

# People and Families Scrutiny Committee

<b>14:00</b>	<b>Thursday, 04 July 2013</b>	<b>Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex</b>
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**Quorum: 4**

## **Membership**

Councillor G Butland	Chairman
Councillor A Bayley	
Councillor D Blackwell	
Councillor R Boyce	
Councillor J Chandler	
Councillor R Gadsby	
Councillor T Higgins	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor R Howard	
Councillor N Hume	
Councillor M McEwen	
Councillor M McGeorge	
Councillor C Seagers	
Councillor A Wood	

## **Non-elected Members**

Richard Carson  
Mark Christmas  
Rev Richard Jordan  
Marian Uzzell

**For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Matthew Waldie , Committee Officer

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**Email:** [matthew.waldie@essex.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.waldie@essex.gov.uk)



Essex County Council

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## Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

		Pages
1	<b>Apologies and Substitution Notices</b> The Committee Officer to report receipt (if any)	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members	
3a	<b>Minutes</b> To approve the minutes of the People and Families Scrutiny Committee meeting of 11 June 2013.	5 - 8
3b	<b>Minutes - Children and Young People PSC</b> To approve the minutes of the final meeting of the Children and Young People Policy & Scrutiny Committee of 7 March 2013.	9 - 14
3c	<b>Minutes - Communities and Older People PSC</b> To approve the minutes of the final meeting of the Communities and Older People Policy & Scrutiny Committee of 11 April 2013.	15 - 18
4	<b>Consultation on the closure of The Deanes School, Benfleet</b> To consider an interim report on the situation (Document PAF/03/13 to follow).	
5	<b>SEND Scrutiny Update</b> To receive an interim report of the Special Educational Needs Task and Finish Group; and to agree future membership of the T&F Group (PAF/04/13 attached).	19 - 24
6	<b>Outstanding Items</b> To receive updates on items outstanding from the former Community & Older People and Children & Young People Policy & Scrutiny Committees (PAF/05/13 to follow).	
7	<b>Future Work Programme</b> To receive the Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker (PAF/06/13) and Future Work Programme of the Committee and Working Groups; and to agree division of work.	25 - 28

**8 Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 12 September 2013. Committee Room 1, 10.00 am.

**9 Urgent Business**

To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

**Exempt Items**

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**10 Urgent Exempt Business**

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE  
2013**

County Councillors:

* G Butland (Chairman	* P Honeywood
* A Bayley	R Howard
* D Blackwell	* N Hume
* R Boyce	* M McEwen
* J Chandler	* M McGeorge
* R Gadsby	* C Seagers
* T Higgins	* A Wood

Non-Elected Voting Members :

* Mr R Carson	* Rev R Jordan
Mr M Christmas	Ms M Uzzell

\*present

The following Members were also present:

Councillor P Channer	Councillor V Metcalfe
Councillor D Madden	

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Robert Fox	Governance Officer
Matthew Waldie	Committee Officer

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

## 1. Apologies and Substitutions

The Committee Officer reported the receipt of the following apologies:

Apologies	Substitutes
Cllr R Howard	
Mr M Christmas	--

## 2. Membership

Members noted the membership of the Committee as per the Appendix to the Terms of Reference, PAF/01/13.

It was particularly noted that, as the work of the Committee included schools and education, four co-opted representatives of Anglican and Roman Catholic schools and school governors were included in the membership and were able to vote on education matters.

The Chairman pointed out that the wide scope of this Committee would make it difficult for it to carry out the scrutiny process adequately.

Therefore he proposed creating three working groups, which would each concentrate on a reduced brief and report the results of its labours to the main Scrutiny Committee.

The three groups would cover:

- a) Education
- b) Children
- c) Older People.

The Committee AGREED to this proposal. The Chairman would give this further thought and bring suggested groupings to the next meeting.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to inform Officers if they had any concerns over any standing declarations and were asked to make declarations if they were in any doubt, at any point of proceedings.

### **4. Election of Vice Chairman**

The chairman proposed Councillor Norman Hume as Vice Chairman of the Committee. This having been seconded by Councillors Seagers and Honeywood, Councillor Hume was duly elected Vice Chairman.

### **5. Terms of Reference**

Members noted the Terms of Reference as circulated in the paper PAF/01/13:

- Children's Services and the Children's Trust
- Children's social care
- Preventative services, including the development of community budgets for families with complex needs
- Corporate Parenting
- Children's Centres and early years provision
- Youth offending
- Domestic Violence
- Schools and education
- Early years
- Transport for educational purposes
- Education welfare services
- Special Schools
- Special Education Needs provision, including specialist services in schools
- School improvement
- Youth services and careers advice
- Adult Community Learning
- Adult social care
- The support of and assistance of people with learning or physical disabilities or sensory impairment and older people and the homeless
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults

- Supporting people
- Lifetime disabilities
- Joint Commissioning and Contracting
- Support to carers

In response to a query, the Chairman confirmed that Safeguarding would be a significant issue for scrutiny.

He reminded Members that the role of the Committee was provide scrutiny; Members must ensure that they did not get involved in the actual “doing”.

## **6. Outstanding Items**

The Committee noted those items outstanding from the two former Policy & Scrutiny committees, as set out in PAF/02/13.

It was agreed that Task & Finish Groups should be set up (or renewed, as applicable) to carry out scrutiny of the following:

Sensory Services  
Carers Strategy  
All Age Disability Framework  
Special Educational Needs  
Children’s Centres and Early Years

Reports on the remaining items will be brought before the Committee in the course of the year:

Ageing Well Task & Finish Group recommendations  
Children’s Partnership Review  
School Performance  
Families with Complex Needs  
Assessments and Reviews.

## **7. Future Items**

Members considered other potential items for scrutiny.

The Deanes School, Thundersley. A Task & Finish Group should be set up, with a view to presenting its findings to the September meeting of the main Committee. The Committee will receive a full report on the present situation at the July meeting.

Children in Care, with particular regard to those in Care Homes. A Task & Finish Group should be set up. In response to one Member’s enquiry concerning the role of Members as visitors to homes, the Chairman pointed out that in his view visiting was not a part of scrutiny and actually compromised the scrutiny process.

Other areas that will be presented to the Committee in the course of the year:

Domestic Violence  
Leaving and After Care Service  
Occupational Therapy and Disabled Facilities Grant  
Safeguarding

The Governance Officer will circulate details to Members, who will be invited to express their preferred areas of interest. This will enable the Chairman to provide further details at the July meeting.

**8. Dates of next meetings**

The Committee noted the following dates for the meetings of the main Committee:

~~11 July 2013~~ [*subsequently moved to 4 July 2013*]

12 September 2013

14 November 2013

16 January 2014

13 March 2014

8 May 2014

10 July 2014

All meetings will be held in Committee Room 1, at 10.00 am.

It was suggested that the sub-groups might meet in the alternating months.

The meeting closed at 10.46 am.

Chairman



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON THURSDAY  
7 MARCH 2013**

County Councillors present:

T Chapman (Chairman)  
S Barker (Vice-Chairman)  
J Baugh  
R Callender  
I Grundy

E Hart  
S Hillier  
D Morris  
J Young  
T Sargent

Non-Elected Voting Members present:

Mr R Carson  
Rev R Jordan

The following Members were also present:

Councillor V Metcalfe  
Councillor C Riley

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Robert Fox                                      Governance Officer  
Matthew Waldie                                Committee Officer

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

**1. Apologies and Substitutions**

The Committee Officer reported the receipt of the following apologies:

Apologies	Substitutes
Cllr J Deakin	
Cllr T Higgins	

**2. Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations were noted:

- Cllr Baugh - runs a youth club (Braintree)
- Cllr Morris - scout leader
- Cllr Hillier - divisional chairman of scouts
- Rev Jordan - involved with Fellowship Afloat (Tollesbury).

**3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 February 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

Item 4, Domestic Abuse, page 2 of minutes, penultimate bullet: some Members expressed their concern over the response given to the question raised about the relocation issue for victims. It was **Agreed** that further clarification of the situation should be sought by the Chairman, who will write to Mr Nunn; Councillor Baugh will assist the Chairman in this process.

Item 4, Domestic Abuse – funding model. Some Members pointed out that they had not received a copy of the funding model after the meeting. The Committee Officer will follow this up. *[It was subsequently confirmed that the model had not been available for circulation until after the March meeting; this was done.]*

## **5. Safeguarding** *(originally agenda item 7)*

Members received the Families Safeguarding Sub-Committee Annual Report 2012-13 (CYP/06/13) and Councillor Hillier gave a brief oral report on recent activities of the Sub-Committee. She drew attention to the February meeting, at which Members had considered the Safeguarding Action Plan, the Third Quarter performance results and had received a report on response times of the Initial Response Team. It was pointed out that the Sub-Committee had reviewed its activities over the previous 12 months and had been pleased at the amount of ground it had covered.

## **6. Youth Strategy Groups**

The Chairman welcomed Michael O'Brien, Head of Youth Services, and Jane Herbert, Youth Service Co-ordinator – Curriculum. Mr O'Brien gave a brief presentation on the origins and development of the work of Youth Strategy Groups.

The creation of YSGs stemmed from the feeling that a distance existed between those providing youth services and those they were aiming to serve. The purpose of the YSGs is:

- i. To act as consultative bodies, supporting the development of new local provision and influencing the use of existing resources
- ii. To support partners and key stakeholders in identifying local priorities, suggesting key local activity and supporting its development
- iii. To act as local champions for young people's services in the district/borough

The key word here was "local".

Mr O'Brien identified YSGs' main responsibilities, in partnership with the County Council:

- i. To identify the needs of young people locally, along with the local council and other agencies, and to develop joint strategies to address gaps in provision
- ii. To ensure efficient and effective deployment of resources, avoiding duplication

- iii. To ensure measures are in place to safeguard the financial probity of any projects, etc
- iv. To provide a local forum where informed, relevant debate can take place
- v. To work closely with the local Children's Commissioning Board and Local Strategic Partnership to secure a coherent range of services for those aged 11-25, with a priority on the 13-19 group
- vi. To facilitate and nurture effective partnership working
- vii. To appoint a Clerk to the YSG
- viii. To make recommendations to appropriate local agencies/commissioning boards about local service priorities
- ix. To inform how services might be provided and co-ordinated at a local level, avoiding duplication
- x. To articulate local needs, to understand current provision and to set priorities, filling gaps without duplication
- xi. Work in partnership to attract new provision and funding opportunities. This may involve developing relationships with other groups, such as uniformed groups.

Members raised various issues, mostly based on their own experience of YSGs in their own districts.

- The inclusion of uniformed groups was welcomed, being a positive element, moving beyond the realm of dealing with issues such as drug abuse
- Most Members expressed strong support for YSGs overall. Several chair their local YSG. Groups have generally taken a while to get going, but most seem to have made a significant impact in their first 12 months of existence. Some have galvanised links with local groups, and there has also been some interaction between YSGs
- However, other Members had not such a positive experience, quoting a lack of information being circulated and a very poor, unwelcoming overall ethos of actual meetings
- It was pointed out that each YSG may take its own approach to how it makes contact with other parties, publicises itself and keeps in touch with partners and the general public.

Councillor Metcalfe, as the Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games, pointed out that the original aim was to involve all Members in these, not necessarily as members of the YSG themselves, but at least in keeping them informed of what is going on. Another intention was for each YSG to be chaired by a County Councillor; and most are, but not all. Now that YSGs have been active for a year, each one will be subject to review, to see how well they are functioning. Mr O'Brien is preparing a report for her to consider. Councillor Metcalfe confirmed how useful it was to hear comments directly from Members. She stressed the importance of engage all Councillors in this project, especially in the wake of the forthcoming elections.

The Chairman asked that Mr O'Brien's report be circulated to all Members of the County Council, as well as the non-elected Members of this Committee. This would reflect the importance of this initiative overall.

## 7. Youth Centres

Michael O'Brien, Head of Youth Services, gave a brief presentation on the changes in the way the Essex Youth Services will operate in future.

In the past, the youth service has been perceived as very insular, with a consequent "us and them" mentality, which has drawn criticism from potential partners. The new Youth & Community Development Model aims to change this. The Youth Worker's role will change from being predominantly one delivering and managing youth work programmes, to one enabling and supporting others to do so. The emphasis will be on partnership working and the engagement of local people.

The present delivery model for a typical youth centre shows a small number of sessions when the centre is open, involving several youth workers at once, with the building unused for the rest of the time. The New Model shows a building in virtually constant use, providing a much wider range of services, and only requiring a youth worker presence half the time, the remaining sessions being overseen by individuals from the local community.

In practical terms, this will mean that youth workers will have to go into the community, to encourage and develop the use of a range of skills to be used by those in that community. He added that changes have already been taking place: there are now 104 more sessions per week in youth centres than there were a year ago.

Among the potential benefits, he listed:

- More and varied provision for less money
- Better partnership working
- More choice for young people
- Staff will develop greater skills and knowledge
- Better recognition of youth workers and service
- More secure future
- More volunteering opportunities for young people
- Community capacity building via ECC QA and Curriculum
- Greater community cohesion

Mr O'Brien responded to queries raised by Members.

- No youth centres have licensed bars. They are kept for youth activities, and bars tend to encourage an older clientele; also, there is a health issue – eg, no high energy drinks are available in youth centres either. And these are quite apart from any other issues that might be connected with the availability of alcohol
- Rural communities have always been particularly challenging, as transport is a real issue. Efforts are being made to identify potential projects, through the use of mobile clubs, for example
- It is intended to improve online access to this service, by developing a youth website and by producing an Essex app. Mr O'Brien pointed out

that the hook for this will be the social side, although the ultimate intention is for young people to achieve progress in the curriculum and other areas

- This programme can be seen as an important tool for the YSGs to use, so they will be kept informed of its progress. And the priorities of each individual youth centre will be dictated by the local communities, probably through the YSG.

The Chairman thanked Mr O'Brien for his update; she acknowledged the potential for this programme and suggested that it should be included in the induction for new Members, following the elections.

## **8. Future Scrutiny Structure**

The Chairman pointed out that, although speculation at this point was unlikely to be fruitful, the structure of scrutiny post elections would almost certainly be different. She sought any concerns or thoughts Members had on this or on any aspect of scrutiny.

Members made a few points:

- A reduction in the number of committees may put undue strain on those remaining, as they struggle to cope with their broader spheres of interest
- Another impact of having fewer committees could be a lack of engagement by Members, as there may be fewer opportunities to become involved in the policy and scrutiny functions
- Adopting a less introspective approach to scrutiny would be a step forward. At present, this committee fails to make sufficient use of external witnesses for scrutiny
- The Families Safeguarding Sub-Committee has demonstrated its worth over the past year; it was hoped that it would continue to have a role to play.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The Committee noted that no meeting was scheduled for April, and that, because it was not clear what the structure of scrutiny would be after the elections, no meeting dates had been set thereafter.

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Committee for their contributions and help over the months she had been on the Committee. Members in turn acknowledged the efforts of the Chairman over that period and wished her well, as she would not be standing for re-election.

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

Chairman



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & OLDER PEOPLE POLICY  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD AT  
10.00 AM ON 11 APRIL 2013**

**Present:**

W J C Dick (Chairman)

P Channer

M Garnett

E Hart

T Higgins

S Hillier

Mrs J Reeves (Vice Chairman)

C Riley

E Webster

Mrs J H Whitehouse (Vice-  
Chairman)

Also in attendance were Councillors J Aldridge (Cabinet Member, Adults Social Care) (Items 4 & 5) and A Naylor (Cabinet Member, Health & Wellbeing) (Items 4 & 5).

**1. Attendance, Apologies and Substitute Notices**

The Committee Officer reported apologies had been received from Councillors Barton (substituted by Councillor Higgins), Griffiths, Madden and Wood.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 14 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

**4. Personal Budgets Audit**

The Committee considered a report (COP/15/13), which sets out the results of the Internal Audit Report 2012/13 – Personal Budgets, as well as the subsequent action plan, which aims to address the issues raised in the Internal Audit report. Karen Wright, Director for Safeguarding Practice & Development, Internal Standards & Governance, and Ros Wilson, Service Manager, ISG, were in attendance to introduce the report and respond to Members' questions. Karen Bellamy, Counter Fraud Manager, was also in attendance, in the capacity of the Committee's "expert witness".

The Internal Audit Report raised concerns about the signed personal budget agreements, recovery action and the review of financial monitoring. It was pointed out that some improvement had been seen in these areas, but more was required.

Members expressed concern at the lack of controls: eg where the audit had revealed that the signed agreement could not be located in 4 out of 28 test cases. If this accurately reflected the actual figures, it represented about 400 missing agreements. Members pointed out that the Council was dealing with

public money, and must do its utmost to look after it appropriately. Ms Wright pointed out that the latest audit had shown some improvements since the previous one. However she admitted that there were some slippages of which she had been unaware, which had resulted in less progress than had been anticipated. She added that these figures gave previous results, before the present system was in place. The intention was to use pre-payment cards in future and work was progressing on this (the previously chosen provider not having fulfilled its contract). A number of local authorities already used such a system.

As part of the new system, some improvements were noted: better overall training for some staff, involvement of practitioners, to ensure the right things are being considered, better recording of data, checking on the actual signing of documents. All new service users had to go through the new system.

The Chairman suggested that the amount where auditable receipts should be produced be reduced from £500 to £200.

Ms Wright pointed out that each service user had a support plan, and very few of them deviated from this. The money was not simply available from a cash machine, and many parties would keep their own records, for Inland Revenue purposes. One suggestion was that service users should keep account books.

Councillor Aldridge pointed out that the most significant aspect of this audit was that the number of service users involved has risen, but the monitoring process has not been able to keep up with this rise. It was imperative to maintain appropriate monitoring, and to ensure that all monies were fully accounted for. He expected everything to be in order by June.

The Chairman pointed out that Internal Audit's report was little different to the previous one, and the recommendations stemming from that review had not been adopted – eg that relating to debt recovery. Ms Wright informed Members that if there were issues of this kind with a service user, payments were stopped until these were resolved, and this was made clear from the outset.

In response to a query on how much would need to be recovered, Ms Wright suggested it should not be necessary at all, if the assessments had been carried out properly. All those who had received cash should have had an annual review at least.

In conclusion, the Committee asked that:

- Ms Wright report back to the Committee in September
- The possibility of reducing the receipt figure to £200 be considered
- The percentage figure of those receiving cash payments be produced
- All clients should obtain receipts for any expenditure. (It was agreed that Ms Wright should liaise with Internal Audit, to agree a suitable approach to receipts.)

## **5. Ageing Well Task and Finish Group**



The Committee considered the final report (COP/16/13) of the Ageing Well Task and Finish Group. Councillor Whitehouse, as Chairman of the Group, introduced the item.

The Report contains 15 Recommendations, coming under four headings: Highways and Passenger Transport, Loneliness and Isolation, The Voice of Older People, and Health and Wellbeing of Older People.

There have been few major changes from the draft that was considered by the Committee in March, but she drew attention to a few points.

- Reports had been received from Devon and Suffolk. It was noted that Devon holds training courses for older people, and target them with regard to issues of particular relevance
- For those no longer able to use their own transport, there is not only a strong element of social isolation, but it can be a very emotional issue for those concerned, as they lose an element of their independence. The provision of some kind of opportunity to discuss such issues would be welcome
- If Highways increased resource into pavements, this would lead to a decrease in resource needed for reablement
- Given that Members can sign forms for driving licence renewals for those aged 70, consideration should be given to mandating the inclusion of an eyesight test as part of this process

Councillor Aldridge commended the Report. He made three points:

- The withdrawal of a licence, as had already been referred to. This ties in well with loneliness/isolation issues. However, it does need some analysis of accident rates, to see how necessary it is
- The rejection of organisational blue badges (Recommendation 6). This needs to be challenged, so that the County Council can take the best course of action
- Issues relating to older people. This should be followed through by his successor.

Councillor Naylor also addressed the meeting.

- She suggested that there already exists a substantial amount of statistical information on accident rates, etc, with regard to older drivers
- There is no spare money to spend on any courses for older people (or other groups). In response to this, Councillor Whitehouse suggested that these courses should be self-financing, with paying attendees. This was the approach taken by Suffolk, for their courses.

The Chairman noted these remarks and pointed out that the Scrutiny Board will consider this Report after the elections. He thanked all those involved with the Task & Finish Group for their efforts, particularly in the relatively short time available.

## **6. Dates of future meetings**

It was noted that no schedule has yet been drawn up for the meetings of any scrutiny committees after April.

## **7. Chairman's Final Comments**

The Chairman pointed out that this would be the final meeting of this Committee in its present form, as a new scrutiny structure would be in place after the May elections. He drew Members' attention to the work carried out by the Committee over the past 4 years and thanked them for their contributions during that time. He also noted the support provided by officers over that period. He hoped that those Members who were not standing for re-election would enjoy their "retirement", and wished success to those who were standing again.

Councillor Riley expressed the Committee's thanks to Councillor Dick for his chairmanship over the four years.

He suggested that one important message he would like to be conveyed to the Scrutiny Committee was that Members' were frustrated by the outsourcing and purchasing of services and wanted to ensure that, where services were outsourced, actual delivery remained at an appropriately high level.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am

**Chairman**

**SEND CONSULTATION REPORT FROM THE SEND TASK AND FINISH GROUP  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Name

Date

## 1. Introduction

This report focuses on responses and early trends received through our online SEND Consultation. It does not include a separate workbook element of the consultation which targeted children and young people with SEND.

The online consultation ran for three months from February to the end of April and sought views from a wide cross section of people with an interest in SEND services across Essex.

## 2. Purpose of the consultation

The main purpose of the consultation was to engage with as many key stakeholders as possible and to obtain their views on our six proposed priorities for the future delivery of SEND services.

## 3. Our approach

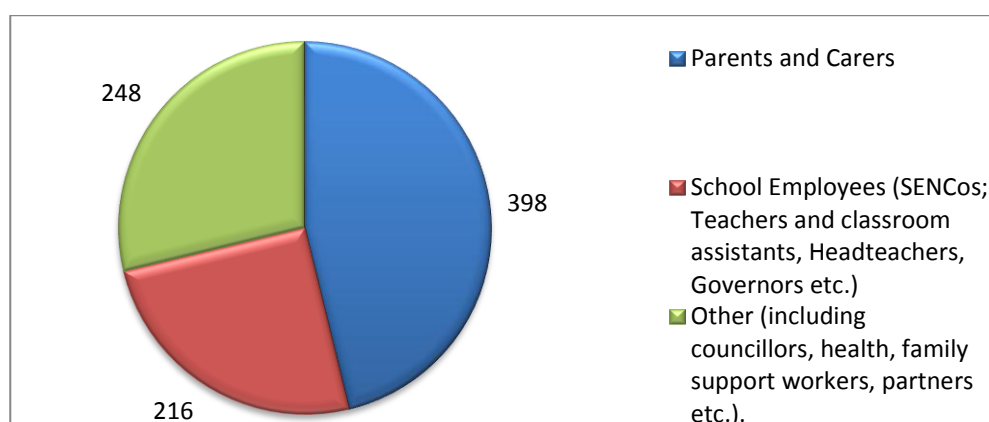
Our consultation differentiated between those who were parents and carers, school employees and other respondents and allowed us to tailor the questions depending on the audience group.

We used:

- The online consultation portal on Essex Insight (our data observatory) was used to capture and undertake initial high level analysis from these audiences upon which, findings within this report are based. The consultation included several other elements (including those listed below) and these are yet to be analysed.
  - Workbook – this contained questions intended to capture views from children and young people with SEND
  - Electronic PowerPoint consultation – this used pictures and audio to allow children and young people with SEND to provide their answers to their carer with minimal assistance.
  - Face to face survey with parents conducted by parents support group FACE. We have received around 130 responses so far.

## 4. Who responded?

We received a total of 862 online responses. According to the Research and Analysis department within ECC, this is an extremely health response rate. Below is a breakdown by respondent category:

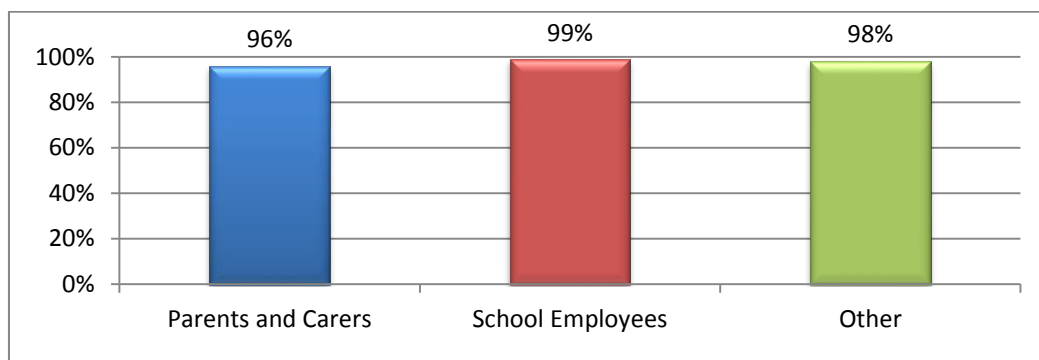


## 5. Responses received

The consultation asked each type of respondent whether they agreed with each of the six priorities identified, these were -

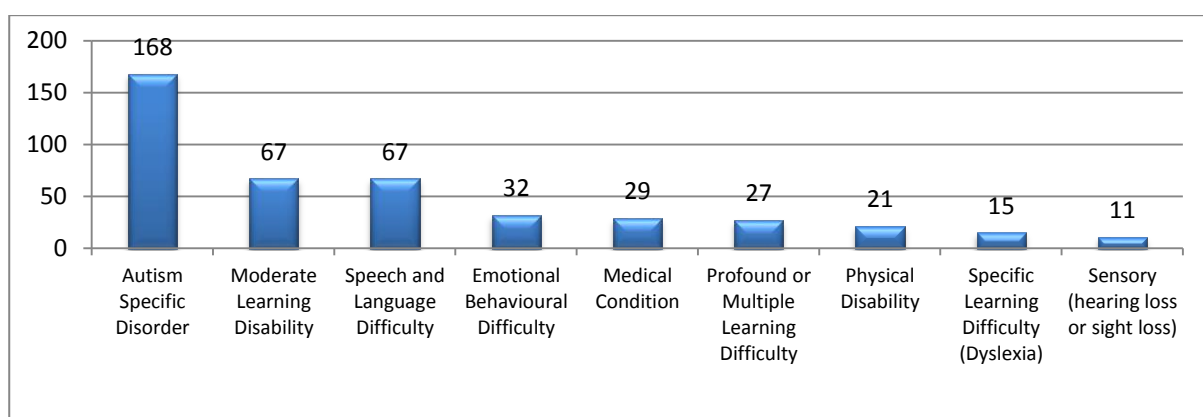
- Ensure all schools and educational settings offer good or outstanding provision for pupils with SEND
- Strengthen and coordinate our approach to preventative work and early intervention programmes
- Improve partnership and joint commissioning
- Ensure pupils with SEND follow a planned pathway through transition into adulthood that supports their progression
- Improve the organisation and delivery of SEN assessments, placements and services including joint assessment and funding arrangements for C&YP
- We want to ensure there is a range of provision in place to support children with SEND.

Levels of support were extremely high for all priorities and by all audience types as shown by the chart below which averages the level of support across each priority: -



### Parents and carers

Parents were asked to identify their Child's SEND need, the top three responses were Autism Specific Disorder, Moderate Learning Disability and Speech and Language Difficulty as shown below –



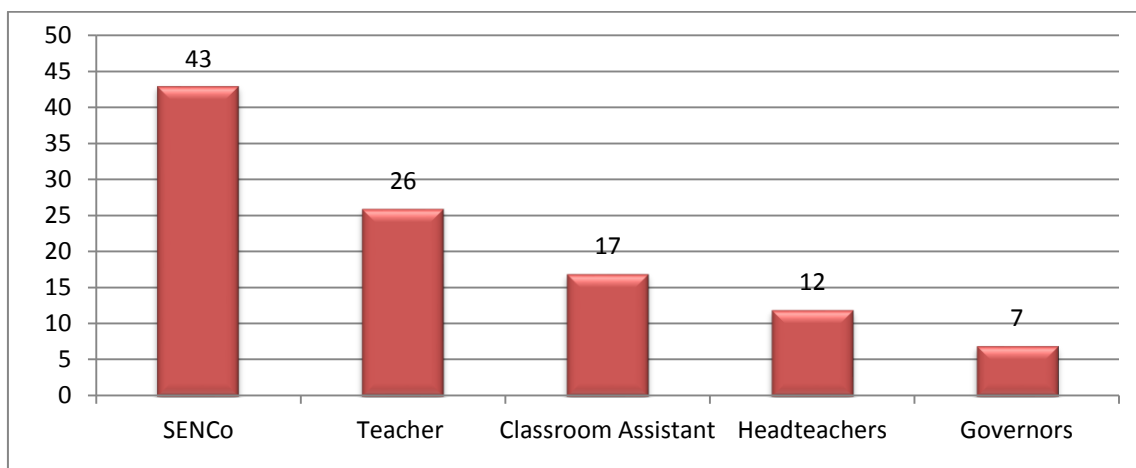
When asked their view on whether the needs of siblings of children with SEND are accounted for enough 80% said no. They were then asked how they could be better supported and common responses included Counselling, increased understanding through events, listen to them, days out, workshops and support groups.

Parents and carers were also asked what specialist support services they thought would make the most impact on their child's outcomes or wellbeing. The most popular responses are shown below: -

Description	Frequency
Specialist Teaching Services	161
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	160
Speech Therapy	147
Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities	125
Specialist Services for Children with Disabilities	116

### School Employees

The chart below shows the number of responses received from five most popular categories of school employee: -



We asked what else we could do to improve progress and achievement for children and young people with SEND and the most popular responses included Training, Easy access to specialist advice and support (local offer) and listening to the concerns of parents and children/young people.

In response to being asked what services we need to target at early intervention the three most popular answers were specialist teacher advice, pre-school and speech and language.

Finally school employees were asked what we could do to improve the way schools, health and social care work together to support children and families. The most common responses included the lack of join up between agencies/partnership working, the need for improved communications and transparency relating to general practices and guidance and better information sharing.

### Other

This group were also asked what we could do to improve the way schools, health and social care work together to support children and families. The most popular responses were to improve joint commissioning, to ensure better information sharing and to make expectations around roles and accountability clearer.

## **6. Next steps**

In terms of next steps we will continue to analyse the responses received so far to the online consultation, particularly the numerous open ended questions to search for patterns and to consider how these findings will influence our new SEND strategy for Essex.

We will also analyse the responses to other elements of the consultation identified in this paper including the feedback from Workbooks and the face-to-face survey undertaken by FACE.

The consultation will also continue through engagement sessions with all stakeholders on the 6 priorities (June 2013). These will be informed by the analysis of the consultation activity outlined above.

In terms of timescales we will look to have produced the new strategy by August 2013, for sign off and publication by September 2013.





## 2013/14 SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND WORK PROGRAMME

## COMMITTEE: PEOPLE &amp; FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PRE-MEETING					POST-MEETING		AGREED ACTION & IMPLEMENTATION	
SCRUTINY ITEM & REF.	APPROACH	SCOPING DOCUMENT	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE	OUTCOMES, ACTIONS ARISING & UPDATES	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/ OFFICER	IMPACT REVIEW DATE	IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW DATE AND OUTCOME
Sensory Services Recommendation to the Cabinet Member (COP/25/12)	T & F Group (Chairman: Cllr Mike Garnett)		Tony Sheill/Maria Warren	13-Sep-12	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> ECC should commission a new integrated service on the open market via the councils regulated procurement process.	Cllr John Aldridge	Oct-13	<b>UPDATE:</b> A revised recommendation to be submitted for Committee approval, prior to receipt by Cabinet Member, in the <b>autumn 2013</b>
Mental Health Annual Reports of the Two Partnership Trusts (COP/35/12)	Full Committee		Caroline Robinson	08-Nov-12	<b>RESOLVED:</b> The Annual Report for 2012/13 should be presented in <b>November 2013</b>	Caroline Robinson	Nov-13	UPDATE: The Committee would retain a watching brief having received the information requested in January 2013
Occupational Therapy (COP/02/13)	Full Committee		John Mackinnon	10-Jan-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> Officers to produce a report for the February 2013 meeting, which provides full details of the problems, including numbers of delays by area, and relevant budget/spending.	John Mackinnon	Oct-13	UPDATE: The Committee will receive a further update in the <b>autumn 2013</b> as well as progress on DFG discussions with District/Borough/City Councils

All Age Disability Framework (COP/11/13)	Task and Finish Group		Barbara Herts	14-Mar-13	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> The cost benefits of a computer system to be implemented that allows Children's, Adults and Health Services to 'talk to each other' which allow for a universal care record. This should be a financial priority. A small Members focus group be established to follow the project through to		Sep-13	UPDATE: Task and Finish Group to be established following status update in July 2013
Ageing Well (COP/16/13)	Task and Finish Group			11-Apr-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> The Scrutiny Board would consider the Report (and the 15 recommendations therein) at its first meeting following the County Council elections in May 2013. A decision in terms of attributing the recommendations across Portfolios and Committees will be	Chairman of the Scrutiny Board/Cabinet Members	Dec-13	UPDATE: The Scrutiny Board referred the recommendations within the report to the relevant Cabinet Members in June 2013. Therefore, the impact review date is <b>December 2013</b> .
Children's Partnership Review (CYP 7 Feb 13, minute 4)	Full Committee		Roger Bullen	07-Feb-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> A chart and explanation of the future structure of children's partnership arrangements was requested alongside regular progress reports		Nov-13	
School Performance (CYP/05/13)	Full Committee		Tim Coulson	07-Feb-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> A report on the Judicial Review and its implications should be presented to the Committee when complete	Tim Coulson		

Families with Complex Needs (CYP/01/13)	Full Committee		Alastair Gibbons/ Philippa Bull	07-Jan-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> A progress report during the autumn of 2013 was requested		Oct-13	
Children's Centres (CYP/02/13) and Early Years	Task and Finish Group		Tim Coulson	07-Jan-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> A progress report during the autumn of 2013 was requested		Oct-13	Task and Finish Group to be established
Special Educational Needs and Disability (CYP/03/13) and (PAF/04/13)	Task and Finish Group		Karen Jones	04-Jul-13	<b>RESOLVED:</b> An interim progress report to be received in July 2013	Cllr Theresa Higgins		Task and Finish Group to be re-established
Carers Strategy	Task and Finish Group		Kathryn Chard	12-Sep-13				Task and Finish Group to be re-established
The Deanes School (PAF/03/13)	Task and Finish Group		Tim Coulson	04-Jul-13		Cllr Graham Butland	Sep-13	Task and Finish Group to be established on 4 July 2013
Children in Care	Task and Finish Group			12-Sep-13		Cllr Norman Hume		Task and Finish Group to be established
Proposal for partnership working between the Committee and the YEA	Full Committee		Clare Ratcliffe/ Sheila Woodward	12-Sep-13				

