

Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 7 September 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes, Crawforth, Driver (Substituting for H.Steen), Kenyon, Milling, Morris, Oakes, C.Pilling, Robertson (Substituting for A.Barnes), Stansfield, and Thorne.

Irene Divine (Co-opted Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: David Hampson, Head of School, Alder Grange
Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer, LCC
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A.Barnes, Lamb, H Steen and Co-opted Member K.Pilkington.

2. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2010 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

One declaration of interest was made by Councillor Driver as she works in education for Lancashire County Council.

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

6. PRESENTATION FROM ALDER GRANGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL

The Chair welcomed David Hampson from Alder Grange Community and Technology School to the meeting to give an update on the new 6th Form Centre project and new education provision for 16-18 year olds.

David Hampson gave a presentation on the new 6th form centre and informed members that it was not a traditional centre but an applied

learning centre with aim of helping young people prepare for a future in the valley. The aim would be to educate young people in Rossendale and keep talent within the valley, rather than being educated outside the Borough and seeking employment outside the Borough.

He explained the submission process for the funding grant and how they had gained the funding. The £8 million project started construction in January and valley suppliers and workers had been used as much as possible. The building was on track for opening at the end of January 2011.

There would be capacity for 300 students which was a significant increase for post 16 education in Rossendale. The Learning and Skills Council had found a gap in applied courses, vocational qualifications Level 2 and 3 and also in below level 2 qualifications. The new provision aimed to target these areas rather than duplicate provision provided within the Borough and at the nearby colleges.

He identified several advantages of the project including:

- Reducing NEET figures(not in education, employment or training) and keeping as many people in post 16 education as possible
- Not having academic entrance requirements (entrants signing up to a code of conduct and commitment to learning), therefore being accessible to more people.
- Being able to take students with severe learning needs.
- Working with other local schools to offer a wider provision.
- Offering A Levels, Applied Learning, Level 2 and 3, resits, BTEC, enrichment and being able to take a combination of applied and traditional learning.
- Working with other organisations/training providers to provide teachers/trainers with specialist knowledge.
- The Health and Social Care department had an eco-friendly roof to reduce drain water

Hospitality and Catering would be offered using a commercial/restaurant style kitchen and a hotel style reception area. They were working in partnership with North Lancashire Training Organisation who would operate facilities on their behalf, the kitchens would be run by the students and guest chefs from local businesses would come in to do demonstrations.

The Health and Social Care department was being supported by LCC and would operate a real nursery downstairs in conjunction with St Paul's Constablee and there would be a childless training facility upstairs. In addition to this they were working with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and there would be a mini health centre with real clinics . Medical staff would not have a rigid appointment system and would have time built in to brief trainees prior to the next appointment. There would also be observation rooms with audio feedback.

Horticulture and Land-based studies department was due to be completed next week. There would be 1600m² of secure allotments, potting sheds, poly-tunnels and paths with stand pipes. There was also a possibility of having dual use of the allotments for joint community use.

Science labs would be available for traditional and applied learning. Media studies offered new this year in a double height area/lecture studio which would be ideal for small scale events and would have the latest audio/video and lighting facilities.

Enrichment opportunities were discussed and David Hampson explained that they had a pre-teaching course for primary and secondary education through Edge Hill. On successful completion of the course students would be guaranteed an interview at Edge Hill. In addition to this he explained that all 6th formers would be required to get involved in voluntary work as part of their learning programme.

Members asked questions and discussed the following:

- Confidentiality at clinics and liability
- Shared involvement of allotments and surplus plants from potting sheds
- Joint use of the allotments for Constablee School?
- Community Cinema and community use of the lecture studio?
- Model of applied learning unique?
- Academy status
- Operating hours
- Working with NEETs and keeping young people in the Borough
- Working with secondary and primary schools in the borough
- Recruiting over 18's and provision of adult education

In response to questions from members David Hampson confirmed that:

- Systems were already in place for maintaining confidentiality which the PCT were handling.
- They were currently looking at whether the allotments could be available for community use and they also had links with a local garden centre.
- Constablee school had their own allotment.
- The availability of the lecture studio for a community cinema had not yet been decided.
- A similar model of applied learning was at Ashfield School in Nottingham where they had links with the RAC and PCT.
- To assist working with primary schools, the cluster meetings could be contacted.
- There was no funding available for over 18's or adult learning provision.

Members thanked David Hampson for the informative presentation and wished the school every success for the good pioneering work being

done in Rossendale. He informed members that there would be a formal opening in January and would like to invite councillors to attend.

The Committee and Member Services Manager agreed to follow up information on allotments and potting shed plans for the next meeting.

Resolved:

That David Hampson be thanked for his informative presentation.

7. EDUCATION PROVISION IN ROSSENDALE

The Chair welcomed Jerry Smith, District Partnership Officer, LCC to the meeting to give an overview of education provision in Rossendale. He informed members that Ray Baker on the Children's Trust was the LCC contact, unfortunately he was unable to attend the meeting.

Jerry Smith provided a handout with facts and figures for members including numbers of schools in Rossendale, effectiveness of schools, roll numbers, educational attainment and information on 16-18 year olds. He informed members that there had been an LCC Overview and Scrutiny report on young people employment. The report concluded that there was too much focus on NEET NI117 and there was a need to look wider and whilst there was lots of good work through various projects there was a need for a more co-ordinated approach.

Members asked questions and discussed the following:

- Pupil referral unit
- Number of special schools
- After hours usage of schools
- Consolidation of processes between schools and communities
- Funding out of hours provision and providing extra staff
- Adult education
- Big society looking at making facilities work, liability is a key concern, guidance to come from central government
- Schools with academy status in Lancashire?

In response to questions from members Jerry Smith confirmed that:

- There were 2 special schools and one private school
- The pupil referral unit was now part of Haslingden Primary School
- Extended school provision meets the standard needs for after hours
- There are currently no schools with academy status in Lancashire

The Chair thanked Jerry Smith for attending the meeting and for the information provided for members. She noted that attainments in the valley were excellent praise should be given to teachers and governors for their efforts.

Resolved:

That Jerry Smith be thanked for his attendance and information update to members.

8. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair referred members to several letters received following the previous meeting and informed Members of the following:

- Rehabilitation Services – thanks was given to those who had attended the visit to Pendle Community Hospital and the Hub. On the visit it was noticed that people in Pendle would receive hot meals whilst the people in Rossendale would get sandwiches only. This matter had been taken up with the Locality Lead for Rossendale, Susan Warburton and other options were being pursued including having food delivered with the Hospice. Another visit to the Hub was proposed in a few months time.
- It was previously reported that the Glaucoma Clinic was being removed, however a letter had been received to say that it would not be removed and it would open 3 days a week.
- A letter was circulated regarding the x-ray provision. The provision of 2 x-ray machines would not be necessary as the nature of diagnosis was changing with some diagnostics being done by CT scanning. The equipment was being transferred from the Acorn Primary Health Care Centre and has never been used. The Locality Lead for Rossendale, Susan Warburton, indicated that the x-ray provision would be adequate. Members asked for another update in 2 months time to see if this was the case.
- Urgent Care provision at the Hub was currently under review. An emergency Health Scrutiny Committee had also been called in Rochdale which the Chair would attend and take forward the problems in Whitworth regarding urgent care.
- A letter was circulated from Highways regarding the roundabouts which indicated that non safety related grass cutting had been suspended pending the spending review. It was agreed that another letter would be sent at the end of November to confirm the position after the review. A query was raised regarding sponsorship money from Musbury Fabrics on a Haslingden roundabout at Road End. Confirmation was sought on whether the money being sponsored was being spent on that roundabout.
- Cabinet would respond to task and finish group reports within the given deadline of 2 months.
- LAA task and finish group would be suspended until confirmation was received whether LAAs would continue.

- An enforcement update was circulated as requested at the previous meeting.
- A letter was circulated to members from Stephen Carlisle at Accrington and Rossendale College, and invitation to visit the College had been received from him and Dr Lee. Members indicated that they would like to visit the college and be able to speak to some Rossendale students on the visit. An invitation would be sent to Stephen Carlisle to attend a scrutiny meeting and update members next year.

9. SCRUTINY PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered the Scrutiny Progress Report and discussed the following:

- Query over Memorials on a Grave and whether this was going back to Policy Scrutiny Committee.
- It was suggested that it would be beneficial to talk to Rossendale practice based Commissioning Group to find out what it does and what it has been doing over the last 5 years. Susan Warburton would be contacted to find out who the chair is and a meeting suggested with the Director of Customers and Communities. It would also be interesting to find out how GPs operate over boundaries as quite a bit of work had already been done in this area.
- A member informed the meeting of an East Lancs Integrated Substance Use centre operating in Rawtenstall. It was agreed that the information would be distributed to all members.
- It was agreed that the Licensing and Planning Enforcement Manager would be invited to do a short presentation at a future meeting to inform members of building enforcement, time factors and the impact of possible cutbacks.

Resolved:

That the Scrutiny Progress Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.35pm

Signed (Chair)

Date.....