

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 16 June 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor Wildy, in the Chair.

Councillor Stark, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bragg, Browne, Murphy, Mrs Nicholson, Singh and Tuohy.

Co-opted Representatives: Mr Kevin Willis and Alderman Purnell

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowie and Haydon, Jenny Evans and Kerry Whittlesea.

Also in attendance: Viv Gillespie – Principal of City College Plymouth; Mairead Macneil - Assistant Director for Children's Social Care; Gareth Simmons – Programme Director for Learning Environments and Annie Singer – Senior Education Adviser.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.20 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. TO NOTE THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The panel noted the appointment of Councillor Wildy as Chair and Councillor Stark as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2011 – 2012.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made, as follows –

Name	Minute	Reason	Interest
Councillor Wildy	Minute 5 - Chair's Urgent Business	Partner is a governor at Lipson Community College	Personal
Councillor Stark	Minute 5 - Chair's Urgent Business	Governor at Stoke Damerel and All Saints Academy	Personal
Councillor Mrs Bragg	Minute 5 - Chair's Urgent Business	Director of Marine Academy	Personal
Kevin Willis	Minute 5 - Chair's Urgent Business	Governor at Ridgeway School	Personal

3. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

The panel considered the appointment of co-opted representatives.

Agreed that –

- (1) Jenny Evans and Kerry Whittlesea, Young Persons Representatives to complete a full year on the Panel with a review to take place at the October meeting;
- (2) Kevin Willis, Parent Governor Representative to continue as a statutory co-opted representative until the end of his term;
- (3) elections to take place shortly to recruit new Parent Governor Representatives onto the panel;
- (4) the Vice-Chair to make contact with the Diocese on faith representation on the panel.

4. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the 24 March 2011 were approved as a correct record.

CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

5. **University Technology College**

Viv Gillespie, Principal of City College Plymouth and Gareth Simmons, Programme Director for Learning Environments gave an update to the panel on the University Technology College (UTC). It was reported that –

- (a) the UTC would be set up as an academy and linked with the university and backed by local employers;
- (b) the UTC is aimed at 14 to 19 years olds from across the city;
- (c) the curriculum would focus on 40 percent technical and 60 percent on general education;
- (d) a statement of interest has been submitted to the Baker Dearing Education Trust;
- (e) the UTC would need to fit in with the spread of existing facilities and education across the city;
- (f) the UTC would need to fit with the demographic demand with secondary school numbers initially dropping but would pick up again after 2015.

In response to questions from the panel it was reported that -

- (g) an existing premises in Plymouth would be used to facilitate the UTC and would be located centrally or close to Devonport. The preferred location for the UTC is Piquet Barracks with an options appraisal being undertaken on a further 9 to 10 different sites;
- (h) apprenticeships are still key with the UTC seen as a feeder into the apprenticeship route;
- (i) this is an opportunity for around 455 students with the potential to increase to 520 from a variety of schools from across the city;
- (j) there would be costs involved with the start-up of the UTC and operating costs once the UTC is open and would be supported by grants.

Agreed that a further report on University Technology College to include a detailed breakdown of numbers in nearby schools and demographic patterns across the city to ascertain the potential effect on nearby schools be submitted to the panel in September.

6. **Work Experience**

Annie Singer, Senior Education Adviser submitted a paper on work experience. This item came to the Chair's attention after learning that some schools were not choosing to undertake work experience. It was reported that -

- (a) the issue on work experience not taking place had arisen in one school;
- (b) the Tamar Education Business Partnership (TEBP) co-ordinates work experience for year 10 and 11 pupils;
- (c) in the past TEBP were able to subsidise the cost for work experience undertaken by schools. The Department of Education (DfE) have advised that funding would be withdrawn from the end of the 2010/2011;
- (d) as a result of the funding being withdrawn the cost of work experience had to be increased which led to one school being unable to afford to undertake work experience;
- (e) £100k had been cut from the budget which has led to schools to reconsider work experience in the future.

Agreed that the Assistant Director for Lifelong Learning to report back to the panel in July with facts and figures associated with work experience and to look into how the council ensures every child is given the opportunity to undertake work experience.

7. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Claire Oatway, Lead Officer updated the panel on the terms of reference (TOR). It was reported that –

- (a) some areas of the TOR need to be expanded with more emphasis on policy areas;
- (b) membership of the panel to include co-opted representatives and their rights;
- (c) more emphasis to be given on Equality Impact Assessment;
- (d) monitoring of budget and performance to be included on the work programme.

Agreed that the revised terms of reference to be emailed around to panel members for final approval through the Chair and Vice-Chair.

8. **POLICY UPDATES**

Mairead MacNeil, Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) and Gareth Simmons, Programme Director for Learning Environments updated the panel on policy. It was reported that -

- (a) the recent Adoption Inspection was positive with good inspection outcomes;
- (b) the Munro report looked at all the issues in children's social care with a deep dive look at the systems and challenges children's social care face;
- (c) there is still a need to continue to divert children from care. An intensive support team looking at 15 to 18 year olds and extending it to look at children aged 11 years;

In response to questions raised, it was reported that -

- (d) the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is used by any professional that has contact with a child. The CAF pulls together different agencies to problem solve and to look at alleviating any difficulties a family may be experiencing;
- (e) training is rolled out to 2000 people across the city to help and support other professionals with the management of risk;
- (f) Children's Social Care continually request user feedback on services provided. This information help us to evaluate and make changes where needed to ensure a quality service is provided;

- (g) they ensure the continuity of a social worker assigned to a child or family and all policies such as the Social Care Transfer Policy are reviewed regularly.

Agreed that –

- (1) the reports submitted by Lifelong Learning and Learner Family Support noted and to be discussed further at the next meeting;
- (2) a copy of the Social Care Transfer Policy to be circulated to panel members.

9. **DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12**

The panel noted the draft work programme for 2011/12 and agreed to recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board the following items for inclusion:

- Performance and Budget Reports;
- Locality Review;
- Adoption Inspection.

Agreed that –

- (1) the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy and Emotional Health of Children items to form part of the Children's Mental Health Task and Finish Group;
- (2) the Children and Young People's Plan will be monitored by the panel at its normal business meeting therefore a task and finish group to monitor the plan is no longer required.

10. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The panel was informed that there were no tracking resolutions or feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to note.

11. **FUTURE DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

The panel noted the dates and times of future meetings as set out in the agenda.

12. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.