



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

ON

MONDAY 3 JUNE 2013

AT

7.00PM

AGENDA

**Civic Offices
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire**

**Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive**



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

Chief Executive's Department
P.O. Box 150
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WQ
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Fax: (0118) 979 0877
Minicom No: (0118) 977 8909
DX: 33506 - Wokingham



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: The Chairman and Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham on **Monday 3 June 2013 at 7.00pm.**

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
24 May 2013

Members:-Pauline Helliar-Symons (Chairman), Ian Pittock (Vice-Chairman), Parry Batth, Andrew Bradley, Ken Maill, Sam Rahmouni, Bob Wyatt and Shahid Younis

Substitutes: Chris Bowring, Kay Gilder, Abdul Loyes, Dee Tomlin

Parent Governor Representatives – Karen Knight, Colin Wood

Church of England Diocesan Representative – One Vacancy

Roman Catholic Diocesan Representative – One Vacancy

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
1.00	None Specific	MINUTES To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on 25 February 2013.	1-6
2.00	None Specific	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	-
3.00		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	-

4.00	<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>To answer any public questions The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this Committee. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Panel or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact Democratic Services on the numbers listed below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</p> <p>Explanatory leaflets are also available in the Civic Offices and Libraries.</p>	-
5.00	<p>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</p> <p>To answer any member questions.</p>	-
6.00	<p>REPORT OF THE WOKINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD</p> <p>To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Wokingham Safeguarding Children’s Board.</p>	7-55
7.00	<p>WBC CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM & ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION STRATEGY – POSITION STATEMENT</p> <p>To receive an update on establishing how children and young people have been engaged to date.</p>	56-67
8.00	<p>SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND OFSTED REPORTS</p> <p>To receive and consider reports of school performance data: Recently published Ofsted reports for schools can be found at http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report</p>	68-70
9.00	<p>CHILDREN’S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</p> <p>To receive and consider reports of Children’s Services performance data</p>	71-79
10.00	<p>CHILDREN’S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>To receive the current work programme for the Committee and to consider any additions.</p>	80-85

11.00

**ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN
DECIDES ARE URGENT**

-

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

This is an agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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CONTACT OFFICERS

Tricia Harcourt

Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel 0118 9746091

Administrators

Tel 0118 974 6053/ 6054

Fax

0118 919 7757

Email

democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2013 FROM 7.00PM TO 8.55PM**

*Present:- Pauline Helliard-Symons (Chairman), Shahid Younis (Vice-Chairman),
Parry Batth, Andrew Bradley, Lesley Hayward and Ian Pittock*

Parent Governor Representatives: Karen Knight, Colin Wood

Also present:-

Pauline Maddison, Interim Strategic Director of Children's Services

Richard Stanley, Head of Learning and Achievement

Brain Grady, Strategic Commissioner Children, Young People and Families

Tricia Harcourt, Senior Democratic Services Officer

46. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 3 January 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

50. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

51. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE

The Panel received and considered the tables and commentary set out on Agenda pages 6 to 15 detailing the Children's Services Social Care Key Performance Indicators; data on NI 111 – Youth Offending Service - First Time Entrants; and data on NI 117 – NEETs (Young people not in education employment or training).

The Panel noted that the following indicators were red, but accepted the explanations given in the commentary:

- NI 59 – *Initial assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 7 working days of referral*
- NI 61 – *Timeliness of placements of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption*
- NI 63 – *Stability of placements of looked after children: length of single placements over 2 years*
- NI 65 – *Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time*

In relation to the data for NI 111 – *First time entrants to Youth Justice*, it was noted that the November figures were noticeably lower than the same time last year which is the continuation of a downward trend, which is a result of an early intervention programme. It was also noted that reoffending data had been included in the report.

In relation to the data for NI 117 – *Young People not in Employment, Education or Training* (NEETs) – it was noted that in comparison to the same period last year the percentage had decreased. Again this was a continuation of a downward trend following a focus on long term NEET. Officers pointed out that the long term percentages were good in comparison to neighbouring authorities, and nationally. The level of resources is above average.

Comment was made about the apprenticeships event that was being held next week out on by the Economic Development Team in partnership with the Secondary Federation. This would be a high profile event to publicise the availability of apprenticeships in all forms, hopefully targeting young people who are vulnerable or leaving care.

Richard Stanley said that there were a number of programmes coordinated by secondary schools and colleges offering the alternative provision of mixed learning in different settings. Work was also being done across the Berkshire authorities with vulnerable young people via the Raising the Leaving Age Partnership which has had an impact.

RESOLVED: That the Children's Services Performance Indicators reports be noted.

52. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND OFSTED REPORTS

The Panel received and considered an updated list of Ofsted inspection outcomes for schools in the Borough and in adjoining authorities, on Agenda pages 16 to 18; and the annual Wokingham School Performance Report for 2012, set out on Agenda pages 19 to 40. Copies of the three inspection reports published since the last meeting were attached on Agenda pages 41 to 67.

Annual School Performance 2012

The annual School Performance Report gave details and analysis of the overall results of Wokingham Schools and Early Years settings for 2012 in comparison with national averages and targets, and with previous years. The report had been updated in some sections since the report was brought to the Panel in September.

Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 - Members were pleased to note that in the overall achievements were all above National averages; and at Key Stage 1 the Level 2 achievements were first in the country in Reading, Mathematics and Science; and second for Writing.

In response to a question about how schools manage the development of talented pupils, Richard Stanley indicated that it was the full responsibility of Governing Bodies to challenge results and they should be getting regular reports on the progress in each year group, with analysis of the annual assessments results. Where this is happening appropriately, the Local Authority has a light touch, but concerns had been identified, either by the Local Authority or Ofsted, more support would be given to help schools address any concerns. At a Borough level analysis is done at subject level; achievement in Maths has been identified, so targeted training will be provided.

He responded to a question about putting teachers under stress, that the Local Authority is sensitive about the challenge that is asked for. School leadership teams and Governing Bodies have a role in auditing teachers' wellbeing, and need to manage stress.

Key Stage 4 - Richard Stanley pointed out that there had been a dip in particular schools because of the national issue around the C grade boundary in English. Discussions have been taking place with them to address the issue.

This academic year there are new Headteachers in place at St Crispin's and Bulmershe; which in Bulmershe should bring new energy to continue the Schools very positive improvement.

Comment was made that in the '5+ A* - C grades (including English and Maths)' measure the three Academy schools - The Holt, Maiden Erlegh, and The Piggott, had all had a clear dip in achievement. This presents a challenge for the Local Authority, as although it has no direct influence on the management of Academies and Free Schools, there is still some responsibility as the majority of the pupils are from Wokingham Borough.

Key Stage 5 – it was noted that in all measures the achievements of pupils in Wokingham Schools' were above the national figures.

Performance by Pupil Groups – some of these sections have been updated. It was noted that for pupils in the 'Free School Meals (FSM)' groups the gap in achievement was significantly wider than both national average and in comparison to statistical neighbours. This was particularly noticeable at Key Stage 4 where in the '5+ A* - C grades (including English and Maths)' measure, the gap between the percentage of FSM pupils who achieve that level and the non-FSM pupils had increased from 36% in 2011 to 41% in 2012. This

Narrowing the gap in levels of achievement is a key priority.

Attendance and Exclusions - Richard Stanley pointed out that Wokingham has the second best overall attendance in the country.

Ofsted Reports

The Inspection reports were reviewed as follows:

Ambleside Centre – overall rating - 1 'outstanding', previous rating 1 'outstanding'
The Panel congratulated the Centre on another excellent report. Shahid Younis said that the Centre was in his Ward and he was aware that parents regarded the Centre very highly and had high praise for the teachers and staff.

Hillside Primary School – overall rating – 'requiring improvement', previous rating 3 'satisfactory'.

The Panel noted that the rating had not improved, and Richard Stanley said that the Local Authority would be working with the School and had already met with the Governing Body. Colin Wood, Chairman of Governors at Hillside, indicated that the Governors were working towards having consistent outcomes within 18 months. They were part of an active cluster of Primary Schools who they could call on to give support.

The Panel noted that the Inspectors had rated the Leadership and Governance of the School as 'good'; and the Governors were 'highly committed and very well organised team', so the School had the capacity for improvement.

Radstock Primary – overall rating – 'good', previous rating 2 'good'

The Panel noted a continuing good rating and that there were positive comments made about the Governors.

RESOLVED: That the Annual School Performance Report 2012 and the Ofsted reports be noted.

53. OFSTED ACTION PLAN – CHILDREN’S SERVICES SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Panel received and considered a report set out on Agenda pages 68 to 78 detailing the Action Plan prepared to address the areas for improvement which were identified in the report of the Ofsted Inspection of arrangements for the protection children.

Pauline Maddison presented the report and pointed out that the Action Plan was a plan for Officers and a lot of the plan is about procedures and ensuring that the processes are embedded. One key area that requires substantial improvement is ‘Listening to the Children’s Voice’. It had been identified that there was not a systematic process for listening to children and using what they say to influence what the Local Authority does. The proposal is to put together a model for Children’s Services and the whole Council for a systematic process of listening. Officers would welcome the Panel’s engagement with this and it could check in 6 months that progress had been made.

Panel Members asked how this was done in other Local Authorities and Officers mentioned things such as:

- Engaging with children and young people via school councils, youth forums, youth parliament
- Meeting representatives of youth groups and organisations;
- Inviting young people to give their views to Scrutiny Committees;
- Meeting the Chief Executive
- Actively seeking young people’s views about what the Council does or what they would like the Council to do;
- Feeding back to them what the Council has done with those views, so that they can feed back to their groups.

Brain Grady said that we would have to identify where engagement is weak and be creative in how we engage with the young people across the Council.

Ian Pittock pointed out that he had been involved in one of the Community Forums which are discussing the details of the development of the Strategic Development Locations and he had never seen a young person in attendance.

Shahid Younis asked what forum there was for Members to engage with young people; there is huge talent there.

Richard Stanley suggested that a young people’s conference could be commissioned, with the Youth MP taking a lead role.

Pauline Maddison said that a model was needed by June, and it would be about training adults how to use the information and views that the children and young people give us; we are missing a huge resource.

It was suggested that the Panel could go out and meet young people where they are, and visit other Local Authorities to find out from their Members how they engage with young people.

The other priorities that the Panel could help with are: narrowing the gap in attainment, and issues around the current Special Education Needs review.

The Chairman suggested that the work of the Panel's work should move on from the original focus of raising improvements and that these the issues identified in the Ofsted Report are what the Panel should be concentrating on over the next year; and that they should be included in the Forward Programme as follows:

- June – Listening to the Children's Voice
- September – Narrowing the Gap
- March – Progress on the SEN review

RESOLVED: That the Action Plan to address the areas for improvement which were identified in the report of the Ofsted Inspection of arrangements for the protection children be noted and that the Panel be focussing on the some of the issues raised.

54. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN- UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

The Panel received and considered a report giving an update on the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan, as set out on Agenda pages 79 to 85.

Brian Grady presented the report and explained that it was an evidence based multi-agency plan that set priorities based around the national priorities for children and young people. There had been elements of success with the Council and partner agencies implementing the plan although resources had been reduced.

He went on to say that it had been a useful planning process and now the focus is going to be through the Health & Wellbeing Board, and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will develop measures where there are still things to be done and to focus partner agencies responsibilities.

RESOLVED: That the update on the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan be noted.

55. DRAFT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Panel received and considered a verbal update on the development of the draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the priorities identified which are relevant to children and young people.

Pauline Maddison reported that the Strategy prepared by the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board, was still in draft and not in a form that could be released. The priorities were a continuation of existing priorities and the main one relating to children and young people is 'narrowing the gap'.

The Health & Wellbeing Board will formally take on its role from 1 April 2013. Currently arrangements for scrutiny of its activities are being looked at, and in order to avoid duplication it may be that the monitoring of the implementation of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy may not be done by the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

56. DRAFT SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

The Panel received a presentation on the development of the draft Strategy for the future provision of Secondary School Places.

Brian Grady highlighted that predictions had been made that showed that the demand for secondary school places will rise from 2013 and in 2015 will exceed the number available. So one of the key objectives of the strategy is to provide sufficient places in outstanding schools.

The previous strategy was to have 8 secondary schools and expand them to have around 1500 places. Since then, the Oakbank Free School has opened and now the proposal is to have 10 secondary schools plus the University Technical College, which is shared with Reading. The intention therefore is to create a new secondary school within the Arborfield Strategic Development Location. The new school will have to be an Academy or Free School, so the challenges in delivering it will be the availability of a new site, obtaining funding for the scheme and securing a provider to run the school.

If it was to be a choice/diversity led Free School funding would come from the Department for Education (DfE). If it was to be a 'basic need' led Free School funding would be a combination of DfE 'basic need' funding and funding from Wokingham Borough, which would be from Community Infrastructure Levies and S106 contributions related to the building of the developments.

The plan for implementation would include a public consultation, and school provider specification exercise to secure a provider. Then there would be a design and building process with the aim to open in 2015.

In answer to a question Brian Grady confirmed that the models for predicting the demand for places had taken into account pupils coming from outside the Borough; although in some instances, such as with Hampshire we are a net exporter of pupils. Officers have been engaging with other Local Authorities in a coherent fashion.

Ian Pittock agreed that it is important that the Arborfield school was provided. He asked whether consideration had been given to creating a 6th Form College. Richard Stanley responded that all the Borough's secondary schools have 6th Forms and losing them would detract from these good schools. They now work in collaboration to provide a range of programmes which give the young people access to a wider range of courses.

RESOLVED: That the information received on the development of the Draft Secondary School Strategy be noted.

57. FORWARD PROGRAMME

The Panel considered the Forward Programme, and agreed that the following items be added:

- 3 June – Listening to the Children's Voice
- 4 September – Narrowing the Gap
- 15 January and 3 March 2014 – Progress on the SEN review

It was agreed that the order of the agenda would be changed for future meetings. The three new items will be first on their respective agendas, followed by updates of Task and Finish group action plans where appropriate, followed by performance review items including OFSTED reports. The OFSTED will no longer be printed in full, but a link to the online version of the reports will be provided and at the meeting members will be able to raise queries on any of these reports.

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

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