

LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Meeting held on Monday, 7 November 2016 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Liz Corps (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr P.I.C. Crerar
Cllr Sue Dibble
Cllr R.L.G. Dibbs
Cllr J.H. Marsh
Cllr M.L. Sheehan
Cllr L.A. Taylor

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Terry Bridgeman.

12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September, 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

13. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

The Panel welcomed Ms. Jane Armstrong, Chairman of the Rushmoor Local Children's Partnership and Head Teacher at Farnborough Grange Nursery and Infant Community School. Ms. Armstrong had been invited to give a presentation on activities and working arrangements of the Rushmoor Local Children's Partnership (LCP). The Partnership was the local strategic arm of the Hampshire Children's Trust Board and had cross partner members from both statutory and voluntary organisations.

The Panel was advised of the delivery plan and activities between 2010 and 2012. The two main areas of concern had been to reduce the rate of teenage conception, pregnancy and parenting and to improve attendance rates at schools across the Borough. The Panel discussed the pregnancy rate in the Borough and noted that this had reduced between 2010 and 2012. A request was made for more up to date information relating to teenage pregnancies by ward. The school attendance figures were also discussed. It was reported that these had reduced from well above the national average to 6% over the same period.

Ms. Armstrong then advised on the activities of the LCP between 2012-2016. Due to funding cuts and gaps created from the restructuring of the Hampshire Youth Service, new funding streams and priorities had to be identified. Transitional funding had been used to keep key services available until new funds were secured. A consultation had been carried out in Hart and Rushmoor to identify the key services

required locally, these included services for drugs/smoking/alcohol, sexual health, teenage pregnancy, social activities and homelessness. The Panel discussed the closure of the local children's centre and the successes they had had, with teenage parents in particular, in the past. It was noted that funding had been passed to the Source and Step by Step and measures would be put in place to ensure that the funds were being used effectively to tackle the local issues.

A discussion was held over the proposals from Hampshire County Council (HCC) to have one Youth Support Service (YSS) provider for the whole of the County. The importance of more locally based services was recognised as the young people in Rushmoor had as many issues as those in the larger cities and towns in the County and were as worthy of receiving the services available.

The Panel noted the LCP's Action Plan 2012 to present. The Plan had reflected the five priorities set out by HCC, which focused on poverty, health, learning, safety and recreation. The Plan had a two-tiered approach, work that could be managed directly by the LCP, such as Early Years attainment and YSS commissioning, and the work managed outside the LCP which was reported to it by the responsible organisation.

Mrs. Armstrong reported on an emerging issue within the Hart/Rushmoor area relating to school places for children with special educational needs. It was advised that, currently, 40 children were not in school due to a shortage of places available to accommodate the complex learning needs of the individuals. It was noted that two extra classrooms were to be provided on the Farnborough Grange site to be used by the Henry Tyndale School to accommodate extra pupils in the area. The Panel discussed the issue and requested that a representative from the Local Education Authority be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to discuss the situation and advise on its proposals to address the issue. The Panel noted that the LCP were currently working on putting together case studies on the issue, and local MP, Sir Gerald Howarth, had met with the LCP and was aware of the situation.

The Panel was advised on the current situation with the activities of the LCP relating to educational attainment and noted that the picture within secondary schools was mixed but had been improving despite changes to regulations around GCSE's. The Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2 picture had also improved placing Rushmoor above the national average on Age Related Expectations (ARE+). School attendance statistics had improved considerably since 2010.

In summary, Mrs. Armstrong praised the continuing work and uniqueness of the LCP and the wealth of knowledge brought to the table by those involved with the Partnership.

In response to a query it was noted that there was limited information on children educated at home. An area of concern however was around children with a Romany heritage, statistics showed that children from this background were the most underperforming group.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Armstrong for her presentation.

ACTIONS:

Action to be taken	By Whom	When
Further information be provided on teenage pregnancies by ward for Members.	Jane Armstrong, Chairman of the Local Children's Partnership.	December, 2016
A representative from the Local Education Authority be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel to discuss the issue of the lack of school places for children with special educational needs in the Borough.	Panel Administrator	Early 2017

14. LIDO REVIEW UPDATE

Principal Contracts Manager, Mr. Ashley Sharpe, attended the meeting to give an update on the work of the Lido Review Working Group. It was reported that, during the 2016 summer season, a soft market testing event had been held which nine companies had attended and had received a presentation on both the Indoor Pools and Lido complex and the strategic priorities of the Council. Attendees had also had the opportunity to visit the site during opening hours. The nine companies had subsequently been individually offered the opportunity to attend a further meeting with Council Officers. Four companies had taken this up.

The individual meetings had been used to establish thoughts and opinions of the four companies. It was noted that the option to "invest to save" had generated the most interest, where the company representatives had suggested giving consideration to integration of the whole site.

It was noted that the information gathered from the individual meetings would be put into a report, to be prepared by the Head of Community and Environmental Services, for consideration by the Directors' Management Board and the Panel, then on to the Cabinet for further consideration. It was advised that there would be a number of options for Members to consider and it was hoped that a decision would be reached by the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

Mr. Sharpe then gave an update on the Lido's performance for the season. It was reported that the Lido had received 45,000 visits, the same as the previous two seasons combined and as a result the Council had received the full £20,000 profit share agreement amount. This amount had offset the £13,000 cost to the Council from the previous year, giving the Council a £7,000 profit over two years.

A number of initiatives had been put in place to enhance the service provided at the Lido; these had included a fast track queuing system, early morning lane swimming, season tickets and military discounts. Social media activity had also increased to help with promotion of the facility and the offers available.

The Panel discussed the current situation and noted that in its current condition the facility was unsustainable, the size of the pool needed to be considered and the plant room equipment was of an age where failure and breakdown were of higher risk, which could result in considerable expense to the Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Sharpe for the update and requested that the Panel be kept informed of progress with the report as necessary.

15. FOOTBALL CLUBS

Corporate Director, Mr. Ian Harrison updated the Panel on the current position with both Aldershot Town and Farnborough football clubs.

It was reported that both Clubs operated out of stadiums on Council owned land making the Council the landlord for both Clubs. Three years previously, during the summer of 2013, both Clubs had gone into a form of administration. Each Club had entered into a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) over a three year period. This allowed each Club to reach a voluntary arrangement with its business creditors regarding repayments of all or part of its debts over an agreed period of time. It was advised that both Clubs had managed to exit their CVAs within the three year period. Aldershot had cleared their CVA in its entirety whilst Farnborough had renegotiated the terms of its CVA and had subsequently cleared it.

The Panel was reminded that the Council's Cabinet had agreed at its meeting on 15th October, 2013 to put in place a support package for each Club to provide stability during the period of the CVAs.

The support packages had provided rent relief for three years for both Clubs, with an additional obligation for Farnborough to clear accrued rent arrears. Both Clubs had also been provided with some partial rate relief. The Panel heard that both Clubs had been meeting their financial obligations to the Council under the terms of the support packages. However, the three year period was now ending.

It was further reported that both Clubs had met with the Cabinet to discuss future support and, in order to consider the requests, Cabinet had asked for full financial disclosures from each Club. Once all the financial information had been received a report would be prepared for consideration by Cabinet sometime in December 2016 or January 2017.

The Panel **NOTED** the update and would be kept informed of any further updates as required.

16. WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel **NOTED** the current work programme.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

CLLR LIZ CORPS (CHAIRMAN)
