

Ambitious Plymouth

Monday 11 November 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Bowie, in the Chair.

Councillor Monahan, Vice Chair.

Councillors Casey (substitute for Councillor Wright), Sam Davey, Gordon, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, and Stevens.

Co-opted Representatives: Edith Bayley, Statutory Co-opted Representative.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Wright,

Matthew Currie, Harry Samuels, Non-Statutory Co-opted Representatives.

Also in attendance: Jayne Gorton (Lead Officer), Jo Hall (Senior Adviser Early Years and Childcare), Daryl Wallace (School Admissions Team Leader), Carol Henwood (Principal Adviser (Neighbourhood & IL)), Tracy Hewett (Principal Senior Education Officer), Lynn Young and Ross Johnston (Democratic Support Officers).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.30 am. A two-minute silence was honoured at 11 am as a mark of respect for Armistice Day.

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.

33. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made in accordance with the code of conduct –

Name	Minute No. and Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Glenn Jordan	36. Early Years Development Report	Trustee of Bobtails Daycare Centre in Lipson	Private
Councillor Glenn Jordan	38. Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service (PACLS)	Director of Routeways	Private
Councillor Ian Gordon	38. Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service (PACLS)	Director of North Prospect Community Learning	Private
Councillor Alison Casey	38. Plymouth Adult and Community	Son has an apprenticeship with	Private

	Learning Service (PACLS)	PACLS	
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34. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2013 are confirmed as a correct record.

35. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

36. **EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Jo Hall, Senior Adviser Early Years and Childcare, provided the panel with an update on funded early education places for two, three and four year olds in Plymouth. The panel was informed that -

- (a) the introduction of the free entitlement of 15 hours of early education for eligible two year olds from September 2013 had placed additional demand on childcare provision in Plymouth;
- (b) a detailed needs analysis had been carried out and it was estimated that places for 270 children were needed to cater for the September 2013 target of 696 children;
- (c) extensive work had been carried out within the childcare sector to encourage them to rearrange existing provision to cater for more two year olds, which had increased the number of places available to 430;
- (d) a total of £1.7m (including £500k from the DfE) had been allocated to the development programme, which had demonstrated the commitment to ensure our most vulnerable children had the best start in life;
- (e) a shortage of places had been identified in the North West and South West of the city, where the majority of children eligible for the free entitlement (based on Free Schools Meal criteria) would live, based on analysis of live birth data;
- (f) a number of projects had been identified as key to ensuring there would be additional capacity for the projected 2014 target of 1400 children, when the eligibility for two year olds was extended. These projects included:
 - Noah's Ark at Stonehouse;
 - Four Woods Children's Centre;
 - High Street Primary School;
 - Morice Town Primary School;
 - Ernesettle Community School;
 - Ham Drive Nursery School;

- Mount Wise Primary School;
 - Marlborough Primary School;
 - Barne Barton:
 - Phase 1 - a 36 place nursery on the Barn site, operational from April 2014;
 - Phase 2 - a second nursery to be planned in collaboration with the community.
- (g) additional places had also been planned for Whitleigh at the Wood View campus and Wise Owls on the Woodfield School site;
- (h) additional capacity was required in Honicknowle which would be addressed by the re-development of Knowle Primary School, incorporating Stepping Stones Nursery;
- (i) intensive support had been provided by the Early Years' Service to those schools who had taken two year olds for the first time;
- (j) childcare sufficiency assessments had identified that Barne Barton had insufficient places for three and four year olds in their immediate locality, which had now been addressed through the two year old programme;
- (k) some nurseries were unable to fill their places for three and four year olds. The nurseries involved had taken eligible two year olds, and provided flexible sessions that met the needs of working parents to address this ;
- (l) nursery schools at Ham Drive and Plymbridge had significant vacancies, particularly in the autumn term.

In response to member's questions it was reported that –

- (m) Childrens' Centres had ensured that parents had access to education facilities, if required, whilst their children were in nursery;
- (n) nurseries were given extra funding to employ additional staff to cater for two year olds;
- (o) nurseries were offered extensive training to cater for two year olds;
- (p) some parents had taken up the opportunity of apprenticeship schemes whilst their child was in a nursery;
- (q) the regeneration of North Prospect had been taken into consideration when calculating the number of nursery places needed;
- (r) children were eligible for a nursery place in the term after their second birthday. An element of discretion was used as and when needed as to when places were allocated;

- (s) Childrens' Centres worked hard to ensure that parents enrolled their child as soon as possible after their second birthday, and that they utilised their full 15 hour entitlement;
- (t) nurseries worked on a three-term year, as opposed to schools who worked on a six-term year;
- (u) entitlement to a free nursery place did not automatically mean entitlement to Free School Meals;
- (v) Childrens' Centres encouraged attendance at nursery on a 'little and often' basis, rather than for long periods of time each day;
- (w) the new nursery facility at Barne Barton would be equipped with facilities to provide hot food.

Agreed that –

- (1) needs analysis data is provided to all Ambitious Plymouth members;
- (2) the number of parents and others whose child is eligible for a funded early education place, and takes up the opportunity of an apprenticeship is provided to all Ambitious Plymouth members.

The Chair thanked Jo Hall for her attendance.

37. **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - ALLOCATION OF RECEPTION PLACES**

Daryl Wallace, School Admissions Team Leader, offered to elaborate on her previously circulated report if required, and agreed to answer any questions from members.

In response to member's questions it was reported that -

- (a) there were two types of admission – normal point of entry – starting school for the first time, and in-year admission – for those who sought to transfer after school had started;
- (b) parents were encouraged to list three preferences in their application, although it was not a legal requirement for them to do so;
- (c) there were sufficient primary school places available in Plymouth, but not necessarily in the desired schools;
- (d) the birth rate in Plympton had increased;
- (e) the birth rate in Plymstock had increased slightly, and surplus school places were available which were now filled by children who didn't live in the area;
- (f) it was acknowledged that there would be a problem in the future in

Plympton, and Woodford Primary would be increased from a two-form to a three-form entry to alleviate the pressure;

- (g) the application form required a signed declaration that the applicant had read the parent's guide booklet;
- (h) assistance was available to parents to enable completion of the application form;
- (i) the School Admissions Team tried, where possible, to ensure siblings attended the same school;
- (j) parents whose children were allocated school places some distance away from their homes may be able to apply for school transport or a petrol allowance;
- (k) it was recommended that parents refer to the guide when making their application;
- (l) new housing developments had been taken into account , and new schools were planned at Derriford and Morley Park, with extensions planned to Widewell School and Pomphlett Primary School, which would ensure there were sufficient school places available.

The Panel agreed that they would undertake a Cooperative Review in March 2014 to update the 'Starting School in Plymouth 2015/2016' guide and a cooperative review would be submitted to Cooperative Scrutiny Board in early 2014.

The Chair thanked Daryl Wallace for her attendance.

38. **PLYMOUTH ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE (PACLS)**

Carol Henwood, Principal Adviser (Neighbourhood & IL) and Tracy Hewett, Principal Senior Education Officer, provided the panel with an update on the Plymouth Adult and community Learning Service (PACLS). The panel was informed that -

- (a) OFSTED were due to undertake an inspection in November 2013;
- (b) PACLS had produced a feasibility study after receiving authorisation from Plymouth City Council to explore the viability of externalising the current service;
- (c) they had looked at different ways to reduce their budget;
- (d) they had looked at working with partners – including Open Doors International Language School, Mountbatten Watersports Centre and North Prospect Community Learning Ltd, amongst others;

In response to members questions it was reported that –

- (e) PACLS had investigated the proposed establishment as a Public Service Mutual (PSM);
- (f) PACLS had been advised that it was unlikely they would be able to continue to use the Guildhall as a venue for their training sessions;
- (g) conversations had taken place with Les Allen, Transformation Programmes Manager, to investigate alternative accommodation if PACLS were externalised;
- (h) if PACLS were externalised, they would be required to work to the values of the Co-operative Council.

Agreed that the Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service is added to the ambitious Plymouth work programme for 3 March 2013, to understand their future plans and to receive an update following their recent OFSTED inspection.

The Chair thanked Carol Henwood and Tracy Hewett for their attendance, and wished them luck with their forthcoming OFSTED inspection.

(This item was moved up the agenda to facilitate good meeting management)

39. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Panel noted the progress of the tracking resolutions.

In response to members' questions it was reported that -

- (a) the Democratic Support Officer responsible for Ambitious Plymouth had made every effort to fill the vacant co-opted representative positions for faith representatives and parent governors;
- (b) the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) was meeting on Wednesday 13 November to discuss if any members of Group A (Christian and other religious denominations, not including Church of England), would like to take up the opportunity of becoming a co-opted representative.

Agreed that the Democratic Support Officer would update the Panel at the next meeting as to the make-up of Group A eg is a Humanist representative included.

40. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The panel noted its work programme and agreed that –

- (I) the 'School Transport Provision Review' item is removed from the Work Programme scheduled for the meeting on 3 February 2014;

- (2) a 'Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service (PACLS) OFSTED update' item is added to the Work Programme for the meeting on 3 February 2014;
- (3) a 'Proposed establishment of the Plymouth Adult and Community Learning Service (PACLS) as a Public Service Mutual (PSM)' item is added to the Work Programme for the meeting on 3 February 2014.

41. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.