



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
13 MAY 2011**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S F WILLIAMS (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors P A Carpenter, C J Davie, M J Exton, M W Gilbert, J R Hicks, J D Hough (Vice-Chairman), Miss A M Jenkyns, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, R A Shore, R B Singleton-McGuire, M Smith, and N Worth.

Councillor A P Williams (Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services and Adult Education), R B Parker (Chairman of the Value for Money Scrutiny Committee) and Mrs C A Talbot (Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire) attended the meeting as observers.

Added Members: Mrs E French, Mrs J E Pilsworth, Dr B Roberts, Mr S Rudman, and Mrs K A Seddon.

Other Attendees: Therese Lord and Coralie Cross (Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Council) and Allan Kitt (Chief Operating Officer, Lincolnshire South West Consortium NHS Lincolnshire).

Officers in attendance: Andy Breckon (Assistant Director School Improvement Service), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director for Children's Services), Gary Nixon (Head of Inclusion and Participation), Sue Westcott (Assistant Director for Children's Services), Paul Snook (Principal School Improvement Adviser - Strategic Projects), Keith Batty (Principal Adviser 14 – 19 CfBT), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer) and Katrina Cope (Team Leader Democratic Support).

**87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C J Underwood-Frost.

An apology was also received from Added Member, Mrs G Wright.

**88. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor J R Hicks declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (Minute No. 93 refers), as a previous pupil of the Stamford Endowed School, and due to his part time role, in an ancillary capacity at the school.

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89. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 APRIL 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 8 April 2011, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

90. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)

The Committee received a presentation from Allan Kitt, (Chief Operating Officer, Lincolnshire South West Consortium) entitled 'Improving Mental Health outcomes for Lincolnshire's Children'.

The presentation made reference to:-

- Background information from 2008 with regard to the Section 75 agreement with LCC & Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT), to the new commissioning intentions jointly developed to improve quality within resources available by LCC and NHSL;
- The structure and function of CAMHS, it was noted that the structure operated was 4 Tier. Tier 1 related to preventative services; Tier 2 was rapid access for short term interventions; Tier 3 covered structured multi-disciplinary interventions and treatment in the community; and Tier 4 covered residential or hospital based treatment or equivalent intensity at home;
- Current provision in Lincolnshire - It was highlighted that Tier 1 was a patchy service ranging from brilliant to absent across the county. Tier 2 and 3 were delivered by LPFT through a Section 75 agreement and that demand for services exceeded supply and often the range and choice was limited; Tier 4 was mostly Ash Villa with LPFT with some out of county specialist placement. It was highlighted further, that to deliver the capacity required through the current model would require significant new resources and would not necessarily be good value for money;
- Current success and failures of the current provision – It was noted that areas of improvement included waiting times for Tier 2 and 3, joint working with Paediatrics, out of hours response, rapid follow up for children who self harm, and access for children with learning disabilities. Areas that hadn't worked included length of stay, which was very long and averaged seven years, care was often disjointed and lack integration; children sometimes got therapy when parenting support was all that was needed. There was a lack of confidence that those with the greatest need actually get the first call on services;
- What 21 century good practice would bring to the service - A more aware and skilled universal workforce; rapid access to evidence based self help and accessible group and individual work; integrated community treatment for children with complex needs delivered through Common Assessment Framework/Team around the Child process (CAF/TAC); high quality

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residential/hospital treatment which would deliver measurable outcomes and good value for money; and financially sustainable for the long term;

- Proposed Changes – The committee was advised that formal joint commissioning would be undertaken by LCC and NHSL. It was proposed that there would be improved support and training for universal services and better access to parenting support. A more integrated Tier 2 service building on Targeted mental Health in Schools (TaMHS), as part of locality children's teams through a pooled budget from LCC and NHSL. It was highlighted also that there would be a focussed Tier 2 team for Looked After Children and a dedicated forensic assessment service for high risk children. Tier 3 would deliver focussed time limited treatment with clear criteria and clear outcomes. And finally, Tier 4 would be commissioned regionally to achieve better quality and value for money; and
- The difference for children and families – The Committee were advised that the proposed changes would help to address the stigma attached to mental health and wellbeing by:-
  - a) Providing rapid access when required;
  - b) Providing evidence based interventions;
  - c) Providing a clear pathway with transparent criteria, less medicalisation, better transition for patients with long term problems; and
  - d) Providing a service which would have to be sustainable.

Note: Councillor J D Hough declared a personal interest, as his partner was a Non-Executive Director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust and Councillor Hough was a member of that Trust.

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- Current self harm targets were 13 weeks, national targets for CAMHS were 15 weeks. It was noted that Lincolnshire was already amongst the top 10%;
- Benchmarking data in relation to value for money;
- The role of parents and communities;
- Availability of funding for the ambitious programme and whether a project plan was in place. It was noted that a project plan was available through the Section 75 agreement. It was agreed that a copy would be emailed out to members of the Committee and it was suggested that Paddy Price (Project Manager Prevention) should be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss Targeted Mental health in Schools (TaMHS);
- Ensuring that at first point of contact problems were readily identified. It was noted that front line staff would receive further training to enable them to deal with more complex cases. Improved training would also be provided to foster carers;
- With regard to Academies, it was highlighted that the county council had little influence over Academies; and
- The committee was advised that all Looked After Children would have access to CAMHS.

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RESOLVED

1. That the presentation improving Mental Health Outcomes for Lincolnshire's Children be noted.
2. That the Section 75 Action Plan be circulated to all members of the Committee.
3. That Paddy Prince (Project Manager Prevention) be invited to attend a future meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to discuss TaMHS.

91. SUPPORT AND ASPIRATION: A NEW APPROACH TO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report from the Executive Director Adults and Children, which highlighted the core issues contained in the Government's Green Paper proposals relating to Support and Aspiration: A new approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability – A Consultation. It was reported that the Green Paper was a national consultation document about all children and young people in the country who were disabled, or identified as having a special educational need. The proposal was subject to national debate. The closing date for the consultation period was 30 June 2011.

Detailed at Appendix B to the report was the Executive Summary document, and Appendix C detailed the 59 Green Paper Consultation questions.

The Head of Inclusion and Participation provided the Committee with a short presentation, which covered the following areas:-

- The Government's Case for Change;
- The Government's Vision;
- The Five Chapters of the Green Paper;
- SEN numbers in Lincolnshire Schools as at January 2011; and
- Current work streams and Actions.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

Note Councillor CR Oxby declared a personal interest in discussions, as his wife provided assistance to autistic children travelling to school.

- Current arrangements;
- Statement changes;
- Choice of schools from primary to secondary – who was going to make the final decision;
- National figures relating to children with special needs;
- The potential for introducing a voucher system. It was agreed that this might be useful for some parents, but for others who are more vulnerable it may

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cause more of a problem. It was stressed that the needs of the child needed to be upper most at all times, and that this should be reflected in the consultation response;

- The potential effectiveness of a healthy diet on the behaviour of young children; and
- Verbal response from the representative of the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Council (A final draft of the Parent Carer Council response to be forwarded to the Scrutiny Officer).

**RESOLVED**

1. That the comments made on the SEND Green Paper be noted.
2. That an informal working group be established comprising of Councillors M W Gilbert and Mrs C A Talbot (Councillors S F Williams and J D Hough to attend on an ad hoc basis) to consider and agree the council's response to the 59 green paper consultation questions.
3. That the responses to the 59 questions be received at the 24 June 2011 Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

**92. REVIEW AND RECONFIGURATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS – LINCOLN CITY PROPOSALS**

A report from the Executive Director Adults and Children was considered which set out the proposals for the reconfiguration of special schools in the City of Lincoln.

It was reported that there had been a lot of press interest surrounding this item, as the proposal involved closing Queen's Park Special School in August 2013 and moving existing pupils to St Christopher's or St Francis special schools.

The Principal School Improvement Adviser - Strategic Projects advised that it was proposed that small scale reconfiguration would take place on the St Christopher's and St Francis sites to accommodate Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) pupils (between the ages of 2 and 13) respectively. These modifications would create up to 30 additional places on each site, ensuring that the necessary bespoke provision was available to meet the needs of the children and young people. Children and young people aged 14 -19 who currently attended Queen's Park School would be accommodated in an "annex" some 200 metres from the main building. The "annex" would be retained to accommodate older pupils from Queens Park School and would become part of St Christopher's School following the formal closure of Queen's Park School on August 2013, although it was anticipated that all pupils would have transferred to their new site by April 2013. It was expected that from September 2013 the age range of the PMLD and SLD children and young people accommodated by St Francis and St Christopher's schools would rise to 16, with the "annex" offering Post 16 education for young people with more complex needs registered at St Christopher's School and from the surrounding area.

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The proposal would be undertaken in conjunction with the opening of the two Designated Specialist Units (DSUs) at the Priory Witham and Priory City of Lincoln Academies, who will work in partnership with the three special schools to provide inclusion opportunities as well as admitting children and young people to their units who would historically have been admitted to St Francis and St Christopher's Special Schools. The strategy would over time reduce the pupil numbers at the two special schools and allow them to use their accommodation and resources to provide for children and young people with the greatest complexity of need.

It was highlighted that the exercise was not about cost cutting, but that the main reason for the proposal was to obtain the best provision for meeting the needs of children and young people with more complex learning difficulties in Lincoln City.

The Committee expressed support for the proposals detailed within the report.

**RESOLVED**

That the report on the Review and Reconfiguration of Special Schools – Lincoln City Proposals be supported.

**93. STAMFORD ENDOWED SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP TAPERING – INTERIM (4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR REVIEW)**

Consideration was given to a report from the Assistant Director School Improvement Service.

The report advised that in 2006, the Executive had decided to taper the number of Lincolnshire County Council Scholarships to the Stamford Endowed Schools so that in 2012 there would be no further scholarships. The Executive at that time had also confirmed that there would be four-yearly reviews of the educational provision for secondary school pupils in the Stamford area. Appendix A to the report provided information on the findings of the interim review.

In guiding the Committee through Appendix A, the Assistant Director School Improvement made particular reference to:-

- Paragraphs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 3.1, 3.8, 3.9, and 5.6;
- It was highlighted that despite tremendous effort and considerable measurable improvements the public perception of Stamford Queen Eleanor School had not improved as much as it needed to secure a comprehensive intake;
- That the tapering of the scholarship scheme had not had the desired effect of widening the ability of entrants to Stamford's maintained secondary school, including both Stamford Queen Eleanor School in Stamford and Casterton Business and Enterprise College in Rutland. It was noted that able pupils had not been able to find places at the nearest maintained grammar school in Bourne, unless they were prepared to move house. From information gained it appeared that parents had chosen to seek places for their children at a range

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of schools, both state and independent, not all of which are accessible from Stamford;

- FOI request - The Committee was reassured that the Council had not failed in its statutory duty and that Legal Services were currently dealing with the situation;
- The committee were advised that the cost implications were significant, 40% more than a grammar school place;
- The need to continue to improve teaching and learning in the surrounding area, in particular Queen Eleanor's;
- Clarification was given that the law did not allow for the Council to create a new grammar school;
- Paragraph 2.10, which advised that Head teachers of the maintained schools in the Stamford area were unanimous in their desire to see radical and thorough revision of the arrangements for secondary education in the Stamford and surrounding area, for the best interest of the children of Stamford; and
- The Committee was advised that there was no way of getting out of the contract, and that next year would be the last intake year.

RESOLVED

1. That the report as detailed at Appendix A to the report be received.
2. That support be given to the recommendations as detailed at page nine of Appendix A.

94. LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

The Chairman of the Children's and Young People Scrutiny Committee presented the draft minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Sub-Group meeting held on 31 March 2011.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Sub-Group meeting held on 31 March 2011 be noted.

95. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL UPDATE

The Assistant Director of Children's Services presented a report, which provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel, and to note the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 7 April 2011.

RESOLVED

That the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 7 April 2011 be noted.

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96. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK  
PROGRAMME 2011

Consideration was given to a report by the Committee's Scrutiny Officer, which provided members with an opportunity to review the work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for 2011.

Discussion ensued, from which reference was made to inviting the Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post 16 Education to attend a future meeting to discuss why the Executive had not taken on board the comments raised by the Committee in relation to the proposed changes to the provision of home to school/college transport for post 16, and the cost implications of phasing it in over 4 years as recommended by the Committee rather than the 2 years as agreed by the Executive.

It was also agreed that Paddy Prince should be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss TaMHS.

The responses to the SEND consultation questions should be included on the agenda for the June meeting.

A report on Committee Learning and Development would also be included on the June agenda.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Executive Councillor for Children's Services including Post 16 Education be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss why the Executive had not taken on board the comments raised by the Committee in relation to the proposed changes to the provision of home to school/college transport for post 16.
2. That Paddy Prince should be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss TaMHS.
3. That for the following two items be included on the June agenda:-
  - The responses to the SEND consultation questions
  - A report on Committee Learning and Development.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm.