

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

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**21 JULY 2015**

**7.00 PM**

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

**A G E N D A**

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[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny)

Councillor: Crooks (Chair)  
Councillors: Dransfield and Nolan (Vice-Chairs)  
Councillors: Baume, Bradburn, Buckley, V Hopkins, Small, Webb and Wilson

Co-optees: Mrs A Marlow (Parent Governor Representative [Special Educational Needs])  
Mrs R Collins (Parent Governor Representative)

For more information about the meeting please contact Fran Bower by telephone: (01908) 252177 or e-mail: [fran.bower@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:fran.bower@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

## **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements.

Each select committee has its own remit as set out in its terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

They have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy makers and decision makers
2. Enabling the voice and concerns of the public
3. Driving improvement in public services.

The select committees consider issues by receiving information from and questioning officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals or practices. They then develop recommendations to provide to officers, Members or external partners that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations.

As select committees have no executive powers they often present their conclusions in the form of recommendations that can be provided to the Council, elected Members or other external agencies. Members will often request a formal response and progress report on the implementation of recommendations that they have provided to various parties.

## **Attending Meetings of Select Committees**

Meetings of the select committees are held in public and are open for everyone to attend. If you would like to attend then please just turn up but if you can then let us know you are attending in advance of the meeting and whether or not you would like to make a representation to Members on behalf of yourself or others.

If there are specific issues that the meeting must consider in private then they will be asked to consider this at the meeting.

After the meeting the recommendations and Minutes of the meeting, as well as agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings are available via the Council's website at: <http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/>.

## **The Overview and Scrutiny process aims to promote the five themes and priorities set out in the Milton Keynes Council Corporate Plan**

The Corporate Plan and framework sets out the vision for Milton Keynes. It captures what type of place Milton Keynes aspires to be for all those who live, work, learn and visit here. The plan sets out ambitious new objectives for Milton Keynes including achieving world class status for its design, new approaches and technologies and as a sporting city.

It has five key themes which help communicate all the work the Council does on behalf of the residents of the borough.

### **The five themes are:**

#### **Cleaner, greener, safer, healthier MK:**

Improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities and work with partners to reduce crime and disorder to improve quality of life in MK.

#### **Visiting MK:**

Aim to make Milton Keynes a highly regarded visitor destination with a safe and effective transport system which is easily accessible regionally, nationally and internationally.

#### **Working in MK:**

To improve the skills and opportunities of everyone in Milton Keynes and help jobseekers into work, while attracting and retaining businesses to provide new opportunities and to bring people, jobs and industries to MK to improve the strength and resilience of the local economy.

#### **Living in MK:**

Ensuring people are satisfied with Milton Keynes as a place to live, and to support them effectively through the provision of high quality and efficient public services.

#### **World Class MK:**

Our ambition is to increase the international and national standing of Milton Keynes in several areas including our economic success, thriving communities and a high quality environment.

## **General Terms of Reference for Overview and Scrutiny Committees / Panels**

Subject to the direction of the Scrutiny Management Committee relating to work programmes and the allocation of resources:

1. To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the Committee.
2. To make reports or recommendations to the Council or to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the Committee.
3. To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the Committee.
4. To make reports or recommendations to the Council or any Committee of the Council with respect to the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the Committee.
5. To make reports or recommendations to the Council, to the Cabinet or to a regulatory committee on matters within the remit of the Committee which affect the Council's area or the inhabitants of the Council's area.
6. To consider any representations made in connection with the work of the Committee by a Member of the Council on behalf of her/his constituents.
7. To appoint advisers from outside the Council to advise the Committees.

Note: The Scrutiny Committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in part 4 of the Constitution.

## **Children and Young People Committee Terms of Reference**

1. To scrutinise the provision of services, the achievement of targets and the provision of resources by the Council and its partners for the children and young people of Milton Keynes and their families.
2. To support and challenge the Council and its partners in developing evidence-based policies and strategies which assist in creating positive outcomes for the children and young people of Milton Keynes so that they can be healthy, be safe, enjoy their childhood, achieve economic well-being and make a positive contribution to the Borough.
3. To scrutinise, on behalf of the Council, the Children and Families Partnership, the Safeguarding Children Board and the Corporate Parenting Panel.
4. To appoint a planning group to oversee the implementation of the Committee's work programme, as agreed by the Scrutiny Management Committee.
5. 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.
6. To invite expert witnesses in respect of particular items to be considered by the Committee.

## **Health and Safety**

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an alarm sounding during the meeting you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

## **Mobile Phones**

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

## **Agenda**

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/> Wi Fi access is available in the Council's meeting rooms.

## **Recording of Meetings**

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, you can film, photograph, record or use social media at any Council meetings that are open to the public. If you are reporting the proceedings, please respect other members of the public at the meeting who do not want to be filmed. You should also not conduct the reporting so that it disrupts the good order and conduct of the meeting. While you do not need permission, you can contact the Council's staff in advance of the meeting to discuss facilities for reporting the proceedings and a contact is included on the front of the agenda, or you can liaise with staff at the meeting.

Guidance from the Department for Communities and local government can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/343182/140812\\_Openness\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/140812_Openness_Guide.pdf)

## **Comments, Complaints and Compliments**

Milton Keynes Council welcomes comments, complaints and compliments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please use the slip overleaf by detaching it and passing it to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer. Alternatively the slip can be returned by post to Democratic Services, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ, or you can e-mail your comments to [scrutiny@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address.

A formal complaints / compliments form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/>.

**Meeting Attended: Children and Young People**

**Date of Meeting: 21 July 2015**

Comments:.....

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## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair to welcome councillors, parent governor representatives (PGR), council officers, witnesses and the public to the meeting and introduce councillors, PGRs, officers and witnesses who are present.

### 2. Apologies

### 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 council officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

### 4. Post-16 Options for Continued Learning in Milton Keynes

To consider contributions from representatives of the following institutions:

- Milton Keynes College;
- University of Bedfordshire, University Campus Milton Keynes;
- Denbigh Teaching Alliance and
- Milton Keynes University Hospital.

Speakers have been asked to address the following questions:

(i) How can we best guide local pupil choices at age 16 so that they don't enter courses that might not be of real value - for example, are there higher level technician qualifications that may be a better career investment than a generalist university course?

(ii) How can we make Milton Keynes more attractive to people from elsewhere looking for courses of study?

(iii) What can we do to improve MK's acute shortage of teachers and medical practitioners (especially GPs) in the knowledge that locally trained people are more likely to seek their first training contracts / jobs in the area where they have trained?

(iv) What are your longer term development plans in Milton Keynes?

(v) Is there anything that speakers feel the Council can do - or stop doing - that will help your current activities or forward planning?

### 5. 2015-16 Work Programme

- a) To receive an itemised list, which is attached at Item 5(a) (**pages 10 to 16**) of the recommendations made by the Children and Young People Select Committee in 2014-15, with details of outcomes from each.

- b) To consider a proposed 2015-16 Work Programme, based on suggestions made by the Children and Young People Select Committee in 2014-15 and the current Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Children and Young People Committee, and which were approved in outline by the Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting on 24 June 2015. The proposed Work Programme is attached at Item 5(b) (**page 17**).

**6. Child Sexual Exploitation**

To consider a Note (to follow) from the Corporate Director (People) reflecting a discussion on child abuse at the Corporate Parenting Panel on 23 April 2015

**7. Minutes**

To note the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee, which were agreed by the Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting on 24 June 2015. The minutes are attached as Item 7 (**pages 18 to 24**).

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**8. Matters for Report**

The minutes of the meetings below and relevant presentations are available on request from Fran Bower ([fran.bower@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:fran.bower@milton-keynes.gov.uk))

**(a) Corporate Parenting Board**

*29 January:*

The main items considered by the Panel included:

- The Leaving Care function within the Corporate Parenting Team;
- The Annual Report of the Virtual School;
- The December 2014 OFSTED report on the inspection of Furze House;
- The Children in Care Council report: *Today's Children: Tomorrow's Future*.

*23 April:*

The main items considered included

- Staying Put Arrangements in Milton Keynes;
- Milton Keynes Adoption Activity 2014/15;
- Children in Care Council: *Today's Children Tomorrow's Future*;
- Taking it to the Next Level – the Health of Looked-After children
- Child Abuse (*see also agenda item 6 above*)

**(b) Children and Families Partnership Board**

*24 March*

The main items considered by the Partnership included:

- Special Education Needs & Disability
- School Nursing



- Further Development of Early Help

*30 June*

The main items considered included

- Milton Keynes Child Health Profile
- Strengthening Families

The Children and Families Partnership has agreed new Terms of Reference, which are attached as Item 8(b) (**pages 25 to 26**).

### **(c) Health and Wellbeing Board**

The main items

26 March: the Board considered by the Board included:

*26 March:*

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014/15
- Draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015/18
- Primary Care in Milton Keynes
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
- Healthwatch Update
- Forward Plan

*25 June:*

The main items considered included:

- Confirmation of the Draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Better Care Fund



# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

1 JULY 2014

ITEM 5(a)

ITEM	To	Outcome
<p><b>Annual report of the Corporate Parenting Panel 2013/14</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Service 2013/14, detailing the contribution of Independent Reviewing Officers to quality assurance and improving services for Children in Care be circulated to the Committee for information.</li> <li>2. That the 2013 Annual Report of the Milton Keynes Virtual School, which supports the education of Children in Care from the time they enter statutory education to the time they leave education, be circulated to the Committee for information.</li> <li>3. That if Members have any specific queries in relation to the Report they raise these with the relevant officers and then bring any issues back to the Committee if they are not satisfied with the response.</li> <li>4. That the Committee would like to see in future Reports more relevant statistics specifically relating to Milton Keynes, rather than just those the Corporate Parenting Panel was required to produce nationally.</li> <li>5. That the Committee would also like to see more information on how well Looked After children were thriving, rather than just a report on the activities of the Corporate Parenting Panel.</li> </ol>	<p>Liz Richardson</p> <p>Liz Richardson</p> <p>Nicky Raynor</p> <p>Nicky Raynor</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Next Corporate Parenting Annual Report to go to CYP September 2015</p>
<p><b>Update on early help and strengthening families</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Assistant Director (Integrated Support and Social Care) provides the Committee with statistical data from comparable local authorities on progress made in identifying problem families in relation to the Government's estimate of the numbers and the level of re-imburement claimed so far.</li> <li>2. That the Committee would continue to monitor the performance of the project to see if further detailed scrutiny is required in the future. To this end the Assistant Director (Integrated Support and Social Care) is asked to provide the Committee with a regular progress report.</li> </ol>	<p>-</p> <p>Nicky Raynor</p> <p>Nicky Raynor</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>This will be a major item at CYP's December 2015 meeting</p>

ITEM	To	Outcome
<p><b>Annual Report of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board 2013/14</b></p> <p>1 That the Committee endorses the following recommendations made by the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board's on how it planned to continue to tackle the issues of child sexual exploitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All key partnerships and commissioning groups should review their plans to include consideration of the prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation and identification and needs of high-risk groups, including local gangs. This should be reflected in the JSNA and included in commissioning decisions and priorities.</li> <li>• MKSCB, through the work of the CSE Task and Finish group, will scrutinise the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, and identify and lead on any learning for MK.</li> <li>• MKSCB should seek assurance about the delivery of sex and relationships education in Milton Keynes schools and colleges. Sex and relationships education should be part of a holistic/whole-school approach to safeguarding that includes internet safety and all forms of risky behaviour and how children are equipped to protect themselves.</li> <li>• MKSCB should explore with key partners how they can identify ways of developing more direct and more frequent engagement with women and men from minority ethnic communities on the issue of CSE and other forms of abuse.</li> <li>• MKSCB, through the work of the CSE task and finish group should receive information from Multi Agency Risk Management group and consider the information collected and actions undertaken to improve outcomes for children and young people.</li> <li>• All partner agencies should continue to resource, and strengthen, the CSE work currently underway under the auspices of MKSCB.</li> </ul> <p>2 The Committee supports the establishment of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and its incorporation in the Integrated Referral Hub.</p> <p>3 That the Committee supports the measures necessary for the Safeguarding Board to deliver its commitments to the Children's Society in the "The Runaway's Charter"</p>	<p>Elaine Coleridge</p>	<p>MKSCB was notified of all the resolutions in points (1) – (3) opposite</p>

<p>4 That the Cabinet Member for Children and Lifelong Learning be asked to ensure that, as part of the current budget setting process, sufficient funds continue to be available to support the work being done by children's social services and that in the longer term the need to assess the most appropriate level of resources for safeguarding is identified.</p>	<p>Norman Miles</p>	<p>An additional £1.5 m has been made available in FY 2015 – 16 for Integrated Children's Support &amp; Social Care</p>
<p><b>Give Every Child the Best Start in Life</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Committee supported Objective 6 (Give Every Child the Best Chance in Life) of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and would continue to scrutinise progress against this Objective.</li> <li>2. That, in the Committee's view, the links between Objective 2 (Improve Access to, and Quality of, Mental Health Promotion and Service) and Objective 6 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy needed to be made clearer.</li> <li>3. That subject to statute membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that the partner organisations on the Board remain representative of the wider community in Milton Keynes.</li> <li>4. That data relating to the provision of Children's Social Care, and particularly Early Help initiatives, needs to be clear and relevant.</li> <li>5. That more work needs to be done with GPs and other healthcare professionals to overcome their concerns about patient confidentiality so that the Children's Social Care Team and the Safeguarding Board can be alerted, in an appropriate and timely manner, to those families who may be in need of assistance.</li> </ol>		
<p>Muriel Scott &amp; Nicky Raynor</p> <p>Ann Green</p>		
<p>The Health &amp; Well Being Board were informed of the resolutions in points (1), (2), (4) and (5) opposite.</p> <p>The Committee contributed to the HWB's 2014 review of its terms of reference and membership</p>		

## 12 NOVEMBER 2014

ITEM	To	Outcome
<p><b>Presentation from the Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That members of the Committee be encouraged to spread the word about the Youth Cabinet and the UK Youth Parliament.</li> </ol>		<p>Committee members were reminded of points (1) and (2) opposite</p>

2. That members be encouraged to support the promotion of the Youth Cabinet in schools	.		
3. That the Council be encouraged to work collaboratively with the next Youth Cabinet and the UK Youth Parliament members.	Roz Mascarenhas	The Committee is participating in the Youth Cabinet's MkSayMK programme	
4. That the Council be encouraged to hold a debate about changing the voting age.	Sam Crooks	Debate took place on 14 January 2015	
5. That a meeting be arranged between the Youth Cabinet and key officer colleagues to discuss the issues with regard to education raised by the Youth Cabinet representatives	Sam Crooks	This is being arranged for the incoming YC	
6. That the issues raised with regard to the All-In-One Card, specifically the cost of bus travel, be referred to the responsible Cabinet member for consideration.	Matt Clifton	The YC's comments did not meet with favour and the price of the card has doubled	
7. That how the Committee can take forward the issues identified by the 'Make Your Mark' Poll of the Living Wage; Work Experience, Mental Health; Maths and English Results and Euthanasia, be discussed by the Committee's Planning Group.		These items will be taken up as part of the CYP 2015 – 16 work programme	
8. That the Constitution Commission be requested to consider amending the Constitution to allow the Youth Cabinet to submit items for debate by the Council, on either an six monthly or annual basis and in the meantime the Youth Cabinet be encouraged to seek sponsors from amongst the councillors for motions it would like to see debated.	Simon Heap	Twice deferred	
9. That the Committee maintain a regular dialogue with the Youth Cabinet to allow an exchange of issues.		The YC present to the Committee each year.	
<b>School Place Planning and Admissions</b>			
1. That the existing strategies be endorsed.	.		
2. That the Cabinet be requested to make representations to the Government to allow school places to be reserved in areas where potential growth is clearly planned and evidenced	Norman Miles	The Cabinet wrote to the then Minister and was advised that this would be unlawful.	
3. That the Cabinet Advisory Group for Planning matters be requested to ensure that reserve sites close to, or adjacent to proposed school sites in growth areas are included in Plan MK to allow for future expansion.	Bob Wilson	Done	

4	That the Corporate Director (Children and Families) be requested to consider instigating design requirements for future schools which allow parts of schools to be 'moth balled' in the event of falling demand.	Michael Bracey	The Council made an unsuccessful approach to Middleton
5	That the Corporate Director (Children and Families) be requested to encourage schools to consider the 'Bubble Class' (also referred to as 'Bulge Year') model adopted by Brooklands Farm Primary School, where an extra class has been established to allow children in the defined area who have been unable to get a place at the School under the normal admission arrangements to still be educated at the School.	Michael Bracey	
6	That the Cabinet be encouraged to provide sufficient school places in each 'locality' to meet local demand.	Norman Miles	Agreed in so far as possible
7	That the Corporate Director (Children and Families) be requested to consider taking a holistic approach to school planning so that, amongst other issues, parking; transport; drop off arrangements; and traffic congestion are all considered.	Michael Bracey Anna Rose	Done, in so far as planning legislation permits
8	That the Corporate Director (Children and Families) be requested to encourage schools to consult all councillors and the wider community when planning to change admission arrangements.	Michael Bracey	Agreed
9.	That the Cabinet be encouraged to increase the number of preferences able to be expressed for school places to greater than three	Norman Miles	The Cabinet agreed to consult on this
10.	That the impact on school transport provision by increasing the number of preferences able to be specified be noted.		
11.	That the Cabinet be requested to ensure that no school is considered for expansion where there is a potential that performance at the school could suffer.	Norman Miles	Cabinet confirmed this is already a fundamental consideration
12	That the Cabinet be recommended to request schools to hold a waiting list for children living within the defined area school, but in excess of one mile of the school and also to encourage other admission authorities to adopt a similar approach	Norman Miles	The Council is not legally permitted to hold selective waiting lists
<b>Annual Performance and Achievements Report 2013-14</b>			
1.	That Cabinet be requested to protect resources available for school improvement, particularly resources for secondary schools.	Norman Miles	The 2015/16 Budget contained no significant savings for school

		improvement
2. That the Corporate Director (Children and Families) be requested to take measures to publicise which school are the responsibility of the Council and which are not.	Michael Bracey	This information is publicly available
3 That Cabinet be asked to consider taking measures to promote recruitment of teachers and to undertake in-house teacher training to develop local talent.	Norman Miles	The Cabinet has launched a pilot programme with local Teaching schools
4 That the Corporate Director (Children and Families) be requested to make sure that there is a co-ordinated approach across all schools in Milton Keynes	Michael Bracey	

## 27 JANUARY 2015

ITEM	To	Outcome
<b>Increasing the Numbers of School Places to Serve Oxley Park and North Kingsmead by the Creation of New Provision at Shenley Wood – Governance Options</b>		
1 That the Cabinet Member for Children and School Improvement be requested to progress the implementation of Option A as the Committee's preferred option.	Norman Miles	The Cabinet adopted this recommendation
2. That, whichever option is implemented, the Cabinet Member for Children and School Improvement be requested to take in to account local concerns about increased traffic and issues with parking at the school sites and to ensure that measures are put in place to minimise any problems	Norman Miles	The need for this is recognised subject to planning constraints
<b>Action Plan Arising from the GCSE Performance Report 2013/14</b>		
1. That staff from Setting and School Effectiveness be requested to provide the Committee with:		
a) Any evidence as to whether pupils taking vocational qualifications are more prepared for a workplace environment than those taking academic qualifications;		Preparation of this information is in hand for
b) Any evidence as to whether non-native speakers of English struggle more with written English; and		discussion at the Committee's January
c) A breakdown by gender as to whether females achieve better results than males under a system of continuous assessment.		2016 meeting.



2. That the Corporate Director People be requested to give consideration to including demonstration / observed lessons showing good practice as part of the regular subject networking events.	Michael Bracey	In hand for the January 2016 meeting (see above)
3. That the Action Plan be welcomed as a positive start to improving performance at GCSE level and that the Corporate Director People be requested to consider the addition of a column for completion dates so that completion can be measured	Michael Bracey	
4. That the Committee be supplied with details of how much time was being dedicated by Council staff to supporting schools to improve and implement the Action Plan.	Michael Bracey	
5. That the Corporate Director People be requested to ensure that schools participating in the Action Plan for improvement do not concentrate solely on academic subjects to the detriment of vocational qualifications which were sometimes much more beneficial to some pupils	Michael Bracey	This is a subject for discussion at the Committee's 21 July 2015 meeting
<b>END</b>		



## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT 2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME V3 *(with explanatory comments in italics)***21 July 2015**

- Post 16 options for continued learning in Milton Keynes *(already in hand)*
- 2015 -16 Work Programme
- Child Sexual Abuse *(from Corporate Parenting)*

**30 September 2015**

- Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel *(regular item)*
- Annual Report of the MK Safeguarding Children Board, including a review of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) *(regular item)*
- 2015 GCSE Performance & Achievement Report and Key Stage 1 & 2 Performance Reports  
*(Included at the request of the 2014 – 15 CYP Committee which sought reassurance that the outcome of remedial measures could be measure)*
- Play policy *(held over from January & July)*

**15 December 2015**

- Presentation from MK Youth Cabinet *(annual event)*
- Youth Offending & Strengthening Families  
*(included at the request of last year's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee. The Youth Offending Board and Strengthening Families Board have been combined).*
- Children's Centres and Early intervention  
*(Arises from the Community & Cultural Services Review)*

**10 February 2016**

- Mental health issues affecting children and young people
- Strategic Objective (1) – *Starting Well* - of the Health & Well Being Board.

**June / July 2016**

- Accountability of Schools, including scrutiny of the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.  
*(Included at the request of last year's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee)*
- Milton Keynes Teacher Supply *(a year after this month's meeting)*
- Update on school admissions issues  
*(Included at the request of a member of the Scrutiny Committee to ensure the issue is not lost sight of).*
- Access to special school places: the decision making process  
*(Included at the request of last year's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee)*





Minutes of the meeting of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2015 at 7.00 PM

**Present:** Councillor Crooks (Chair)  
Councillors Ferrans, Gowans, V Hopkins, McLean (substituting for Dransfield), Nolan, Pallett, Small and Wilson, Mrs R Collins (Parent Governor Representative and Mrs A Marlow (Parent Governor Representative [Special Educational Needs])

**Officers:** M Bracey (Corporate Director People), M Denny (Head of Delivery [Setting and School Sufficiency and Access]), G Sandmann (Head of Productivity [Setting and School Effectiveness]) and E Richardson (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

**Apologies:** Councillor Dransfield

**Also Present:** Councillors Miles and Bald and 6 members of the public

**CYP21 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2014, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the attendance of Councillor Pallett being recorded.

**CYP22 INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF SCHOOL PLACES TO SERVE OXLEY PARK AND NORTH KINGSMEAD BY THE CREATION OF NEW PROVISION AT SHENLEY WOOD – GOVERNANCE OPTIONS**

**Witness:**

M Denny (Head of Delivery [Setting and School Sufficiency and Access]),

The Council's preferred policy for increasing school provision in the developing areas of the city was to allow successful schools like Oxley Park Academy to expand on their existing sites. However, the Academy's current site was very constrained and therefore this was not an option thus there was a need to consider alternative arrangements.

The Committee scrutinised the above report setting out plans to open new primary school provision in Shenley Wood which would serve the expanding areas of Oxley Park and Kingsmead. The report also presented three possible governance options on how this plan could be taken forward, which were considered by the Committee.

During discussion of the various options, the Committee noted that:

If the new primary provision was an extension of the existing Oxley Park Academy, then the school's Admissions Procedures would need to make it clear to parents how to opt for the campus of their choice;

As an academy, Oxley Park Primary School was responsible for setting its own entrance requirements and if Option A was agreed, would also be responsible for the entrance requirements at the Shenley Wood site. However, the Council would need to work on this with the school, because, although it would not be funding the places, it would need a guarantee that its requirement for adequate primary school provision in this area of Milton Keynes was being met;

There could be transport issues if parents had children at both campuses. The Council needed to make sure that proper parking arrangements were in place at both sites. Options to mitigate the effects of local parking issues included the school running a transfer mini-bus between sites;

The new school building at Shenley Wood was currently under construction and should be ready for September 2016. What needed to be agreed was the issue of governance for the new provision;

Once complete, the school would remain in the possession of the Council for a year before being legally transferred to the academy with a formal funding agreement between Oxley Park Academy and the Council;

The current modelling was for each school to be a stand-alone primary school, rather than splitting years between the two sites. However circumstances change over time and splitting age groups between the two sites might be considered in the future;

Because of the uniqueness of this situation it had not been possible to include a co-operative academy as a possible governance option;

Presenting point 5.1 of the report as a formal recommendation would have been helpful;

As a temporary measure, if Option A was agreed, Oxley Park Academy might be able to take in additional pupils in September 2015, until the new provision is ready. However this was a decision for the school's governing body;

Shenley Church End Parish Council had expressed their support for Option A, as had the governing body and staff at the Oxley Park Academy;

Councillor Bald, as Ward Councillor for Tattenhoe, was pleased to see that progress was being made to resolve the issue of primary

school provision in the Oxley Park area, and she also supported Option A;

Councillor Miles, as Cabinet Member for Children and School Improvement, felt that expanding Oxley Park Academy onto a second site was the most expedient and effective way forward.

The Chair thanked Councillor Bald and representatives from Oxley Park Academy and the Shenley Church End Parish Council for their attendance

**RESOLVED -**

1. That the Cabinet Member for Children and School Improvement be requested to progress the implementation of Option A as the Committee's preferred option.
2. That whichever option is implemented, the Cabinet Member for Children and School Improvement be requested to take into account local concerns about increased traffic and issues with parking at the school sites and ensure that measures put in place to minimise any problems.

**CYP23**

**ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM THE GCSE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013/14**

**Witness:**

G Sandmann (Head of Productivity [Setting and School Effectiveness])

The witness explained that although the report had been commissioned in-house by the Council, every secondary school in Milton Keynes had co-operated in its production. There had been a cocktail of issues around the changes to GCSEs which had taken place during the 2013/14 academic year, and schools in Milton Keynes had just not been ready for them.

Several changes involved what could and could not be counted towards a school's final performance table rating. Subjects which no longer counted included speaking and listening in English and all vocational courses, even though, in many cases, these were beneficial to individual students. Also, with academic subjects, the grade achieved at a first attempt was the one that counted, although students could still resit to improve their grades on a personal basis.

The Committee considered the report in detail and noted that:

- The Council had established subject network meetings for all core subjects which were scheduled to meet every half-term to share good practice across all secondary schools;
- The number of mock exams being taken by pupils was being increased;

- Information was being gathered from Headteachers on a regular basis, rather than waiting for a meeting of the Secondary Heads Group;
- Theoretically, the Council could only have a conversation about improving performance with maintained schools. However, although no longer responsible to the Council, there had been no problems with the academies participating in the new initiatives being developed to improve pupil performance;
- Attracting good teachers to Milton Keynes continued to be a problem, although some money was being set aside in 2015 for this purpose;
- The interests of schools and the interests of individual pupils were not necessarily the same thing. Schools often had an eye on external reporting requirements when they should be working for what was best for pupils;
- The performance tables on which the report and action plan were based were for the 'gold standard' of 5 or more A\* - C GCSE grades including English and Maths. School League tables based on all subjects would be published on 29 January and that because of the changes, like for like comparisons with previous years were not possible.

The Committee was of the view that one of the aims of a good education was to equip pupils to be as ready for work as possible, rather than just bolster a school's position in the performance tables. The new regime for results analysis penalised not only pupils who were taking vocational qualifications, but also those schools which were aware of their pupil's needs and offered a range of vocational courses. The Committee would be interested to see any evidence that pupils taking vocational courses were more ready for work than those just taking academic subjects.

The two lowest performing schools were both in Bletchley and the Committee expressed the hope that they would receive additional support to improve their performances. The Committee was advised that there was a danger of getting too focussed on a single cohort as one of the schools in Bletchley had recently received a 'Good' OFSTED rating; there was more than just GCSEs going on in schools.

The Committee also learnt that as well as trying to address immediate issues, schools were trying to build on what was coming up as the results for the current Key Stage 2 cohort were very good and boded well for the future.

The Committee then scrutinised the Action Plan which had been developed to address the concerns considered by the report and learnt that as all schools were different, the Action Plan had been developed around 6-7 themes which schools could adapt to their



individual circumstances. The Council's Corporate Director People said that he and his team were very pleased with the Action Plan and would welcome cross-party support for what they were doing.

The Committee expressed a concern that the Action Plan seemed somewhat vague, there was no timescale as to when any of these actions should be achieved, neither were they particularly quantifiable or measurable.

The Committee was reminded that the Council only had statutory responsibility for improvement in 4 secondary schools, the other 12 schools were academies which had agreed to participate in the Action Plan voluntarily. The Council could challenge schools about their performance but ultimately, they were responsible for putting their own improvement measures in place.

The Committee also learnt that Milton Keynes had a good base for in-school teacher training, but given the nature of the housing mix in the city, there was very little suitable accommodation for non-locals who wanted to come to Milton Keynes to train as teachers. The Corporate Director for People considered training good teachers locally was key to improving school performance, but the lack of suitable accommodation was holding up progress. Ideally he would like to see 'halls of residence' style accommodation being made available to trainee teachers in Milton Keynes.

#### RESOLVED –

1. That staff from Setting and School Effectiveness be requested to provide the Committee with:
  - a) Any evidence as to whether pupils taking vocational qualifications are more prepared for a workplace environment than those taking academic qualifications;
  - b) Any evidence as to whether non-native speakers of English struggle more with written English; and
  - c) A breakdown by gender as to whether females achieve better results than males under a system of continuous assessment.
2. That the Corporate Director People be requested to give consideration to including demonstration / observed lessons showing good practice as part of the regular subject networking events.
3. That the Action Plan be welcomed as a positive start to improving performance at GCSE level and that the Corporate Director People be requested to consider the addition of a column for completion dates so that progress can be measured.

4. That the Committee be supplied with details of how much time was being dedicated by Council staff to supporting schools to improve and implement the Action Plan.
5. That the Corporate Director People be requested to ensure that schools participating in the Action Plan for improvement do not concentrate solely on academic subjects to the detriment of vocational qualifications which were sometimes much more beneficial to some pupils.

## **CYP24**

### **MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL PLAY POLICY**

Having read the report prepared by the Assistant Director (Integrated Support and Social Care), the Committee decided that the Council's Play Policy was a cross-service issue and requested that further scrutiny be deferred until other witnesses could be invited to attend a meeting.

RESOLVED -

That consideration of the Milton Keynes Council Play Policy be deferred until such time that the Cabinet Member for Public Realm and the Service Director for Public Realm are able to attend a meeting of the Select Committee.

## **CYP25**

### **2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair invited members of the Committee to put forward possible suggestions for the 2015/16 Work Programme. The following items were suggested:

- Children's Social Care;
- Provision of Higher Education in Milton Keynes;
- Review of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub;
- Issues around Youth Offending, including early intervention and prevention, support for ex-offenders, Probation services for young people;
- Wider Use Funding and the possible effect of the Culture and Communities Service Review on schools and youth groups;
- Direct scrutiny of schools;
- Mental health issues affecting children and young people;
- Future of the Children and Families Partnership Board;
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Select Committee's Planning Group be requested to consider the suggestions for future items put forward at the meeting and reviews the 2014/15 Work Programme for any outstanding items in order to prepare a draft Work Programme for 2015/16 for submission to the Scrutiny Management Committee.

2. That the Planning Group be requested to review the list of resolutions made during 2014/15 to check progress and include details in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

**CYP26**

**MATTERS FOR REPORT**

The Select Committee noted:

- (a) the written response of the Cabinet Member for Children and School Improvement to the recommendations made at the meeting held on 12 November 2014;
- (b) that the Children and Families Partnership had met on 24 November 2014. The Chair further reported that the Partnership had also met that morning and had received a report on the new Probation Service arrangements, reviewed the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as discussing its own future; and
- (c) that the service and support provided to learning disabled children and their families by Furze House had been rated as Good by OFSTED, following an inspection in December 2014.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.05 PM



# **Milton Keynes Children and Families Partnership**

## **Terms of reference (Agreed May 2015)**

### **Introduction**

The Milton Keynes Children and Families Partnership was established in April 2011. It replaced our local children's trust arrangements and has proved to be a forward looking and flexible partnership which has been able to reflect the changing national policy environment and provided us with the opportunity to continue to work together in a realistic and responsible way to improve the lives of children, young people and families.

In early 2015 a review of the Children and Families Partnership was carried out. This review confirmed that the partnership remained relevant, with all members wanting it to continue. Some areas of change were identified as necessary. As a result the terms of reference for the group have been updated. This document reflects these changes.

### **The role of the Children and Families Partnership**

It is the role of the partnership to:

1. Ensure that important children's issues are being addressed appropriately
2. Enable significant changes to service delivery to be tested out before implementation

The partnership does this through a two part board agenda; part one providing members with time for a themed discussion stimulated with a contextual presentation. The annual themes are health and wellbeing (summer), education and training (autumn) crime and safety (winter) and children and young people's participation (spring). Issues identified as in need of further exploration or action can then be referred to one of our principle partnerships (for example the Health and Well Being Board, Schools Forum or Safer MK, our community safety partnership) or for scrutiny by our Children and Young People Select Committee.

The second part of the board meeting will provide all partners with the opportunity to share details of any changes being considered to service delivery in order to benefit from early testing of the proposals from the partnership and receive any feedback and, if helpful, formal endorsement if supported by members.

### **Meetings**

The partnership meets as a formal board for up to three hours every three months. The board is chaired by the Director of Children's Services. Milton Keynes Council will provide administrative support to the partnership and make minutes of all meetings available.

The partnership is made up of invited senior leaders from across children's services joined by the cabinet member for children and young people and one representative of each of the political groups on the Milton Keynes Council. Membership is further extended to the chair of the Safeguarding Children Board.

Membership includes representation from those organisations with a duty to cooperate as set out in section 10 of the Children Act 2004:

- Local Authority
- Health
- Police
- Probation

Extending to other local partners, including:

- Schools and FE providers
- Community and voluntary sector
- Department for Work and Pensions

The partnership is committed to involving children and young people and continues to make places on the board available to representatives from the MK Youth Cabinet.

### **Interrelationship with the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board**

The Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board has a specific role to co-ordinate what is being done by each person or body represented on the board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by such person or body for those purposes.

Both partnerships are fully committed to having an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly and working together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by the other. This will be achieved by the Chair of the Children and Families Partnership having a place on the Safeguarding Board and the Chair of the Safeguarding Board having a place on the Children and Families Partnership and through regular liaison meetings.

### **Standards**

The Nolan principles of public life apply. Members are expected to uphold these principles:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

### **2015/16 meeting dates**

	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Summer	Health and wellbeing	30 June 2015	Acorn House
Autumn	Education and training	20 October 2015	Acorn House
Winter	Crime and safety	12 January 2016	Acorn House
Spring	Participation	26 April 2016	Acorn House