

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 8.25pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION
10 MARCH 2009

Present: Councillor Bolton (Chair)
Councillors Higginbottom, Ginns, F Khan, R Khan,
Latham, Rawson, Williams
John Honey – Catholic Church Diocese
Maurice Lawrence – Parent Governor Representative

In attendance: Planning and Transportation Commission - Councillors
Banwait, Batey, Harwood, Holmes, Lowe, Poulter and
Repton
Councillor Care – Cabinet Member for Planning and
Transportation

73/08 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Brown, Nasreen Iqbal and Dave Wilkinson.

74/08 Late Items

There were no late items.

75/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

76/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Items for Discussion

77/08 Proposed Withdrawal of Discretionary Transport to
Mainstream Schools

The Children and Young People's Commission and the Planning and Transportation Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community detailing current proposals relating to discretionary transport to mainstream schools. Appendix 2 of the report contained details of the budget proposals, the schools and pupils likely to be

affected and the actions proposed to be taken by officers, in relation to the proposed withdrawal of discretionary transport to mainstream schools.

Christine Durrant – Assistant Director Highways and Transport advised the Commission that they were working on the detail of the formal consultation process now that the Council budget had been set.

Councillor Repton stated that he was against these proposals as this would put more cars on the road causing congestion. He was also concerned about the impact on children's attendance and the road safety impact and the potential for accidents to increase. He felt that these proposals should be rejected and rethought.

Councillor Repton asked if the Council had considered reintroducing payments on a daily or weekly basis. Families found it difficult having to pay out large amounts of money and this had reduced the usage of these services.

John Honey added that he felt these proposals had been rushed. There had been a complete lack of consultation. There was an inequity issue as some children would have to get a bus into and then out of town to get to school.

Councillor Care stated that this situation had been inherited from the County Council. A lot of secondary schools had no transport – this was inequality. There were families with children at other schools that had to pay transport. Modal shift needed to be looked at to see if there were opportunities for children to walk or cycle to school.

Christine Durrant advised that they were aiming to get a report to Council Cabinet in June which would include the responses to the consultation and all the implications.

Councillor Bolton asked that this issue be brought back to the Commissions during the consultation process.

At this point members of the Planning and Transportation Commission left the meeting.

Councillor Rawson recommended that the Commission ask Council Cabinet to withdraw the proposals to withdraw all discretionary school transport.

Resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that it withdraws its proposals to withdraw all discretionary school transport.

Councillors Bolton, Rawson and Higginbottom and John Honey and Maurice Lawrence voted for the motion.

Councillors Latham, F Khan, Ginns, R Khan and Williams voted against the motion.

The decision was carried on the Chair's casting vote.

78/08 Annual Children and Young People's Social Care Services Complaints

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People on the Annual Children and Young People's Social Care Services complaints during 2007/08.

Resolved to note the report.

79/08 Performance Management

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People on the issues that had impacted on the performance of NI59 – Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 days of referral and NI60 – Core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of commencement. Following the Performance Surgery on 22 December 2008 it was agreed that the matters should be considered by the Commission. The report highlighted that a major factor in the underperformance of these indicators was the introduction of the Integrated Children's System (ICS). The issues regarding the ICS system were passed on to Ed Balls – Secretary of State on a recent visit.

Resolved to write to the Secretary of State with the Commission's concerns over NI 59 and NI60.

80/08 Learning and Skills Council Transition – Sub Regional Arrangements

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People on the proposed detailed arrangements for 16-19 planning and commissioning post-LSC, as contained in the Stage 2 response submitted to GOEM. The report would be considered by Council Cabinet on 17 March 2009. .

Resolved to note the report.

81/08 Building Schools for the Future – Is BSF in Derby Still on Programme?

The Commission considered an oral update on building schools for the future from Rita Silvester – Assistant Director Performance and Commissioning. The Commission was advised that a review with the Treasury and the Department for Children, Schools and Family officials had taken place. The outline business case had been approved. The OGU notices could now be published. The process was complex and long – similar to the PFI process. There would be a preferred bidder by June 2010.

Resolved to note the update.

82/08 Safeguarding Children

The Commission considered a report from the Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board detailing the outcomes of the review of safeguarding and proposed actions. The Commission was advised that the report would be considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 17 March 2009. Andrew Flack – Corporate Director for Children and Young People asked for individual comments on the report to be forwarded to him prior to the Cabinet meeting on 17 March.

Resolved to note the outcomes of the review of Safeguarding and to endorse the proposed actions.

83/08 Extended Schools

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Young People detailing the Commission's findings and recommendations following a recent visit to Dale Primary School.

Councillor Bolton asked that a copy of the report be sent to the Head Teachers that had attended the meeting at Dale Primary School.

Resolved to note the report and to send a copy of the report to the head teachers in the Dale Primary School cluster.

84/08 Work Plan Items

The Commission received an update on the arrangements for the Commission's short review of action being taken to address the apparent 'Gang Culture' in Derby. The Commission was advised that an evidence gathering meeting had been arranged for 7 April 2009.

The Commission considered a possible joint review with the Adult Services and Health Commission on the provision of locality services.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the update on the arrangements for the Commission's short review of the apparent 'Gang Culture' in Derby.**
- 2. To receive a scoping report at a future meeting regarding a joint review on the provision of locality services, with the Adult Services and Health Commission.**

85/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the Performance Eye Quarter 3 indicators that fall within the Children and Young People Commission's remit. David Romaine – Scrutiny and Complaints Manger, asked the Commission to let him know if they wanted a report on any of the indicators at a future meeting.

Resolved to note the Performance Eye Quarter 3 indicators.

86/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

87/08 Forward Plan

There were no items identified from the Forward Plan for discussion at a future meeting.

88/08 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

The Commission considered the response of Council Cabinet at its meeting on 17 February 2009 to the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions' budget recommendations.

Resolved to note the response of Council Cabinet.

89/08 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

90/08 Member Satisfaction Survey for Annual Report

The Commission received copies of a Member satisfaction survey. The responses to the survey would be included in the Annual Report. Members were asked to complete the Survey and return forms to the Overview and Scrutiny team.

Minutes End