

Time commenced - 18:00

Time finished - 19:16

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD 1 AUGUST 2012

Present: Councillor Whitby (Chair)
Councillors Campbell and Williams and Ian Jennison

In attendance: Councillor Rawson

14/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwal, Bailey, Bolton, J Khan, Martin and F Winter.

15/12 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

16/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17/12 Minutes of the Children and Young People Board meeting held on 26 June 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/12 Alternative Options for School Improvement – Forward Plan Item 05/12

Members received a presentation on Alternative Options for School Improvement from The Director of Learning and Inclusion, The Director of Commissioning and the Transformation Project Lead. Information was provided on Co-operative School Trusts and other pathways for schools.

It was explained to Members that some schools within the Local Authority had opted to become academies and that it was the decision of the individual schools governing body whether to do this. Members noted that at its meeting of 13 June 2012, Council Cabinet established a policy position that no longer supported the conversion of Local Authority maintained schools to academies. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People explained that the message to schools was that there were a range of options available apart from academies.

Members enquired as to the success of the Co-operative Trust School, da Vinci Community College. The Cabinet Member explained that the school had performed well since its conversion to trust status and that exam results had improved. Members noted that the University of Derby had played an active role in supporting da Vinci and asked whether they would have the capacity to work as closely with any new Co-operative Trust Schools. It was reported that the university had the capacity and were prepared to work with any new Co-operative Trust Schools.

Members enquired as to whether the proposed Al-Madinah Free School would be likely to buy services from Derby City Council. It was reported that the school had shown an interest.

Members asked whether there was still a financial incentive for a school to become an academy as opposed to a Co-operative Trust. It was reported that the incentive had significantly diminished.

Members noted that the way in which Ofsted rated schools was to change and asked how that would affect schools. It was reported that the overall effectiveness rating of “satisfactory” was to be replaced with “requires improvement”. This would mean that schools given the new rating would need to make rapid changes or face being put into special measures.

Members sought clarification on where a school would stand if it wanted to convert to an academy. It was confirmed that such a move would not be opposed by Derby City Council, but it was hoped that schools would consider all the available options before making a choice.

Members questioned whether the proportional representation on the Schools’ Forum had changed. It was reported that the constitution of the Schools’ Forum was being reviewed and would be discussed in the Autumn term through the forum.

Resolved to request that in the report on Models of School Organisation and School Improvement to be considered on 15 August 2012 it is made clear that a school can determine its own future with regards to models of organisation.

MINUTES END