



**Buckinghamshire County Council**  
**Select Committee**  
Children's Social Care and Learning

# Minutes

## *CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE*

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2015, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.17 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>  
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk))

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Margaret Aston, Phil Gomm, Paul Irwin, Valerie Letheren (Chairman), Wendy Mallen, Robin Stuchbury and Katrina Wood

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Babb

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Carol Douch, David Johnston and Simon Rose

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

David Watson and Dev Dhillon

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **3 MINUTES**

Agreed



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



#### **4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

#### **5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave her report which included mention of:

- Department for Education and Local Government Association Peer Review Team visits to the council
- Trip to Birmingham City Council scrutiny by members of the Select Committee

#### **6 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Cllr. Stuchbury mentioned time spent with social workers and the visit to Birmingham. Also he mentioned a public event on child sexual exploitation that he attended.

#### **7 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **8 CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

The Cabinet Member for Education & Skills gave his update, which included reference to the following:

- Performance on adult learning
- Support for schools and work on the early years and children's centres
- Take up of home to school transport
- Budgetary pressures
- Audit report on the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

#### **9 CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services gave her update, which included reference to the following:

- Work with Essex and Cambridgeshire County Councils
- The senior management team is now permanent
- The rate of agency social workers is down.
- The Local Government Association will be conducting a peer review

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

#### **10 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)**

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and senior officers on the following:

- Partnership working with the police on child sexual exploitation investigations
- The number of contacts going to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference
- Attendance at Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
- The responsibility to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation with GPs
- What the outreach work commissioned from Barnardos will consist of

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **11 CHILDREN'S SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and senior officers on the following:

- The development of the Practitioners' Board
- Early Help Panels
- 'Red' rated success measures

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **12 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING BUSINESS UNIT PERFORMANCE**

### **13 QUARTER 1 (2015/16) PERFORMANCE DATA**

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and senior officers on the following:

- Educational standards at Key Stage 4
- Free school meals
- The performance of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **14 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING BUSINESS UNIT BUDGET MONITORING**

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and senior officers on the following:

- Strategies to manage the demand on children's services
- Proposals to raise foster carer allowances
- Potential income streams from the Educational Psychology Service

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

**15 NARROWING THE GAP INQUIRY PROGRESS UPDATE (PART 2 - UPDATE ON BCC RECOMMENDATIONS)**

Members agreed to consider the update in more detail outside of the meeting.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

**16 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members considered the work programme.

The committee agreed to add Children's Centres to its work programme.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

**17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

**CHAIRMAN**