



# Minutes

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

Minutes from the meeting held on Friday 5 June 2015, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 1.15 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, Janet Blake, Phil Gomm, Paul Irwin, Valerie Letheren (Chairman), Wendy Mallen, Robin Stuchbury, David Watson and Katrina Wood

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

David Babb

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Pauline Cue, Carol Douch, Amanda Taylor-Hopkins, David Johnston, Atifa Sayani and Yvette Thomas

### **1 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Val Letheren was proposed by Cllr. Robin Stuchbury – this was unanimously agreed by the committee.

Cllr. Letheren took the Chair.

### **2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Paul Irwin proposed Cllr. Dev Dhillon, this was seconded by Cllr. Margaret Aston and was unanimously agreed.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



### **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Michael Moore

### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Margaret Aston declared that she was on the Haddenham Children's Centre Board and that she sat on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Paul Irwin declared that he was on the Corporate Parenting Panel and the advisory board for Waddesdon Children's Centre.

### **5 MINUTES**

Agreed

### **6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

### **7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had been appointed to sit on the Improvement Board by the new Chairman. She gave her views of the first meeting that she had attended. The Director of Children's Services from Essex County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council had seats on the Board. She reported that it was good to see representatives from schools. Multi-agency buy-in was good and everyone was in agreement that the improvement process would be long.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

### **8 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Cllr. Stuchbury had attended a Safeguarding Board meeting and reported that there was some level of scrutiny and challenge. There needed to be a discussion around what is appropriate level of engagement by the Select Committee in the Board. Cllr. Stuchbury had also attended CSE conference in Wycombe.

Cllr. Mallen had attended an improving quality of social work practice meeting which she had found very informative. She reported on several of the issues that were faced by social workers that were addressed at the meeting, which had been well chaired by the Service Director and was very positive.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **9 IMPROVING CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE INQUIRY - REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman introduced the report, which was an account of the work undertaken on the Improving Social Care Inquiry. The report was noted by the Committee.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

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

The Chairman welcomed John Goldup to the meeting. Mr. Goldup had been appointed by the Department of Education (DoE) to Chair the Improvement Board on a monthly basis. He was to report on a quarterly basis to DoE. There was to be a 6 monthly review against the improvement notice issued by the minister in the second part of last year.

Members raised questions with those in attendance on the following issues:

- Early Help Panels
- The Practitioner Board
- Timeliness of statutory meetings
- Case audits
- The interface between children's centres and social care staff
- The process of hiring and retaining staff from overseas
- The conversion rate of temporary staff to permanent roles
- Levels of trust in the senior management team
- The improvement data dashboard

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **11 EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Zahir Mohammed gave an introduction to the item and stated that he was more than pleased to be here in his capacity as the new Cabinet Member.

Members raised questions with those in attendance on the following issues:

- The gap in attainment at the Early Years phase and Key Stage 4
- The breakdown of results to particular schools
- Comparing the performance of village schools with non-rural schools

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **12 NARROWING THE GAP**

Following on from the above discussion, members scored the progress being made against the recommendations made in the Narrowing the Gap Inquiry.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

**13 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SERVICE CHILDREN**

The Chairman asked for this item to be deferred as the meeting was running late.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

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

The work programme was agreed subject to the inclusion of the CSE Inquiry.

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

**15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

**16 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

**That the press and public be excluded for the following item which is exempt by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to an individual**

**17 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION MEMBER BRIEFING**

**18 INCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**19 TO AGREE THE SCOPE OF THE PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY**

Members agreed the scope of the inquiry and agreed that the following members should form the Inquiry Group: Margaret Aston, Wendy Mallen, Phil Gomm, Robin Stuchbury, Dev Dhillon, Val Letheren.

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**CHAIRMAN**