

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Monday 20 August 2012 at 7.00 pm in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

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

Present

Councillors Darron Phillips (In the Chair)
Ken Ferrett
Lynne Stagg
Alistair Thompson
Matthew Winnington
Will Purvis

Also Present

Stephen Kitchman, Head of Children's Social Care & Safeguarding
Kate Freeman, Looked After Children Service Commissioning Manager
Tim McGuire, Education Improvement Commissioning Manager
Teresa Deasy, Local Democracy Officer

32 Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 1)

There were no declarations of interest.

33 Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Helen Reeder, the Teachers' Liaison Panel representative.

34 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2012 (AI 3)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

35 Scoping document for topic entitled, " How well do we care for our looked after children? How can we improve stability and outcomes in their lives?" (AI 4)

(TAKE IN SCOPING DOCUMENT)

The Panel considered the scoping document and made some amendments to the objectives. The revised objectives are as follows:

1. To seek reassurance that Portsmouth City Council appropriately cares for its looked after children and that positive outcomes are achieved regarding placement stability, health outcomes, educational attainment and preventing offending.
2. To investigate the commissioning of care placements to ensure that the process is efficient and effective at every stage.
3. To look into how young people and their families are involved in their care planning and, if appropriate, to improve young people's participation in the care planning process.
4. To ensure that preparation for independent living, employment potential and access to appropriate housing are maximised.

The Panel discussed the list of possible witnesses and agreed to add care leavers and Zenna Atkins, the former Chair of Ofsted to the list set out in the scoping document.

In order to familiarise themselves with this topic for review, the Panel members asked for a presentation at the next meeting from the Head of Children's Social Care & Safeguarding and the Looked After Children Service Commissioning Manager outlining the management structure of the services for looked after children and how they operate.

The Panel agreed that it would be appropriate to invite the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People and the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the respective opposition spokespersons to attend the next meeting of the Panel. Thereafter, a copy of the agenda for each meeting should be sent to them.

RESOLVED that the scoping document as amended be approved

36 Date of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Monday, 10 September 2012 at 7:00pm in Conference Room A.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm.

TMD
21 August 2012
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