

Minutes**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY
OVERVIEW COMMITTEE****10 February 2011****Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW**

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Catherine Dann (Chairman), David Benson (substituting for Judith Cooper) Lindsay Bliss (substituting for Kuldeep Lakhmana) Brian Crowe Peter Curling John Hensley</p> <p>Representative Member from Roman Catholic Diocesan: Tony Little.</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Anna Crispin (Deputy Director Learning, Effectiveness & Major Transformation, Education and Children's Services) Tim Lake (Head of Service for Policy & Statistics, Education and Children's Services) Gill Brice (Democratic Services Officer, Deputy Chief Executive's Office).</p>	
42.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Councillor Judith Cooper and Councillor Kuldeep Lakhmana with Councillor David Benson and Councillor Lindsay Bliss substituting.</p>	
43.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING. (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p>	
	<p>Councillor Catherine Dann declared a Personal Interest as she was a Governor of Newham Junior School and Bishop Ramsay C of E School and remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion. This was a general interest and not on any particular Item.</p> <p>Councillor David Benson declared a Personal Interest as he was a Governor of Uxbridge High School and remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion. This was a general interest and not on any particular Item.</p> <p>Councillor Lindsay Bliss n declared a Personal Interest as she was a Governor of Brookside School and remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion. This was a general interest and not on any particular Item.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Peter Curling declared a Personal as he was a Governor of Mellow Lane School and Harefield Academy. He remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion. This was a general interest and not on any particular Item.</p> <p>Tony Little declared a Personal Interest as he was a Governor at Pinkwell School and remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion. This was a general interest and not on any particular Item.</p>	
44.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND ALL PART 2 ITEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items in Part 1 would be heard in public and all items in Part 2 would be heard in private.</p>	
45.	<p>MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OR URGENT (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>There had been no matters that had been notified in advance as urgent.</p>	
46.	<p>14 - TO 19 EDUCATION & TRAINING REVIEW - FINAL REPORT - TO FOLLOW (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p>	Action by
	<p>There was discussion around recommendations 1 & 2 in that this was something that officers would act upon and it was felt this should not be a formal recommendation to Cabinet. The review was in relation to 14 – 19 Diplomas and how these were delivered in schools.</p> <p>In regards to recommendation 1 in relation to S106 agreements the committee felt that on reflection it was felt that this should be included in the body of the report and but not be included as a recommendation.</p> <p>In regards to recommendation 2, a member stated that it was appreciated that there was a need for information to be provided on NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the report. It was further suggested that as this was an important issue consideration should be given to a separate review being undertaken on NEETs at a future meeting of this Committee.</p> <p>A member suggested that recommendations 1 & 2 be deleted and information on Section 106 agreements and NEETS should be included in the report under the relevant section. The remaining recommendations were to be re-numbered accordingly,</p> <p>A member suggested that the new recommendation 2 needed to be amended to give clarity to this recommendation by adding 'in the course of their education, after 'choices' in line 2 and deleting 'once they had succeeded in obtaining their diploma.' The committee agreed the amendment to the new recommendation 2.</p> <p>A number of minor spelling errors were corrected in the report and the following amendments were agreed by the committee.</p>	<p>Anna Crispin Alison Moore Gill Brice</p>

	<p>Page ii and xiv – New Recommendation 1 – delete ‘and education’ as this was not part of the review.</p> <p>Page ii – New Recommendation 2 – After ‘choices’ on the second line insert ‘in the course of their compulsory Education and delete all after ‘them’ on the last line.</p> <p>Page viii - Last sentence on the penultimate paragraph to be deleted as this was not necessary.</p> <p>Page ix – Delete Recommendation 2 in bold and insert as amended on page ii.</p> <p>Page x – Penultimate paragraph delete ‘apprenticeships’ and insert ‘apprentice’ add ‘the’ after from and delete ‘so far’ Last line of last paragraph delete all after ‘school’.</p> <p>Page xii – Under section on NEETS include a paragraph providing statistics from neighbouring boroughs.</p> <p>Page xiii – First paragraph under Career Information – delete all after ‘students’ on third line and insert additional sentence ‘If it became apparent advice was not impartial this would be raised with the school concerned’. Fourth paragraph delete ‘Foundation’ from second line.</p> <p>Page xiv – Amend last sentence to delete ‘could affect pupils staying on’ and add ‘has been replaced by a reduced fund called Learner Support Grant’.</p> <p>Page xvi – Amend new Recommendation 2 as per page ii.</p> <p>Page xv – Clarification of E-Tech to be included as a footnote.</p> <p>Page xvi – Amend last sentence to add ‘the diploma route’ after work and delete ‘this’ and change ‘taken’ to ‘chosen’.</p> <p>Page xvii – Under Experience of Uxbridge College Students delete ‘good as’ in second line. Delete ‘Master Diploma’ from last line.</p> <p>Page xviii – Under Conclusions from the Student Witness Session – After ‘taught’ in last line add ‘on the specific issues taught in the classroom.’</p> <p>Page xix – Footnote on consortia to be amended.</p> <p>The appendix to the report needed to be amended as it contained out of date information. A Member suggested that a list of routes and pathways for Diplomas could be obtained from the EdExcel website.</p> <p>The recommendations in the report were agreed.</p>	
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	<p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the recommendations in the final report as amended be agreed. 2. The report as amended was endorsed and its submission to Cabinet in March was agreed. 3. That if any further minor amendments were required to the report prior to it's submission to Cabinet that this be carried by the Chairman in consultation with Democratic Services. 	
47.	STANDARD AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION 2010 (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)	Action by
	<p>Officers introduced the report by providing an overview of the key points and highlights contained within the tables that formed part of the report.</p> <p>A member raised concerns about reading ability dropping and asked if it was known what the reasons were for this.</p> <p>Officers advised that there was not an easy answer to the question asked but the drop was only a small drop off of reading ability but was not across all schools.</p> <p>A member commented that whether all syllabuses were taken into account when producing the information contained in Chart 15 (Percentage of Pupils attaining at least 3+ A* - C Grades) in regard to 'C' grades. The inclusion of 'C' grades in the figures masked the downward trend in Maths would it be fair to say that standards were not improving but decreasing.</p> <p>A member commented that C grades were important if schools were challenging and asked whether the figures in Chart 15 included ICT.</p> <p>An Officer advised that from the information provided in the report it was difficult to establish whether standards were going down in Maths. There was additional information that was used in underpinning this information.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the information shown did not include the underlying trends. In regards to Foundation Maths the information had not shown the attainment details.</p> <p>Officers advised that the report did not provide all the information used in producing the report and Chart 18 (Percentage of Pupils making expected progress in mathematics) showed the expected increase in progress in Mathematics per pupil.</p> <p>The committee asked for the additional information that had been used to provide the contained in the report in relation to the 5 A -C Grades in regards to the following:-</p>	<p>Tim Lake Anna Crispin</p>

- How many students studying in the borough.
- Numbers taking exam each year
- All grades being attained at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced stage.

Officers advised that the information included GCSE and equivalent in the 5+ A* - C grades and also included schools non GCSE equivalents. There were no comparative figures for young people to show what they achieving. Additional information could be provided to members on this if required.

The Chairman suggested that the additional information referred to should be provided to members through Democratic Services.

A member asked whether the information in Chart 16 included both English Literature and English Language. Officers advised the committee that this information only related to English Language.

A member asked whether the figures in relation to Maths and English included Functional Skills.

Members were informed that the figure at the present time did not include Functional Skills.

A member advised that page 6 of the report made reference to the summary of School Inspection Reports. In regards to the 3 measurements (overall effectiveness, Achievement & Standard and Quality of Teaching) shown in the chart setting out the inspection findings showed that 1 school in all the 3 measurements was inadequate. If this was one school why was the leadership and Management not considered to be inadequate and what were the reasons for the school being inadequate.

Officers advised the committee that this related to one school, which was no longer inadequate as the school had addressed the issues raised in the inspection findings. The school concerned was given Notice to Improve and not put on special measures. The Leadership and Management of the school were not found to be inadequate as the Inspection findings felt they had the capacity to address the concerns raised. The reason for the school being considered as inadequate was felt to be due to the new inspection regime that had been introduced by OFSTED and had changed significantly in 2009/10 bringing in stricter criteria.

A member asked officers if they felt this would be an increasing trend or whether this was felt to be a one off.

Officers advised that they felt that this was a one off.

A member raised concern that the information provided on page 6 did not include up to date information as this was for 2009/10. Was there a danger that there could be issues for the Local Authority including resource implications if they were being given information that was a year out of date.

Officers advised that there were two elements to this report providing information on standards and quality and there were also inspections and outcomes. The committee could be provided with information on school inspections on a quarterly basis if members felt this would be helpful.

A Member informed the committee that they had previously asked for information on school places to be provided on a quarterly basis, to date this had not been provided. If this information was received it would safeguard the authority and enable any issues to be identified and flagged up at an early stage.

Officers reported that a quarterly schedule could be provided on inspection report but the difficulty in providing school places update was that there was set times that this information would be available.

The committee asked officers to advise the committee when this information would be able to be provided.

In depth analysis indicated that at KS4 & 5 Hillingdon was in the top quartile nationally. Historically results had been good and there would be concerns if this did not continue. Support for 14 – 19 schools and colleges and what was being provided was resulting in appropriate pathways and leading to useful choices being undertaken by students.

Members asked for information in relation to the analysis referred to be provided to the committee.

A member asked whether officers felt that the 5% difference between Hillingdon's average point score per exam and the national and outer London average point scores per exam were significant.

Officers advised that this suggested that the results per subject were slightly lower than average and taking this in context due to the ability of those students taking the exam this was not felt to be a concern.

A member asked what conclusions could be drawn from the tables on pages 22 & 23 of the report in relation to the attainment levels by pupils prior attainment, age and gender.

Officers informed the committee that this indicated to officers that resources would be provided to support schools to look n more depth at areas where there might be underachievers.

A member suggested that it would have been useful for the committee to receive information on the dates that schools had last been inspected.

A member asked whether the information in the report in relation to underachieving white boys, whether this had taken account of other cultures where English was not a first language.

	<p>Officers advised that the analogy could be looked at further and broken down to look at the underlying information. The information in the report focussed on the ethnic groups and groups receiving Free School Meals and Non Free School Meals.</p> <p>A member asked that on page 26 in paragraph 5.1 whether there was a reason why the progress of children with a statement was significantly below that expected.</p> <p>Officers advised that this was a bold statement but there was a small group of children that had been statemented with very special needs. In these cases each child was looked at individually. The area for special educational needs was complex, a number of these children were in special schools and it was difficult to get appropriate benchmarking. It was also difficult to show incremental steps for children with special needs.</p> <p>A member asked whether the number of statemented children had decreased in recent years and if so would this mean that this might provide results nearer to that expected.</p> <p>Officers advised that national trends had shown a decline in certain groups of children being assessed and needing a statement. Children with moderate learning difficulties no longer had a statement. There were two special schools in the borough but not all the children attending these schools had statements. At the other end of the spectrum there were children with increased complex needs and those with significant disabilities that were surviving at birth and were not included in quite the same way as included in the past.</p> <p>Resolved - That the report be noted.</p>	
48.	<p>FORWARD PLAN 2010/2011 (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Resolved – That the information contained in the report on the Forward Plan be noted.</p>	
49.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011 (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>Resolved – That the work programme was noted.</p>	
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 8.55 pm.</p>	

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.

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