

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 November 2011 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.00pm.

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair

Councillor Dave Sexon (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Janet Godden  
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan  
Councillor Marilyn Badcock  
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor  
Councillor Don Seale  
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner  
Councillor Michael Waine  
Councillor Liz Brighouse OBE

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Melinda Tilley

**Co-opted Members:** Mrs Sue Matthew

**By Invitation:** Carole Thomson  
Brenda Williams

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting      Jan Paine  
                                 Jim Leivers  
                                 Lisa Michelson

Part of meeting

*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.*

### **161/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS** (Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Cllr Hutchinson who was replaced by Cllr Brighouse. Apologies were also received from Cllr Owen and Chris Bevan.

**162/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE**

(Agenda No. 2)

Cllr Brighthouse - Director of Oxford Learning...a Community Interest Company

**163/11 MINUTES**

(Agenda No. 3)

Carole Thomson and Brenda Williams were in attendance.

Committee members asked about a requested report of the distribution of child protection across schools to come back to the committee. This was agreed to be tabled at the next meeting.

**164/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda No. 4)

There were no speakers or petitions.

**165/11 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 5)

The Director's Update was presented by both the Deputy Director, Children's Services – Education and Early Intervention, Jan Paine as well as Jim Leivers, Deputy Director – Children and Families.

Jim Leivers (JL) began speaking to slides in a presentation on current financial directorate position. He reported that the directorate is on track to deliver the savings as agreed.

Discussion followed around the impact these savings were having on the service outcomes. It was agreed that the budget meeting in December would have a focus on understanding the impact of implemented financial decisions as well as the impact of the current proposals.

Jan Paine (JP) delivered a presentation on the recent educational attainment results. She mentioned that there would be a more detailed results discussion taking place for all councillors on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

While the foundation results were improved from the prior year, the results for the other examinations were more disappointing. Particularly, the data seemed to indicate that as a group, Free School Meals students seem to have lost pace with the improvement that all groups have seen in recent years and that other groups continued to see this year.

The committee discussed that the foundation successes could be at least partly attributed to council's deliberate focus on the early years and the impact that initiatives like children's centres may be making. There were also questions as to how the pupil premium financing structure was playing into the resources available to disadvantaged students at schools. Additionally questions were asked around the relative success that the council's statistical neighbours have had in the latest results. Specifically, what pressures Oxfordshire may face that others apparently do not might be.

Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, Cllr Melinda Tilley joined the discussion to inform the committee about the imminent Education Strategy due to begin consultation in the upcoming week. She invited the committee to participate in the consultation and to support in what she hoped would be a community-wide effort to improve education for the county.

The Committee agreed to champion the strategy and decided to take up the resulting consultation and strategy roll-out as part of its work programme. Provisionally, this would be a review to take place after the next set of exam results in the autumn 2012.

#### **166/11 KS1 REPORT FINALISATION AND NEXT STEPS**

(Agenda No. 6)

Jan Paine reported that the recommendations put forward in the KS1 report have already been endorsed by officers in the directorate and have been factored into the newly written Education Strategy.

A few final changes were put forward to the report. Roger Edwards, Scrutiny Officer, and author of the report, agreed to incorporate those, and Jan Paine assured the committee that these would also be fed through to the Education Strategy.

#### **167/11 EQUALITY DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 7)

Jan Paine gave a presentation on the recent directorate restructure of the early intervention service.

The committee discussed that this new structure was compatible with other changes to the directorate way of working through linking with hubs. The streamlined team will provide support across the community.

#### **168/11 WORK PROGRAMME REFRESH**

(Agenda No. 8)

The committee discussed the draft work programme refresh and several items were added. A discussion followed around whether the timeliness of some of the items

meant that an extraordinary meeting should be scheduled for January, prior to final budget decisions.

The committee determined they would like an additional meeting scheduled in January and the proposed changes to the work programme can be seen in the attached revised schedule.

It was also agreed that Lisa Michelson would circulate a copy of the revised Anti-Bullying Strategy to the committee. This strategy is currently out for consultation.

**169/11 FORWARD PLAN**  
(Agenda No. 9)

**170/11 CLOSE OF MEETING**  
(Agenda No. 10)

The Meeting finished at 1.00

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....