



PEOPLE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2022

1.30 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Ashley Kendrick

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Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Peggy Mullock (Chairman)

Councillors Claire Wild (Vice Chairman), Nat Green, Ruth Houghton, Hilary Luff, Kevin Pardy and Kevin Turley

61 Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies had been received from Councillor David Evans, Councillor Roy Aldcroft (substituted by Councillor Steve Davenport, Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight (Portfolio Holder) and Sian Lines (Diocesan Board of Education).

62 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Hilary Luff declared an interest as she runs a nursery and the agenda included a discussion on early years.

63 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Members queried whether an item raised at the last meeting had been added to the work programme. It was advised that this was in hand.

64 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

65 Members' Question Time

A Members' Question was received from Councillor Ruth Houghton in relation to Ukrainian children in schools.

The full questions and responses provided to them are available on the web page for the meeting: [Agenda for People Overview Committee on Wednesday, 28th September, 2022, 1.30 pm — Shropshire Council](#)

In a range of supplementary questions, Councillor Houghton sought clarification on funding available for transport and schools and the number of children going through the Fair Access Protocol. In response, Phil Wilson, Service Manager Business Support, advised that alternative Ukrainian funding options to support cases where transport cannot be provided within the school transport policy. Funding for schools was available if refugees had entered the country via the official route and not via a Visa. Schools would be made aware if funding was available. A task was currently ongoing to identify where children are located and if they are not currently in education, this would be followed up. He further advised that there had been two occasions where the Fair Access panel had met to discuss cases.

66 Amendment to those present at the meeting held on 12th May 2022

Members noted that the list of those present at the meeting held on 12th May 2022 was incorrect and Councillors Roger Evans and Caroline Bagnall were also in attendance.

67 2022 Educational Achievements and Outcomes

Steve Compton, Senior Education Improvement Adviser, presented the report which provided an overview of school outcomes for 2022 and the process of statutory monitoring of schools completed by Shropshire Council, with consideration to the impacts of Covid19.

Members noted that the assessments undertaken include good levels of development in Early Years, Phonics, KS1 SATs, KS2 SATs and KS4 examinations. Further data was expected later in the academic year. Ofsted reports for Shropshire schools resulted in 89.9% good or better and 91.8% of maintained schools good or better, with the national average at 87%.

It was questioned as to why writing standards had fallen the most and how this was benchmarked. Members were advised that Shropshire Council has a moderation process and that due to Shropshire having a large number of small schools leading to mixed classes, this had affected the data. It was noted that the writing standards may be related to the challenges of practising writing while remote learning was in place.

Further information for language development for 2 year olds was requested and Steve Compton would forward this following the meeting.

Following the report, a presentation was received from Julie Johnson, Headteacher of Shrewsbury Academy and Tony Bishop, Director of Behaviour and Attitudes to update members on the progress made at the school over the past 12 months. Members applauded the efforts of all the staff in regards to the positive changes that have been made, the change in culture, the school's community engagement and support on offer to both students and families.

RESOLVED:

1. That the People Overview Committee noted the report.
2. That a future update is requested, including KS5, once nationally validated assessment information is published.

68 Update to School Place Planning in Shropshire

Phil Wilson, Service Manager Business Support, presented the report to Members which provided an update to the report considered by the People Overview Committee at their meeting on 29 September 2021.

Members noted that since the last report to the People Overview Committee, two major school place planning projects have been completed:

- The new five classroom teaching block at Meole Brace School was completed late in the autumn term 2021, opening to students in January 2022
- The expansion of Harlescott Junior School, and the relocation of Sundorne Infant School to the junior school site, was completed in time for the staff and pupils to move in at the beginning of the summer term.

In September last year, following the launch of the Government's national School Building Programme in 2019, two Shropshire schools – Belvidere School in Shrewsbury and St. Andrew's CE Primary in Shifnal have been included in phases 1 and 2 respectively and will be completely rebuilt. In March 2022, the DfE invited nominations for schools to be included in future phases of the programme. Two schools out of five put forward have reached the assessment phase of the approval process and an update on these projects will be provided when further information was available.

Members questioned whether there was capital funding to improve the sustainability of existing schools as fuel costs increased. It was advised that although there was no additional funding available, rising energy costs were being discussed with Adrian Cooper, Climate Change Team Manager.

It was also questioned as to whether the findings of the Ockenden Review were affecting SEND need and suggested this could be looked into as a future agenda item.

Members felt that the achievements of the team had been overlooked and their work had been extremely successful. Thanks were extended to all officers and to Phil for his assistance whenever queries arose.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

69 Work Programme

Members noted that there would be a single item agenda for the meeting on 16th November regarding child criminal exploitation and that Educational Achievements and Outcomes would be brought back to committee in March 2023. This would be added to the work programme.

Danial Webb, Scrutiny Officer, would also circulate a guide for councillors on exploitation in advance of the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

To agree the proposed committee work programme attached as appendix 1.

70 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 16th November at 10am.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: