

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm

Time finished – 7.45pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 7 NOVEMBER 2006

Present: Councillor Williams (in the Chair)
Councillors Ginns, Higginbottom, Ingall, S Khan, MacDonald and Marshall

In Attendance: Councillor Bolton - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Dave Wilkinson - NASUWT

43/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Jones and Mitchell, Dr Devendra – Parent Governor and John Honey – Roman Catholic Diocesan representative.

44/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

45/06 Declarations of Interest

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

46/06 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47/06 Call In

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

48/06 Revenue Budget 2007/08

The Commission received an oral report from Paul Dransfield - Corporate Director of Resources and Housing on the current position with regards to the revenue budget process for 2007/08.

Paul Dransfield advised the Commission that the Council were working to a deadline to issue the full range of consultation documents in the new year. Officers were currently working with Cabinet Members looking at a range of options.

Andrew Flack – Corporate Director for Children and Young People advised that Commission of specific issues relating to the Children and Young Peoples department budget.

The Department was required to find 10% savings within its controllable budget of £33m over three years, meaning £1.1m in each of the next three years.

The Commission asked that recommendations arising from the Looked After Children Topic Review, some of which were invest-to-save, be taken into consideration at this stage in the preparation of the 2007/08 revenue budget.

Resolved to ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to take account of the recommendations from the Looked After Children Topic Review when preparing the 2007/08 revenue budget.

49/06 Consultation on the Future Location of the Ronnie MacKeith Assessment Nursery

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People detailing the proposals that were being consulted on regarding the future location of the Ronnie MacKeith Assessment Nursery. Rita Silvester – Assistant Director, Performance and Commissioning presented the report to the Commission and answered member's questions.

Resolved to support the proposal as the sensible course of action.

50/06 Post-16 Provision at Lees Brook Community Sports College

The Commission considered a report agreed by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 31 October 2006 regarding the proposal for post-16 vocational provision at Lees Brook Community Sports College. Andrew Flack – Director for Children and Young People presented the report to the Commission.

A member of the Commission referred to problems experienced elsewhere regarding VAT liability and asked if this scheme would have a similar implication

on adult education at the school. Andrew Flack responded that he would look in to the issue and advise Commission Members.

Resolved to note the report.

51/06 Area Panel 1 Pilot of Integrating Children's Services

The Commission received a presentation from Rachel Dickinson – Assistant Director, Locality Services and Councillor Bolton – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the progress of the Area Panel 1 pilot of Integrating Children's Services that would be launched on 27 November 2006.

Resolved to note the presentation.

52/06 Local Safeguarding Children Board – Serious Case Review Report

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People which outlined the contents of the Executive Summary of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review. Rachel Dickinson – Assistant Director, Locality Services presented the report to the Commission.

Resolved to note the contents of the Executive Summary of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review.

53/06 Looked After Children Topic Review

The Commission considered the final draft report of the Looked After Children Topic Review. The Chair advised members that she had written to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People asking that the report be considered by the Council Cabinet so that the recommendations could influence the 2007/08 budget process.

Members were advised that Officers had been asked to submit any comments on factual accuracy in the report which would be incorporated in the final report with the agreement of the Chair.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the final draft report of the Looked After Children Topic Review subject to any changes on factual accuracy being approved by the Chair.**
- 2. To receive a response and comments on the report from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at a future meeting of the Commission.**

54/06 Performance Eye

The Commission considered holding a separate meeting to consider the annual performance indicators relating to Children and Young People.

Resolved to arrange a meeting to consider the annual performance indicators relating to Children and Young People at 6.30pm on Thursday 30 November 2006.

55/06 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

56/06 Work Plan for the Remainder of 2006/7

Rob Davison – Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer, advised the Commission that as the work on the Looked After Children Topic Review was coming to an end, members needed to consider their work programme up to April 2007. This could include a short topic review or several ‘focussed scrutiny’ meetings, as agreed at minute 54/06.

Suggestions made by were:

Special Educational Needs Provision
Compare Children Looked After Review with the Green Paper
Provision of Children’s play areas and youth provision in new build schools
Awareness raising on the role of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board

Resolved

- 1. To ask the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer to liaise with members of the Commission and Officers to see how time consuming each suggestion would be and report back to the next meeting of the Commission.**
- 2. To ask that members forward any further suggestions to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer.**

57/06 Forward Plan

There were no items.

58/06 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were no items.

59/06 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet

There were no items.

Minutes End