

Notice of a Meeting

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee **Tuesday, 9 November 2010 at 10.00 am** **County Hall**

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Dave Sexon

<i>Councillors:</i>	Janet Godden Neil Owen Alyas Ahmed	M. Altaf-Khan Marilyn Badcock Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor	Don Seale Val Smith Nicholas P. Turner
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Co-optees: Mr Chris Bevan Mrs Sue Matthew
2 Vacancies

Notes: *Date of next meeting: 14 December 2010*

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	-	Councillor Ann Bonner E.Mail: ann.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Sue Whitehead, Tel: (01865) 810262 sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

November 2010

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 36)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010 (**CH3**) and to note for information any matters arising on them.

4. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

SCRUTINY MATTERS

To consider matters where the Committee can provide a challenge to the work of the Authority and its Partners

5. **Service & Resource Planning**

10:10

Contact Officer: Meera Spillett – Director for Children, Young People & Families, tel (01865) 815122

The Director will give a presentation to the Committee which will provide a high level overview of the services provided by the Directorate and the challenges which will need to be addressed to meet the target.

The Committee is invited to receive a presentation from the Director to be followed by and question & answer session.

REVIEW WORK

To take evidence, receive progress updates and consider tracking reports

6. **Safeguarding Children**

11:10

Contact Officer: Jim Leivers – Interim Head of Services for Children & Families, tel (01865) 328271

To receive a presentation on the latest position in the County Council on safeguarding Children

The Committee is invited to receive a presentation followed by a question & answer session.

7. Select Committee outcome on Educational Attainment (Pages 37 - 42)

12:10

Contact: Roger Edwards, Policy & Performance Tel (01865) 810824

The Children's Scrutiny Educational Attainment working group concluded this year's work on specifically primary educational attainment with a Select Committee on the 29th June 2010. Based on the findings from the working group's 16 schools visits, three areas were covered on the day: Children's Centres; Improving the School Environment; and Collaborative working. The outcomes and recommendations from the Select Committee's discussions will be set out in the briefing paper to be circulated separately.

The Committee is asked to consider and approve the recommendations.

BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

8. Work Programme 2010/11 (Pages 43 - 44)

12:30

To approve the updated work programme. Members of the Committee have received a briefing paper under separate cover giving background detail on Special schools and admission at nursery age.

The Committee is asked to approve the work programme.

9. Forward Plan

12:40

The Committee is asked to suggest items from the current Forward Plan on which it may wish to have an opportunity to offer advice to the Cabinet before any decision is taken, together with details of what it thinks could be achieved by looking at any items.

10. Close of Meeting

12:45

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28 September 2010 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.50 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair

Councillor Dave Sexon (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor Alyas Ahmed
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan
Councillor Marilyn Badcock
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Don Seale
Councillor Val Smith
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Michael Waine and Councillor Louise Chapman

Co-opted Members: Mr Chris Bevan
Mrs Sue Matthew

By Invitation: Ms Carole Thomson (Oxfordshire Governors' Association)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Director for Children, Young People & Families, Mr Roger Edwards and Mrs D Miller (Corporate Core).

Part of meeting Ms Sarah Breton and Ms Lucy Russel (Children, Young People & Families).

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

85/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Nick Turner declared a Personal Interest in all the items on the Agenda which included reference to the North Oxfordshire as he was a member of the governing body for North Oxfordshire Academy.

86/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 August 2010 were approved and signed subject to:

- Ms Carole Thompson being added to the Apologies for Absence;
- an introduction being added to Minute 84/10, outlining the reasons given for call-in; and
- a note indicating that the Chairman had stressed the importance of Members not straying from the points of the call-in during debate.

Matters Arising

Minute 80/10:

- Members were advised that the date of the visit to North Oxfordshire Academy arranged for the 24 September 2010 had been changed to 8 October 2010 at 2.00pm. Any Members wishing to attend should inform John Mitchell.
- Michael Waine to arrange meeting with Head of Science.

87/10 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING

(Agenda No. 5)

The Director for Children's Services gave a presentation to the Committee which provided a high level overview of the services provided by the Directorate and the challenges which would need to be addressed to meet the savings target. A copy of the presentation is appended to these Minutes and to the signed Minutes.

With regard to the finer detail of the slides, the Committee raised the following issues for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee:

- The Committee asked the Director if she could provide further figures on any decrease in non-accidental child death and children requiring visits to visit hospital as a result of accident, using the recently published safeguarding research.
- The Committee noted that at present there were around 50 looked after children in residential care and that currently Oxfordshire did not have 50 in-county places – could more be done to provide more in-county placements?

- The Committee noted that there had been a 17% increase in Children in Care since the Baby P case and that Child Protection Plans were being applied consistently and should help regulate increase.
- Members requested that Corporate Policy copy the digest of Government White Papers to all Members of the Committee.
- The Committee thanked the Director for briefing Head Teachers and Governors throughout the process.
- The Committee noted that cuts would affect partnerships and that it would be very important to ensure that organisations supporting children and families continued joined up working.

The Committee thanked the Director for Children's Services for her presentation and requested a further update, to include the outcome of the white paper at its meeting in November.

88/10 CHILDREN'S TRUST (Agenda No. 6)

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning on the Government Reform of Children's Trusts. A copy of the presentation is appended to these Minutes and to the signed copy of the Minutes.

The key points of the reform was as follows:

- The Government intended to remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts (via education Bill);
- The reform would remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards;
- It would remove the requirement for the Boards to prepare and publish a Children's & Young Peoples Plan (CYPP);
- Regulations underpinning the CYPP would be revoked;
- Statutory guidance on Children's Trusts would be withdrawn in the Autumn.

Councillor Louise Chapman, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families welcomed the changes outlined in the presentation and in particular the ability for the Trust to make their own arrangements locally, working in partnership with other agencies.

She reported that although the Trust had decided to stay in its current format for the time being, that she believed the trust would in future focus around Health & Wellbeing. The next step would be for the Trust to come together to decide upon new structures. It was vital that Young People's interests were represented at the Health & Wellbeing Board.

The Committee then conducted a question and answer session. A selection of the Committee's questions, together with Ms Breton's responses, is listed below:

- Is the County Council well on the way (compared to other authorities) to achieving this change? Links organisation – at the moment they don't look at children – is there any plans for them to become involved? Removal of schools duty to co-operate – is there any incentive?

Councillor Chapman – Yes we are well on our way to achieving the change.

Sarah Breton - Links – There is a recognition that we will need examples of good practice.

Meera Spillet – There is concern about schools duty to co-operate. There is a duty for schools to safeguard children - we have asked why this has been removed – in my professional opinion I think it should not be removed – we have lobbied MP's not to take it out.

- Could we ask for the Committee to be represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board?

Meera Spillet – I am very satisfied that our voice is being heard.

- Could the Council's response to the White Paper be copied to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee?

The Committee **AGREED** to ask the Cabinet to ensure that Children are properly represented when the new Health & Wellbeing Board is established.

The Committee further agreed to ask officers to report back to the Committee at its April Meeting giving further clarity around the future of the Children's Trust.

89/10 TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN OXFORDSHIRE

(Agenda No. 7)

The report before the Committee (CH7) outlined the outcome of a data assessment of Oxfordshire's teenage pregnancy strategy delivery, together with an action plan identifying a number of key areas for action.

Ms Sarah Bretton, Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning and Ms Lucy Russell, Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-Ordinator attended the meeting to present the report and answer any questions that the Committee may have wished to ask.

Ms Russell reported that there had been real progress around prevention and getting young people back into education, employment and training.

A Task and Finish group was established to ensure accountability for actions and to monitor progress. This was Chaired by the Assistant Director of Public Health and attendees represented a wide range of services. Regular performance data reports covering national data sets and data from Integrated Youth Support Service, contraception and sexual health, Oxford Radcliff Hospital termination of pregnancy service and child health data.

She reported that they had now extended the school nurse programme so that the service ran in Banbury and Oxford during the summer holidays and that the service included a weekday text or phone line for young people to ask for help and that this was being used successfully.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families reported that the action plan was having a positive effect and that the future rate would go down even more. Oxford remained well below national average and resources had been targeted for hotspots in Banbury and Oxford. Focus now needed to be shifted to local market towns. She welcomed the excellent partnership working between the County Council and Health Authority.

The Committee then conducted a question and answer session. A selection of the Committee's questions, together with Ms Russell's responses, is listed below:

- Are there any statistics on situations where teenage pregnancies occur. Has there been any impact as a result of "last orders".

We examine attitudes of young people before and after watching 'last orders'. Young People have come away understanding the relationship between alcohol and sexual health. The data has been scrutinised by Brooks working with Years 9 and 10. We expect to see result within 2 to 3 years.

The situation where teenage pregnancies occur are in areas of deprivation; homeless young men and in youth with behavioural problems. We have indication that there is a link between attendance problems and a strong decline in contraception. This is assessed by conception rates and take up by young people of services.

- Could we have a section on young people with learning difficulties/special needs?
- Will the intervention kit be launched in Banbury as well as Oxford?

Yes, the intervention kit will be rolled out into Banbury following the 4 months pilot in Oxford.

The Committee thanked Ms Russell for her presentation and requested a further report back to its Meeting in April.

90/10 SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (Agenda No. 8)

The Committee AGREED to defer consideration of this item to the next Meeting of the Committee to allow for further work to be carried out on clarifying the recommendations.

91/10 YOUTH CENTRES ADMITTANCE POLICY (Agenda No. 9)

The Committee received an update from Mr Roger Edwards, Policy & Performance on the joint working with the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee on this issue.

He reported that a management report on current policy and procedure for the admittance of youth to youth centres was due to be produced in the next week and that he was seeking members for a working group to examine the report and give advice as to the suitability of current practice.

The Committee AGREED to nominate Councillors N. Turner, D. Sexon and V. Smith to the Working Group set up by Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee to examine Youth Centres Admittance Policy.

92/10 WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11
(Agenda No. 10)

The Committee considered a copy of the timetable, tabled at the meeting, for the work programme for 2010/11.

The Committee agreed the work programme attached at Annex 1 to the Minutes (amendments shown in bold italics).

93/10 FORWARD PLAN
(Agenda No. 11)

The Committee identified no items from the current Forward Plan on which it wished to have an opportunity to offer advice to the Cabinet before any decision was taken.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2010/2011

Topic	28 September 2010	09 November 2010	16 February 2011	April 2011 meeting	July 2011 meeting
Children's Trust	Update on the present situation following the Government scrapping of some of the statutory requirements for Children's Trusts			Update (Contact - Sarah Breton)	
Teenage Conception	Update on the latest data and Q&A			Update - to include numbers of pregnancies resulting in a birth, terminations and 2nd pregnancies. Also what work is done with young males, education in schools and pregnancies for young people with learning difficulties. (Contact - Clare Dodwell)	
Educational Attainment	Consideration of the working groups recommendations	Further consideration of the working group's recommendations (Contact - Sally Taylor)			
Service and Resource Planning	Director's update	Director's update			
Safeguarding children		Presentation and Q&A from Jim Livers			
Anti-Bullying			Update on the latest data and Q&A (Contact Jo Brown) Postponed from November - see email 7/10)		
Youth Centres			Recommendations to the Committee from the Working Group (Contact - Tan Lea)		
Changes in Schools - Free Schools			Presentation and Q&A from Officers		
Special Schools			Presentation and Q&A		
NEETs				NEETs Seminar (Part 2)	
Science in Schools					Discussion with members of the local science community
EDAS Restructure					Presentation and Q&A

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Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Presentation

**Directors Presentation
28th September**

**Meera Spillett, Director for Children,
Young People and Families**

Working for you

Overview of Presentation

- An overview of our statutory responsibilities & meeting children's needs
- Snapshot of facts about our children
- How we are funded & how our budget is organised
- The challenges ahead:
 - What they are and how we are meeting them
 - How we are seizing the opportunities

Working for you



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COUNTY COUNCIL
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Extensive Range of Statutory

Responsibilities

- Education & Learning
- Childcare & Statutory education sufficiency
- Information, Advice & Guidance
- Family Support and Children in Need
- Improve the well being of children
- Promote and safeguard the welfare of children
- Assess the needs of specific groups: carers, privately fostered children, disabled children...

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What we want for our CYP

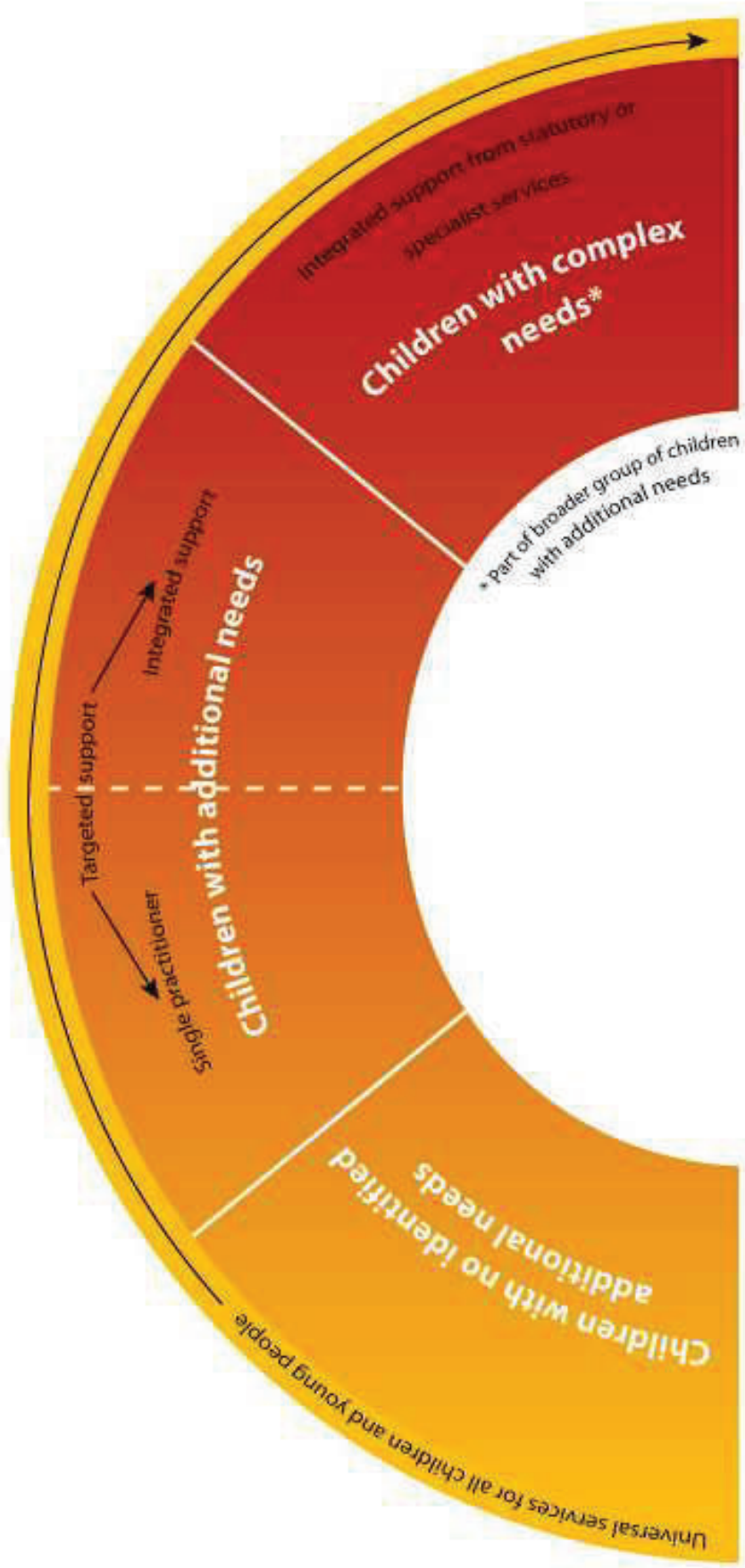
- Enjoy good physical and mental health
- Protected from discrimination, harm and neglect
- Break free from the cycle of deprivation
- Enjoy educational success
- Grow up able to look after themselves with high aspirations & expectations
- Make a positive contribution to the local community
- Enjoy equality of opportunity and access

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Meeting Children's Needs



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Key Facts Snapshot: How Many CYP...

- 1/4 of our population under 19 = **155,000**
- 8,000 children aged 3/4 EY entitlements
- 84,000 in our Schools daily
- 7,200 children in PVI Schools
- 8,000 children eligible for FSM
- 16,000 children have a SEN – School Action/School Action+ or Statement
 - 800 Disabled children
- 7,000 children with English as an Additional Language
- 3,000 children with social care needs
- 347 Child Protection Plans
- 461 Looked After Children
 - 50 of those in residential care
- Permanent exclusions ↓ 81 to 45
- Fixed term exclusions ↓ 4,020 to 3095
- 130 children receiving overnight respite packages

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Served By:

- 291 Schools
- Over 4000 Governors
- 23% of our 226 primary schools have < 100 children
- Over 30 Outstanding Schools
- 45 Children's Centres
- 344 EY settings offering nursery education
- 34 young people's centres
- 325 + foster carers (over 70 are family/friends)
- Around 30 adoptive carers recruited annually
- 1,500 fte across CYPF excluding Schools
- Youth Parliament
- Children, YP & parent/carer sounding Boards
- Children in Care Council

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Post Baby Peter – Increased Demand

- ADCS Research 105 LA's – snapshot of our figures Dec 2008 & Dec 2009

– Initial contacts up by 32%	3,156 from 2,382
– referrals up 14%	1,304 from 1,147
– S.47 up 97%	191 from 97
– Initial Assessments up 23%	
– Case Conferences up 61%	111 from 69
– Child Protection Plans up 40%	311 from 222
– Looked After Children up 17%	

Working for you

Directorate Budget

- Revenue budget **£581m (Gross)**
- Capital programme **£345m (over 5 years)**
 - OCC capital programme over £570m
- Over £27m revenue funding from Area Based Grants & Specific Grants
- Schools receive over £400m of this funding ring fenced direct to them
- Another £27m in the centrally held Dedicated Schools Grant

Breakdown of £581m ABC

A. £433m Passported B. Core Funding (£129m)

- £377m Schools
 - £41m Colleges
 - £13m PVI (EY)
 - £2m Income by S4S
1. £29m DSG (Central)
 2. £14m Specific Grants*
 3. £9m Income generation*
 4. £13m ABG*
 5. £64m funded from Council Tax & Revenue Support Grant

C. £19m Central Recharges

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£129m how it breaks down

Social Care including Safeguarding	£37m
Youth Services/Connexions	£9m
Youth Offending Services	£4m
CWD/SEN/Inclusion Support & Services	£30m
School Transport – statutory element	£17m
School Improvement/ Admissions	£11m
Children Centres & Other EY	£11m
Teachers Early Retirement (historic costs)	£3m
Play, Involvement & Participation	£1m
Other i.e ICT/Performance/ Commissioning..	£6m

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Financial Challenges

- Existing savings in MTFP this year of £7.8m
- In year reductions £2.3m (revenue) £3m (capital – so far)
- Service & Resource Planning assumptions - £52m over next four years (takes existing MTFP and potential reductions to come)
- Protection of DSG will influence proportion of savings required

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Policy Drivers

- Academies, Free Schools – autonomy for Heads
- Full disclosure of SCRs
- NHS white papers
- Munro SW review
- Early Intervention Commission
- Children’s Trust arrangements
- Select Committees & reviews:
 - Youth unemployment
 - Role of Ofsted
 - Behaviour & discipline in School
 - SEN
 - Commissioning...
- Place based budgeting
- Poverty

Unique Position: Cross Government

- Structural Reform Plans • **MoJ:**
- **DfE:** • Public law proceedings
- Schools & role of LA • Private law proceedings
- Heads as commissioners • Youth offending
- Children's Social Care • **DoH:**
- **DWP:** • NHS reform
- Early intervention • GPs as commissioners
- Benefits • **DoT:**
- **CLG:** • School transport
- Place based budgeting • ...
- Housing & development

Working for you

Snapshot of Consultations

- Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- School Funding & Finance : Pupil Premium
- Review of Children’s Commissioner office
- Fostering, Children’s Homes, Adoption regulations
- Role of Ofsted
- Youth unemployment
- Tickell Review Early Years Foundation Stage
- DoH – NHS White Paper, Equity & Excellence, Kennedy Review, LDD, Carers, Aids, NHS outcomes framework...
- Allen Early Intervention Review

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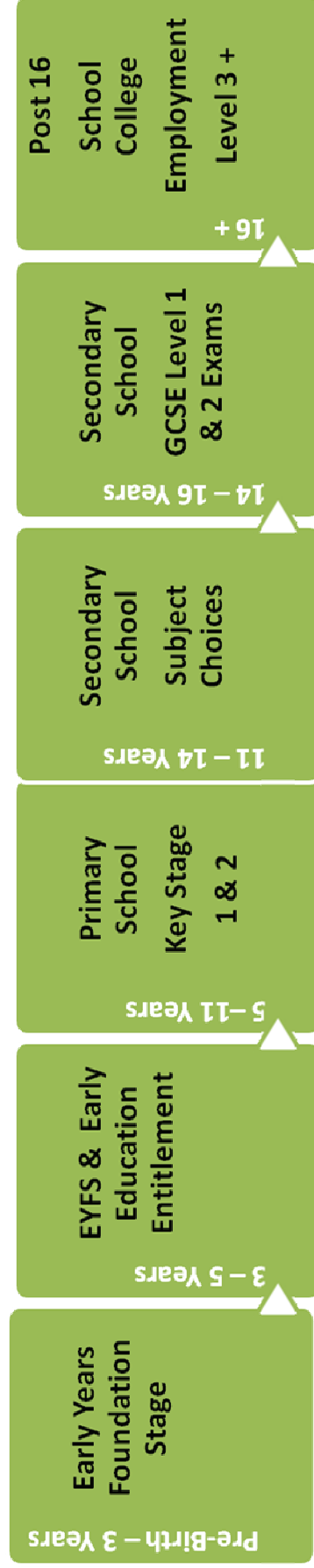
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Our Approach

- Reviewing statutory responsibilities & how we meet them
- Removal of ring fences, grants finishing provides challenges but opportunity
- Multi-disciplinary: Multi-agency working together – sharing assets & integrated teams
- Support to our most vulnerable children

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Business Strategy - Re-Shaping the Directorate



- Evidence based – Research on what works
- Policy changes to support reshaping
- Balance across the three R's

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The Three R's



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Summary

- Challenging time ahead – statutory requirements complex and extensive
- Looking at how we can reshape services to take out significant cost
- Keep a balance on our 3 R's
- Talking with staff, partners and our children, young people & families

Questions?

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Reform of Children's Trusts

**Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead and Head of
Joint Commissioning
Oxfordshire County Council and PCT**

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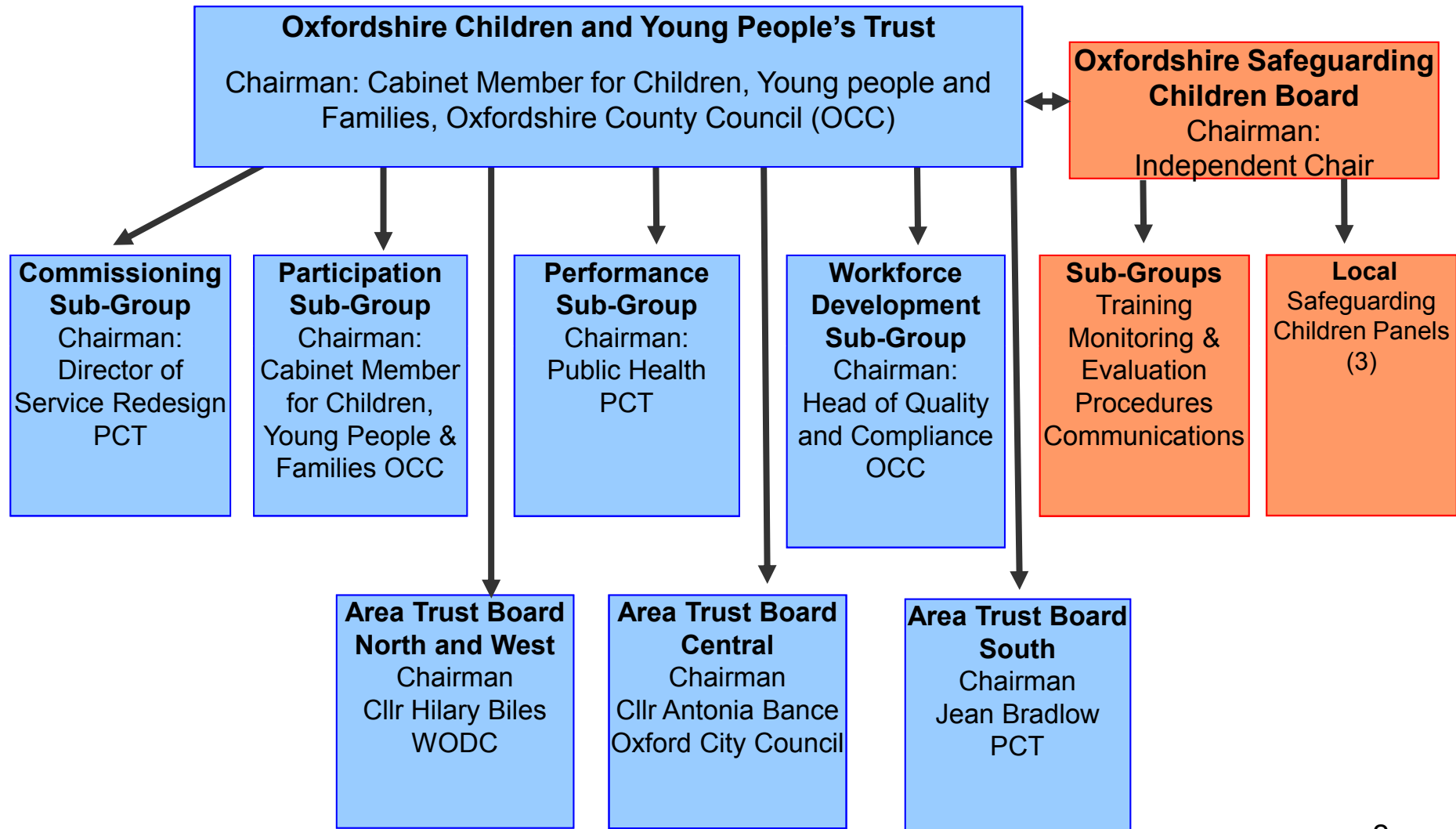


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OCYPT – Structure (1 September 2010)

Page 30



Government reform of Children's Trusts

(22nd July)

- ✓ **The government intends to remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts (via Education Bill)**
- ✓ **It will remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards**
- ✓ **It will remove the requirement for the Boards to prepare and publish a CYPP**
- ✓ **Regulations underpinning the CYPP will be revoked**
- ✓ **Statutory guidance on Children's Trusts will be withdrawn in the autumn**

What does this mean?

- ✓ **Government clearly supporting effective partnerships: reform not removal**
- ✓ **The basic duty to co-operate will continue but the list of statutory partners will be reviewed**
- ✓ **There will be a wider programme of measures affecting schools in the autumn**
- ✓ **Although the new CYPP will no longer be required, local areas can decide if, how and when a Plan is agreed and what it should contain**

“Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS” (July 2010)

- **Better patient information and choice “*No decision about me without me*”.**
- **More unified approach to social care, health care and health improvement for more coherent and co-ordinated local commissioning eg mental health, children’s services.**
- **Spending to increase in real terms but still need to achieve efficiency gains of £20 billion by 2014 in part by reducing management costs by 45 per cent over the next four years.**
- **SHAs and PCTs will be abolished by 2013.**
- **GP Commissioning Consortia will be established.**
- **National Commissioning Board will be accountable body (and will commission directly some services e.g. maternity).**
- **Local and national HealthWatch groups (borne from LINKs) will safeguard patient interests.**

What this means for the Children's Trust

- ✓ **PCT responsibilities for health improvement will transfer to local authorities**
- ✓ **A new Public Health Service will be created and Directors of Public Health will be jointly appointed with LAs**
- ✓ **New statutory arrangements within local authorities – established as *“health and wellbeing boards”***
- ✓ **Health and Wellbeing Boards will be responsible for:**
 - ✓ **Needs assessment and the JSNA**
 - ✓ **Promoting integration and partnership including joined up commissioning**
 - ✓ **Supporting joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements where this makes sense locally**
 - ✓ **Undertake a scrutiny role in terms of major service redesign**

Feedback from the OCYPT Board

- **Concern about the removal of school's duty to cooperate – need Children's Trust to 'hold the ring'.**
- **Fundamental changes to the landscape but needs of children and young people remain the same – Children's Trust to continue raising profile of needs.**
- **Existing mechanisms for getting involvement of children and parents need to be protected in the transition to new arrangements.**
- **There is a need to 'keep the foot on the accelerator' in terms of work already underway and Children's Trust needs to maintain 'strategic overview'.**
- **Trust members need to be involved in the establishment of future arrangements.**

Way forward

- **Maintain existing Trust Board to provide leadership and strategic overview to priorities for children and young people.**
- **Members to collaborate from own organisational perspective to champion the agenda for children and young people.**
- **Exploit the opportunities offered through the proposed new structures (Health and Wellbeing Board) to ensure children and young people are actively represented.**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 9 NOVEMBER 2010

**Children's Scrutiny - Educational Attainment Working Group
Select Committee on Educational Attainment
29 June 2010, Oxfordshire County Council**

Introduction

1. The Children's Scrutiny Educational Attainment working group concluded this year's work on primary educational attainment with a Select Committee on the 29th June 2010.
2. Prior to this the working group had visited 16 schools across the County and the information gathered pointed to three main areas of activity to be covered on the day. These were: Children's Centres, Improving the School Environment and Collaborative working.
3. Within these three main headings there were a number of subsidiary areas of interest and these are set out below:

4. Children's centres

- i. Improving intake for reception – including expanding outreach
- ii. Increasing the free child placements take-up by 3-5 year old children
- iii. Better links between Children's Centres and Schools

5. Improvements in the school environment

- i. Addressing behavioural issues
- ii. Improving teacher performance – including policies to remove under performing teachers.

6. Collaborative working

- i. Developing greater regional working relations across Oxfordshire partnerships
- ii. Supporting staff development through brokering a service to schools
- iii. Improving communication between OCC and schools

7. Evidence was taken from:

- Annie Davy – Strategic Lead for Early Learning and Childcare
- Amanda Powell – Interim Strategic Lead, Children's Centres, Childcare and Parenting Development
- Sally Taylor – Head of Northern Area and Raising Achievement,
- Andrew Butler – Strategic HR Business Partner, Shared Services
- Jean Creagh – Service Manager Schools' HR, Shared Services
- Sharon Fleming – Service Manager, Communication and Performance

The Working Group would wish to express their thanks to all of the above.

Background to the working group's conclusions

8. The Working Group considered carefully the information provided. It became clear that, while it cannot be denied that there are poorly performing schools and teachers in Oxfordshire, these are a relatively small proportion of the whole (8 schools out of 290 are deemed “inadequate” by Ofsted).
9. However there are a large number of “satisfactory” schools. This is the third level in Ofsted evaluation below “good” and “outstanding”. Therefore it was agreed that it would be more beneficial for the improvement of educational attainment if the Council was to concentrate on improving the many “satisfactory” schools.
10. It was considered that, by focussing upon lifting and improving the many “satisfactory” schools to the levels of “good” and/or “outstanding”, overall educational attainment in primary schools would be improved. Furthermore the quality of teachers’ work would also benefit.
11. It is recommended that this improvement should be pursued through three strands:
 - i. Best practise sharing and collaborative working
 - ii. Staff development of “Satisfactory teachers” to “Outstanding teachers”
 - iii. Governors playing a key role in driving improvements in “Satisfactory” schools
12. The outcomes and **recommendations** from the Select Committee’s discussions are outlined below in the following synopsis of the information gathered. **It is proposed that agreed recommendations should be sent to the Cabinet Member for School Improvement and the Director of Children, Young People and Families for implementation. A review should take place in November 2011 to evaluate progress on improvement.**

MOVING BEYOND “SATISFACTORY”

Best practise sharing and collaborative working

13. Improving educational attainment has to be a co-operative effort. Better links between Oxfordshire County Council, Children’s Centres, schools and parents are essential if educational attainment is to continue to be improved.
14. Federations and other partnership solutions facilitate the transfer of excellence and enable the extension of the reach of the best leaders, governors and schools. The working group is of the opinion that there should be a speeding up of the development of federations and in particular those where excellent schools could clearly be in a position to extend knowledge to other schools not performing at the same level.
15. However it is recognised that face to face contact is not always necessary and the use of technology is a very efficient way of disseminating best practice.

16. Members of the working group were pleased to recognise the development of Children's Centres across the County. Children's Centres are for children under five and their families, and offer a variety of services that families may need to make the most of life's opportunities, whatever their background or circumstances. The centres act as a central point where families with children under 5 years old can find a wide variety of activities, play, information and support from professionals. These professionals team up to share information and work together to the benefit of Oxfordshire's children.
17. The centres are situated throughout the County and include activities such as:
- play times for children
 - advice, support and learning opportunities for parents & carers
 - health services such as antenatal classes
 - a place to meet people and make friends
18. Early learning and links to local schools and out of school activities help ease children into school and provide them with a good start to education that knocks on into the quality of outcomes for the schools. Staff in children's centres know the local area and are aware of the more vulnerable children. Such knowledge should enable them to liaise with local schools to raise their awareness of which children might need extra support.

The working group makes the following recommendations:

- I. Greater encouragement of the use of federations to enable their further and faster development. Members would wish to see evidence of such development in a review in twelve months time**
- II. New technology, in particular the Oxfordshire Learning Platform, should be further developed. This could also include:**
- III. Interactive conversations via modern media that are now used as part of everyday life such as Twitter, blogs, podcasts and an interactive helpline with a colleague supported Q&A feature**
- IV. A case study library for new ideas and inspiration**
- V. The new County Council Customer Service Centre should be used to avoid confusion when contacting the Council**
- VI. Children's centres are already beginning to have an impact on attainment and parents should be encouraged to use the Centres**
- VII. Links between Children's Centres and the local NHS should be improved further**
- VIII. Children's centres should be linked with other partners in a more creative way. For example, schools and children's centres should consider joint management arrangements. Closer links to the community and local schools should**

continue to be developed to for example include shared outdoors facilities.

- IX. Children's Centres should develop links to the community to make the most of local expertise, such as on housing, benefits etc.
- X. Children's Centre staff should actively participate in and support the transition to school of vulnerable children known to the local Centre
- XI. A timescale should be developed for the Children, Young People and Families directorate to analyse the impact of Children's Centre attendance on Key Stage 1 pupils

Staff development of "Satisfactory teachers" to "Outstanding teachers"

- 19. For schools to move beyond "Satisfactory" the quality of teaching is of paramount importance. Oxfordshire is blessed with many excellent teachers but, as with any organisation, there are also those who are less than excellent. Some will never be good enough and procedures exist that enable such teachers to be removed. While it is recognised that the process for the removal of under-performing teachers is difficult policies must be enacted to ensure that this happens.
- 20. However, probably more importantly, there is a need to develop those teachers who are operating at an average or "satisfactory" level to ensure that they are able to improve as individuals and thus contribute to the improvement of their school. In order for this to happen, teachers must be supported in developing 'outstanding' skills.

Therefore it is recommended that:

- I. A personal development scheme should be designed specifically to boost "Satisfactory" teachers
- II. Teachers who are considering becoming head teachers should be supported through an emerging leaders programme
- III. Very good and average teachers should be paired and work shadowing should be encouraged
- IV. Support for federation building should continue and include specific actions to address teacher development

Governors playing a key role in driving improvements in "Satisfactory" schools

- 21. Governors have a key responsibility to support the school in driving its performance forward. The information provided to governors by Oxfordshire County Council states that the main task for governing bodies is, "to promote high standards of educational achievement". They are expected to ask questions and contribute opinions and they should be aware that "satisfactory" is not good enough.
- 22. In order to do that governors must be provided with full information that enables them to have the ability to question headteachers and others.

They should also be made fully aware that support is available to them to support them in questioning.

23. Those governors in “satisfactory” schools should be given opportunities to visit excellent schools and speak to fellow governors from such schools in order to draw upon their experience. Without knowledge they will be unable to effectively question and help drive improvement.

It is therefore recommended that governors should:

- I. Be provided with the necessary information and support to enable them to challenge the perception that “Satisfactory” is good enough**
- II. Be made aware that the aim should be to have a dynamic school and that a “cosy” school atmosphere, while being nice, is not good enough**
- III. Be provided with the necessary technology to enable them to learn and share best practise**
- IV. Be provided with opportunities to visit excellent schools and speak to fellow governors**

1 November 2010

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Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2010/2011

Topic	28 September 2010	09 November 2010	16 February 2011	April 2011 meeting	July 2011 meeting
Children's Trust	Update on the present situation following the Government scrapping of some of the statutory requirements for Children's Trusts			Update (Contact - Sarah Breton)	
Teenage Conception	Update on the latest data and Q&A			Update - to include numbers of pregnancies resulting in a birth, terminations and 2nd pregnancies. Also what work is done with young males, education in schools and pregnancies for young people with learning difficulties. (Contact - Clare Dodwell)	
Educational Attainment	Consideration of the working groups recommendations	Further consideration of the working group's recommendations (Contact - Sally Taylor)			
Service and Resource Planning	Director's update	Director's update			
Safeguarding children		Presentation and Q&A from Jim Lievers			
Anti-Bullying			Update on the latest data and Q&A (Contact Jo Brown) Postponed from November - see email 7/10)		
Youth Centres			Recommendations to the Committee from the Working Group (Contact - Tan Lea)		
Changes in Schools - Free Schools			Presentation and Q&A from Officers		
Special Schools			Presentation and Q&A		
NEETs				NEETs Seminar (Part 2)	
Science in Schools					Discussion with members of the local science community
EDAS Restructure					Presentation and Q&A

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