

## **Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2017 to March 2018**

**Select Committee:** Children and Young People

**Report of Chairman:** Councillor Ray Bolton

**Light Touch Reviews undertaken / outcomes being monitored:** None this period

**Statutory Duties Undertaken:** None this period

### **Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:**

#### *Overnight Residential Respite Homes for Children with Disabilities:*

The Select Committee scrutinised prior to decision, the proposals to close two overnight residential respite homes for children with disabilities as the County Council moves towards a wider range of overnight respite services. The report set out the outcomes of the public consultation to close Merrydale and Sunbeams and the proposals to offer a wider sustainable overnight residential respite service to disabled children and their families. Significant questioning and debate was held, with the Select Committee resolving to support the proposals (later agreed by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services).

### **Call-in of Significant Executive Decisions:**

*Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke* - The call-in of the Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke decision was requested by a quorum of the Select Committee on 10 July 2017, but not recommended following a vote by the Select Committee.

#### *Proposals to close two overnight residential respite homes for children with disabilities*

- The call-in of proposals to close two overnight residential respite homes for children with disabilities was requested by a quorum of the Select Committee on 30 January 2018, but not recommended following a vote by the Select Committee.

**Referrals:** None this period

### **Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:**

#### *Transformation to 2019 – Revenue Savings Proposals*

The Select Committee considered the savings proposals for Children's Services, developed as part of the Transformation to 2019 programme, including feedback from the Balancing the Budget consultation, and an overview of the Department's success in the Transformation to 2017 savings. Following debate, the Select Committee agreed to support the submission to Cabinet of the proposed savings options.

#### *Revenue Budget for Children's Services 2018/19*

The revenue budget for Children's Services for 2018/19 outlined the overall County Council financial position, and reviewed the savings made as part of 'Transformation to 2019'. The position in relation to the local government grant settlement was reviewed, as well as other budget-related matters. The priorities and challenges for the Department were highlighted for the coming year, and the Select Committee

resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

*Capital Programme for Children's Services 2018/19 – 2020/21*

The capital programme for Children's Services for 2018/19 – 2020/21 was considered by the Select Committee, where the approaches to funding the demand for additional school places were focused upon. Members explored the impact on the capital programme of additional need, inflation challenges and concerns regarding construction. The Select Committee resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.

**Policy Review:** None this period

**Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:**

The Select Committee received items on the following issues:

- Attainment of Children and Young People in Hampshire Schools
- Changes to Early Years Free Hours Entitlements
- Changes to the School Funding Formula
- Children with Disabilities Services
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms – Hampshire Area Post-Implementation Update

**Upcoming topics:** The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Family Support Service
- Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service
- Home to School Transport
- Religious Education in Hampshire and Living Difference III
- Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20
- School Attainment
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform – Implementation Update
- Short Breaks