

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

16 December 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director Planning and Service
Integration
Caroline O'Neill, Assistant Director
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

28. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Governor Support Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to request the Portfolio Holder's consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

Issues for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

Applications had been invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office was about to expire, or had expired, who were interested in serving or wished to continue serving as a Local Authority representative governor on school governing bodies. Criteria were agreed by the Borough Council for their recruitment as follows:

- A demonstrable interest in, and commitment to, education
- A desire to support the school concerned
- A commitment to attend regular meetings of the governing body and school functions generally

- Good communication/interpersonal skills
- The ability to work as part of a team
- A clearly expressed willingness to participate in the governor training programme.

A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies had been considered by members of the General Purposes Sub-Committee on 14 November 2008. Since that time the form awaited from Councillor A Marshall had been received. The Governor Support Officer stated that the most of the vacancies were as a result of terms of office ending. The Portfolio Holder agreed that the Governor Support Officer should write to Members highlighting any remaining vacant positions.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies.

29. Children's Services Departmental Plan Quarter 2 Progress Report *(Assistant Director – Planning and Service Integration)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards achieving Departmental Plan actions and Performance Indicators (PIs) for the period to 30 September 2008.

Issues for Consideration

The Departmental Plan 2008/09 identified actions and PIs for 2008/09 and the report summarised the progress made towards achieving the actions. The PIs associated with many of the actions were reported annually but the responsible officers had been able to indicate where activities were broadly on target.

Since Quarter 1 an additional action had been completed i.e. the implementation of the Schools Transformation Programme, including Strategy for Change 2 (Secondary schools) and a further round of consultation for the Primary Capital Programme.

With regard to PIs the emphasis on areas of key importance in Hartlepool included:-

- ❖ The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- ❖ Under 18 conception rate (teenage pregnancy)
- ❖ Continuing to improve achievement levels in schools

Since the last quarter one PI had been reassigned to Neighbourhood Services and therefore the quarter 2 report was based on 34 PIs.

Two PIs relating to Early Years data had been recorded as not achieving the target set for 2008/09:-

- ❖ Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation State with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy.
- ❖ Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation profile and the rest

Progress had been made against both indicators although they had not actually achieved the target set. The Assistant Director gave details of a new member of staff who was due to start on 1 January 2009 which should assist in the progression of the achievements.

Work also continued on the review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). Themes for Hartlepool which had emerged from the consultation and have been identified in the new plan were:-

- ❖ Tackling inequalities
- ❖ Eradicating child poverty
- ❖ Narrowing the gap
- ❖ Building resilience
- ❖ Living safely

The Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of Children's Services by Ofsted had taken place and the final outcome was due to be made known on 17 December 2008.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress made towards completion of actions and performance indicator targets during the second quarter of 2008/09.

30. Local Government Access to Information

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 31– Children's Homes: Regulation 33/34 Reports (para 1)
(Information relating to any individual)

31. Children's Homes: Regulation 33/34 Reports *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To present the Regulation 33/34 report of visit to Children's Home for Exmoor Grove covering the months of August and September 2008.

Issues for Consideration

The report covered the months of August and September 2008 for Exmoor Grove

Decision

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am

P J DEVLIN
CHIEF SOLICITOR

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