

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S F WILLIAMS (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors C J Davie, M Exton, M W Gilbert, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, J D Hough, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, R A Shore and M Smith.

Added Members: Mrs E J Olivier-Townrow and Mrs G Wright.

Councillor D Brailsford (Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning) was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance: Graham Aisthorpe-Watts (Democratic Services Officer), Andy Breckon (Assistant Director of Children's Services and Director of the School Improvement Service), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Matthew Clayton (School Organisation Planning Manager), Simon Evans (Scrutiny Officer), Paul Holmes (Head of Property and Technology Management) and Meredith Teasdale (Assistant Director of Children's Services).

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P A Carpenter, R B Singleton-McGuire, C J Underwood-Frost and C N Worth.

Apologies for absence were also received from Mr C V Miller, Dr B Roberts and Mr S C Rudman (Added Members).

14. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor C J Davie wished it noting that, in respect of minute numbers 23 and 24 below, his wife was employed as a Teaching Assistant at Ingoldmells Primary School which was converting to academy status in September.

Councillor M J Exton wished it noting that, in respect of minute numbers 23 and 24 below, he was a Governor of a school in his electoral division.

Councillor M W Gilbert wished it noting that, in respect of minute numbers 23 and 24 below, he was a Governor of a school in his electoral division.

Councillor J D Hough wished it noting that, in respect of minute number 16 below, his wife was a Non-Executive Director of the Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and that he was also a Member of the Trust.

Mrs E J Olivier-Townrow wished it noting that, in respect of minute numbers 23 and 24 below, she was a Governor of a School in Lincoln.

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Councillor M Smith wished it noting that, in respect of minute numbers 18, 23 and 24 below, he was a Governor at Skegness Grammar School which was currently considering academy status.

Councillor S F Williams wished it noting that, in respect of minute numbers 23 and 24 below, he was a Governor of a school in his electoral division.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JUNE 2012

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 1 June 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW REPORT – ANNUAL UPDATE 2012

Consideration was given to a report by the Assistant Director of Children's Services, on behalf of the Director of Public Health, which provided Members with an update on key developments since the 2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Overview Report as previously considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Since the initial publication of the 2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Overview Report, it was reported that data sets for 14 of the 35 topic areas had been updated. A number of these data sets related to issues affecting children and young people, including the following: -

- breastfeeding (national initiation data);
- childhood immunisation (national rates);
- childhood obesity and weight problems;
- chlamydia screening;
- educational attainment (Key Stage Four);
- learning difficulties;
- looked after children;
- suicide;
- young people in the criminal justice system.

Information relating to each of these areas in terms of the updated data sets was outlined in the report.

It was noted that the County Council's primary education attainment performance, Key Stage Two, had increased by 1% for each of the previous six years but in 2011/2012 increased by a further 6%. The Interim Executive Director of Children's Services, in responding to the document, had indicated that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment did not include adequate information about this area of improving

performance. Similarly, she had also requested that some of the information relating to looked after children be amended due to it being inaccurate in the document.

Further reference was made to primary education performance as it was noted that East Lindsey was performing lower than any other district in the county, followed closely by Boston. Members were informed that the indicator for East Lindsey had been improving and officers were working to narrow the gap in this respect. It was agreed that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, setting out what was being done to improve the performance of primary education in the Boston and East Lindsey areas.

Discussion ensued on childhood immunisation whilst noting that the latest data set showed performance for this indicator at 81.7% compared to the regional average of 86.7%. Members expressed an interest to see a copy of an action plan setting out what measures would be put in place to improve performance in this respect.

In noting the figures for children and young people being absent from school, it was agreed that an item should be considered at a future meeting of the Committee so that the Council's policy on school absence could be reviewed. Members were also informed that the County Council had taken part in a two year pilot on school attendance and officers agreed to provide an update on the pilot as part of this request.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Overview Report Annual Update 2012 and the Interim Executive Director of Children's Service's response to the document be noted.
- (2) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee requests a copy of an action plan setting out the measures that will be put in place to improve the performance of childhood immunisation in Lincolnshire.
- (3) That an item on improving the performance of primary education in Boston and East Lindsey be added to the Committee's work programme.
- (4) That an item on children and young people being absent from school in Lincolnshire, including an update on the school attendance pilot, be added to the Committee's work programme.

17. NEW OFSTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS

The Assistant Director of Children's Services and Director of the School Improvement Service presented a report which summarised the new arrangements for Ofsted inspections introduced in January 2012 and additional changes planned for September 2012.

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It was noted that, in future, the following would apply in respect of the new Ofsted arrangements: -

- all 'outstanding' schools would be required to have 'outstanding' teachers;
- schools currently judged as 'outstanding' would be exempt from inspection, as at 8 June 2012;
- an acceptable standard of education would be a judgement of 'good';
- the current 'satisfactory' judgement would be replaced with 'requires improvement' where schools were not inadequate but were not yet providing a good standard of education;
- the 'notice to improve' category would be replaced with 'serious weaknesses';
- there would now be five possible judgements following an Ofsted inspection, as follows: -
 - outstanding;
 - good;
 - requires improvement;
 - serious weaknesses;
 - special measures.
- 'outstanding' schools would be subject to annual risk assessments, generally three years after the inspection unless the Headteacher changed. There would be no routine inspection unless there was evidence of decline or the attainment gap widened. This did not apply to special schools;
- academies would retain the Ofsted judgement prior to conversion, unless they had been inspected since;
- an earlier re-inspection of schools judged as 'requires improvement' would be introduced, with inspections now taking place every two years;
- the number of times a school could be deemed to 'require improvement' had been limited to two consecutive inspections before they were judged 'inadequate' and deemed to require 'special measures';
- the notice given of an inspection had been shortened;
- schools were requested to provide anonymised information on the outcomes of the most recent performance management for all teachers.

Reference was made to a paragraph in the report which explained compounding factors for secondary schools. Members were concerned that the Contextualised Value Added measure had been removed from the inspection arrangements and that progress calculations were now solely based on each pupil's prior attainment. It was noted that progress data showed, typically, that it was easier for more able students with fewer obstacles to learning to make good progress than it was for less able students. The new Value Added methodology would require extraordinary pupil progress in Lincolnshire's non-selective schools if overall progress was to be judged as 'good'. There were also similar issues in relation to the progress of vulnerable groups, such as those children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and looked after children. The Committee was extremely concerned about those individuals who were less able or vulnerable in terms of how they were going to be given an equal chance to progress and reach their potential. It was reported that individual learning plans for each young person in the county were developed and implemented. Officers agreed to provide the Committee with a report on this issue in due course.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the proposed response to the new Ofsted arrangements, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, be supported.
- (3) That an item on individual learning plans be added to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

18. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Assistant Director of Children's Services and Director of the School Improvement Service provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Collaborate Partnerships for Primary Schools initiative.

It was reported that, since putting forward a proposal to establish Collaborate Partnerships for Primary Schools, the Government had introduced changes to funding arrangements which prevented the County Council using funds to create such partnerships. The County Council's Leader, Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, Interim Executive Director of Children's Services and the Assistant Director of Children's Services and Director of the School Improvement Service recently met with all Lincolnshire Members of Parliament to express their dissatisfaction in not being able to use funding in this way and highlighted the vulnerabilities of small rural primary schools should Councils be prevented to create collaborative partnerships. The Lincolnshire Members of Parliament subsequently took this further with the Secretary of State, the outcome of which had not yet been reported.

In closing, it was noted that the Government had introduced a new initiative for primary academies entering a chain arrangement. Any primary academy entering a chain arrangement with another academy or academies would receive funding of £25,000.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

19. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

Consideration was given to a report by the Assistant Director of Children's Services, which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider the latest version of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2012 – 2015, as appended to the report, was produced by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and followed widespread formal consultation with partners, stakeholders and children and young people. This process resulted in revised priorities for the Partnership, which included the following five principles underpinned in the Plan: -

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- early intervention and prevention;
- safeguarding and best start in life;
- aspiration and wellbeing;
- learning and achievement;
- best use of resources.

In being taken through the document Members highlighted that, for some performance indicators, targets for 2012/2013 were lower than the targets set for 2011/2012. The Committee agreed that targets should be the same or higher than the previous year, otherwise the Plan could portray a message that it sought to achieve lower performance levels rather than an improved performance. Officers agreed to amend those targets that were set lower than the 2011/2012 target range to reflect a more aspirational value.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20. LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP – UPDATE

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 4 July 2012, for information.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 4 July 2012 be noted.

21. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2012

A report by the Scrutiny Officer was considered, which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider its work programme for the coming year.

It was reported that an item on a proposal to expand Louth St. Michael's Church of England Primary School had been added to the work programme for consideration at the Committee's meeting scheduled to be held on 19 October 2012.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of the proposal to expand Louth St. Michael's Church of England Primary School being added to the Committee's meeting on 19 October 2012 and the addition of the items detailed in minute numbers 16 and 17 above.

22. CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that if they were present there could be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

23. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PRIMARY ACADEMY (AGE 4 TO 11) IN THE CITY OF LINCOLN

The Head of Property and Technology Management presented an exempt report, which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider a proposal for a new primary academy in the city of Lincoln.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's comments in relation to the proposed new primary academy in the city of Lincoln be forwarded to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning.

24. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PRIMARY ACADEMY (AGE 4 TO 11) IN THE TOWN OF SKEGNESS

The Head of Property and Technology Management presented an exempt report, which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider a proposal for a new primary academy in the town of Skegness.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's comments in relation to the proposed new primary academy in the town of Skegness be forwarded to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning.

The meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.