



**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 18 July 2017, in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.03 am and concluding at 12.59 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**

Mr A Collingwood, Mrs I Darby, Mr D Dhillon, Mr N Hussain, Mrs W Mallen, Mr B Roberts, Mrs L Sullivan, Ms J Ward and Mr G Williams

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

Mr D Babb and Mr K Hamblin

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Mr M Appleyard

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Ms D Andrews, Mrs P Campbell-Balcombe, Ms C Douch, Mr J Huskinson, Mrs D Munday and Ms G Rhodes White

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Mr M Moore, Mrs M Aston and Ms K Wood.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were noted:



- Mr G Williams - Chairman of Bucks Learning Trust Commissioning Committee and a member of the Fundraising Board at Dr Challoner's Grammar School.
- Mr N Hussain - Board member at Aylesbury College and a Board Member of BEST and the Healthy Living Centre.
- Ms I Darby - Governor at Robertswood Primary and Dr Challoner's Grammar School.
- Mr K Hamblin – Parent Governor at Halton Community Combined School.

### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Chairman.

### **4 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members of the Committee.

### **5 CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS - QUESTION TIME**

Mr M Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills highlighted the following key areas for his portfolio:

- Looking at how to engage better with families who are having difficulties and how to increase achievement at school.
- Home to school transport
- Closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Appleyard covered the following:

- The funding formula for schools from central government.
- Plans for helping secondary schools in Aylesbury to improve.
- Taking a holistic approach as early as possible to reduce the gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.
- School place planning for future growth.
- Exclusions from school.
- The recruitment and retention of teachers in the County.
- Multi-Academy Trusts. (MATs)
- Commissioning of services provided by Bucks Learning Trust.

### **6 GROWTH INQUIRY. IS THE COUNTY COUNCIL READY FOR GROWTH?**

The Chairman introduced the item and welcomed

- Ms G Rhodes White, Executive Director for Children's Services,

- Mrs C Douch, Service Director - Children's Social Care,
- Mrs P Campbell-Balcombe, Schools Commissioner and
- Mrs D Munday, Admissions Manager.

There was an in depth discussion with the Cabinet Member and Officers for the Committee to gather evidence to inform them on whether the County Council was ready for growth.

Further details of the discussion can be found in appendix 1 of the minutes and full details on the webcast.

## **7 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman explained that the new Committee was due to discuss the current work programme separately after the meeting.

## **8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 10.30am, Mezzanine Room 1, New County Hall, Aylesbury.

**CHAIRMAN**