

Notice of a Meeting

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 28 September 2010 at 10.00 am County Hall

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Dave Sexon

<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

<i>Co-optees:</i>	Mr Chris Bevan	Mrs Sue Matthew	Mrs Galina Kildyusho va
	1 Vacancy		

Notes:

Date of next meeting: 9 November 2010

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

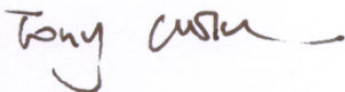
- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service

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



Tony Cloke
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

September 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 10 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 - 12)**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13 July and 31 August 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**

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.

REVIEW WORK

To take evidence, receive progress updates and consider tracking reports

- 6. Children's Trust**

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

The Director will give a presentation updating the Committee on recent announcements.

The Committee is invited to receive a presentation from the Director.

7. Teenage Pregnancy in Oxfordshire (Pages 13 - 18)

Contact: Lucy Russel, Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator tel: (01865) 815162

To receive a paper that updates members on the latest position and outlines actions that have been taken based on the current 2009-10 action plan.

8. Select Committee on Educational Attainment (Pages 19 - 20)

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 are set out in the attached briefing paper at CH8.

The Committee is asked to consider and approve the recommendations.

9. Youth Centres Admittance Policy

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

To receive an update on the joint working with the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee and to consider formal nominations to a Working group.

The Committee is asked to note progress and to make nominations as appropriate.

BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

10. Work Programme 2010/11

Schedule to follow.

11. Forward Plan

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.

1.10 pm 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.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13 July 2010 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.50 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair
Councillor Neil Owen
Councillor Alyas Ahmed
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan
Councillor Marilyn Badcock
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor Dave Sexon
Councillor Val Smith
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner
Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Waine

Co-opted Members: Mrs Sue Matthew

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

Officers:
Whole of meeting Ms S Taylor and Ms J Paine (Children, Young People & Families), Ms L Michelson and Ms M Holyman (Corporate Core)

Part of meeting
Agenda Item 6 Officers Attending
Mr I Watson (Children, Young People & Families)
7 Ms I Vale (Children, Young People & Families) and Mr N Wood (Chair of SACRE)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with the following additional documents:

Timetable for the Work Programme 2009/2010

Further Information on the Oxfordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Data on Permanent Exclusions 2005/06 to 2009/10

and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda, reports and additional documents are attached to the signed Minutes.

74/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Seale (for whom Councillor Hallchurch substituted), Mr C Bevan and Mrs Galina Kildyushova

The Committee was advised that, on the agenda, the Deputy Chairman should read "Councillor Dave Sexon" and not "Councillor Neil Owen".

75/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor N Turner declared a personal interest:

- (a) in all the items on the agenda which included reference to the North Oxfordshire Academy as he was a member of the governing body of the North Oxfordshire Academy;
- (b) in item 6 (Permanent Exclusions) as he was Chairman of the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury;
- (c) in item 8 (Work Programme) as he ran a youth group where young people played golf and was also a trustee of Hanwell Fields Community Centre.

Councillor Mrs Fitzgerald O'Connor declared a personal interest in item 5 (Update on the Select Committee on Educational Attainment) as a trustee of the Oxfordshire Play Association.

Councillor Hallchurch declared a personal interest in item 8 (Work Programme 2010/11) as he was Secretary of the Oxfordshire Institute of Directors and also owned a company based at the Oxford Science Park as Magdalen College and its Science Park were mentioned during the discussion on "Linking the Science Community to County Schools".

76/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 May 2010 were approved and signed.

On Minute 66/10 (Director for Children, Young People & Families – Update), the Committee was advised that all members (except Councillor Waine who was responsible for agreeing the admissions policy) could accompany appellants to hearings of school admission appeals.

77/10 UPDATE ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

(Agenda No. 5)

Councillor Bonner reported that the Select Committee had discussed:

- whether schools suffering from the “cosy” syndrome could be encouraged to achieve more
- the development of federations where schools shared headteachers
- the use of children’s centres by parents and local communities
- the impact on performance of children attending children’s centres
- challenging the complacency of schools about being “good enough”.

The following comments were made:

- early years mattered
- learning patterns of young children were set by age 3 but could be changed
- it was better if children were not having to catch up but were ready to learn when they started school and intervention might be necessary to ensure this
- children learnt basic social skills and to play together in children’s centres
- children’s centres needed to be more welcoming
- a parent pack would be useful for parents so that they knew which skills their children should have by certain ages
- important for parents to be involved in their children’s education
- governing bodies should be enabled to challenge and to encourage their schools to strive for higher attainment
- all governing bodies have curriculum working groups where data on achievement could be reviewed
- development of staff was important to encourage them to believe in excellence for their pupils every day
- for some children, English was not their first language which could create some additional challenges
- pupils might not have a permanent home and might move house frequently within the City and consequently have to keep changing schools
- important for governors to undertake training: however, governors might not take up opportunities for training but it had to be recognised that they were volunteers.

Ms Taylor commented that getting the foundation stage right was important for the long-term investment in a child’s education. Three children’s centres had been rated as “outstanding” by Ofsted this year. Provision of early years’ services was variable across the County and if the centres which had been rated as “outstanding” shared their best practice with the other centres, it could help the latter to improve. There had been much development of children’s centres and early years’ provision and support was available to help children learn to read and play. Parenting classes were also available in children’s centres. Support might be needed for some pupils in their transition from early years to primary schools to secondary schools to sixth forms to higher education. “Satisfactory” was not good enough and the Children, Young People & Families’ Directorate continued to challenge schools and to advise them what they needed to do to achieve “good” or “outstanding”. Governing bodies needed to make the right decisions on leadership of the school even if this meant that they had to wait longer until they recruited the right candidate. The two federations were bringing benefits to the schools by sharing headteachers, leadership teams and resources enabling them to develop quality provision and opportunities for staff. There were other examples of mobile populations, for example, armed forces’

families. It was important to ensure that, for all pupils who changed schools, the systems were in place to send their records quickly to their new schools.

Ms Paine referred to research undertaken by Warwick University into children's learning up to the age of 3 at children's centres which had shown that children learnt a great deal from their parents, including by mirroring them. She talked about the importance of all the agencies working with families.

Councillor Waine reported that all local authority governors were sent correspondence twice a year outlining the authority's policies and their links to government policies. He added that it was difficult for governors to challenge schools but some governors were prepared to do this. He reported that there would be reductions in school improvement partners (SIPs) and area-based grants. Not all schools used SIPs as well as they should. He was concerned how the 20% of schools which had not taken part in Key Stage 2 tests would be able to judge their school's development without external assessment.

It was AGREED to thank the review group for its work and to ask the Corporate Performance and Review Officer to report to the meeting of the Committee in September 2010 with recommendations arising from the discussion by the Select Committee on 29 June and the discussion by the Scrutiny Committee at this meeting.

78/10 PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS

(Agenda No. 6)

Ms Paine and Mr Watson made a presentation to the Committee. Data on permanent exclusions 2005/06 to 2009/10 was circulated at the meeting. A copy of the presentation slides and data on permanent exclusions 2005/06 to 2009/10 is appended to the signed copy of the minutes.

Mr Watson updated the figures for permanent exclusions in 2009/10 on the presentation slide where "44" should read "45": he added that, for comparison, West Berkshire Council had had 4 permanent exclusions and Cambridgeshire County Council had had 124 and some authorities fast-tracked pupils to referral units instead of excluding pupils permanently. He drew the Committee's attention to the data which showed that currently one in three exclusions were female pupils but in the past it had been one in four and that the number of exclusions due to persistent disruptive behaviour had reduced from 33 last year to 12 this year and due to verbal abuse – adult from 16 to 2 in the same period. Schools were now more community-focused providing breakfast clubs and other facilities which had helped to improve attendance. Training had been provided to help teachers deal more safely with pupils who were getting into conflict situations. He highlighted that projects were now in place to improve pupils' skills and motivation for learning. Pupils who had been excluded were more likely not to be in education, employment or training. Ms Paine added that teams working with children and families on behavioural issues had helped to reduce the number of exclusions and that attendance at school by children who had offended had improved significantly and the Youth Offending Service was helping children not to reoffend. Mr Watson confirmed that there would be funding next year for the Back On-Track project based at venues across the county including

at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury and officers were considering options for keeping the project running.

Members asked if data on exclusions could be made available to governors for benchmarking their school's performance to assist with monitoring.

It was AGREED to welcome progress in reducing the number of permanent exclusions.

79/10 THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Agenda No. 7)

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Wood (Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)) and Ms Vale (Religious Education (RE) Adviser). Ms Vale said that RE was the only subject to be determined locally. Oxfordshire had an Agreed Syllabus from Foundation Stage to post-16. By the end of Key Stage 3, all pupils had studied six major world religions. In addition, there was the opportunity to look at no religion's responses to different topics. All schools offered GCSE and attainment was in line with the national average. All education authorities were required to have a SACRE. SACRE set the RE curriculum and monitored its effectiveness. It met three times a year.

Mr Wood reported that members of SACRE were volunteers. He thanked Ms Vale who was retiring this year for her professional advice. SACRE had a statutory obligation to review the syllabus every five years. It monitored national developments/guidelines and took account of these when assessing how far Oxfordshire's syllabus conformed with them. It had an on-going programme of work, including producing an annual report. It met in public and its minutes were on the Council's website. Schools were requested to send information to SACRE and the Advisory Council supported teachers.

Members expressed concern that there was a shortage of RE specialist teachers locally. Ms Vale reported that nationally there was a shortage.

Ms Taylor thanked Ms Vale for her work on RE and sent her best wishes for her retirement.

A copy of information about SACRE was circulated at the meeting (copy of which is appended to the signed copy of the minutes).

It was AGREED that the Director for Children, Young People & Families should be advised that the Committee considered RE to have an important role in the curriculum and to endorse thanks to Isobel Vale for her work on RE.

80/10 WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 (Agenda No. 8)

The Committee considered a report (CH8) and a copy of the timetable for the work programme for 2009/10.

CH3

It was AGREED to make the following comments on the suggested topics and to consider the work programme and priorities at the September meeting:

Project	Comment
Linking the Science Community to County Schools	To include in the work programme scheduled for the spring.
Youth Centres	To form a joint Working Group with the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider admission policy to youth centres.
Children's Trust	Councillors Godden and Sexon to attend the Strategy & Partnerships Select Committee item on the Children's Trust on 22 July 2010 and report to the next Children's Scrutiny Committee.
Young People and Employment or Education	To hold a seminar in Spring 2011 to further the conversation in reducing the number of young people not in full-time education, employment or training.
Anti-Bullying	To ask officers to update on the service strategy development as well as the latest performance data as part of the work programme.
Safeguarding	To ask officers for a briefing to the Committee on recent changes to safeguarding arrangements and the implications for the Council with a Q&A.
Development of 'Free Schools'	To ask officers to report to the Committee on the recent proposed changes for schools' governance and funding and their possible implications for the Council with a Q&A.
Teenage Conception	To ask officers to report to the September or November meeting on the latest data with a Q&A.
Traveller Children and other Children who may switch schools frequently	To ask for an update following the proposed restructuring of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service. This update would be scheduled in the work programme for the spring of 2011 with a Q&A.
Behaviour in Schools	Councillors Ahmed, Bonner, Owen, Sexon and N Turner to visit the North Oxfordshire Academy with Sally Taylor and Councillor Waine on 24 September 2010 and to report their findings to the Committee.
Admission to Special Schools (Suggested by Councillor Bonner)	To ask officers to report on the admission policy for pupils attending

	special schools with a Q&A.
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81/10 FORWARD PLAN

(Agenda No. 9)

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

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 31 August 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.05 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Don Seale – in the Chair

Councillor M. Altaf-Khan
Councillor Marilyn Badcock
Councillor Norman Bolster (for Councillor Alyas Ahmed)
Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE (for Councillor Val Smith)
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Jean Fooks (for Councillor Janet Godden)
Councillor A.M. Lovatt (for Councillor Nicholas P. Turner)
Councillor Neil Owen
Councillor Melinda Tilley (for Councillor David Sexon)
Councillor Carol Viney (for Councillor Ann Bonner)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Michael Waine (for Agenda Item 4)

Co-opted Members: Mr Chris Bevan

By Invitation: Ms. Brenda Williams, COTO

Officers:

Whole of meeting Director of Children, Young people & Families, R. Leach (School Organisation & Planning), L. Michelson & S. Whitehead (Chief Executives)

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 and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes.

82/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies and temporary appointments were received as follows:

Name	Temporary Appointment
Councillor Alyas Ahmed	Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Ann Bonner	Councillor Carol Viney

Councillor Janet Godden	Councillor Jean Fooks
Councillor Dave Sexon	Councillor Melinda Tilley
Councillors Val Smith	Councillor Liz Brighthouse
Councillor Nicholas P Turner	Councillor Sandy Lovatt
Mrs Sue Matthew	

83/10 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE
(Agenda No. 3)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed:

Speaker	Item
Councillor Larry Sanders, local Member Frank Newhofer, local resident Fazal Hussain, Chairman of the Central Oxford Mosque Society	4. Call in of Decision of the cabinet – Oxford School.

Councillor Larry Sanders spoke in support of the call in highlighting that the decision was taken when the schools were closed and at a time when education policy was in a state of change. He explored the reasons for the poor results that included socio economic factors in East Oxford and the influx of mid year admissions many of whom were asylum seekers. He referred to the hard work of the school to raise standards and commented that he did not believe that a change to academy status would change the situation. There was an opportunity now to allow the local schools to work together.

Mr Frank Newhofer spoke in support of the call on the grounds that there had been insufficient consideration given to strategic outcomes and the possibility of collaboration between local schools. He commented on the new Education Act and the withdrawal of Building Schools for the Future funding. He questioned the success of existing academies and highlighted the local opposition to the proposals. He felt that the decision should be deferred to allow discussion to take place with all of Oxford City’s secondary schools.

Mr Frank Hussain speaking in support of the call in stated that the mosques had not been consulted and represented up to 5,000 people in the catchment area of the school. The Central Oxford Mosque ran voluntary after school clubs providing help to under achieving pupils. Oxford School was the only secondary school without religious ties and the academy proposals removed this option.

Responding to questions Mr Hussain gave some background on the working of the voluntary classes.

84/10 CALL IN OF DECISION BY THE CABINET - OXFORD SCHOOL - AUGUST 2010
(Agenda No. 4)

The Scrutiny Committee had before it the report of the Director for Children, Young people & Families to cabinet on 10 August together with the draft minutes of that meeting.

Councillor Fooks spoke in support of point 1 of the call in. She referred to a meeting she had attended with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education where he had indicated that it was possible to have confederations covering several schools. The situation had changed with a new government and the opportunity should be taken to look at all possibilities.

Councillor Michael Waine, Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, responded to questions:

1. From Councillor Carol Viney – He confirmed that the move to an academy status did not preclude later discussion about federation. The Director for Children, Young People & Families, responding to a question from the Chairman undertook to advise head teachers that they would be able to pursue any collaboration proposals with the new academy. Councillor Waine added that there was already collaboration between local schools.
2. From Councillor Melinda Tilley – He commented that the schools had broken up for the summer at the end of the consultation period. He added that it was a myth that schools closed down in the summer.

During discussion the following points were made:

1. There were ongoing discussions about collaboration that were wider than the curriculum and the 14-19 agenda. There was a value in the role of the LA and the involvement of local communities. A concern was expressed that once the academy was in place there would not be a level playing field. Oxford City was unique with a rich mix across class and ethnic boundaries and it was right to try and put together the patchwork of education across the City.
2. It was suggested that a different model of education could affect the ability of schools to confederate. Councillor Waine replied that if there was a wish to confederate the consultation could have been a vehicle to raise that. Discussions could still take place.
3. A member queried how much of the non delegated schools budget had been lost with the other academies.

Councillor Fooks spoke in support of point 2 of the call in. She highlighted that there was uncertainty over future financial arrangements. The Building Schools for the Future funding was gone and she feared that the Council was rushing into a decision before the funding available was known.

Councillor Michael Waine, Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, responded to questions:

1. From Councillor Neil Owen – He confirmed that there was concern around the capital funding but that there was a clear undertaking from government to discuss the position. The premise had been very much based on the transformation of the school from within so he felt that the spending review was a red herring. Roy Leach added

that potentially, in the event of a delay, initial funding could be at risk. There was no capital guarantee with the new academy model. He confirmed that revenue funding would be based on the number of places rather than the numbers on roll.

2. From Councillor Sandy Lovatt – Councillor Waine outlined the timetable for moving forward on the proposals that had necessitated the decision during August. He also referred to the wish of Council as expressed at a Council meeting to avoid further delays and uncertainty.

During discussion the following points were made:

1. Concern was expressed that insufficient time was allocated for discussion with the unions. COTO were against academies and despite extensive consultation there were still issues surrounding the existing academies.

2. Some members expressed the view that it would be better to await the outcome of the government spending review.

3. Concern was expressed that there was no guarantee of the capital funding and in particular funding for the science block.

On a show of hands it was:

RESOLVED: to:

(a) (by 8 votes to 3) take no further action on point 1 of the call in because the Committee found no material concerns and agreed not to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration; and

(b) (by 7 votes to 4) take no further action on point 2 of the call in because the Committee found no material concerns and agreed not to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

.....

Division(s): All

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN OXFORDSHIRE

Report by Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning

Background

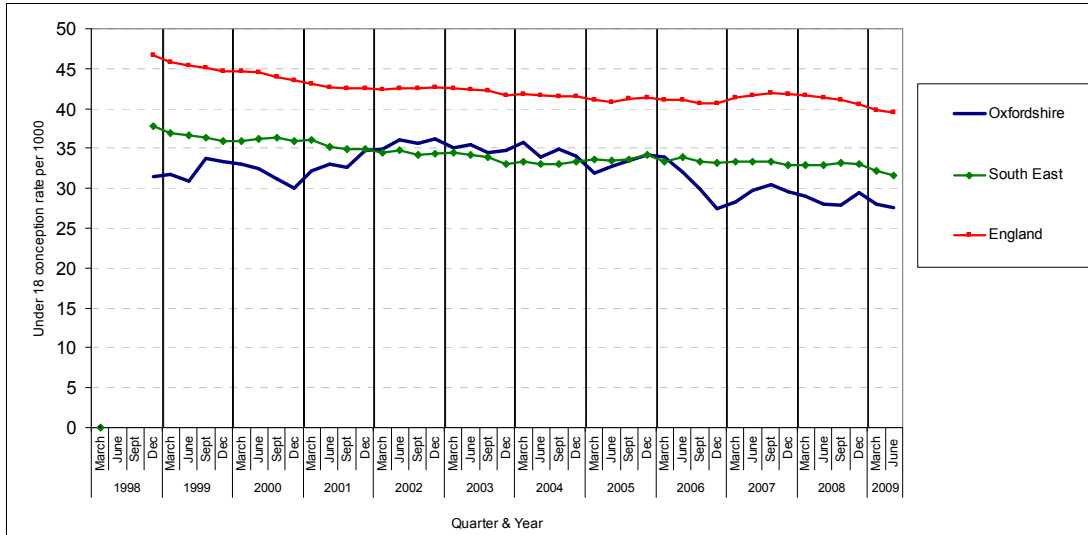
1. In March 2009 the Children's Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the findings of the Confidential Inquiry into teenage conceptions in Oxfordshire held in July 2008. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee examined the teenage pregnancy strategy and action plan again in July 2009 and a Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Sub Group (TPSG) was established to look in-depth at the matter.
2. In the autumn of 2009 the Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator presented the TPSG with a data assessment of Oxfordshire's teenage pregnancy strategy delivery. This assessment identified both strengths and weaknesses in the delivery of the strategy. An action plan was created to tackle the gaps in current delivery and to ensure progress on the targets. The TPSG contributed to this action plan.
3. The action plan identified a number of key areas for action:
 - Governance and strategy
 - Communications
 - Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE)
 - Workforce development
 - Targeted interventions
 - Supporting parents
 - Supporting young mothers and reducing second teenage conceptions
4. This paper updates members on the latest position and outlines actions that have been taken based on the current 2009-10 action plan.

The Latest Picture

5. In February 2010 we confirmed the under 18 conception rate for 2008. This was positive news with a slight decline from 29.6 per thousand in 2007 to 29.5 per thousand in 2008. We now have teenage conception figures up to the second quarter of 2009. These statistics (provisional data) show there was a decrease in the rate of conceptions (April-June) compared to Q2 2008. The rolling quarterly average for Oxfordshire Q2 2009 was 27.6 per 1000 women aged 15 – 17 yrs, a fall of 2.82% from 28.4 per 1000 at the same time the previous year. Across the South East the rate of Under 18 conceptions fell by 6.4% from Q2 2008. Nationally the rate of under-18 conceptions was 40.1 per 1000 girls aged 15-17 – 3.6% lower than the rate of 41.6 for Q2 2008.

6. This is a promising decline and indicates 2009 rates are moving in the right direction. We do bear in mind that rates will fluctuate over each year so it is not yet possible to judge whether we will see an overall decrease for 2009.

Oxfordshire’s under 18 conception rate in comparison to England and the South East region



7. Oxfordshire’s under 18 conception rate compares favourable to the national rate. However, the focal point of the Oxfordshire strategy has always been that certain areas of deprivation, in particular Oxford City and Banbury, have rates well above the national rate and over three times the countywide rate. Such geographical differences indicate the need to target our resources at the most vulnerable young people.
8. It is also important to note that Oxfordshire’s rate for young mothers aged 16-19 in education, employment or training (EET) has significantly improved. In July 2009 it was 19.28% and in July 2010 it had increased to 32.18%. This success is a clear indication of partnership working as part of the teenage pregnancy strategy.

Progress on Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan

9. **Governance and strategy**
 - A Task and Finish group was established to ensure accountability for actions and monitor progress. It is chaired by the Assistant Director of Public Health and attendees represent a wide range of services. The group has met five times this year. It has completed a number of tasks and identified particular areas that need continued focus.
 - We now produce regular performance data reports covering national data sets and data from Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS), Contraception and Sexual health (C&SH), Oxford Radcliff Hospital termination of pregnancy service and Child Health Data.

10. Communications

- We have established a teenage pregnancy communications strategy sub group bringing together the Primary Care Trust (PCT), Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Community Health Oxfordshire (CHO).
- We have created a teenage pregnancy communications strategy and key messages which have been agreed across communication teams

11. Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

- We have continued the new enhanced specification for support to Sex and Relationships Education with the Healthy Oxfordshire Schools Team. It is targeted at the six secondary schools that sit in Oxford and Banbury. We have also supported the delivery of an education programme called 'Last Orders' which links alcohol abuse and sexual health through an interactive play and a series of workshops.
- We have commissioned Oxfordshire Association for Young People to run peer education groups in four schools addressing knowledge, self esteem and healthy relationships.

12. Workforce development

- We have conducted a training needs assessment of staff working with young people and produced a report summarising the various training provision offered across OCC, the PCT and CHO around risk taking behaviours for young people. We plan to design a new training programme that links risk taking behaviours ready for delivery in 2011.
- We continue to deliver sexual health training to a wide range of professionals. In addition to this we have organised training/workshops on working with young men, supporting young parents to apply for childcare funding, young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, young fathers, accredited education for young parents, communicating with young people and addressing sexual health and alcohol together.

13. Targeted interventions

- We have been working closely with IYSS to create an IYSS teenage pregnancy strategy. We have built up our network of IYSS sexual health links to include Connexions and Youth Offending Service.
- We have extended the School Health Nurse programme so that the service runs in Banbury and Oxford during the summer holidays. The service is called 'Shade' and covers all aspects of health including mental health, diet and sexual health according to young people's needs. The service includes a weekday text or phone line and drop- in sessions. The drops-ins have been delivered in partnership with IYSS.
- We have worked closely with Meadowbrook to train their staff in sexual health skills. We are now working closely with HOST to deliver a development program to improve staff skills around sexual health.
- We have worked with C&SH to roll out a contraception and sexual health outreach nurse. This nurse successfully reaches an average caseload of 100 young women per quarter and is able to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable young women in the county.

- We have run two successful publicity campaigns, one with the Chlamydia screening team, to promote uptake of the condom card scheme and sexual health services.
- We have commissioned C&SH to establish a nurse led health service for Oxford and Cherwell Valley College. The service began in March 2010 and by the end of term had already seen 203 students, the majority of whom wanted contraception support.
- We have ensured the new commissioning strategy for terminations of pregnancy includes provision of contraception and is linked to targeted C&SH provision for women aged under 18 years. We will continue to monitor the progress of the service through the Task and Finish group.
- We are developing an 'Early Intervention' toolkit to help professionals identify and work with those young people most vulnerable to a teenage conception. This evidence based model will be launched mid autumn in a pilot in Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill and Lye Valley.

14. **Supporting parents**

- We have trained a team of parent support practitioners in the 'Speakeasy' programme. This programme will run for parents to help them talk to their children about sexual health and relationships.

15. **Supporting young mothers and reducing second teenage conceptions**

- Oxfordshire is a Wave 3 pilot site for the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme. We successfully launched the programme in December 2009 and have now recruited a full staff team. A strong steering group has led the programme. The nurses have so far recruited 77 young mothers aged under 20 years, all of whom are offered an intensive programme of evidence based interventions, lasting until their child is two years old. The programme has also been very successful at engaging young fathers and other family members.
- The "Young Mums to Be" course offers accredited learning specifically designed for young parents. Over 30 young mothers are enrolled at present. The course educates young women about pregnancy and birth, mother and child health, development and bonding, sexual health and it encourages a return to EET.
- We have established a 'Supporting young parents' network to build partnership working and information sharing. The network meets quarterly and a countywide conference, attended by over 100 participants, was held in March 2010.
- The Task and Finish group has driven forward the creation of a midwifery care pathway for teenage parents. We have also established a protocol that all under 18 mothers will have a CAF completed on them and a 'Team Around the Child' meeting to include midwifery, Connexions, Children's Centres and Health Visitors. Training for midwives and children's centres is being rolled out this autumn.

Conclusion

16. We have made significant progress this year in improving services and delivering the teenage pregnancy strategy. This can now be seen in the reduction of teenage conceptions and the increase in young parents in EET. However, there is no room for complacency. Both under 18 conception figures and EET take up are still disproportionately poor for the most vulnerable young people in the most deprived parts of Oxfordshire. The improvements we have seen are a result of excellent partnership working and a sustained and focussed effort. This level of continued effort will be required if we are to continue to see positive results.

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Background Papers: Nil

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September 2010

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY - EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT WORKING GROUP

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 29 JUNE 2010, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Introduction

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 are outlined below.

Moving beyond "Satisfactory"

The Select Committee clarified that a key area for developing educational attainment in primary education in Oxfordshire is to improve the many "satisfactory" schools and through this the quality of teachers' work. The select committee found that it would not be advisable to limit the focus to the few poorly performing schools and teachers, as these reflect a relatively small proportion of the overall picture. To improve educational attainment in primary education the focus should instead be on lifting and improving the many "satisfactory" schools to reach "good" and "outstanding" levels. It is recommended this improvement is pursued by three strands:

Best practise sharing and collaborative working

Better links between Oxfordshire County Council, Children's Centres, schools and parents are essential. Specifically, it is recommended that:

- The use of federations is developed further
- New technology, in particular the Oxfordshire Learning Platform, should be further developed. This could include:
 - o Interactive conversations via media such as Twitter, blogs, podcasts and an interactive helpline with a colleague supported Q&A feature
 - o A case study library for new ideas and inspiration
- The new County Council Customer Service Centre be used to avoid confusion when contacting the Council
- Children's Centres are already beginning to have an impact on attainment and parents should be encouraged to use the Centres
- Links between Children's Centres and the Health Service are improved further

- Children's Centres are linked with other partners in a more creative way. 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.
- Children's Centres should develop links to the community to make the most of local expertise, such as on housing, benefits etc.
- Children's Centre staff should actively participate in and support the transition to school of vulnerable children known to the local Centre.
- 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"

For schools to move beyond "Satisfactory", teachers must be supported in developing 'outstanding' skills. It is recommended that:

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

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

Governors have a key responsibility to support the school in driving its performance forward. It is therefore recommended that:

- Governors challenge the perception that "Satisfactory" is good enough
- Governors ensure the aim is to have a dynamic not a "cosy" school atmosphere
- Governors use the new technology available to learn and share best practise

September 2010