

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

### **EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Monday, 14th July, 2014

**Present:- Councillors:** Sally Davis (Chair), Sarah Bevan (Vice-Chair), Liz Hardman, David Veale, Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst MBE, Michael Evans and Nicholas Coombes

**Co-opted Voting Members:-**

**Co-opted Non-voting Members:-** Chris Batten and Edward Joseph

**Also in attendance:** Briony Waite (Strategic Planning Officer, Children's Services), Charlie Moat (Project Manager, Service Improvement) and Mike Bowden (Deputy Director for Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning)

#### **17 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Panel to the members of the public that were present.

#### **18 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

David Williams, a Co-opted Member of the Panel who represents the Church of England Diocese had sent his apologies to the Panel.

#### **20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **21 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

#### **22 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING**

Susan Charles, Chair, Warm Water Inclusive Swimming & Exercise (WWISE) Network addressed the Panel. A copy of the statement can be found on the Panel's Minute Book and is also available online as an attachment to these minutes. A brief summary is set out below.

B&NES Council is currently in discussion with a number of large leisure organisations with a view to awarding a contract to run the B&NES Leisure facilities for the next 30 years, a contract which will include rebuilding the Keynsham Leisure Centre as well as remodelling or redeveloping Bath and other B&NES leisure facilities. This is a golden opportunity to ensure that warm water pools with fully accessible changing facilities that truly meet the needs of disabled children & young people are included in these development plans.

Currently there is extremely limited provision for children & young people who need fully accessible warm water pools to go swimming. With such pools in local leisure centres, disabled children who have learnt to swim in special schools or at specialised swimming lessons would be able to go swimming regularly with family & friends in an inclusive recreational environment, which would help them to remain fit & active and maintain a healthy body weight.

We are looking for your support to ensure that any contract for new & redeveloped leisure facilities includes:

- Warm water pools with water at 32°C which are accessible for them and suitable for their needs both now & when they are older (ie deep enough & large enough for them to be able to swim).
- Furthermore that they will have changing facilities with hoists & changing beds so they are suitable for everyone whatever their level of disability and finally that
- They will be available for them to use on a regular basis and at an affordable price

Only then will they be able to participate in exercise and swimming on an equal basis to their able-bodied peers.

Alexander Jones- Grech, Bath Swim Therapy addressed the Panel. A copy of the statement can be found on the Panel's Minute Book and is also available online as an attachment to these minutes. A brief summary is set out below.

My name is Alexander, I am 10 Years old. I was born with a painful form of dwarfism that affects my bones and joints. Most of the time, I have to move around in my wheelchair.

I wanted to learn to swim with my friends at our local pool but the water was too cold and made my legs really hurt.

I started to go to the Get Wet Set swimming lessons in the hydrotherapy pool at Three Ways School, the water was nice and warm and made my joints less achy, it took a long time but I also learnt to swim really well.

I can use the learner pool at Longwell Green, Bristol but I'm 10 now and usually it's filled with babies and much younger children. In a couple of years I won't even be able to swim there.

When I'm in the water I'm like a fish, I'm the same as everyone else in the water. It's the only proper exercise I get. I would love to be able to swim in a normal pool like my friends do.

I hate to think that after trying so hard to learn to swim that I won't be able to swim anymore when I'm a man, just because the water is not a little bit warmer.

Susan Charles read out a quote on behalf of Simeon Wakely aged 17 who was unable to attend the meeting. He wished to notify the Panel that he fully supports the need for warm water pools that are accessible for all ages.

The Chair also gave permission for Susan Charles to read a statement on behalf of Sheila Hawken who was unable to attend the meeting. Sheila asked for these statements / requests to also be linked to the on-going Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Reform work and asked for it to be factored in when schools and services are drawing up their SEND arrangements / offers.

She also wished to highlight the fact that when young people leave school it is hard to obtain provision for the use of a warm water pool. She added that young people were more likely to maximise their potential the more fit and healthy they were.

She requested that provision of warm water pools be raised during negotiations as part of the procurement process for the new leisure contract.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what provision was there to use warm water pools in our public leisure centres.

Susan Charles replied that she was not aware of any in B&NES that had both the appropriate access to use the facilities as well as having a warm water pool.

The Chair commented that she was aware of the problem that existed locally. She then read out the following statement on behalf of the Council.

*The Council is looking at a range of options – including accessible teaching pools – as it seeks to modernise its leisure facilities, this is supported by the 'Fit for Life' Strategy.*

*The Council and the CCG will be working closely to ensure that the new leisure contract provides the best possible service for local people and supports them to live healthy lifestyles.*

*It is important to clarify that the provision of warm water swimming facilities is not the same as the provision of hydrotherapy services which is a specialist health service provided from appropriately equipped, specialist facilities and funded by the CCG.*

*The Council's objective is to provide accessible leisure facilities, rather than specialist health services, for which there is advice and guidance on best practice produced by Sport England in their 'Accessible Sports Facilities Design Guidance Note. (<http://www.sportengland.org/media/30246/Accessible-Sports-Facilities-2010.pdf>)*

*The Council appreciates comments from the public as it continues to develop plans for delivering these options through dialogue with potential contractors as part of the procurement process for the new leisure contract. This contract will be awarded in January 2015, with a contract start date of July 2015.*

She added that the appropriate officers and Members of the Cabinet would be sent a copy of the minutes of this meeting. On behalf of the Panel she also thanked the speakers for attending.

## **23 MINUTES - 19TH MAY 2014**

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

## **24 PRIMARY SCHOOL AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARLIAMENTS**

The Strategic Planning Officer, Children's Services introduced this item to the Panel. She explained that around 100 children took part in the event and that both Parliaments were asked to discuss the issue of Narrowing The Gap.

She introduced pupils from Newbridge, Bathwick St Mary's, Bathford, Marksbury, Longvernal and Chandag who were representing the Primary School Parliament. They performed their winning presentation **Every Day Matters** to the Panel.

The presentation incorporated helpful influences and hindrances into a role play, first of all showing all the things that went wrong on Jessica's Day from having a bad night's sleep, to parents arguing, having no breakfast, being told off by mother, getting bullied at school, teachers criticising her, going home in the rain, doing two hours of chores and going to bed worrying about school and home.

The pupils then inverted the day into a good one where Jessica wakes up from a good night's sleep, has a healthy breakfast with a happy family; she is greeted by friends at school and praised by teachers. On her way home the sun shines and she is invited to play a game of football where she scores a goal. After the match, Jessica went home to a loving family where she is encouraged to talk about her day and supported to do her homework.

The Strategic Planning Officer, Children's Services thanked the pupils and said that the presentation showed how everyone has a part to play in making a young person's day go well.

She explained that the Young People's Parliament were asked to debate Poverty, Ethnicity, Gender and State and Private Education. These formed the themes for four separate workshops which the students ran in collaboration with an adult leader.

Young people worked across different schools and youth groups to debate their chosen theme and to produce a presentation for the whole parliament to listen to, ask questions and finally to vote on.

She introduced young people from the Youth Forum, Chew Valley and Wellsway to present the winning theme which was **Gender**.

The young people spoke of how gender stereotyping can be detrimental to both girls' and boys' sense of self and limit their educational and career choices.

Gender stereotyping leads to girls being seen as weak, soft and emotional while boys are seen as physically strong and mentally tough; girls like to shop and boys like to play sport. Women who are leaders are often labelled as bossy, men as authoritative. In terms of careers, males go for jobs in engineering, mechanics and science, while females opt for caring roles, cooking, cleaning and teaching. 90% of engineers are male, 65% of nurses are female. In school, there is still a gender gap in subject performance. Boys do better at Maths than girls. There are three boys to every girl in top Maths sets.

There is a gender pay differential in the UK of 20% while in the rest of Europe it is 5%.

The young people then took part in a role play to show gender discrimination.

A female named Alex arrives at a job interview for an Engineering position.

The male interviewer says she must have made an error on the application form and that he already has a PA.

Alex insists that she has applied to be an Engineer and has all the necessary qualifications.

The interviewer appears to take no notice and asks Alex only whether she has a husband or any children. He finally tells her that the job is no longer available.

They then showed a scenario where a male was being interviewed by a female to become a Primary School Teacher.

The female asks what qualifications he has.

The male says he has the appropriate qualifications and looks after his two nieces quite a lot.

The female then repeatedly points out that he has not applied to work in a Secondary School and asks how he would care for the children.

The male says he has always enjoyed working with children and just needs to be given his first opportunity to teach them.

The female concludes the interview by saying that they are 'looking for a woman'.

The young people asked for teachers to react appropriately to offensive language and for schools to stop using workbooks that contained out of date stereotypes.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if anybody present from Chew Valley would like to explain a little about their EqualStar award.

A young person replied that it was awarded to teachers for enforcing equality within the school. He also wished to praise the school's Equalities Team.

Councillor Sarah Bevan asked how the script was created for the Primary School Parliament.

Judy Allies, Director of Public Health Co-ordinator who helped the pupils on the day replied that they were asked to discuss the environments for helpful and unhelpful learning. She added that it was the pupils' idea to do a role play on the good day / bad day scenario.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes asked a question relating to the Poverty theme. He said that it was a misconception that young people from poor backgrounds could not afford university fees as funding was available and asked how this theme was discussed.

The Strategic Planning Officer, Children's Services replied that it was mainly the additional expenditure of being at university, such as rental, bills, travel, food, books and field trips that were felt to be the problem.

One of the young people said that she was the first person to be going to university from her family and they had totted up the likely expenditure which was considerable.

One of the young people commented that children from less privileged backgrounds see the barrier as an immediate one.

Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst commented that her own children had to have weekend jobs to help them through university. She added that she would hate for this to be a barrier and for children to not be able to reach their full potential.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes said that it was worth challenging the myth that exists as in some cases grants of £9,000 were available.

Councillor Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth asked the young people what they would like to see happen next.

One of them replied that they would like children to be taught to stop being derogatory. She added that girls should not be stopped from taking part in activities if they were only female of the group.

Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst commented that this was not just an issue within schools and called for local sports clubs to be more inclusive.

The Chair wished to congratulate everyone involved for a very well organised event and praised the facilitators for making sure that all pupils / young people were involved. She also asked that the Panel be kept informed of the Parliament dates for 2015.

## 25 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY REFORM

The Project Manager, Service Improvement gave a presentation to the Panel on this item. A copy of it is available on the Panel's Minute Book and online as an attachment to these minutes. A summary is set out below.

### SEND Reform National Update

- Final code of practice issued on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- Draft transitional arrangements guidance issued on 10<sup>th</sup> June – statements transfer to EHC plans over 3.5 years
- Implementation grant & 'new burdens' grants to March 2016
- Implement from not for 1<sup>st</sup> Sept – Sept 2014 is a milestone or a beginning, not the end of implementation of the whole reform

### Engagement

- Multi-channel communication in place with a wide range of stakeholders
- Parents involved in all workstreams
- Work underway to engage young people
- Briefings for parents in education settings summer and autumn 2014

### SEND Support

- Estimate 8000+ YP 0-25 with level of SEND
- Work underway with schools/SENCOs and FE sector on SEND support in each phase
- Independent support – B&NES Parent Partnership Service won 'evidence & build' bid to shape IS nationally

### EHC Planning

- 700 – 800 YP with high needs SEN – currently statements of SEN – will be EHC plans
- Model for delivery, EHC Plan template out for consultation (May 2014)
- SEND lead practitioner role established (from August 2014)
- New way of working takes more time – additional posts being recruited

### Next Phase of Work

- EHCP process goes live 1<sup>st</sup> Sept – continue to refine
- Transitional arrangements – draft transfer plan shortly – 700-800 transfer reviews over 3.5 years to April 2018
- Establish partnership to keep local offer under review, work towards full co-production with parents & young people over 3-5 years
- Develop personal budget offer over 2-3 years
- Build whole system approach to SEND support

## Challenges

- Capacity – resourcing – currently to March 2016 – what then?
- Ownership of SEND support – establishing whole system/school/setting approach with all partners
- Personalisation – culture change – person centred thinking, outcome focus, holistic/integrated working
- Ambition/aspiration – expectations often too low
- Achieving true co-production with parents, young people

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if SEND was moving away from a school based setting.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement replied that Education, Health & Care Plans would now run until a young person was 25 years old. He said that the plan would not be solely focussed on education and would seek to prepare them for adulthood.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked how much control parents would have over the plan.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement replied that the plan would seek to empower both young people and their parents.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes asked if any outcomes could be learned from the pilot programme.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement replied that the main outcome from the work of the Pathfinder Authorities was to have created the templates for the Education, Health & Care Plans. He added that the local pilot had shown that parents welcome the more personal element of the process. He said that parents in the main had a realistic approach to services and were thankful for the opportunity to discuss the services with officers.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes asked what outcomes were expected to be seen in five years' time.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement replied that a Quality Assurance Framework needed to be established alongside a relevant set of performance figures. He added that this could be shown through qualifications, employment or the ability to live independently.

Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst asked how our percentage of pupils with SEND compared with other local authorities.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement replied that B&NES was where we would expect it to be with an authority of our size. He added the Council was recognised for its good work in this subject area.



Edward Joseph commented that he felt that if higher expectations were set then hopefully that would lead to higher outcomes. He added that the expectations must however not be unachievable.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement agreed that any targets set must be smart ones. He added that he had recently heard one young person with SEN say that they 'Need to be sufficiently stretched'.

Councillor David Veale asked were the numbers of young people being identified with SEN likely to increase.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement replied that they were trying to understand the available data better and plan appropriately for the future.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes commented that he fully supported the reform.

The Chair commented that she too supported the reform and encouraged all Members to take part in discussions / working groups where possible.

## **26 RE-STRUCTURING OF THE EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND EARLY HELP (0 - 11 YEARS) SERVICES 2014 - 2016**

This agenda item had been deferred by the Cabinet until September and therefore the Panel were not able to debate it. The Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth, Councillor Dine Romero said that she would explain the reason for deferral in her Cabinet Member Update.

## **27 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE**

The Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth, Councillor Dine Romero addressed the Panel. She informed them that she was proud to have taken part in Bookstart Week in June and attended a West of England Schools Sports event.

She informed the Panel that the BBC had recently unveiled Ten Pieces, a new initiative to take classical music into primary schools and inspire a new generation of children to get creative. She added schools could sign up to take part in the project with a range of online resources and UK-wide events.

She made them aware that the expansion plans for Weston All Saints Primary School had been approved at a recent meeting of the Development Control Committee.

She said she had attended the local Apprenticeship Awards and was proud to announce that winner was working for B&NES.

She informed the Panel that the Council had been recognised as one of the top five authorities for their work on Connecting Families by the Government.

She explained that the public consultation on Children's Centres had just finished and a lot of responses had been received. She informed the Panel that the Council

has received a formal 'Right to Provide' expression of interest from Children's Centre staff, seeking to establish a staff mutual to deliver the Council-run Children's Centre Services. She added that the request must formally be considered and responded to. If the Council decided to support such a development, following due consideration this would affect the timing of some of the proposed changes to the new model of delivery.

Councillor Michael Evans asked who submitted the Right to Provide.

The Deputy Director for Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning replied that it had been submitted by the managers of the Children's Centres.

Councillor Liz Hardman commented that she felt that the Panel should be involved prior to the Cabinet meeting in September and called for an extra meeting to be held. She asked if staff would retain their rights and conditions, such as Pensions if they were to work for a Social Enterprise.

The Deputy Director for Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning replied that their rights and conditions would be protected for three years.

Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst expressed her concern as to whether the managers were fully aware of what they were proposing to take on.

Councillor Dine Romero replied that a judgement will need to be given on the viability of the request.

Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst asked how many staff were to be involved in this process.

Councillor Dine Romero replied that they were still awaiting that level of detail.

The Chair proposed that the Panel hold an extra meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm prior to the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

All Panel members that were present supported this proposal and asked the Democratic Services Officer to make the necessary arrangements.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for her update on behalf of the Panel.

## **28 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING**

The Deputy Director for Children & Young People, Strategy and Commissioning delivered a briefing to the Panel in the absence of the People and Communities Strategic Director.

### Collaboration across Primary Schools

He explained that he had been leading on a piece of work with colleagues to develop a new form of primary school collaboration which helps to build a 'self-improving' school support system. He added that the Local Authority has been working with all

schools to look at how such a system could work with a view to beginning this new way of working from September 2014.

### Secondary Attendance & Behaviour

He said that an extremely helpful meeting was held with Secondary Schools on earlier today to consider these matters and a number of joint actions have been agreed to improve our collective response to those children and young people at risk of exclusion and disengagement. He added that a further meeting would take place in early October to take stock on progress.

### Youth Justice Plan

He informed the Panel that this statutory plan would be presented to Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> July. He added that the Local Authority Youth Offending Team continues to perform very strongly despite constrained resources. He suggested that progress on the Plan could be reported to the Panel in November 2014.

The Chair thanked him for the update on behalf of the Panel.

## **29 PANEL WORKPLAN**

The Chair introduced this item to the Panel, she asked if anyone had any items they wished to add to the workplan.

Councillor Nicholas Coombes asked if the report on the 'Role of the Local Authority alongside Academies, Free Schools and Studio Schools' could be added to the agenda for the Panel's proposed extra meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillor Michael Evans suggested a future item for the workplan, he asked for a report on Achieving Excellence within School. He said that he really wanted to hear more positive outcomes from schools.

The Chair replied that she would discuss these suggestions with officers.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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We would like to draw your attention to an invaluable window of opportunity which has presented itself as it is paramount that we take advantage of this while it is available.

B&NES Council is currently in discussion with a number of large leisure organisations with a view to awarding a contract to run the B&NES Leisure facilities for the next 30 years, a contract which will include rebuilding the Keynsham Leisure Centre as well as remodelling or redeveloping Bath and other B&NES leisure facilities. This is a golden opportunity to ensure that warm water pools with fully accessible changing facilities that truly meet the needs of disabled children & young people are included in these development plans.

While we realise that leisure facilities is not an area that is your direct responsibility, this is an issue which has enormous relevance to you with your responsibility for disabled children & young people.

Currently there is extremely limited provision for children & young people who need fully accessible warm water pools to go swimming. With such pools in local leisure centres, disabled children who have learnt to swim in special schools or at specialised swimming lessons would be able to go swimming regularly with family & friends in an inclusive recreational environment, which would help them to remain fit & active and maintain a healthy body weight. Young people who benefit from hydrotherapy and swimming while they are at special schools such as Three Ways & Fosseyway will be able to continue exercising and swimming on a regular basis and maintain the benefits after they leave school.

In your Children & Young People's Plan 2014-17, your Outcome of 'Children & Young People are Healthy' includes reference to your objectives of young people achieving a healthy body weight and of increased participation in physical activity & sport. For more severely disabled children and young people whose exercise opportunities may be limited, being able to access a suitable swimming pool is absolutely vital for them to be able to do this

In your Plan, you also show how this Outcome, along with 'Children & Young People are Safe', align closely with the themes in the BANES Health & Wellbeing Strategy of 'Helping People to stay healthy' which includes helping children to maintain a healthy weight and creating healthy & sustainable places, and 'Improving the quality of people's lives' which includes improved support for people with long term health conditions.

You are going to hear from some of the children and young people themselves. They are looking for your support to ensure that any contract for new & redeveloped leisure facilities includes

- warm water pools with water at 32°C which are accessible for them and suitable for their needs both now & when they are older (ie deep enough & large enough for them to be able to swim).
- Furthermore that they will have changing facilities with hoists & changing beds so they are suitable for everyone whatever their level of disability and finally
- that they will be available for them to use on a regular basis and at an affordable price

Only then will they be able to participate in exercise and swimming on an equal basis to their able-bodied peers.

Susan Charles

Chair Warm Water Inclusive Swimming & Exercise (WWISE) Network

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## **My message to the Council about why I need a warm water pool**

My name is Alexander, I am 10 Years old. I was born with a painful form of dwarfism that affects my bones and joints. Most of the time I have to move around in my wheelchair.

I would love to be able to run around or play football or cricket with all my friends at school but I can't, this makes me feel very sad.

I wanted to learn to swim with my friends at our local pool but the water was too cold and made my legs really hurt.

I started to go to the Get Wet Set swimming lessons in the hydrotherapy pool at Three Ways school, the water was nice and warm and made my joints less achy, it took a long time but I also learnt to swim really well Hooray!

I would love to be able to go swimming with my friends but the water in our local pools is too cold. I can use the learner pool at Longwell Green, Bristol but I'm 10 now and usually it's filled with babies and much younger children. In a couple of years I won't even be able to swim there.

I can't really join in with most sports, I couldn't even do wheelchair basketball because my arms are really short; but when I'm in the water I'm like a fish, I'm the same as everyone else in the water. It's the only proper exercise I get.

I would love to be able to swim in a normal pool like my friends do.

I hate to think that after trying so hard to learn to swim that I won't be able to swim anymore when I'm a man, just because the water is not a little bit warmer.

I love swimming please please help us turn the heat up!!

Alexander Jones- Grech  
From Bath Swim Therapy

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