

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 28 NOVEMBER 2014**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J D HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors B Adams (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, Mrs J Brockway, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, S M Tweedale, L Wootten, Mrs S M Wray, Mrs H N J Powell, C L Strange and T M Trollope-Bellew

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman, Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright

Parent Governor Representatives: Mr C V Miller and Mrs E Olivier-Townrow

Councillors: D Brailsford and C J Davie attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director of Children's Services), Keith Batty (Director of Programme, CfBT Education Services), Maggie Freeman (Head of 14 - 19 Planning Allocation), Philip Garner (Adult Health Improvement Manager), Tony Warnock (Operations and Financial Advice Manager), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J P Churchill, T Keywood-Wainwright and R Wootten.

The Chief Executive reported that having received notice under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, he had appointed Councillors C L Strange and T M Trollope-Bellew as a replacement members on the Committee in place of Councillors J P Churchill and R Wootten respectively, for this meeting only, and Councillor Mrs H N J Powell in place of the vacancy until further notice.

50 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

It was requested that the following interests be noted:-

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Mr S Rudman – a close relative was involved in the adoption process.

Councillor B Adams – had been put forward as a prospective trustee of Inspire+

Councillor Mrs L A Rollings – worked closely with Cherry Willingham School's Sports Partnership.

51 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2014**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

52 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE), SCHOOL SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Committee received a report which provided an update on how the participation of children and young people in Physical Education (PE), school sport and physical activity was being sustained and enhanced in light of increasing childhood obesity and the Olympic/Paralympic legacy.

A number of officers were in attendance to represent partners including Keith Batty (Director of Programmes, CfBT Education Services), Andy Birch (Head of Secondary School Improvement, CfBT Education Services); Navaz Sutton (Children and Young People Manager, Lincolnshire Sport); Andy Allen (Chair of Lincolnshire School Games Organisers); Jon Clack (Headteacher of Great Ponton CE Primary School and Ambassador Head Teacher for the Youth Sport Trust and Trustee for Inspire+); and Phillip Garner (Health Improvement Manager, Public Health (LCC)), and take part in a discussion with the Members of the Committee.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- PE and sport was seen as a good opportunity in terms of improving health and wellbeing. One of the main drivers for the past 5-7 years had been the amount of funding which was available for PE and Sport;
- Around 44% of schools opened up their facilities for the use of the local community. Some of the reasons schools stated for not doing this included staffing costs and the need for additional insurance. It was noted that most of the groups that did use school facilities were pre-school age groups;
- A challenge would be how to continue to secure funding in the future, and ensure that investment continued to come into the county;
- The Youth Sport Trust was working with around 28,000 children, and approximately 1,000 were involved with Change for Life and the Legacy Challenge;
- Councillor N J Smith reported that she had attended the launch of the Change for Life and Legacy Challenge Programmes, which had been a very good

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event. It was noted that one of the teachers had spoken passionately about the difference the programmes had made to some of the children, not just physically, but also mentally;

- Concerns were raised regarding the use of the sports premium to bring external agencies into schools, as it was thought there should be more emphasis on teachers taking the lead on providing activities. Members were assured that staff within schools were being developed to deliver these programmes and activities, and schools were working closely with the Sports Partnerships to ensure that this was happening. It was noted that PE teachers should be working alongside the coaches;
- It was commented that sometimes the experience of trying a different activity – through an external coach that visited a school – could lead to a child taking an interest in that activity and seeking out an after school club;
- It was queried whether there was any way of predicting when levels of childhood obesity would start to fall below the national average;
- It was also queried whether there was any national incentive to bring back the free swimming scheme for under 16's? Members were advised that this was a programme which had finished 18 months ago, and it was not thought there was any national drive at this time to reinstate it. It was also noted that the cost to provide the free swimming in Lincolnshire had been £1.6m, funded by £800,000 from central government and £800,000 from the County Council, and it would this level of funding which would need to be found in order to reinstate this for under 16's and older people;
- There had been a big influx of coaches going into schools, mostly from private agencies. However, there were some pro-active coaching companies. It was noted that there was still work to be done;
- There were a number of funding streams that went into a raft of different initiatives. The Sports Premium went directly to the primary schools, and it was unclear what would happen to this funding after 2016. In relation to local authority funding of these activities, Lincolnshire, as well as other authorities, would be facing significant budget reductions, and priorities would need to be examined. The proposed budget for Children's Services would be presented to this Committee at its meeting in January 2015;
- In terms of childhood obesity, it was noted that the authority would only need to work with 30 year 6 children, in order to move to below the national average;
- It was difficult to recruit parents for the Fit Kids programme, but it was found that for those children whose parents got involved with the programme, it did have good results;
- There was a need for a constructive and helpful conversation around childhood obesity;
- There was a need to encourage more traditional playground games. Members were advised that some schools were training children as playground leaders to encourage other children into being more active in the playground;
- 24% of schools were not involved in the Schools Games programmes. It was noted that this could be for a number of reasons including cost and transport issues. However, the offer did go out to all schools as it was a national

programme. Nationally, there were some proactive schools who had a strong drive to be involved;

- Changing rooms had always been found to be a barrier in encouraging more children to play sports, particularly children who were already overweight as they did not want to change in front of other children. It was noted that providing changing facilities in primary schools had always been a challenge, but some secondary schools were starting to address the issue and installing cubicle changing facilities, similar to those found at swimming pools;
- It was noted that whilst there had been increased participation in playground activity, it became too combative and competitive for girls, and it found that at key stage 1 and 2, participation from girls started to decrease;
- A difference in parental attitudes towards boys and girls weight was identified through the Fit Kids programme – it was believed that boys would grow out of it but that there was a need for girls to look after themselves. However, it was found that overweight boys were likely to be less active as they got older;
- It was thought that there was a need for more monitoring and tracking of children's weight through primary school, as currently they were weighed in the reception class and again in year 6;
- The work being done was positive, but it was thought there was more need for a cultural change as parents would drop children off at the school gates in the car, and pick them up again. There was a need for more work to be done with parents;
- It was important for parents to encourage their children to take part in sporting activities;
- Gender issues in the approach to sport had been identified, with girls more focused on the health and fitness aspects rather than competitive sports. This had led some schools to offer aerobics type classes in order to engage girls in physical activity;
- Members did not want work on obesity to become target driven, and they wanted the work to go beyond the 30/40 children that would be required to bring Lincolnshire's figures in line with the national average;
- It was suggested that the Fit Kids model should be extended to parents to get them more engaged;
- A vast number of teachers were being trained within the County to continue the Legacy;
- There was a stronger agenda coming through in terms of activity in schools which recognised the differences between boys and girls, and encouraging all clubs to engage more with girls. It was more complex than just 'sport for all';
- It was commented that the majority of obese children were mirrors of their parents, and unless the parents were engaged in programmes such as Fit Kids first, this could create conflicts between the children and parents;
- It had been found that there was reluctance from parents to have discussions regarding their child's weight;
- Information on the Change for Life programme would be going to all schools;
- There was a need to address physical activity education as part of the initial training for primary school teachers, so it could be built into everyday lessons. A piece of work carried out by Partners had discovered that trainee teachers generally received between 4-6 hours of PE training during their teacher

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training. It was thought that this needed to be integrated more into the full year of training. Partners were starting to work on this with Bishop Grosseteste College;

- Some schools were working towards offering their sports facilities to the local communities. However, it was often the cost of ensuring a caretaker was on the premises during out of school hours that prohibited schools from opening their facilities to the community. Opportunities were being offered in Sixth Forms for students to be employed as leisure assistants to alleviate the pressure on caretakers;
- It was noted that there were sports science and sports development courses offered at the University of Lincoln but no PE courses, and it was important to realise that these subjects were not the same;
- It was suggested that it could be helpful if the Fit Kids programme could be developed into a cross curriculum project;
- It was a decision for the governors whether schools could open on a weekend so the community could make use of their facilities;
- It was hoped that sports teachers realised that there were many different sports available and any child should be able to try out any sport;
- It was considered important that in primary schools, the teachers participated in the PE lessons with the children, rather than just directing them;
- It was requested that when this Committee considered the budget, members drilled down into the budget and scrutinised it carefully to ensure that funding for the schemes discussed continued so the work could carry on;
- It was requested that officers came back to this meeting in the future with an action plan on how childhood obesity could be tackled;

RESOLVED

That the briefing paper be noted and that the Committee support the work of the Partners.

53 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT OFFER - TACKLING SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE & CLOSING THE GAP

Consideration was given to a report which set out the Lincolnshire School Improvement Offer for 2014-15 and detailed the role of both Lincolnshire County Council and CfBT in the delivery of that offer.

Members were advised that there were a lot of changes taking place within the world of education, and negotiations were underway to determine a model of sector led improvement for Lincolnshire. It was noted that CfBT was extremely supportive of the changes and through its core contract with LCC, continued to be the key strategic partner for the delivery of school improvement in Lincolnshire.

The Committee was provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

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- There were 15-25 schools and 10-15 academies on average per year which were causing concern;
- It was queried how problems were able to develop in schools so they caused concern, as education advisors made regular visits and whether there was anything that the authority could do to be more pro-active? Members were assured that there were internal mechanisms in place for ensuring that the work of the education advisors was robust. Some examples of why problems arose could include members of staff covering for long term illness, or if a head teacher left and there were problems finding a replacement;
- If a school was starting to experience difficulties, CfBT would investigate and support the school before they became serious problems;
- It was commented that there had been a lot of negative publicity regarding the primary school in Middle Rasen, and it was queried whether there were any areas for improvement. The Committee was informed that this was the school media reported that Ofsted inspectors had criticised and indicated that the school could not be judged as outstanding as the children had had limited experience of children from other cultures and backgrounds. This reporting implied that the school would never be judged as outstanding. The Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services would be writing to Ofsted to raise concerns over this issue;
- Members commented that Middle Rasen Primary School was considered locally to be an excellent school with an excellent head teacher. It was suggested that Ofsted was reacting to issues in other parts of the country. The school had a strong RE curriculum, where the children had the opportunity to understand and study other religions and cultures;
- It was noted that Supplementary schools were not part of the CfBT contract;
- From the Diocese perspective, they found the work of CfBT very good, and it was commented that they were always very quick to engage the Diocese if there was a church school in trouble. The collaboration between CfBT and the local authority was good and schools were supported;
- It was confirmed that the Closing the Gap conference would be taking place on 8 January 2015, and would be held at the Epic Centre.

RESOLVED

That the School Improvement Offer, and the respective roles of Lincolnshire County Council and CfBT within the delivery of the offer be noted.

**54 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP -
UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the activities of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, and in particular the Sub-Group's consideration of child safeguarding matters.

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The Committee received an update from Councillor C R Oxby, Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group. It was reported that the Sub-Group had last met on 15 October 2014, and as part of the meeting, an update from the Independent Chair of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) on the work of the LSCB and its sub-groups had been received. It was noted that two serious case reviews were in progress and were due to finish by the end of the year.

An update on child sexual exploitation (CSE) had also been considered and discussion around how to educate children and young people of the risks of CSE had taken place. The Play Chelsea's Choice, had been highlighted as an excellent way of educating young people in secondary schools, but it was suggested that children in Years 5 and 6 in primary schools should also be educated around the risks of CSE.

The Sub-Group also considered the outcomes from two audits undertaken on the Pre-Birth Protocol and Child Protection Plans.

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Group was scheduled for 7 January 2015 where it was due to receive a further update on CSE, along with the LSCB's Neglect Strategy and the outcomes from the Section 11 audit undertaken by all the LSCB's partner agencies.

RESOLVED

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, held on 15 October 2014 be noted.

55 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 2 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report which provided key performance information for Quarter 2 2014/15 that was relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Members were guided through the performance information, and provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and during discussion, some of the points raised included the following:

- There had been some issues in terms of recruitment and retention of foster carers, as there had been an increase in the number of children looked after. It was noted that this was not just a local issue. This had put pressure on the authority in terms of the number of foster carers who were available, and residential placements would only be used as a last resort. There was a lot of work ongoing in relation to the recruitment of more foster carers;
- In terms of the number of moves of Looked After Children, it was noted that some of the moves would have included successful moves back to the child's parents, or other family members, or successful adoptions. But as they were moves they would still be recorded;
- It was commented that the performance of 16-18 year old Looked After Children who were participating in learning was disappointing, but this was subject to focused monitoring and intervention.

RESOLVED

That the performance information presented be noted.

56 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - PROPOSAL FOR A WORKING GROUP

The Committee received a report which set out a proposal to establish a working group to contribute to the work being undertaken by officers on the future school improvement offer.

Members were advised that it had been previously proposed to carry out a scrutiny review by a Task and Finish Group into school improvement. However, as work was ongoing on a new school led approach and the future Local Authority offer, there was a risk that a scrutiny review would duplicate the work being undertaken by officers. Additionally, there were concerns that this was too early in the process to be conducting a time limited scrutiny review as the review would be completed in mid-2015 and the current contract was not due to end until January 2017.

It was instead proposed that member involvement through a working group would be preferable to a task and finish group. This would provide members with the opportunity to work with officers to understand and feedback on the current practice for school improvement and what future practice would be. A working group was not time limited and work would be able to start immediately which would enable members to become involved in the process whilst the new school led approach was being developed, and to work with officers on the new Local Authority school improvement officer as it developed. The terms of reference for the School Improvement Working Group would be:

1. To examine with officers what support the current School Improvement Service offered to schools and academies and how effective it was;
2. To examine with officers the role of teaching schools in Lincolnshire in improving educational standards;
3. To make recommendations on improvements to the existing School Improvement offer for schools and academies within the constraints of the funding that the County Council was able to invest.

It was suggested that three members would be an appropriate number to form a working group, and the following agreed to be part of the working group:

- Mrs E Olivier-Townrow (Added Member)
- Councillor S R Dodds
- Councillor Mrs J Brockway

RESOLVED

1. That the establishment of a working group to contribute to the work being undertaken by officers on the future school improvement offer;
2. That the membership for the working group be agreed as above.

57 SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with information relating to changes the Local Authority (LA) would be making to the school funding formula from April 2015. The proposals were supported by the Schools Forum on 8 October 2014 and were then formally approved by the Executive Councillor on 22 October 2014.

Officers explained the reforms to school funding arrangements which took place in 2013/14, and explained the proposals which had been developed following extensive work from officers in the summer of 2014 to develop an alternative approach which would ensure compliance with the DfE's regulation whilst not materially altering the funding provided for pupils with high levels of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

The Committee was provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- Transitional protection would be put in place to ensure there was no loss of funding to individual schools in 2015/16;
- The Committee congratulated the team for the work which had been done to ensure that any reductions to individual school budgets were kept to a minimum in the medium and long term;
- It was noted that these changes would not affect pupils with Band 1 – 5 statements.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

58 IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS IN LINCOLNSHIRE'S
GROWING BUSINESS SECTORS

Consideration was given to a report which explained the range of skills funding available and also showed a real need to fill vacancies as the county's economy grew. There was a new opportunity for important local partnerships to have greater control of skills provision. The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) would be choosing what additional training provision to buy through new EU funds, with advice from important local partnerships and LCC, as a member of the LEP and as the secretariat to the LEP, should take advantage of this opportunity.

The Committee was advised that this was an exciting opportunity, as the Government had set up LEP's with the private sector, and were being asked to make decisions, and so locally there would be a lot more influence in how this funding was used. Officers had been working with some of the larger businesses in the county such as Butlins, Petwood Hotel etc. to try and identify what their training needs would be in the future. It was thought that there would be an increasing requirement for a much higher level of skills.

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It was important to note that improving skills was not just about apprenticeships, but also graduates, and ensuring there were opportunities for young people leaving university. Members were informed that it could be difficult to recruit the right people in sectors such as agri-food, manufacturing and the visitor economy. The LEP would be deciding and directing how skills funding would be spent in the future.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It had been calculated that approximately 200,000 people would be required between 2014 and 2022 to fill vacancies to grow Lincolnshire's economy;
- It was estimated that there would be a need for 182,000 jobs in the construction industry in the next four years, but there was a significant shortfall in the number of people training for these jobs;
- 99% of businesses in the UK were classed as small businesses;
- There was a need for more work to be carried out in relation to apprenticeships, and driving this forward needed to be discussed with Lincolnshire businesses such as Lindum construction;
- If the skills challenge was not addressed in the right way there could be problems in the long term. It was important that the County Council had a view in terms of how the skills agenda could be influenced;
- It was queried whether there was any room within what the LEP wanted to do with skills to work with people who were 'unemployable' – those people who frequently managed to get interviews, but had still not been able to find employment. Could 'employability' skills training be provided?
- There was a need to find a way to work with higher education and further education providers to encourage young people to stay in the county, and also to attract young people from other areas;
- It was important to determine what skills would be needed in the county for the next few years and then work with higher education establishments to ensure they know what would be needed from them;
- Careers advice in schools was very important, but it was currently fragmented;
- It was commented that there was a pressure on schools to stop delivering vocational subjects, with more emphasis being placed on GCSE's. However, some pupils preferred the vocational subjects, and were better suited to that style of learning;
- There was a need for a school of medicine in Lincoln, and after Christmas 2014, work would start to try and deliver this. However, it was acknowledged that this was something which could take several years to achieve;
- It was reported that Lincolnshire had recently been awarded £8.5million from the EU Leader programme, which was for rural businesses and community projects;
- It was suggested that there was a need to get young people to think about their future and the types of jobs they would like to do from a younger age, possibly in the last year of primary school;
- It was noted that the figures and projections had been produced by the Warwick Institute. Officers could work with businesses to find out what they

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needed over the next six months, but anything longer than that was difficult for businesses to identify;

- It was reported that 60% of Lincolnshire businesses were planning on expanding, and 30% would be taking on more employees, so there would be opportunities in the coming year;
- Businesses considered employability skills to be more desirable in a young person than industry skills. They wanted people who were willing to learn;
- Skills were high on the political agenda;
- There was a need to publicise Lincolnshire more, as people were not always aware of the developments taking place within the county;
- It would be useful if employers could be encouraged to invest in apprenticeship schemes;
- It was noted that within the Greater Lincolnshire area there were approximately 44,000 small businesses.

It was requested that a further report come back to a future meeting of the Committee which included an action plan for improving the skills offer of Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED

1. That the report presented be noted;
2. That an action plan be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

59 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME 2015

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider its work programme for the coming year.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that there were no changes to the work programme.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the work programme be agreed;
2. That the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan be noted.

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm