

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 6 JUNE 2016**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Bewick (Chair) Chapman (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Barradell, Daniel, Knight, Taylor, Penn, Mac Cafferty and Miller

**Voting Co-Optees:** M Jones, A Holt, A Mortensen and M Ryan

**Non-Voting Co-optees:** B Glazebrook and E Davies

**PART ONE**

**1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**(a) Declarations of Substitutes**

1.1 Councillor Mac Cafferty was present in substitution for Councillor Phillips.

1.2 Councillor Miller was present in substitution for Councillor Wealls.

**(b) Declarations of Interest**

1.3 Councillor Miller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 as a Governor at Longhill School.

1.4 Councillor Barradell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Governor at Varndean High School.

**(c) Exclusion of Press and Public**

1.5 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

1.6 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in Part Two of the agenda.

**2 MINUTES**

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

### 3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

#### 3.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

“As a political administration we believe in the importance of setting clear priorities and being accountable for their delivery.

When we came to office last year, we inherited a legacy of political indecision and drift in how the council was seeking to improve the life-chances and educational performance of our city’s 50,000 children and young people.

While we must acknowledge the good work that people were doing to address these difficult challenges, the local authority’s Ofsted inspection report – completed just before the last election – made it clear that children’s services ‘required improvement’. In short, the city lacked ambition.

As the report from the Director of Children’s Services and his team shows, both the political leadership and council staff at every level have worked tirelessly these past months, to deliver some tangible results. A lot of progress has been made. There is still a lot more work to do.

I would like to draw out some of the challenges and highlights of what the administration has achieved since May 2015, as well as set out what we expect to achieve in the forthcoming municipal year.

Our priorities, and what we believe the electorate should hold us to account on, is to target increasingly stretched council budgets on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities. That means transforming and modernising how we deliver these vital public services.

Second, we must continue to take this authority on an improvement journey so that Ofsted grades our children’s and social services as at least ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by 2019.

Third, it is important that we continue to work collaboratively with our ‘family of schools’ – including the city’s small number of academies; to raise attainment standards; and close the disadvantage gap.

And finally, we want to end the scourge of long-term youth unemployment in our city by 2020, creating an additional one thousand apprenticeships over the next 3 years. It includes trebling the number of apprentices that the council currently employs.

This ambitious set of priorities is for the Committee to scrutinise and for the Administration to deliver on. They are only achievable of course within the context of central government cuts that has seen an unprecedented reduction of 40 per cent in local authority budgets.

Our families and children are not immune from these government cuts. In Brighton and Hove some families have paid a heavy price for the ideology of austerity. It has meant

reducing the number of designated Sure Start Children's Centres – a landmark achievement of the last Labour Government – from 12 to 7.

The scaling back of youth services; cuts to further education colleges; and welfare cuts have taken millions of pounds out of the local economy. These heartless central government cuts are a major factor in the growing use of food banks by some families in the city. Of equal concern is the fact young people report increased mental health and emotional well-being difficulties in our schools.

This is all the consequence of a myopic government that is failing to invest adequately in the long-term future of our children and young families. It shows up in the fact that the city ranks 156 out of 324 local authorities in England in terms of the official definition of social mobility. The rhetoric of government ministers is of boosting life chances, but the evidence here on the ground tells a very different story.

Despite these national challenges, the Labour administration locally is firmly committed to ensuring that our values of fairness and social justice underscore every decision that we make.

It's why in the past year – despite cuts to other council service areas of over 30 per cent – we have protected children's services budgets by reducing them, on average, by 9 per cent. The youth service budget for the community and voluntary sector has been fully protected in cash terms. Indeed, we were able to achieve this by turning around a projected overspend in children's services spending of £3 million, inherited from the previous Green Party administration.

In addition, we have made significant efficiency savings by re-organising our social work teams better and reducing our reliance on expensive agency staff. This has resulted in fewer children on protection plans and a reduction in the number of children at risk coming into or staying for longer than is necessary, in care. We have achieved these results – not by lowering risk thresholds – but by intervening with families much earlier.

I'm extremely proud of the work of our 70 schools: head-teachers, governors, teachers and support staff. Currently, Ofsted rates 84% of our schools as 'Good' or 'Outstanding.'

We should celebrate the fact that our city has no schools judged to be inadequate by Ofsted; our attainment results were in the top quartile of national attainment levels last year; and our special educational needs provision is judged outstanding at Downs View and Hillside special schools, in both our specialist nurseries and in Tudor House Children's Home for children with disabilities.

Despite a challenging time with the SEND and learning support services reviews, changes made following the formal consultation demonstrated that we are an administration that is prepared to consult, listen and act on concerns.

But we must also be open and honest about the challenges. Not a single secondary school in the city is judged outstanding. The government's Social Mobility Commission ranks the city in the bottom 40 per cent of local authorities in England on schooling performance linked to social mobility. We are in the bottom 20% when linked to GCSE performance and free school meals pupils (FSM).

Last summer's results showed that the pupil premium and free-school meals gap in the city is widening. In short, our head teachers and the secondary schools they lead need to do much better. I'm asking Heads in particular to focus with renewed vigour on the progress of our disadvantaged students. The review of catchment areas and school admissions policies has a key part to play in ensuring fairness.

But if we continue to see the disadvantage gap widen, I personally will have no hesitation in summoning chairs of governors and head teachers to this Committee to explain in person why they continue to fail this important group of students.

Our efforts will be made more complicated of course by a Secretary of State for Education that appears hell bent on destroying parental involvement and local democratic accountability of schools in England.

As councillors across the country, including many Conservative local government leaders and MPs spoke out against the White Paper, it was a pity that the local Conservative group chose to stay largely silent on the matter.

Over the next year, a progressive Labour administration in the city will look to reinvent the role of the local authority in education. We are determined to future-proof our schools from the kind of outside interference that local parents have said they do not want.

Let me be clear about what is politically non-negotiable from the point of view of any new ways of working locally:

All council maintained schools should continue to be locally accountable to their elected representatives and parents. We will not agree to any new arrangements that simply force the conversion of our schools by the back door.

But equally, simply doing nothing is not a realistic option either. Council maintained schools already enjoy a significant amount of autonomy. I've always thought the idea of 'local authority control' of schools a bit of a misnomer in the twenty-first century. And frankly, we only deceive the electorate if we promise them council control of schools when in fact no such powers exist.

Locally of course we do and can influence schools, which is what we should continue to do. In the case of schools causing concern, we will use our powers to intervene.

Our schools should be properly enabled to collaborate with one another in a genuine race to the top, in order to improve educational outcomes for all. That will require some better ways of working, schools sharing resources and expertise in a more meaningful way – especially in the area of tackling the disadvantage gap. And our council maintained schools should work more closely with existing academies, in the interests of all children, not ideology.

So, via this Committee in the next year:

- We will continue to press ahead with social work reforms, including boosting the number of in-house foster parents.
- We will take the council's corporate parenting role to the next level by introducing a Care Leavers' Trust Fund.
- We will keep our excellent council run nurseries in public ownership, as well as reform the workforce to reduce the required levels of subsidy. Investing in the early years in disadvantaged parts of the city will be a major priority, including rolling out 30 hours of free childcare.
- We will establish a Youth and Employability Trust, re-focusing our youth offer around a more concerted skills and employability agenda.
- We will follow through on the recommendations of the Employer Skills Task Force ensuring business is put in the driving seat locally, particularly when it comes to economic regeneration and education.
- We will continue to push schools to hire more apprentices, which is essential if the council is to get back some of the Levy it will start paying over to government from next April.

All these things add up to one over-arching goal of this Administration:

To ensure Brighton and Hove becomes the best place in Britain to bring up a child, the best place if you find yourself in foster care.

A city where education and employment opportunities are made available to all regardless of the postcode in which people live. Ultimately, that is what improving life chances in our city should be all about."

## 4 CALL OVER

### 4.1 The following items were reserved for discussion:

Item 7	Ofsted Inspection
Item 8	The Alignment of Inset Days and the Pattern of School Holidays
Item 9	Establishing a Savings Fund for Careleavers
Item 10	Young Carers
Item 11	Children's Services Annual Report 2015/16
Item 12	Special Educational Needs and Disability Review
Item 13	The Recruitment of Teachers in the City and the Shortage of Maths Teachers in Secondary Schools
Item 14	Value Added Measures in Secondary School
Item 15	Education Partnerships in Brighton & Hove: A Response to the White Paper, 'Educational Excellence Everywhere'

### 4.2 The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the items listed above had been reserved for discussion, and that the following reports of the agenda, with the recommendations therein, had been approved and adopted.

Item 16 Apprenticeships Developments Across Brighton and Hove

## 5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 The Committee considered a petition signed by 177 people regarding the Friar Road Community. Mr B Varey presented the petition to the Committee and read out the following:

“The Friar community (Friar Crescent/Road/Close/Walk) cannot accept the three options on the changing secondary school catchment areas which the City council proposed.

The three options are not acceptable because –

- We feel that we have not been fairly represented in this process and that there is not a mutual concern for our children’s education and wellbeing.
- Our community is discriminated against in comparison with other communities in Hove and Brighton in spite of "extreme proximity" to our two local schools.
- The City council should fulfil the legal requirements to the local authorities. The current proposal cannot fulfil the requirement of fairness (School Admissions Code 14). It cannot fulfil the Equality Act 2010 which prohibits discrimination. Denial of our children’s access to our two local schools is unlawful. We do not allow any policies which infringe our (parents and their children) legal rights.

It is requested that –

- Given our extreme proximity, we request that the City Council prepare alternative options which legitimately allow access to both our local schools.”

5.2 The Chair thanked the petitioner and gave the following response:

“The engagement phase of the work around secondary school admission arrangements from 2018 has generated an excellent level of responses. These will help inform the development of the proposal that will go to formal consultation in the autumn. This phase lasted 7 week, involved 24 public meetings attended by nearly 820 people and 1644 responses were received to the engagement survey placed online.

I can assure you that the views of the Friar community have been heard throughout the engagement work not least through the petition you have brought to the committee today. I would like to thank you for your involvement and your efforts to ensure the voice of your community is heard during this phase of the work.

We must now give the working party time to consider the responses that have been received and discuss how they will inform the proposal that will come back to this committee on 19 September 2016.”

5.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee note the petition.

## 6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

6.1 There were no matters listed under Member Involvement.

## 7 OFSTED INSPECTION

7.1 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion introduced and noted that the Headteachers from Bevendean Primary School and Benfield Primary School had sent their apologies. It was explained that Benfield Primary School's Ofsted report had been rated 'good', an improvement from the previous Ofsted report that rated the school as 'requires improvement'. Bevendean Primary School had retained a 'very good' rating from Ofsted.

7.2 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion was joined by Kate Williams, Headteacher of Longhill High School, and Jo Cassidy, Deputy Headteacher of Longhill High School.

7.3 The Headteacher of Longhill High School explained to the Committee that the school still 'requires improvement'; however, the Ofsted report had been more positive and had recognised that a lot of good work had been completed in the previous year. The key areas of improvement were outlined: behaviour and disruption – intensive work had begun with staff and structures were being established; the recruitment of maths teachers – from September 2016, the maths department would be fully staffed and the new Headteacher of Longhill High School was the head of maths, and the support received by the middle leaders – community work was being organised to engage with the parents.

7.4 The Deputy Headteacher explained to the Committee that there was a negative perception of Longhill High School; however, Ofsted had recognised that there were strengths of the school. It was added that the school had formed partnerships with other schools in Brighton & Hove, and this had been very positive.

7.5 Councillor Miller thanked the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher for attending the Committee and noted that it was a positive report from Ofsted.

7.6 Councillor Daniel congratulated Longhill High School and noted that the Councillors and the media should help reduce the negative perception of the school.

7.7 Councillor Chapman thanked the school and agreed with Councillor Daniel and noted that he would be happy to work alongside the school to promote a positive image.

7.8 In response to Martin Jones, the Headteacher explained that there were a number of challenges in relation to the school; however, she highlighted her 20 years of experience as well as the high expectations she had for the school.

7.9 Councillor Barradell commended the staff of the school and thanked the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher for speaking at the Committee.

7.10 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to note the update.

## 8 THE ALIGNMENT OF INSET DAYS AND THE PATTERN OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- 8.1 Ellen Mulvihill, Head of Behaviour & Attendance, introduced the report and explained that Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, had sent his apologies.
- 8.2 It was explained that a report was brought to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee in March outlining the proposals. The consultation period was then opened between 27 April and 20 May 2016 and this sought views on whether the Council should encourage schools to co-ordinate INSET days and how residents would prefer schools to take their allocation of INSET days and sought views on how residents felt about the current arrangement of school term dates and whether people felt they should be changed to create a week of holiday outside the normal pattern of school holidays. 1,506 responses to the consultation had been received.
- 8.3 The Head of Behaviour & Attendance explained to the Committee that a formal consultation would be undertaken with stakeholders from 7 June - 28 June and that it was anticipated that a decision would be made by the Executive Director by 4 July 2016.
- 8.4 Councillor Daniel noted that child poverty and the cost of living was increasing; therefore, this could help families. She added that she was supporting the proposals and would be agreeing the recommendations.
- 8.5 Councillor Brown stated that the additional week should be planned to coincide with the extended summer, as the Easter half term fluctuated every year. She added that if all authorities changed the patterns of school holidays, the prices for holidays would be increased.
- 8.6 Amanda Mortensen noted that removing a full week off of the summer holidays would be better for parents and carers, rather than taking a few days from each half term.
- 8.7 Martin Jones stated that it would benefit families who could afford to have holidays abroad and by extending the autumn half term, this could result in children having an additional week off school when the weather was not as good. The Officer clarified that it would not be viable to rearrange the holidays to extend the Easter break.
- 8.8 Councillor Taylor noted that he would be agreeing with the recommendations and that he supported the report because children were often at a disadvantage having a long summer break. He added that the autumn term was often the longest term, which could be hard for younger children starting back at school after the summer break. The Chair agreed with Councillor Taylor.
- 8.9 In response to the Youth Council representative, the Head of Behaviour & Attendance agreed to clarify if young people had been consulted and would feed this back to the Youth Council.
- 8.10 In response to Councillor Mac Cafferty, the Executive Director of Children's Services explained that higher holiday prices over the school holidays was an international issue and Brighton & Hove would not have the ability to change this for the week created in the autumn term. The Chair added that it would be an opportunity for cheaper holidays and could prevent parents from taking children out of term time for holidays.
- 8.11 **RESOLVED –**



- 1) That the Committee consider the responses to the public consultation on proposals for the alignment of INSET days and the pattern of school holidays.
- 2) That the Committee notes the comments expressed by school leadership in relation to the alignment of INSET days, and recommended to the Executive Director that in formulating the pattern of school holidays the likely approach of governing bodies to INSET days should be taken into account.
- 3) That the Committee notes that the decision as to the pattern of school holidays is delegated to the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.
- 4) That the Committee notes the recent engagement exercise, and that there would be a further consultation in relation to any specific proposals as to school holidays in the academic year 2017/18.
- 5) That the Committee recommends to the Executive Director that further consultation as to the pattern of school holidays should include a specific proposal which provides for a stand-alone week which would fall outside of the existing pattern of school holidays, so as to provide more flexibility for parents throughout the year and lower-income families in particular the chance to take holidays that would otherwise be unaffordable.

## **9 ESTABLISHING A SAVINGS FUND FOR CARELEAVERS**

- 9.1 Helen Gulvin, Assistant Director of Children's Safeguarding & Care, introduced the report and explained that Councillor Bewick had asked Officers to look at establishing a savings arrangement for individual young people whereby funding would be available for young people when they become Care Leavers to enable them to choose how to spend their money.
- 9.2 It was explained that a report had initially been presented to the Corporate Parenting Board. The Board had agreed to set up a trust fund and establish trustees and have fund raising events. It was explained that the Board had also discussed encouraging Councillors, council workers and local businesses to donate into the fund.
- 9.3 The Chair added that it was important to set money aside for children for when they were older. Establishing a savings fund for careleavers and donating to it would be taking the corporate parenting role to the next level.
- 9.4 In response to Councillor Mac Cafferty, the Assistant Director of Children's Safeguarding & Care explained that it would be an opportunity to support more young people between 21-25 years old.
- 9.5 In response to Councillor Brown, it was clarified that to the aim was to launch the trust in October 2016; however, the finance would not be in place by this date.
- 9.6 The Chair clarified in response to Councillor Miller that the trust was being made a separate charity because the money would not be coming from tax payers. The Assistant Director of Children's Safeguarding & Care explained that a strict guidance

would be in place and there would be training for young people regarding spending money to protect vulnerable children.

- 9.7 It was explained to Martin Jones that the decision in relation to the dispersal of the trust fund to ensure it was being spent correctly was yet to be made.
- 9.8 Councillor Penn noted that it would be beneficial to give financial advice and training to looked after children with mental health issues, particularly advising what support services are available and training on how to look after finances.
- 9.9 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to note the report and decisions of the Corporate Parenting Board.

## 10 YOUNG CARERS

- 10.1 Elizabeth Freeman, Young Carers Project; Gemma Scambler, Adult Social Care Commissioning and Partnerships Team; and Mat Thomas, Early Help Hub Coordinator introduced and stated that it was the second presentation to come to Children, Young People & Skills Committee in the past municipal year (2015-16) regarding young carers.
- 10.2 The Committee received a presentation. It was highlighted that a young carers strategy group had been established and had been working on three main areas: getting a picture of the scale of young caring in the city; having clearer areas of responsibility within strategy and delivery; and the development of a consolidated Pathway for Young Carers.
- 10.3 Elizabeth Freeman outlined a case study to the Committee that highlighted the challenging issues young carers faced and the importance of supporting the young person. The Executive Director of Children's Services added that the Early Help Hub engaged with the whole family of a young carer and the schools to ensure the individual is fully supported.
- 10.4 In response to Councillor Penn it was confirmed that mental health professionals had been invited to be a part of the strategy group. It was added that they were trialling a mental health professionals in schools around Brighton & Hove.
- 10.5 In response to Councillor Barradell it was explained that the strategy group were looking at the language and labelling around young carers and exploring alternatives to ensure all young carers are identified and receiving help.
- 10.6 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to note the update.

## 11 CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

- 11.1 The Executive Director for Children's Services introduced the report and explained that it detailed the work of the Children's Services directorate that had been completed in 2015-16 and it demonstrated the process made towards the four strategic priorities that were set by Committee in July 2015.

- 11.2 The key challenges and priorities for Children's Services were outlined to the Committee: the most vulnerable children were not achieving as they should; not fully representative of groups with protected equality characteristics; the number of children subject to child protection plans and the number of children who were in care was high; large increase in demand for mental health services across the city which resulted in causing pressure and increased waiting lists for children, young people and their parents; and the number of young people who are reoffending was too high.
- 11.3 The Executive Director for Children's Services explained that the service had received a positive Ofsted report in May 2016 that would be published by the end of June 2016. The service had also received positive feedback from other outside agencies and from children and young people in the city.
- 11.4 In response to Councillor Brown it was confirmed that the CAMHSs pilot would be extended and evaluated in the next month. The feedback had been very positive and it was hoped that this would be extended to more schools in the city.
- 11.5 It was explained that the youth review had been completed and a Youth & Employability Trust was to be developed. This was being worked on and legal advice had been sought. It was confirmed that they would have a firm proposal in Autumn 2016 and, it was hoped the trust would be launched in April 2017.
- 11.6 In response to the Councillors, it was explained that there was a significant gap between underachieving vulnerable children compared to the improvements being made in schools. This problem was to be improved by addressing the difficult circumstances for the child at an early stage to ensure the individual was ready to learn when reaching school age.
- 11.7 In response to Councillor Taylor it was confirmed that Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) was being encouraged in schools to ensure all children were reading by 7 years old.
- 11.8 Councillor Barradell stated to the Committee that a foster carer had recently had her first annual review and she had previously fostered through an agency. The feedback the Council that had been received was very positive and she was actively encouraging other foster carers to foster through the council rather than an agency.
- 11.9 Councillor Daniel noted that she would like to see more information regarding the voluntary and community sector working with Children's Services.
- 11.10 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee noted the report.

## 12 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REVIEW

- 12.1 The Assistant Director of Health & Disability Services and the Programme Manager introduced the report and stated the report was the outcome of the consultation phase. It was explained to the Committee that in order to achieve a more efficient and financially viable pattern of provision, the team were exploring the possibility of restructuring the six special schools and two Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) to form three integrated special provisions across the city and develop more inclusive nursery provision in the early years.
- 12.2 It was explained to the Committee that it was the intention to bring forward a report with firm proposals to a future meeting; however, it was currently too early in the engagement and consultation period.
- 12.3 The Assistant Director of Health & Disability Services explained that the feedback from the consultation was set out in Part Two of the agenda. It was added that she did not feel it was necessary to move into a Part Two hearing but felt it was important to provide the Committee with the information.
- 12.4 Councillor Barradell noted that it would be beneficial for the Councillors to visit the special schools before the next report is presented at Committee.
- 12.5 Councillor Brown thanked all the Officers that had been involved in the consultation period and writing the report. She stated that the consultation outcome was very positive.
- 12.6 The Programme Manager stated that the parents from the pupil referral units had been contacted directly as part of the consultation and the majority had agreed to be consulted on more open questions.
- 12.7 In response to Councillor Mac Cafferty's question about sensory support services it was explained that the team was under pressure and the recruitment for posts was difficult as a specialised qualification was required. Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that he was pleased with the work that had been done and would be agreeing the recommendations.
- 12.8 In response to Martin Jones the Assistant Director of Health & Disability Services explained that people are worried that the schools would be too large; however, they would not have the same capacity as the average secondary school in the city. It was added that the bigger special schools are often more popular.
- 12.9 **RESOLVED –**
- 1) That the Committee endorsed the changes to the engagement timeline as set out in appendix 3.
  - 2) That the Committee agreed to a further report being presented on 3.10.16 with recommendations relating to the reorganisation of provision that require further consultation.
  - 3) That the Committee noted the following appendices;
    - 2.3.1 Outcome of this first stage of the informal engagement process as set out in Appendix 1
    - 2.3.2 Governance arrangements set out in Appendix 2

**13 THE RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS IN CITY AND THE SHORTAGE OF MATHS TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

- 13.1 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion introduced the report. It was explained to the Committee that regular high quality teaching was the key to good pupil progress and in order for achievement to continue to rise and to enable all children to attend a school that was judged to be good or outstanding, it was needed to attract and retain the best teachers. The report explained the recruitment of teachers in Brighton & Hove, and made particular reference to the recruitment and retention of maths teachers.
- 13.2 In response to Councillor Miller it was clarified that Brighton University maths teaching courses were full; however, the problem was with retaining qualified maths teachers in the city. Councillor Miller suggested that if a specialised maths sixth form college was developed in Brighton & Hove, this could contribute in retaining maths teachers.
- 13.3 The Chair explained to Councillor Mac Cafferty that there could be an option to introduce partnerships between the schools to share maths teachers. It was added that one of the biggest challenges faced for retaining maths teachers in the city was the high priced accommodation.
- 13.4 In response to Councillor Taylor, it was explained that money was given by the Government to develop maths hubs and the closest one to Brighton & Hove was situated in Burgess Hill.
- 13.5 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion explained to Councillor Penn that the schools have exit interviews for teachers leaving and notes from these could be requested and feedback at a future Committee.
- 13.6 **RESOLVED** – The Committee noted the report and supported the development of further programmes for the recruitment and retention of teachers in the city.

**14 VALUE ADDED MEASURES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

- 14.1 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion introduced and stated that the report explained value added scores, showed the current value added scores for secondary schools for 2014 – 2015 and outlined the new progress 8 measures that would come into effect from summer 2016.
- 14.2 Martin Jones noted that there was a significant difference with the performance of vulnerable children, including those who were entitled to free school meals and stated that improvement of these results should be prioritised. The Officer confirmed that this would be the main priority.
- 14.3 Councillor Brown explained that she believed schools working together would help improve results.
- 14.4 The Chair expressed that he hoped that forming partnerships with the schools would ensure more head teachers would come to future Children, Young People & Skills Committees and be accountable for results and Ofsted inspections. He noted that the

Democratic Services Officer should keep a record when head teachers send their apologies.

- 14.5 Councillor Taylor requested a report come to a future Children Young People & Skills Committee regarding value added measure in primary schools. The Executive Director of Children's Service stated that a report could come to a future Committee in Autumn 2016.
- 14.6 Councillor Miller noted that he hoped higher achieving children were not being disadvantaged when trying to reduce the achieving gap for vulnerable children. The Officer confirmed that they were not.
- 14.7 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to note the report.

**15 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE: A RESPONSE TO THE WHITE PAPER, 'EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE'**

- 15.1 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion introduced and explained that the report outlined the strong partnership working that existed in the city schools, referred to some of the government's recent proposals for education and the implications for schools and requested authority to commence engagement with interested stakeholders to develop a partnership model that would secure the best opportunities for the education of children and young people in the city.
- 15.2 Councillor Brown noted that Brighton & Hove were fortunate that the academies in the city were involved with the maintained schools and the local authority and she added that support would be needed from the academies and from all the relevant parties.
- 15.3 Councillor Mac Cafferty noted that parents and staff had not been fully consulted and he expressed concern for the possible implications of formalising the partnerships between schools.
- 15.4 Councillor Chapman noted the importance of discussing with schools and stakeholders about the proposal and explained that this could protect the schools. He added that the formal partnership between schools could be a support network when schools had Ofsted inspections.
- 15.5 Martin Jones explained to the Committee that the schools located in Portslade had created an informal partnership and had been working together to make improvements. It was added that this had proved to be very useful.
- 15.6 The Chair noted that the public consultation around education partnerships was important and that the partnerships that were formed should regularly report to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.
- 15.7 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee authorised the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning to commence engagement with stakeholders in Brighton & Hove regarding the proposal to establish a more formal partnership between schools and the Local Authority.

**16 APPRENTICESHIP DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS BRIGHTON AND HOVE**

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the Committee noted the Employer Pledge and its recommendations.
- 2) That the Committee noted the progress that had been made, in establishing an inhouse apprenticeship team to support the Employer Pledge.
- 3) That the Committee noted the implications of the apprenticeship reforms and the Apprenticeship Levy.

**17 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**

- 17.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agreed to refer Item 11 - Children’s Services Annual Report 2015-16 – to the Council meeting on 21 July 2016.

**18 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REVIEW**

- 18.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee note the information contained in the Part Two appendix.

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of