

## Minutes of a meeting of the Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 15 December 2015 at Keighley Campus, Leeds City College, Keighley

---

Commenced 1745  
Concluded 1915

**PRESENT – Councillors**

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Sykes (Ch)	Engel	J Sunderland
M Pollard (DCh)	Pearl	
	Shaheen	
	Tait	
	Thirkill	

VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:  
Church representatives: Joyce Simpson (CE)

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:  
Health Representative: Tina Wildy  
Teachers Secondary School Representative: Tom Bright  
Voluntary Sector Representative: Kerr Kennedy

Apologies: Councillors F Khan and Berry, Health & Social Care Portfolio Holder, Claire Parr Church Representative

Also present: Councillors Brown and Hinchcliffe, Education, Skills and Culture Portfolio Holder

**Councillor Sykes in the Chair**

**79 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

All those who were school governors disclosed an interest.



## 80 MINUTES

### Resolved -

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015 be signed as a correct record.**

## 81 INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

## 82 THE IMPACT OF INDUSTRIAL CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE TO DATE

The report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services (**Document "AN"**) explained that Industrial Centres of Excellence (ICE) were one of the measures in the Get Bradford Working paper that was approved by the Executive on 22 June 2012. ICE were proposed as a model to enable employers in Bradford to take more of a leadership role in the design and delivery of 14 to 19 learning. Get Bradford Working set out a requirement for £1.5million to initiate the ICE programme, which would be used to develop ICE addressing priority economic sectors.

The Chair and members of the Committee were pleased to visit the ICE and to learn about the facilities that were available.

The Deputy Head teacher of Titus Salt explained that they had 190 students that attended the ICE and 20 companies were actively involved and he pointed out that more companies were needed. He explained that they were currently piloting a ready for work framework in which students put together a portfolio and were interviewed by one of the employers. He outlined the destinations of the students leaving the ICE and was pleased to note that none of them were not in education or employment (NEET). He added that some student resistance to travel had been overcome. Students had developed confidence and were able to speak to groups of people.

Members discussed the sustainability of the ICE and were encouraged that based on the buy in by businesses officers were confident that it would be sustainable. It was noted that employers had invested £1,500 per year to sponsor an ICE apprentice of the Year Award. Members were advised that open evenings were being held in the manufacturing industry to educate the public about the pathways that were available through ICE and that employers were keen to get involved.

Members considered the fact that only 10% of students at the ICE were girls and noted that officers were working with Women into Science and Engineering (WISE) and developing ways of overcoming reluctance by girls to take up engineering. They added that the Chief Engineer at Gatwick who was female had been invited to speak to students. It was noted that 20% of the ICE board were female.



It was noted that supported internships were aimed at students with high levels of disability and that this was a funded pathway.

It was reported that when students did not have A-C grades, work would be undertaken to bring them up to A-C grade, however it was noted that 74% of students that did not have A-C grades did not stay with the framework. It was also noted that employers demanded high grades to engage apprentices and that apprenticeships were academically demanding.

Members were advised that students were registered at secondary schools but attended the ICE, so schools and the ICE were not competing for students but working in partnership. There was an open door policy for schools to become part of the ICE programme. Most schools were aware of Bradford Pathways and a lot of work was being undertaken to engage more schools. Some schools were waiting to see the results before becoming involved. Eleven secondary schools were working as ICE partners and negotiations were taking place with six or seven more with a view to them becoming partners. Approximately 20 to 25 schools were engaged on the pathway which exceeded the target. It was noted that both academies and community schools engaged with the ICE.

Reference was made to the funding channels that were being explored to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the ICE which were as set out in the report. It was noted that employer involvement was needed in providing more work placements.

#### **Resolved -**

- (1) That officers be thanked for the informative tour of the Industrial Centre of Excellence.**
- (2) That the progress made with the development of the Industrial Centres of Excellence (ICE) programme toward both improving the skills and employability of the young people in the District and increasing the role of Bradford businesses in education and training be welcomed.**
- (3) That the ICE Boards be supported in their efforts to promote a wide range of career options to all our young people, irrespective of traditional recruitment patterns.**
- (4) That members promote the ICE programme and its success within their resident, employer and education networks.**
- (5) That officers continue to encourage employers to offer more work experience placements.**

**ACTION:** Strategic Director Children's Services



## 83 16-19 EDUCATION IN BRADFORD

The report of the Strategic Director Children's Services (**Document "AO"**) considered certain key data in respect of young people's engagement in learning and attainment by age 19 including the sustainability of the destinations young people choose.

It was noted that the West Yorkshire review, which was part of a national programme of Area Based Reviews of FE, would be reported in March 2016. All colleges would be affected and it would also impact on sixth forms in the district. In addition Bradford District post 16 review was being undertaken to ensure value for money and to improve standards.

The Education, Skills and Culture Portfolio Holder noted that the NEET rate would increase as a consequence of the reduction in devolved funding and that it was proposed in the budget consultation that Connexions funding would have to reduce.

In response to a member question about tracking "missing talent" it was reported that there was a statutory duty to track everyone between the ages of 14 and 19. White working class boys were a defined vulnerable group that were identified and targeted work was undertaken with individuals to design programmes of learning around their needs.

### **Resolved -**

- (1) That the Committee receive a report on the Bradford Review of post-16 before the end of the municipal year.**
- (2) That the partnership work taking place in relation to participation post-16 be commended and that the Committee receive a report on the development of arrangements for an Information Advice & Guidance (IAG) service to meet Council and partners' statutory duties.**
- (3) That the Education, Employment and Skills Team work with partners to implement the good practice from the "NEET-free Keighley" approach in other geographical NEET hotspots.**

**ACTION:** Strategic Director Children's Services

## 84 CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

The report of the Chair of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document "AP"**) presented the Committee's Work Programme 2015-16.



**Resolved -**

**That the Work Programme 2015-16 continue to be regularly reviewed during the year.**

**ACTION:** Overview & Scrutiny Lead

Chair

**Note:** These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.

minutes\Chi15Dec

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

