

Merton Council Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel



Date: Tuesday 11 January 2011
Time: 7.15 p.m.
Venue: Committee Rooms B and C,
Merton Civic Centre, London Road,
Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

	<u>Page Number</u>
1. Declarations of interest (See Note 1)	-
Councillors and co-opted members must declare if they have a personal or prejudicial interest in any of the items on this agenda at the start of the meeting, or as soon as the interest becomes apparent to them.	
2. Apologies for absence	-
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2010	3
4. Matters arising from the minutes	-
5. Implications of the Schools White Paper: The Importance of Teaching - presentation	-
6. Children's Trust – Progress on Local Implementation	7
7. Performance Monitoring	11
8. Work Programme 2010/11	17
It is anticipated that the following issues will be considered at this meeting subject to	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a report being published; and• the Chairman approving the later submission of the report and, where appropriate, submitted for reason of urgency (the reason for urgency to be agreed either prior to or at the meeting).	
Scrutiny Review of Provision for young people excluded from or not participating in school – update	

**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

For more information about the agenda and the decision-making process, contact Democratic Services Officer, on 020 8545 3 or e-mail democratic.services@merton.gov.uk. Further information about Merton Council can be found at www.merton.gov.uk

For more information about the work of this and other overview and scrutiny panels, please contact Hilary Gullen, Scrutiny Officer, on 020 8545 4035 or e-mail hilary.gullen@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Membership

Full Members:

Councillor Dennis Pearce (Chair)
Councillor Simon Withey (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Agatha Akyigyina
Councillor Laxmi Attawar
Councillor Iain Dysart
Councillor Karin Forbes
Councillor Richard Hilton
Councillor James Holmes
Councillor Philip Jones
Councillor Krystal Miller

Substitute Members:

Councillor Richard Chellew
Councillor Gam Gurung
Councillor Peter McCabe
Councillor John Sargeant
Councillor Miles Windsor

Statutory Co-opted Members (with voting rights on education matters):

Mr Andrew Boxall (Parent Governor Representative)
Mr Ravi Kurup (Parent Governor Representative)
Colin Powell (Church of England Diocesan Representative)
Mrs Anna Juster (Roman Catholic Diocesan Representative)

Non Statutory Co-opted Representatives (with no voting rights):

Julia Waters (Secondary Headteacher representative)
Vacancy (Primary Headteacher representative)
(Members of the Youth Parliament)
Vacancy (Youth Forum)

Note1: Declarations of interest

Councillors and co-opted members who have a personal or prejudicial interest in relation to any item on this agenda are asked to complete a declaration form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer. Forms, together with a summary of guidance on making declarations of interest, will be available around the meeting table. If further clarification is needed members are advised to refer to "The Code of Conduct – Guide for members May 2007" issued by Standards for England, which will be available at the meeting if needed.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. The scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at or if you have views on the current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 3857 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny .

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7.15 TO 9.15 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Dennis Pearce (Chair), Councillor Simon Withey (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Laxmi Attawar, Iain Dysart, Karin Forbes, Richard Hilton, James Holmes, Philip Jones, Krystal Miller.
Anna Juster, Ravi Kurup, Colin Powell.

ALSO PRESENT: Yvette Stanley (Director, CSF), Jan Martin (Head of Education), Melissa Caslake (Head of Children's Social Care), Michael Sutherland (Service Manager - Policy, Planning and Performance), Hilary Gullen (Scrutiny Officer), Susanne Wicks (Democratic Services Officer).

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Andrew Boxall.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2010

RESOLVED: That the minutes are agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Item 5: Primary Places and Future Strategy: Councillor Richard Hilton pointed out that Councillor Gam Gurung omitted to declare an interest in this item, despite being a governor of Singlegate Primary School. Councillor Dennis Pearce confirmed that this was an oversight on the part of the councillor, and undertook to discuss the issue with him outside of the meeting.

5 SCHOOL SPORTS CO-ORDINATION (PRESENTATION)

Richard Hayward, the manager of the School Sports Partnership delivered a short presentation on the Merton School Sports Partnership, covering:

The background to the partnership

The four main targets for the Partnership (at least 2 hours of quality PE per week, more competition for young people, leadership, and participation in club linked activity).

Merton's very good performance against those targets, which exceeds local and

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national achievement.

Richard Hayward explained that from April 2011, the funding ringfenced for school sport will not continue. He advised that the workforce involved in this project could consequently drop from 60 people to 0 – 3 people.

Jan Martin explained that the current staff number includes school staff. She also clarified that the funding of almost £300k, which is currently passported directly to schools to allow staff to be released for sport activity, will no longer be supplied. Jan Martin explained that officers are developing a business case, to present to schools, to offer them the opportunity to buy into a sports co-ordination service and continue the good work.

Councillor Richard Hilton expressed concern about the negative tone of the presentation, particularly with regard to the information supplied about loss of staff. He advised that central government have been clear that they do not intend to bring the School Sports Partnerships to a close but will give schools the option whether or not to opt into the service.

Councillor Agatha Akyigyina expressed concern that if the ringfenced funding is to be withdrawn, schools will find it difficult to continue to provide high quality sports teaching.

In response to questions, Jan Martin advised that discussions have taken place with secondary headteachers, and will take place shortly with primary school headteachers. Further information will be available early next year, on the service to be offered and the charges to be made. She stated that officers are determined to maintain a core service and will assist schools to identify potential funding sources and to bid for funding. She also confirmed that many school staff already assist with sporting activities on a voluntary basis, but sometimes expert coaching is required, at a charge to schools and/or parents. Some schools share coaches and the option to develop this further will be explored.

Councillor Richard Hilton advised the Panel that in real terms, schools' budgets will increase, due to an extra £450m being put in the General School Fund, and schools will have the option to use some of their budget for sport. Councillor Richard Hilton also suggested that schools should be encouraged and assisted to apply for funding from £2.5b of money available from central government to improve the life chances of disadvantaged pupils.

Councillor Krystal Miller asked when the decision was made to add this item to the agenda. Hilary Gullen undertook to look into this issue and report back to the Panel.

Councillor Dennis Pearce noted that school sport has improved a great deal since 2002 and thanked officers for the presentation.

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Report received.

6 EXPANDING 6TH FORM PROVISION IN MERTON

Jan Martin introduced the report and invited comments and questions.

Councillor Karin Forbes advised that progress has been good at Rutlish School but asked why works did not begin earlier at the school, given the complicated issues around the site. Yvette Stanley advised that the phasing of the works was discussed with all schools, but works at Rutlish School took longer than expected due to a range of issues. Councillor Simon Withey expressed concern that Rutlish School is still dealing with a range of problems relating to premises, that are taking up a great deal of time and effort.

In response to questions, Jan Martin advised that:

Links have been made with many colleges in surrounding boroughs, and officers plan to develop links with universities in the future.

Developing links with businesses is an ongoing challenge and noted that any offers of help in developing links would be gratefully received.

The range of courses on offer will be reviewed in order to ensure the right mix of vocational and academic qualifications are offer.

Schools regularly consult with pupils.

Schools have been offered support from the School Standards and Quality Team.

Efforts are made to market the 6th forms, and some schools have bought in additional marketing services.

Enthusiasm for the 6th form remains high at Cricket Green School, and the headteacher has been contacted by schools in neighbouring boroughs who wish to send children to the 6th form, which is very positive.

Yvette Stanley thanked all members and officers for their support and hard work in getting all of the 6th forms open on time.

Report received.

7 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Michael Sutherland introduced the report and invited comments and questions.

Melissa Caslake explained that with regard to line 3 (% of core assessments completed within 35 days), performance has improved and in October, the target was exceeded. However, the final target will be very hard to meet, as it has been missed in previous months. She explained the issues that arose to cause the target to be missed.

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Councillor Krystal Miller distributed the list of suggested new performance indicators to be considered by the Panel in place of the current set. She outlined the reasons behind the choice of indicators. After some discussion, the Panel agreed to accept the new list of indicators.

Councillor Dennis Pearce thanked Councillor Krystal Miller and Michael Sutherland for their work in devising the new list.

Report received.

8 BUDGET 2011/12

Councillor Dennis Pearce advised that the papers for the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting on 18 November have been published and are available online.

Members of the Panel undertook to provide their comments on the budget to Councillor Dennis Pearce, Councillor Iain Dysart or Councillor Richard Hilton by email prior to the meeting of the Overview and Commission. Those three councillors undertook to present any comments they received to the Commission at that meeting.

9 WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor James Holmes was unanimously elected chair of the task group reviewing the provision for young people excluded from or not participating in school.

The Panel agreed to take a report on the forthcoming Education White Paper at their meeting on 11 January. This will encompass the service review item already on the work programme.

Noted.