



EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2003 at 6.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Andy Simmons (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Alun Hayes, Eliza Mann, Graham Neale and Robert Smeath

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Godson Agomuo and Josie Spanswick

ALSO PRESENT: Professor Tim Brighouse – Commissioner for London Schools
Jon Coles – Department for Education and Skills (DfES)
Simon Courage – Office for Public Management (OPM)

OFFICERS: Ian Hughes – Head of Corporate Strategy
Simon Jenkin – Director of Schools Services, CEA@Southwark
Karen Murphy – Senior Lawyer, Education
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect of an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute file and is available for public inspection.

The Sub-Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the minute file. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2003 be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

1. EDUCATION MEDIUM TERM REVIEW (OFFICE FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT)

- 1.1 Simon Courage, Office for Public Management, updated the meeting on the review of education.
- 1.2 Interviews had been conducted with key stakeholders and representatives of other local authorities and a large stakeholder event had been held. Key aims had been identified as: a coherent and embedded vision, sustained leadership, a mature and trusting relationship between schools and providers, the capacity to equip education and support services, and a stronger response system.
- 1.3 The various outputs of the review were to create a stable, skilled and valued workforce, to work towards whole child achievement, to focus on children, parents and the community, to create a quality and confident leadership, and to stress inclusivity, partnership and collegiality. Five areas needed to be addressed: governance, management and leadership, increasing capacity, building strong school networks and establishing roots in the community.
- 1.4 Future work in the review would take in further workshops with stakeholders, including governors, head teachers, trades unions, young people and parents. A report would be submitted to the Executive in November.
- 1.5 Members expressed the view that the Council needed to articulate a clear philosophy for education. The Director of Schools Services stressed the importance of achieving a balance between the agenda for achievement and the response to the Green Paper, Every Child Matters.

- RESOLVED**
1. That the final OPM report is made available to the Sub-Committee before it is considered by the Executive; and
 2. That the Strategic Director of Social Services is asked to brief the Sub-Committee on the Green Paper, Every Child Matters, before it is considered by the Executive.

2. EXCLUSIONS

This item was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

3. LONDON CHALLENGE

- 3.1 Professor Tim Brighouse, Commissioner for London Schools, and Jon Coles, representing the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), briefed the Sub-Committee on the London Challenge. London Challenge focused on schools, leadership and students. Southwark was seen as one of the five key boroughs. An immediate objective was to produce a secondary strategy for each of the boroughs.

- 3.2 Professor Brighthouse and Jon Coles responded to questions from Members. City Academies were seen to be at the heart of new schools in Southwark but had to be used to shift education and performance in the borough as a whole. Complementing the Academies, the Schools for the Future programme aimed to create area-wide transformation. Professor Brighthouse emphasised that City Academies had to work within existing law and codes of practice in respect of admissions, exclusion and special educational needs. The Director of Schools Services clarified that the School Organisation Plan did not consider the future of particular schools but provided a framework for provision area by area.
- 3.3 Professor Brighthouse highlighted the importance of breaking down apparent isolation between schools, introducing the idea of building collegiate groups of schools that would engage in cross working to meet the needs of all children in a particular area. An important element in this would be to work towards common admission policies and requirements. The year 6/year 7 transfer was also key. In this way, individual schools would not be perceived as sink schools, as they would benefit from resources in other schools within their collegiate. The Director of Schools Services stated that, to avoid the creation of sink schools, strategies had to be put in place to achieve high quality leadership and teachers, to introduce an ethos of appropriate behaviour and to improve the fabric of buildings.
- 3.4 Jon Coles outlined the support available to City Academies. The City Academies Unit at the DfES worked closely with individual Academies in the run up to their being established and during their initial stages of operation. The Unit would provide additional support and resources should an Academy hit difficulties. The crucial period was between a school going into feasibility and it starting as an Academy. London Challenge also had resources to support schools that were not City Academies, but in the first instance these were the responsibility of Governors and local education authorities. Professor Brighthouse emphasised that it was important for there to be a range of different schools available to enable all children to access education.

RESOLVED: That the Secondary Strategy Statement be considered for comment by the Sub-Committee before it is submitted to the Executive for agreement.

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2003/2004

The Sub-Committee noted the revised work programme. It was agreed that dates of the Sub-Committee would be revised to allow consideration of the final OPM report, the response to the Green Paper, Every Child Matters, and the Secondary Strategy Statement.

5. FORWARD PLAN

Noted.

The meeting finished at 8.05 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: