

# Notice of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2021 at 6.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

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## Membership:

### Chair:

Cllr R Burton

### Vice Chair:

Cllr L Lewis

Cllr E Coope  
Cllr B Dunlop  
Cllr N C Geary

Cllr J Kelly  
Cllr S Moore  
Cllr L Northover

Cllr S Phillips  
Cllr Dr F Rice  
Cllr R Rocca

## Parent Governor Co-opted Representatives

Peter Martin, E Hall, S Welch

## Diocesan Co-Opted Representatives

M Saxby

## Youth Parliament Representatives

Nathan Collins, Sarah Lockard, Adaya Brandon and Georgia Grogan

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All Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4279>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Louise Smith - [louise.smith@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:louise.smith@bcpCouncil.gov.uk) or email [Democratic.Services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email [press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 January 2021



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app



## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

#### Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

#### Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer  
([susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk))

### Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

### Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

### Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

### Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

### Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

### Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

### Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

# AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

## 1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

## 2. **Substitute Members**

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

## 3. **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

## 4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2020.

7 - 16

## 4a. **Action Sheet**

To note and comment on the attached action sheet which tracks decisions, actions and recommendations from previous meetings.

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## 5. **Public Issues**

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution, which is available to view at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of a public question is 4 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a public statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

<p><b>6. Covid- 19 Impact and recovery - Mental Health and impact of returning to school</b></p> <p>During the national lockdown that was in place over the spring and summer terms 2020, all BCP schools remained open but were only able to offer places to children from vulnerable groups and key worker children. The impact of the lockdown on children and families, and their readiness to resume full time education in September 2020 was unknown. However, it was clear that some would require additional support to enable them to successfully transition back into school and a more 'normal' routine. The Council worked with schools and partner organisations to prepare materials that would support professionals and families with this to address these concerns. Two survey were also carried out to better understand the impact of the lockdown and what further support was needed.</p>	<p>23 - 136</p>
<p><b>7. Recent Ofsted visit outcome</b></p> <p>The focused visit to Children's Services made by Ofsted in October 2020 resulted in a formal published letter on 27 November 2020. The letter, which is appended to this report, set out serious concerns about the quality of services, concerns which warrant urgent and immediate attention. Appendix A - the 15-point action plan - is the response to those concerns.</p>	<p>137 - 150</p>
<p><b>8. Establishment of Winchelsea Satellite at Somerford</b></p> <p>The number of children and young people assessed as requiring a place at a specialist education provision in the BCP area has increased in recent years. Local provision to meet these needs is of high quality, but capacity has not been expanded sufficiently to meet this additional demand. As a result, increased use has had to be made of local Independent and Non-Maintained special schools which are comparatively expensive and often located outside of the BCP area. The result of this has been significant pressure on the school Transport budgets. In partnership with the BCP community of schools, a range of proposals has been developed to increase capacity and create new provision to meet the needs of these pupils and these were reported to Cabinet in the paper 'Capital Investment to Increase Special Educational Needs Capacity' on 22 April 2020. The process for making changes to maintained schools is prescribed by the Department for Education. This report provides details of the process undertaken in relation to adding places at Winchelsea School through establishment of a new satellite at Somerford Primary School. The request to implement the proposal is being made with the support of Winchelsea School and Somerford Primary School.</p>	<p>151 - 178</p>
<p><b>9. Items for Information</b></p> <p>The following items will be circulated for information only after the Committee meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare Sufficiency</li> <li>• Update and Impact of the Family Support Strategy</li> </ul>	

## **10. Forward Plan**

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To consider and comment on the Committees Forward Plan.

## **11. Dates of Future Meetings**

To note the dates of future Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committees as follows:

- 24 February 2021 (\*Please note this is an additional meeting and will be held on a Wednesday)
- 23 March 2021
- 8 June 2021
- 27 July 2021
- 21 September 2021
- 23 November 2021
- 25 January 2022
- 22 March 2022

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.