



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2009 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Hall

Councillor Allen	Councillor Corrall
Councillor Glover (for Cllr Westley)	Councillor Naylor
Councillor Russell	Councillor Manish Sood (for Cllr J. Blackmore)

Co-opted Members

Mr Mohammed Alauddin Al-Azad – Parent Governor
Mr Edward Hayes –Roman Catholic Diocese

Also In Attendance

Councillor Dempster	Cabinet Lead Member for Children, and Schools.
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394. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Blackmore, Follett, Joshi, Mugglestone and Westley, Jess Evans, Rebecca Barrow and Michael Asquith, Church of England Diocese.

395. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Cllr Allen declared a non-prejudicial interest in Appendix F, Leicester Carers' Strategy 2009-2013 as he was a carer.

400. DEVELOPING WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Interim Service Director, Social Care and Safeguarding, submitted a report that summarised the work and proposals of the task and finish group established to develop work experience and employment opportunities for children and young people, including looked after children, across Leicester City Council.

The Interim Service Director, Social Care and Safeguarding explained that the task and finish group had been established to compensate for an absence of a strategic, coordinated approach to developing any form of work experience or apprenticeship opportunities for young people.

Members heard that the task group undertook the role of reviewing existing provision and analysed the gaps in service. Such gaps identified were an absence of departmental lead officers to co-ordinate work experience opportunities for young people and a lack of consistent management information regarding placement numbers and availability.

It was explained that the report also gave detail of a proposed core offer for young people across the authority and this contained work shadowing, work experience for pre 16 students in years 10 and 11, young apprenticeships (pre 16), flying-fish placements, corporate apprenticeships and ring fenced job vacancies.

Members generally welcomed the proposals. One Member of the Board was of the view that efforts should be made to offer university students on sandwich courses the opportunity to undertake a gap year at the council. The Interim Service Director, Social Care and Safeguarding agreed that this could be explored and felt that it was vital to forge links with the universities.

In response to a question from a Member of the Board, it was confirmed that 8 looked after children had entered higher education in the past year, and that this was a commendable achievement.

A Member of the Board asked for clarity around the role of WEXA (work experience for students in years 10 and 11). It was explained that WEXA formed part of Connexions and worked with the Children and Young People's Services Department to help to provide work experience opportunities for pupils in years 10 and 11.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the recommendations for Cabinet be endorsed; and
- (2) that a further report outlining progress be submitted in 12 months.