what parental consultation had taken place to provide BHCC with confidence that this was what was wanted. Finally it was further enquired as to what extent the BAME community had been consulted.
- 9.6 The Partnership Adviser Health & Wellbeing recognised that broadly this area of consultation across communities was important. Talks with faith council was welcomed and it was noted that it was up to individual schools to set the curriculum. It was noted that BHCC aimed to provide guidance and that consultation had also taken place with faith leaders of the Coptic Church, a senior figure in the Jewish Community and an Imam from a Mosque. It was stated that the challenge was looking at how marriage was considered and that language was adjusted while respecting religious viewpoints. It was stated that an offer was made to go out in communities, churches or mosques however there was little response. It was stated that people had requested information and that schools in Brighton and Hove were teaching sexual education including practices of family diversity. It was noted a that a key issue surrounding sex education was safeguarding and that children needed to have a language to look after their bodies.
- 9.7 The Inclusion Coordinator at Carlton Hill stated that parent workshops were provided and attendance was predominantly by Arabic parents. It was stated that the overwhelming message was that women wanted more access to information.

9.10 Councillor Nield welcomed an approach that focused on transgender children and homophobia.

9.11 **RESOLVED –**

1. That a statement supporting Brighton & Hove Schools in taking inclusive approaches to RSHE and encouraging them to actively engage with their diverse parent and carer communities be agreed by Committee.
2. That recommendation of the PSHE Association Programme of Study for PSHE Education Key Stages 1-5 to all Brighton & Hove Schools as the basis of their PSHE curriculum and that this would build on the previous Brighton & Hove Programme of Study and be in line with statutory requirements be agreed by committee.

10 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) STRATEGY 2020 – 2025: DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning which sought to provide a draft of the City's new SEND Strategy. The report was provided by the Service Manager – Directorate Policy & Business Support, Vice Chair of PACC (Diana Boyd) and the Head of SEN Statutory Services.

10.2 A presentation was provided, the Service Manager – Directorate Policy & Business Support stated that early identification was important and that the timescale was very long. The importance of maintaining joint working across services.

10.3 The Assistant Director – Health SEN & Disabilities stated that an action plan had been developed by checking in with all stakeholders to make sure the strategy would meet the needs of SEND communities.

10.4 The Vice Chair of PACC stated that work was already being undertaken with PACC to identify parent representatives in this area.

10.5 The Assistant Director – Health SEN & Disabilities stated that a progress report would evidence program in action.

10.6 The Service Manager – Directorate Policy & Business Support stated that underneath each strategic action plan was a much more detailed amount of work focused on milestones and measures of success. Reference was made to the Developing Offend Sufficiency Program and Inclusion Action Plan which focused on further work in the city to capture the Faith and cultural needs of children in SEND.

10.7 The Head of SEN Statutory Services stated that involving young people in the strategy was key and that this was done by use of a graphic facilitation artist. Various tools were noted and it was concluded that 6 priorities were co-produced with everybody involved.

10.8 The Vice Chair of PACC reaffirmed PACC's commitment to facilitating engagement with parents. It was stated that PACC were aware of the need for broader consultation and that they would be involved.

- 10.9 Councillor Clare enquired as to when the SEND Sufficiency Plan would be produced and if this would impact the deliverability. Reference was made to the overview statistics in the City and enquiry was made as to what part of the strategy would address this. Clarification was sought as to when the Equalities Impact Assessment could be expected.
- 10.10 The Assistant Director – Health SEN & Disabilities stated that SEND sufficiency was a large undertaking. It was stated that a new system was to be created and that a PHD graduate had been secured to help create a data warehouse which incorporated large quantities of data of children with SEND.
- 10.11 The Service Manager – Directorate Policy & Business Support referred to the inclusion strategic plan and stated that the first 2 were large pieces of work, it was noted that the Education Partnership had chosen interaction with mainstream schools as their priority of the next 2 years.
- 10.12 Councillor Nield requested the CAMHS referral times. Clarification was sought as to the state of the ASC review.
- 10.13 The Assistant Director – Health SEN & Disabilities stated a request would be sent for CAMHS to provide a written response. It was further stated that the CCG and LA were to look at how to integrate the current pathway for children with ASC and ADHD with how to support families before and post pathway. It was noted that Brighton & Hove inclusion support service would be linking closely with the clinic and seaside view to ensure kids in school have help with regard to post diagnostic work.
- 10.14 Councillor Hills noted that 29% of EHC plans were given to girls and enquired if this was due to diagnosis. Further clarification was sought with regard to independent travel training.
- 10.15 The Assistant Director – Health SEN & Disabilities stated nationally, this was the picture and that a lot of research would need to be undertaken to understand this. It was stated that independent travel training was a lot harder in a post Covid world however PACC and Amaze were keen to look at this.
- 10.16 **RESOLVED –**
1. That the draft SEND strategy and the planned consultation process be noted by Committee.

11 ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

11.1 RESOLVED –

1. That the recommendation approved by the Housing and Policy & Resources Committee be noted by Committee.

12 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 12.1 No items were referred to Full Council.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

