

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished- 7.35pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 13 MARCH 2007

Present: Councillor MacDonald (In the Chair)
Councillors Allen, Banwait, Ginns, Higginbottom, Ingall,
Jones and Marshall.

Co-opted Member: Mr J. Honey - Roman Catholic Diocese Representative

91/06 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mitchell and Williams, Phil Moncur, the REC Representative, Dr Devendra and Nasreen Iqbal.

92/06 Late Items

There were none.

93/06 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Allen declared a personal interest in relation to minute number 96/06 as he Chaired the Management Commission of the Pupil Referral Unit.

Councillor Higginbottom declared a personal interest in relation to minute number 99/06 as she had recently carried out some training for the Connexions Service for which she was paid.

| Name | Type of interest | Reason |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| Councillor Higginbottom | Personal | Vice Chair of Governors – Ashgate Primary School |
| Councillor MacDonald | Personal | Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College |
| | Personal | Member of National Union of Teachers |
| Councillor Allen | Personal | Chair of the Management Committee at Pupil Referral Unit |
| | | Governor at St Clare's School |

94/06 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

95/06 Call-in

There were no items.

96/06 Designated Special School and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) Facilities

The Commission received a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People.

The Commission noted the consultation arrangements for the designation of a special school and for the future arrangements of the PRU facilities for Derby.

Resolved to welcome the report.

97/06 Building Schools for the Future

The Commission received a report from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and a minute extract from the 20 February 2007 Council Cabinet meeting where the report had been approved.

Resolved to welcome the report.

98/06 Special Educational Needs

The commission received a presentation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) services in Derby.

The Commission noted the decrease in the number of statements produced each year as a result of early intervention programmes and the increased use of delegated funding to schools. Councillor Higginbottom congratulated officers on this achievement.

Councillor Marshall queried whether children came into the city from other authorities. It was noted that this was the case for a small number of children.

Councillor Ginns asked whether parents were encouraged to send a child with SEN to a mainstream school. She noted that if parents wished to send their child to a mainstream school this had to be done unless the Local Authority could prove that the child would be detrimental to other pupils. It was noted that officers would try to work with all parents to find the best school place for their child.

It was noted that children with SENs school places were sometimes jointly funded by education, and Health and Social Care.

Resolved to welcome the report and presentation.

99/06 Connexions Derbyshire Transitional Arrangements

The Commission received a report from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People which asked the Commission for comments prior to a decision on Connexions Derbyshire Transitional Arrangements.

The Commission noted that the proposed transitional arrangements would mean little change to the current service, which was achieving success.

Resolved to note the report and to compliment the Connexions Service on their work.

100/06 Performance Eye

The commission received the 3rd quartile data for 2006-07 on performance indicators, which were relevant to the Commission's portfolio.

The Commission discussed four targets showing as 'red' indicators.

1. CF/A1 (BV49, CPD4c) Percentage of Looked After Children with 3 or more placements in the year

It was noted that a very ambitious target of 5% had been set which was why the target was showing as red. However the Council's figures put the Council in the top quartile nationally for several years.

2. CF/C23 (BV163) Percentage of Looked After Children Adopted

It was noted that an ambitious target had been set and that this was unlikely to be achieved which was why the indicator was showing as 'red'.

3. CYP 6.2 Number unsuitably accommodated 16-19 year olds

It was noted that hostels were not classed as suitable accommodation but that currently an unusually high number of 16 to 19 children looked after were in hostel accommodation.

4. CYP 2.1 Number of weeks waiting time for access to specialist Children and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The Commission were concerned at the 26 week wait for an initial assessment with the CAMHS team. It was noted that recruitment issues had now been resolved and that this issue should improve.

Resolved

1. to note the explanations for the 'red' indicators.
2. to express concern regarding the serious delay in the waiting time for an initial assessment for mental health services.
3. to invite the Mental Health Trust to the next meeting to explain the 26 week delay in the provision of an initial assessment and the measures put in place to reduce this waiting time.

101/06 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and Joint Area Review (JAR) Process

The Commission received a report on the assessment and review processes regarding the forthcoming APA and JAR of the Children and Young People Department

It was noted that the Department faced intense external scrutiny during the APA and JAR process up to November of 2007. Inspectors would look at 100 individual cases covering a range of ages and circumstances to help them assess how well Derby was serving its younger residents.

It was noted that the budget available to support the reviews was £75,000 which was low in comparison with some other authorities.

Resolved to note the report and to wish the Department well with the APA and JAR.

102/06 Work Programme

The Commission discussed the work programme content for the forthcoming year.

The Commission recognised that the Annual Performance Assessment and the Joint Area Review would have a big impact upon the Department's work and felt that it would be appropriate to co-ordinate the work programme to avoid adding to the pressures produced by these reviews.

Resolved to defer any decision on the future work programme until the Commission is reconstituted at the Annual Meeting

103/06 Retrospective Scrutiny

No topics were identified for retrospective scrutiny.

104/06 Focussed Scrutiny

No topics were identified for focussed scrutiny.

105/06 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved to request information at the Commission's June meeting on all decisions listed in the forward plan with in the Commission's remit taken by the Council Cabinet.

106/06 Matters referred to the Commission.

There were none.

Corporate Services Sub Commission Business

107/06 Statistical Information on Looked After Children

The Commission received a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People.

The Commission were pleased to note an increase of 10 new foster carers and that this was the third year running that net foster carer numbers had increased.

Resolved to note the report and to ask that the Commission's thanks be passed on to all officers who have worked to improve the lives of children looked after.