

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD

5PM – 17 MARCH 2008

**BANQUETING ROOM
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Bennett, Mrs Brown (Deputy Chairman in the Chair), Duncan, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes (OS), Hyde, Kemble, McCaffery K Norman and Randall.

Brighton & Hove
Primary Care Trust: Julian Lee (Chairman), Amanda Fidero,
Dr Louise Hulton.

South Downs Health: Quintin Barry and Mo Marsh.

Non-Voting Co-optees:
David Standing (Community & Voluntary Sector Forum),
Eleanor Davies (Parent Forum),
Professor Imogen Taylor (Universities of Brighton & Sussex),
Naima Nouidjem (Community & Voluntary Sector).

Apologies for absence were received:
Darren Grayson (Chief Executive), Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust
Anne Caborn (South Downs Health Trust)
Lynette Gwyn Jones (Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals)
Andrew Jeffery (Parent Forum)
Miles Radford (Youth Council)
Rekha Rogers (Youth Council)
Carole Shaves (Sussex Police Authority)

PART ONE

ACTION

64. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

64A Declarations of Substitutes

- 64.1 Councillor Randall declared that he was attending the meeting as Substitute for Councillor Kitcat.

64B Declarations of Interest

64.2 Councillor Marsh declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in respect of Item 74 on the agenda.

64C Exclusion of Press and Public

64.3 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 Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

64.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

65. MINUTES

65.1 Naima Nouigdem (Community and Voluntary Sector)(Mosaic) stated that she had stressed the need to address any inequalities issues that became highlighted in relation to performance improvement. She had also expressed concern regarding apparent dissent when the budget strategy had been discussed .

65.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

66. CALLOVER

66.1 **RESOLVED** - that with the exception of items reserved (and marked with an asterisk), the recommendations and resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted without debate excepting, Presentations, Notices of Motion, Deputations, Petitions and Letters which are received automatically .

67. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**Appointment : Director of Children's Services**

67.1 The Chairman welcomed Di Smith who had recently started in post as the Director of Children's Services.

Retirement of Quintin Barry : South Downs Health Trust

67.2 The Chairman stated that she wished to place on record her thanks and those of the Board to Quintin Barry of South Downs Health Trust for his contribution to the Board and to convey their best wishes for his retirement. The other Board Members present concurred in that view.

67.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Chairman's communications be received and noted.

68. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

68.1 There were none.

69. PETITIONS

69.1 There were none.

70. DEPUTATIONS

70.1 There were none.

*71. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT REPORT : UPDATE

71.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services in relation to the Quarter 3 Performance Improvement Report: Update (for copy see minute book).

71.2 Members commended the report and were pleased to note that continued progress had been achieved on the preceding quarter.

71.3 Councillor Duncan whilst welcoming the report considered that it was imperative for funding to continue to be committed towards youth initiatives across the City. Councillor Duncan also enquired regarding initiatives being undertaken to encourage young mothers to breast feed rather than to use formula milk. Amanda Fidero of the PCT explained that a number of pro-active city wide initiatives were in place.

71.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the issues identified in the Quarter 3 Performance Improvement Report and the actions being taken to address them be approved and noted ;

(2) Fixed Term Exclusions, if performance is maintained on the current positive trajectory the Board will be asked to remove this indicator from exception reports be approved and noted ; and

(3) That the Board agrees to receive an additional exception report in respect of performance reported in the Foundation Stage Profile, where the Local Education Authority

has not met its new target for narrowing the gap between the bottom 20% of pupils and their peers .

72. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/ 9

72.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services in relation to the Capital Programme 2008/ 9 (for copy see minute book).

72.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the Board recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee the allocation of funding on the basis set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.31 of the report ; and

(2) subject to approval of the Policy and Resources Committee the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 3, 4 , 5 and 6 to the report be agreed.

***73. CHILDREN IN CARE STRATEGY FOR CHANGE**

73.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services which sought to brief Members on the completed Children in Care (CiC) Strategy for Change (for copy see minute book).

73.2 Councillor Hawkes welcomed the report which in her view highlighted the importance of good communication between partnership organisations. Imogen Taylor (Universities of Brighton & Sussex) concurred considering that a number of interrelated but complex issues had been clearly set out.

73.3 Councillor Randall stressed the importance of early intervention and of carrying out joined up initiatives with partners and other providers in instances where this would be appropriate e.g. nomination for foyer schemes. David Standing (YMCA) confirmed that discussions were actively taking place with the housing department to that end.

73.4 Councillor McCaffery expressed her support for the BME initiatives detailed but also stressed the importance of providing support where practicable for children to be placed within their extended families. In answer to questions regarding comparable authorities it was explained that although there were some demographic similarities with Portsmouth and Bournemouth it was difficult to draw any direct comparisons .

73.5 **RESOLVED** - That proposed strategy be endorsed and noted.

***74. EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE - MOULSECOOMB CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

- 74.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services which provided information regarding proposals to deliver early education and childcare for Moulsecomb Children's Centre. They had sought to meet the needs of the Department and needs of the local community (for copy see minute book).
- 74.2 Elenor Davies (Parent Forum) expressed support for the initiative and was advised in answer to questions that the local Parent Forum would be involved..
- 74.3 Councillor Marsh (South Downs Health) was pleased to note the interdisciplinary working which had taken place with health care professionals. Councillor Randall welcomed the proposals and enquired regarding the level of training and employment opportunities which would be provided for local people. It was explained that although the ability to apply for posts would be open to residents citywide, there would be opportunities for direct involvement by local residents.
- 74.4 Councillor Hawkes cited the Hollingdean Sure Start initiative as an example of the benefits to the local community provided by such schemes. Staff at that scheme had engaged with the local community and in consequence it was very successful. Councillor Kemble concurred welcoming the proposals for the Moulsecomb Children's Centre.
- 74.5 **RESOLVED** – That the Board agree that early year's provision for children aged 0—3yrs is run by the local authority located in and managed by the Moulsecomb Children's Centre. Provision for children aged 3 and 4 years run by and located in the next door Moulsecomb Nursery Class in Moulsecomb Primary School. Moulsecomb Primary School and the Children's Centre to work in partnership to meet the needs of all children aged 3 months – 5 years.

***75. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

- 75.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services seeking the Board's views relative to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (for copy see minute book).
- 75.2 Councillor Duncan whilst welcoming the report considered that the affordability of childcare could be a significant issue and

was one which needed to be addressed. Childcare was expensive and could be instrumental in preventing some mothers from returning to work. Councillor McCaffery concurred stating that high costs could place an additional financial strain on families. Councillor Randall stated that it was common for deposits to be required and for payments to be made in advance. In some instances difficulties arose when parents sought to reclaim these deposits.

75.3 It was explained that as many nurseries were private businesses the Council had no control over such matters as the taking of deposits or whether advance payment was required. However, financial assistance was available as a result of eligibility of many families for working tax credit and other benefits. Many employers including the Council itself provided opportunities for flexible working. In answer to further questions it was explained that rigorous harassment and anti-bullying strategies were in place and that support and training was provided in relation to these areas.

75.4 Imogen Taylor (Universities of Brighton & Sussex) stated that issues surrounding working parents and childcare costs were complex. Evidence suggested that more parents tended to work full time when they had access to good quality childcare.

75.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That it be noted that in general, there is sufficient childcare in Brighton & Hove to enable parents to work or train; and

(2) That it be noted that a childcare strategy for the city will be developed in order to narrow childcare gaps and address childcare affordability.

***76. TO RECEIVE AN EXTRACT FROM THE CHILDREN'S & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECEIVING A SUMMARY OF SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS REPORTS**

76.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services and an extract From the Children's & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee summarising School Ofsted Inspections for the period covered by the report (for copy see minute book).

76.2 The significant improvements effected in a very short space of time at Whitehawk Junior and Patcham High schools respectively and the positive outcomes across of all of the

City's schools were welcomed.

- 76.3 Councillor Duncan commented on the result of the Ofsted inspection at Falmer which bore testament to the dedication of the Head and staff considering that it would be unfortunate if proposals for it to become a City Academy did not have the support of staff as the current impetus might then be lost. The Chairman stated that proposals would be subject of full consultation with the staff.
- 76.4 Councillor Hyde whilst noting the improvements achieved at Longhill High School sought details regarding whether measures were in place to deal with any disruptive behaviour which occurred. It was explained that additional support was in place to address any such instances.
- 76.5 Councillor McCaffery sought clarification regarding the age ranges of children within the cities nurseries. It was explained that this differed between individual nurseries and was agreed that details of their location would be provided in future reports.
- 76.6 **RESOLVED** - That the outcome of the school Ofsted inspections carried out during the period covered by the report be noted. The chairman to write to individual schools who had achieved good results commending them for their excellent work.

77. EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2008 - 2013

- 77.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services in relation to the Education and School Organisation Plan 2008 - 2013 (for copy see minute book).
- 77.2 **RESOLVED** – That progress made in producing the Education and School Organisation Plan and the expected date of completion as the end of March be noted.

***78. 14 - 19 STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 -13**

- 78.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services relative to the 14 - 19 Strategic Plan 2008 -13 (for copy see minute book).
- 78.2 It was explained that the strategy was intended to direct the wide –ranging changes which would be needed to deliver the changes in education provision for young people aged 14 - 19 years in line with the requirements of the Government. The strategy had been developed by a

partnership of education establishments in the City working with officers from the CYPT and other directorates and also with managers from the Learning and Skills Council.

- 78.3 Councillor Duncan whilst generally supportive, had concerns that in the drive towards "marketisation" of the educational system, this could, in the longer term result in a reduction of the breadth of options available ; some subjects could become harder to access. In response it was explained it was intended that the inception of diplomas, currently being piloted, would actually create more opportunities. Once established it would be possible to twin track or move between academic subjects, and practical /vocational ones.
- 78.4 Councillor Hawkes stated that she did not consider that a "dumbing down" would result and that the ability to provide greater opportunities for non- academic pupils to obtain vocational qualifications which would provide them with the skills they needed to enter employment were welcome . Councillor McCaffery concurred in that view.
- 78.5 **RESOLVED** – That the Board agree the 14-19 Strategic Plan 2008-13

79. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

- 79.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services in relation to the School Improvement Strategy. The report sought to update the previous Children, Families and Schools Improvement Strategy and included current information regarding the support available to and challenges facing schools (for copy see minute book).
- 79.2 It was noted that revisions contained within the report included a description of those changes effected in support for schools associated with the move to the Children and Young People's Trust in 2007 and included amendments made in line with the new duties placed on Children's Services Authorities by the Education and Inspection Act 2006 . The strategy was intended to build upon the successes of recent partnerships which had been instrumental in helping to raise standards and delineate a transparent approach relative to the support available to schools including those who performance gave cause for concern.
- 79.3 **RESOLVED** –That the proposed strategy for school improvement 2008-2011 be approved.

80. DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)

80.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services in relation to the Development of Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (for copy see minute book).

80.2 Members noted action which had been , or was in the process of being taken to further develop a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS) for Brighton and Hove. The PCT had made an additional sum of £280,00 available as recurring funding for 2008 /9, and outline proposals relative to how this might be spent were set out in the report .

80.3 Members also noted that in January the CYPT had been notified by the DCSF that a bid for £725,000 over 3 years in order to promote and improve emotional wellbeing and mental health in schools had been successful. Details regarding work which would be carried out using that allocation were summarised in the report.

80.4 **RESOLVED** – (1)That the progress being made in the implementation of the commissioning strategy for CAMHS be noted ;

(2) That the proposed spending plan relative to young people's services set out in paragraphs 3.11 – 3.15 of the report be approved ; and

(3) That the work to be carried out to promote and improve emotional wellbeing and mental health in schools be approved and noted.

***81. CONNEXIONS PROCUREMENT**

81.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Children's Services in relation to the Connexions Procurement process (for copy see minute book).

81.2 Councillors Duncan and Randall sought clarification regarding the timeframe relative to the procurement process and lamented the loss of this previously in house service . In answer to further questions it was confirmed that as the current provider had not re-tendered for this service there would be a new provider .

81.3 Councillor Kemble stated that it would be appropriate for

the new Chair and Deputy Chair (once elected) to be given delegated authority to deal further in respect of this matter. Members of the board agreed that this would be appropriate.

- 81.4 **RESOLVED** –That the Chairman of the Board , Deputy Chairman of the Board and Director of Children's Services should be given delegated authority to approve the awarding of the Connexions IAG contract during April/May 2008.

82. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MOVE TO A NEW CONSTITUTION

- 82.1 The Board considered a report of the Director of Strategy and Governance in relation to the Arrangement for the Move to a New Constitution (for copy see minute book).

- 83.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Board note the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act) requiring Brighton & Hove City Council to move to new constitutional arrangements;

(2) That the manner in which the work of the CFS Committee will be discharged under the proposed new arrangements be noted ;

(3) That the proposal to prepare a book to commemorate the life of the CFS Committee, for which Members had been asked to participate in a group photograph at the end of its final meeting be noted .

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

2008