

Minutes

Education & Children's Services Policy Overview Committee

Tuesday, 5 July 2011

Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

Come into effect on: Immediately



	<p>Members Present: Councillors Catherine Dann (Chairman) Judith Cooper (Vice-Chairman) David Benson Lindsay Bliss Peter Curling John Hensley Susan O'Brien John Riley</p> <p>Advisory Members / Co-optee Members present: Tony Little – Roman Catholic Diocese</p> <p>Officers Present: Linda Sanders– Corporate Director, Social Care, Health & Housing, Anna Crispin - Chief Education Officer, Merlin Joseph – Deputy Director, Children & Families, Peter Malewicz – Head of Finance Manager Central Services and Steve Cross – Head of Finance - Social Care, Health & Housing</p>	
13.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
14.	<p>Declarations of Interest in matters coming before this meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Catherine Dann declared a general Personal Interest as she was a Governor of Newham Junior School and Bishop Ramsay C of E School. She remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Judith Cooper general Personal Interest as she was a Governor of Charville & St Andrews Schools . She remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Susan O'Brien declared a general Personal Interest as she was a Governor at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic School. She remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p>	<p>Action By:</p> <p><i>Gill Brice</i></p>

	<p>Councillor David Benson declared general Personal Interest as he was a Governor of Uxbridge High School. He remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p> <p>Councillor John Riley declared a general Personal Interest as he was a Governor of Field End Infant School. He remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Curling declared a general Personal Interest as he was a Governor of Mellow Lane School and Harefield Academy. He remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Lindsay Bliss declared a general Personal Interest as she was a Governor of Brookside Primary School. She remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p> <p>Tony Little declared a general Personal Interest as he was a Governor at Pinkwell & Harlington School. He remained in the room during the meeting and took part in the discussion.</p>	
15.	<p>To confirm that all items marked Part 1 will be considered in Public and all Part 2 items will be considered in Private</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items would be heard in Part 1.</p>	
16.	<p>Matters that have been notified in advance or urgent</p> <p>There have been no items notified as urgent.</p>	
17.	<p>To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
18.	<p>Quarterly Performance & Budget Report</p> <p>Officers introduced the report advising the committee that this was the first opportunity for the Policy Overview Committee to discuss the current stage of development of budget planning work with regard to Education and Children's Service budget for 2012/13.</p> <p>The report gave a general overview of the corporate issues that the Council was currently facing and set out a timetable for the Medium Term Financial Forecast. Proposals for consideration by the Cabinet would be put forward in October, with a further report coming to the Policy Overview Committee in January 2012.</p> <p>Officers advised that an update on the council's performance and risk management arrangements was attached as an appendix to the report.</p>	

	<p>The committee asked a number of questions of officers before noting the information contained in the report.</p> <p>Resolved – That the report be noted.</p>	
19.	<p>Scoping Reports for Review Topics</p> <p>The committee received 3 draft scoping reports for consideration to enable them to decide, which topic they wished to undertake as their major review for 2011/12. Officers gave a brief overview of each scoping report and the committee asked a number of points as follows:-</p> <p><u>Elective Home Education in Hillingdon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee asked for consideration to be given to including the following Terms of Reference:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To look at the Psychological Development of a home educated child. ii. To look at partnership working and how this worked. iii. To look at how a young persons attainment progress was measured. iv. To look at the transition back to formal education (if and when this transition was made) <p><i>Officers agreed that it may be useful to include the issues raised above in the Terms of Reference.</i></p> <p>Members asked a number of questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the unannounced visits random or was there a reason for them taking place? <p><i>Officers advised that unannounced visits were carried out on an ad hoc basis and were not undertaken for a specific reason.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the authority know the outcomes for home educated children? <p><i>Officers advised that the outcomes for home educated children were received by the Local Authority in relation to GCSE level. There was no information on the milestones that they had met to reach GCSE level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the title of the review be Elective Home Education in Hillingdon, and did Hillingdon take part in an internet pilot in relation to home schooling. 	<p>Action By:</p> <p><i>Gill Brice</i></p>

Officers informed the committee that Elective Home Education was a general term and used nationally. The internet pilot, which looked at the use of ICT to allow learning at home was used for the following situations.

- i. a young person who had additional needs,*
- ii. re-engaging a young person in education,*
- iii. medical needs of a child, or*
- iv. the process to find a permanent placement for a child.*

There was already provision for young people who were out of school long term. This provision was currently being reviewed as part of the Early intervention review.

- What support and guidance was given to parents who home educated and were there any groups within Hillingdon where parents met to exchange ideas?

Officers reported that there was a range of reasons why parents decided to home education. Parents were offered assistance and practical support once they had made the decision to home educate and would help them move forward in the right direction. Officers welcomed the suggestion of a support group being set up as this would help with the concern in regard to intervention and would be an important part of the review.

The committee felt that there needed to be a strong message coming out of the review about access for voluntary or professional organisations for children that were home educated. It may mean that the committee needed to consider lobbying for a change to the current legislation to ensure that a child was seen by a voluntary or professional organisation.

Risky Behaviour amongst Young People

Officers introduced the report and informed the committee that there was currently a Business Improvement Delivery (BID) project being undertaken on Early Intervention Services, which was expected to help mitigate some elements of risky behaviour by Young People.

The committee suggested that as there was an ongoing review that would include risky behaviour amongst young people that the Committee should see the final report from BID when it had been completed. This would enable the committee to look at whether there was a specific area that required further review.

Parental Skills in Education Attainment

Officers introduced the report, giving members a general overview of the background to the issues in regard to funding for the provision of parental support in education attainment.

	<p>The role and the function of the Children's Centres were child focused but parental skills in education attainment was important supported. It was felt that the support for this provision would be the responsibility of schools and not that of the Local Authority.</p> <p>A member raised concerns that there were parents that wanted to help their children's attainment but often did not understand the methods of learning used in schools. This caused a barrier for parents.</p> <p>The committee was informed that a number of schools offered evenings for parents on the curriculum. This may not be the case in all schools and it was suggested that schools should share good practice with other schools.</p> <p>Officers advised that the Government was focusing on issues of Parental Skills in education attainment and there were other ways of moving this forward. The committee was advised that the 5 year attainment figures showed an increase in attainment. There were also a number of outstanding schools in the borough sharing good practice with other schools.</p> <p>The committee following discussion agreed to undertake their major review on Elective Home Education. Members suggested that witnesses should include, expert external witness in regards to safeguarding issues, an overview of national picture, Community Health Visitor, an older child that had been home educated.</p> <p>Resolved – That Elective Home Education be undertaken as a major review for 2011/2012.</p>	
20.	<p>Forward Plan 2011/2012</p> <p>The committee received a report setting out the Education items on the Forward Plan for July to September.</p> <p>Resolved - That the information in the report was noted.</p>	
21.	<p>Work Programme 2011/2012</p> <p>The work programme was to be amended to change the date for the receipt of a report on the Inclusion Strategy Green Paper from October/November to early in 2011.</p> <p>The change was noted by the committee.</p> <p>Resolved – That the report was noted and be amended to incorporate the change to the date of the report on the Inclusion Strategy Green Paper was to be submitted.</p>	<p>Action By:</p> <p><i>Gill Brice</i></p>

	The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.55 p.m.
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These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Gill Brice on 01895 250693. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.