

Time commenced - 6.00pm  
Time finished - 7.29pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION  
22 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)  
Councillors Higginbottom, Ginns, F Khan, R Khan and  
Williams  
Ian Jennison and Kirit Mistry

11/09 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Allen, Alison Brown, John Honey and David Wilkinson.

12/09 Late Items

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following items on the grounds that advice was required from the Commission before the next scheduled meeting:

- Item 16/09 – My Place
- Item 17/09 – Funding contribution towards Voices in Action event

13/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/09 Call-in

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

16/09 My Place

Councillor Bolton informed the Commission that she had signed a Call-In waiver notice for the Cabinet item on the My Place bid, that would be considered on Tuesday 29 September.

David Finn explained that the My Place bid was to the Big Lottery for £3million. This was for a skateboard park on Basses Recreational Ground and a new youth information centre on Shot Tower corner in the City Centre.

#### 17/09            Funding contribution towards Voices in Action event

The Commission received a report from Voices in Action requesting a funding contribution from the Commissions research fund towards their yearly event which is being held at the Spot on 17 November. Members agreed to donate £200.00 from the budget towards the event and for the Chair, Vice Chair and a Liberal Democrat member to attend the event.

Ian Jennison had suggested that Voices in Action contact the Trade Unions for future funding for events etc as they could donate funding to support local young people within their budgets.

**Resolved to donate £200.00 from the Commissions research budget towards the Voices in Action event.**

#### 18/09            Work Plan

##### **Consultation with Young People's Representatives**

The Commission received a list of seven issues from the Young People's Representatives on items that they considered to be priorities and on which the Commission might wish to do further work on as part of their work programme.

Andrew Flack commented that items 1 and 2 from the list were resource/funding issues and items 3 and 6 were practical issues. Item 4 was a national issue and the Commission might wish to add its comments to the young people's representative's letter to Ed Balls. Andrew suggested that Items 5 and 7 included areas that the Commission might wish to further explore.

The Commission asked whether the out of hours Care Line could be better publicised. Naomi Fielding stated that it was sometimes difficult for young people to get through on the telephone if they called during busy times. Michael Perkins suggested the number could be added to current council publicity stickers. Andrew queried as to whether Care Line was the right place to call as it was supposed to be for emergency childcare issues. Naomi said it was important for young people to have someone to talk to who was familiar with care issues. The Chair stated that she would raise the issue again at the next Corporate Parenting Sub Commission. The Chair also stated that she would contact Naomi to write to Ed Balls to support the issues raised by the young people.

Brendan Foster raised the issue about life story work and said that photographs that had been taken by a social worker during his life story visits

had been lost. He said that it was a great idea but that it needed a better process. Andrew Flack stated that he would ask his team for details on Brendan's case and would report the findings to the next scheduled meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission.

The Commission asked about the relationship of ViA with UKYP. Jyuddah Muzahura and Heather Varty confirmed that the relationship was good, with ideas and comments being passed through the region to a national level. Andrew Flack stated that he was pleased to hear this was previously the linkage had not been working.

Michael Perkins asked the Commission about the B-Line card and suggested that young people should get free bus travel to and from school, this was supported by Amy Denis and Heather Varty. Members referred to a recent letter in the press where a visitor to the City had to pay the full fare for a child who did not have a B-Line card. There were further comments from the young people about incidents where Arriva drivers had refused young people to travel when they did not have their B-Line cards. Michael Perkins said that he had been refused entry to an Arriva bus when he was on crutches. Brendan Foster reported that the forthcoming mystery shopper meeting would look at the Arriva policy and would challenge when necessary. The Chair reminded the Commission that they had written to Arriva previously following an incident that had occurred during the earlier mystery shopper exercise. The Chair stated that this could be repeated if necessary.

The Commission discussed the pledges that were made at the ViA meeting last year. Andrew Flack stated that it was hard to achieve closure on some of the pledges as the problem was not only to know what it was desirable to do but also the cost of doing it. An example of free bus travel for young people was given but Andrew said the cost would be in the millions. Andrew suggested that the pledges may provide possible topics for the Commission.

The Chair thanked the young people's representatives for their input to the meeting.

**Resolved to note the issues raised and for further details to be provided to the next scheduled meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission.**

### **Gangs Review Report**

The Chair informed the Commission that the intention was to submit the completed report to Cabinet on 24 November 2009. It was suggested that the Commission held a special meeting to consider the item. Members agreed to meet on Tuesday 27 October and to request that Sharon Squires from the Community Safety Partnership and a representative from the Derbyshire Constabulary attend. The Commission would then agree the report at their 3 November scheduled meeting.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 19/09 Performance Eye

The Commission received details of their current indicators. It was reported that there were a number of red indicators in the table but there had been no requests from members for reports.

Members noted that the performance monitoring arrangements were due to be considered by the Scrutiny Management Commission on 28 September which could result in the Commission being asked to look in detail at certain indicators. It was agreed to conserve the Commission's resources for this event.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 20/09 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

## 21/09 Forward Plan

### **Retained School Balances**

Keith Howkins informed the Commission what was proposed in the report to Council Cabinet on 29 September. It was reported that there was the need to challenge significant underspends by the schools and that the authority could take back any surplus if there were not good reasons for the school to retain it. It was noted that the Government was looking closely at these balances and that they considered that the school budgets should be for day-to-day costs.

Members asked the Young Peoples' Representatives whether Schools Council's consulted young people on their spending. There was a mixed response from the representatives, Heather Varty stating that Da Vinci had consulted on to whether to buy a bike shed and Tiffany Ruscoe agreeing that it was discussed at her School Council.

Andrew Flack informed the Commission that it was not legally possible to be a school governor until aged 18, however all Derby Schools have Schools Councils.

Keith Howkins stated that the retention was mainly a Primary school issue as Secondary schools were usually more adventurous in their spending. It was reported that any funds that were clawed back would be ring fenced for schools.

**Resolved to note the report and that there were no comments to submit to Council Cabinet.**

### **Schools Merger**

Andrew Flack informed the Commission that this would be reported to Council Cabinet in October, when the results of the consultation were available. It was noted that the mergers were part of a Council Policy and not a recruitment issue. It was reported that the retirement of a current head presented an opportunity to see whether the policy could be applied. The reasoning behind the strategy was that mergers offered budget saving opportunities and that any money saved could be re-distributed to other schools, although in some cases there may be an opportunity to sell surplus buildings to raise capital.

Members raised concerns as to whether the proposed mergers would impact on class size. It was reported that would be no reasons to change class sizes.

Ian Jennison informed the Commission that he had not received any contact from staff with concerns.

**Resolved to note the report and receive a further report once the consultation had been completed.**

22/09            Matters contained in reports to Council Cabinet and the full Council

**Contract Waivers – Children and Young People’s Department – Grant to Action for Children**

The Commission received a report providing responses to the points raised by the Chair of the Commission.

**Resolved to note the response received.**

**Child Protection Requirements and the Laming Report**

The Commission received a report providing responses to the points raised by the Chair of the Commission.

**Resolved to note the response received.**

23/09            Responses to any reports and enquiries of the Commission

The Commission noted the response from Margaret Beckett.

24/09            Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END