

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor P. Jones (Chairman)
County Councillor P. Farley (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: L. Guppy, R. Harris, D. Jones, M. Powell.

Added Members:

M Fowler (Parent Governor Representative)

County Councillor V. Smith attended the meeting by invitation of the Chair.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Will McLean		Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement
Matthew (Countryside)	Lewis	Countryside Manager
Matthew Gatehouse		Policy and Performance Manager
Mike Moran		Community Infrastructure Coordinator
Hazel Ilett		Scrutiny Manager
Richard Williams		Democratic Services Officer

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. E. Price - Education Achievement Service

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors: D. Blakebrough and P. Clarke

Mr. K Plow (Association of School Governors)

1. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor P. Farley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item 5 – Summer Play Provision 2016, as Chepstow Town Council invests in the summer play scheme and he is a Chepstow Town Councillor.

County Councillor P. Farley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item 6b – Children's Services Quarter 2 Performance, as he is a Local Authority Governor at the Dell Primary School and a Trustee of Chepstow Senior Citizens Welfare Trust.

County Councillor L. Guppy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item 5 – Summer Play Provision

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

2016, as she is a member of Rogiet Community Council which contributes to the play provision.

County Councillor R. Harris declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item 5 – Summer Play Provision 2016, as he is a member of Abergavenny Town Council which contributed funds in 2016 for the scheme. The Town Council has also budgeted for a contribution in 2017.

County Councillor M. Powell declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of agenda item 5 – Summer Play Provision 2016, as she is a member of Abergavenny Town which has budgeted to support this provision.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee meeting dated 3rd November 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair. In doing so, it was noted that the Finance Manager has spoken to the Welsh Assembly Member, the Shadow Finance Minister, regarding the lack of funding in Children's Services. The Finance Manager will prepare a report for a future meeting of the Select Committee outlining the response received.

3. Presentation by the Education Achievement Service regarding New Qualifications

Context:

We received a presentation by Mr. E. Price, Principal Challenge Adviser for the Education Achievement Service (EAS) regarding the new qualifications at Key Stage 4 from the summer of 2017.

Key Issues:

From 2017, there will be no one main measure to be focused on at school level. Instead, a suite of measures will be considered. These will include:

- Level 2 inclusive (Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation and National measures from 2018)
- Level 2 threshold (2017 only).
- Level 1 threshold (2017 only).
- Capped Points Score (the revised, 'Capped 9' measure from 2017).

The changes to performance measures are in line with recommendations contained within Successful Futures and will have the positive effect of widening curriculum choice.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

All updates will be posted on the Welsh Government website.

2016

- Change to Year 11 based cohort from existing 15 year old based cohort.
- Maximum of two GCSE equivalence value applied to any individual non- GCSE qualification in all performance measure calculations.

2017

- Core Subject Indicator no longer required.
- Changes to the Capped Points Score.
- Only the new reformed qualifications for English / Welsh, mathematics count towards these subject specific requirements of measures (literature qualifications no longer count).
- Maximum of two GCSE equivalence for the total contribution value of non - GCSE qualifications in the threshold measures.
- Essential Skills Wales and Wider Key Skills no longer hold a contribution value in Key Stage 4 measures and are approved for post – 16 delivery only.
- Qualifications of 60 up to 119 (inclusive) guided learning hours allocated a 0.5 GCSE equivalence.
- Reformed Welsh Baccalaureate qualification awarded for the first time.

2018

- Welsh Baccalaureate measures replace threshold measures.
- For science, only GCSE qualifications count towards subject specific requirements of the Capped Points Score; non-GCSE science qualifications no longer count towards science components but can count towards a learner's 'other 4' best qualifications.

No single measure is emphasised at school level. The Capped Points Score will hold similar status to the Level 2 inclusive and the Welsh Baccalaureate measures. A suite of measures should be used to consider schools performance from different angles. Which measures to use will depend on the particular questions being asked.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Summary of changes – 2017

- Any non-GCSE Level 1 or Level 2 qualification will be worth a maximum of two GCSEs. Current qualifications can continue to be taken but performance value capped at equivalent of two GCSEs.
- The Core Subject Indicator will no longer be published as a performance measure.
- The following new GCSEs will be used as the literacy and numeracy elements of the Level 2 Inclusive measure:
 - English Language / Welsh Language.
 - Mathematics or Mathematics Numeracy (whichever is the learner's best).
- Literature qualifications will not count towards the literacy requirements of measures, but can still count towards the non-subject specific measures.

The 'new' Capped Point Score

- The score will be based on nine rather than eight qualifications. Five of the nine qualifications used to calculate the score will be:
 - GCSE English Language or GCSE Welsh Language (whichever is the learner's best, literature will not count).
 - GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy and GCSE Mathematics.
 - The learner's best two science qualifications (from 2018, their best two science GCSEs).
- The other four qualifications will be the learner's best (highest grade) other qualifications. These could be GCSEs, vocational qualifications or the Skills Challenge Certificate (the core of the new Welsh Baccalaureate).

Summary of changes from 2018 (current Year 10 learners)

- For science only GCSE qualifications will count towards subject specific requirements of the capped points score.
- Non-GCSE science qualifications no longer count towards science components but can still count towards a learner's 'other 4' best qualifications.
- New measures will be introduced relating to the attainment of the new Welsh Baccalaureate at Foundation and National levels (Levels 1 and 2).
- These new measures will replace the current Level 1, Level 2 and Level 2 Inclusive threshold measures.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Member Scrutiny:

- Select Committee Members expressed concern that from the summer of 2017, literature qualifications will no longer count towards the three subject specific requirements of measures. The EAS representative acknowledged the sentiments of the Committee with regard to English literature qualifications. However, it was noted that some schools had focussed on the literature for pupils that had struggled with the literature qualification at C and above to the detriment of their success at English language.
- The Select Committee ask the EAS representative to convey the sentiments of the Committee with regard to its views on the importance of the English Literature qualification
- Vocational qualifications - the EAS will encourage head teachers to do what is best for their individual learners, although, with Estyn, the head teachers will be aware of the headline measures as well.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding whether the changes outlined in the presentation would be helpful overall, the EAS representative stated that it would be necessary to see how the measures develop over time before this question could be answered.
- It was noted that universities and employers had been consulted with regard to the proposed changes which would be recognised by these groups.
- With regard to the Welsh Baccalaureate, it was noted that this qualification was not recognised by all English universities. Concern was expressed that this might hinder Welsh students from being able to study at certain English universities.
- Concern was expressed that a number of qualifications, including vocational qualifications, will be removed from the approved list which will have a significant effect on pupils studying these courses. The Select Committee, in receiving details of the definition and what this encompasses for students studying these courses would be beneficial.
- It was considered that the changes proposed for 2017 were narrowing the curriculum options for pupils rather than providing a wider choice.
- It is important for the Authority to consider the comparative position that is achieved in the summer of 2017 compared to what has happened in the past and to note the changes coming in 2017 and 2018.
- It was noted that England will change substantially in the summer of 2017. Schools here will no longer report their GCSE qualifications in grades. Instead, a number system will be introduced ranging from 9 to 1, rather than A* to G, or U.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

This will mean that it will become increasingly difficult for Monmouthshire's border communities to compare schools.

- It was noted that schools on either side of the border compete on performance but this is going to be harder to achieve if the systems being operated by Welsh and English schools differ. It was considered that Monmouthshire's schools should be provided with some additional support from the EAS to explain the differences. The EAS representative stated that he would liaise with Nicola Allan, Monmouthshire's challenge adviser, to work with the Authority and challenge advisers within Monmouthshire's secondary schools identify the needs and requirements and to work with head teachers accordingly.
- It was noted that local elections will be held in May 2017 and the likelihood that there will be new Members elected to serve on the new Council. Therefore, when the examination results are released later in 2017 there will be no comparison. An explanation will be required with regard to this matter bearing in mind the changes being introduced regarding the new reporting measures and the newly elected Members.

Committee's Conclusion:

The Chair summed up as follows:

- On behalf of the Select Committee the Chair thanked the EAS representative for providing the Committee with an update on the Key Stage 4 new reporting measures.
- The EAS representative was asked to convey the sentiments of the Committee with regard to its views on the importance of the English Literature qualification.
- The EAS would be invited to a future Select Committee meeting to provide further updates with regard to the new reporting measures.

4. Summer Play Provision 2016

Context:

To receive an update on the revised model for staffed play provision implemented for the 2016 summer period.

Key Issues:

Towards the end of 2015, the Select Committee had received a report on a number of play related issues, including proposed changes to staffed play provision for 2016 and the timetable for producing the Play Sufficiency Audit and Action Plan for 2016/17.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

In previous years the Council had provided summer holiday play schemes at the four leisure centres plus a “satellite” provision at the Bulwark Community Centre, the latter provision having been run on behalf of and paid for by Chepstow Town Council. The play schemes were effectively a form of childcare registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) and provided staffed play provision for four weeks of the summer holidays for children between 5 and 11 years of age.

The proposal when this matter was last scrutinised by the Select Committee was to move to a model of play provision in summer 2016 that contained two main components – sports camps held at the four leisure centres and open access play sessions held in a number of community venues across the County. Delivery of open access play was dependent on the outcome of consultations with partners, most notably Town and Community Councils, due to the reliance on their funding to enable these schemes to take place. The discussions with the Town and Community Councils were successful and they all agreed to maintain (and in some cases increase) their contributions at the existing levels.

The sports camps (the Monmouthshire Games) were run by Leisure Services as self-financing schemes on a daily basis over a five week period (25th July to 26th August 2016) from 9.00am to 3.00pm. These did not have to be registered with the CSSIW, as they were regarded as sports activities rather than play provision.

The open access play sessions were organised and managed on behalf of the Council by the Torfaen Play Service (TPS). These were run over a 19 day period (1st to 25th August 2016).

Attendance at the open access sessions was free of charge and they were fully inclusive for children with disabilities / additional support needs. Because the sessions lasted for just under two hours each, these sessions also did not require registration with the CSSIW.

The open access play schemes were staffed by a mixture of predominantly paid staff and some volunteers and immediately prior to the schemes commencing all staff underwent a full week of training, during which over 40 different modules were delivered to ensure that the staff had the necessary skills to work with children and young people.

In delivering the open access schemes, Torfaen Play Service adhered to all safeguarding policies and procedures in line with Monmouthshire County Council and the South East Wales Safeguarding Board, which was one of the provisions in the Service Level Agreement entered into between the two authorities.

All of the delivery sites had a secure building linked to outside areas, so that all children were placed at all times in a safe and supportive setting. During the lead in period, there was close and effective communication with the Children with Disabilities Team based in Social Services. Disabled children and those with additional support needs were allocated 1:2:1 support workers to ensure that they felt supported in an inclusive environment. For a small number of children with “high end” support needs, there was a

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

specialist provision held at Pontypool Active Living Centre and there were five spaces at this provision allocated to children from Monmouthshire.

Prior to attendance at their first open access session, all children had to be registered and details of the names and contact details of their respective parents / guardians were taken in case any of the children wanted to leave before the end of any sessions that they attended. The vast majority of children registered attended most sessions at their chosen site and a number of children attended both morning and afternoon sessions. No particular difficulties were experienced and there were no safeguarding issues that arose with any child during the period that the schemes were operating.

Consideration is now being given to the provisions to be implemented for the summer period 2017. The self-financing Monmouthshire Games at the leisure centres continued over the October half term period and it is likely that similar provisions will be made for five weeks over the summer period next year. Discussions are taking place with TPS regarding the open access provisions for 2017 and discussions are also taking place with the various Town and Community Councils in an effort to secure their continued financial support.

Member Scrutiny:

- Working relationships with the town and community councils have improved this year.
- The Vice-Chair asked that this report be presented to Chepstow Town Council with a view to resuming dialogue regarding this matter.
- Page 24 of the agenda – minor amendment required at the top of the page, namely, 80%, not 8%.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the 48 play schemes, it was noted that Monmouthshire had hosted 12 of them and Torfaen had hosted 36 of the schemes. Torfaen was able to host more schemes as it had a fully funded play service with a budget and additional grant aid, as well as having a more established play scheme programme.
- In response to a Select Committee Members question it was noted that it was difficult to compare this year with last year as the Authority is running something very different. The total number of children using the leisure centres has reduced in comparison to the number of children accessing the play schemes. However, the total number of children involved has remained the same.
- The Authority is now offering a more consistent, wholly inclusive play offer.
- Coordination with Children's Services is good.
- Committed to an open access play model.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding fixed play provision within the County, it was noted that there has never been a dedicated budget for fixed play provision. Play teams inspect equipment and sometimes are required to remove equipment. Officers are having to review fixed play equipment across Monmouthshire.
- It was considered that town and community councils could take more responsibility with regard to the provision of fixed play equipment.
- It was noted that the summer play scheme had been provided with minimal investment and officers were commended for ensuring this service was provided.

Committee's Conclusion:

The Chair summed up as follows:

- The report to be sent to the Town and Community Councils with a view to investigating potential support.
- Confirmation regarding the Families First grant was awaited from the Welsh Government.
- It had been emphasised that there had been no safeguarding issues relating to the Summer Play Scheme.
- Excellent feedback had been provided and the Summer Play Scheme 2016 was a blue print for the next two years.
- The scheme was encouraging mobility and exercise amongst young people.

5. Improvement Objectives and Performance indicators - 2016/17 Quarter 2 update

Context:

To receive quarter 2 performance data for the Improvement Objectives which are under the remit of the Children and Young People Select Committee:

- Improvement Objective 1 - Improve at all key stages of education.
- Improvement Objective 2 - Safeguard people, whether young or old, while reducing people's dependence on social care.

To receive the latest performance against wider key national performance indicators that are under the committee's remit.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Key Issues:

Improvement Objectives are set annually by the Council to deliver on priorities, these are set in the Improvement Plan 2016/17. Despite objectives being focussed on the long term, the specific activities that support them are particularly focussed for the year ahead.

Activity that contributes to the delivery of some objectives cross cuts Select Committee remits and these will also be reported to other relevant committee(s).

The progress with most of the actions and performance indicators that form part of Improvement Objective 1 have recently been reported to the Children and Young People Select Committee as part of the Children and Young People Directorate Chief Officer report. Due to the importance of Members scrutinising progress being made specifically on the actions, performance indicators and targets set in the Improvement Plan 2016/17, a full progress update on Improvement objective 1 has also been completed.

The Improvement Objectives will be evaluated at the end of the year (2016/17) based on the Council's self-evaluation framework, as set in the Improvement Plan 2016-17. Performance against them will be reported to the Select Committee and in the Stage 2 Improvement Plan published in October each year.

This is likely to be the final annual cycle of Improvement Planning in this format. The Council is currently undertaking two substantial assessments of need and wellbeing within the County as a consequence of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. This information will provide a much deeper evidence base of well-being in the County and will be used to review the Council's current improvement objectives in preparation for the publication of the Council's well-being objectives by 31st March 2017.

Appendix C of the report sets out further Key Performance Indicators from the National Performance indicator set that are under the committee's remit. The primary purpose is to highlight the performance achieved so far in 2016/17. In some cases this may result in duplication of indicators already included in other sections of the report. Where indicators relate to the performance of services that are under the remit of more than one committee these will also be reported to the other relevant committee(s).

Member Scrutiny:

- For future meetings, cohort information will be contained within the report.
- The first phase of upgrading schools' ICT infrastructure is 80% complete.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding ALN provision, it was noted that in 2012 Estyn had identified some flaws and challenges within the Authority's ALN Provision. A rapid review of ALN had been undertaken in that immediate period. This work fell into three phases and the first two phases

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

have been completed. Our services with regard to ALN provision are a concern for all stakeholders involved. Therefore, additional support has been commissioned to aid in this matter and a range of schools and settings have been visited, those with special needs bases and secondary schools. The two new schools will have a 55 unit resource base within them. Engagement with head teachers has been undertaken with regard to the review of ALN provision and they have been supportive. More delegation to schools is likely to occur. Therefore, work is ongoing across all of Monmouthshire's schools.

- The Chair asked that a report on the review of ALN provision be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee.
- The Authority wants all of its pupils to remain in mainstream education but we have to recognise that at times, children will face challenges and that setting will not be the right setting for them. The changing nature of additional learning needs over time needs to be looked at. Schools are seeing more complex, acute needs earlier in children's lives. Therefore, best provision for individual pupils needs to be identified. The Authority is looking to explore this to enable clusters of schools to have that provision so that children, even if they can't stay in their home school, they will be able to stay much nearer to their actual home. The Authority has to ensure that there is the capacity and the capability within the school settings to provide that support.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the performance of the Shared Resource Service (SRS) in respect of the new service level agreement, the Policy and Performance Manager stated that he would investigate the matter and report back.
- A representative from the Shared Resource Service to be invited to a future meeting of the Select Committee.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the need for a 'level playing field' regarding ICT provision in schools, it was noted that when primary head teachers meet, there is input from SRS updating them on progress and any potential challenges. It is important that the capacity is there within schools. Officers are working to ensure all of Monmouthshire's schools are receiving up to date ICT provision.
- The Authority remains committed to the renewal of its four secondary schools.
- Considerable work has been undertaken to consolidate primary schools. The primary state is in very good order.
- The External Reference Group has been established. There has been a slight change in focus for the board in that, not only will it focus on education and the continuing recovery process but also working with the Authority around children's services and social services.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the re-setting of 2016/17 targets, it was noted that this was due to the transition to the new database in social care. Currently there is not enough points of data available to set this target.
- In Monmouthshire, for at least 15 years, all recipients of adults' social care have received a questionnaire on a regular basis. This is a system that has been adopted by Welsh Government. Therefore, Welsh Government wants the 22 authorities in Wales to ask the same questions in the same way.
- For future Select Committee meetings, data should be available numerically and also as a percentage.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding social care provision and whether there might be a geographical variation across the county, it was noted that work is being undertaken around wellbeing assessment. It was noticed that by introducing a place based approach, it was identified that 'one size does not fit all'. Therefore, the requirements of one community might differ to the requirements of another. Engagement with people is being undertaken and various comments are coming through with regard to this matter.

Committee's Conclusion:

The Chair summed up as follows:

- To receive a report from Gill Lawrence regarding the ALN Service at a future meeting.
- A representative from the Shared Resource Service (SRS) be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on our relationship with the SRS.
- The Chair thanked the Policy and Performance Manager for presenting the report.

6. Children's Services Quarter 2 Performance

Context:

To provide a report card that considers quarter 2 performance in children's social services.

Key Issues:

The Social Services and Well-being Act came into force from April 2016 and has changed the way social services are delivered in Wales. The principles of the Act are:

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- The Act supports people who have care and support needs to achieve well-being.
- People are at the heart of the new system by giving them an equal say in the support they receive.
- Partnership and co-operation drives service delivery.
- Services will promote the prevention of escalating need and the right help is available at the right time.

Each local authority must have arrangements in place to collect and return the data on the statutory performance measures detailed in the report to the Welsh Government from May 2017 onwards. The performance measures are a blend of quantitative (numerical) data and qualitative data which includes asking people about their experience of social services and whether this has contributed to improving their well-being.

Qualitative data is being collected through questionnaires to children and parents. At quarter 2 this process is still underway, therefore the responses in the report constitute part of the total collection.

Quarter 2 is the first full compilation of the new measures and in many cases neither baseline nor comparable data is available. Targets have been set where feasible but will be better informed when baseline data is further established and other local authority data is available.

Member Scrutiny:

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding questionnaire responses from children, it was noted that 68% considered that they had received the correct information or advice when they needed it. However, this issue was still being analysed. More analysis will be undertaken when more data has been received.
- Looked After Children are always at the forefront of decisions. Ideally, in all cases is that intervention occurs early enough so that cases are identified early enough and preventative work is undertaken.
- It was considered that data presented to future select committee meetings should be available numerically alongside its percentage value.
- Having viewed the data relating to the percentage of looked after children experiencing a non-transitional school move and the percentage of looked after children with three or more placements, it was noted that one of the challenges in Monmouthshire is the geography of the County which could have an effect on the child's placement. Therefore, the report indicates that the numbers are higher

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

than the Authority would like to see because the Authority wants to see stability in terms of the children's education.

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the questionnaire, it was noted that the results of the questionnaire were outlined in the report. There was also an option to add free text in addition to answering the set questions. This provides a sense of what has been asked and details of response rates. It is intended that this questionnaire will be used year on year as a means of comparison.

Committee's Conclusion:

The Chair summed up as follows:

- The areas of concern have been noted.
- Until baseline data is established further comparisons cannot be made at this stage.
- The Committee notes that there has been some changes within the Children's Services and much has been achieved to date.
- Overall, it was noted that the Head of Children's Services had said that overall, she is satisfied with the report.

7. Strategic Risk Assessment 2016

Context:

To provide an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.

Key Issues:

The risk assessment ensures that:

- Strategic risks are identified and monitored by the authority.
- Risk controls are appropriate and proportionate.
- Senior managers and elected Members systematically review the strategic risks facing the authority.

The existing risks on the Strategic Risk Assessment have been updated based on evidence available in 2016. Changes to the Council's risk management policy were approved by Cabinet in March 2015 and continue to be applied to the strategic risk register. These are:

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- Including pre-mitigation and post-mitigation risk scores, this was also a key recommendation from scrutiny of the 2014 risk assessment.
- Ensuring greater clarity to the phrasing of risk so that each statement includes an event, cause and effect.

The risk assessment only covers high and medium level risks. Lower level operational risks are not registered unless they are projected to escalate within the three years covered. These need to be managed and monitored through teams' service plans. The pre and post mitigation risk levels are presented separately. In most cases mitigating actions result in a change to the likelihood of the risk rather than the consequences as our actions are generally aimed at reducing the chance of a negative event occurring rather than lessening it's impact. Clearly, there will be exceptions.

Following presentation to select committees, the risk assessment will be presented to Cabinet to be signed off. The risk assessment is a living document and will evolve over the course of the year as new information comes to light. An up-to-date risk log is accessible to Members via the Council's intranet - The Hub. This will ensure, as well as the ongoing specific scrutiny of the risk assessment annually, that select committees are able to re-visit the information at any point in the year to re-prioritise their work plan as appropriate.

Member Scrutiny:

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding recent revelations regarding certain sports coaches across the UK, it was noted that this matter would sit with the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group.
- Teacher sickness and absences data would be made available to the Select Committee. Teacher sickness levels are better than compared to the broader sickness levels of Council staff. Also, teacher sickness levels in comparison to pupil sickness levels could also be brought back to the Select Committee.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding whether a risk assessment has been undertaken with regard to a potential change in administration of the Authority in May 2017 due to the upcoming local elections, it was noted that delivery of political priorities is broadly covered via one of the risks identified in the report, i.e., political priorities being delivered. However, there has not been a specific risk identified with regard to a potential change in administration of the Authority.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Committee's Conclusion:

The Chair summed up as follows:

- On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chair thanked the officers for presenting the report.
- That the Select Committee receives sickness data relating to school staff and pupils at a future Select Committee meeting.

8. List of actions arising from the previous meeting

We received and noted the list of actions that had been completed arising from the Children and Young People Select Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2016.

9. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Plan

We resolved to receive the Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Plan and noted its content.

10. Council and Cabinet Business - Forward Plan

We resolved to receive the Council and Cabinet Business Forward Work Plan and noted its content.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Usk, on Thursday 12th January 2017 at 2.00pm.

The meeting ended at 4.46 pm