

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

17 July 2018

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

Present:

Councillor: Brenda Harrison (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Marjorie James, John Lauderdale, Sue Little, Shane Moore, and Katie Trueman

Co-opted members:

Jo Heaton, C of E Diocesan Representative

Alan Chapman, Special Schools Head Representative

Officers: Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Children's and Families' Services

Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education

Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Thomas, Mark Tilling (Secondary Schools Head Representative), David Turner (Primary Schools Head Representative) and Evelyn Leck.

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Councillors Paul Beck, Sue Little and Katie Trueman (Vice Chair) as new Members of the Committee.

14. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sue Little declared a personal interest in minute 16 and the Headteachers declared their usual personal interests.

15. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2018.

Received.

16. Exmoor Grove Children's Home and Stockton Road Children's Home Statements of Purpose
(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

For Members to approve the Statement of Purpose for Exmoor Grove Children's Home and the Statement of Purpose for Stockton Road Children's Home.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the introduction of the requirement for a Local Authority to review its Statements of Purpose on an annual basis. The Annual report and Statement of Purpose provided families, carers, children and young people and other agencies with information relating to the service provided for children and young people within the Children's Homes. The Statement of Purpose for Exmoor Grove Children's Home was attached at Appendix A and the Statement of Purpose for Stockton Road Children's Home was attached at Appendix B.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director, Children's and Families' Services responded that the needs of the children were assessed on an individual basis with specialist support provided where required.

The Chair expressed admiration for both of the children's homes which she had visited in the previous year, noting in particular, the family feel of the Stockton Road Children's Home. It was noted that both homes provided the young people who reside there with great opportunities to progress through their lives and plan for their future.

Decision

That the Statements of Purpose for both Exmoor Grove Children's Home and Stockton Road Children's Home were approved.

17. Proposed Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider a response to be submitted to the governing bodies of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools in relation to their joint proposal to establish a federation between the two schools.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the proposal to establish a formal federation between Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools. The proposal document was attached at Appendix A which provided further contextual information in relation to the two schools and set out the reasons why the two schools were proposing to federate. The document also included the proposed governance and leadership structure for the federation which included a single governing body and an Executive Headteacher overseeing the two schools. The view of the Committee was sought as part of the consultation process being undertaken in accordance with statutory procedures.

Whilst Members were generally supportive of the proposals, there were concerns expressed that the consultation period would run from 18 June until 14 September, which included the six week school summer holiday period. It was suggested that the Governing Body may wish to extend this consultation period by six weeks to ensure as full a consultation exercise was undertaken as possible. In response to questions from Members, the Assistant Director, Education confirmed that as both schools were maintained schools, all staff within the schools would continue to be employed by the Local Authority and both schools would be subject to individual Ofsted inspections.

A Member expressed disappointment that Members were being involved at what appeared to be the final stages of the process and reassurance was sought that as well as parents of children currently attending both schools, that parents of future prospective pupils were also included within the consultation process. It was highlighted that Appendix A stated that all parents of children attending both schools had been informed by letter, text and email as well as consultation being undertaken with other consultees, including staff and the wider community of the Golden Flatts and Lynnfield areas. In addition to this, both schools had held open days. The Assistant Director, Education confirmed that Members' views and comments would be forwarded to the Governing Bodies as part of the consultation process prior to any decision to federate being taken.

The Headteacher from the Federation of Hart and St Peter's, Elwick Primary Schools' clarified that there were regulations that governed the use of schools' budgets within a Federation whether that was school-specific funding or funding that could be utilised across the Federation.

It was noted in the report that the final proposals would be submitted to the Children's Services Committee in the autumn term.

Decision

That the above views and comments be forwarded to the Governing Bodies of both Schools.

18. Co-opted Members of Children's Services Committee (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider the nominations received for the co-opted membership of the Children's Services Committee as detailed in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

Issue(s) for consideration

The terms of office of the co-opted members of the Children's Services Committee had expired and nominations were sought as follows:

- a) Education Representatives – one representative each from within the primary, secondary and special schools within the Borough;
- b) Church Representatives – one representative each from within the C of E Diocese and RC Diocese; and
- c) Parent Governor Representatives – one representative from within the primary, secondary and special schools within the Borough.

The terms of office were for four years from June 2018 – May 2022 and the following nominations were received:

- a) Primary – David Turner (Headteacher Rift House Primary School); Secondary – Mark Tilling (Headteacher High Tunstall College of Science); and Special – Zoe Westley (Headteacher Springwell Special School).
- b) RC Diocese – Stephen Hammond (Headteacher English Martyrs School and Sixth Form); C of E Diocese – Jo Heaton (Headteacher Federation of Hart and St Peter's, Elwick).

c) No nominations received.

The Chair extended her gratitude to Alan Chapman, Headteacher of Catcote Academy who had been a co-opted member of the Committee for some years. On behalf of the Committee, appreciation was expressed for all Alan's hard work and commitment to the Committee over the years.

Decision

The nominations received for the vacancies as noted were supported with the terms of office to commence with immediate effect until May 2022.

19. 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.

Minute 20 – Review of Child and Mental Health Support (CAMHS)– Update Report

20. Any Other Business - Review of Child and Mental Health Service (CAMHS) (Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)

In response to a question from the Chair, the Assistant Director, Education confirmed that a full scale review of the Child and Mental Health Service (CAMHS) had been undertaken by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust with contributions from all stakeholders. A Member expressed disappointment that this report was likely to be released during the six week school holiday period making it difficult for schools and those children receiving the service to be informed of any proposed changes to be introduced before September 2018. Discussions were ongoing in relation to the timing of the release of the report produced as a result of the review which would be shared with all partners, including Members and schools as soon as this was available.

Decision

That the outcome of the review of the Child and Mental Health Service be reported to a future meeting of the Committee as soon as it was available.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19 September at 4.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm

H MARTIN

INTERIM CHIEF SOLICITOR

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