

EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 6

Thursday 10th June 2010

Additional Information

The Kent Primary Schools Children's Council

The Kent Primary Schools Children's Council (KPSCC) was organised to engage with children in the same way that the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) engages with young people. The main aims are to give children a forum for active participation, open discussion, sharing ideas, making decisions and for learning about democracy in action.

The KPSCC was initially planned by a Working Party consisting of officers of Kent County Council and teachers.

Although the first agenda was set by the Working Party, all subsequent meetings were and will be planned by children belonging to the KPSCC. The meetings, which are chaired by young people belonging to the KYCC, take place in March and in November every year.

The Kent Primary Schools Children's Council currently consists of 69 Year 5 pupils (3 from each Local Children's Services Partnership), who remain members for four meetings (two years), to ensure continuity, development of discussion and to build strong relationships. Meetings of the KPSCC are held in Kent County Council Chamber, in County Hall, Maidstone.

KPSCC agendas are formulated around ideas brought in by each member. So far topics debated include: the appropriateness of PHSE education in primary schools, bullying, internet safety, the hypothetical spend of £10m KCC's money, climate change, sustainable schools, "Say No to Phonebooks" and the Rights of the Child (Article 12 from the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

KPSCC members received letters from Baroness Delyth Morgan in November 2009, and from the then Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families Dawn Primarolo in March 2010, who congratulated the children in actively engaging with important issues.