

Cabinet Member Report to EYCY PDS 25th March 2013

Recap of main events since the last PDS panel meeting.

1. Budget approved including panels concerns on the savings asked for from Children's Centres. (Will be interested in the findings of this panel on Children's Centres).

2. Children Social Care

Sat in on feedback from Dorset peer challenge which picked up on much of the good practise within this service.

Satisfactory conclusion of Ofsted inspection on Child Protection processes. No change to grading, though many areas described as good.

Appointment of Richard Baldwin, Divisional Director of Children's Social Care.

3. Risk Benefits in Play: launch of new activities in Carrs Wood, with children and HT, David Crouch, of St Michaels School. This, coupled with discussions at Early Years conference with many providers from different settings, highlighted the issues children face with "permission" to play. This tied in with the Rotary's Youth Speak event, one entry was on whether children are over-protected. The young people concluded that they were! This is an issue that I plan on exploring further.

4. Celebrations

Virtual Schools Celebration event: great event celebrating the success of our Children in Care.

Employee Excellence Awards: Congratulations to Mike Gorman (Head of Virtual School), Wendy Hiscock and Team, and Paulton Juniors Governors for their fantastic work and well deserved awards.

5. Meetings

Attended meeting at St Gregory's to hear concerns over proposed changes to HTST.

Also met governors of Paulton Infant and Junior school and Paulton Parish Council to discuss proposed expansion. All support the expansion but most have concerns about the impacts on highways, travel and parking. These are being picked up through the planning process.

Dine Romero

Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth