



Buckinghamshire County Council

Select Committee

Education, Skills & Children's Services

Minutes: 10th March 2015

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10am and concluding at 12:20pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place please see the webcast which can be found at: <http://www.bucksc.org.uk/core/portal/home>

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr Michael Moore, Mr John Chilver, Mr Robin Stuchbury, Mrs. Margaret Aston, Mr Paul Irwin, Mr Dev Dhillon, Mrs Val Letheren (Chairman), Mr David Babb, Mr Phil Gomm, Mrs Katrina Wood, Mr David Watson

Others in Attendance

Mr Chris Williams, Chief Executive
 Mr Mike Appleyard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
 Mr David Johnston – Strategic Director, Children and Young People
 Mr Chris Munday – Service Director, Learning, Skills and Prevention
 Mrs Carol Douch – Service Director, Child and Family Service
 Mr Ed Mallam, Head of Children's Partnerships
 Mr Reece Bowman, Committee Adviser
 Mr Michael Carr, Scrutiny Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Wendy Mallen
 Mr Mark Shaw
 Mrs Monique Nowers

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had attended a conference on cyber safety on 27th February 2015. The Children's Internet Safety Inquiry report is due to be received by Cabinet on 16th March 2015. It is to be considered by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) on 17 March 1.30 pm. Members of the Select Committee are invited to attend as observers at future BSCB meetings. Chairman to attend the next meeting on 17 March

6 COMMITTEE UPDATE

No updates

7. THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Chief Executive was welcomed to the meeting and he described the journey to turn children's services around. Since November 2014 Red Quadrant had been providing challenge and support to the authority. The initial draft report from Red Quadrant had been circulated to schools and the Improvement Board and the intention had been to report to Cabinet and the Select Committee when the response to the report had been received from the Secretary of State. The report was critical but had not suggested further intervention from the Secretary of State. It had recommended that the Chief Executive step down from the position of Chair of the Improvement Board as he was unable to both undertake the work necessary and then hold himself to account as the Chair. SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

Action: for the Chief Executive to share report with Committee upon a response being received from the Secretary of State

Members queried:

- Whether the Chief Executive should have intervened earlier in Children's Services
- The release of the report draft to head teachers before allowing members of the council to see it
- The projected £1.3m overspend in Children's Services
- Access to reports on Child Sexual Exploitation
- The recruitment of more senior managers into Children's Services
- The recent visit abroad to recruit social workers
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

8 YOUNG PEOPLE READY FOR WORK - UPDATE

The Chairman stated that this was a new way of doing updates on the implementation of inquiry recommendations, in which the Select Committee assessed progress. The Cabinet Member described progress against each of the recommendations and the committee agreed its assessment against each.

Action: for a copy of the Committee's assessment of progress on young people inquiry to be sent to the Cabinet Member for comment

Mr. Watson left the meeting before agenda item 9.

9 PERFORMANCE REPORTS - CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO AND EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO - QUARTER 3

The Committee considered the performance reports for the portfolios and commented where issues were red rated.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 10am in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall.