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3 September 2019

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

A meeting of the committee will be held at **10.30 am** on **Wednesday, 11 September 2019** at **County Hall, Chichester**.

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The meeting will be available to view live via the Internet at this address:

<http://www.westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Agenda

- 10.30 am 1. **Declarations of Interests**
- Members and officers must declare any pecuniary or personal interest in any business on the agenda. They should also make declarations at any stage such an interest becomes apparent during the meeting. Consideration should be given to leaving the meeting if the nature of the interest warrants it. If in doubt please contact Democratic Services before the meeting.
- 10.30 am 2. **Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee** (Pages 7 - 12)
- The Committee is asked to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 (cream paper).
- 10.35 am 3. **Urgent Matters**
- Items not on the agenda which the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances, including cases where the Committee needs to be informed of budgetary or performance issues affecting matters within its terms of reference, which have emerged since the publication of the agenda.
- 10.35 am 4. **Responses to Recommendations** (Pages 13 - 14)
- The Committee is asked to note the responses to recommendations made at the 19 June 2019 meeting from the

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Leader.

10.40 am 5. **Children First Improvement Update** (Pages 15 - 22)

Report by the Director of Children's Services.

The report updates the Committee on developments in the Children First Programmes since its last meeting in July. It further discusses the steps in hand to create an overarching Children First Strategy, covering the full range of Children's Social Care and Early Help services, and the Committee's role in the shaping of the strategy.

The Committee is asked to consider how it proposes to discharge its scrutiny function in relation to the creation of the Children First Strategy.

11.10 am 6. **Small Schools Assessment** (Pages 23 - 118)

Report by the Director of Education and Skills.

The School Effectiveness Strategy 2018-22 sets out the need for a diverse supply of strong schools in West Sussex. It highlights that where schools are identified as being at risk in terms of their viability for optimum quality of provision, options for change need to be considered. These options include mergers, federation, relocation or closure when they are assessed against the Department for Education statutory guidance. 5 West Sussex schools have been identified, impact assessment work will be undertaken to determine if a consultation is required to see if specific proposals emerge which may lead to change at these schools.

The Committee is asked to considered the draft Cabinet Member decision report and provide comment to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills prior to the formal decision being taken.

12.10 pm 7. **SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2024** (Pages 119 - 156)

Report by the Director of Education and Skills.

A new SEND and Inclusion Strategy for West Sussex 2019-2024 has been co-produced with a wide a wide representation of stakeholders, including parent carers, young people, education providers and other professionals across social care, health and education. The strategy sets out how the County Council will support the inclusion of all children and young people, with a particular focus on those with SEND.

The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report and provide comment to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills prior to the formal decision being taken.

The Committee will break for lunch for 30 minutes at 12.50

- 1.20 pm 8. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions** (Pages 157 - 176)
- Extract from the Forward Plan dated 2 September 2019 – attached.
- An extract from any Forward Plan published between the date of despatch of the agenda and the date of the meeting will be tabled at the meeting.
- The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to enquire into any of the forthcoming decisions within its portfolio.
- 1.30 pm 9. **Children's In-house Residential Service Strategy** (Pages 177 - 228)
- Report by the Executive Director People Services.
- Following the withdrawal of operation at 3 of 6 of the council's in-house residential care establishments due to concerns about the quality of service, a wider residential care services review is taking place. The review is identifying the overall needs of children for whom the county council is expecting to provide support, and consider what form of residential support best meets those needs. The strategy will propose a strategic framework and service model which seeks to ensure that outcomes for vulnerable children are maximised and that long-term care costs are minimised. It will support the most vulnerable children in the county by keeping them close to home and providing services designed to support both them and their families.
- The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will be asked to approve the residential care strategy and endorse the implementation plan and investment required as part of the overall improvement journey for Children's Services.
- 2.10 pm 10. **Formation of a Regional Adoption Agency** (Pages 229 - 250)
- Report by the Director of Children's Services.
- Following the Government paper in 2016, *Adoption – A vision for Change*, all local authority adoption agencies are required to form Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs) to assist in increasing the number of children placed locally and improve outcomes for children. In order to work towards establishing a RAA for the Sussex and Surrey area, West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council have been working together under an informal arrangement – Adoption South East (ASE) since June

2016. This arrangement now requires formalising to meet the Government's expectation that all local authorities become part of a RAA by 2020.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will be asked to agree that the County Council forms a RAA with East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council to be operational from April 2020.

2.50 pm 11. **Business Planning Group Report** (Pages 251 - 254)

The report informs the Committee of the Business Planning Group meeting held on 8 July 2019, setting out the key issues discussed.

The Committee is asked to endorse the contents of this report, and particularly the Committee's Work Programme revised to reflect the Business Planning Group's discussions (attached at Appendix A).

3.00 pm 12. **Possible Items for Future Scrutiny**

Members to mention any items which they believe to be of relevance to the business of the Select Committee, and suitable for scrutiny, e.g. raised with them by constituents arising from central government initiatives etc.

If any member puts forward such an item, the Committee's role at this meeting is just to assess, briefly, whether to refer the matter to its Business Planning Group (BPG) to consider in detail.

3.00 pm 13. **Requests for Call-In**

There have been no requests for call-in to the Select Committee and within its constitutional remit since the date of the last meeting. The Director of Law and Assurance will report any requests since the publication of the agenda papers.

3.00 pm 14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 23 October 2019 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the meeting must notify the Director of Law and Assurance by 11 October 2019.

To all members of the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

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