

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.50pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION
11 SEPTEMBER 2007

Present: Councillor Poulter (In the Chair)
Councillors Dhamrait, Ginns, Rawson and Willoughby.

Co-opted Members: Mr J Honey - Roman Catholic Diocese Representative
Kirit Mistry – Derby Racial Equality Council

17/07 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Bayliss and Higginbottom, Alison Brown, Dr Devendra, Nasreen Iqbal and Dave Wilkinson.

18/07 Late Items

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Chair agreed to admit the following as a late item to enable work to commence on the project as soon as possible.

Focused Scrutiny of Children's Centres – Minute Number 25/07

19/07 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
Councillor Dhamrait	Personal	Governor – Dale Primary School
Councillor Higginbottom	Personal	Vice Chair of Governors – Ashgate Primary School
Councillor Rawson	Personal	Governor – da Vinci Community College Trustee / Management Board Member – Umbrella Trustee / Management Board Member – Derwent Stepping Stones

20/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 June and 17 July 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21/07 Home to School Transport

The Commission considered the response of the Council Cabinet at its meeting on 31 July 2007 to the Commission's report on the proposed Home to School Transport policy.

Andrew Flack, Director for Children and Young People, reported that the Council would be consulting again and a questionnaire would go out to schools at the end of September for distribution to parents in October. The deadline for the consultation period would be 3 December 2007. It would be made clear in the new consultation document that responses to the original consultation would be taken in to account. The results of the consultation would be reported to Council Cabinet on 25 January 2008. The Commission will be able to feed in to the consultation and a report would be presented to the Commission on 6 November 2007.

Resolved to note the response of Council Cabinet to the Commission's report on the proposed Home to School Transport policy.

22/07 Derbyshire Mental Health Trust

The Commission considered a report from Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust providing an update on current performance in respect of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Ifti Majid, Unit General Manager – Community Care Business Unit, and Ian Murphy, Area Service Manager – Specialist Services, presented the report to the Commission. The Commission were advised that in April the action plan for improvement was implemented which addressed issues regarding recruitment and use of resources across other CAMHS services. In July the action plan was revised, some actions were escalated and it took in additional measures. Currently the CAMHS team had achieved a maximum waiting time of 18 weeks. The service was now looking at the next target of 12 weeks. The Commission was asked to note the significant reduction in waiting times and that this was just the start of the action plan not the end.

Resolved to note the report and to receive a further update at a future meeting.

23/07 Performance Eye Quarter 1 Data for 2007/8

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services detailing Performance Eye commentaries for

yellow and red indicators, together with examples of success stories, for Quarter 1 2007-08. It was suggested that at each Commission pre-meeting a couple of indicators could be selected for further discussion at the main Commission meeting.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To ask the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Allen to determine items from Performance Eye for discussion at future Commission meetings.**

24/07 Bullying

At the previous meeting the Commission agreed to interview officers about the performance area of bullying. Graham Falgate, Education Officer, attended the meeting to answer questions from the Commission. Councillor Poulter reported that the Commission's main area of concern was the high number of nil returns and the number of no returns from schools. Graham Falgate advised that they were trying to increase the number of schools returning data and to decrease the number of nil returns. The target for responses from schools for 06/07 was 90% and for 07/08 it was 100%. The issue with nil returns was that some schools were fearful that if they returned statistics on bullying they would be identified and there was a culture that this would reflect badly on the school. Officers were not complacent and had moved a long way with schools and they were confident that they would get a high number of schools returning valid data.

Graham added that each School Improvement Officer was working with schools, holding meetings and providing training around this issue. A lot of developmental work had taken place in schools, including anti bullying strategies, software and the creation and training of Peer Groups, to get more meaningful data and to look at what lay behind it.

Councillor Willoughby asked what was being done to change schools perception of reporting bullying. What could the Council do to try and persuade schools to give details? Graham Falgate responded that it was only a small number of school – 17 out of 105.

Councillor Rawson asked if there were any additional interventions or assistance for schools that did submit nil returns. Graham Falgate advised that this year based on returns Officers would be meeting with schools with nil returns.

Councillor Poulter asked whether additional scrutiny of this issue would help with schools and whether additional resources were needed. Andrew Flack, Corporate Director for Children and Young People, responded that it could help develop priorities around something solid to measure.

Commission members agreed that they needed to look at a consistency approach and that it needed to see the next set of statistics and then make a decision whether to do a more focussed scrutiny at that time. It was agreed that depending on the result of the figures the chair and vice chair would determine whether these would come to the next meeting.

Resolved to request that the new data be provided to the Commission after it has been released and the chair and vice chair determine whether the results warrant further scrutiny.

25/07 Focussed Scrutiny on Children's Centres

The Commission received an update on the focussed scrutiny of Children's Centres and were asked to consider expenditure for the Vice Chair to attend a related conference in Birmingham on 20 September 2007.

Resolved

- 1. To note the update.**
- 2. To authorise expenditure of £379 to enable the Vice Chair to attend a conference, relating to the focussed scrutiny of Children's Centres, in Birmingham on 20 September 2007.**

26/07 Call-In

There were no items.

27/07 Work Planning and Commission Based Training 2007/8

The Commission considered notes from a meeting of the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Allen – Liberal Democrat nominee on the work programme and training for 2007-08.

Resolved to note the report.

28/07 Focussed Scrutiny

There were no items.

29/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

30/07 Building Schools for the Future – Key Decisions 12/07 and 20/07

Andrew Flack, Corporate Director for Children and Young People reported that it was likely that a report on Choice and Diversity would be considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 2 October although this could be delayed until the following meeting.

Resolved to consider a report at the next meeting of the Commission.

31/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

32/07 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END