

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 8.05pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2010

Present: Councillor Higginbottom (Chair), Councillors Bolton,
Davis, Radford and Whitby, Ian Jennison, Maurice
Lawrence, Kirit Mistry

In attendance: Councillors Allen and Williams

45/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry and Winter.

46/10 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

47/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

48/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2010

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

49/10 Call-in

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

50/10 Chellaston School

The Commission received a presentation from Ray Ruszczycki, Head Teacher at Chellaston School, over the school's decision to seek to become an academy. Mr Ruszczycki explained the reasons behind the decision, being principally that the school felt it had been a victim of its own success in terms of funding allocations for many years. It was explained that the school felt it had been penalised for prudence but, by contrast, there were many financial incentives to becoming an academy. Mr Ruszczycki highlighted a number of fears that had been raised about the school's future and reassured members

that they were unfounded. In particular, Mr Rusczyk gave a reassurance that the school had no intention of seeking to change its catchment.

Ian Jennison praised Mr Rusczyk's performance as Head Teacher but raised concerns over the principle of academies, explaining that the resultant reduction in the availability of the top slice of funding to underperforming schools would have a negative impact.

Resolved to:

- 1) note the update;**
- 2) request that more information be brought to a future meeting on the formula used to calculate funding for the city's secondary schools.**

51/10 Administration of School Admission Appeals

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director of Resources. The report detailed the heavy reliance upon independent members of the School Admission Appeals Panel in undertaking the council's responsibility to consider appeals as required by statute and the School Admission Appeals Code. It was explained that a similar situation existed with regard to independent members involved in School Exclusion Appeals.

Concerns over the under representation of ethnic minority groups were highlighted to members and support sought to help address this issue.

Members considered a range of options as a means to thanking the independent members and assisting to help address the under representation issue.

Resolved to:

- 1) note the large number of school admission appeals the Council organises and the heavy reliance on independent members to facilitate this;**
- 2) request that the Mayor holds a reception for independent members of the School Admission Appeals Panel and School Exclusion Appeals Panel to thank them for their hard work;**
- 3) request that the issue of under-representation of ethnic minority groups be raised on a future agenda of the Minority Communities Diversity Forum;**
- 4) request that political groups raise the issue of under-representation at future group meetings with a view to Members in their role as community leaders considering any potential volunteers they could put forward;**
- 5) request that the issue of under-representation be included on a future Community Action Bulletin with a view to attracting interest from potential volunteers.**

52/10 Children's Trust and Priorities for CYP 2011-4

The Commission considered a report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on the consultation on the vision, priorities and structures for the Children's Trust in 2011-14.

Members requested that the consultation period be extended by a week beyond the proposed deadline of Friday 12 November. The Director for Performance and Commissioning agreed that this would be possible.

Resolved to note the report.

53/10 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

54/10 Forward Plan

An item on the proposed merger of Redwood Infant and Junior Schools was raised. The Director for Performance and Commissioning explained the background the issue, being that Cabinet had previously agreed the principle of exploring mergers of infant and junior schools where circumstances raised the possibility. It was explained that the potential merger of Redwood Infant and Junior Schools had arisen due to both Head Teachers leaving at the same time.

Resolved not to examine the item in any greater detail.

55/10 Responses to any report and enquiries of the Commission

There were no items.

56/10 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END