

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Monday 7th November 2011 at 6.30 pm in the Executive Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

(NB: These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting)

Present

Councillors: Steve Wemyss (Chair)
Paula Riches (Vice Chair)
Margaret Adair
Peter Eddis
Lee Mason

43 Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 1)

Councillor Steve Wemyss declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in that three years ago he had unsuccessfully applied for a place for his son at Springfield School.

Councillor Paula Riches declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest, as she is an appointed governor at Highbury College.

Councillor Lee Mason declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as he works for Portsmouth University Students' Union.

44 Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Caroline Scott.

45 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2011 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2011 be approved as a correct record.

46 Review into Admissions to Springfield School

Having regard to the number of pupils living in the catchment area and attending feeder schools who failed to gain a place at the school for September 2011 (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

RESOLVED:

1. That the panel recommend to the City Council that :

- (a) The City Council ask the Springfield School governors to consider a school building programme to increase the numbers on roll from 220 per year group to 240, supported by capital funding from monies received under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**
- (b) The bid by the City of Portsmouth Boys' School to become a co-educational University Technical Academy for 11-19 year olds be supported.**

Note the reasons for this proposal are as follows:

- It would address the issue regarding surplus places at the City of Portsmouth Boys' School.**
 - The proposed change would be in the interests of efficiency and efficient use of resources.**
 - A greater parity of school places for boys and girls in the Highbury area of the city could be achieved.**
 - It would constitute forward planning for school places in the light of proposed future residential development at Tipner.**
- (c) Should City of Portsmouth Boys' School not be successful in their bid to become a UTA the City Council should recommend that the governors of City of Portsmouth Boys' School be asked to consider allowing the school to become co-educational. Should they accept that, and should they so wish it, a co-educational school could have a defined catchment area, which should include the Highbury estate and allow for the proposed future residential development at Tipner. In that case, the City Council be requested to examine how it may assist the school in funding the changes necessary for the school to become co-educational.**
 - (d) Should the Governors of the City of Portsmouth Boys' accept (c) above, if the City Council believes there is still a requirement for an all-boys' school then the cabinet member with responsibility for schools be requested to consider ways in which that might be achieved.**
 - (e) The City Council requests head teachers to include within the Fair Access Protocol a requirement that added to the definition of "Hard to Place" children are: "children of service personnel who are about to move to or have moved to, or within, Portsmouth as a result of Services deployments".**
 - (f) Portsmouth makes provision for applications from Services Personnel to be processed if the families have proof of posting, even if they do not have an address in Portsmouth inline with the new Admissions Code to be published in 2012**

(g) Representations be made to Government to the effect that, if necessary, the Published Admission Number of a school may be adjusted to accommodate children of forces personnel.

RESOLVED that the report on admissions to Springfield School, as amended, be signed off by the Panel and submitted to the City Council in accordance with Standing Order No 32 (D) on 15 November 2011.

47 Selection of Future Review Topic (AI 5)

The Panel was asked to select a topic from the following list allocated to them by the Scrutiny Management Panel on 13 September 2011:

- 1) Review on co-ordinated multi-agency involvement for families with multiple problems.
- 2) Review on targeted support for children and young people who demonstrate behaviours that may put them at risk.
- 3) City-wide review on school admissions.

RESOLVED that the topic selected by the Panel be the review on targeted support for children and young people who demonstrate behaviours that may put them at risk.

48 Dates of Future Meetings (AI 6)

RESOLVED that the following dates for future meetings be approved:-

- **Thursday 8 December 2011 at 5 pm**
- **Thursday 5 January 2012 at 5 pm**
- **Thursday 26 January 2012 at 5 pm**
- **Thursday 23 February 2012 at 5 pm**
- **Thursday 15 March 2012 at 5 pm.**

The meeting concluded at 7 pm.

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