

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2000

Minutes of the meeting of the EDUCATION JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1999 AT 5.30 PM

Present: Education Committee

Councillors Day, Gibbs, Saunders, Seymour, White and Woodcock

Teachers' Representatives on Education Committee

Ms W Page

Teachers' Professional Associations

C Burningham (NUT), S Hopkinson (NAHT), T Netherclift (NAS/UWT), and P Sedgwick(NUT)

Officers: S Wadsworth (Pupil Services Manager) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

Apologies: R Conibear (SHA), B Kite (NAHT), T Winter

JAC11/00 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee noted the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Education Joint Consultative Committee, held on 8 June 1999.

JAC12/00 BUDGET

The Committee received an update on the budget setting process. It was reported that the potential savings outlined at the previous meeting would need to be carried out, although it was hoped that there would be additional funding from central government for areas of educational spending, such as early years provision.

JAC13/00 SEN REVIEW

The meeting received an update on the progress of the SEN Review, and noted the latest set of SEN statistics, which were due to be reported to the meeting of Education Committee on 7 December.

It was noted that the overall number of referrals from schools had dropped.

Although the reasons for this were not completely clear, the hope was expressed that some credit could be attributed to the effectiveness of the Early Intervention Project.

Concern was expressed at the increasing amount of time that pupils had to wait to receive written statements. This was partly as a result of staffing changes, but also due to the increased use of notices in lieu instead of formal statements, and increased scrutiny of whether pupils meet criteria at an early stage.

The Committee noted that the general aim of the SEN policy was to move away from external placements, and that this approach appeared to have been partly achieved.

JAC14/00 ‘MODERNISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT’

The Committee received an update on the Council’s new Political Management Structures. It was noted that the Council was required by legislation to move away from the traditional committee model towards a ‘Cabinet’ system, and that a Democratic Structures Working Party had been established to produce a working structure, probably for implementation in the next Council year. It was agreed that any further developments would be reported to the Committee.

JAC15/00 SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

The Committee noted that the Milton Keynes School Organisation Plan had been approved, and that work was ongoing on the priorities identified in the Plan.

JAC16/00 CHANGE OF AGE OF TRANSFER

The Committee noted that there had been moves involving some local schools to change the Age of transfer between the Primary and Secondary Sectors for some children. The Committee expressed concern at the possibility of individual schools unilaterally changing admissions policies, and its potential impact upon those of neighbouring schools. It was agreed that the would be updated on developments.

JAC17/00 NURSERY EDUCATION - GRANTS FOR THREE YEAR OLDS

The Committee noted that the Government’s provision for grants for the education of three-year-olds had been announced, and that Milton Keynes’ allocation had been disappointing. It was noted that the Council would continue to make the case that Milton Keynes deserved special consideration because of the nature of its circumstances.

JAC18/00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 22 February 2000 at 5.30 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.41 PM