
MEETING	EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	28 OCTOBER 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), HYMAN, MORLEY, MERRETT, BLANCHARD, FUNNELL AND DR D SELLICK (CO-OPTED STATUTORY MEMBER)
APOLOGIES	MRS L BRANTON AND MR W SCHOFIELD (CO-OPTED STATUTORY MEMBERS)

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda, in addition to the list of general personal interests circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Hyman requested that the list of general interests be updated to reflect the fact that he was no longer a governor at Huntington Primary School.

Dr Sellick requested that the list be updated to note that he was the Church of England representative on the Governing Body of Derwent Infant and Junior School.

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the meeting held on 9 September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

30. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

31. REVIEW OF EXTENDED SCHOOLS AGENDA - SCOPING REPORT

Members considered a report outlining the proposed methods for carrying out the review of the Extended Schools Agenda and were asked to agree the timetable for carrying out the review and the methodology.

It had been proposed that the survey would be sent to all families within the city who have a six-year-old child. Discussion took place as to whether it would be appropriate to extend the survey to include parents of children of other ages in order to ensure that the information received was not

focussed solely on childcare issues and suggestions were put forward for how to do this.

Members agreed that the questionnaire should include a question to enable families to give their views on whether the extended schools provision was meeting their needs in respect of other children (of different ages) in the family as well as the 6 year old.

Members questioned whether it was possible to acquire information directly from schools. Officers advised that in most cases the extended schools facilities were coordinated through external partners and there was no requirement for schools to hold specific information on the services although it was agreed that some schools would hold some information.

It was noted that there was a requirement to carry out a childcare sufficiency audit on an annual basis. The Assistant Director of Partnerships and Early Intervention explained that future audits could include questions on extended school provision although this would not be in time for this scrutiny review.

Consideration was given to the questions to be included in the survey and Members agreed that these should focus on the following issues.

- What services do families require?
- Does the provision enable those who were not in employment to return to work and does it allow people to work part time/irregular hours.
- Demographic information in regard to service users and specifically whether it reaches socially disadvantaged people and if not why.
- Reasons for not taking up the provision which may include, cost or quality of provision
- Are the services provided sufficiently comprehensive?
- Whether parents are satisfied with the quality of the provision

Members were asked to consider which (if any) Member of the Committee would be its representative on the Multi-Agency Steering Group. The Assistant Director of Partnerships and Early Intervention explained that a review of the composition and constitution of the Steering Group was taking place to ensure that its functions were fit for purpose in driving forward the Extended Schools Agenda. He reported that one option under consideration was to establish a smaller strategic steering group and for the existing body to be retained as a consultative group. Members agreed that as the scrutiny review was due to be completed by April 2009 it was not suitable for a Member to be appointed as a formal representative on the Group however that it would be beneficial for a Member to attend the next meeting of the Group which was due to take place in November in order to feedback to the Committee.

Members discussed the proposal to hold an informal meeting to discuss findings with external providers and gather information on issues raised by

providers. Members suggested that this informal meeting should commence at 6pm following the scheduled formal committee meeting on 24 February 2009.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Members note the contents of the scoping report and formally agreed the methodology and timetable for carrying out this review as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
- (ii) That Councillor Funnell and Councillor Brooks attend the next meeting of the Multi Agency Steering Group on 4 November 2008 as observers and that Mr Schofield (Co-opted Member) be asked if he is available to attend the meeting as a governor of a primary school.^{1 2}
- (iii) That the Scrutiny Officer liaise with Members regarding specific questions to be included in the survey to families with a 6 year old based on the issues discussed at the meeting.³
- (iv) That the Committee visit the after school clubs as detailed below:
 - Yearsley Grove Primary School - 24 November between 4pm and 6pm
 - Wheldrake and Fishergate Primary Schools - 5 December 2008 between 3.15pm and 6pm.⁴
- (v) That the Scrutiny officer liaise with Members regarding questions to be put to existing users of Extended Schools Services and the service providers during the site visits and that these questions be based on those used in the questionnaire.⁵
- (vi) That a letter be sent to all primary schools asking them what data they hold with regard to the needs of families in relation to childcare and extended school activities for the 5 to 11 year age range and areas that they are trying to develop.⁶

Reason: To progress this review in line with the timeframe agreed for this review.

Action Required

1. Scrutiny Officer to contact Mr Schofield to request that he attend the next meeting of the Multi Agency Steering Group. MC
2. Members attending the Multi-Agency Steering Group feedback to the next meeting of the Committee. MC
3. Scrutiny Officer to e-mail Members to request suggestions for specific questions for the survey based on the areas discussed at the meeting and then liaise with the Early Years Team to compile the survey. MC
4. Scrutiny officer to liaise with providers regarding visits and coordinate travel arrangements (either minibus or car share) MC
5. Scrutiny Officer to e-mail Members for suggestions and draw up list of questions to be used. MC
6. Officers to e-mail Members for suggestions and draw up MC

list of questions to be used.

32. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF PREVIOUS SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with an update on the implementation of recommendations made as a result of two previously completed scrutiny reviews – “Inclusion in York Schools” and “Post 16 Inclusion”.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That recommendations 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the previously completed scrutiny review on “Inclusion in York Schools” be signed off as having been fully implemented. ¹
- (ii) That the following recommendations in the previously completed scrutiny review on “Inclusion in York Schools” be brought back to the meeting on 7 April 2009:

Recommendation 1 – statistics requested regarding the take-up of inclusion training by governors

Recommendation 3 – statistics requested regarding the take-up of inclusion training by staff dealing with special needs

- (iii) That recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in previously completed scrutiny review on “Post 16 Inclusion” be signed off as having been fully implemented. ²
- (iv) That the following recommendations in the previously completed scrutiny review on “Post 16 Inclusion” be brought back to the meeting on 7 April 2009:

Recommendation 4 – more specific information requested regarding work experience for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties

Recommendation 7 – further information requested on tutoring for all students, but particularly those with emotional or behavioural difficulties and any issues in respect of staff training in this matter.

Recommendation 10 – update requested

REASON: To raise awareness of those recommendations which still have to be implemented.

Action Required

- 1. Scrutiny Officer to circulate Inclusion Strategy 2007-10 to Members by e-mail MC
- 2. That the attachments omitted from the agenda in relation MC

to recommendation 9 for the Post 16 Inclusion review be circulated to Members.

33. EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2008-2009 AND EXTRACT FROM THE EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN OF ITEMS FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES EMAP

Consideration was given to the work plan for Education Scrutiny Committee and to an extract from the Executive Forward Plan of items for the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services and Advisory Panel.

The Chair stated that the intention had been to invite the Executive Member from Children's Services EMAP to the meeting on 3 December 2008. However it was agreed that as the scrutiny review on the Extended Schools Agenda was still in its early stages, it would be more beneficial to postpone her attendance until the January meeting.

Members noted that the incorrect forward plan items had been attached to the agenda. Officers apologised for the error and advised that the relevant forward plan items would be attached to the next agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Member from Children's Services EMAP be invited to attend the meeting on 7 January 2009 instead of the meeting on 3 December 2008.

REASON: The Committee would have more detailed information by this stage as to issues arising from the review of the Extended Schools Agenda.

Councillor Aspden, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.20 pm].