



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 OCTOBER 2011**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S F WILLIAMS (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors P A Carpenter, C J Davie, M Exton, M W Gilbert, J R Hicks, J D Hough, Miss A M Jenkyns, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, R A Shore, M Smith, C J Underwood-Frost and C N Worth.

Added Members: Mrs J E Pilsworth, Dr B Roberts, Mr S Rudman and Mrs G Wright.

Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell (Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Adult Learning) was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance: Karen Bailey (Looked After Children Education Services Manager), Debbie Barnes (Assistant Director, Children's Services), Sarah Ferneyhough (Lincolnshire Sports Partnership), Phil Garner (NHS Lincolnshire), Paul Holmes (Head of Property and Technology Management), Tony McGinty (Assistant Director for Public Health), Sue Westcott (Assistant Director, Children's Services), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer).

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R B Singleton-McGuire.

It was reported that Mrs E French had resigned as a parent governor at her school and was therefore no longer eligible to be a Parent Governor Representative Added Member on this Committee. As there were now two vacancies and the third Parent Governor Representative Added Member's term of office expired in February 2012, it was proposed that the elections for all three positions would be held together as part of one process in January or February 2012.

34. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of Members' interests were made at this stage of proceedings.

**35. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2011**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 9 September 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

36. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that minute number 37 is considered to contain exempt information as defined in paragraph 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

37. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN – SUMMER 2011

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the annual report compiled by the Looked After Children Education Services Manager and presented the academic achievements and a performance commentary of Looked After Children at the end of the Key Stages of Statutory schooling for 2011.

It was suggested that the Committee would find it useful to see case studies in relation to some of the children the team worked with.

Congratulations were extended to the team for its achievements and the excellent progress that had been made so far.

RESOLVED

That the progress of Looked After Children in Lincolnshire with regard to educational achievement be noted.

38. 2012/13 – 2014/15 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Assistant Director of Children's Services, which outlined the process Lincolnshire County Council would undertake to set its revenue and capital budgets for 2012/13 to 2014/15. The process also reported how the Council would manage the "core offer" savings proposed the previous year as part of the budget setting process.

Discussions ensued, further to which the following points were noted: -

- this year's revenue budget would be one of consolidation and refinement of the four year budget already set;
- the number one budget risk, in terms of Children's Services, was the movement of schools to academy status which would take funding away from central administrative service areas;
- more substantial work was required in terms of the capital programme where there were sizeable unallocated provisions for 2013/14 and 2014/15;
- the need to ensure there was a link between the Council's vision, budget and performance still existed;

- the Children's Services sections was confident that all savings required for 2011/12 would be delivered;
- concerns were raised that it was the savings which were being monitored and not the impacts of the savings;
- the savings had been made through reorganisation and restructuring, therefore, safeguarding would not be affected;
- universal services were those that would be removed as the authority wanted and needed to protect vulnerable children;
- all local authorities would be top sliced the same and not based on the number of academies in an area. This would be of benefit to Lincolnshire as there were a lot of academies in the county;
- the detailed four year savings were presented to the Committee the previous year and Children's Services was still on track to deliver those savings;
- the budget for the next year was just starting to be looked at and no firm discussions had been held yet, but some good savings had been made so far.

RESOLVED

That the budget setting process for 2012/13 to 2014/15 be noted.

39. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF GLEED BOYS SCHOOL AND EXPANSION OF GLEED GIRLS CAL AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND CHANGE FROM SINGLE SEX TO CO-EDUCATION

NOTE – Councillor S F Williams declared a personal interest in this item as a former Governor of Glead Boys' School and also as the County Councillor for that Electoral Division.

NOTE – Councillor M Exton declared a personal interest in this item as he was a Governor at the Deepings School.

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the proposals to expand the Glead Girls' CAL and Technology College, to change from a single sex to co-education at the Glead Girls' CAL and Technology College and also to close the Glead Boys' School in order to enable the formation of one co-educational secondary school in Spalding. This proposal was put forward by the Governing Bodies of both of the schools in order to provide the best quality of education for children and young people in the Spalding area.

The Committee was provided with an opportunity to question officers in relation to the proposals and some of the points raised during discussion included the following: -

- it was believed this would be a more sustainable option for the area and would be able to offer a wider range of courses;
- it was planned that students would remain in single sex classes until the end of Key Stage 3 and classes would mix for Key Stage 4 and onwards;
- there were concerns regarding the condition of the building and it was felt that modifications were needed in several areas;

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- the authority was working with both Governing Bodies to ascertain what significant improvements could be made;
- at consultation events the majority of people seemed to be in favour of these proposals;
- these proposals would have significant impacts on improving standards at both schools;
- it was important that the school had flexibility to be able to teach single sex classes;
- the current Headteacher had done an extremely good job with the Boys' School and it was now at a similar standard of attainment as the Girls' School;
- the Headteachers and governing bodies would work together to find the best way of integrating the two schools;
- the management of the school and the school improvement service would work together to maintain and improve results at the school;
- this was a statutory consultation and the authority needed to go through this process;
- this proposal would save money in the long term, but there would be some initial capital costs;
- there would be a reduction of staff numbers, which would be carried out in the same way as a maintained school.

RESOLVED

That the proposals outlined in the report be supported by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

40. FIT KIDS PILOT

The Committee received a report presented by representatives of NHS Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership, which sought to brief the Committee on the Fit Kids Project and gain support at a local level to encourage further family and partner engagement.

It was reported that the Fit Kids Project was commissioned to districts via the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership during the two year pilot phase. It was found that performance varied across the county, depending on the local support, partnership development and the skills within the delivery team. The Committee was advised that this project was funded through the Health and Wellbeing Fund to develop pilot projects with families and the variable amount of success led to the realisation that a more structured approach was required. In view of this, a twelve week toolkit was developed which enabled evidence based approaches to be implemented and this more structured approach during year two was found to improve the quality and quantity of data collection. The project had now been commissioned by NHS Lincolnshire to continue for the year.

The aim of the programme was to work with families to help children grow taller and be lighter. The main findings from the project showed that where families were involved, 85% of their children involved reduced their Body Mass Index and had maintained it three months after the end of the programme. Fitness levels increased

in 100% of cases. The biggest change reported was that children were doing more activities with their families.

The Committee was provided with an opportunity to question officers and points raised during discussion included the following: -

- during the programme, participants would spend 3-4 weeks on nutrition, 3-4 weeks on activity and 3-4 weeks looking at behaviour change;
- it was necessary for parents to attend at least part of the sessions and children were asked to challenge their parents;
- Members applauded any attempt to address this issue as it could be a big problem for the future;
- this programme had shown that a behaviour change could occur in 12 weeks;
- some retailers helped by being supportive of the 'Change for Life' agenda;
- it was suggested that one issue which needed to be addressed was that many families did not know how to cook simple healthy dishes;
- whilst it was acknowledged that Body Mass Index measurement was not always the most accurate indicator of a healthy weight, in the case of children it was as details were entered onto a chart which took account of age, height, weight and gender. Body Mass Index was a suitable measure for the sedentary population although it was considered unsuitable as a measure for people such as athletes;
- food was sometimes used as a way of improving behaviour in children, and this 'token economy' was not unique to one type of family;
- the programme was targeting the 40 most deprived areas in the county;
- there was a link between child obesity and deprivation;
- it was felt that this was a good piece of work and had covered every angle. This should be encouraged and supported by the County Council;
- anything that improved people's lifestyles should be applauded;
- the partnerships working locally were very joined up – Change for Life, Fit Kids and Children's Centres offering parental advice;
- the central co-ordination of Fit Kids across the districts had been helpful;
- there were still a lot of people who did not think that child obesity was their problem;
- when the children were in the programme it worked, but the difficulty sometimes was getting them there as people were not comfortable talking about obesity;
- public sector organisations needed to talk more openly about obesity;
- choice was the most important thing, and people were not always good at making healthy choices;
- there was a need to find something that children wanted to do that encouraged activity.

RESOLVED

That the childhood obesity agenda and the Fit Kids programme be supported by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

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41. WHITE PAPER 'HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY PEOPLE: OUR STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN ENGLAND' – IMPACT ON PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

NOTE – Councillor J D Hough declared a personal interest in this item as his partner was a Non-Executive Director of NHS Lincolnshire and he was also a member.

Consideration was given to a report and presentation by the Assistant Director of Public Health, which described the changes proposed by the “Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England” White Paper and the possible impact on partnership working with Children's Services.

The Committee received a presentation which provided detailed information on the following areas: -

- what Public Health was and the current issues;
- a radical new approach to Public Health;
- no more targets but a Health Outcomes Framework;
- core values of freedom, fairness, and responsibility applied;
- what Public Health would be focused on;
- the Public Health system;
- issues to consider and making it happen;
- impact for Children's Services partnerships.

An opportunity was provided for Members to question officers in relation to the presentation, further to which the following points were noted: -

- Public Health was everyone's responsibility;
- with the intention of bringing Public Health staff back into the County Council, there would be more time to focus on the causes of poor health;
- millions of pounds of funding would also be brought to the County Council through this, not just an extra 140 staff;
- the biggest national challenge was around the introduction of competition into the National Health Service;
- Lincolnshire was underfunded in terms of Public Health Services;
- Lincolnshire was excellent in a range of things it did, but it was not good at promoting the things it did well.

It was requested that the Assistant Director of Public Health would returned to a future meeting of this Committee when proposals were more firm and the regulations had been published.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

42. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME 2011/2012

A report by the Committee's Scrutiny Officer was considered, which provided Members with an opportunity to consider the work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that the exempt report on School Support Services, which was due for consideration at the meeting on 2 December 2011, would be in the Chief Executive's name. The Executive Director of Performance and Governance or the Assistant Director – Environment, Planning and Customer Services would be attending the meeting to present the report.

It was noted that two reports had been added to the agenda for the meeting on 9 March 2012 as follows: -

- expansion of Spalding Primary School;
- closure of the residential accommodation at St Lawrence Special School, Horncastle.

It was reported that there were currently three Department for Education consultations ongoing relating to 14-19 education, namely: -

- modifications to the post-16 funding formula;
- post-16 Study Programmes;
- removal of the KS4 work related learning requirement.

A response to each consultation was being put together on behalf of the 14-19 Strategic Partnership which was to include a Lincolnshire County Council response. Nominations were requested from the Committee to meet with officers to help draft the responses. The responses would then be circulated to the Committee by email for information. Councillors S F Williams, J D Hough and C J Davie, and Mr S Rudman expressed an interest in taking part in the drafting of the consultation responses.

It was further reported that a mock Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would be held on 11 November 2011 as part of the Lincolnshire 11 Million Takeover Day 2011. Young people would be invited to attend the mock meeting and take part in discussions with members and officers on a couple of issues, namely the Improving Access to Post-16 Learning Provision final report and the Department for Education consultation on the removal of the Key Stage 4 work-related learning requirement.

RESOLVED

That the work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be approved, subject to the inclusion of the above amendments.

Meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.