

Notice of a Meeting

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 18 May 2011 at 10.00 am County Hall

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Dave Sexon

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| <i>Councillors:</i> | Janet Godden | M. Altaf-Khan | Don Seale |
| | Neil Owen | Marilyn Badcock | Val Smith |
| | Alyas Ahmed | Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor | Nicholas P. Turner |

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| <i>Co-optees:</i> | Mr Chris Bevan | Mrs Sue Matthew |
| | 2 Vacancies | |

Notes:

Date of next meeting: 12 July 2011

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:

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| Chairman | - | Councillor Ann Bonner E.Mail: ann.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk |
| Committee Officer | - | <i>Roger Edwards</i> , Tel: (01865) 810824 roger.edwards@oxfordshire.gov.uk |



Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

May 2011

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 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2011 and to note for information any matters arising from them.

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

5. **Director's Update**

10.15

A regular update by the Director of Children, Education and Families. This time the update will cover:

- Outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services
- Update on organisational redesign

The Committee is invited to receive the presentation which will be followed by a question & answer session.

6. **Teenage Pregnancy strategy - an update** (Pages 7 - 14)

10.45

The Committee last received a report on this topic in September 2010. Following that discussion a further update was requested for this meeting. Members asked that the update should include general information on teenage pregnancies as well as specific information on numbers of pregnancies resulting in birth, those resulting in termination and how many are second pregnancies. Also what work is done with young males, education in schools and pregnancies for young women who have learning difficulties.

Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning and Clare Dodwell, Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator will present the attached report (**CH6**). This will be followed by a question and answer session.

7. **Child Poverty Needs Assessment** (Pages 15 - 20)

11.15

There is a Government requirement for all local authorities and named partners to work together to understand what needs to be done to tackle child poverty and to develop a coordinated and comprehensive Child Poverty Strategy. As part of the work to address child poverty the County Council is preparing an assessment of the needs of children

living in poverty in its area.

Nationally, leadership is being provided by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit, and the Oxfordshire Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator, a joint appointment with Public Health, is leading the work locally on producing a Child Poverty Needs Assessment (CPNA).

At this meeting members will receive a short briefing paper on the CPNA and a presentation on the emerging findings. The Committees views will be sought at this early stage in the process on what they would wish to see as the priorities for action.

Clare Dodwell, Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator and Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning will present the attached paper (**CH7**).

8. Outdoor Learning Centres Business Plan (Pages 21 - 26)

11.45

As part of the Children, Education and Families Business Strategy to achieve the significant savings required by the 2011/12 spending review it is planned that Outdoor Education Learning Centres would move to become self financing. At the December 2010 Budget meeting members of the Committee asked to be given an opportunity to scrutinise the business plan for Outdoor Learning Centres at some time in spring 2011.

The service began implementation of its 5 year plan in 2010-11. The key element of working towards becoming self-financing is to increase income by both maximising the use of the Centres and trading services which are not provided elsewhere locally.

At the time of the discussions on budgets towards the end of last year, members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee expressed an interest in knowing more about the proposals for the Outdoor Centres. Members were particularly interested in knowing what the service is likely to look like in the future and whether extending the service to a wider group would affect the use that local children could make of the centres.

Charlotte Christie, the manager of the Outdoor Learning Service, will explain the plans for the future to the Committee. A report is attached (**CH8**).

9. The Oxfordshire Music Service (Pages 27 - 30)

12.15

The Oxfordshire Music Service provides music teaching support to schools, as well as instrumental and vocal tuition to children and adults, and opportunities for making music together.

As part of this service there is instrumental tuition in schools, weekly instrumental, vocal, performing arts and music theory groups, youth orchestras, activities and courses during the school holidays, ensembles for adult musicians, Saturday afternoon workshops and an instrument purchase scheme.

At the time of the December 2010 Budget meeting it was believed that Government grant funding for the music service might cease. However this did not happen and the funding has continued prior to recommendations of a national review of the provision of music services in schools. The review could lead to a new national funding formula for music education.

Tony Mealings, Head of Oxfordshire County Music Service, will speak to the Committee about the future of the service and how the Music Service focuses on and engages with less advantaged young people. A paper is attached describing the activities of the Music Service (**CH9**).

10. Forward Plan

12.35

The Chairman will propose that the following should be added to the future work programme:

- Looked After Children; attainment in English and Maths

11. Information Share

12.45

The Chairman will update the Committee on a number of issues including:

- i. From Care 2 Work Quality Mark
- ii. The position on issues for concern identified by Committee at the December Budget meeting
- iii. KS1 Select Committee on July 5
- iv. Junior Citizens' programme – visit to Rewley Road Fire Station

13.00 Close of Meeting

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.