

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

4 July 2017

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

Present:

Councillor: Brenda Harrison (In the Chair)

Councillor: John Lauderdale

Also Present: Councillor Stephen Thomas as substitute for Councillor Alan Clark in accordance with Council Procedure rule 5.2.

Co-opted member:

Jo Heaton, C of E Diocesan Representative

Officers: Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services
Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills 0-19
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

7. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Alan Clark and George Morris
David Turner, Primary Schools Head Representative
Evelyn Leck, Healthwatch Representative

8. Declarations of Interest

Interests were declared as follows:-

Jo Heaton – Headteacher, Hart and Elwick Schools
Councillor Harrison – Governor, St Teresa's School

9. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2017

The minutes were confirmed.

10. Approval of Term and Holiday Dates 2018-19 and 2019-20 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To seek agreement to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2018-19 and 2019-20 for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. The report sought also agreement of the Committee in recommending these dates to governing bodies of Aided and Foundation schools and academies in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Committee was advised that as the local authority (LA), the Council has the responsibility for setting the school term and holiday dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Hartlepool. It was noted that Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools' governing bodies and academies were responsible for setting their own school holiday pattern within the agreed national framework of working days. Traditionally the LA and the governing bodies of all of the Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools worked together to ensure a consistent pattern across the town in respect of school term and holiday dates, though in the case of Roman Catholic schools in particular, some variation does occur in some years.

The Committee noted that five professional development (PD) days are provided for in teachers' conditions of service. These may be taken in combinations of part-day "twilight" sessions at the direction of individual schools. The pattern proposed for 2018-19 and 2019-20 provided for an "envelope" of 195 days. Local authorities for a number of years had tried with some success to agree a unified calendar of term dates across the northern region from Yorkshire to Northumberland based on guiding principles agreed by the regional group in 2012-13.

In the spring term 2017 representatives from the Tees Valley region and other north east representatives had consulted on a pattern for 2018-19 and 2019-20 based on the guiding principles, and agreed to consult on this pattern within their own Authorities as shown in documents appended to the report. The proposed pattern would enable schools to begin the academic year on Monday 3rd September 2018 and end the year on Tuesday 23rd July 2019 and Monday 2nd September 2019 and end the year on Monday 20th July 2020. Following discussions, arrangements had been made to consult all headteachers in Hartlepool and also the relevant professional associations through the Director's termly meetings on the school year pattern for 2018-19 and 2019-20. On the completion of local consultation in the region, the general consensus from the Local Authorities within the Tees Valley and other Regional Authorities was to adopt the model appended to the report.

Decision

- (i) The Committee approved the scheduled term dates and holiday dates for 2018-19 and for 2019-20 for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools as shown in the documents appended to the report.
- (ii) The Committee recommended the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2018-19 and 2019-20 to governing bodies of all Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools and academies in Hartlepool.

11. To nominate Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To update members of the Committee in respect of vacancies that currently exist for Local Authority representative governors, and to request that the Committee recommend nominees to the governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

Issue(s) for consideration

Reports had previously been presented to the Children's Services Committee in February and July 2015 alerting members to the requirement that local authority governors are now nominated by the Local Authority but appointed by the governing body, on the basis that the nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, and meets any other eligibility criteria they may have set.

A schedule was submitted with the report setting out details of vacancies which currently exist, together with applications received. The individual applications were set out in a confidential appendix to the report. That appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government), (Access to Information), (Variations Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (Para 1).

Decision

That the following Local Authority nominations be forwarded for

consideration by the relevant governing bodies where vacancies currently exist: -

St Hild's CE Secondary School – Andrea Swift

St John Vianney RC Primary School – Yannick, Jean-Francois Thorez.

12. Hartlepool Education Commission –Update Report (Director of Child and Adult Services)

Type of decision

No decision required - the report was for information

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the progress of implementation of the Education Commission's recommendations, and impact achieved since the previous report to Committee in March 2017.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Committee was advised that a strategic Education Commission Leadership Group met on a termly basis to oversee the workplan and finances, and receives updates from each workstream at these meetings. The Group had representative members from all stakeholder sectors including young people, Members, schools, employers, governors and the Tees Valley Combined Authority. The Group last met on 24 April 2017. At each Education Commission Leadership Group meeting, all workstream leads tabled and talked to a summary of the actions undertaken and their impact. A collation of the latest workstream update reports was appended to the report.

It was noted that in order to fund the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, an amount of £500,000 had been allocated to cover the two academic years 2015-17. An overview of budget commitments as at 2016-17 year-end (31 March 2017) was summarised in the report. More detailed financial reports were tabled and scrutinised at each Leadership Group meeting.

In response to clarification sought from the co-opted member, the Assistant Director clarified that although funding ended on 31 August 2017, workstreams that had commenced would continue beyond that date. It was noted that a report to Committee could be necessary to present proposals beyond 2017.

Decision

The report was noted.

13. 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 matters could be dealt with without delay.

- (i) The Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on 25th July 2017 at 4.00 pm. The Committee was advised that it was currently anticipated that there would only be one agenda item for consideration at that meeting.
- (ii) In response to concerns regarding the non-attendance of Young People representatives at both this meeting and the previous meeting of the Committee, the Director undertook to investigate the reason for the non-attendances with appropriate Officers.
- (iii) Reference was made to presentations which had been made by Young Inspectors and Junior Inspectors who had visited Hartlepool and North Tees Hospitals. The Inspectors were complimented on their reports which had demonstrated the efforts of the young people involved. Hospital staff had expressed their appreciation of the outcomes and the Committee was advised that it was intended that there would be follow up visits in six months. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation also and suggested that arrangements be made for the presentation to be made also to a future meeting of this Committee.
- (iv) It was highlighted that week commencing 10th July was 'Young Peoples' Week' which included the Corporate Parent Forum's Annual BBQ on Tuesday 11th July. It was agreed that a summary of events would be prepared and circulated to all members of the Committee, for information.

The meeting concluded at 16:30 p.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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