

Minutes of the meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Bradburn (Chair)
 Councillors Alexander, Bramall, McLean, O'Neil (substituting for Miles), Small, Wales, Webb and Zealley

Officers: G Tolley (Corporate Director Children's Services) M Bracey (Assistant Director [Education, Effectiveness and Participation]), N Rayner (Assistant Director [Children's Social Care]), E Richardson (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Also Present: Councillor Dransfield, Mr A Cox (Headteacher, Wavendon Gate School), Mr A Ashmore (Chair of Governors, Heronsgate School and Policy Advisor to the National Education Trust), E Coleridge Smith (Chair, Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board) and 2 members of the public

Apologies: Dr Chakrabarti and Mr S Pritchard

CYP10 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the Select Committee meeting held on 4 July 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CYP11 PUPIL PREMIUM – EMERGING PRACTICE

The Select Committee received a brief overview of the Pupil Premium from the Assistant Director (Education, Effectiveness and Participation).

Following witness statements from Mr A Cox, Headteacher of Wavendon Gate School and Mr A Ashmore (Chair of Governors of Heronsgate School) the Committee noted that:

- That there were no set guidelines for dealing with the Pupil Premium; it was up to individual schools as to how they dealt with the allocation of funds under the scheme;
- Wavendon Gate School had decided to use the money to try and help those families who generated the pupil premium to fit into school life better and mitigating the causes of social exclusion by assisting with costs for after school / holiday clubs, music lessons, uniform requirements etc;
- Half the money was being spent on academic support and half on social initiatives;
- The provision of lunch boxes for children receiving free school meals, which were then filled by the school meals contractor,

removed the social stigma of free school meals for those children as their lunch now looked the same as everyone else's;

- Not every family entitled to free school meals had taken them up and therefore missed the opportunity to access extra funding which could help their children at school. The school was trying to work with these parents to encourage them to take up the benefits offered by the Pupil Premium scheme;
- The Pupil Premium could be seen as a real, additional funding 'carrot' to initiate a conversation with hard to reach families about a child's progress and getting them to engage with the whole educational experience;
- School Governing bodies were holding Headteachers responsible for the results of how the school used the Pupil Premium; if the outcome was not satisfactory they would need to look at the process;
- Although currently not included, use of the Pupil Premium may well become part of the Ofsted inspection process in the future;
- Information on the use of the Pupil Premium was being shared between schools at meetings of the Headteachers Group which met twice a term and the Governors Group meetings which were held once a term;
- All the schools in Milton Keynes were self-governing but as the Local Education Authority (LEA) the Council was open to suggestions as to how the use of the Pupil Premium could be effectively monitored. However, data that could be usefully used for benchmarking purposes would not be available until the end of the 2013-14 school year;
- Academy schools also received the Pupil Premium but are not subject to overview by the LEA;
- Heronsgate School was working with Walton High School to feed into the year 7 transfer so that improving pupils could successfully maintain their progress at secondary school;
- Apart from the Pupil Premium, secondary schools also received extra funding for pupils who did not meet required levels of attainment when they transferred;
- Schools needed to be accountable on a continuous basis and results for pupils assisted by the Premium needed to be monitored to ensure satisfactory progress up to the point of leaving school;
- To do this successfully it was important to know children and families as individuals and understand their background. The scheme would not work if it was operated as a 'done to' model. It needed to be a collaborative process between schools and families.
- The scheme was too new to assess whether the children themselves felt that implementation of the Premium was having a positive effect

on their lives although the lunch box initiative at Wavendon Gate School had been seen as very positive;

- Where a familial situation improved and a child was no longer in receipt of free school meals and therefore the Pupil Premium ceased, schools would continue to work with that child whilst he or she still needed support. If the child was benefitting from the scheme the School should endeavour to continue to provide the necessary support;
- Where applicable, schools were also in receipt the Service Families Premium which was being handled in the same way as the Pupil Premium;
- Schools were also using the Pupil Premium to support after school and holiday activities for eligible pupils. It was important that they did not lose touch with disadvantaged pupils during the school holidays, particularly the summer holiday and they had a duty to intervene if the child's situation deteriorated in such a way that it became a safe-guarding matter.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Headteacher of Wavendon Gate School and the Chair of Governors of Hersonsgate School be thanked for contributing to the Committee's understanding of the Pupil Premium;
2. That Council officers be encouraged to liaise with schools and encourage them to discuss and share best practice on the use of the Pupil Premium on an annual basis;
3. That an annual report on the use of the Pupil Premium in schools should be produced for consideration by the Committee;
4. That schools should be encouraged to publish annually full details of how the Pupil Premium is being spent and the outcomes of the initiatives.

CYP12 Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-12

Elaine Coleridge Smith, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board presented the Board's Annual Report for 2011-12 which highlighted the achievements of the past year and looked forward to the challenges for the future.

The Committee noted that:

- Although there had been no Serious Case Review since 2008, the Serious Case Review Sub-Group still met every 6-8 weeks;
- The Board was working on improving inter-agency co-operation, particularly in the area of communication and information sharing. Where possible they were providing inter-agency training so that people could get to know each other on a personal basis, set up networks and break down silos;

- The Board was looking to progress its ability to undertake multi-agency audits. However, those audits it had carried out recently used a proper audit process;
- Child protection plans were reviewed initially after 3 months and then every 6 months until the plan ends. The Board stayed in regular contact with the appropriate professional teams which would be subject to scrutiny until all elements are delivered. The Board had in place very robust family support procedures which were proving effective. No child protection plan should last more than 2 years;
- The Safeguarding board received referrals from various agencies and each case, including those resulting from neighbour disputes, were dealt with on an individual basis;
- The Board's role was to have a strategic overview of safeguarding issues in Milton Keynes and to ensure that all necessary procedures were being adhered to.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Chair of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board be thanked for her presentation of the 2011/12 Annual Report.
2. That the Committee was pleased to note that the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Board was continuing to make progress in its work and was to be commended for fully addressing the recommendations made by the Select Committee following receipt of the 2009-10 report.

CYP13 MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SERVICES – OFSTED REPORT 2012

The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) which outlined the Performance Improvement Plan following the inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in Milton Keynes which had taken place during July 2012.

The Committee noted that:

- The inspection had included a range of partners involved in providing safeguarding services, not just the Council, and that the overall rating was based on how all services contributed to safeguarding children;
- No one part of the partnership in Milton Keynes was outstanding, but nor was any part inadequate; the rating for Milton Keynes was good/adequate across the board;
- Where organisations needed to improve, they would be revisited by the inspectors during the next year;
- After April 2013 Safeguarding and Looked After Children would be the only part of the Council that retained a requirement to be inspected. However, the inspection regime for this service would become more stringent;

- Children's Services, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Board, had developed an Improvement Action Plan which would run from August 2012 to February 2012;
- Children's centres would all receive appropriate guidance on safeguarding issues and how to deal with them;
- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) would be raising his profile in the community in order to make people aware of his existence and what he does;
- The interim inspection will be a pass or fail rating;
- Although work had already started across all areas highlighted for improvement, the Improvement Plan was still a draft document. The Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) would circulate the final version to Members for information once it had been approved.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Performance Improvement Plan put in place by the Children and Families Integrated Support and Social Care Service Group be commended.
2. That the Lead Member for Children and Learning be asked to ensure that the necessary resources are made available to the Assistant Director (Children's Social Care) and her team to support the successful implementation of the plan.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.50 PM