

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.00PM 9 NOVEMBER 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Powell (Chair); Lepper (Deputy Chair), Bennett, Brown, Buckley, A Kitcat, Pissaridou and Wealls

Statutory Co-optees: with voting rights: David Sanders (Diocese of Arundel & Brighton) and Amanda Mortensen (Parent Governor Representative)

Non-Statutory Co-optees: Rachel Travers (Community Voluntary Sector Forum) (Non-Voting Co-Optee), Mark Price (Youth Services) (Non-Voting Co-Optee), Liam Dunne (Non-Voting Co-Optee) and Rohan Lowe & Azdean Boulaich (Youth Council) (Non-Voting Co-Optee)

Apologies: Mike Wilson

PART ONE

20. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

20a. Declarations of Substitutions

20.1 Apologies were received from Mike Wilson (Diocese of Chichester). There were no substitutes.

20b. Declarations of Interest

20.2 The Chair declared a personal interest as she works at the Friends Centre which provides careers advice for all age groups.

20c. Declaration of Party Whip

20.3 There were none.

20d. Exclusion from the Press and Public

20.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was 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 100I (1) of the said Act.

20.5 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting.

21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

21.1 In respect of :

- Paragraph 15.8 a handout detailing the progress of a user satisfaction survey for Children with Autistic Spectrum Condition was noted.
<S:\Strategy & Governance\Scrutiny\CYPOSC\2011 June-2012 March\111109 November\Final\Progress on satisfaction survey- cyposc 9th nov.doc>
- Paragraph 16.2 (2) the CVSF representative added that the Parent and Carers' Council (PaCC) report on "Parent's views on the future of Special Education Needs (SEN)" had been followed up positively with the involvement of 3 Headteachers and a champion Headteacher had been appointed to take this forward.

21.2 The minutes from the 14 September 2011 were approved by the Committee.

22. CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

22.1 The Chair informed the Committee that since the last meeting CYPOSC had undertaken a private workshop to input into the draft Youth Services Strategy. An additional meeting had been arranged for the 28 November, 2011 of which the Cabinet Member had been invited to.

22.2 The Committee visited City College to find out about apprenticeship and post 16 educational courses that were being offered to young people. The visit showed what impressive work the College was carrying out which included offering a variety of courses.

22.3 The Chair, Deputy Chair & Councillor Wealls met with the Young Carer of the Year (who was from East Sussex) to discuss their concerns and learn about the issues that families faced.

22.4 The Chair told the Committee that a letter had been sent to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to advise her of the most salient points of the last meeting.

23. QUESTIONS AND LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

23.1 Councillor Mitchell introduced the item, advising the Committee that through her casework an anomaly had been identified in calculating home to school distances for the purposes of school admission and that the issue was now being resolved. The issue was that the computer programme did not recognise private roads. In one particular case an additional 245 meters was added onto the route.

23.2 Other issues raised by Members were :

- that shortcuts through parks were also not considered and in one case 150 meters had been added onto the route
- the front path outside Westdene Primary School was also not recognised.

23.3 CYPOSC agreed that this anomaly may have affected a number of children, especially primary school children and it was important that parents did not lose confidence in the system. The Committee requested a to hear a report at their next meeting which explained how school distances were calculated and how were anomalies addressed accurately.

24. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

24.1 Gina Hutchins – Headteacher of Woodingdean Primary School and Hilary Ferries – Strategic Commissioner Standards and Achievement (SCSA) introduced the Primary School section of the report.

24.2 The Headteacher advised that primary schools were working in partnerships to raise attainment, by sharing good practice, developing the curriculum, challenging each other and moderating and assessing children's work. Partnership work includes regular network meetings with Primary Headteachers, Governors, Business Managers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCo's). The aim is to work towards a shared agenda for all primary schools within the city.

24.3 The other key priority is closing the gap and the Headteacher highlighted the benefits of using the Every Child Counts (ECC) and Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programmes. These are intensive maths and reading programmes for Key Stage One children.

24.4 Members raised a number of points including:

1. On the current varying and challenging levels of children's school work and whether this was apparent previously? Members were advised that school used to moderate work internally and there were some limited opportunities for schools to work together to level work. Now, schools are working together to do this so that there is a shared understanding and consistent approach to judging standards.
2. The issue of the gap between vulnerable groups and all other pupils was narrowing for maths and reading. It was noted that vulnerable groups were analysed through tracking each child's performance, interventions put in place then impact measured and further action taken.
3. Whitehawk Primary going into special measures, it was clarified that a large percentage of pupils in the school had Free School Meals and that extra support has been put in place. , this includes a National Leader of Education from London and teacher support from other schools. The school is also reviewing its systems.
4. Whether parental support at home for the children was encouraged in schools, Members were told that schools encouraged family learning. Schools offer parents to learn alongside their children and run workshops to give information to parents on teaching practices.
5. The issue of children not engaging at home, Members were advised that there were homework clubs. Whitehawk Library was being used for this purpose too.

- 24.5 The SCSA presented Standards and Achievement in Brighton & Hove Schools 2011 – Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 advising :
- Nursery, Early Years and Foundation Stage 1 (EYFS) – 87% are judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding.
 - Action: To prepare all practitioners working in Early Years to be ready to deliver the new EYFS framework in September 2012.
 - Key Stage One – overall standards remained in line with the national average in reading, writing and maths.
 - Key Stage 2 – results had arisen 1% but were now 1% below national
 - Action: Support and challenge for schools who are judged to be satisfactory or below the floor standard.
- 24.6 It was asked whether children who seemed to be increasing their attainment year by year lost this over time. Why was it that when they went onto the next cohort this increase was lost? The SCSA would respond back to the committee.
- 24.7 Other points raised by CYPOSC were:
1. Concerns over the changing measuring practices of vulnerable groups and how the gap continued for disadvantaged children. It was advised that these practices were being reviewed and school partnership working and the pupil premium would provide additional support for these pupils.
 2. Why the “Below the Floor” primary schools had similar good grading from Ofsted but were in this category. Members were told that these are two different systems. ‘the ‘floor standard’ was changed in 2011 and applied retrospectively. It sets a measure for attainment and for progress that the DfE uses to judge school performance. Ofsted judge schools against a set of criteria for a range of aspects of school life.. The Ofsted results were of a different framework to the “Below the Floor” protocols.
 3. That it would be useful to also have mapped the areas of deprivation within the “KS2 Results for Brighton & Hove Summer 2011” chart. The group of schools identified as “Below the Floor” tended to always have pupil spaces. Members were advised that in some schools with small cohort sizes, one child could make a huge difference to the figures and ‘bring down’ the achievement of that class.
 4. The Committee agreed to congratulate Westdene Primary School as it was one of the first 100 schools in the country who have been selected to be a Teaching School as part the government’s new education policy.
- 24.8 Members thanked the Headteacher and the Strategic Commissioner for presenting a clear and comprehensive account of primary schools performance and partnership working.
- 24.9 Michael Nix – Partnership Adviser- Secondary, Colleges and Adult Learning presented Education Standards: Secondary & Post 16 Phases advising:
- Key Stage 3 – generally positive “narrowing the gap” progress
 - Work in clusters with primary schools to improve transition and information exchange

- Key Stage 4 – Further improvement in 5+ A*-C including Maths and English by 3.5 points to 52.6%: while this improvement was greater than the average for Statistical Neighbours (2.1%), it was less than the England average improvement (4.8%)
- No B&H secondary schools were below the principal 'floor' target set by the DfE (>35% 5+ A* - C including English and Maths), but performance was less good against the 'three levels of progress' targets for English and Maths, with only two of nine schools achieving all three floor targets
- Schools together and individually strengthening use of data to track pupil progress and set targets at school, subject, class and pupil levels.

24.10 Janet Felkin Head Teacher at Blachington Mill presented the key features and aims of the Secondary Schools Partnership initiative:

- Coalition of all secondary schools including academies and faith schools
- The Raising Achievement Plan (RAP)
- Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BAP)
- Sustainable partnership- Improved communication amongst all secondary schools
- The use of resources and creative ways of sharing data
- Closing the gap

24.11 Members thanked the Partnership Adviser and Headteacher for their succinct and informative presentations. Members raised the points below:

1. If a Headteacher was identified to support another school who was failing in a particular subject how did they manage this? Members were informed that the Headteacher would have to balance the needs of their own school with the other school and would consider the best way of making expert staff available to the other school whilst maintaining the interests of the home school.
2. Concerns over the increase in the gaps of KS3 pupils with SEN and all other pupils in English, maths and science. Members were advised that there was a genuine improvement however the results were calculated differently in 2011. Equally different cohorts have varying factors which would affect the results. There are some cohorts where their predicted grades would be lower than the previous year due to the range of pupils in that cohort. CYPOSC agreed to receive this data on an annual basis to compare the progress in "narrowing in gap".
3. Whether children in private education achieved better exam results, the Committee were told that not all private schools results were outstanding and that parents and children will have various reasons for choosing private education, taking into account for example their backgrounds and aptitudes. Comparisons between private and maintained schools were not straightforward.
4. The English Baccalaureate figures for 2011 showed Cardinal Newman & Dorothy Stringer had performed well. However, the Headteacher told the Committee that this new measure had been introduced at very short notice and did not take into account the curriculum choices that pupils had already made. She advised the Committee of concerns that the introduction of the EBac could skew pupils' GCSE choices, if it became apparent that the EBac was required for entry to certain university courses.

This could result in pupils making inappropriate curriculum choices, in which they may be less successful. Schools were waiting to hear further on the EBac before considering possible changes to their curriculum.

5. A Youth Council Representative highlighted that they hadn't been asked about planning their careers since they were in Year 9 and now they were in Year 11. CYPOSC were told that career guidance provision was now a responsibility of the schools but that there is currently a service gap in the provision of impartial Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG). The local authority is supporting schools by providing 1.5 Careers Education Information advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Advisers posts to work with schools to improve information available to young people.

24.12 Philip Ward - Service Manager – Youth Employability Service (YES) and Michael Nix - Partnership Adviser- Secondary, Colleges and Adult Learning presented the Post 16 information to the Committee. The Committee were advised of factors such as :

- Raising the Participation Age (RPA): to 17 by 2013 and to 18th birthday by 2015
- developing Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships
- partnership working between schools and colleges so that all provision was rated as good or outstanding
- the YES team had been in operation for 6 months and were part of the Delivery Service for Children, Youth & Families headed up by James Dougan.
- the team were using sophisticated social media, partnership working with the Voluntary Sector through Aspire and working from city's libraries to promote and publicise the service.

24.13 Jenny Barnard Langston – Chair of Governors – Blatchington Mill introduced the “Raising Standards in Brighton & Hove secondary schools through collaboration between governing bodies” project. The Chair of Governors advised that their expectation was to offer parents and all students equality for an education that offers every student the framework and resources in which to achieve their highest possible potential no matter which school they attend.

24.14 A Youth Council Representative questioned whether the Council were able to offer work experience that could lead to possible permanent employment. Members were informed that the Council was committed to offering apprenticeships wherever possible; one example was a Business and Administration Level 3 apprentice recently appointed to support the Raising the Participation Age project. The Council were looking at further improving these opportunities to young people.

24.15 CYPOSC were told that the current YES Opportunities for You newsletter publicised a range of different level 1 and pre-apprenticeship programmes. The national apprenticeship website was currently advertising over 40 apprenticeship vacancies in the area. This showed that there was no shortage of opportunities, however it was important to find out whether the jobs that were on offer were ones that young people were interested in applying for.

24.16 It was confirmed that leavers with SEN were supported by the YES team. Members requested information on the proportion of 16+ leavers that had SEN.

24.17 In answer to a question on how the YES teams targets were calculated. Members noted that the targets had been calculated locally and not nationally. Members requested further information on this.

24.18 In answer to a question on how leavers were being reached since the reduction in staff, Members were told leavers were contacted by the team via social media, texting or telephoning on a monthly basis to offer support and monitor leavers. The Committee heard how there was a need to join up the different elements of YES provision with schools, teachers and employers.

24.19 Members thanked the Service Manager, Partnership Adviser and Chair of Governor's for their informative introductions.

24.20 **RESOLVED** – CYPOSC requested answers or to follow up on the points below:

- (1) A response on why a yearly increase in attainment was lost when these classes moved up a year.
- (2) Annual feedback on the increase in the gaps of KS3 pupils with SEN and all other pupils in English, maths and science.
- (3) On the proportion of 16+ leavers that had SEN.
- (4) Further information on how the YES team's targets were calculated.

25. CYPOSC WORK PROGRAMME

25.1 Members were informed that the work programme was for noting.

25.2 RESOLVED –

- (1) Members agreed the work programme.

26. ITEMS TO GO TO CABINET, THE CABINET MEMBER OR TO COUNCIL

26.1 There were no items to forward to the Cabinet Member, Cabinet or Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed

Chair

