
MEETING	EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	17 JUNE 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), HYMAN, MORLEY, MERRETT, BLANCHARD, DR D SELICK AND LOOKER (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS FUNNELL

8. 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.

Cllr Hyman declared a personal interest in the business generally, as a governor of Huntington Primary School

Cllr Looker declared a personal interest in the business generally, as a governor of Park Grove Primary School and of Canon Lee School.

Cllr Blanchard declared a personal interest in the business generally, as the Chair of the York Board of Young Enterprise.

Cllr Merrett declared a personal interest in the business generally as he is a parent of a child who attends St Paul's Primary School.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

11. DRAFT FINAL REPORT FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS REVIEW

Members considered the draft final report and annexes for the review of School Governors (Part A). The report summarised the results from:

- the individual surveys issued to all 1090 governors,

- the exit questionnaire issued to governors who resigned since the start of the academic year 2006-07
- the informal consultation held in February for all governors
- the questionnaire issued to each schools governing body requesting further information to support the review.

Members discussed the current composition of governing bodies and recognised that in order for the upgraded Governor Support and Development Services (GSDS) database to continue to be an effective tool, governing bodies would need to be encouraged to keep the information contained up-to-date. The database would help identify gaps in skills, ways in improving the diversity of governing bodies to reflect the local community and help identify future training requirements. Members expressed concerns that currently community governors were getting filled by LEA governors and recommended that the GSDS help encourage governing bodies to consider the communities they represent and the ethnic balance when recruiting potential Community governors.

Members noted that Primary Schools preferred whole governing body training sessions and Secondary Schools preferred online training sessions. The GSDS were currently working on developing these training sessions. Members commended the GSDS on the current training and development sessions available and recommended that the GSDS should continue to identify the best and most appropriate forms of training.

After a detailed discussion Members recommended the following amendments to the draft final report:

- Each objective should result in the following recommendations:

Objective (i), recommendation A & D,
 A, Continue to develop improved methods for advertising governor vacancies, eg by targeting specific organizations, in order to attract a more diverse mix of individuals to the role of governor.

D, Regularly maintain, update and develop their database to ensure it captures the information necessary to reflect changing circumstances.

Objective (ii), recommendation A & B
 A, Continue to develop improved methods for advertising governor vacancies, eg by targeting specific organizations, in order to attract a more diverse mix of individuals to the role of governor

B, Create an information guide to encourage governing bodies to consider the communities they represent and the ethnic balance when recruiting potential Community governors.

Objective (iii), new recommendation E, Information on best practice to be shared with all York schools.

Objective (iv), new recommendation F, Governor Support and Development Service should be encouraged to consider the most applicable form of training, whether it be whole governing body or online training.

- Section 5 amend first sentence to read; At a meeting in May 2008, the Committee considered a scoping report for Part B of this review, having received an update from the Head of Early Years & Extended Schools.
- Second sentence of last paragraph in section 6 amend sentence to read; Much thought was given to the content of the questionnaire in an effort to compliment the information already gathered as a result of the individual governor survey.
- Second sentence of section 16 amend sentence to read; The committee recognised that this approach was not ideal and as it relied heavily on the good will of existing members (and their knowledge of the skills of those they approached) it ran the risk of duplicating the existing profile.
- Second sentence of section 19 amend sentence to read; The responses are shown at Annex E.

The Scrutiny Officer agreed to make the amendments to the report which would be submitted to the Scrutiny Management Committee in due course for its comments.

Members thanked all officers who had been involved in this review.

RESOLVED: That the draft final report be approved as amended and referred to SMC for consideration.

REASON: To ensure this review complies with scrutiny procedures, protocols and workplans.

12. UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS RISING FROM A PREVIOUS SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE EXTENDED SCHOOLS SERVICE

Members received a verbal update from the Head of Early Years and Extended Schools on work undertaken in the recommendations from a previous scrutiny review of the Extended Schools Service.

Members were informed that:

- The Extended Schools Service were currently 4th best in the Region and 10th best in the Country.
- All schools were working towards meeting the core offer to provide a safe place before and after school for all 0-19 year olds.
- Two years worth of government funding was still available to improve the consultation.
- The Service was working in partnership with Headteachers, governors and the voluntary section to ensure that the extended school service provision was integrated into schools with a shared partnership provision

The outcomes arising from the recommendations approved by the Executive on 12th September 2006 are attached to these minutes as annex 1.

Some members expressed continuing concerns about the community use provision, the quality of what was on offer and the costings to hire the school. It was suggested that a central letting point might be made available to allow the service to cover all demands and identify where the issues were.

After a detailed discussion Members agreed to consider a feasibility study at the next meeting of the Committee on a possible topic looking into the effectiveness of the current model for delivering extended schools provision with particular regard to community use.

Members thanked the officer for her update and noted that the recommendations had been met.

- Resolved:
- (i) That the update on the approved recommendations be noted and the team be commended on their achievements to date.
 - (ii) That a feasibility study be submitted to the next meeting on Extended Schools Provision (community use)

Reason: To note the work undertaken on the recommendations from a previous scrutiny review of Extended Schools Service.

13. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

Members considered a list of possible scrutiny topics for future review and agreed the following:

- Not to proceed with the review of the Schools Governors Review (part B)
- To receive a feasibility study into Extended Schools Provision (Community Use) at the next meeting of the Committee.

- Request the Cultural Quarter Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee consider whether it wishes to look at the Promotion of York Pride through Schools as part of its review.
- Not to review the Compliance with the Implementation of Statutory Provisions topic and members requested that the Scrutiny Officer acknowledges the request from the NASUWT and inform them of their decision.
- Invite the Executive Member of Children's Services EMAP to the meeting due to be held on 3rd December 2008.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the following possible topics for review be put forward for discussion with feasibility studies at the next meeting of the Committee:
 - Extended Schools Provision
 - 14-19 Specialised Diplomas
 - (ii) That the following topic be put forward for an update at the next meeting of the Committee.
 - Young Peoples Service

REASON: To ensure work can proceed in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols

14. EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2008-09

Members considered and agreed a plan of future work for the Committee.

Meeting Date	Work Programme	Responsible Officer
30 th July 08	Receive update on implementation of recommendations arising from the scrutiny review previously carried out by the 'Young People in York Scrutiny Panel'.	Paul Murphy (Asst Director of Partnerships & Early Intervention)
	Extended Schools Provision (Community Use)	Heather Marsland (Head of Early Years & Extended Schools)
	14-19 Specialised Diplomas	To be confirmed
9 Sept 2008	Consider a scoping report for the new review as agreed at the previous meeting and agree a timeframe for completion.	SO

28 Oct 08	Receive interim report for new scrutiny review	SO
3 Dec 08	Invite Executive Member from Children's Services EMAP to the meeting	SO

Cllr Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].

Board and Topic	Rec No.	Recommendations as approved by the Executive on 12 September 2006	Update on Implementation of Recommendations as at June 2008
Education Scrutiny Committee: Extended Schools Service in York (Review completed in July 2006)	1	The Director of Children's Services will review the model of extended schools provision to align with and reflect the core offer of May 2006. This should be completed by September 2006	The new core offer has been reviewed and implemented and schools have had 1:1 training from the Extended Schools and Remodelling Advisors (ESRA's) attached to the Early Years and Extended Schools Service
	2	The Director of Children's Services will support schools by creating profiles of local community need. This will assist in the development of services for the community. This should be completed by September 2007	The Family Information Service within Early Years and Extended Schools has undertaken an audit with parents across the city and provided this in written form. The ESRA's have worked with schools and their local Shared Community Partnerships in order to undertake additional consultation excersises with parents and the wider community in order to aid the planning of new Extended Services in schools.
	3	The Governments intention is that every school in the country should be working as an extended school by 2010. Council will support this ambitious target by providing appropriate training and support for school staff and governors.	City of York has met and exceeded this ambitious target. Every school in York is now meeting the core offer. Training and support for school staff and governors has been provided by ESRA's who are attached to each school and Shared Community Partnership. Additional support has been provided by the Schools Business Support Service (within LCCS Finance) including a new part time post and another part time post is being filled by a headteacher of an Integrated Children's Centre. New guidance is on the website and a new forum, chaired by the AD will enhance quality
	4	The Council will support the shared foundation partnerships by encouraging the operation of a flexible and affordable lettings policy for accommodating extended school and community activities.	The new Extended Schools Business Support Coordinator Post, currently held by Paul Shepherd within the Schools Business Support Service, will now be in a position to advance this work.
	5	The Council supports the clustering of schools in order to develop services and business support which extends provision.	The Shared Community Partnerships are advancing this model and several are clustering sucessfully. The model will be further advanced at the new Extended Schools Steering group chaired by AD Paul Murphy

Board and Topic	Rec No.	Recommendations as approved by the Executive on 12 September 2006	Update on Implementation of Recommendations as at June 2008
Education Scrutiny Committee: Extended Schools Service in York (Review completed in July 2006)	6	The Council will take up the opportunity to bid to be a Pathfinder authority in order to improve parenting support	The city has been successful in becoming a Pathfinder for Parenting and Early Intervention. This brings 3 years funding (until 2011) of £100k per year. The Parenting Strategy is headed up by Linda Murphy.
	7	The Council will take up the invitation to bid to be a Pathfinder authority in order to look at developing longer free sessions for 3 and 4 year olds in education, care and play.	Early Years and Extended Schools Service gained a Pathfinder for 3 and 4 year olds. This brings £1and a half million pounds each year until 2011 and then continuously as the pilot becomes national. The Early Years and Extended Schools Service was also successful in becoming a Pathfinder for 2 year olds £316,000 each year 2011.
	8	The extended schools provision will be reviewed by Scrutiny in March 2008	