

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2018

7.00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

A G E N D A

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny

Councillor: Crooks (Chair)
Councillors: Akter, Baines, M Bradburn, Brown, Buckley, Carr, Green, D Hopkins
(Vice-Chair), V Hopkins, Miles and Wales (Vice-Chair)
Co-optees: Mrs. A Marlow (Parent Governor Representative [Special Educational Needs])
Mrs. I Oduko (Parent Governor Representative)

For more information about the meeting please contact Dwight McKenzie by telephone:
(01908) 252177 or e-mail: Dwight.McKenzie@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair to welcome councillors, parent governor representatives, the Diocesan representative witnesses, Council officers, Youth Cabinet and the public to the meeting and to introduce those present.

2. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies of absence.

3. **Disclosures of Interest**

Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4. **Local Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report (incorporating Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) 2017/18**

The Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Board (MKSB) agrees how local services and professionals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Jane Held (Independent Chair [MK Safeguarding Board]) will provide a brief oral update on the operations / activities of the Board for the 2017/18 period.

5. **Joint Plan for Children's and Adult Safeguarding Board for 2018/2019**

In 2017/18 the functions of Milton Keynes Council's Children's Safeguarding Board and Adult Safeguarding Board were combined. The new structure includes two Programme Boards - Children's Programme Board and Adults Programme Board, which report to the Safeguarding Board. The majority of Safeguarding groups are now joint Children's and Adults and meet regularly to progress Safeguarding Board priorities.

The Committee will assess implementation of the combined children and adult safeguarding function.

Jane Held (Independent Chair [MK Safeguarding Board]) will present on this item (**to follow**).

6. **Regional Adoption Agency**

Milton Keynes Council has been working in partnership with a number of adoption agencies to help find loving families for vulnerable children. The

partnership discussions have progressed to the Council proposing closer partnership working with a number of local partners so as to best enable the finding of permanent homes for children.

The partnership is in keeping with the Government's drive to speed up the time it takes to find adopters for children waiting for a family. An aim of the partnership is that approved adoptive parents will in future be able to find out more quickly about children who are waiting for a family across a region rather than just in their local area. It is also expected that the partnership will help to recruit more adopters for children who often wait longer to be placed with a family, including children who are part of a sibling group, or from a black or minority ethnic background.

The Committee will assess plans for the creation of a Regional Adoption Agency before a full Council decision.

Mac Heath (Service Director, Children and Families, Milton Keynes Council) will make a presentation to the Committee.

7. Ofsted Review Briefing (Topical Item)

In March 2018, Ofsted undertook its "Annual Conversation" with Milton Keynes Council, in keeping with Ofsted's new inspection arrangements for local authorities.

The Committee will receive a brief update on Council performance against Ofsted requirements. The "Milton Keynes Self Assessment Ofsted Annual Conversation Report- 12 March 2018" and Ofsted letter titled "Annual Conversation- education and social care- 12 March 2018" have been circulated separately.

8. Walnuts Children's Home (Topical Item)

The children and young people who live in the Walnuts Children's Home live and attend school on the same site, and Walnuts is the only special school in Milton Keynes that has retained any form of residential provision.

Milton Keynes Council has launched an informal consultation regarding the possible closure of the Walnuts Children's Home. The consultation will be for an eight week period from 15 June 2018 to 10 August 2018.

"Informal Consultation - A Proposal for the Closure of The Walnuts Children's Home" (Item 8(a)) (**Pages 8 to 10**) and the "Walnuts Children's Home - Questions and Answers" (Item 8(b)) (**Pages 11 to 13**) are background documents for the consultation.

MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

9. Committee Co-option- Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

The Children and Young People (CYP) Committee's Terms of Reference (1e) enables the Committee "Subject to the agreement of the Scrutiny Management Committee, to co-opt persons in a non-voting capacity to add to the expertise, breadth of knowledge and understanding of the work of the Committee."

In keeping with the above Terms of Reference, the CYP Committee's Planning Group recommends for Committee approval:

- (a) That a representative from the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in Milton Keynes be co-opted onto the Committee as a non-voting member for the 2018/2019 Council year.
- (b) That Shammi Rahman be accepted as SACRE's nomination to the CYP Committee for the 2018/2019 Council year.
- (c) That Scrutiny Management Committee approval of a SACRE representative on the Committee for the 2018/2019 Council year be obtained.

10. Minutes

To approve, and the Chair to sign as correct records, the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2018 (Item 10(a)) (**Pages 14 to 22**) and the special meeting held on 16 May 2018 (Item 10(b)) (**Page 23**).

11. Work Programme 2018/19

On the recommendation of the Planning Group to agree a Work Programme for the remainder of 2018/2019 as follows:

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 30 October 2018

1. GCSE & KS 1 & 2 Headline Results.
2. Transport and Hazard Alley (to be preceded by a visit on a date to be arranged).
3. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 9 January 2019

1. Home Education, children missing in education, and children studying part time.
2. Supplementary Education.

3. Progress on MK Futures - the Learning 2050 Project (including the relationship with Children Centres).

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 6 March 2019

1. Annual Report from Cabinet Member.
2. Report from Youth Cabinet
3. Obesity, School Nursing and Dental Health for the under-fives.
4. One Year On
 - Progress on MK:U
 - Child Poverty

MATTERS FOR REPORT

12. MK Education Awards

A very successful MK Education Awards event for local schools, their pupils and teachers, was held in the Doubletree hotel on 18 June 2018. A list of nominees and winners is available from Dwight McKenzie (Scrutiny Officer-Milton Keynes Council). It is hoped that – subject to available resources and sponsorship - this may become an annual event.

13. Minutes of the Cabinet - 5 June 2018

Referral from Children and Young People Committee - 7 March 2018: Longitudinal Study To Measure Outcome Of The Various Young Parent Support And Intervention Programme

The Cabinet considered a referral from the Children and Young People Committee held on 7 March 2018 with reference to undertaking a longitudinal study using a statistical sample to measure outcome of the various young parent support and intervention programmes, and requesting the Cabinet to consider to utilising a University, or other research institutions, to undertake the longitudinal study so as to mitigate any associated costs. The referral was presented by Councillor Crooks, the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee.

Councillor Nolan, the Cabinet member for Children and Families, thanked Councillors Crooks for the referral and indicated that the Council's Parenting programmes, for example, the Incredible Years Programme, offered by the Children's Centre team were international evidence-based interventions. In the case of Incredible Years, this programme had been described as one of the most carefully evaluated group-based parenting programmes available (Taylor et al, 1998) and was backed by research literature, with many randomised control trials showing its efficacy (Webster-Stratton et al, 2009).

Councillor Nolan stated that as the Council had now moved away from local programmes to greater use of evidence-based programmes, investing resources in undertaking the Council's own longitudinal study was not considered necessary.

RESOLVED -

That the written response be noted and forwarded to the Children and Young People Committee.

Milton Keynes Council Plan 2016 - 2020

The Cabinet considered approving the Council Plan 2016 - 2020, which was presented by Councillor Marland, Leader of the Council.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor O'Neill who welcomed the points about Children's Physical and Mental Health in the implementation plan raised by Councillor Crooks, and from two members of the public during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

That the Council works with partners to implement the Starting Well element of the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

14. Scrutiny Management Committee

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Committee held on 12 June 2018, the Committee considered the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 4 and agreed that each scrutiny committee be invited to review the current indicators and to identify any that they thought might be unnecessary or omitted. In respect of the Children and Young People Committee it is proposed that - initially - this task be undertaken by the Planning Group with officer colleagues.

15. Corporate Parenting Panel

The Corporate Parenting Panel met on 26 June 2018. Copies of its papers and Minutes are available from Democratic Services.

16. Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board met on 27 June 2018. Copies of its papers and Minutes are available from Democratic Services.



Informal Consultation

A proposal for the closure of The Walnuts Children's home

The SEN Code of Practice 2015 requires that all local authorities regularly monitor their structures and arrangements to ensure that they continue to be effective and deliver positive outcomes. This is especially necessary at times when there is increasing pressure on resources. The Walnuts School is a maintained special school; on site there is a children's home where five children and young people currently reside. The residential establishment also provides targeted provision for a small number of children and young people each term. Milton Keynes Council is proposing to close The Walnuts Children's Home. Whenever any changes are proposed it is best practice to undergo a process of consultation with all stakeholders, including staff, service users and their families and other local organisations. Milton Keynes Council is running an eight week informal consultation to gather opinions on the proposal. This is the first stage in a five stage process:



What is the current position?

The Walnuts Children's Home currently has five children and young people accessing the children's home full time on a 52 week basis. The numbers accessing the targeted provision have incrementally decreased; as the provision has not had capacity to offer any further placements, the number accessing the provision averaged nine young people per evening between 2013 and 2015 and over the last year has averaged three. The children and young people who live in The Walnuts Children's Home live and attend school on the same site. The Walnuts School is the only special school in Milton Keynes that has retained any form of residential provision.

The management and governance model for The Walnuts School and The Walnuts Children's Home is complex and presents a number of challenges; with both being statutorily regulated under two different Ofsted frameworks. The staff are employed by The Walnuts School, but under the Ofsted Children's Home framework the residential home is not the responsibility of the school governing board. Until April 2018 the Headteacher was the responsible individual to Ofsted.

Why is this change being proposed?

The view is that The Walnuts Children's Home is not the most appropriate way to provide 52 week provision; when originally built it was designed to be a residential boarding school. The premises do not provide an environment that enables children and young people to maximise their development due to the restrictions and makeup of the physical environment. For example, there is limited outdoor space for sole use by the children's home, and the dining room is a shared facility. The buildings of both the school and children's home do not allow any separation for the children and young people, as they are interconnected; this limits their experiences, exposure to a variety of environments and then their preparation for adulthood.

The Walnuts School targeted provision is currently only accessed by a minimal number of children and young people each term; this does not allow for a consistent and equitable offer for all pupils. It is the view that the current offer is not the most effective or flexible approach to providing short term targeted interventions to children, young people and their families.

The children's home does not make most efficient use of resources and the budget pressures linked to The Walnuts Children's Home are unsustainable. The need for placements is not consistent, which contributes to the financial pressure and does not enable sufficient planning of resources. As the home is predominately funded through the high needs block of the Designated Schools Grant, this places the school's budget and the high needs block under increasing pressure.

What is the opportunity?

The consultation provides an opportunity to consider and develop even better local provision across Milton Keynes to ensure the needs of those children and young people currently accessing The Walnuts Children's Home are met. This would allow a separation between the home and school environment. This would dovetail with the current focus to consider and develop the range of respite options available to families with disabled children and young people to meet individual needs better.

The children's home building would be utilised to support children and young people with the most complex needs, creating bespoke working environments and also creating a 6th form teaching area; enabling the school to function from two sites instead of three; providing improved facilities for the 6th form provision.

A broader and fairer family support offer would be developed through The Walnuts School. Of the 181 children and young people on roll in The Walnuts School only a very small number access targeted provision through The Walnuts Children's Home; a proportion of the resource currently supporting only a few families would be reinvested to ensure a broader, more equitable offer.

What are the options?

1 **Do nothing**

The children and young people living in the home would live and have their education in the same building and not have the opportunity to access a broader environment with a greater focus on preparation for adulthood. The budget pressures would continue to have a detrimental impact on the school's finances and therefore continue to reduce the scope of provision for the 181 pupils.

2 **Close the Children's Home provision, but maintain the targeted provision**

This option would not address the financial pressures and would be low value for money and would not enable a broader and more equitable family support/targeted offer.

3 **Close The Walnut's Children's Home**

The proposal is to stop offering placements at The Walnuts Children's Home and the closure by finding alternative placements for the children and young people currently accessing the provision and developing the respite and family support offer for disabled children and young people in Milton Keynes.

This is the preferred option

How can I find out more and contribute to the process?

The Local Authority is keen to hear as many views as possible and what people think about these proposals. As part of this consultation, there will be two public information events where these issues can be explored in greater detail with managers from Milton Keynes SEND Team and with The Walnuts School Leadership Team.

Wednesday 27 June 2018

The Walnuts School, Admiral Drive, Hazeley, MK8 0PU at 5.00 to 7.00pm

Thursday 5 July 2017

The Walnuts School, Admiral Drive, Hazeley, MK8 0PU at 12.30 to 2.30pm

The contact for this consultation is Caroline Marriott, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Alternatively, you can go online and complete a response form at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/445> to tell us what you think. **This early consultation will end on 10 August 2018.**

If you are unable to attend a public information event but would like to discuss this further, or if you are unable to access the on-line form, please email: sen@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The Walnuts Children's Home

Q&A

Q What is Walnuts Children's Home?

A It's a children's home in Hazeley, in Milton Keynes. It is currently home (52 weeks of the year) to five young people and also offers a place where children and young people can go for short term overnight stays.

When it was last inspected in February 2018, the children's home was judged 'Requires improvement to be good'. The headline finding was that "the children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted".

The children's home costs around £900K a year to run. 83% of the children's home budget comes from the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant and the rest, just over £150K, from the general council placement budget.

Q What is its relationship with The Walnuts School?

A They are different organisations. The school is separately inspected and registered with Ofsted. The Walnuts Children's Home shares a building with The Walnuts School. The Walnuts School has over 180 children with autism on roll. The school costs around £6M a year to run. The Headteacher of The Walnuts School used to also have responsibility for The Walnuts Children's Home, but this is not the case at the moment.

Q Why are you reviewing it?

A The SEN Code of Practice 2015 expects us to regularly monitor our structures and arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to ensure that they continue to be effective and deliver positive outcomes.

We're also doing it now because the permanent Headteacher has recently stepped down and this is a good time to take stock. The Walnuts School has grown a lot over recent years, and although it is doing well it has become a complex organisation on three sites, providing education for children and young people aged 4-19 years as well as a children's home and a separately registered home care service. Following

recent headteacher recruitment no suitable candidates came forward – we think a three site school with a children’s home and homecare service is perhaps too much.

Q Why is closure being proposed?

A The Walnuts Children’s Home might not be the most appropriate way to provide full time, 52 week provision. When originally built it was designed to be a residential boarding school but many of the facilities are shared – for example the outdoor space and dining facilities are used by both the school and the children’s home. We think this blurs the boundaries between the school and the children’s home, limiting young people’s experiences and the making preparing for adulthood difficult.

It’s also quite expensive to run which means that the schools ring-fenced special educational needs budget is being put under pressure to fund it.

Q What will happen to the young people living there?

We will always do our best to support children and young people who are in care to live locally. If it was agreed then the proposal would be to close The Walnuts Children’s Home at the end of the summer term in 2019 and we would work very closely with young people and their families to find alternative placements that meet their needs. It’s important to remember changes to placements happen anyway – for example when children reach 18 or their needs change.

Q What about the targeted, short term stayover provision?

A The Walnuts School targeted provision is currently only accessed by a very small number of children and young people each term – currently there are four Milton Keynes young people using the provision. We think that the current offer is not the most effective or flexible approach to providing short term targeted interventions to children, young people and their families. We will want to look at developing Furze House, which can provide short term placements and other fostering options as well as developing a family support outreach offer in partnership with the school.

Q Is this just a savings exercise?

A We don’t think that the children’s home makes the most efficient use of resources and the budget pressures linked to The Walnuts Children’s Home are an issue, with the school’s budget having to support the children’s home budget.

It’s important to say the council has not reduced the budget, or has any plans to do so, in this area. Any financial benefits to closing The Children’s Home would be returned to the local schools budget.

Q When will a decision be made?

A We've launched an early consultation – we don't have to do this by law but think it's the right thing to do. If at the end of the eight week early consultation we proceed then there will be a formal consultation process in the autumn – which will involve a delegated decision being taken by the responsible cabinet member.

We're keen to hear as many views as possible and to learn what people think about these proposals. As part of this consultation, there will be two public information events where these issues can be explored in greater detail with managers from Milton Keynes SEND Team and with The Walnuts School Leadership Team.

The first one is on Wednesday 27 June 2018 at The Walnuts School, Admiral Drive, Hazeley, MK8 0PU at 5.00 to 7.00pm. The second is on Thursday 5 July 2017 also at The Walnuts School from 12.30 to 2.30pm. Alternatively, you can go online and complete a response form at our website to tell us what you think. This early consultation will end on 10 August 2018.

ITEM 10(a)



Minutes of the meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2018, 7.01 PM in the COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Present: Councillor Sam Crooks (Chair),
Councillors Marie Bradburn, Jenni Ferrans, Elaine Wales, Sarah Betteley, Normal Miles, Gerald Small, and Alan Webb

Officers: Michael Bracey (Corporate Director- People), Mac Heath (Service Director- Children and Families), Roz Mascarenhas (Youth Participation Worker), and Dwight McKenzie (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Dransfield, Andrew Buckley, Victoria Hopkins and Debbie Main (Diocese of Northampton Representative)

Also Present: Councillor Zoe Nolan (Cabinet Member- Children and Families), Jo-Anne Hoarty (Headteacher- St. Pauls Catholic School), Alan Bullen (Chair of Trustees- Worktree), Toby Poyner (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet), Sharnel Wiggins (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet) and Rachel Grimer-James (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet)

CYP30 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

Cllr. Crooks advised the Committee that Cllr. Betteley was leaving the Committee and the Council as she would not be seeking re-election in the upcoming local government elections in May, 2018. Thankful appreciation was expressed for her contribution to the Committee over the years, and especially for having been instrumental in the Committee's review of agenda item issues one year on.

Terry Baines (Chair- Campbell Park Parish Council) who attended the meeting as a member of the public, extended an invitation to the Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet to attend a Parish Council meeting. The invitation it was explained was to enable the Youth Cabinet to develop an understanding of how local government operated at the Parish Council level.

CAREERS ADVICE

Witnesses: Jo-Anne Hoarty (Headteacher- St. Pauls Catholic School), Alan Bullen (Chair of Trustees- Worktree), Toby Poyner (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet), and Sharnel Wiggins (Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet).

The Committee first received a presentation from Jo-Anne Hoarty (Headteacher- St. Pauls Catholic School), who informed:-

- St. Paul's Catholic school adopted a strategic approach in offering careers advice to its students.
- Many of its students from year 13 and also many of its disadvantaged students went on to higher education.
- St. Paul's considered it important that schools establish meaningful links with employers across Milton Keynes and as a result it took active part in Milton Keynes Council's "Learning 2050" group.
- The Committee was invited to visit St. Paul's so as to enable a better understanding of the school's careers advice service provision.

The Committee also received a presentation from Alan Bullen (Chair of Trustees- Worktree) who informed:-

- Worktree provided a service whereby career professionals went into schools and spoke about their careers to students and gave advice and guidance; i.e. guest sessions.
- Worktree has received positive feedback from schools for the career advice service it provides.
- A 2016/17 survey by Worktree revealed that it had a positive impact on students, with students being more confident about work options and to learning and wanting to achieve, after participation in a guest session.
- Worktree incurred costs of £5 per student to offer its guest sessions to schools, for which schools were charged £3 for each student.
- Worktree was desirous of Council employees taking part in the guest sessions.
- Worktree was also desirous of grant allowance support from the Council to further support and facilitate its work in the borough.
- £60,000 is the approximate annual cost incurred by Worktree for its work in the borough, regarding which it breaks even each year.
- Worktree's vision is to offer a guest session for every student in every secondary school in Milton Keynes.
- Worktree does not currently work with every secondary school or college in Milton Keynes, and the Council is encouraged to assist in making this possible.

- Worktree does not have an office, but utilises office facilities and resources from the Lynx Networks.

The Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet in its presentation to the Committee outlined:-

- Following a Committee request, it recently conducted a survey of young people regarding career advice in schools.
- The survey involved the sending out of paper questionnaires, and an online link via the Youth Cabinet Facebook page and Youth Faculty Facebook page.
- The survey received 213 response over a 2 week period, from students at Key stage 3, GCSE's and A 'level stage of their education
- The survey revealed that:
 - i. 1 in 4 students in Milton Keynes do not know where to seek careers advice in schools.
 - ii. Some Milton Keynes schools have a dedicated careers adviser.
 - iii. 2/3 of students felt that their careers adviser was approachable
 - iv. 30.6 % of students felt they had received biased careers advice. This was concerning as it suggested that some students were possibly getting advice not suitable or desired by them.
 - v. 2 in 5 young people felt that they do not receive enough support from their school regarding their future career choices.
 - vi. Many students relied on parents and online searches for career advice.

As a result of the survey's results, the Youth Cabinet made the following recommendations:-

1. Every young person to know where to ask for advice regarding their future choices
2. All schools need to provide students work experience
3. Give students experiences of further & higher education
4. All Schools to give more options about future choices other than University
5. More advice tailored to individual students

During the Committee's discussion following the presentations, the Committee heard:-

- a) St. Pauls Catholic school utilises Worktree in its career advice service to students, and also organises a range of work experiences including apprenticeships.

- b) St. Pauls encourages students to seek work experience opportunities. These experience opportunities are risk/safeguarding assessed by St. Pauls before a student is allowed to undertake any such experience.
- c) St. Pauls offers a work related learning day in science and technology, partly aimed at encouraging more female students to consider careers in these areas.
- d) St. Pauls quality checks work experience offered to its students, and solicits feedback from employers as to the performance of students on work experience so as to enable it to ensure that the work experience is always appropriate and meaningful.
- e) Analysis of Worktree's guest professionals showed many of them to be older in age, and Worktree was therefore keen to get more young professionals involved in its guest sessions.
- f) The Youth Cabinet was concerned that careers advice bias meant that advice was not tailored towards individual students, for example geared more towards university education careers and less inclusive of apprenticeships.
- g) The Youth Cabinet was of the view that many young people were not getting enough information as regards higher education.
- h) The Youth Cabinet was of the view that students were not being taught how to do their own online careers research.
- i) The Youth Cabinet's survey had not as yet been shared with schools.
- j) Work experience offered by some schools such as St. Paul's was greatly beneficial to students, but not all schools in Milton Keynes could afford to enable such an experience. Work experience costs included for example the financing of lunches for students while they were at work, and appropriate work uniform.
- k) Careers advisers were school professionals such as teachers who were equipped with specific skills enabling them to offer careers advice, but it was not known how many Milton Keynes schools had career advisers.
- l) Companies and organisations in Milton Keynes which offered work experience should be commended as it was known to be challenging for an employer to identify a meaningful job which could be completed by a student for example on a 2 week work experience.
- m) Work experience is difficult to evaluate and assess, and a constant challenge for schools is to find companies and organisations that are able to offer valuable work experience to students.
- n) There is need to get school governors and teachers to understand the value of work experience and careers advice being offered by schools

- o) The Federation of Small Businesses and Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce should be assisted with a coordinating body by the Council so as to enable them to offer career advice and work experience to students in Milton Keynes.
- p) LYNX network is an example of an organisation in the borough where students have undertaken work experience and thereafter secured full time or part time roles.
- q) A request and encouragement for Milton Keynes Councillors to get involved in the offering of careers advice and work experience to students in the borough.

RESOLVED -

That the Committee accept the following Recommendations from the Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet:-

1. That young people in Milton Keynes be equipped with information so as to effectively signpost them to where advice regarding career choices can be obtained.
2. That all schools in Milton Keynes be required to provide students with work experience.
3. That students in Milton Keynes be provided practical experience of further and higher education for example University tours.
4. That all schools in Milton Keynes be required to provide students with more advice about career options not requiring a university education.
5. That Milton Keynes schools be required to provide career advice tailored to individual students.

That the Committee agrees additional recommendations:-

6. That Milton Keynes Council's Economic Development Unit circulates to the business community, appeals for internship and work experience opportunities for students and young people in the borough.
7. That Milton Keynes schools offer CV writing and interview skills as part of their career advice offer.
8. That 15 year olds be allowed access to careers advice offered by Information and Guidance Advisers in Milton Keynes schools.
9. That the Youth Cabinet Report and Committee recommendations be sent to schools via the schools newsletter.

10. That Milton Keynes schools be required to offer students online training for career searches.
11. That best practice internship and work experience provided by businesses be shared with the Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce.
12. That Milton Keynes Council should aid schools connecting with employers such as through the Chamber of Commerce.
13. That Worktree provide to the Committee a list of Worktree guest job types.
14. Recommendations be sent to Cabinet and or relevant external organisations and partners.

CYP32

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER- CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Witnesses: Councillor Zoe Nolan (Cabinet Member- Children and Families)

Cllr. Nolan provided the Committee with a brief presentation, and outlined the following:-

- The educational achievement of students from disadvantaged background relative to other students had improved in Milton Keynes. In contrast, at the national level this performance gap had worsened.
- Milton Keynes had achieved an improvement in early year's educational performance, and which was better than the national average.
- Improvements needed to be made by Milton Keynes in student performance at the KS4 level.
- Milton Keynes Council is focussed on reducing the number of permanent school exclusions, and various measures such as Fair Access Protocol, SEND Specialist Services, Managed Moves, Alternative Education Places and Re-integration from Alternative Education have been implemented for this achievement.
- Alternate Education as a measure had been particularly effective in Milton Keynes in reducing permanent exclusions.
- Since 2014, an increased number of schools places have been made available in Milton Keynes and Denbigh school will soon open a new secondary school in Whitehouse.
- 94% of students in Milton Keynes got 1 of their first 4 choices in schools.
- The Council hopes for more formal collaboration with schools including academies on varied issues so as to enhance education delivery in schools and student performance.

- The Council will in future announce the name of the higher education partner with whom the Council will work in development of the Milton Keynes University.
- Milton Keynes University will offer career based learning, for example a focus on the future working environment
- Milton Keynes Council has completed its post inspection Ofsted Action Plan, and a meeting would soon be held with Ofsted as part of an “annual conversation”.
- “Annual conversation” is part of a new Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) programme, which involves (i) an annual discussion between the Council and Ofsted, followed by (ii) an Ofsted letter to the Council following this discussion.
- In addition to various parenting programmes, a new “Healthy Relationships Project” was launched by the Council, aimed at combatting domestic abuse. “Mind my own” was another Council programme which enabled insight into the thoughts and feelings of children in care.
- The Council’s continued to discharge its responsibilities as a corporate parent to children and young people in the Council’s care.
- Milton Keynes Council had made progress on the delivery of home to school transport, including the utilisation of a new software platform to suppliers.
- Mac Health has been recruited and appointed as the new Service Director for Children and Family services in Milton Keynes Council replacing Nicky Rayner who has left the Council.
- Milton Keynes has made good progress in its foster care services, with children brought into foster care earlier where appropriate. However many more in house foster carers is needed in the borough, and the Council is exploring ways in which foster carers can be better supported.
- A Special Education Needs Assessment inspection for Milton Keynes was pending, the focus of which would be on the needs of users.
- Milton Keynes Council had made good progress in transitioning to the new legal requirement of developing education and healthcare plans for the special educational needs of children and young people, in addition to which the Council had launched a “Children’s Inclusion Award” to celebrate positive inclusion by schools.

In its discussion following the presentation, the Committee noted:-

- a) The importance of reducing youth re-offending, and commended the Council’s services in this effort and successes.
- b) No new public information was available regarding the move of Milton Keynes College to a new site.

- c) Milton Keynes Council was greatly concerned about the poor educational performance of KS 4 students, and that the Council was therefore working with schools to improve their support to disadvantaged students.
- d) A whole Council approach across Cabinet portfolios is desirable so as to enable the broad and effective provision of services to children and young people. This approach has been championed by the Local Government Association.

RESOLVED

1. That a copy of the PowerPoint presentation made by Cllr. Zoe Nolan (Cabinet Member- Children and Families) be provided to Committee members.
2. That the Corporate Director-People, clarify the Special Educational Needs and Disability support and award received by Milton Keynes Council.

CYP33

WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

The Committee considered the proposed Work Programme for 2018/19.

RESOLVED

That the Committee accept the proposed Work Programme subject to the following:-

1. Youth Poverty in Milton Keynes be added to the Work Programme.
2. Note be made that the Work Programme might change subject to a pending reorganisations of Scrutiny by Milton Keynes Council following a recent Local Government Associations peer review.

CYP34

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE END YEAR REPORT 2017/18

The Committee considered its annual report for the 2017/18 period.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agrees the report.

CYP35 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Chair signs as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2018.

CYP36 TOPICAL ITEM

None.

CYP37 MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Committee received and noted matters for report as relates to Corporate Parenting, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Prime Minister's launch of a review of post-18 education.

RESOLVED

That the Committee receive and note:-

1. That the Corporate Parenting Panel met on 16 January 2018.
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board met on 7 February, 2018.
3. That the Prime Minister launched a review on post-18 education on 19 February 2018.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9:46 PM

ITEM 10(b)



Minutes of the special meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2018

Present: Councillors Akter, Baines, M Bradburn, Brown, Buckley, Carr, Crooks, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Miles, Small and Wales

Also Present: Councillors Alexander, Bint, Brackenbury, R Bradburn, Brown, Brunning, Cannon, Clancy, Dransfield, Exon, Ferrans, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Gilbert, Green, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, Legg, Long, Marklew, Marland, McCall, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Minns, Morla, Morris, Nolan, O'Neill, Patey-Smith, Petchey, Priestley, Rankine, Reilly, Walker, Wallis, Webb, Williams, C Wilson and K Wilson

CYP01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Crooks be elected Chair of the Committee for the Council Year 2018/19.

CYP02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED -

That Councillors D Hopkins and Wales be appointed Vice-Chairs of the Committee for the Council Year 2018/19.

Please note that, following the meeting of the full Council on 20 June 2018, Councillor Green was appointed to the Committee to replace Councillor Small, and Councillor Webb is no longer a member of the Committee.