

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS SUB-COMMITTEE

5.00PM – 14 JUNE 2004

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Hawkes (Chair); Councillors McCaffery (Deputy Chair), Mrs Brown (OS), Fitch, Giebeler, John, Mallender, K Norman, Watkins and Young.

PART ONE

ACTION

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A. Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Substitute Councillor For Councillor
K Norman Hyde

1B. Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none.

1C. Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Sub-Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 14.

2. MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2004 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. CALLOVER

3.1 **RESOLVED** - That, with the exception of the items reserved (and marked with an asterisk), the recommendations and resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted without debate, excepting Notices of Motion, Deputations and Petitions.

***4. ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE RECOMMENDATIONS/ AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE OFSTED/SSI INSPECTIONS**

4.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools presenting the final version of the action plan in response to the recommendations from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) Inspection Reports (for copy see minute book).

4.2 **RESOLVED** - That the action plan be approved.

**David Hawker
Janette Karklins
Liz Rugg**

***5. 14-19 INSPECTION**

5.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools.

5.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the Director of Children, Families and Schools will be liaising with the Sussex Learning and Skills Council and other partners to develop an action plan to address the recommendations. This action plan to be represented to the September meeting cycle.

David Hawker

6. NOTICE OF MOTION: BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICE

6.1 The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 22 April 2004 by Councillors Simson, Smith, Mrs Brown, Peltzer Dunn, Oxley, Kemble, G Theobald, Mrs Theobald, Willows, Mrs Norman, K Norman, Wells, Hyde and Mears:-

“This Council:

- ◆ Recognises the excellent contribution that the Youth Service makes to the personal and social development of young people in Brighton & Hove.
- ◆ Recognises that Youth Services help to create strong and cohesive communities by bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds and by steering them away from the circumstances that predispose them to involvement in crime.
- ◆ Agrees with the National Youth Agency that “the benefits to

the local authority of investing in Youth Services are way beyond the cost of the service itself.”

- ◆ Recognises that, nationally, almost 1 million 13-19 year olds make use of local authority youth services every year.
- ◆ Welcomes the commitment of this Council to young people in its Corporate Plan (priority 4: “Thriving 14 year olds able to participate in the life of the city”) and in its recent successful application to become a ‘Children’s Trust’.

However, this Council notes:

- ◆ The Government’s intention in *Transforming Youth Work - Resourcing Excellent Youth Services* that all local authorities should aim to achieve a target spend of £100 per head of 13-19 year olds per annum by 2005.
- ◆ In 1999-2000, Brighton & Hove had the sixth lowest spending per head (£34.35) on Youth Services out of all 150 Local Education Authorities.
- ◆ Latest Best Value Performance Indicators (2002/03 – BVPI 33) show little improvement, with Brighton & Hove still in the bottom quartile of unitary authorities (£63.08) and requiring a £36.92 per head increase in funding to achieve the Government’s 2005 £100 target.
- ◆ There are significant recruitment and retention problems for Youth Workers both nationally and locally – the 2001 JNC Workforce Survey reported that 45.7% of local authorities report recruitment problems for full-time qualified Youth Workers.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 has given local authorities many new powers to clamp down on youth crime in terms of curfews, increased scope for using ASBOs and issuing of fixed-penalty notices for public nuisance offences. However, alongside these new powers, the longer-term deep-seated problems of youth disaffection need to be addressed, and the Youth Service has a vital role to play in this process.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- ◆ Increase the budget allocation for the Youth Service for 2005/06 to at least the median level for unitary authorities (£77.65 per head of 13-19 year olds).
- ◆ Investigate new ways of addressing the staff recruitment and retention problems in the Youth Service and to report progress back to the Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee by 6/9/04.”

6.2 The Committee considered an amendment to the Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor McCaffery and seconded by

Councillor Hawkes:-

This Council:

- ◆ Recognises the excellent contribution that the Youth Service makes to the personal and social development of young people in Brighton & Hove.
- ◆ Recognises that Youth Services help to create strong and cohesive communities by bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds and by steering them away from the circumstances that predispose them to involvement in crime.
- ◆ Agrees with the National Youth Agency that "the benefits to the local authority of investing in Youth Services are way beyond the cost of the service itself."
- ◆ Recognises that, nationally, almost 1 million 13-19 year olds make use of local authority youth services every year.

- ◆ Welcomes the commitment of this Council to young people in its Corporate Plan (priority 4: "Thriving 14 year olds able to participate in the life of the city") and in its recent successful application to become a 'Children's Trust'.

However, this Council notes:

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- ◆ Latest Best Value Performance Indicators (2002/03 – BVPI 33) show little improvement, with Brighton & Hove still in the bottom quartile of unitary authorities (£63.08) and requiring a £36.92 per head increase in funding to achieve the Government's 2005 £100 target.
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This Council resolves to:

- ◆ Carry out a strategic review of the Youth Support Service, to take place before March 2005, in order to achieve more effective targeted coverage of youth provision in the city
- ◆ As part of this review, to carry out a benchmark exercise of the funding of the service from both statutory and other sources, in order to inform the budget setting process of 2005/6 and future years
- ◆ Through the review to address the staff recruitment and retention issues within the service, and report back to the CFS Sub-Committee in spring 2005.

6.3 **RESOLVED** – That the amended Notice of Motion be agreed.

***7. STRATEGIC REVIEW OF YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES**

7.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools proposing a strategic review of Youth Support Services in Brighton & Hove in order to consider current service delivery across the city. The report will:

- explore and consider options for commissioning and delivery of youth support services which can provide a high quality service, maximising the available resources and taking account of stakeholder views, Ofsted standards, local and national performance indicators;
- explore relationships between the local authority youth services, schools, colleges, Connexions and voluntary sector and other providers;
- Consider the place of youth support services in the proposed integrated area based teams and their relationship to the Children's Trust;
- make recommendations to this Sub-Committee on any changes as a result of the review. (For copy see minute book)

7.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That a Strategic review of the Youth Support Services be agreed, working to the proposed terms of reference

(2) That the review should commence no later than January 2005,

David Hawker
Rosalind Turner

with funds from within the service, along with any partner contributions, to be negotiated as part of the work programme of the Children's Trust.

***8. NURSERY EDUCATION REVIEW**

8.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools presenting the proposed terms of reference for the review of nursery education, as agreed at the last Sub-Committee meeting (for copy see minute book).

8.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the proposed terms of reference for the review of nursery education be agreed.

(2) That it be noted that a report with recommendations from the review will be brought to this Sub-Committee once it is completed.

Rosalind Turner

***9. ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT**

9.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools presenting the Adoption Agency's Annual Report (for copy see minute book).

9.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the report and the progress of the Agency in relation to adoption and permanence activity be noted and the Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose be endorsed.

(2) That the amended Panel Constitution and Terms of Reference be endorsed.

***10. FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

10.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools presenting the Fostering Service's Annual Report and seeking approval of the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose and the revised Fostering Panel Constitution and Terms of Reference (for copy see minute book).

10.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the report and the progress of the Fostering Service be noted and the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose be endorsed.

(2) That the revised Brighton and Hove Fostering Panel Constitution and Terms of Reference be endorsed.

***11. POST 16 FURTHER EDUCATION (FE) STUDENT SUPPORT**

11.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools describing the scheme for Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) which will be introduced for Brighton and Hove students aged 16-18 in September 2004 and

proposing amendments to the City Council's policy on support for the travel and living costs of students aged 16-18, following the introduction of EMAs (for copy see minute book).

11.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That new students who qualify for EMA should not be eligible for further City Council grant towards their travel costs, except where the travel costs to attend a course agreed as appropriate by the City Council exceed £10 per week.

(2) That each case, as in 11(1), should be considered on its individual merits and if appropriate, the balance of costs over £10 per week, be reimbursed.

(3) That the raising of the qualifying income threshold, for support under the City Council scheme, for families not in receipt of a state benefit, from £13,230 to £13,480, in line with the criteria used for free school meals be approved.

(4) That this threshold should apply to new and existing students who cannot get EMA because they are too old for the first qualifying cohort and who will receive City Council support at the rates shown under the current policy.

***12. PROGRESS WITH THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2003-04 AND THE NEW ACTION PLAN FOR 2004-05**

12.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools providing an update on progress with the Education Development Plan (EDP) actions 2003-04 and presenting the new action plan for 2004-05 (for copy see minute book).

12.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the progress with the EDP 2003-04 be noted.

(2) That the new action plan 2004-05 be approved.

***13. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

13.1 **RESOLVED** – That no items be referred to Council

The meeting concluded at 6.25 pm

Signed

Chair

