

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S F WILLIAMS (CHAIRMAN)

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

Added Members: Mrs E J Olivier-Townrow, Mr C V Miller, Dr B Roberts, Mr S C Rudman and Mrs G Wright. (One vacancy).

Also in attendance:- Councillors D Brailsford (Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning) and Mrs C A Talbot (minute 47).

Officers in attendance: Debbie Barnes (Executive Director of Children's Services), Keith Batty (Assistant Director - CfBT Education Services), Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Matt Clayton (School Organisation Planning Manager), Richard Cumbers (Programme Manager – Public Health), Linda Duffield (Project Co-ordinator in Provision Planning), Maggie Freeman (14-19 Planning and Allocations Manager), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Lynn McNiven (Consultant in Public Health), Meredith Teasdale (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Sal Thirlway (Head of Service (Lincoln/North Kesteven/Teenage Services)) and Tony Warnock (Head of Finance - Children's and Specialist Services).

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Smith and C J Underwood-Frost.

40. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests at this stage of the meeting.

41. WELCOME TO PUPILS

The Chairman welcomed three Year 11 pupils who were in attendance as part of their PHSE course in "Democracy in Action".

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 7 September 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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43. PROCESS FOR SETTING UP A NEW SCHOOL OR ACADEMY, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL OPERATORS, FOR FUTURE NEW ACADEMIES OR FREE SCHOOLS IN LINCOLNSHIRE (minute 33, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, 7 September 2012)

Following concerns in connection with parental choice expressed by the Committee at its last meeting letters received from the Secretary of State in connection with the creation of new primary Academies in Skegness and Lincoln would be sent to the Committee.

44. SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2013/14

Tony Warnock presented a report on the Council's proposals for the future funding of schools prior to a decision being taken by the Executive Councillor. Details of the various consultations were provided and there had been considerable support for the proposed funding arrangements for schools from 2013/14.

Tony Warnock responded to comments made by the Committee:-

1. Explained the funding arrangements of English as an Additional Language which had been discussed with Headteachers and the school funding working group with both agreeing to the arrangements that funding should remain in place for two years.
2. The effect of changes to the benefits system and deprivation were being examined. The Council used post codes to measure deprivation and therefore it was able to ensure that resources were directed to areas of deprivation. Use of free school meals statistics was an issue and the distribution of funds through IDACI was more preferable.
3. Funding for sixth forms was an issue and post 16 funding which came under a different formula should perhaps be examined at a future meeting
4. Explained "de-delegation" in connection with Academies and maintained schools.
5. Explained the ring fencing of the reduction in the secondary block allocations to that sector to maintain stability and to allocate funding on a per pupil basis.
- 6 The DfE had announced that the Minimum Funding Guarantee would be maintained at minus 1.5% per pupil. It would continue beyond 2014/15, but the rate had not yet been specified by the government.
7. It was clear from the new funding proposals that large secondary schools would gain and small secondary schools would lose out.
8. Explained the reasons for the removal of the pupil mobility factor adding that the money going through this factor had been modest and the money would now be redistributed through the age weighted pupil unit.
9. Children living on the coast had been helped by other funding sources.

10. The funding for Children Looked After (CLA) was sufficient and the Pupil Premium would help these children. The recent exam results by CLA were excellent.

11. The Virtual School was funded by the non-schools budget.

12. The implications of a 27% cut in the Early Intervention budget was being examined as this was funded through the non-schools budget.

13. The Schools' Forum had been re-constituted to reflect the changes in recent legislation by the DfE.

14. The Executive Councillor for Children's and Lifelong Services had raised the issue of the publication of underspends and overspends in relation to Academies with the Education Funding Agency who had given a commitment to publish this data

Debbie Barnes placed on record her appreciation for all of the hard work by Tony Warnock and his staff had done on the new proposals for school funding in the short timescale given by the DfE.

RESOLVED

That the Executive Councillor be informed:-

That the Committee give its support to the proposals for Lincolnshire's funding arrangements in 2013/14, subject to the following areas being highlighted:-

- (a) The ring-fencing of funding was supported.
- (b) Concerns about the single block allocation which threatened small secondary schools in the county.
- (c) The effect of changes in the benefits' system on deprivation.
- (d) The need to maintain collaboration and partnership working.

45. LOUTH ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – PROPOSAL TO EXPAND

Matt Clayton presented a report on a proposal to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School and the views of the Committee were sought on the proposal before the matter was considered by the Executive.

Matt Clayton responded to comments made by the Committee:-

1. The Council had consulted with East Lindsey District and Louth Town Councils about the effect of housing development in the area and monies from S106 Agreements would be used to add to further capacity when it was known how many houses were likely to be built and S106 Agreements had been negotiated.

2. The proposal before the Committee was to address the effects of the increase in the birthrate.

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3. The effect of increasing the Planned Admission Number to 60 had been examined but would lead to difficulties for any expansion and affect other schools in the area.
4. Arrangements had been made with the local Morrison's Supermarket for drop off and pick up arrangements with parents which had improved the congestion issues around the school entrance.
5. Other sites had been investigated to accommodate the increase in the school population, including Eastfield Infant School and Kidgate Primary school, but reasons were given why they were not the preferred choice.
6. It was agreed to include a site plan to future meetings.

Councillor J D Hough, as the local Member, stated that transport was an issue; pupil numbers were unpredictable; the need to encourage walking and cycling to school and that mixed aged teaching was in some schools done well and that there were three good schools in Louth which required investment.

RESOLVED

(a) That comments made by the Committee and the responses given by officers be noted and actioned, where appropriate.

(b) That the recommendations to the Executive Councillor detailed in the report be supported with the addition of the need to encourage the use of School Travel Plans.

46. IMPROVING ACCESS TO POST-16 LEARNING PROVISION IN LINCOLNSHIRE ACTION PLAN – FIRST MONITORING UPDATE

Keith Batty presented a progress report on the first monitoring update of the Action Plan in connection with improving access to Post 16 learning provision in Lincolnshire. He added that there was no evidence that Colleges were not implementing the new funding arrangements (Bursaries in place of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)) for young people and the Council was examining the impact of funding for young people.

Keith Batty responded to comments made by the Committee:-

1. There was no evidence that the Lincolnshire schools, colleges and providers were not implementing bursaries. Also, some colleges were subsidising transport from their own funds. The bursary budget was a lot smaller than the EMA but there was no evidence of any effects of the reduction.
2. There had been a lot of success with NEETS although there was a problem with those children who were unknown or had lost contact with, particularly 17 year olds (2011 leavers) as there was no resource for tracking in place in 2011/12. This should be resolved with the focus of the careers service to supporting NEET 16-18.
3. There had been preparation of young people for the raising of the participation age (RPA) and young people moving into apprenticeships. Smaller companies were

experiencing problems in connection with apprenticeships and the Council's Economy and Culture section were helping smaller companies with apprenticeships.

4. Many schools were using the Council's Career service.

5. Provision for vulnerable young people was being examined.

6. From September 2013 all young people who left school at the end of Year 11 to start a job must either receive training delivered by their employer or be released by their employer for at least a day a week to receive education or training leading to accredited qualifications.

7. A report on the proposals for the new University Technology College in Lincoln would be provided to the Committee in January 2013

8. Details of the number of apprenticeships provided by the County Council would be presented to the Committee.

9. Gave details of the national Careers Service which was mainly for adults; Next Steps still existed but was not appropriate for young people. The statutory duty to provide careers guidance rested with the learning provider and schools were participating. However, it was difficult to comment on the quality of advice being given as this was not being provided by the Council. Most schools had participated in the appropriate accreditation schemes for careers advice.

10. There was a need to work with the new University Technology College and other education establishments to ensure that we could continue to develop an education and training offer that was better matched to the needs of the local economy.

11. All Councillors had a role to play in disseminating information about the resources available for Post 16 learning for young people.

RESOLVED

(a) That the action plan to the Executive be supported.

(b) That a report on the new University Technology College be presented to the Committee in January 2013.

(c) That details of the number of apprenticeships offered by the Council be provided to the Committee.

47. CHILDHOOD OBESITY UPDATE AND DRAFT STRATEGY

Lynn McNiven presented a progress report on childhood obesity and the Childhood Obesity Strategy for 2012/17. A minute from the Health Scrutiny Committee of 12 September on this matter had been circulated to the Committee.

Lynn McNiven responded to comments made by the Committee:-

1. The provision of school meals had led to improved behaviour and children's social skills were enhanced.

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2. The Secretary of State for Education had recently announced an independent review of the provision of meals in schools. He was due to visit Lincoln and Gainsborough on 7 November. Councillors Nick Worth, Executive Support Councillor for Economic Development, and Mrs C A Talbot would be attending.

3. The Council was aware of those areas where there were major problems of obesity and was taking appropriate action to address those problems although it was noted that this was a complex issue.

4. Some celebrity chefs had made a difference particularly Jamie Oliver.

5. The quantity of food consumed was critical.

6. There were concerns that obesity might be more prevalent in people not in employment.

7. Colour coding of food items by food companies was currently voluntary.

Councillor Mrs C A Talbot, Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee, commented:-

1. She was meeting Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning on 29 October 2012, to discuss the Strategy from a health perspective.

2. The Health Scrutiny Committee had raised a number of comments on the Strategy and the problems of obesity needed to be urgently addressed.

3. "Naming and shaming" was not the answer.

4. Money should be spent on measuring and weighing children in Year 4 and better monitoring was needed.

5. The Council should have a duty of care responsibility to enable it to address the problem of obesity.

6. Budgets were diminishing and if the problem of obesity increased further then local authorities would not be able to cope with the problem.

7. Domestic Science needed to be a mandatory subject in schools.

The Committee agreed that obesity was a major health problem and would have serious financial and health consequences for the country if it was not addressed. It was suggested that the effects of obesity should be communicated to the country in an advertisement campaign similar to the advertising campaign to get motorists to use seat belts in vehicles in the 1970s.

Officers stated that public health was now the responsibility of the County Council and it provided an opportunity for the Council together with Clinical Commissioning Groups to tackle this important issue.

RESOLVED

That the comments made by the Committee together with the responses given by officers on the Draft Childhood Obesity Strategy for Lincolnshire be supported.

48. PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN ON THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER MODEL WITHIN LOCALITY TEAMS

Sal Thirlway presented a progress report and action plan on the Youth and Community Development Worker model within Locality Teams.

Sal Thirlway responded to comments made by the Committee:-

1. 60% of Youth Centres were engaged with the Council on the model and the Council was working with many other groups to hand over the running of Youth Centres.
2. The Council would retain control of the physical assets in any transfer. Both legal and property had outlined the difficulties of any transfer of the physical assets.
3. The funding allocated acted as “pump priming” for community groups wishing to take over the management of Youth Centres. £100k, out of a budget of £400k, had already been approved.
4. Funding for the continuation of a youth service was difficult but the Council was working closely with other agencies and helping community groups on this matter.
5. Community groups were being informed about the need to conform with safeguarding requirements.
6. The Council was working with its partners on Youth Worker training to meet the wide variety of provision, e.g. music and sport.
7. Councillor M Exton would be kept updated on developments in connection with the transfer of responsibility of a Youth Centre in his electoral Division.
8. As a result of the changes to youth service provision by the Council there was concern that there might be a reduction in attendance by young people. A survey of young people would be investigated. There was a huge range of activities for young people and the Council was only one of many other providers. Community groups would be asked about usage and activities being delivered.
9. The feedback so far on the Council’s proposals had been positive.

It was highlighted that the next national Takeover Day would be held on 23 November 2012. It was proposed this year to hold a working group between members of the Committee and members of the Youth Cabinet to discuss the Youth Offer. Councillors A G Hagues, C J Davie, M J Exton, J R Hicks, C R Oxby and C N

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Worth offered to take part in the working groups with the Youth Cabinet on 23 November 2012, to discuss the take over of Youth Centres by community groups.

RESOLVED

That the comments made by the Committee and the responses given by officers in connection with the Action Plan on the Youth and Community Development Worker Model within Locality Teams be supported.

49. WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Tracy Johnson presented the Committee's work programme 2012/13 and reported that there was one amendment to the work programme. A report on the proposal to relocate and expand Crowland South View Community Primary School would be considered at the meeting on 1 March 2013 for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a decision by the Executive Councillor on 19 March 2013.

Debbie Barnes confirmed that the Council had started a consultation on an extension to South View Primary School in Crowland. Subject to this consultation, Children's Services would be undertaking a feasibility study to ensure appropriate accommodation was available to cope with the demand for additional places.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme be noted and updated as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm