

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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MINUTES of a Meeting of the Kent County Council held at County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 24 July 2007.

## PRESENT:

Mr L B Ridings (Chairman)  
Mr P W A Lake (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mrs C Angell, Mr M J Angell, Mr A R Bassam, Mr T J Birkett, Mr D L Brazier, Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr A Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr B R Cope, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, Dr M R Eddy, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE; Mr M J Fittock, Mr J B O Fullarton, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Ms A Harrison, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hart, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE; Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne, MBE, Mr I T N Jones, Mr A J King, MBE; Mr R E King, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr C J Law, Mr J F London, Mr R L H Long, Mr K G Lynes, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs M Newell, Mr W V Newman, DL, Mr M Northey, Mr R J E Parker, Mr R J Parry, Mr A R Poole, Dr T R Robinson, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr G Rowe, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr D Smyth, Mr M V Snelling, Mrs P A Stockell, Mr R Tolputt, Mr R Truelove, Mrs E Tweed, Mr M J Vye, and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

IN ATTENDANCE:- The Chief Executive, Mr P Gilroy, OBE and the Director of Law and Governance, Mr G Wild.

## UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

### 1. County Councillors

The Chairman formally reported the election of Mr I S Chittenden as County Councillor for Maidstone North East who filled the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs M E Featherstone.

### 2. Public Health Strategy

*(The following Members made disclosures of personal interest in accordance with Part 2 of the Code of Conduct. Mr P Lake and Mr M Angell as Non-executive Directors of the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Mr J Fullarton as a Mental Health Manager, East Kent and Mr A Crowther as a Partnership Governor of the Medway Maritime Hospital when new Trust is formed.)*

(1) Mr G Gibbens moved Mr M J Fittock seconded the recommendations contained in the report.

(2) Ms A Sutton, Chief Executive, Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust, briefly addressed the Council and emphasised the need for a joint commitment to improve health in Kent. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to engage in the day's debate.

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(3) The County Council viewed a DVD on “Living Life to the Full” which introduced Kent’s Draft Public Health Strategy.

(4) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) this Council be committed, at a local level, to working in partnership with the Eastern and Coastal Kent and West Kent Primary Care Trusts and Local Government to secure maximum funding for a Public Health strategy to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of Kent’s residents; and
- (b) consultation on the draft Public Health Strategy continue prior to the Strategy being presented to Eastern & Coastal Kent and West Kent Primary Care Trust Boards and the County Council for approval and adoption in September 2007.

*Carried without a vote*

### **3. Select Committee Report on Personal Social Health Education**

(1) Dr T Robinson moved Ms C J Cribben seconded the recommendation contained in the report.

(2) The County Council viewed a DVD on an abridged version of the Channel 4 programme “Let’s Talk Sex” and copies of the UK Youth Parliament report on Sex Relationships Education – Are You Getting It?” were circulated in the Chamber.

(3) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report and the recommendations contained therein, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved; and
- (b) the Select Committee be thanked for producing a relevant and balanced report.

*Carried without a vote*

Recommendation 1

That all those dedicated individuals working to provide young people in Kent with high standard sexual health services be commended.

Recommendation 2

The Committee urges that all key agencies be wholly committed and signed up to the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in an effort to decrease the rate of teenage pregnancy.

Recommendation 3

The Committee endorses and supports all the efforts of the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership. It recommends expanding the Partnership's reach to all the young people in Kent by further promoting its sexual health services in places young people frequent.

Recommendation 4

The Committee strongly recommends the broad production, promotion and distribution of discreet information on local sexual health services and support.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that all partner agencies involved must facilitate the expansion of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, to ensure full screening coverage of all sexually active young people in Kent under the age of 25.

Recommendation 6

That GUM clinics must replace appointments with a "walk in" service. The Committee insists that the proportion of Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic attenders offered an appointment within 48 hours of contacting the service must reach 100% by 2008.

Recommendation 7

That the number of school nurses working in secondary schools in Kent be increased, and that the number of accessible, confidential and young people friendly sexual health clinics in all secondary schools in Kent be raised by at least one per cluster by 2008.

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#### Recommendation 8

The Committee commends and supports all those working with disengaged, vulnerable young people, and urges the effective re-integration of more young mothers and fathers into school to complete their statutory education.

#### Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that all schools in Kent work towards Healthy Schools validation by March 2009, through a process which is all inclusive to parents and governors.

#### Recommendation 10

The Committee strongly recommends a strategy for a more consistent and systematic Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) delivery, that is coupled with more robust assessment and monitoring methods, and that is adopted in all primary and secondary schools in Kent.

#### Recommendation 11

The Committee urges that the new RE and Citizenship Advisor remains permanently in place to ensure that one advisor is permanently and wholly responsible and accountable for PSHE in Kent.

#### Recommendation 12

That PSHE certificates for both teachers and nurses be widely promoted and supported. That each school cluster in Kent has a PSHE lead and each secondary school in Kent has at least one PSHE certified teacher. That PSHE awareness be raised through a countywide multi-agency conference, which includes all the decision makers, by March 2008.

#### Recommendation 13

The Committee strongly urges the County Council to press Government to make PSHE statutory and therefore part of the core curriculum, thereby ensuring that a selection of PSHE lessons are duly observed during inspections by Ofsted.

Recommendation 14

The Committee insists that all secondary schools in Kent ensure access to websites such as “foryoungpeople”, “RUthinking” and “Frank”, and that they provide permanent information on local sexual health services on a visible notice board.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that school governors ensure that strong and consistent sex and relationships education within a PSHE framework is delivered. That SRE be taught appropriately from primary school and by specialist teachers.

Recommendation 16

The Committee strongly recommends that the “relationships” aspect of SRE be emphasised more than the biological aspect, and that, in order to reflect this emphasis, the name “sex and relationships education” be changed to “relationships and sex education”.

Recommendation 17

That the nature of SRE lessons reflects equality of responsibility between boys and girls, and therefore that it has a stronger focus on young men and on their attitudes and responsibilities when negotiating sexual relationships. That it be considered to teach particular aspects of SRE in single-sex groups.

Recommendation 18

The Committee commends that schools encourage greater involvement of both pupils and parents/carers in the planning and evaluation of SRE programmes.