

## 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