

LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th September, 2002 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Hussain (Chair); Councillors Akbar, Boyle, Coleman, J. Davies, Hand, and Patterson.

PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE: Mr. C. Brown.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE: Mr. G. Ryan.

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Cole and Dunington, Rev. P. Budgell (Co-opted Diocesan Representative) and Mr. J. Wigglesworth (Employee Representative).

53 MINUTES (REF: 2.1 AND 2.2)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 6th and 20th June, 2002 be taken as read, approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

54 REFERENCE FROM THE EXECUTIVE: SUNDON PARK DAY CENTRE (REF: 5.1)

The Chief Executive (Head of Local Democracy) referred to the Committee's decision at Minute 47/02 and reported that the Executive at its meeting held on 8th July, 2002 decided (Decision No. EX/273/02):-

"That the Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee's concern about whether and how the Executive had reached a decision on the proposed £35,000 saving and the closure of Sundon Park Day Centre be noted."

Resolved: That the report be noted.

55 REFERENCE FROM THE EXECUTIVE: EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE (REF: 5.2)

The Chief Executive (Head of Local Democracy) referred to the Committee's decision at Minute 39/02 and reported that the Executive at its meeting held on 8th July, 2002 decided (Decision No. EX/272/02):-

"That subject to the agreement of the Governing Bodies a policy whereby extended holidays should not continue for more than one month (4 weeks) and that if the pupil does not return to school within 2 weeks (10 school days) after the approved 1 month extended leave, the pupil be removed from the school roll following all reasonable enquiries be approved."

Resolved: That the report be noted.

56 REFERENCE FROM THE EXECUTIVE: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS (REF: 5.3)

The Chief Executive (Head of Local Democracy) reported that the Executive, at its meeting on 8th July, 2002, upon consideration of the report of the Head of Community Care, decided (Decision No. EX/291/02:-

- "(i) That the current pressures on Occupational Therapy Services be noted.
- (ii) That the measures proposed to manage demand within the constraints imposed by continuing recruitment and retention difficulties set out at paragraph 25 of the report of

Head of Community Care (ref: 11.10) be supported.

(iii) That Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee be requested to establish an informal monitoring group of up to 3 Members to maintain close monitoring of this area of service.”

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That an informal group, comprising Councillors Boyle, J. Davies and Hussain be established to maintain close monitoring of the provision of equipment and adaptations.

57 CHILDREN’S SERVICES BEST VALUE REVIEWS (REF 6.1 AND 6.2)

The Head of Children and Family Services reported on the outcome of the Best Value Review of services provided for children over the age of ten by the Children’s Division of the Housing and Social Services Department and on the recommendations made by the Review for the improvement of those services.

He also reported on the Project Plan for the next Best Value Review of services for children aged 0 – 9 years.

Resolved: (i) That the Best Value Review of services provided for children over the age of ten be commended to the Executive for approval.

(ii) That the appropriate Officers be instructed to carry out the Best Value Review of services for children aged 0 – 9 years in accordance with the Project Plan now reported.

(iii) That the Panels of Members who investigate future Best Value Reviews be requested to report back to this Committee on their findings.

(iv) That Best Value Reviews falling within the remit of this Committee be placed on “public folders” and all Members of the Council be advised of how to access them.

58 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND CATCHMENT AREAS

The Director of Lifelong Learning reported on the Council’s current admissions policies and practices and the Committee were of the view that a review of the catchment areas was necessary to alleviate a number of anomalies in certain areas.

The Director of Lifelong Learning further reported that the Department for Education and Skills were planning to circulate a draft new Code of Practice on admissions including guidance on legislation contained in the Education Act 2002.

Resolved: That the Director of Lifelong Learning be instructed to report further on this matter to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 24th October, 2002.

(Note: The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.)