

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services held at County Hall, Lewes, on 15 June 2006.

PRESENT	Councillor Gadd (Chairman) Councillors Kramer, Ost, St Pierre, Mrs Tidy, and Whetstone Ms A Bamber (Parent Governor) Councillor Silverson, District / Borough representative Marie Casey, Hastings and St Leonards PCT (Health)
Chief Officer	Matt Dunkley, Director of Children's Services
Legal Adviser	Jonathan Ruddock-West, Assistant Director of Law and Performance Management
Scrutiny Officer	Gillian Mauger
Also present	Jane Carter, Manager of Food Advisory Service

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 RESOLVED – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 March 2006.

2. APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elkin, Councillor Field, Mr T Campbell (RC Diocese), Mr J Taylor (C of E Diocese), Mrs S Maynard (Parent Governor) and Mrs Carole Shaves MBE (Police Authority representative)

3. REPORTS

3.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

4. CENTRALLY MANAGED SCHOOLS MEALS SERVICE IN EAST SUSSEX

4.1 The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services that updated the committee on school meals service developments since a previous report in June 2005. Jane Carter, Manager of Food Advisory Service was also present to answer questions.

4.2 The committee asked the Director of Children's Services if it was policy to insist all fresh produce was bought within the UK to reduce 'food miles'. The Director advised the committee that under procurement legislation they could not stipulate which countries produce came from. A new contract starts in August 2007 and within the tendering process for this it may be possible for them to achieve a voluntary obligation by contractors to source their produce locally.

4.3 The committee suggested the customer satisfaction survey should also target those people who did not take up the meals and ask what would encourage them to do so.

4.4 The committee questioned the involvement of the health service in the healthy eating agenda. Members were informed that from September 2006 a Food and Health Co-

ordinator would be working with them and would be involved in developing taster sessions for both parents and pupils and midday supervisor training. The committee welcomed the progress.

4.5 RESOLVED – to (1) endorse the Department's approach to the provision of integrated healthy food approaches in East Sussex's schools and;

(2) welcome and support the approach to endeavour to seek locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables through the new contract and;

(3) participate in a member visit to Beacon Community College and Buxted CE School on Monday 26 June 2006.

5. VISITS BY CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management.

5.2 Members supported the idea of having two separate visits, each to a different area of the county, to look at children's centres, SEN schools and family centres.

RESOLVED – to (1) support the idea of a day of visits taking place; and

(2) include a visit to a Pupil Referral Unit on the itinerary if possible.

6. FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES

6.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Performance Management. The report suggested that the committee establishes a review board to carry out a review of an aspect of work undertaken by the Youth Offending Team.

6.2 Following a suggestion of a review, the Director of Children's Services advised the committee the Youth Development Service are currently in the process of a restructure so a review at the current time would not be appropriate. The committee agreed to request an update report in a year's time to review the impact of the restructure.

6.3 RESOLVED – to (1) agree to carry out a review of an aspect of work undertaken by the Youth Offending Team;

(2) accept nominations for membership to the review board from Marie Casey, Councillors Kramer, Ost and St Pierre;

(3) receive a report on the Youth Development Service in a year's time to review the impact of the restructure;

(3) canvass those members not present at the meeting to establish if they would be interested in sitting on the review board; and

(4) bring the scrutiny review project initiation document to the September meeting for information.

7. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2005-2006 WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Committee considered the future work programme for Scrutiny Committee meetings and highlighted any items that it wished to be added to it.

- 7.2 RESOLVED – to (1) request a presentation on the anti-bullying strategy at the September meeting;
- (2) arrange an away day for committee members during the summer;
- (3) receive a report at a future meeting on how the local authority executes its corporate parenting role.

8. FORWARD PLAN

8.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period June to October 2006 with regard to items relating to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

8.2 RESOLVED – to note the Forward Plan without comment.