

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

9 December 2014

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Sheila Griffin, Gerard Hall, John Lauderdale and Geoff Lilley

Young people's representatives:

Holly Bratt, Shay Miah, Farrah Razzaq and Josh Scott

Also present:

Jake Hornsey, Lois Joynt, Caitlin Lloyd, Sarah McCluskey,
Derek Minton, Annabelle Napper and Oliver Pinsent from
Rossmere Youth Centre and Throston Youth Project

Officers:

Dean Jackson, Assistant Director, Education
Sandra Shears, Head of Finance (Corporate and Schools)
Beth Storey, Youth Work Manager
Helen White, Participation Manager
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

66. Holocaust Memorial Project (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Members of an on-going work being carried out in relation to Holocaust Memorial activities in preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January 2015 themed 'Keep the Memory Alive'.

To enable young people to report back to the Committee on the development of the project and to provide an update on their work.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the Holocaust Memorial Project and the involvement of elected Members. The Committee were informed that the young people from the Holocaust Memorial Group had taken part in a residential visit to Krakow, Poland where they had visited Auschwitz¹ and Birkenau, Oskar Schindler's Factory and the Jewish Quarter. The young Group had also been involved in the development of a short film with ITV Fixers to be shown at the Holocaust Memorial Day event on 27 January 2015.

The young people gave a brief presentation which summarised their involvement and the project including the fund raising events held to fund their residential trip. A local publicity campaign had been launched to identify survivors or those affected more locally which had produced some results to be incorporated into the events on Holocaust Memorial Day. The young people concluded their presentation by inviting Members of the Committee to the event on 27 January 2015 which would be held in the Avenue Ballroom, Lauder Street from 6.30pm.

A discussion ensued on the terrible effects of genocide in both history and within the modern day. The young people commented that they had expressed interest in looking at the effects of modern day genocide in a separate project in the future.

The young people reflected on their visit to Poland and commented that it had been a moving experience and had highlighted the modern day issues around bullying and young people being attacked for being different. A booklet had been produced by the Holocaust Memorial Group entitled 'Never Again – Their Past – Our Future' and it was hoped that this would be disseminated as widely as possible to raise awareness of the effects of attacking and bullying others.

The Assistant Director, Education thanked the Youth Work Manager for all her hard work and commitment in driving this project forward through providing valuable support for the young people involved in the Holocaust Memorial Group.

The Chair sought clarification on the distribution of the booklet produced by the Group and suggested that distribution should be facilitated to all secondary schools with similar presentations to that given at this meeting, to be provided by the Group to young people within schools.

The young people involved in the Holocaust Memorial Group were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and for all their hard work in undertaking this project to raise awareness and producing such an informative booklet.

Decision

- (i) The Committee acknowledged the importance of maintaining young people's cultural awareness through this project and supported the event on 27 January 2015 at 6.30pm in the Avenue Ballroom, Lauder Street.
- (ii) That the booklet produced by the Holocaust Memorial Group be widely disseminated throughout secondary schools and that the feasibility of the Group providing this presentation to secondary schools be explored.

67. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fleet, Loynes and Richardson and co-opted member Michael Lee.

68. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made at this point in the meeting, see minute 72.

69. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014

Received.

70. Dedicated Schools' Grant 2015/16 (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CAS 34/14.

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) and to consider and approve the 2015/16 Schools' Funding Formula.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the funding received by the Local Authority via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Schools' Forum had been consulted on the options available and recommended to the Committee that the lump sum remain at £175k and that no change be made to the deprivation factor which was currently set at 15%. As a result it was proposed that the Committee adopt option (i) as the basis for allocating the

individual school's budget for 2015/16.

In relation to Early Years Funding, it was proposed to increase the hourly rates by 5p to £4.90 per hour at an additional cost per annum of £20k. Further details were provided on the High Needs Block Funding for 2015/16 and it was highlighted that this now had additional demands placed upon it as the funding was no longer specific to pupils of statutory school age but was for the age range 0-25 years.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Assistant Director, Education confirmed that the 2 year old provision could be provided from schools or child minders. The Assistant Director, Education added that a full review will be undertaken on early years provision to ensure that those looking after young children were rewarded appropriately. A further report on this issue would be submitted to the Committee early in the New Year.

Decision

- (i) That the recommendations of the Schools Forum in relation to paragraph 4.3 of the report for the Schools Formula for 2015/16 be approved.
- (ii) That the change in the hourly rate for 2 year old funding to £4.90 per hour be approved and the update on funding for Early Years provision was noted.
- (iii) That a review of the costs associated with the Early Years provision be undertaken with further reports submitted to the Committee.
- (iv) That the update on the High Needs Block funding was noted with further updates to be submitted to the Committee once funding had been confirmed.

71. Reconstitution of the Governing Body of High Tunstall College of Science and the Federated Governing Body of St Peter's Elwick CE and Hart Primary Schools *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the reconstitution of the Governing Body and the Instrument of Government of High Tunstall College of Science and a variation to the Instrument of Government of the Federated Governing Body of St Peter's Elwick CE and Hart Primary Schools in accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended

by the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the reconstituting of School Governing Bodies as detailed in the 2012 School Governance Regulations. Details of revised constitutions for High Tunstall College of Science and the Federated Governing Body of St Peter's Elwick CE Aided School and Hart Community Primary School were included in the report.

It was noted that as all schools had to reconstitute their governing bodies, it was suggested that all future reports were brought together to be considered at one meeting of the Committee.

Decision

- (i) The reconstitution of the Governing Body of High Tunstall College of Science under the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations and revised Instrument of Government with effect from 1 January 2015 in accordance with details set out Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) That the variation of the Instrument of Government for the Federated Governing Body of St Peter's Elwick CE and Hart Primary Schools under the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations and revised Instrument of Government with effect from 1 January 2015 in accordance with details set out in Appendix 2 be approved.
- (iii) That future reports of reconstituted School Governing Bodies as a result of the new Regulations be submitted on a whole within one report.

72. Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 30 September 2014 *(Director of Child and Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the 2014/15 Forecast General Fund Outturn 2014/15 Capital Programme Monitoring and provide details for the specific budget areas that this Committee was responsible for.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report outlined the background and the reporting arrangements in relation to the provision of accurate and up to date financial information which will become increasingly important as future budgets cuts were implemented and one-off resources were used up. A summary of the overall financial position was included in the report and highlighted that the net forecast budget under spend at the year end was between £1.457m and £1.542m.

The 2014/15 Forecast General Outturn for the Children's Services Committee's responsibilities was set out in the report with further detail of specific budget areas provided at Appendix A. In addition to this, capital expenditure against the budget as at 30 September 2014 for this Committee was summarised in the report with further details attached at Appendix B.

The Chair highlighted that several Members of the Committee had connections with a number of the schools included in the report which were noted as being in receipt of capital expenditure and requested that their connections be noted.

Decision

That the report was noted.

73. Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 1 (PSBP) Update *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the progress of the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) Phase 1.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) and an update on the works undertaken as part of Phase 1. It was estimated that the Barnard Grove Primary School would be expected to decant into their new building during August 2015 ready for the commencement of the September term. In addition, the new build works at

Manor College were estimated to be operational from September 2016. It was noted that Groundbreaking Ceremonies for both schools were held at the beginning of October 2014.

In relation to Holy Trinity CE Primary School, it was expected that the decant period would be the same as Barnard Grove, August 2015.

The Assistant Director, Education informed Members that a bid had been submitted for funding from the PSPB programme Phase 2, the results of which had been deferred until the end of January 2015 due to the number of applicants to Phase 2. It was highlighted that the Head of High Tunstall College of Science and the Director of Child and Adult Services were meeting with the Minister of State for Schools to stress the case for investment in Hartlepool schools through Phase 2.

The importance of ensuring any new builds were made to last and included an obligation on the school to provide continual maintenance was discussed. The Assistant Director, Education confirmed that Schools who receive PSBP funding would be contractually obliged to take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of those Schools. One of the young people representatives highlighted that a good and comfortable working environment makes a huge difference to learning within schools.

Decision

That the report was noted.

74. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

75. Any Other Business – Update on the Review of Provision for Pupils with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties at Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit, Catcote Academy and Springwell Special School *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

The report highlighted that supporting and championing the needs of vulnerable children and young people underpinned the ambitions of the Hartlepool Education Strategy. The Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) had been relocated from the Golden Flatts site to the redeveloped Brierton education site in September 2014. At a recent meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee a further £205,000 of capital expenditure was approved

for the PRU to ensure it was able to fully meet the curriculum needs of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils.

Members were informed that Catcote Special School was proposing to make two bids to the Department for Education Academies Capital Maintenance Fund to develop and improve the accommodation for both its Behavioural, Social and Emotional Difficulties (BESD) provision and its Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision. Details of what the funding would be utilised for was included in the report. The deadline for the submission of both bids was 19 December 2014.

It was highlighted that additional commissioned BESD provision for the growing number of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils requiring support would need to be developed in Hartlepool to reduce the current demand being made on the primary BESD provision at Springwell Special School. It was noted that both the current development at the PRU and the proposals for Catcote Academy would support this ambition.

The Assistant Director, Education commented that the Local Authority would be working closely with Schools and Academies to ensure the best education provision was in place for all pupils in Hartlepool with a further report to be submitted to the Committee early in 2015.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report, in particular the following points:

- (i) The review of the current educational provision in Hartlepool for all pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties was progressing well. A final report will be presented to the Committee early in 2015 which will recommend a model of alternative educational provision that fully meets the needs of children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- (ii) The Finance and Policy Committee agreed to a further £205,000 of capital expenditure at the Pupil Referral Unit to ensure that the full curriculum needs of the young people taught there were met.
- (iii) Catcote Academy had submitted two bids to the DfE Academies Capital Maintenance Fund for capital funding to improve the quality of accommodation for both their behavioural, emotional and social difficulties provision and their Autism Spectrum Disorder provision.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 17 December 2014