

## Notice of a Meeting

### Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 16 February 2011 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 Galina Kildyushova	Mrs Sue Matthew
	2 Vacancies		

#### Notes:

**Date of next meeting: 18 May 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:

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



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

February 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 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 9 November 2010 (**CH3a**) and 20 December 2010 (**CH3b**) 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

5. **Service and Resource Planning**

10.15

An overview of the services provided by the Children's Services Directorate and the challenges which will need to be addressed in the future (**CH5**).

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

6. **Budget meeting 20 December 2010** (Pages 11 - 12)

10.45

A short item to remind members of what was agreed at the budget meeting in December 2010 and what was consequently added to the work programme. A paper setting out what was agreed is attached (**CH6**).

### REVIEW WORK

To take evidence, receive progress updates and consider tracking reports

7. **Anti-Bullying Strategy - update** (Pages 13 - 14)

11.00

In February 2010 the Committee was addressed by the Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator and colleagues who were about to review the anti-bullying strategy with the County Council's multi-agency partners. The Committee made a number of comments and recommendations which were set out in a letter to the Director. A copy of the letter is attached for information (**CH7**).

The Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, Jo Brown, and colleagues will present a paper (to follow) and bring the Committee up to date on the strategy. Members will be able to see how their comments have been taken into account in the strategy and ask questions.

Members of the Committee will then be invited to comment on what they have heard and, if they wish, to forward any comments to the Director for Children, Young People & Families.

## **8. Free Schools** (Pages 15 - 20)

**12.00**

Under the Government's plans for schools it will be much easier for charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers and groups of parents to start new schools. In addition the government plans to increase the number of academy schools by allowing all schools judged to be outstanding to become academies.

The attached paper (**CH8**) explains the latest position in Oxfordshire. A representative of CYP&F will attend the meeting to answer questions and bring members up to date on any further developments.

## **BUSINESS PLANNING**

### **To consider future work items for the Committee**

## **9. Educational Attainment at Key Stage 1- proposal for a select committee review** (Pages 21 - 24)

**12.30**

The Chairman will propose that the Committee should undertake a review of attainment throughout Oxfordshire at Key Stage 1. Creighton Muirhead, Joint Interim Head of the Raising Achievement Service, will present the information contained in the attached paper (**CH9**).

**Members should then decide whether they wish to undertake a select committee style review and agree a possible date in July.**

## **10. Youth Centres Admittance Policy** (Pages 25 - 34)

**12.45**

In September the Committee agreed to nominate members to participate in a joint working group with members from the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee that would consider a management report on current policy and procedure for the admittance of young people to youth centres. This followed on from concerns that had arisen following an incident at The Sweatbox in Wantage. The members nominated by this committee were Councillors Nicholas Turner, Dave Sexon and Val Smith.

The management report was published in November 2010 and is attached (**CH10a**). The working group met in December with the officers responsible for youth centres in Oxfordshire. A short paper comprising the notes of that meeting and identifying the main issues raised by the working group is also attached (**CH10b**).

Members of the working group **AGREED** that, having reviewed the procedures they

would recommend that they should be endorsed.

**Members are requested to AGREE the recommendation of the working group.**

## **11. Forward Plan**

**12.55**

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.

## **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.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 November 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 Neil Owen  
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 Louise Chapman

**Co-opted Members:** Mr Chris Bevan  
Mrs Sue Matthew

**By Invitation:** Mrs Carole Thomson (Oxfordshire Governors' Association)  
Ms Brenda Williams (COTO)

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting Mr Roger Edwards and Mrs Deborah Miller (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting Mr Jim Leivers , Ms Karen Palmer, Ms Penny Browne (Children, Young People & Families)

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **94/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE**

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Nick Turner declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 6 by virtue of his position as the person responsible for safeguarding of children at his place of employment (Drayton Leisure).

**95/10 MINUTES**  
(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 2010 were approved and signed.

**96/10 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING**  
(Agenda No. 5)

The Director for Children, Young People & Families reported that she had attended the National Children and Adult Services; shaping the present, building the future Conference held in Manchester in November. The National Children and Adult Services Conference was an established event that saw an audience of approximately 1200 high-level attendees coming together for three days to discuss and debate the latest issues affecting children and adult services. The 2010 conference was held in Manchester at the newly revamped Manchester Central.

This year's programme included a mix of keynote/ministerial addresses and other significant plenary sessions by key players in adult and children's services. There was also the opportunity to take part in a variety of participatory breakouts and networking sessions. Key speakers at the conference included Sarah Teather MP, Tim Loughton MP, Andrew Lansley, Michael Gove, Sir David Nicholson and Professor Eileen Munro.

She reported on the Key messages coming out of the conference as follows:

**DfE Vision**

- We are committed to transforming our education system so all children, regardless of their background, thrive and prosper.
- For parents to have more high quality schools to choose from, more opportunities to open new schools, and more opportunities to get involved in the running of existing schools.
- To replace top-down targets and a culture of inspection with more transparent arrangement and a focus on underperformance.
- To support those who work in our schools and children's services.
- Where government has a role to play, we will empower families and ensure that all children are protected from harm and neglect.

**Schools**

- The process for identifying underperforming schools to convert to academy status and the process for allowing all schools to convert are scheduled to begin in Dec 2010;
- Guaranteed Unit of Funding for Schools will be introduced in 2011
- New floor standards - these will apply from January 2011;
- Education Endowment Fund to which Schools and LAs can apply to support Schools to improve both their levels of attainment and the progress they make with their pupils;
- Proposals for University Technical Colleges will be progressed by March 2011, with the aim of opening the first such technical college in Sept 2011;



- Future revenue funding arrangements for schools will be contained in the Schools White Paper and are likely to include a National Schools single formula;
- Reading tests at age 6 will be piloted from June 2011;
- Plans to improve apprenticeships will be published by March 2011 to begin by Sept 2011;
- Reform to inspection of schools by Dec 2011;
- Proposals to improve teacher training and CPD will be published by Dec 2010;
- Proposals on teachers' pay and performance management relations will be presented in 2011-12.

### **Social Care & Social Work**

- New standards for the employers of social workers will be developed for May 2011, and for social workers by Sept 2011.
- Reform to inspection of local authorities is expected to be implemented by May 2012.
- Details of the early intervention grant will be included in the local government settlement in December 2010.
- The number of families "going through" evidence based early intervention programmes (to be identified through Allen Review) will be published in Dec 2011.
- Streamlined regs, guidance and min standards for fostering, children's homes and adoption will be published in April 2011.
- There will be support for LAs to roll out evidence based practice for foster care in 20 sites.

### **Youth Work**

- DfE takes responsibility for the National Citizenship Service from 2013. In Oxfordshire we are a partner in the successful bid by V the National Youth Volunteers Service for the NCS pilot.
- There will be an independent review on commercialization and sexualisation of childhood from Dec 2010 until May 2011.

### **Early years**

- Pilots for extending the entitlement to free child care to two year olds will begin in April 2011.

As you will know, however, it isn't just the DfE that we need to look for to understand holistically the needs of children and policy initiatives from Central Government. Here are some of the other Departments and some key items from their Business Plans:

### **Department of Health**

- The first NHS outcome framework is due to be published in Dec 2010 and implemented by 2012;
- Proposals for pilots of new dentistry contracts with emphasis on children to begin in Dec 2010;

- There will be a cross government strategy on mental health and public mental health published in Dec 2010;
- A stand alone programme to increase access to talking therapies for CYP will be established in Sept 2011;
- The LA's role in public health will be described in the Public Health White Paper to be published in December. The Health Bill which will give LAs a role in public health is due to be published in Dec 2010;
- Shadow public health arrangements will be in place by April 2012, with budgets and powers being devolved from April 2013;
- Develop full implementation plan for additional health visitors, including details of:
  - numbers of health visitors needed to achieve a net increase of 4,200 above 2010 levels;
  - initiatives and incentives to drive return to practice;
  - plans to increase health visitor training places;
  - a new module for health visitors in practice and those in education to refresh/provide skills in building community capacity by November 2010- to be launched Jan 2011.

### **Department of Business, Innovation & Skills**

- Jointly with DfE (John Hayes) have announced an 'All age careers service' - "building on the best of Connexions and Next Steps".
- The government aims for the all age careers service to be in place by April 2012.

These are just a few and other departments like the Home Office have plans around ending detention of children for immigration purposes, the Ministry of Justice is taking forward the review of the Public Law outline commissioned as part of The Lord Laming Report and the Department of Communities and Local Government has announced a review of Local Authority funding to take place from January to July 2011.

We are expecting the White paper on Schools to be published on or by 26<sup>th</sup> November and that will have in it more about the role of our Local Authority.

Michael Gove when he spoke to directors went through how he saw our role:

- As Strategic Delivery Partners
- Champions of educational excellence – challenging individual schools to improve, encouraging great schools to share their expertise, putting underperforming schools on notice if they are not improving.
- Greater autonomy on for those leading both schools and local authorities.
- Able to develop their own plans to improve the quality of Early Years provision.
- A central role as guardians of social justice, ensuring admissions are fair.
- Essential role as providers of support for children with special educational needs.
- Ensure there is sufficient high-quality alternative provision.
- Along with the DfE focus shared attention on how to improve schools where:

- Attainment is low and pupils progress poorly;
- the most recent Ofsted judgment is that the school is eligible for intervention or is merely satisfactory (the latter is included to reflect wider issues in the school such as its capacity to improve, or in key areas such as leadership and governance) ;
- there is a record of low attainment over time – whether or not the most recent results have crossed a minimum threshold, we should be looking at whether the previous results indicate those increases are sustainable ;
- and pupils in secondary schools achieve poorly compared to schools with similar intakes.

The Director then gave a presentation to the Committee (a copy of the presentation is appended to these Minutes and to the signed copy of the Minutes) which provided further information on the financial challenges faced by the Directorate and in particular:

- existing savings in MTFP this year of £7.8m
- In year reductions £2.3 (Revenue) £3m (Capital – so far)
- Service & Resource Planning assumptions - £52m over next four years
- Protection of DSG will influence proportion of savings required

This would be met by reviewing statutory responsibilities and how they were met; the removal of ring fences and grants finishing; multi disciplinary: Multi-agency working together – sharing assets & integrated teams whilst supporting most vulnerable children.

Following the presentation, members made the following points:

- The Committee hoped that new arrangements would provide more transparency of very complex funding.
- The Committee hoped that grants would be “frozen” rather than stopped until better times.
- Director for Children, Young People & Families to send a copy of the Business Strategy once released.
- Director for Children, Young People & Families to send Mr Bevan further information regarding endowment fund in relation to voluntary schools.

The Committee thanked the Director for Children, Young People & Families for her presentation and requested a further briefing (to follow the Local Government Spending Review outcome) prior to the Budget Meeting on 20 December 2010.

## **97/10 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

(Agenda No. 6)

The Committee received a detailed presentation from Mr Jim Leivers, Head of Children’s Services, Ms Penny Browne, Assessment & Family support and Ms Karen Palmer, Area Service Manager C&F North on current safeguarding issues in

Oxfordshire. A copy of the presentation is appended to these Minutes and to the signed copy of the Minutes.

Following debate, the Chairman encouraged Members to take up the offer to spend time with assessment teams within their areas.

The Committee thanked the officers for their presentations and AGREED to ask officers to report back to the Committee at its May Meeting once budget implications were known.

**98/10 SELECT COMMITTEE OUTCOME ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**  
(Agenda No. 7)

The Committee had before them a report (CH7) which presented the findings of the Educational Attainment Working Group on primary educational attainment.

Following debate, Members of the committee made a number of minor suggestions which the Working Group agreed to take into account when finalising the report prior to the recommendations being sent to the Cabinet Member for School Improvement and the Director of Children, Young People & Families. Members further agreed to request an update on progress in November 2011.

**99/10 WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11**  
(Agenda No. 8)

The Committee AGREED the work programme attached at CH8, subject to adding the following item "Special schools and admission at nursery age" to a summer meeting.

**100/10 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 .....

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Monday, 20 December 2010 commencing at 3.00 pm and finishing at 5.00 pm

**Present:**

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

Councillor Dave Sexon (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Neil Owen  
Councillor Alyas Ahmed  
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan  
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor  
Councillor Don Seale  
Councillor Val Smith  
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner  
Mrs Galina Kildyushova  
Councillor Nick Carter (In place of Councillor Marilyn Badcock)  
Councillor Jean Fooks (In place of Councillor Janet Godden)

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Lynda Atkins  
Councillor Louise Chapman, Cabinet member for Children, Young People & Families  
Councillor Michael Waine, Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement

**Co-opted Members:** Mr Chris Bevan, Mrs Sue Matthew

**Officers:** Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer, Director for Children, Young People & Families, Director for Social & Community Services

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

### 101/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Janet Godden (Councillor Jean Fooks substituting), Councillor Marilyn Badcock (Councillor Nick Carter substituting) and Carole Thomson.

## **102/10 MINUTES**

(Agenda No. 3)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2010 be considered at the next meeting.

## **103/10 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda No. 4)

The following request to address the meeting had been agreed:

Item 5 - Councillor Linda Atkins

## **104/10 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12 - 2015/16**

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a report (**CH5**) containing the Business Strategies and savings proposed for their service areas.

The proposals for savings to the Children and Young People's (CYP&F) budgets were grouped and considered under four main headings:

- 1. Management Review (including business and administrative functions)**
- 2. Education (including School Improvement and national strategies)**
- 3. Communities (redesign of the Early Intervention Service)**
- 4. Social Care and Safeguarding**

In addition the Committee considered proposals for the Music Service.

Councillor Lynda Atkins expressed concerns in relation to the impact of proposals for youth services in respect of Wallingford. Public transport between Wallingford and Didcot was not easy with no buses in the evening or Sundays. There were also issues around the relationships between young people in Wallingford and Didcot. She feared that there was a band of young people who would not be reached by the proposals.

The Committee considered the savings proposals line by line and **agreed (by 10 votes to 3) to support in principle the proposals for CYP&F. They also supported the proposal for the Music Service.**

In giving their support, members stated that they would wish to be briefed regularly on the roll out of the Early Intervention Centres. In particular members were assured that there would be outreach support provided from the centres.

Further, members would wish to be part of any review that would consider charging families for respite care for disabled children. Members expressed a hope that this could be avoided if possible.

Finally, the committee would wish to monitor closely proposals for changes to the funding of the Equality and Diversity Achievement Service (EDAS) and to be given an

opportunity to scrutinise the business plan for Outdoor Centres at some time in spring 2011.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....

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CH6

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2011**

**Outcomes summary**  
**20 December 2010**  
**15.00 – 17.00**

Members of the public speaking to the Committee:

Councillor Lynda Atkins – Wallingford Youth centre

Summary of Committee discussion:

The proposals for savings to the Children and Young People's (CYP&F) budgets were grouped and considered under four main headings:

- 1. Management Review (including business and administrative functions)**
- 2. Education (including School Improvement and national strategies)**
- 3. Communities (redesign of the Early Intervention Service)**
- 4. Social Care and Safeguarding**

In addition the Committee considered proposals for the Music Service.

The Committee considered the savings proposals line by line and **agreed to support in principle the proposals for CYP&F. They also supported the proposal for the Music Service.**

In giving their support, members stated that they would wish to be briefed regularly on the roll out of the Early Intervention Centres. In particular members were assured that there would be outreach support provided from the centres.

Further, members would wish to be part of any review that would consider charging families for respite care for disabled children. Members expressed a hope that this could be avoided if possible.

Finally, the committee would wish to monitor closely proposals for changes to the funding of the Equality and Diversity Achievement Service (EDAS) and to be given an opportunity to scrutinise the business plan for Outdoor Centres at some time in spring 2011.

There was overall support for the proposals put forward – locality and partnership working were seen as key to the future provision of services covered by this committee's remit.

**Outcome: Proposals supported**

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Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
OXFORD, OX1 1ND

Telephone: 01865 792422  
Fax: 01865 726155

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

02 March 2010

Jo Brown, Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator  
Peter Wild, Strategic Lead - Inclusion

Children, Young People and Families Directorate  
County Hall  
New Road, Oxford  
OX1 1ND

Dear Ms. Brown and Mr. Wild,

We are writing to follow up on the question and answer session in which you participated at the last meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. At the meeting you explained that you and the Service Manager (Monitoring and Tracking) would be reviewing the anti-bullying strategy with multi-agency partners in the near future. During the meeting, members of the Committee made the following suggestions which we would like to see fed into the review:

**The Committee recognises that there are a number of multi-agency partners working hard in this area. They recommend that the following points be incorporated into the service strategy in order to promote effective joint working.**

- The Committee recommends that the Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator should be involved in the establishment and development of Safer Schools Partnerships, and that the Co-ordinator considers becoming involved in Safer Schools Partnerships Steering Group.
- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator further develop their links with Thames Valley Police, especially with regard to joint training.
- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator consider signposting schools to the support which other agencies can provide to tackle the underlying problems of children who bully.

**Much of the Committee's discussion centred on the crucial role which schools must play in tackling bullying. As such, the Committee would like to see the following points related to the Co-ordinator's work with schools reflected in the strategy.**

- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator should have due regard to the existing pressures on school staff time whilst developing its programme of work.
- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator should where possible pursue links with school councils.
- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator should encourage governing bodies to actively monitor both the bullying situation and the implementation of an anti-bullying strategy in their schools.
- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator examine alternative means of communicating with schools and teaching staff, so as to reduce reliance on its website.



**Representatives of Thames Valley Police present at the meeting contributed two pertinent points related to the collection and reporting of data. The Committee would like to see these points addressed.**

- The Committee suggests that the Co-ordinator should consider setting minimum standards for data sharing.
- The Committee suggests that the service should consider the issue of serial bullying and whether this can be tracked.

**Furthermore, there are a number of specific issues which the Committee would like the Co-ordinator to give consideration.**

- The Co-ordinator should consider developing clear guidance on bullying, focussing particularly on resilience to bullying, for circulation to parents. The service should consider ways they can encourage pupils to have empathy for others.
- The Co-ordinator should think about what sanctions schools can take against bullies, and advise schools on potential effectiveness.
- The Committee recommends that the Co-ordinator should recognise that the bullying of teachers remains an issue.

Finally, the Committee was of the opinion that working to tackle cyber-bullying should remain a priority.

We would appreciate the inclusion of these items into the forthcoming review of the anti-bullying strategy. We would also like you to appear before the Committee again in six months time to report back on the outcomes of the strategy review.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc:

Meera Spillet

Jan Paine

Rennie Thompson

Chief Inspector Lindsey Finch, TVP

Dave Parry, TVP

Cllr Michael Waine

Cllr Louise Chapman

Deborah Miller

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2011

### Members' briefing: Free Schools

#### Current Legislative Position/Role of the Local Authority (LA)

1. Sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 gives LAs duties to provide sufficient pupil places and sufficient schools to meet demand. It also has a duty to respond to parental representation.
2. LAs have the power to promote changes to maintained schools and hold competitions to determine who will run new schools. The LA will act as decision maker for any of these proposals except in particular circumstances when the role transfers to the independent Schools Adjudicator.

#### What will the role of the LA be in a 'mixed economy' of schools?

3. On 24 November 2010 the Government published its White paper 'The Importance of Teaching'. In the section on future role of LAs it is suggested that LAs will be expected to encourage good schools to expand and encourage Academies or Free Schools to meet demand, focusing on supplying enough good places rather than removing surplus places. Where a new school is needed the preference will be an Academy or Free School; the competition process for new schools will be simplified, and if LAs are unable to identify a suitable sponsor the Secretary of State will work with them to find one.

#### What are Free Schools?

4. Free Schools will be new schools set up by bodies other than LAs to provide state-funded independent education. They may be primary, secondary or special schools, but not nurseries. They represent the government's version of the Swedish Free Schools or the United States Charter Schools. DfE website states that 'Free Schools are all-ability schools set up in response to parental demand.'
5. The aim of Free Schools is to provide further diversity in school provision which will drive up standards and increase choice. They will be established under Academies legislation and as such will have the same freedoms and flexibilities:
  - Ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff
  - Freedom from following the National Curriculum **BUT** must be broad and balanced, include English and mathematics and science and National Curriculum assessments.
  - Greater control of their budget. **NOTE** Funding at the same levels as maintained schools and accounting procedures subject to Charity and Company law.
  - Freedom to change the length of terms and school days
  - Freedom from LA control
6. Given the complexity of setting up a new school it is not expected that there will be any Free Schools before September 2011 (*establishing a new school requires a*

*longer run-in time and hence the start date is different from existing schools converting to academies).*

7. Sixteen proposals were announced by DfE on 6 September 2010 and a further nine Free School applications were announced on 5 November 2010 which will go forward to business case and plan stage. It is unlikely that all these proposed schools will open by September 2011 largely due to issues associated with the identification of sites and buildings. Over 100 proposals have been submitted to DfE as at 8 October 2010. For information at 8 October 2010 there were 322 open academies. 140 outstanding schools have been approved to convert to Academies of which 55 are now open. 64 traditional academies replacing 'low attaining/performing' schools opened in September with a further 10 expected to open by April 2011.
8. An independent school can apply to become a Free School and become a state-funded independent school.
9. Maintained schools cannot become Free Schools. They can apply for Academy status, and thus gain the same freedoms.

### **Who can set them up?**

10. Free Schools will be set up by a wide range of proposers – including charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers and groups of parents – in response to parental demand, to improve choice and drive up standards for all young people, regardless of their background. Free Schools will provide an inclusive education to young people of all abilities, from all backgrounds, and will be clearly accountable for the outcomes they deliver. (DfE website article 4 August 2010).
11. Free Schools would be run as Academy Trusts, or where the proposer does not wish to have the responsibility for running them they would be governed by another approved provider (e.g. charities, education providers).

### **What are the criteria for establishing a Free School?**

12. The key criterion is the need to demonstrate that there is parental demand for a new school of the character being proposed. There is a need for 'evidence of robust demand', *but this is not quantified*.
13. The process for establishing a Free School has four stages.
14. Stage 1 – Prospective proposers are encouraged to find out about setting up a Free School, contacting the New Schools Network for information and guidance if necessary.
15. Stage 2 – Submit a proposal to outline key details of the proposed school. This is referred to as the initial business case. DfE officers have undertaken to inform authorities when an initial proposal is received. It will need to include the following information.
  - Name of organisation proposing school
  - Educational aims and objectives
    - reasons for establishing a Free School

- proposed ethos and teaching methods
  - Capacity and capability
  - Key individuals and proposed trustees
  - Any plans to work with third parties
  - Evidence of demand
  - Proposed capacity, age range, start date
  - Proposed premises (or options being considered)
16. Stage 3 – SoS invites proposer to put forward a full Business Case and LA and other interested/affected schools will be asked to comment on the likely impact of the proposed school. The Academies Act 2010 now requires the SoS to consider any possible negative impact on local schools. The Business Case and plan will need to contain the following:
- Suitability to establish/run a school (comply with vetting, due diligence, CRB and not advocating any ideologies that run counter to the UK's democratic values)
  - Clear educational aims and objectives and sufficient capacity to implement these (*proposers do not have to be existing educational providers but can draw on third-party expertise*)
  - Evidence of demand (robust demand, plus viable business plan)
  - Financial viability (business case and plan to demonstrate projected long-term viability for a minimum of 5 years)
  - Suitable premises (evidence that the proposer 'is actively seeking' a site for the new school, and high level costings for any planned changes)
  - Leadership and management (plans for putting in place strong and effective leadership)
  - Ability and willingness to meet the Independent School Standards
  - Ability to meet the funding agreement (about governance, grants, accounting, admissions, government test requirements)
17. Free Schools are expected to abide by the Admissions code: a fair and transparent policy and providing places for pupils of different abilities wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated. 'New schools who wish to prioritise by faith criteria may want to consider taking the established route to voluntary aided status' (DfE guidance).
18. The financial viability of the business case will be assessed by Partnership for Schools (PFS).
19. Capital funding for refurbishment of old buildings will be made available from the former Harnessing Technology Fund (£50m in 2010-11 school year) and the restarted Standards and Diversity Fund, although there is no indication of the sums available for an individual school beyond a statement about 'value for money'.
20. Space standards for schools are being revisited by a Capital Review group and are expected to reduce space standards for schools in the current DfE Building Bulletins by in the region of 15%. These standards are expected to be applied to maintained schools in future.
21. Stage 4 – Sign contract with the SoS to release start up funding. Complete registration processes necessary to become an academy.

## What are the implications for the local authority?

22. LA approval to establish a Free School is not required, but clearly there would be an impact on the LA's statutory responsibilities for planning school places. Where the LA currently can impose increases or decreases in school capacity in response to demand this would not apply to academies of any hue. Likewise they cannot intervene in relation to standards. The SoS has powers to intervene with regard to standards but so far the legislation is not specific on powers to change the agreed capacity and numbers of Academies. Clarification on this point will be essential.
23. LAs, as champions of parents in their area and champions of educational excellence, are encouraged to facilitate groups wanting to set up Free Schools.
24. Pupils excluded from Free Schools because of Special Education Needs would become the responsibility of the LA.
25. The role of the LA in challenging performance in schools is being debated. This role for academies is retained by the SoS under the standard funding agreement. At present the Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA) challenges non-performing academies on his or her behalf.
26. Planning requirements will be relaxed regarding change of use for sites for Free Schools: 'we will remove all unnecessary and burdensome regulations that get in the way of local communities securing sites for new schools. This will include allowing a wider range of sites to be used as schools without the need for 'change of use' consent'. *There is a presumption that existing, unoccupied schools, would be kept available for use by new schools (in Oxfordshire this would in theory mean Dashwood School, Banbury and the Moorland Centre, Witney although terms for the disposal of the former are agreed and ultimately unlikely to be affected by this proposal).*
27. Funding for Free Schools has yet to be determined. Free Schools will be funded on a comparable basis to other state-funded schools, and the guidance indicates that 'we intend the funding to be as simple as possible, based mainly on a per-pupil funding level, and a pupil premium for disadvantaged pupils' (DfE guidance). *This implies a single funding formula, unlike the existing formula for Academies which are funded using the individual LA's funding formula.*
28. The transport implications of Free Schools are still under discussion but as the law stands at present the LA will be responsible for providing free school transport to Free Schools for eligible pupils.
29. Free Schools would be subject to Ofsted inspections.
30. At a seminar on 8 October the Head of the Free Schools Group at the DfE summed up the role of the LA as market maker and provider of last resort.



## **Free Schools in Oxfordshire?**

31. Currently one bid has been put to the DfE at Heyford Park for a 3-16 school with 2 form entry primary and 4 form entry secondary provision. Further work on that bid has been requested before it is put to ministers for a decision on whether it will proceed to the Business Case stage. The LA has had a number of approaches from organisations and individuals who have expressed an interest in the provision of Free Schools. They will be invited to a meeting where the LA will outline the challenges and opportunities it faces against the backdrop of a rising school population in the county.

## **Capital Funding Implications**

32. If the proposal at Heyford Park were to be successful it would mark a precedent that a developer could bring forward plans for Free Schools using an approved provider to govern and manage the school. This could have implications for the successful/appropriate negotiation of S.106 contributions towards new schools. A positive outcome could be that the full cost of the school falls on the Free School provider and a potential shortfall in funding for a school procured by the LA could thus be resolved. Alternatively, if the proposal is of insufficient size or quality this could leave the LA with an educational gap to fill with no resources to fund this.

33. Free Schools which are not associated with new developments are expected to be funded from DfE allocations and their own resources.

Chris Scrivener 31.08.10

Updated by Allyson Milward, Service Manager School Organisation January 2011.

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## Key Stage 1 Attainment 2010 – Oxfordshire County Council

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide members of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee with some information to help them decide on whether to undertake a select committee review of Key Stage 1 attainment levels. There has been a lot of publicity around this subject, particularly with regard to attainment levels in the City. However it is not an issue that relates exclusively to the City and members may consider it to be more appropriate to consider the subject on a County-wide basis.

### Background information

2. Key Stage 1 results are based on Teacher Assessment not on standardised tests. In order to understand the context of the results there are three aspects that need to be taken into account for each cohort as they move from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Key Stage 1 and then onto Key Stage 2.
  - i. Catchment in Oxford City is not purely on District/Borough Council boundaries; therefore using purely Oxford City Council boundaries will not reflect the pupils who attend schools. The pressure on school places in Oxford City and its environs is significant (both in and out of Oxford).
  - ii. Pupils living in Oxford City do not just go to Oxford City schools; many attend schools outside the city boundary.
  - iii. Pupil characteristics in the Oxford area show a diverse population of children with a significantly higher number of children who have English as an additional language (28%) compared to the county (9.5%), there are also high levels of mobility, higher levels of pupils with special educational needs and a significantly greater number of children able to claim free school meals.

### Comparison with National and Statistical Neighbour at Level 2

	<b>KS 1 Reading</b>		<b>KS 1 Writing</b>		<b>KS 1 Mathematics</b>	
<i>% of schools</i>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	84.0	84.0	80.0	79.0	90.0	89.0
	5250 / 6250	5571 / 6632	5000 / 6250	5239 / 6632	5625 / 6250	5903 / 6632
<b>SN average</b>	87.0	88.0	84.0	85.0	92.0	92.0
	5335 / 6132	5655 / 6426	5151 / 6132	5462 / 6426	5641 / 6132	5912 / 6426
<b>National</b>	84.0	85.0	81.0	81.0	89.0	89.0
	446099 / 531070	468707 / 551420	430167 / 531070	446650 / 551420	472652 / 531070	490764 / 551420
<b>- North Area</b>	86.4	85.8	82.6	79.7	92.1	90.3
	2103 / 2433	2275 / 2652	2010 / 2433	2119 / 2652	2240 / 2433	2394 / 2652
<b>- Central Area</b>	79.7	80.3	75.3	75.6	85.7	85.1
	1141 / 1432	1211 / 1508	1079 / 1432	1140 / 1508	1227 / 1432	1283 / 1508
<b>- South Area</b>	86.9	86.9	83.2	83.1	92.3	91.3
	2006 / 2308	2065 / 2377	1920 / 2308	1975 / 2377	2131 / 2308	2160 / 2377
<b>Oxford City</b>	76.0	76.0	71.0	71.0	83.0	82.0
	905 / 1191	969 / 1275	846 / 1191	905 / 1275	989 / 1191	1046 / 1275

***Attainment across Oxfordshire:***

3. The table above relates to attainment at Level 2 which is the level reported and published nationally. Level 2 is further sub-divided into Levels 2a, 2b and 2c. Level 2b is considered by Ofsted to be the “national target level” for a child aged 7. Level 3 is the highest level at this age.
4. Compared to national attainment at Level 2b, Oxfordshire remains in line for reading and mathematics and is slightly below (by one percentage point) the national average for attainment in writing. At Level 3 and above Oxfordshire continues to be slightly above the national average for reading and mathematics and writing has improved and is now in line with the national average.
5. The performance across Oxfordshire at Key Stage 1 is relatively consistent with 2009. There has been a slight increase in the proportion of children achieving Level 2b and above in reading (up by 0.6 % percentage points) and Level 3 and above in writing (up by 1.6% percentage points) and a decrease in achievement in mathematics (where the percentage of pupils achieving Level 2b and Level 3 and above have both decreased by over 1% percentage point), this is in line with the national trend for mathematics.
6. Writing remains the key area of prioritisation across the county, with 59.4% of pupils achieving Level 2b and above, whereas over 72% of pupils achieve this level in reading or in mathematics.
7. Compared to statistical neighbours (SN) we remain in the lower half of the rankings and below the SN average for Level 2b and above by 5.5 percentage points (pp) for reading, 6pp for writing and 4.5pp for mathematics.

***Attainment in the City area:***

8. The proportion of children achieving Level 2 and above in the City area is lower in all subjects than in the other areas and very low against national measures. By their very nature teacher assessments will have less consistency than standardised tests and it is an area we are investigating with Head Teachers.
9. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) point scores for the same cohort were 16 points lower than the county average (attainment on entry to KS 1). This is well below the Oxfordshire and the national average. Some schools were significantly lower than these measures of attainment on entry.
10. In most cases these schools are making at least satisfactory or better progress by the end of Key Stage 1 and the gap in attainment is narrowing. This means that the gaps are being closed despite a lower starting point.
11. Currently schools have recorded improvements in their EYFS point scores in 2010. This is as a direct result of the additional and successful training and improved moderation of teacher assessments which has also become more reliable.

12. City schools have also shown improvements in their Key Stage 2 scores over the past two years with some significant gains. There are fewer schools below the Key Stage previous national floor target in 2010.
13. Rates of progress across the entire primary age range in the City schools continue to improve.

***Measures to support improvement:***

14. The Local Authority recognises the low levels of attainment in a number of schools in the city and across the county. To address this, significant work has been undertaken across schools where there is underachievement. The support for reading, mathematics and communication includes courses for teachers to deepen subject knowledge in English and mathematics as well as individual work with children by specially trained teachers. Within the City, 13 of the 21 primary schools are part of these programmes which include:
  - ECaT - Every Child a Talker early years programme to build literacy skills
  - ECaR - Every Child a Reader - Reading recovery programme - individual work with children by specially trained teacher through a short term intervention
  - ECC - Every Child Counts - Mathematics programme where children are taught by specially trained teacher 30 minutes every day for 12 weeks
  - CLLD – Communication, Language and Literacy Development - programme across early years and Key Stage 1
  - Targeted training for teachers in Assessment and Moderation for Key Stage 1, and in the use of APP (Assessing Pupil Progress).
15. In addition since September 2010 we have been running a 'securing Level 2' course for targeted schools (all schools on the National Strategies 'Maximising Progress' [known as Developing Success in Oxfordshire] and 'Improving Schools Programme' (ISP) were invited. We have also been putting on Subject Leader courses that support teachers in using data and moderating standards.
16. We have increasingly prioritised a greater proportion of early intervention and targeted support in our City schools and are beginning to see good improvement in EYFSP results.
17. Over the last two years we have been using our powers as a Local Authority to ensure improvements are made where they are not judged to have been at the pace we would like to see. We are appropriately challenging school leaders to improve outcomes; this has in particular involved more rigorous expectation of leadership and management at all levels.
18. In addition seven of the City schools have had a formal LA review in the same period resulting in clear recommendations for their next steps and in most cases the necessary improvement.

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# **Review of Entry Policy for Young People's Centres – December 2010**

**By Anthony Sayles  
Area Service Manager Northern  
December 2010**

## **Introduction**

In April 2010 a management review was conducted around the management of the Sweatbox Young People's Centre.

The review was triggered in response to newspaper publicity promoting the use of breathalysers at the Sweatbox Friday night event 'The Sweaty'. While organisers justified the use of breathalysers in response to a growing concern about young people's use of alcohol, questions were raised as to the appropriateness of their use within a youth work setting. Further scrutiny raised questions around health and safety practices in managing what had become a popular event, with over 300 young people in attendance on an evening.

In conclusion the review made nineteen recommendations around three key areas; entrance policy/security, health and safety practices and the development of a broader programme of targeted youth work.

Scrutiny has requested a review of the entrance policy IYSS adopts for young people accessing youth centres across the county which would incorporate a review of the recommendations made in April 2010 in relation to the particular issues at the Sweatbox. (Appendix 1 outlines the nineteen recommendations and to what extent these were implemented.)

## **Entrance Policy**

Within each of the centres across Oxfordshire a variety of approaches will be used to engage with young people; large events, group work and one to one work. A blanket approach therefore to establishing an entrance policy does not fit all circumstances. IYSS entrance policy is therefore informed by a broad set of guidelines and policies including;

- Health & Safety Policy/Procedures: Risk Assessment/Management
- Staffing Ratios
- Safeguarding Young People
- The Drugs and Alcohol policy - guidance in respect to ensuring young people are aware that no illegal drugs or alcohol can be consumed in or taken to youth work sites.
- Boundaries Code of Conduct
- Anti discriminatory practice
- Aggression: Harassment of employees by clients
- Accident and Incident: Verbal & Physical abuse reporting
- Youth work membership form
- Closure of Youth Centres Guideline
- Complaints policy
- Fire and Insurance – In relation to maximum numbers of young people who can safely access a site at one time
- Police Powers of entry to youth centres
- Young people and the law
- Young person's charter

During the review process the Health & Safety's report pressed upon the need for appropriate and dynamic risk assessments to ensure that appropriate measures



were put in place to minimise and manage the risks posed to staff and young people alike according to the activity/event that was being run. These recommendations have been implemented across the service placing dynamic risk assessments at the heart of the entrance practice for each particular event.

Subsequently we have seen a significant improvement in the health and safety grades awarded by the corporate Health and Safety team; 100% of youth centres are now graded fair or above (76% of centres graded good or above.)

The Friday night Sweaty now has in place comprehensive risk assessments that incorporate the recommended security measures identified in the management review; bag searches, observational assessment of young people at the door as well as maintaining relationships with the Police and street pastors. This has resulted in a reduced number of incidents. Issues around young people's use of alcohol still exist, however there are now clear measures in place reviewed and agreed with management to ensure the welfare and safety of both the young people and staff.

## **Conclusion**

There is a qualitative difference between running an event for large numbers of young people and a youth work activity. Where an event attracts large groups of young people organisers need to ensure a comprehensive risk assessment is carried out paying particular attention to security measures – the risk assessment developed at the Sweatbox provides an appropriate model for this. For youth work activity where the objectives are more about personal development, challenge and progression and the numbers are more likely to be 30 or 40 young people entry policies are proportionate and do not contain the level of security adopted for recreational events targeting 300 young people.

The six month review has borne out the conclusion that the county wide policies and revised practices around entrance are adequate and there remains no reason to use breathalyser tests to determine whether a young person should be allowed access to a youth work setting.

# APPENDIX 1

## Entrance Policy and Security

Entrance Policy/Security		
Number	Recommendation	Outcome
3	First Friday Night Sweaty on the 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2010 to be a ticket only event and limited to a maximum attendance of 250	The event is ticketed and attendance has been limited to a maximum of 250.
6	A countywide focus group to be set up to include the Area Youth Worker to discuss issues surrounding the use of breathalysers at young people's centres. In the meantime, no alcohol breath measuring equipment to be used	<p>Consensus across IYSS management has been that breathalysers should not be used as a tool to assess whether a young person can access a youth centre.</p> <p>A risk assessment for the Sweaty is required and in place to ensure that the risk to young people obtaining alcohol externally and bringing into the centre is reduced to the lowest level. Measures are in place to alleviate the risk such as excluding intoxicated young people from the building but taking into consideration the welfare of the young person and situation and includes contacting parents/carers where appropriate. The Drugs and Alcohol policy also gives wider guidance in respect to ensuring young people are aware that no illegal drugs or alcohol can be consumed in or taken to youth work sites. Staff are also trained to provide accurate information and help young people think about the choices involved in relation to drugs and alcohol use through educational activities such as group work, debates and discussions.</p>
7	A commitment from Thames Valley Police to continue with their presence at Friday night events	Thames Valley Police continue to support the events.
8	A commitment by the street pastors to continue the excellent support work around the venue	Street pastors continue to support the work around the venue
12	Continue with Licensed Security Staff on Friday nights	Licensed Security staff are used in accordance with the Sweaty's risk assessment.
13	Youth workers and/or security staff to search <b>all</b> young people's bags for drugs, alcohol or weapons for	Bag searches have been implemented. Where numbers have fallen below 100 and/or where the group of young people

	the first four events, this will be a condition of entry.	attending is well known random bag searches have been implemented.
<b>14</b>	No readmission policy rigorously applied	Readmission policy implemented when numbers exceed 150 young people according to revised risk assessments.

## Health & Safety Practice

<b>Health &amp; Safety Practice</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>1</b>	That completed risk assessments are recorded for all activities that are delivered from The Sweatbox. These risk assessments are approved and signed by the Area Youth Worker and his line manager (to be completed prior to the Friday Night Sweaty being re-launched, leading to a Safe System of work being produced). As this is a large event with high attendance the Area Youth Worker must seek health & safety advice from Oxfordshire County Councils Health & Safety Team. Any proposed changes need to be reconsidered and the risk assessment amended and revised	Upon inspection, risk assessments are recorded for all activities delivered from the Sweatbox and countersigned by line management.  Revised Friday night Sweaty relaunched. Health & Safety risk assessment is informed by OCC Health & Safety Team.
<b>4</b>	The first four Friday Night Sweaty events to be monitored. If the events take place without any significant disruption then, in agreement with line manager and senior management, the attendance can be increased from 250 leading to a maximum attendance of 300 after the opening event.	First four events monitored. Attendance significantly reduced.
<b>10</b>	All staff to have Health & Safety training as soon as possible relevant to their role	All staff completed health and safety training
<b>11</b>	Area Youth Worker to attend Health & Safety Managers course (2 days) by end of July 2010 and to liaise and agree on all aspects of health & safety with his line manager	Youth Worker has completed the health and safety managers course
<b>16</b>	Area Youth Workers who run similar events to meet on a	Shared practice amongst the South Staff Team who run similar events – i.e.

	quarterly basis to look at good practice and operational issues.	Abingdon, Didcot and Wantage
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## Development of Youth Provision

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>2</b>	The Friday Night Sweaty is delivered on a weekly basis during term time with an alternative programme to be offered during school holidays as staffing allows. Taking into consideration that the school undertake maintenance and lease out their facilities during the Summer. If the Area Youth Worker identifies a resource issue he will refer the issue to his Line Manager	The Friday night Sweaty is delivered on weekly basis.
<b>5</b>	A meeting to take place to consider the possibility of moving Friday night events away from The Sweatbox to a more suitable venue i.e. Sports Centre	Attendance at event has significantly diminished. No other venue has therefore been considered
<b>9</b>	Continue with discussions regarding offering youth provision in Grove from the Cornerstone Café	No additional sessions have been delivered in Grove. The programme within The Sweatbox has however broadened its reach and is accessed by young people throughout Grove and Wantage
<b>15</b>	The Area Youth Worker and his team to increase the amount of targeted work aimed at the most vulnerable young people within the locality. If the Area Youth Worker identifies a resource issue he will refer the issue to his Line Manager	There are clear attempts by the Area Youth Worker to broaden the work with young people in the locality. For example Tuesday night Sweaty has been developed which now averages approximately 100 young people a week. In response to local concerns around young people congregating in parks the Area Youth Worker has also initiated some detached youth work. In addition around 200 young people attended the holiday provision this year.
<b>17</b>	The Sweatbox to continue to offer provision to young people throughout the year, including school holidays during the week and Friday nights. If the Area Youth Worker identifies a resource issue he will refer the issue to his Line Manager.	

<b>18</b>	King Alfred's Community College to take an active part in the 'Tell Us Survey' which indicates the number of young people who are engaged in Positive Activities. These figures will indicate the high level of attendance at The Sweatbox.	The 'Tell us Survey' is no longer being used by the government. However, the PIPA survey (Participation in Positive Activities) however was conducted at King Alfred's Year 10s in July 2010. The results show a take up figure for young people at King Alfred's of 49.5% - this is below average for schools in Oxfordshire. This figure does not directly correlate to Sweatbox take up but shows overall take up of positive activities by young people in the school.
<b>19</b>	A review of the Sweatbox offer including Friday Nights to take place in October 2010	

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2011**

## **Youth Centres Admittance Policy**

### **Notes of the working group meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

Present: Councillors Dave Sexon, Nicholas Turner, Val Smith and Bill Service; Tan Lea Strategic Lead: Youth, Young People and Access to Education, and Anthony Sayles Area Service Manager Northern and Roger Edwards

1. Members of the working group had received the management report on the youth centre admittance. It was explained that policies had been in place for some years but that were reviewed regularly and had been amended and updated as necessary.
2. The Sweatbox was unusual in that very large numbers of young people were involved – in fact more than 350. Numbers have subsequently been limited to 250 and additional activities have been set up and spread throughout the week in order to “smooth out” the attendance numbers. Following the incidents last year managers at the Sweatbox had acted responsibly by closing the facility until a review had been carried out.
3. One of the main planks of the procedures is risk assessment. Managers would be expected to assess all activities and to take steps necessary to mitigate those risks. Youth workers have all been reminded of the need for risk assessment and adherence to procedures.
4. The procedure has to be dynamic if it is to be sustainable. For example there are often changes to Health and Safety rules and other procedures. At present regular team meetings take place at which any issues around admittance policy and other matters can be raised. Also, senior management meets regularly and reviews health and safety matters etc.
5. A discussion took place around the use of breathalysers before people were admitted to events. This, it was agreed by all present, would not be an acceptable provision. Leaving aside the possible hygiene problems and the difficulty of getting large numbers of people to undertake tests, it was considered that such a step has not been shown to be necessary. The Sweatbox problem was highly unusual – it happened more than 12 months ago and there have been no more untoward incidents. Members view was that sensible handling of young people in circumstances where drink was suspected of being a factor was a much more sensible approach than the imposition of breathalysers.
6. Each large event has a readmissions policy where there are large numbers of young people and it would be difficult to keep track of who had already been in without such a procedure.
7. There is no exclusion policy. It is not considered to be practical or even, say in the case of a young female who may have had too much alcohol, safe. However if there

were to be large numbers who appeared to have over consumed then they may have to be refused entry. Each case had to be judged on its own and a sensible risk assessment done.

8. A question was raised as to whether the procedures would continue to be used in the future. It was accepted that, due to the County Council's financial situation, the future of youth centres in Oxfordshire would be very different from the present. However the proposed hubs and satellites would be subject to County Council guidelines and so these needed to be robust and sustainable. Many organisations that might become involved in future, such as local churches, were often aware of the issues involved and, for example, the need to limit numbers. However a dialogue would be maintained with all such organisations.
9. **Following a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion members of the working group thanked the officers for providing a clear and succinct report and taking time to answer their questions. Members AGREED that they would endorse the policies and procedures. Members also AGREED to recommend a further review in 2012 once the hub and satellite system had been in place for twelve months or so. In particular safeguarding and quality should be subject of a reassessment.**