



EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2003 at 7.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Andy Simmons (Chair)
Councillors Eliza Mann, Graham Neale and Robert Smeath

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr Godson Agomuo and Mrs Josie Spanswick

OFFICERS: Ian Hughes – Head of Corporate Strategy
Martin McGrath – Performance Manager, Education & Culture
Karen Murphy – Legal Services
Karl Murray – Head of Youth & Connexions Services
Mike Smith – Head of Strategy & Resources, CEA@Southwark
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no interests notified or dispensations declared.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

The Chair agreed to accept the following items as late and urgent:

8. Education Finance Settlement 2004/2005
9. Long Term Review of Education Support Services - Consultation

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

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2003 were circulated for information.

1. YOUTH & CONNEXIONS SERVICE: BRIEFING & MID-YEAR REPORT [see pages 87 – 89]

- 1.1 The Head of Youth & Connexions briefed the Sub-Committee on the vision and mission statement of the Youth and Connexions Service. He outlined the Southwark picture and key targets for 2003/2006 – tackling poverty, raising standards in schools, and cutting crime and the fear of crime.
- 1.2 Members emphasised the importance of meeting the needs of young people with disabilities. The Head of Youth & Connexions indicated that these needs were being actively considered.
- 1.3 In response to Members' questions, the Head of Youth & Connexions outlined the range of access points available to young people. Southwark compared very well against other London Boroughs in terms of the percentage of young people reached. Southwark had taken a partnership approach in working with Connexions and the last Ofsted report had congratulated the authority on its integrated work. It was hoped that the next inspection would be similarly positive. The Sub-Committee asked to receive the results of the 2004 inspection.
- 1.4 The Head of Youth & Connexions explained that, in terms of the Government's standards for youth services, Southwark was ahead in the area of youth participation and doing well in its linkage work with Connexions on such issues as teenage pregnancy and drugs. In response to Members' questions, he clarified that the Council nominated representatives to the local management committee of Connexions.

RESOLVED: That the Head of Youth & Connexions bring further reports to the Sub-Committee detailing:

- The Division's Business Plan; and
- Results of the Ofsted Inspection.

2. POST OFSTED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN [see pages 1 – 6]

- 2.1 The Head of Strategy & Resources, CEA@Southwark, introduced the report. He explained that the post Ofsted action plan would be incorporated into the strategic management plan. Members were concerned that this would fully address all the issues raised by Ofsted and that it would allow effective monitoring of actions taken in respect of the inspection report.
- 2.2 The Chair indicated that he intended to meet with the Strategic Director of Education & Culture and the Director of Schools Services in order to clarify areas of responsibility and management of reports to the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That a revised report be brought back to the Sub-Committee in January clarifying:

- What has been achieved to date in respect of the action plan;
- Who is responsible for particular areas, i.e. the split between client and contractor; and
- Future targets and specific timescales.

3. LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS SCHEME & FAIR FUNDING FORMULA

[see pages 7 – 79]

- 3.1 The Head of Strategy & Resources, CEA@Southwark, introduced the report.
- 3.2 Members asked for clarification as to the “fluctuating nature of the Southwark population” and the problems caused (paragraph 12). The Head of Strategy & Resources responded that part of this was due to incoming refugees and asylum seekers. Members asked for further information as to the impact of this and whether additional funding was available to address this issue.
- 3.3 Members also commented that it was essential to take whatever action was possible to lessen the effect on schools of changes to the Standards Fund.

RESOLVED:

1. That Officers brief a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the impact of refugee and asylum seeker children entering Southwark schools; and
2. That Officers bring back to the Sub-Committee the results of the consultation on the formula for funding schools and changes to the scheme for financing schools.

4. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS

- 4.1 This was deferred in order to be considered in conjunction with the Education Performance Report in January.

5. DRAFTING QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE MEMEBR, EDUCATION & CULTURE

- 5.1 This was deferred to the January meeting, to follow consideration of the Education Performance Report.

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2003/2004 [see page 80]

- 6.1 The work programme was revised as follows:

January:

- Exclusions
- Education Performance report
- Report back on consultation on OPM report
- Report back on consultation on LMS scheme and fair funding formula
- Post Ofsted Action Plan/Strategic Management Plan
- Drafting questions for Executive Member, Education & Culture

February:

- Executive Member, Education & Culture
- Extended Schools (briefing)
- Youth & Connexions Business Plan?
- Early Years Development & Childcare Plan
- Behaviour Support Plan

Additional areas (to be timetabled):

- Officer proposals in respect of the 250 children out of school
- Officer proposals for schools capital, including proposals for primary schools
- Admissions report back

7. FORWARD PLAN [see pages 81 - 86]

7.1 The Forward Plan was noted.

8. EDUCATION FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2004/2005 [see pages 90 - 104]

8.1 The Performance Manager, Education & Culture, introduced the report.

8.2 Members expressed concern about schools in budget deficit and asked how they were being supported. The Performance Manager responded that Officers were working with CEA@Southwark to target support to schools – to address whether funding was sufficient and whether financial management could be improved. Clear information was being provided to all schools, particularly to help develop deficit budget plans and to determine the long-term impact of deficits.

8.3 The Sub-Committee also raised concern at the financial effect of special educational needs (SEN) in individual schools. Members asked for further details as to how SEN could be budgeted for.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the overall education settlement for Southwark be welcomed;
 2. That the Executive be asked to fully passport education funding to schools this year; and
 3. That Officers be asked to submit a further report detailing how schools with deficit budgets are supported and the impact of central pressures such as special educational needs.

9. LONG TERM REVIEW OF EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES - CONSULTATION

9.1 The Head of Corporate Strategy outlined the process for consultation.

9.2 Members of the Sub-Committee emphasised that it was important to include the diocese in consultation. Members also considered that it was essential to attach an Executive Summary to the original Office for Public Management (OPM) report to make the report as accessible as possible. The consultation should be designed to reach a wide range of stakeholders, including parents and governors. Different methods should be used to achieve this.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Officers consider how information in the OPM report can be made accessible to those not familiar with the detailed work, including:
 - Not depending on use of the Southwark web-site (for example, publicising of telephone number);
 - Making contact with Parent & Teacher Associations (PTAs), initially via relevant head teachers; and
 - Establishing a focus group (allowing a representative group of parents, as much as possible within the short timescale available); and
 2. That Officers bring the results of the consultation back to the Sub-Committee's meeting in January, prior to their being submitted to the Executive.

The meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATE: