

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

5.00PM – 4 OCTOBER 2005

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Meegan (Chair), Councillor Norman (Deputy Chair); Councillors Edmond-Smith, Hamilton, Morgan, Randall, Simson, Smith and Willows.

Statutory Co-optees with Voting Rights: Ms S Ricca-McCarthy – Parent Governor Representative; Mr N Sarjudeen – Diocese of Chichester.

Non-Voting Non-Statutory Co-optees: Mrs A Antonio – National Union of Teachers; Mrs S Llewellyn-Powell – Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Ms R Leow – NASUWT; Reverend S Terry – Brighton and Hove Governors Network.

Also Present: David Hawker – Director of Children, Families and Schools; John Heys – Principal Solicitor, Governance; Mandy Miller – Senior Primary Advisor; Chris Ouellette – Scrutiny Support Officer.

Apologies were received from: Councillor Bennett and Mr F Meyers – Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

PART ONE

ACTION

16. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

16A. Declarations of Substitutes

16.1	<u>Substitute Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
	Randall	Wrighton

Also, Nigel Sarjudeen was substituting for Jeremy Taylor of the Doicese of Chichester and Renata Leow was substituting for Sandra Messenger of NASUWT.

16B. Declarations of Interest

16.2 Councillor Morgan declared a personal interest, as his partner is a teacher. Councillor Norman declared a personal interest in Item 22, as she is Chair of ACE. Reverend Terry also declared a personal

interest in Item 22, as he is a Governor of a SEN school.

16C. Exclusion of Press and Public

16.3 The 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.

16.4 **RESOLVED** - That there were no items that the press and public would be excluded from during the meeting.

17. MINUTES

17.1 Councillor Simson corrected that in paragraph 1.2 of the 21 June 2005 minutes it should be noted that she is a member of the Woodingdean Youth Centre Management Committee, not the Woodingdean Youth Centre.

17.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair with the aforesaid correction.

18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

18.1 There were no public questions.

19. SUMMARY OF Ofsted REPORTS

19.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the outcome of the school Ofsted inspections which took place in June 2005 (see Minute Book for copy).

19.2 The Senior Primary Advisor highlighted that the outcome for Stanford Junior School was particularly pleasing and that Royal Spa Nursery also had a 'very good' rating, noting no issues for improvement.

19.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the Ofsted summary report.

20. SERVICE AUDIT REPORTS

20.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the outcome of service audits performed on schools between 1 June 2005 and 31 August 2005 (see Minute Book for copy).

20.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools explained that the overall judgements in the report for all schools audited during the period was 'substantial assurance' and that there were no areas of major concern to investigate.

20.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

21. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

21.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services in Brighton and Hove (see Minute Book for copy).

21.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools introduced the report as it relates to the new Children's Services. It was highlighted that although no grade had been assigned yet, the Director anticipated the Council would receive a grade of 3 or 4. The Director also acknowledged issues around looked after children and that there had been difficulty in recruiting and retaining full-time social workers, a national phenomenon. Post-16 year old SEN students were discussed by the Panel as it thought they might be disadvantage should they not be attending Varndean College. The Director of Children, Families and Schools noted this comment.

21.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

22. SEN REVIEW

22.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the progress made to date on the SEN Review (see Minute Book for copy).

22.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools explained the consultation being done around the reorganisation of the SEN services. The Director emphasised that the reorganisation will not result in any child being moved from a school nor will any funds be removed from the system. A discussion was had around the merits of 'mainstreaming' SEN students where appropriate, with some Panel members fearing stigma, bullying and lack of resourcing. The Director responded by saying mainstream schools are funded to provide support to most pupils with SEN and that bullying is monitored vigorously.

22.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

23. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS REVIEW UPDATE

23.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools outlining the latest developments in the review of secondary school admissions (see Minute Book for copy).

23.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools explained that this report had initially gone to CFS Committee. The reviewed had been initiated because two areas in the city had suffered from the last change in the admissions system. He said that the current review had been progressing at a good pace thus far and that the

evidence-gathering phase was now complete. CFS Committee will consider final proposals following the review at the March 2006 meeting, so that any changes could be implemented for the September 2007 school year. The Panel discussed the membership of the Stakeholders' Group, raising concerns about its representativeness. The Director assured the Panel that the Stakeholders' Group would be geographically balanced and that Ward Councillors had been asked to nominate volunteers in areas of the city where none had come forward so far. More discussions were had around making all schools 'good' instead of parents trying to redirect children to schools perceived as 'good'.

23.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

24. SCHOOL FUNDING

24.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools outlining the Government's new funding arrangements and the implications for schools (see Minute Book for copy).

24.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools described the new funding arrangements as a radical change to the way schools would be funded in the future. Future funding for schools would be in the form of a Dedicated School Grants, which will be separate from the money Local Authorities contribute. All support funding, such as Youth Services would remain funded by the Council. The Council would decide the funding formula for schools in consultation with the Schools' Forum.

24.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

25. MOVING SCRUTINY FORWARD

25.1 The Panel considered a report of the Head of Law outlining the proposals for improving the workings of the scrutiny function presented and adopted by OSOC (see Minute Book for copy).

25.2 The Principal Solicitor, Governance, outlined the adopted proposals, touching on the Chairs' meeting, the role of link officers, publicity, identifying issues for scrutiny and the monitoring of recommendations. The Panel noted its disappointment with the lack of headway with forwarding publicity and the need to ensure recommendations from scrutiny reports are monitored to implementation. The Principal Solicitor responded by suggesting that past scrutinies be brought forward and reviewed on a rotating basis to see what progress had been made. He also explained that meetings had been set up with the Communications Team to help devise a communications strategy.

25.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

26A. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO THE COUNCIL

26.1 **RESOVLED** – That there were no items to go forward to the Council.

26B. FURTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

26.2 The Panel decided that it would like to see a report on bullying in schools and a report on behaviour on school buses at a future meeting.

26.1 **RESOVLED** – That the Director of Children, Families and Schools would provide reports on bullying in schools and behaviour on school buses at a future meeting.

PART TWO

27. ITEMS TO REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

27.1 **RESOLVED** – That there are no items that are to remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 6:45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005