

Children's Services Overview Committee

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 2 July 2013.

Present:

Michael Bevan (Chairman)

Pauline Batstone (Vice-Chairman)

Dan Brember, Mike Byatt, Barrie Cooper, Stephen Hill, Colin Jamieson, Mary Kahn, Margaret Phipps and Daryl Turner.

Rebecca Knox attended under Standing Order 54(1)

Officers attending:

Jackie Last (Acting Director for Children's Services), Sian Dobson (Children's Services Group Finance Manager), and Rebecca Thomas (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

For certain items as appropriate:

Les Gardner (Head of Early Intervention Services), Mike Hoskin (Arts Development Manager), Peter Jackson (Senior Consultation and Research Officer), Paul Leivers (Head of Community Services), Stuart Riddle (Acting Head of Children and Families), Anne Salter (Head of Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance) and David Trotter (Policy and Performance Officer, Performance Overview)

Apologies for Absence

62. Apologies for absence were received from Steve Butler, Beryl Ezzard, Susan Jefferies and Mike Lovell.

Code of Conduct

63. There were no declarations by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Terms of Reference

64. The Committee received the existing Terms of Reference for the Children's Services Overview Committee.

Noted

Appointments

65. The Committee considered nominations for the appointment of the following statutory co-opted members (voting on Education matters only) of the Committee:

- 2 Parent Governor Representatives and 2 substitutes;
- Roman Catholic Dioceses of Plymouth and Portsmouth; and
- Bath and Wells, Salisbury and Winchester Diocesan Councils for Education.

Resolved

66. That the following statutory co-opted members (voting on Education matters only) be appointed for the period up to the quadrennial elections of the County Council in 2017:-

Parent Governor Representatives

Stephen Hill and Mary Kahn.

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Roman Catholic Dioceses of Plymouth and Portsmouth
Michael Turnbull.

Bath and Wells, Salisbury and Winchester Diocesan Councils for Education
Nominations to be confirmed. It was reported that the Dioceses have been approached again by Democratic Services officers.

Minutes

67. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Minute 36.2 – Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Children's Services

68.1 Members were advised that the first meeting of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Commissioning Group had taken place and several new processes had been put into place. The Head of Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance agreed to present a formal update to members at a future meeting of the Committee. New members of the Committee were advised that a report giving background on the subject had been considered at the last meeting.

Minute 40.3 and 40.4 – Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13, including Meeting Future Challenges Update

68.2 In response to a question, the Acting Director for Children's Services confirmed the development, benefits and funding arrangements of the Music Service.

Minute 41.5 – Children Missing from Care

68.3 A copy of the briefing note on Children Missing from Care was provided for members at the meeting and it was agreed that this would also be sent via email. Members asked for a further update on this issue at a future meeting.

The Dorset Learning Partnership: A new relationship between the Dorset County Council and Schools

69.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services that outlined a proposal for the establishment of a new Dorset Learning Partnership arrangement between the local authority and schools.

69.2 The proposal was in response to the changing national landscape in which schools were more diverse, more autonomous and had more responsibility for school improvement. A summary of the resulting new roles for both schools and the local authority was included within the report. The Acting Director confirmed that headteachers had been consulted and were very positive about the proposals.

69.3 The Dorset Learning Partnership would be based upon an innovative model of co-leadership between the local authority and schools, led by a new Dorset Learning Partnership Group. This group would develop a joint vision for all Dorset's learners and would lead annual action plans to identify and address priority whole-system issues across Dorset's schools.

69.4 Members voiced concerns regarding the monitoring of the proposed Group and its effectiveness, in particular in regards to the lack of an elected member as part of its composition. The Acting Director for Children's Services advised that there would be a mid way review in February 2014 and an annual review at the end of the academic year. The Overview Committee would also receive regular update reports.

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69.5 The first meeting of the Group would be held in September 2013 when the development of its draft strategy plan and governance arrangements would be considered. The complexities of this were explained and members were asked to note that the Group would initially be developing a greater understanding of the impact of the changes in education, local authority and community matters in order to maximise benefits and partnership working.

69.6 Clarification was sought regarding the arrangements for dealing with armed forces and military families who had to regularly relocate. Some members raised concerns that these families should not be disadvantaged when trying to obtain places in local schools. The Acting Director for Children's Services informed members that this was managed through the Council's admissions policy. The Policy had been revised recently and approved by Cabinet for admissions next year. She also informed members that the Dorset's Schools Forum had oversight of some aspects of admission arrangements. Detail of how to access the Admissions Policy would be sent to members.

69.7 Further comments were received in regards to the provision of sufficient places and officers were asked to review arrangements where two siblings of a similar age went to different schools. The Acting Director for Children's Services reiterated that the information contained within the report was for reference purposes in relation to the formation of the Dorset Learning Partnership Group. However, concerns raised would be noted and the Cabinet informed when the Admissions Policy for the future year was presented.

69.8 A member highlighted that in addition to building upon what already worked well in Dorset, the Partnership needed to look and build upon any identified weaknesses.

69.9 Members reiterated the need for greater elected member involvement with the Partnership. Officers advised that the Cabinet Member for Education and Communications attended the Dorset Schools' Forum and there was an open invitation for members to attend these meetings. Confirmation of meeting dates would be circulated to members. The Acting Director confirmed that the intention of the Learning Partnership was to be an officer professional network and that matters would be reported to members as appropriate.

69.10 General concerns surrounding effective communication were highlighted and a member of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee stated they were considering how this could be improved. The Acting Director for Children's Services advised that the Head of School Organisation would ensure that members were informed and invited to events in their electoral divisions in accordance with existing protocols.

Recommended

70. That the Cabinet consider and approve the document containing a proposal to establish a new Dorset Learning Partnership between the local authority and schools.

Reason for Recommendation

71. To continue and build upon positive partnership arrangements between the local authority and schools in order to secure whole-system improvement and positive learning outcomes for children and young people.

Time for Transformation Programme

72.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services on the Time for Transformation (TfT) programme being implemented within the Children's Services Directorate to ensure services were sustainable in the future.

72.2 Members were asked to note that the current stage of the programme related to a restructure and integration of the management of services at the most senior level. As services reconfigured into nine service unit areas, further detailed work would be required to improve systems and processes. In the longer term, further changes to maintain high quality services within a context of high demands and needs would be required.

72.3 The formal implementation of the TfT programme started in April 2013 and would continue during 2013/14 with a view to the main organisational changes being in place by April 2014. Members were provided with a handout demonstrating the new structure and a summary of the new arrangements was given. In particular, members were asked to note that the Directorate would be divided into three main sections, as follows:

- i. Strategy, Partnerships and Performance (incorporating Quality and Performance; Strategy Service Planning and Commissioning; and Partnerships and Business Support)
- ii. Learning and Inclusion (incorporating Specialist Services for CWAD/have SEN; Early Years and Educational Improvements; and Traded Services); and
- iii. Family support (incorporating North and West Dorset; East Dorset, Purbeck and Christchurch; and Weymouth and Portland)

72.4 The three Head of Service posts would be filled by two existing Heads of Services and the third (Head of Family Support) would be advertised externally. Nine service units would be created under the management of the three Heads of Service.

72.5 In response to a question, officers advised that the total financial savings from the restructure would not be known until all phases of the Programme were completed. However, a clearer indication of the financial benefits would be available in time for the next meeting of the Committee. Members were asked to note that any redeployment of staff would be made in accordance with the County's collective agreements and in consultation with the Unions.

72.6 Members accepted the necessity for change, but stressed the need for integration and collaboration with other services (for example the Public Health Service). The Head of Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance confirmed the good relationship that already existed with the Public Health Service, including representation on the Pan Dorset Strategic Commissioning Group for Children's Services. The Chair of the Public Health Overview Committee advised that for the first year, representations on the Public Health Overview Committee would continue as before. A review would then be carried out after this period to consider the interface between Committees. Progress on the Directorate changes will be reported to members at future meetings.

Resolved

73. That the Children's Services Directorate's Time for Transformation programme and the overall rationale for the change programme be supported.

Peer Challenge on Domestic Violence

74.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services which detailed the feedback from a peer challenge on the effectiveness of arrangements for combating domestic violence, and promoting the welfare of children affected by domestic violence. The challenge, completed as part of a regional programme of sector led improvement, was conducted by a team led by a former Director for Children's Services, and three Domestic Violence Co-ordinators from two local authorities.

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74.2 At a multi-agency feedback event on 15 May 2013, the challenge team identified several areas of strength in Dorset. The following areas for development were also identified:

- Clarity around the governance arrangements and the decision making environment.
- Greater understanding in relation to levels of local need mapping service provision including resources.
- Improvements in information sharing.
- Quality assurance and assessing impact on children and families

74.3 The Acting Director for Children's Services advised members that the Dorset Safeguarding Children Board had established a Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group. This Group commenced work on some of the early actions arising from the Peer Challenge and were developing a work plan, in particular mapping of the policy, planning and funding framework around domestic violence initiatives that would help clarify the local governance arrangements.

74.4 A member commented on the importance of the subject of domestic violence and of broader safeguarding issues and asked officers for a briefing on the subjects, specifically including members' responsibility. The Acting Director for Children's Services welcomed the suggestion and confirmed that a seminar on Safeguarding Children would be arranged. Due to the seriousness of the topic, concerns were raised that member attendance at seminars was historically low and it was suggested that the seminar could be open to members of district and borough councils also. Members also suggested that a section covering domestic violence issues be incorporated in their handbooks. In order to raise awareness, officers confirmed that information would be placed on www.dorsetforyou.com.

Resolved

75.1 That the findings of the Peer Challenge be noted and more detailed recommendations provided at a future meeting.

75.2 That a section covering domestic violence issues be incorporated within Members' handbooks.

75.3 That a seminar on Safeguarding Children be arranged for all members of the County Council.

Corporate Parenting – Strengthening the Role of Elected Members

76.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services on proposals to strengthen the corporate parenting role of elected members by creating a new governing body to improve the scrutiny of the work undertaken by the Virtual School for Children in Care; and by improving the current Dorset County Council system of Regulation 33 reports to increase the scrutiny of the work undertaken by the Dorset residential children's homes and satisfy regulatory requirements.

76.2 The key role of corporate parents in raising the educational achievement of children in care was highlighted by Ofsted in a thematic survey of virtual schools and the accompanying report. Following publication of this report, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families wrote to Directors for Children's Services and lead members to announce that the Government would bring forward legislation to make the Virtual School Head a statutory post with responsibility for discharging the existing duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of their looked after children, wherever they were placed. A copy of recent guidance would be sent to members once received.

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76.3 The responsibility for evaluation of the effectiveness of the virtual school for Children in Care currently lay with the Corporate Parenting Panel. Given its broad strategic remit the Panel, despite supporting the work of the virtual school, struggled to find the time to scrutinise the school's work in greater detail. Establishing a governing body for the virtual school would fulfil the need for a more effective and closer strategic governance role by holding the Virtual School Head to account for improving outcomes for children in care and would bring a similar level of rigour as governing bodies for other schools.

76.4 Ofsted also made observations on the role and responsibilities of those carrying out monthly visits to children's homes under Regulation 33 of the Children's Home Regulations 2001. The current practice in Dorset was for a County Councillor, local to the area in which the home was located, to take on the role of Visitor. The focus of the visit was to ensure that all children within the placement were appropriately cared for and their individual needs met.

76.5 In order to continuously improve the systems in Dorset's three children's homes, it was proposed that a more robust structure for the visitor role be provided. Ofsted was keen to receive more defined feedback.

76.6 The Acting Head of Children and Families responded to general questions, advising that the three visitors were yet to be identified and that the governing body would be set up once agreement to do so had been received by the Committee. A report would be presented to the Cabinet, when the governing body had been developed further.

Recommended

77. The Cabinet agree to the creation of a Governing Body for the Virtual School and to a revised framework for the conduct of Regulation 33 visits.

Reason for Recommendation

78. Increased scrutiny of the Virtual School and the Residential Units would improve our understanding of areas of underperformance; enable a quicker response to meet these shortfalls and support the gathering of accurate information to suggest ways to improve outcomes for children in care in Dorset.

Universal Services

79.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services regarding the use of buildings in Children's Services and the future provision of universal services (particularly in youth centres/children's centres).

79.2 Officers advised that they wished to ensure services were maintained, protected and sustainable through the reshaping of universal services and by working in partnership with other organisations and communities.

79.3 In response to a question, the Head of Early Intervention advised that there was a Lettings Policy, agreed by members, enabling youth centres to be utilised by outside organisations. Unfortunately the Policy was out of date, including the charges to be applied, and would therefore need to be reviewed as part of the proposed work programme

79.4 Officers asked members to note that the purpose of the review was to explore potential uses of the buildings, ensuring that they were fit for purpose and could be used effectively by various local community groups. Members stressed the need to be involved in the review due to the impact any action would have on their communities and the creation of a Policy Development Panel was suggested. Officers advised that a further report would be presented to members detailing the scope of the issues and giving proposals on how to manage the engagement and consultation process. It was proposed, and agreed, that

members await this information before considering whether a Policy Development Panel was appropriate.

79.5 Members sought confirmation of the timescales involved and were advised of the need to ensure adequate consultation took place and information assessed correctly. A draft consultation document would be provided for consideration at a future meeting. Members suggested that a workshop be held at the earliest opportunity to allow all members of the County Council to contribute to the consultation process.

Resolved

80. That:

- i. a universal services review, based upon a consultation process working with service users, partners, communities and staff to look at options to reshape the services, be developed.
- ii. a further report be presented, at the November 2013 meeting, to outline the detailed consultation process, timescales and key areas for consideration.
- iii. in order to prepare for any future consultation, the briefing note 'Review of Youth Work in Dorset' (appendix 1 to the report), be distributed.
- iv. a further report be provided for the November 2013 meeting, as part of the consultation process, and including property implications.
- v. a workshop be held, at the earliest opportunity, to allow all members of the County Council to contribute to the consultation process.

The Future of the Arts Service and DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency

81.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services regarding the future of the Arts Service and DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency. Further to a report presented to the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee on 14 January 2013, consultants had been appointed to consider the future delivery of the Arts Development Service and the possible transfer of the Little Keep building in Dorchester from the County Council's ownership to the arts organisations currently occupying the building.

81.2 The Head of Community Services introduced the report and explained that the creative industries had been identified as the two priority sectors for economic growth. The Arts Development Service had strengthened the regional and national profile for the quality of its work, establishing the County as a vibrant and creative centre for the arts and culture whilst making a substantial contribution to tourism. Much of the work of the Arts Service and DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency involved facilitating, enabling and encouraging increased investment directly in arts organisations in Dorset rather than bringing money to the County Council. In particular, for the past six years, the Arts Service had developed the Dorset Loves Art (DLA) collaboration with its partner arts organisation.

81.3 It was recognised that Arts Council England (ACE) had now prioritised collaborative work within their regional plans and were therefore potentially prepared to make substantial investment in the work of DLA over the coming three years. Informal discussions had taken place with ACE about formalising the structure of DLA to receive funding by the formation of a social enterprise and this had received support, in principle.

81.4 Members noted that this opportunity coincided with a proposal to create a new trust to administer the Little Keep building in Dorchester, currently owned by the County Council, which housed five arts organisations. Discussions were underway as to the possibility of transferring this building into trust ownership. Commercially the view was that the investment required in the building would not make a return and that cultural use would have a benefit in the overall scheme.

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81.5 The Head of Community Services advised that in future there was a proposal to make DLA a charity and that a final report and costed business plan of the proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 17 July 2013. Members were asked to note that there was no intention to remove County Council engagement, but to structure and do things in a different way. If approved, this would also help to achieve Meeting Future Challenges Programme budget savings.

81.6 In response to several questions, members received clarification of the remit and benefits to communities across Dorset of the four key arts organisations identified to receive regular grant funding. Whilst the benefits were acknowledged, some members believed the County Council should not be committing to a four year rolling grant and asked whether a reduced funding or tapered arrangement over the four years would be more suitable, to encourage the arts organisations to become self financing and more efficient. Other members welcomed the proposals within the report.

81.7 One member raised concerns that the benefits from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra were too selective and questioned the proportion of the rolling grant allocated to them.

81.8 Officers asked members to note that all four arts organisations were to be included as part of the proposals and the County Council would be tied to the arrangement for the full four years. Without the guarantee of this funding, officers were concerned that ACE's confidence in the arts services could reduce leading to a withdrawal of funding and leaving services at risk.

81.9 In response to a question, officers advised that the proposals would allow the County Council to anticipate further challenges to the services, whilst still being supportive of the arts. The service would need to be self funding next year and officers would build on existing work to encourage mutual work in the arts service. Officers were confident that continued involvement by local members would be welcomed.

Recommended

82. That the Cabinet:

- i. consider the differing views of the Committee and if deemed appropriate, examine the funding proposed as part of the rolling four year funding programme to ensure initiatives benefited the whole of Dorset and hard to reach children.
- ii. DepARTure Arts Education Development Agency with rolling four year funding at a level which makes the proposed savings for the service, following consideration of a fully completed business case including full financial projections in due course;
- iii. support the transfer of a long term lease of the Little Keep building in Dorchester to the new arts development structure, subject to the views of the Asset Management Group.

Reason for Recommendations

83. Arts development contributed to achieving all the County Council's aims which were:

- Help to build strong communities for all;
- Protect and enrich the health and well-being of Dorset's most vulnerable adults;
- Support and encourage Dorset's children and young people to reach their full potential and protect those who were most vulnerable;
- Safeguard and enhance Dorset's unique environment and support our local economy; and
- Provide innovative and value for money services.

The Citizen's Panel 29

84.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Environment as a result of the recent Dorset County Council's Citizens' Panel survey to gather evidence on public opinion to inform policy decisions and service developments.

84.2 The Senior Consultation and Research Officer presented the key findings and trends arising from the survey which had received a response rate of 60%. Evidence gathered covered seven areas of County Council and NHS activity, but none of the questions related specifically to Children's Services. He then made reference to the issue that some residents were confused regarding responsibility for services. A further survey was to be published that week and the results would be made available at the end of September 2013.

84.3 Members sought clarification as to how the information was used. The Senior Consultation and Research Officer advised that each service Director and Heads of Service were advised of the responses.

84.4 In response to a question it was confirmed that, based on the number of responses received, the survey was statistically valid. However, it was acknowledged that there was a need to encourage a younger demographic, in particular in the age range of 16-24 years. A meeting to discuss how best to do this would take place shortly. A separate School's Survey was carried out to engage with children under 16 years of age.

84.5 The Head of Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance confirmed that young people came forward with comments after inspecting services. Urgent Care Services also carried out their own surveys, as did the Dorset Passenger Transport Services. Officers assured members that comments received did have a direct impact and changes to services were made as a result.

84.6 A member commented on the need to use social media such as Twitter and Face Book. Officers advised that a pilot exercise was underway using a closed social network site to ensure the safety of its users.

Noted**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13, including MFC Update**

85.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Corporate Resources which gave an overall underspend of £85.7k in the Children's Services Directorate and an update on the Meeting Future Challenges (MFC) Programme.

85.2 The Group Finance Manager informed members that during the year the projected overspend of £1.86m on Children and Families was due to the increased number of children in care. Underspends were held in all other areas to offset this and reflected some excellent work by managers and their teams.

85.3 In response to a question, officers clarified the term "above line budget" and advised that Early Intervention Services included the total Early Intervention Grant of £12.368m. This significantly assisted the budget position for the service area in 2013.

85.4 Members also received confirmation that the Dorset Passenger Transport budget for special education needs/Children Out of School (SEN/COOS) re-procurement exercise was necessary due to the cessation of the contractual term of the existing taxi service.

Resolved

86. That the final budget position for Children's Services be noted.

Recommended

87. That the Cabinet, taking into account the overall financial position of the County Council, approve:

- i. that the overspend on transport costs (SEN / COOS) should not be carried forward into 2013/14; and
- ii. that £50k from the overall underspend in Children's Services be carried forward to support priority schools in 2013/14.

Reason for Recommendations

88. Close monitoring of the budget position was an essential requirement to ensure that money and resources are used efficiently and effectively.

Statement of Purpose of the Fostering Service

89.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services on the updated version of the 2013 Statement of Purpose for Dorset's Fostering Service.

89.2 The Statement of Purpose was considered by the Committee annually and members were advised that there had been no significant changes in Regulations or Statutory Guidance in the last 12 months. The Statement had, however, been updated to reflect developments in practice within the Fostering Service, and some structural and personnel changes.

Recommended

90. That the Cabinet approve the updated Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service.

Reason for Recommendation

91. The Fostering Services Regulations 2011 Reg. 4(a) and the associated Statutory Guidance (Volume 4 Chapter 4), required the Fostering Service Provider to review and update the Statement of Purpose at least annually.

Statement of Purpose - Maumbury House

92.1 The Committee considered a report by the Acting Director for Children's Services which presented the updated version of the Statement of Purpose for Maumbury House Children's Home.

92.2 The Statement of Purpose was considered by the Committee annually and the Acting Head of Children and Families explained that the performance of Maumbury Home continued to improve. It was judged Adequate by Ofsted in March 2013 with Outcomes for Children and Leadership judged as Good.

Recommended

93. That the Cabinet approve the revised Statement of Purpose for Maumbury House Children's Home.

Reason for Recommendation

94. There was a statutory requirement for each Children's Home to have a Statement of Purpose which was approved by Cabinet on an annual basis, or when the Statement of Purpose was amended.

Corporate Performance Monitoring Report, Fourth Quarter 4 2012-13

95.1 The Committee considered a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director for Children's Services which set out the results of the monitoring of the County Council's Budget and Corporate Plan for the fourth quarter of 2012-13 (January – March), with a specific focus on those elements managed by the Children's Services Directorate.

95.2 The Policy and Performance Officer (Performance Overview) presented the report in detail. With regard to the County Council's position as a whole, it was reported that the year-end over-spend projected for the authority at the end of Quarter 3 had not occurred, and at the end of March there was a projected under-spend of £3.7m, and not £5.2m as detailed in the report. The average indicator score was "amber" (0-5% off target). The percentage of indicators meeting their target had risen from 56% in the third quarter to 59% in the fourth quarter, with 76% of actions on course or complete.

95.3 As to Aim 3 (support and encourage all Dorset's children and young people to reach their full potential, and protect those who are most vulnerable), after three consecutive quarters a year end projected overspend of £2m was forecast and there was an actual overspend of £820.8k for Children's Services. Performance indicators had an average "green" rating, and 74% of actions were on course.

95.4 Attention was drawn to indicators CS1 (Support the most vulnerable children and young people (including safeguarding those in care, those leaving care and those with enduring and complex needs) to achieve their potential) and CS7 (Provide efficient and cost effective transport to enable young people in Dorset to access education), shown as "red" for spend as they were more than 5% off target. These had been escalated from previous monitoring reports and officers confirmed that they were now being addressed. The Policy and Performance Officer (Performance Overview) then referred members to the accompanying officers' commentary and they were asked to note areas of high risk as shown in the Corporate Balanced Scorecard. This included the current level of initial assessments carried out within 10 working days and the number of core assessments carried out within 35 working days. Officers advised that the introduction of the Single Assessment process should result in improved timeliness of these assessments.

95.5 The Head of Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance referred to the ending of two national performance indicators on assessment timescales and a new focus on outcomes measurement and what is the right timescale for individual children.

95.6 Members raised concerns regarding indicators CS1 and CS7 shown as "red" for spend. The Acting Director referred to continued pressures including those associated with the number of children and young people in care and requiring social care interventions. Officers' efforts to reduce costs continued.

95.7 Reference was then made by members to Aim 2 (Adult and Community Services) and Aim 5 (Environment Services), in particular with regards to the need to provide an efficient and safe road network. A member highlighted the poor state of the roads and commented that had an impact on the safety of children as they travelled to and from school.

Noted**Policy Development Panels****Policy Development Panel on Children in Care**

96.1 The Committee received a short summary of the work undertaken by the Policy Development Panel.

96.2 Members requested background papers to familiarise themselves with the Panel's work and they were advised that a report would be presented to the meeting on 4 November 2013.

Resolved

97. That the Policy Development Panel comprise of Pauline Batstone, Michael Bevan, Mike Byatt, Barrie Cooper, Colin Jamieson, Susan Jefferies and Mike Lovell.

Committee Work Programme

98.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Corporate Resources which detailed the updated work programme for 2013/14.

98.2 Further items were to be added to the work programme as agreed at the meeting.

Noted

Schedule of Member Seminars and Events 2013

99.1 The Committee received a schedule of forthcoming seminars and events arranged for members in 2013.

99.2 In response to earlier requests by members, the Acting Director advised that seminars on Safeguarding Children and Universal Services would be arranged.

99.3 A member commented on the Superfast Broadband Seminar scheduled on 18 July, stating that whilst 95% of the county was covered by superfast broadband, the speeds in very rural areas were too slow to benefit children trying to learn.

Noted

Member Briefings

100. Members were informed that as yet no additional briefings were proposed. Members were encouraged to contact the Acting Director for Children's Services if they had any suggestions of topics for future member briefings.

Noted

Questions

101. No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20(2).

Meeting Duration: 11:15am – 2:15pm