

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Sylvia Tidy and the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett on Monday 6 October 2014 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillors St Pierre and Shuttleworth spoke on items 4, 5 and 6 (minute 14, 15 and 16)

11. MINUTES

11.1 The Lead Members approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 10 September 2014.

12. INTERESTS

12.1 Councillor St Pierre declared a personal interest in item 4 in that she is a governor at a school in Lewes, but she did not consider this to be prejudicial.

13. REPORTS

13.1 A copy of each report referred to below is contained in the minute book.

14. AREA REVIEWS OF SCHOOL PLACES

14.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval to conduct area reviews of the organisation of early years and primary places in the Lewes and Heathfield areas.

DECISION

14.2 **RESOLVED** to approve area reviews of early years and primary school places in the Lewes and Heathfield areas to ensure there is sufficient provision to meet demand for places now and in the future, but also to look more widely at the organisation of schools in each area to make certain they are well placed to deliver a viable, high quality education to their local communities.

Reasons

14.3 In the Lewes area a higher level of births in 2009/10 and 2010/11 coupled with inward migration, together with GP registration data, indicates Year R shortfalls in 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. Longer term, taking into account planned new housing development in the town, Year R shortfalls are currently predicted to continue into the next decade.

14.4 In April 2013 a strategy was agreed with the Lewes primary heads to provide additional places in the area, with feasibility studies to be undertaken at Southover CE Primary School and Iford and Kingston CE Primary School. There are also concerns about the pattern of parent choice and the sustainability of smaller schools.

14.5 Births in the Heathfield area have fluctuated but continue to remain well below the number of school places available. The level of surplus places in the area at the January 2014 pupil census was 15%. It is important to consider the effect of an over-supply of places on schools in terms of their long term sustainability, both financially and in terms of their capacity to sustain improvements in standards.

15. POLICY FOR PERSONAL EDUCATION BUDGETS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLAN

15.1 The Lead Members considered a report which sought agreement of a policy for personal education budgets for children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan.

DECISION

15.2 RESOLVED to agree the proposed policy.

Reasons

15.3 The SEND Code of Practice 2014 explains that local authorities must arrange for children with a special educational need or disabilities for whom they are responsible, and their parents, and young people with SEN or disabilities for whom they are responsible, to be provided with information and advice about matters relating to their SEN or disabilities, including matters relating to health and social care. This must include information, advice and support on the take up and management of Personal Budgets. The policy will be supported by operational guidance.

16. OFSTED INSPECTION OF EAST SUSSEX ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN

16.1 The Lead Members considered a report which presented the draft Action Plan devised to secure improvement in the local authority arrangements for school improvement.

DECISION

16.2 RESOLVED to note the draft Ofsted Action Plan.

Reasons

16.3 The Council is committed to improving educational outcomes for all children and young people in the county, as part of one of its key priorities: driving economic growth. We are confident we have the right strategy in place to secure swift improvement in the performance of our schools.