

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN
EDUCATION AND COUNCIL MEETING

Held on
Friday 8th July 2016
Conference Room, Hamilton House, Peel Road

Present	The Hon Tim Crookall, MLC	Professor R Barr - CEO
	Mr Geoff Corkish, MLC	Mr A Shipley-Legal & Admin Manager
Council Members	Mrs Jennifer Pendree	Mrs Margaret Mansfield
	Mrs Tracey Martin	Mr Robin Turton
	Mrs Diane Brown	Mr Steven Bevan
	Mrs Barbara Brereton	Mr Ray Smith
	Mr Andrew Cole	
Apologies	Mr Bill Malarkey, MHK	Mrs Louise Strickett
Minutes	Sharon Mincher-Senior Sec	

AGENDA ITEMS		
Item	Business	
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies were given as above by Mr Bill Malarkey, MHK and Louise Strickett.	
2.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd March 2016	
	The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 rd March 2016 were recorded as a true and correct record. The Minister welcomed all attendees and education council members to Hamilton House and asked if everybody would prefer future meetings to be held here. All meeting members agreed that they would prefer future meetings to be held here.	
3.	Matters Arising from the minutes not shown on the Agenda	
	The Minister read through the minutes of the last meeting and items were discussed as follows: University College Isle of Man (UCM) -A member asked if it was still the Department's opinion that the Principal of the newly designated University College of Man would be a member of the Governing Body; unlike the schools' Governing Bodies where the Head Teacher is not a voting member of the Governors. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Principal would not be a voting member of the College Governing Body.	

Henry Bloom Noble – The Chief Executive Officer reported that Henry Bloom Noble School is currently 1 week behind schedule, so this will take the handover later into August 2016. Mr Ian Walmsley, Headteacher is planning to have an open day so that council members and other visitors can have a look around.

Central Pupil Database – The Legal and Administration Manager reported that this is running smoothly and that legislation is in place.

Sally Brookes has finished work with the Department and Sue Mowle is now the Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding. She will be visiting Jersey for 3 days in the week commencing 11th July 2016. She will meet with staff from Jersey and Guernsey to benchmark and look at how other Island jurisdictions can run a cost effective SEN service.

St Thomas' – The Chief Executive Officer reported that 2 meetings have been held so far with representatives of St Thomas' school. The Chief Executive Officer mentioned that this is a high priority issue, as St Thomas' school has inadequate provisions for staff and pupils and that we need to find a solution to this. Another meeting is due to be held.

Anaphalaxia - The Legal and Administration Manager reported that he is looking at developing a policy in regard to Anaphalaxia and that he has previously attended a meeting with Mr Derek Peters, Catering Manager at DHSC. It is reported that 5% of the population are currently affected by this and that Mr Peters is considering matters from a catering perspective.

Admission Policy – The Minister reported that we have had a considerable number of Out of Catchment Area requests, which the department is reviewing on a daily basis. It is also reported that there has been a lot of requests in regard to parents of Summer born children who do not want to send their children into reception class in September of the academic year in which they are 5 years old. The Minister reported that these issues are causing concern to schools and also amongst Social Media users. The Minister confirmed that these issues are taking up a significant amount of staff time.

Freedom of Information (FoI) – The Legal and Administration Manager reported that in regard to an Education Council member role with FoI being introduced, emails and correspondence no longer needed should be deleted.

The Chief Executive Officer reported that there maybe some tweaks to this policy regarding requests. For information he reported that the Cabinet Office and DEFA have had repeated requests. The Legal and Administration Manager confirmed that people can ask for personal information to be retrieved.

DoI Transport – It was reported that the transport changes within the department are working well and that DoEC are now effectively the customer of DoI Transport. There have been no real issues from feedback received and the Executive Officer, Administration and Transport, is working with Mr Peter Dainton, Minibus Transport Supervisor to make sure that handover runs as smoothly as possible.

4.	<p>Where do we stand on the change of law regarding 'legal highs' on the IOM following the move in the UK</p>	
	<p>The Minister reported that the Department of Home Affairs is working on this and he said that we need to find information from the schools themselves. The Minister asked Education Council members if they know if any schools have had police dogs around recently? Most members stated that their schools had not, but a member said that there had been police dogs in one of his schools, as a training exercise.</p> <p>The Minister said that the Department are aware that it is a huge issue, and we are seeking to address it. A member said that unfortunately people do not realise what it is that a child/pupil has picked up, as access to these 'legal highs' is so easy and packaging can be very misleading.</p> <p>A member mentioned that there also seems to be a problem with energy drinks and asked for clarification as to what age you need to be to buy one of these? It was confirmed that 16 is the age limit for buying these drinks, but there are also some that you have to be 18 years of age to purchase.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer reported that this is an issue for the Safeguarding Board and that we only have anecdotal evidence from schools. He reported that DAT (Drug and Alcohol Team) are carrying out a lot of work in regard to this and that Policies within schools will be refreshed. The Legal and Administration Manager reported that the Department of Education and Children does have very good relations with the Police when dealing with issues concerning drugs etc.</p>	
5.	<p>Do we have a data on the number of students who miss school for family holiday during term time, especially in the light of the legal challenge upheld in the UK, acknowledging that the Island is unique regarding travel access etc?</p>	
	<p>The Legal and Administration Manager reported that in regard to this, we can dig into various databases, but the main cut off point is if attendance falls below 80%. He said that the Department has just introduced ARBOR which is a software package which will facilitate access to this general information. He also confirmed that there has been 5 Fixed Penalty Notices issued within this year.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer reported that in 2015 when the Island's schools had TT practice week off, no issues or complaints were received about having this time on holiday. He said that we need to think about this for next year and to also look into the timings of Easter holidays. We could go for another 2 week holiday over TT in the future. He said that the Director of Education is looking into this, and that this issue will be brought back to the Education Council for further discussion.</p> <p>A member said that at a meeting that she attended some time ago, a majority of parents did not complain about the holidays planned, they also said that a majority of the exams that were taken were before TT week.</p>	

6.	Co-option of Governors – Clarification on the criteria for co-opted Governors (see Secondary Heads notes from 14th April, item 7b)	
	<p>There was discussion around the criteria for Co-opted Governors and it was realised that the Articles and Instruments of Governance across schools were not the same. It was agreed that a consistent set of Articles and Instruments would be produced.</p> <p><i>Action: Legal and Administration Manager</i></p>	
7.	Collaboration – is it working? Cost savings in all areas and progress with shared A level programmes	
	<p>The Minister stated that, he has been told that savings have been made with collaboration. In regard to a member query about possible losses, the Chief Executive Officer said that Finance Shared Services had undertaken a review in October/November 2015. He said that there needs to be a full review from a policy point of view.</p> <p>A member reported that access on the Foxdale and Lezayre Roads are going to be severely restricted for 6 months. Access is going to be limited and this is going to cause major disruption for buses, parents and staff who will require longer travel times to get to and from schools. Questions were asked as to how this is going disrupt day to day business and why it could not have been carried out at more suitable times eg later in the afternoon/weekend work etc.</p> <p>Education Council members agreed that not enough notice has been given in regard to these works and that the DoI has assumed that business can just go on as normal. The Minister agreed that this is very inconvenient and that the DoEC should have been informed about this much sooner in advance. The Minister will follow this up with Minister Gawne at DoI. The Chief Executive Officer said that although he cannot do anything about the work that will be carried out and additional times etc, he will help out as much as he can with travel expenses incurred. He also said that he is not happy about the health and safety issues in general about this and that these have not been thought about properly. He will discuss this further with the Health and Safety Adviser.</p>	
8.	Update on iGCSEs	
	<p>From September 2017, 70% of the qualifications undertaken will be IGCSE and the remaining 30% or so will be Welsh and Northern Irish exam board qualifications. We are making progress with SQA and are becoming a centre outside Scotland for SQA Awards.</p> <p>The Minister confirmed that he will be travelling to Scotland in August 2016.</p>	
9.	Any Other Business	
	<p>The Minister asked Education Council members that as they are now 6-7 months into continuing / new roles as council members, whether they are happy with their current work and responsibilities? A member replied that he is happy with the current work, although having the responsibility of a cluster of schools can be a disadvantage.</p> <p>Another member replied that Out of Catchment area requests are a very serious issue and that a majority of members are not comfortable with making final</p>	

	<p>decisions at out of catchment appeals. The Chief Executive Officer said that a robust approach is needed, including Head teachers supporting decisions that had to be made. This will be raised in the meeting with Head teachers in September 2016.</p> <p>A member said that there are also Social media groups that are circulating information etc in regard to issues like this. He asked if there is anyway that we can monitor this? The Legal and Administration Manager replied that although there is an issue around Facebook and Social Media in regard to previous discussions, action will be taken if possible. He asked for members to contact him if they had any feedback. The Minister confirmed that if we are aware of feedback we can follow it up.</p> <p>A member asked what action can be taken in regard to vandalism on property outside of school hours? The Legal and Administration Manager confirmed that outside of school this is a police matter. The Chief Executive Officer said that he would be interested in how problems have been resolved in the past and would be happy to look further in to them to see how they are addressed elsewhere.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer reported that Heather Christian-Director of Strategy and Corporate Services is currently off sick and that Mrs Yvette Mellor will be covering her role as Director of Strategy and Corporate Services to the end of the financial year. He said that Yvette brings much experience and skills into the role.</p> <p>It was reported that we now have 3 new Union Representatives, with whom the Department are seeking to work.</p>	
Date of next meeting		
	The next Education Council meeting will be held on Friday 14 th October 2016 at 10.00am in the Conference room, Hamilton House.	

Signed

Date