

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE DECISION LOG

Date and Reference	Decision
06.14.01	<p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parent Governor Representatives and Advisory Members be formally co-opted onto the committee, as follows:-</p> <p><b>Parent Governor Representatives</b>  Kirsty Byrne  Sara Vertigan</p> <p><b>Advisory Members</b>  Schools Forum – Nomination to be confirmed  Norfolk Governors Network – Alex Robinson  Post-16 Education – Nomination to be confirmed  Primary Education – Vicky Aldous  Secondary Education – Chrissie Smith  Special Needs Education – Tina Humber</p>
06.14.02	<p><b>Appointments to Internal and External Bodies</b>  Unless otherwise specified or in Appendix A of the report, existing appointments to external and internal bodies would continue pending a review to the September Committee cycle and that Member Champion Appointments would remain in force until the November review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointments to those particular external and internal bodies where there was a need to review appointments before the September meeting of the Committee be agreed, as set out in Appendix A of the report.</li> <li>• Where there was a scrutiny working group whose work was not considered by Members to have been complete, the Chief Officer would bring a report to allow Members to consider how/if they wish to progress these pieces of work.</li> <li>• Authority to make appointments to internal and external bodies be delegated to the Acting Managing Director, following consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman (and Group Spokespersons where appropriate) where there was an urgent need.</li> </ul>
06.14.03	<p><b>Quality Assurance Update</b>  The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach to quality assurance be endorsed.</li> <li>• Quarterly updates would be received, to ensure that improvement activities continued to achieve improvements to social care practice and that the quality of service for children and families had improved.</li> </ul>

06.14.04	<p><b>Update on Norfolk Family Focus</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A written response would be provided to Members demonstrating progress against outcomes to date.</li> <li>• The report be noted and that a further written report be provided to the Committee in Autumn 2014, demonstrating where progress had been made.</li> </ul>
06.14.05	<p><b>Free School Meals Update</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report be noted.</li> <li>• An updated report should be brought to the Committee within six months.</li> <li>• The Government should be lobbied by the Committee regarding eligibility for free school meals, in order to ensure that all children who were entitled to free meals receive them, rather than the onus being on parents to apply.</li> </ul>
06.14.06	<p><b>Sustaining High Quality Leadership in Norfolk Schools – Progress Report</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contents of the progress report be noted</li> <li>• The model outlined in 2.1 of the report be supported, with its focus on risk assessment of schools, executive leadership of more than one school, strong governance and effective deployment of Local Authority capital funding.</li> <li>• The Small Schools Steering Group be reconvened to evaluate the impact of the autumn term 2013 review of small schools and make recommendations for further activity, with the Group being chaired by the vice-Chair of the Children's Services Committee.</li> </ul>
06.14.07	<p><b>Children's Services Integrated Performance and Finance Monitoring Draft Report for 2013-14.</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following information be noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The predicted improvement in outcomes in early years.</li> <li>○ Changes to predictions at Key Stage 2 and the explanation for this.</li> <li>○ Predictions at Key Stage 4 which indicate we are on track to achieve the 2014 target (within tolerances).</li> <li>○ Improvements in Ofsted ratings of 10% for primary schools and 18% for secondary schools.</li> <li>○ Performance in LAC teams is not improving and urgent attention is being given to this.</li> <li>○ Performance for teams dealing with child protection and children in need cases is continuing to improve with some markedly improved performance shown overall.</li> <li>○ The pressures within the looked after children costs (specifically agency placements, Ofsted unregulated accommodation, and special guardianship orders) and special educational needs transport costs that significantly contributed to the overspend.</li> <li>○ The overall reduction in school balances and the increase in balances held by clusters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A detailed report on case outcomes should be made available at the July 2014 Committee meeting.</li> </ul>

07.14.01	<p><b>Children’s Services Integrated Performance and Finance Monitoring Draft report for 2013-14.</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree the format for the dashboard of indicators that would demonstrate Children’s Social Care performance trends over time.</li> <li>• Agree that there would be ‘deep dive activity’ on indicators of concern linked closely to scrutiny activity.</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The predicted improvement in outcomes in early years (predicted to exceed the target).</li> <li>• The predicted improvement in outcomes at KS2 (predicted to exceed the target).</li> <li>• The predicted improvement at KS4 which indicates we are on track to achieve the 2014 target (within tolerances).</li> <li>• Ofsted ratings showing 70% of Norfolk schools overall are good or better.</li> <li>• Significant improvement especially for children eligible for free school meals and girls performance.</li> <li>• Progress made in delivery of the Early Help Improvement Plan.</li> <li>• The financial pressures from the delay in delivery of the proposed looked after children savings.</li> <li>• The financial pressures on the special educational needs transport budget and the historic trend within the dedicated schools grant related to special educational needs.</li> </ul>
07.14.02	<p><b>Budget 2015-18 – developing our approach</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timetable for budget production.</li> <li>• The scope of consultation required with residents in respect of 15/16 proposals.</li> </ul>
07.14.03	<p><b>Update on Pathway Planning for Care Leavers</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note progress to date.</p>
07.14.04	<p><b>Norfolk’s Sustainable School Travel Strategy</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the report.</p>
07.14.05	<p><b>Process for proposing and deciding significant changes to School Organisation</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree the process for fulfilling the Local Authority role as Proposer and Decision-maker on School Organisation Changes.</p>
07.14.06	<p><b>Children’s Services Committee Plan</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note that at the end of each financial year, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, would provide an overview of the Committee’s progress in achieving key priorities for children’s services in Norfolk. This information would assist the Policy and Resources Committee to monitor overall progress against the Council’s key priorities and targets for children’s services in Norfolk.</p>

07.14.07	<p><b>Working Groups</b></p> <p>The Committee agreed to discuss the following three priority topics at the next Group Spokespersons meeting with a view to setting up Task and Finish Groups.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Children's Services Budget so the Committee could understand the issues faced and determine some suitable suggestions for savings.</li> <li>2 Educational outcomes, especially around the variations in the districts.</li> <li>3 Children's Centres</li> </ol>
09.14.01	<p><b>Commentary on results of a statutory consultation on a proposal to close King George VI School in Great Bircham.</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the contents of the report.</li> <li>• The Committee considered and discussed the contents of the report and recognised that the Director of Children's Services, using delegated powers, would proceed in accordance with the agreed process.</li> </ul>
09.14.02	<p><b>Children's Services Integrated Performance and Finance Monitoring report for 2014-15.</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the information contained in the report, in particular:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent Ofsted inspection of Support for School Improvement which had resulted in an 'Effective' judgement.</li> <li>• The new arrangements for Risk Rating schools in the county.</li> <li>• Indicators that showed improved social care performance and some which showed movement downwards.</li> <li>• The improved position on the cost of looked after children and the continued focus that was still required.</li> <li>• The continued pressure on special education needs home to school transport.</li> </ul>
09.14.03	<p><b>Norfolk County Council Adoption Agency Annual Review</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend approval of the statement of purpose to full Council and provide scrutiny and challenge to the adoption service</p>
09.14.04	<p><b>Statement of Purpose of Norfolk's Fostering Services Annual Review</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend approval of the statement of purpose to full Council and provide scrutiny and challenge to the adoption service.</p>
09.14.05	<p><b>Annual Review of Norfolk Residential Service</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend the approval of the Statements of Purpose and Functions for all the Local Authority children's homes to full Council to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.</p>
09.14.06	<p><b>Joint Safeguarding Arrangements</b></p> <p>The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to the development of a shared Council wide approach to safeguarding work and to consider whether on an annual basis there should be a joint member seminar on council wide safeguarding work.</li> <li>• Endorse the five priorities in the report and to recognise the fundamental shift in collaboration across Children's Services and Adult Services.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to set up a Member Safeguarding Forum, consisting of Members from both Children's Services and Adult Social Care Committees.</li> <li>• Support the setting up of a whole council officer forum to raise the profile of safeguarding across the Council.</li> </ul>
09.14.07	<b>Response to Looked After Children Reduction Strategy.</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the progress made to date and endorse the approach being taken to scale-up performance.
09.14.08	<b>Children's Services Committee Plan</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree the revised Committee Plan, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree the approach to task and finish in-depth reviews described on pages 7 to 8 of the report.</li> <li>• Agree the approach to the budget workshops as detailed on page 8 of the report.</li> <li>• Confirm the challenges listed on pages 13 to 15 of the Plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Note the draft terms of reference for the three task and finish in-depth reviews (also noting that the detail of these would be reviewed at the first meeting of each group, to ensure a maximum impact for children and young people).</li> </ol>
09.14.09	<b>Consultation on proposed changes to the School Admissions Code 2012</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the report.
09.14.10	<b>Exemption to Contract Standing Orders for Speech and Language Therapy</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to note that the exemption had been signed off by the Assistant Head of Procurement.
10.14.01	<b>Strategic and Financial Planning 2015-18</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorse the schedule of additional savings set out in Appendix A of the report as a basis for further research and discussion.</li> <li>• Note the risks set out in section 2.5 of the report relating to savings already consulted and agreed upon.</li> <li>• Review arrangements to ensure tight control on revenue budgets and highlight any issues or risks to Policy and Resources Committee.</li> </ul>
10.14.02	<b>Internal and External Appointments</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. appoint the Members as set out in Appendix A of the minutes.</li> <li>2. ask that those Members appointed to the Committees keep the Committee informed by way of regular additions to the budget monitoring report.</li> </ol>
10.14.03	<b>Children's Services Involvement Strategy</b> The Committee <b>RESOLVED</b> to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to the contents of the strategy.</li> <li>• Agree that elected members would become advocates for high quality involvement throughout the department and beyond.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree that elected members would scrutinise the quality and relevance of involvement processes used within matters brought to Committee.</li> <li>• To ask the Director to liaise with Democratic Services re including a section in reports on involvement of young people.</li> </ul>
01.15.01	