

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
 19 OCTOBER 2018**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R L FOULKES (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors R J Kendrick (Vice-Chairman), Mrs W Bowkett, M T Fido, C Matthews, A P Maughan, S R Parkin, M A Whittington, L Wooten and R Wooten.

**Added Members**

Church Representatives: Reverend P A Johnson.

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs P J Barnett.

Daran Bland (Executive Headteacher of the Priory School, the Garth School, and the John Fielding School), Mrs P A Bradwell OBE (Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services), D Brailsford (Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services) and Coralie Cross (Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum Chair attended the meeting as invited guests.

Officers in attendance:-

Sheridan Dodsworth (Children's Services Manager - responsibility for SEND), Eileen McMorro (Senior Project Officer Specialist Schools Project), Heather Sandy (Chief Officer for Education), Debbie Barnes OBE (Executive Director, Children's Services), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jo Kavanagh (Assistant Director Children's (Lead Early Help)), Martin Smith (Children's Services Manager, School Standards), Sue Williams (Children's Services Manager, Education Strategy) and Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer).

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M D Boles and Mr S C Rudman (Added Member – Church Representative).

32 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor A P Maughan advised that in relation to Agenda Item 5 – he would not be taking part in discussion or voting thereon, as his employer Streets Accountants LLP were the appointed statutory auditors for Academies.

33 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED

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That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following typographical errors being amended on page 8 second sentence, second to last paragraph the letter 'd' being removed from the word and to leave 'an' and; on page 9 the letters 'ed' being added to the worded second to read 'seconded' before each of the resolutions.

34 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR ADULT CARE, HEALTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services advised that the interim feedback received following the recent Ofsted visit had been positive.

Councillor D Brailsford, Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services extended thanks to Councillor R L Foulkes for chairing the recent Corporate Parenting Sub-Group meeting. The Committee was also advised that the Head of Democratic Services was currently looking into reviewing arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group.

35 BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The Committee gave consideration to a joint report from Eileen McMorrow, Senior Project Officer, SEND Review and Sheridan Dodsworth Children's Service Manager - SEND, which invited the Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy, which was due to be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 November 2018.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Sheridan Dodsworth, Children's Service Manager – SEND, Daran Bland, Executive Headteacher of the Priory School, the Garth School and the John Fielding School, Eileen McMorrow, Senior Project Officer, SEND Review and Coralie Cross, Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum Chair.

In guiding the Committee through the report the Children's Service Manager – SEND advised that a copy of the full report to the Executive was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The Committee was advised that the following Appendices were attached to the Executive report.

- Appendix A – A copy of the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Together in Lincolnshire Strategy;
- Appendix B – A copy of the Public Consultation on the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy (Consultation Phase 8 January 2018 to 14 March 2018);

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- Appendix C – Details of the Public Consultation Feedback with Responses; and
- Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessment.

It was reported that the proposed changes to the Academies cited in the strategy had already been approved by the Regional Schools Commissioner, and that there was no additional decision-making processes required for the approval of the strategy beyond the one arising from the report.

The Committee was advised that the strategic vision for SEND was to build communities of place for children and young people with SEND, around their local schools. It was highlighted that pupils attending their local special school would benefit from having less travelling time, have more social time with their families, and have more time with their school friends. If approved, the strategy would have a positive impact around community cohesion, and enabling children and young people with SEND to add value to their local communities.

It was noted that implementing the capital programme of works would ensure that all special schools had the facilities and premises to meet all needs including a new school at Boston. Details of the funding allocations were shown at the bottom of page 22. It was highlighted that capital funding of £34,517 had been identified.

The report highlighted that the Council was committed to implementing the strategy to improve the lives of pupils with SEND and their families. It was noted that the Community Inclusive Trust had already contributed over £2.5m through a successful CIF bid, and all other Academy Trusts had committed to ensuring all future CIF bids were consistent with the vision as outlined in the strategy. It was noted further that the Government treasury were also expected to release further SEND capital opportunities over the coming year, either through direct allocation or through bidding rounds, which Lincolnshire would be exploring.

The Committee was also advised that the local authority would be submitting an initial application to the DfE for the first and priority new free school, as part of the strategy; and if successful applicants would be invited to tender for the free school in the Spring of 2019. It was also highlighted that additional funding to support the implementation of the SEND vision had been identified from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The one-off brought forward monies would be utilised to develop the revenue elements of the strategy including implementation of the workforce development framework, and supporting schools with planned growth in places.

In conclusion, the Committee were asked to consider the Executive report presented and to support the recommendations to the Executive.

Coralie Cross the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum Chair advised the Committee that the Parent Carer Forum were very appreciative that they had been invited by the Council to be involved in the process at an early stage; and to the fact that the Parent Carer Forum had been able to challenge the process as it evolved.

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Daran Bland, Executive Headteacher of the Priory School, the Garth School and the John Fielding School, provided the Committee with a background to his teaching career. The Committee was advised that the implementation of the strategy was invigorating and exciting times for special schools; and that special schools were all behind the vision the council was aiming to achieve for children with SEND in Lincolnshire.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following comments:-

- The Committee extended support to the level of built in sustainability and adequate capacity proposed as part of the proposals and the consideration given to future growth planning;
- The Committee welcomed the proposals on workforce development and queried whether workforce capacity would increase as part of the proposals to expand capacity. Officers confirmed that the proposals would aim for planned growth over time, with a gradual change where expansion in numbers was planned. The need to incentivise training and development within special schools as part of the talent pipeline was also endorsed as a key aim of the proposals;
- The Committee queried the level of Health engagement as part of the development of the proposals. It was confirmed that local health provision had representation as part of the project development board. Officers confirmed that engagement with Health had been positive and had identified significant areas of development for a more effective Health offer as part of the proposals;
- The Committee highlighted the proposals for enhanced mainstream inclusion to enable pupils with SEND to be educated in their local mainstream school as best practice. The Committee sought assurance that enhanced mainstream inclusion would be a key aim of the strategy. Officers confirmed that operationalising good practice was a priority and that initial work to identify possible models to achieve greater mainstream inclusion was underway. It was agreed that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would receive further consideration of this area. as the policy developed;
- The Committee received assurance that the level of skills and experience within the special school sector would be retained as part of the change to meet all need provision;
- The Committee emphasised strong support for enabling pupils to attend their local special school and the greater integration in their local communities this would bring; and
- The Committee expressed thanks to the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum and other partners and officers for the excellent work undertaken to develop a strong groundwork, level of collaboration and commitment as part of the proposed strategy. The Committee also thanked Daran Bland, Executive Headteacher of the Priory School, the Garth School and the John Fielding School for his attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED

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1. The Committee unanimously supported the recommendations to the Executive.
2. The Committee requested that the following comments be passed onto the Executive as part of their consideration of this item:-
  - The Committee extended support to the level of built in sustainability and adequate capacity proposed as part of the proposals and the consideration given to future growth planning;
  - The Committee welcomed the proposals on workforce development and queried whether workforce capacity would increase as part of the proposals to expand capacity. Officers confirmed that the proposals would aim for planned growth over time, with a gradual change where expansion in numbers was planned. The need to incentivise training and development within special schools as part of the talent pipeline was also endorsed as a key aim of the proposals;
  - The Committee queried the level of Health engagement as part of the development of the proposals. It was confirmed that local health provision had representation as part of the project development board. Officers confirmed that engagement with Health had been positive and had identified significant areas of development for a more effective Health offer as part of the proposals;
  - The Committee highlighted the proposals for enhanced mainstream inclusion to enable pupils with SEND to be educated in their local mainstream school as best practice. The Committee sought assurance that enhanced mainstream inclusion would be a key aim of the strategy. Officers confirmed that operationalising good practice was a priority and that initial work to identify possible models to achieve greater mainstream inclusion was underway. It was agreed that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would receive further consideration of this area. as the policy developed;
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  - The Committee expressed thanks to the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum and other partners and officers for the excellent work undertaken to develop a strong groundwork, level of collaboration and commitment as part of the proposed strategy. The Committee also thanked Daran Bland, Executive Headteacher of the Priory School, the Garth School and the John Fielding School for his attendance at the meeting.

36      LINCOLNSHIRE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (LLP)

Consideration was given to a report from Sue Williams, Children's Service Manager - Education Strategy, which invited the Committee to consider the update on the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership.

The Children's Service Manager – Education advised the Committee that the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership (LLP) played a key role in the Lincolnshire Education system. The Committee was advised that the board members of the LLP were elected from Lincolnshire schools; with co-opted positions from the County Council and other partners.

The Committee was advised that the LLP had commissioned a number of projects which were having a positive impact in Lincolnshire schools. It was noted that the projects were wide ranging and that the largest one was 'Mobilise', which focussed on using research to address aspects of school improvement. The report highlighted that in the first year 'Mobilise' had focussed on developing teaching assistants; and that in the second year schools had been given a wider choice of research. It was noted that initial feedback had recognised the strength of working in partnership with other schools and the impact of some of the focussed work on pupils with special educational needs and pupils known to be eligible for pupil premium funding. The Committee was advised that the work of 'Mobilise' and research-led practice had been recognised in a number of Ofsted inspections across the County, especially around the use of teaching assistants.

It was reported that the third stage of 'Mobilise' included projects in English and Mathematics; and the development of cognition, thinking and memory choice from the previous year where cognitive theory had been used to improve learning.

The LLP had also organised an annual conference; leadership briefings three times a year; governor briefings three times a year; and that work was also being carried out with a number of partners to deliver a governance support package.

In conclusion, the Committee was advised that the LLP was building a long term strategic plan whose aim was to identify how to best support schools in tackling trends and the analysis of pupil outcomes.

During a short discussion, the following comments were raised:-

- The positive impact of the Caring2Learn project;
- The positive impact 'Mobilise' had in the first year and the difference it had made to the teaching assistants;
- Confirmation was given that home elective education did not have direct access to the LLP. Officers advised that the LLP website was open to all;
- Funding for the LLP – The Committee was advised that the funding for the LLP came from the dedicated schools grant, historic funding, and that the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum had agreed to put this money aside for the LLP. Confirmation was given that access to the LLP was for all schools;
- That since the introduction of the LLP, all schools now worked together to achieve the best outcomes for the children of Lincolnshire. The Committee was advised that the Strategic School Improvement Fund had brought funding of £1.2m into Lincolnshire;

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- Engagement of schools – The Committee was advised that overall engagement had increased with schools; and
- Peer reviews – It was highlighted that Peer reviews had produced some good data sets; and had highlighted good working practices; and that feedback from Headteacher briefings had been a key driver in school improvement.

The Chairman extended thanks to the hard work of everyone involved in making the LLP such a success; and that a further update on the LLP should be received by the Committee in one year's time.

RESOLVED

1. That the update on the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership be received.
2. That a further update on the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership be received by the Committee in twelve months' time.

37 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report from Daniel Steel, Scrutiny Officer, which enabled the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the coming months.

Page 185 of the report provided a copy of the Work Programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee noted that a report on the Sector Led School Improvement Model would now be included on the agenda for the 30 November 2018. It was also highlighted that Prevent and the Implications for Children and Young People would be considered at the 30 November 2018 meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of any amendments made at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.53 am