



NOTICE OF MEETING

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM

GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 5 - CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Vicki Plytas on 9283 4058

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Membership

Councillor Will Purvis (Chair)
Councillor Darron Phillips (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Terry Hall

Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Ken Ferrett

Standing Deputies

Councillor David Horne
Councillor Robert New

Councillor Steve Wemyss
Councillor Matthew Winnington

(NB This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting).

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.**

- 2 Declaration of Members' Interests.**

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2013. (Pages 1 - 2)

Attached

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 2 July 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Consideration and approval of the draft scoping document for the review into governance arrangements. (Pages 3 - 4)

Officers will assist the panel to finalise the scoping document.

RECOMMENDED that the scoping document for the review be agreed.

5 Review into Governance Arrangements. (Pages 5 - 8)

Officers from the Education Service will attend to give evidence to the panel and answer questions.

6 Discussion on next steps for the review.

6 December 2013.

Agenda Item 3

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 2 July 2013 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 Will Purvis (In the Chair)
Darron Phillips
Luke Stubbs

Also Present

Julian Wooster, Strategic Director and Director of Children's Services

14 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 1)

There were no declarations of interest.

15 Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Terry Hall, Sandra Stockdale and Ken Ferrett. Michael Robson, the Charter Academy governor representative and Helen Reader, the Teachers' Liaison Panel representative also sent their apologies for absence.

16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2013 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 25 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

17 Discussion of Future Topics for Review (AI 4)

Julian Wooster suggested the following subjects:

1. Child sexual exploitation - he stated that this was a very topical theme nationally.
2. Governor strategy - the role of governors and ideas for improving governor recruitment, support and engagement, including academies.
3. Raising the age for participating in education or training - Julian suggested that as the city traditionally had no sixth forms in schools and the issue of young people who were not in employment, education or training was a concern this might be a good topic to tackle.

4. Adoption - this is a government priority and also a priority in the city of Portsmouth.

Councillor Purvis suggested a scrutiny review of how schools are using the pupil premium and whether they were using it to maximum effect.

Councillor Luke Stubbs suggested school transport should be examined because the last review of the process did not appear to have saved as much money as had been hoped.

Following a discussion, the panel members agreed the following potential review topics for submission to the Scrutiny Management Panel meeting on 4 July 2013.

1. Home to School Transport
2. Child Sexual Exploitation
3. Pupil Premium
4. Governor Strategy

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

TMD/DMF
5 July 2013
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Agenda Item 4

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL.

Scoping document for the review of school governance arrangements.

The purpose of this review is to feed into the development of an effective School Governance Strategy.

Objectives of the Inquiry.

1. To consider whether there is sufficient capacity within Portsmouth City Council to provide the necessary support to governing bodies in the city.
2. To consider recruitment and retention of school governors in the city.
3. To consider the skills of school governors, take up of training by governors, their ability to understand and interpret school data and ability to hold senior leaders to account.
4. To consider how effective the existing arrangements are for governing body self-review.
5. To consider how effective clerking of governing bodies currently is and what can be done to strengthen clerking in the city.
6. To consider good practice from other local authorities.

Possible Witnesses.

Headteachers from the following schools:

- Corpus Christi Primary
- Arundel Court Primary
- Springfield Secondary
- Priory Secondary
- Maggie Dunford, Willows Centre
- Alison Beane, Mary Rose Special School

Clerks from the following schools:

- City of Portsmouth Boys
- Cottage Grove Primary, Langstone Junior
- Mayfield Secondary
- St Swithun's Catholic Primary
- Cliffdale Special School

Governors from the following schools:

- St Swithun's Primary and St Edmunds Catholic Secondary
- Wimborne Junior
- The Harbour
- Mary Rose
- St Paul's Catholic Primary

Additionally - written evidence will be sought from:

- The Chief Executive, National Governors Association
- Beacon View Primary, National Leader of Governance
- National College for Teaching and Leadership.

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Agenda Item 5

Briefing note for Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny review meeting on Monday 16th December 2013

To consider whether there is sufficient capacity within PCC to provide the necessary support to governing bodies in the city

The governor support team consists of 2 FTE's and is responsible for ensuring that the LA exercises its statutory duties towards governing bodies (please see Annex 1)

Members may wish to consider;

- How are these statutory duties being met?
- How many governors take up the opportunity of free training and how do they use this learning to improve and strengthen governance at their own school?
- Whether there is a connection between low uptake of training and adverse Ofsted inspection judgements?

The team also provides advice and guidance to all governors that currently buy in to the Governor Support Service Level Agreement (SLA). This currently accounts for all maintained schools within the city with the exception of five schools, ALNS, Copnor Junior, Devonshire Infant, Meon Infant and St George's.

The team are responsible for delivering a range of training opportunities for governors including whole governing body training sessions, chairs development and data training as well as external governance reviews.

To consider recruitment and retention of school governors in the city

Recruitment and retention of governors is a serious issue for many governing bodies across the country as well as within Portsmouth. The issue of recruitment of governors could be significantly reduced if all governing bodies exercised their right to re-constitute under the; School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 1st September 2012.

Members may wish to consider;

- How many schools have exercised their right to re-constitute?
- How many are considering this at present?
- What benefits would re-constitution bring?
- How would re-constitution impact on the issue of retention?
- What would be the impact on LA appointed governors under the 2012 regulations?
- What are governing bodies doing to actively recruit governors and what do governing bodies perceive to be barriers to recruitment?

To consider the skills of school governors -take up of training by governors, their ability to understand and interpret school data and ability to hold senior leaders to account

The 2012 Constitution Regulations encourages governing bodies to determine what relevant skills they require from governors and how they use this information to actively recruit skilled governors.

Members may wish to consider;

- What are schools doing to determine whether they have the right skills mix on their governing body and how are they using this to ensure succession planning is in place?
- What are governing bodies doing with this information and how are they using it to strengthen governance within their schools?

To consider how effective the existing arrangements are for governing body self-review.

Governance is incorporated in the judgement for Leadership & Management under the current Ofsted Framework for inspecting schools. Any school that is judged by Ofsted to be in the category of, 'requires improvement' are recommended to undertake an external review of governance. It would help to strengthen governance if governing bodies were undertaking their own honest self-review process and using the information to improve their practice.

Members may wish to consider;

- How many schools regularly undertake a self-review of their governance arrangements?
- What do they do with this information?
- How do they share good practice amongst their peers?
- How many schools have been recommended by Ofsted to undertake an external review of governance and how have these improved practice?

To consider how effective clerking of governing bodies currently is and what can be done to strengthen clerking in the city

The Education Select Committee Inquiry into the role of School Governance identified the importance of having an experienced and knowledgeable clerk. The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 state; "*The governing body must appoint a clerk with a view to ensuring their efficient functioning and must have regard to advice from the clerk as to the nature of the governing body's functions*". The emphasis on having regard to the advice of the clerk has raised the profile of clerking and there is an expectation that the clerk will be the expert in respect of law and procedures. The National College for Teaching and Learning (NCTL) has awarded a contract to Southern Educational Leadership Trust (SELT) in partnership with Hampshire Governor Services to develop and

deliver training for clerks which will be available to be delivered locally under licence from the Spring term.

Members may wish to consider;

- How many clerks are accredited?
- How many are going through the clerks accreditation programme?
- How many clerks cover more than one school?
- What the risks are of having fewer clerks?
- What would be the benefits of operating a clerking pool within the city?

To consider good practice from other local authorities

The panel will wish to consider examples of good practice from other LA's across the country. It would be helpful to know;

- What areas of governance members would like to know more about?

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