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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, 6th October, 2016 at 10.00 am

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

County Councillors: L. Guppy, D. Blakebrough, M. Hickman,
D. Jones, M. Powell

Added Members

Members voting on Education issues only:

M Fowler (Parent Governor Representative).

County Councillor V. Smith (observing).

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Tracey Thomas	Youth & Community Manager, Youth Service
Nikki Wellington	Finance Manager
Tyrone Stokes	Finance Manager
Hazel Ilett	Scrutiny Manager
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor P. Clarke
County Councillor R. Harris
Mr. K. Plow (Association of School Governors)

1. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor P.S. Farley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct, regarding any matters that might arise relating to Chepstow School and the Dell Primary School, as he is a governor of both schools.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The Minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee meeting dated 7th July 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

- County Councillor M. Hickman had registered his apologies for this meeting but it had not been noted in the minutes.
- Minute 4.1, Committee's Conclusion – The first sentence be amended as follows:

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- The Chair thanked the Officers for bringing the report to the Committee and appreciated that this was the start of a long journey.
- Minute 4.2, Committee's Conclusion – The second sentence be amended as follows:
 - It also heightened the need to develop a confident, competent and stable workforce which is fully supported by the Committee.
- Minute 4.3, Sub heading - Member Scrutiny:
 - First paragraph, first sentence: Replace physiologist with psychologist.
 - Sixth paragraph: Replace Mountain with Mounton.

3. Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2016/17 Period 1 Outturn Forecast Statement

Context:

To provide information on the forecast revenue outturn position of the Authority at the end of period 1 which represents month 2 financial information for the 2016/17 financial year.

Recommendations proposed to Cabinet:

- (i) That Cabinet notes the extent of forecast revenue overspend at period 1 of £1.37 million.
- (ii) That Cabinet requires Chief Officers to provide information on how the overspend position will be brought back within budget, including alternative plans to deliver the £301,000 mandated savings reported as not achievable in the next monitoring report.
- (iii) That Cabinet requires Directors to review levels of over and underspends and reallocate budgets to reduce the extent of compensatory positions needing to be reported prior to month 6 reporting.
- (iv) That Cabinet appreciates the extent of predicted schools reserve usage and the anticipation that 13 schools will be in a deficit position by the end of 2016/17.
- (v) That Cabinet considers the capital monitoring which exhibits only a small variance to budget as a result of recent Cabinet and Council approval on Caerwent House.
- (vi) That Cabinet recognises the risk associated with having to rely on a use of capital receipts in the year anticipated and the potential for this to have significant revenue pressures should receipts be delayed and temporary borrowing be required.

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Member Scrutiny:

- In response to issues raised in respect of 13 of Monmouthshire's schools in a deficit budget, it was noted that of the 13 schools, six of them have a deficit budget below £20,000. It was considered that a separate report should be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee outlining the schools in a deficit budget and details of their recovery plans.
- The Safeguarding and Looked After Children's budget needs to be increased as it tends to be constantly in deficit due to the fluidity and volatility of the service. However, it was noted that whilst the budget has reduced the service is still being provided efficiently. The commissioning plan has been in place since July 2016 and needs time to 'bed in'. In time, we will have a better understanding of the finances required for this service.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding schools budgets and recovery plans, it was noted that partnership working between the departments is an option for identifying funding. For a school with a deficit budget, a three year recovery plan is established. A reduction in agency staff is being looked at. Also, a court improvement plan is in place identifying ways of working with courts more efficiently and identifying ways of reducing legal costs.
- It was noted that some supply teachers are on the payroll and we encourage schools to use the Authority's preferred supplier.
- The Youth Service Manager was asked if there has been an adverse impact on the Youth Service because staff have been engaged in the income generation work that the Authority has asked for. The Youth Service Manager stated that the financial burden has been lifted for this financial year. The service is in a recovery plan and is now down to £130,000 deficit with inroads being made into this deficit. There has been no impact on service delivery and work is being undertaken regarding the Alternative Delivery Model.
- The Finance Manager would email the Select Committee Members with information relating to school balances, as outlined in appendix A of the report.

Committee's Conclusion

The Chair summed up as follows:

- The report is volatile and was subject to change.
- Areas of concern have been raised.
- Receive a position report on all schools at a future Select Committee meeting.

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- The Chair will write to the Cabinet Member to emphasise the lack of funding in respect of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children's budget.
- The Select Committee to receive formal feedback from the Authority's representative from the next meeting of the Schools Budget Forum. Nick Ramsay (AM) and Steve Davies (Education Achievement Service) will be in attendance at the Forum meeting.
- Await the response from the Schools Budget Forum before considering petitioning the Welsh Government.

4. Monmouthshire Integrated Youth Offer Annual Report

Context:

We received the Annual Report on progress and achievements made by Monmouthshire's Integrated Youth Offer group.

Key Issues:

- Maintained quarterly monitoring and scrutiny of subgroup work programmes ensuring that the Performance Indicators of the Single Integrated Plan are being met.
- The Integrated Youth Offer (IYO) has clear governance and reporting structures in place through the Local Service Board (LSB) Programme Board.
- The IYO has clear Safeguarding protocols and holds a database of all members of the IYO group for DBS clearance, training and policies worked to, and is current and valid.
- Sustained and grown membership of the IYO to stimulate momentum. The full group and sub groups are well represented by all partners which enables the workload to be shared and to implement the vision of the LSB and priorities of the Single Integrated Plan.
- The continued work of the Integrated Youth Offer group has led to reduced duplication and improved focused delivery of services to young people.
- Continued to develop 'community projects' in areas where specialist targeted projects support young people, in particular around issues of anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and bullying.

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- Continued to contribute towards the increase in attainment and attendance of those in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 across Monmouthshire and to continue providing services that decreases NEET figures – currently at 1.7% (18 people).
- Collectively, all youth support services, as part of the IYO, have worked with 6907 individual young people between the ages of 11-25 in 2015/16 (39.9% of 11-25 population).
- The IYO has gathered intelligence from partners to feed into the Single Integrated Plan to provide clear evidence on outcomes achieved.
- Both the Chief Officer and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attend and receive information quarterly on the work of the Integrated Youth Offer.

The Youth Service Manager provided the Select Committee with the following information regarding the positive outcomes achieved by the Youth Service over the previous year:

- Continued to develop and collaborate to ensure that the services available to young people are maintained.
- Increased community projects through partnership working.
- Have run a road safety awareness event in the summer which was held in Abergavenny which was well attended by the public and public service bodies.
- Held a multi-agency volunteering event in April 2016 in Chepstow Leisure Centre where there were 31 organisations working with young people. As a result, 97 volunteers expressed an interest in working with young people.
- Continue to provide specialist services to the most vulnerable young people in Monmouthshire.
- The positive futures programme is a collaboration between Leisure Services, the Youth Offending Service and the Youth Service. This has been delivered in the four comprehensive schools and in Mounton House School over the previous 12 months. This programme has now ended. The project is available for schools if they want it but they will have to pay for this programme. Other funding has been secured to provide this service in primary schools, particularly working with year 6 students with a view to helping them during the transition period from primary to secondary school.
- Engaging with young people with regard to education and training.
- Young Voices – important that young people are heard.

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- Collaboration with mental health services to provide young people with information on where to go to obtain help.
- One of the members of the Youth Council, who is from Monmouthshire, is now an ambassador on the Future Generations Programme for Welsh Government and has been tasked to work with local authorities to ensure that young people are involved in this process.
- Managed to sustain a good level of engagement with young people.
- Have had consistent scrutiny and challenge of the sub groups through the Integrated Youth Offer and the Public Service Board Performance Management Group.
- Three of the main priorities that will be looked at over the next 12 months are:
 - The mapping of funding of the Youth Service across Monmouthshire.
 - The safe audit carried out by the Safeguarding Team which is likely to be completed by December 2016.
 - Evaluating the work being done, prioritising areas for next year so that they can be aligned to the Future Generations Wellbeing Act

Member Scrutiny:

The following points were noted:

- There was no substantive evidence outlined in the report. In future, it would be beneficial to the Select Committee if reports could include more data.
- Appendix 1 of the report refers to Individual contacts for each service area as part of the IYO. Gwent Police had made 1000+ contacts with young people. It was noted that this figure related to Gwent Police's school liaison officers and the neighbourhood policing team. The Youth Service works very closely with these teams. Therefore, the 1000+ refers to the positive work being undertaken with young people.
- It was considered that the work of Monmouthshire's Youth Service needed to be more readily available in the report. It was noted that there were a number of Town and Community Councils within Monmouthshire that would like to invest financially in the Youth Service as they are aware that services are at risk due to the decline in grant funding availability. Also, it would be helpful if the report could identify any potential pressure points being experienced by the Youth Service.

The Youth Service Manager stated that the IYO report was not the place to provide the information requested as Monmouthshire Youth Service was one of

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32 agencies in which partnership working was being undertaken. However, the Youth Service Annual report could be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee which would provide the detail of the work being undertaken specifically by Monmouthshire's Youth Service.

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question, the Youth Service Manager provided the following information:

Contacts

There is a variance between an individual person and a contact. A contact is anything relating to three hours and above with a young person. The contacts identified in the report are young people that have been registered with every service area.

Soft outcomes

These are hard to measure. The Youth Service has an impact on young people's lives, sometimes this is immediate, sometimes this can be in 12 months' time, or even longer. It depends on the individual young person's journey. There are 11 counsellors available via the Youth Service. Teams are located within secondary and primary schools. This is well resourced.

Rural Youth Provision

Supports youth clubs if they come forward asking for support providing training, guidance and resources.

Youth Service Statutory Core Business

The core business is the free time that young people have making sure they are engaged in meaningful activity, somewhere young people can go to obtain advice, information, help and support. Added value such as schools programmes are grant funded programmes, which enhances what the Youth Service provides for young people.

Committee's Conclusion:

The Chair summed up as follows:

- The Select Committee had received an interesting and informative report.
- Future reports need to include substantive data alongside the case studies.
- In future, it would be beneficial to have the Monmouthshire Youth Service Report alongside the Integrated Youth Offer report in order

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to provide a complete overview.

- Encourage further communication with the Town and Community Council's within Monmouthshire.

5. Forward Work Plan

We received the Children and Young People Select Committee forward work plan. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- The Chair informed the Select Committee that she, the Vice-Chair of the Select Committee, the Head of Achievement and Attainment, The Finance Manager, the Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement and the Cabinet Member had met with the Head Teacher of Mounton House School regarding concerns that had been previously raised. The Head Teacher had expressed concerns regarding the cut in the school's budget. The meeting had been very positive and the Head Teacher had indicated that she was receiving a tremendous amount of support from the local Authority. Measures had been put in place which were helping the school to go forward in a positive way. The school's budget had been organised to better suit the school's needs. However, it was noted that a review of the school was still ongoing and when this is complete, a report will be presented to the Select Committee for scrutiny.
- The Finance Manager informed the Select Committee that the recovery plan for Mounton House School is four years and for this year, the school will not increase the deficit. There are a number of issues at the school that the Head Teacher is working through with the relevant County Council officers. It is anticipated that the school will make a saving of £50,000 for 2018/19 budget. The recovery plan will be brought back to the Select Committee when it is completed.
- The Head of Achievement and Attainment informed the Select Committee that with regard to the wider review, there were still some areas that officers were investigating. Therefore, information regarding the review will be presented to the Select Committee in due course.
- The Children and Young People Select Committee Chief Officer Report will be presented to the Special Joint Meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Adults Select Committee on 22nd November 2016, which is being held at 10.00am.
- Social Services and Wellbeing Act - An invitation was extended to Select Committee Members to attend a visit to the Prison Service with Adults Select Committee Members in advance of receiving this item at the Special Joint Select Committee meeting on 22nd November 2016.
- Children and Young People Select Committee meeting – 8th December 2016. Currently, this agenda has few items. The Scrutiny Manager will investigate

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whether it will be feasible to move some of the agenda items from the 3rd November 2016 Select Committee meeting to the December 2016 meeting.

- It is unlikely that there will be a need to arrange any further special meetings this year.
- The Chair informed the Select Committee that she and the Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement had received a presentation on the change in qualifications. Therefore, it was considered that the Select Committee required an expert in this matter to come to a future Select Committee meeting to update Members on the proposed changes.

6. Council and Cabinet Business - Forward Plan

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

In doing so, it was noted that the Cabinet work programme for March 2016 referred to the proposed closure of Deri View Primary School. The wording should be amended as follows:

- Review of the proposed closure of Deri View Primary School.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd November 2016 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 11.34 am

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