



## **EDUCATION & YOUTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the meeting of the EDUCATION & YOUTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2004 at 7.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Andy Simmons (Chair)  
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Aubyn Graham  
Councillor Paul Kyriacou  
Councillor Kenny Mizzi

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr G Foskett

**OFFICERS:** Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny  
Helen Dunlea - Education  
Angela D'Urso – Corporate Strategy  
Paul Morgan – Senior School Improvement Adviser for ICT  
Terry Reynolds – Head of Performance & Achievement, Education  
Denise Skidmore – Head of Access & Inclusion, Education  
Rachel Woolf – Legal Services  
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT**

There were none.

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no interests notified or dispensations declared.

### **RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES**

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect of an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute file and is available for public inspection.

The Sub-Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been

incorporated in the minute file. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

## **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 July 2004 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

1. **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1 (QUARTER ENDING 30 JUNE 2004)** [see pages 1–17]

1.1 Members of the Sub-Committee queried the success of strategies to meet special educational needs (SEN). The Head of Access & Inclusion indicated that a review was under way of the strategies that had been put in place over the past year and that any findings could be brought to the Sub-Committee.

1.2 In response to questions, Officers clarified that figures relating to pupil absence included both authorised and unauthorised absences.

**RESOLVED:** That the review of SEN strategies be brought back to the Sub-Committee at a later date.

2. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – SOUTHWARK LEA – RANKED BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY** [see pages 18-26]

2.1 Members asked for details of performance against the contract indicators.

**RESOLVED:** That Officers be asked to circulate the contract monitor to all members of the Sub-Committee.

3. **BEHAVIOUR AND SCHOOL EXCLUSION 2003/4** [see pages 27-32]

3.1 The Head of Access & Inclusion introduced the report. She drew attention to disparities between schools in that a small number of schools made up the majority of exclusions. Officers explained that identifying schools where most exclusions were taking place enabled targeting of resources and the behaviour improvement programme. At the same time it was essential to distribute resources equitably. A variety of approaches was needed in order to respond to pupils with difficult behaviour. Addressing issues around low-level disruptive behaviour was crucial.

3.2 The Head of Access & Inclusion reported that a lead behaviour professional was being placed within each of the new school communities and emphasised that resources did not come solely from Education.

3.2 Members asked for additional information in respect of the ethnic breakdown of excluded pupils, and for this to be placed within the context of the ethnic mix of school populations. Members also asked for more details as to the reasons for exclusion, for instance where more severe behaviour was involved, and to be informed when exclusions targets for primary and secondary schools were set.

3.3 In response to questions, Officers clarified that the Pupil Retention Grant no longer existed but that the Pupil Support Allowance was now funded through the Council.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That future reports contain breakdowns of statistics by ethnic groups, and contextual details of the school population;
  2. That annual targets for exclusions be reported to the Sub-Committee for information;
  3. That the outcome of the review of strategies addressing SEN be brought to the Sub-Committee.

**4. THE IMPACT OF SPENDING ON ICT IN SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS [see pages 33-50]**

- 4.1 The Senior School Improvement Adviser for ICT introduced the report.
- 4.2 In response to Members' questions, the School Improvement Adviser explained that schools were encouraged to replace equipment on a five-year cycle. It was likely that this could be attained, given availability of budgets.
- 4.3 The Improvement Adviser also emphasised the need to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Key Stage 3. He indicated that the Key Stage strategy materials were very good and that work to help teachers use the materials had been successful. While standards were increasing, a common problem was that often teachers did not continue to teach ICT, or go on to further training, but that new teachers had to be trained. This limited progress.
- 4.4 Members expressed concern that training in schools should not only be Windows and Microsoft based.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a brief report on ICT in Southwark Schools be brought to the Sub-Committee in a year's time, specifically focussing on Key Stage 3;
  2. That a brief report be brought to the Sub-Committee in the New Year outlining the operating systems which pupils are taught and whether this is adequate.

**5. WORK PROGRAMME 2004/2005 [see pages 51-53]**

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee noted that a timetable for putting Southwark staff in place had yet to be provided.

**6. FORWARD PLAN [see pages 54-56]**

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee noted the Forward Plan.

**7. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2004**

- 7.1 The Head of Performance & Achievement gave a brief report outlining provisional performance data. Members asked that, if possible, future reports should give details of gender and ethnicity and any geographical context.

The meeting finished at 8.30 p.m.

**CHAIR:**

**DATE:**