



# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held at  
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN Civic  
Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1B Non **TUESDAY  
17 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Couldrick', written in a cursive style.

Andy Couldrick  
Chief Executive  
Published on 9 January 2017

This meeting may be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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# **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

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Pauline Helliar-Symons (Chairman)	Shahid Younis (Vice-Chairman)	Laura Blumenthal
Richard Dolinski	Ken Miall	Beth Rowland
Bill Soane	Alison Swaddle	

### Substitutes

Chris Bowring	Kate Haines	Clive Jones
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey		

### Parent Governor Representatives

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative  
 Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

### Diocesan Representatives

Vacancy, Roman Catholic Representative  
 Vacancy, C of E Representative

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
37.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
38.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2016.	7 - 14
39.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
40.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions  A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.  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 Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	
40.1	Arborfield	Gill Purchase has asked the Chairman for Children's	

Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee the following question.

**Question**

Parents and the public have an absolute right to know the truth about what made the Coombes go from a world renowned 'Good' school to one that was classed as 'Inadequate' by Ofsted in less than two years and will now have to become an Academy.

Can the Chairman please confirm (the report that has been presented to this committee this evening) is the full (unchanged and not edited in any way by either officers or Member's) version of the investigation carried by Councillors, led by Cllr John Kaiser, following their investigation into the failure of the Coombes school and that there has been complete transparency in the way this was handled and in the presentation of the findings and recommendations.

40.2

Sue Glover has asked the Chairman for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee the following question.

**Question**

The Committee regularly monitors and discusses indicators around children's care proceedings and school performance, but there appears to be virtually no focus on adoption or post adoption support. This is a vital service that the Local Authority provides, albeit in a somewhat haphazard way currently. I wonder if the Committee could/should consider adding an additional indicator so that it can be fully inclusive of this area of Children's services and most importantly, understand how some of the authority's most vulnerable children are being supported and where improvements could be made.

For example, is the Committee aware of how many Wokingham families or children are in contact with Wokingham requesting post adoption support? Does the Committee have any feel for how many applications are being put forward to the Adoption Support Fund and how this may or may not be increasing since its inception? And therefore what the latent demand has been for the provision of support required in the borough and whether the current level of support on offer is appropriate? Our recent lengthy experience of waiting over two years for support must surely not be acceptable if Wokingham's adopted children, many suffering from varying degrees of early life trauma, are to be supported appropriately before

reaching crisis point. Greater focus by the Committee of this area of children's services provision would be most welcomed.

- 41. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**  
To answer any member questions
- 42. COOMBES SCHOOL TASK AND FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT** 15 - 28  
To receive and analyse the final report and recommendations of the Coombes School Task and Finish Group.
- 43. REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY** 29 - 36  
To receive and consider a report outlining details of a proposal to set up a Regional Adoption Agency.
- 44. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND OFSTED REPORTS** 37 - 48  
To receive and consider a report containing details of the Ofsted reports released over the last year and since the last meeting of the Committee.
- 45. WOKINGHAM MULTI ACADEMY TRUST** 49 - 70  
To receive a report giving an update on the work being undertaken by the Wokingham Multi Academy Trust Task and Finish Group.
- 46. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS** 71 - 80  
To receive and consider a report giving details of the Children's Services key performance indicators.
- 47. CAREER CHOICE, GUIDANCE AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN THE BOROUGH** 81 - 84  
To receive a report outlining the opportunities available in terms of career for young people in the Borough.
- 48. SOCIAL WORKER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND TRAINING STRATEGY** 85 - 90  
To receive and consider a report containing details of the Social Worker recruitment, retention and training strategy.
- 49. FORWARD PROGRAMME** 91 - 92  
To consider the forward programme for the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

**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

**CONTACT OFFICER**

**Luciane Bowker**

**Tel**

**Email**

**Postal Address**

Senior Democratic Services Officer

0118 974 6091

luciane.bowker@wokingham.gov.uk

Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN