

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 30th January, 2008.

Present: Cllr David Harrington (Chairman), Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Andrew Sherris; Mr Cash (Parent Governor Representative).

Officers: G Birtle, F Shayler (LD); B Johns, J Morrison (CESC).

Also in attendance: Mr Campbell, Mr Davies (Non Voting Co-opted Representatives)

Apologies: None

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Coleman declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Councillor Frankland declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Councillor Lewis declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Councillor Sherris declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Councillor Mrs Cains declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

Mr Campbell declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a Head Teacher and School Governor.

Mr Davies declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of School Organisation Plan further to being a School Governor.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th December, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

3 Review of School Organisation Plan

Members agreed the scope and project plan for their review of the School Organisation Plan.

Betty Johns, Assistant Education Officer - Pupils and Students, was in attendance to provide evidence to Members on the School Admissions procedure. Members were provided with a booklet on Primary and Secondary Education 2008-2009.

The new School Admission Code came into force in February 2007 and applied to all maintained schools and Academies. The Code had a much stronger statutory basis than its predecessors.

Members were informed that a Choice Advisor had been employed to provide independent advice and assistance to all parents of children of all ages in the area when they were expressing a preference of school for their child. The Choice Advisor was managed by John Hegarty. Members discussed the publicity that had taken place to inform parents of the service. Various methods of advertising had been used and Members requested that an advert be put in 'Gleanings' to ensure that Governing Bodies were aware of the Service so that the information could be disseminated more widely.

Members held discussion on the admission procedure and parental preference and choice.

Information was requested on the numbers of children due to be entering primary school over the next 4-5 years, and detail on which Schools would be over/under subscribed. John Hegarty would be requested to supply the information at a future meeting.

CONCLUDED that the information provided be noted and that John Hegarty be requested to supply the information requested as detailed above.

4 Work Programme

Members were informed that Matthew Clifford, Principal Planning Officer (Spatial Planning), would be providing evidence to the Committee on Wednesday 6th February. At the meeting on 13th February, Julia Morrison would be providing information on the BSF proposals. Members also wished to invite John Hegarty to this meeting.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.