

NOTICE  
OF  
MEETING

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM

will meet on

**MONDAY, 13TH JUNE, 2022**

**At 5.00 pm**

by

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS AND ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM

COUNCILLORS STUART CARROLL (CHAIRMAN), DAVID COPPINGER (VICE-CHAIRMAN) AND CATHERINE DEL CAMPO

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS DAVID HILTON, SAYONARA LUXTON AND AMY TISI

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at [www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk) or contact the Panel Administrator **Mark Beeley** 01628 796345 / [mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk)

**Recording of Meetings** – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the virtual meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

## AGENDA

### PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>  To receive any apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>  To receive any declarations of interest.	3 - 4
3.	<u>MINUTES</u>  To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021.	5 - 8
4.	<u>LIFE POST PANDEMIC IN SCHOOLS</u>  To consider the above titled item.	Verbal Report
5.	<u>ALL SAINTS JUNIOR SCHOOL UPDATE ON PROGRESS</u>  To receive an update on the school.	Verbal Report
6.	<u>GREEN PAPER - WHAT THIS MEANS</u>  To discuss the above titled item.	Verbal Report
7.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>  All at 5pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Maidenhead</li><li>• Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Virtual via Zoom</li></ul>	-

## MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

### Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

### Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

*DPIs (relating to the Member or their partner) include:*

- *Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.*
- *Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses*
- *Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.*
- *Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
  - a) that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, and*
  - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.*

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

### Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

*Other Registerable Interests (relating to the Member or their partner):*

*You have an interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:*

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority*
- b) any body*
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature*
  - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or*

*one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)*

### **Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under DPIs as set out in Table 1 of the Members' code of Conduct

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

**You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

### **Other declarations**

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

# Agenda Item 3

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Stuart Carroll (Chair), David Coppinger (Vice-Chairman) and Catherine Del Campo

Also in attendance: Councillor John Baldwin, Councillor Maureen Hunt and Judith Street

Officers: Mark Beeley, Clive Haines, Rebecca Askew, Helen Huntley and Alasdair Whitelaw

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received. The Chairman was running late so Councillor Coppinger began the meeting as Chairman.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

### MINUTES

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were approved as an accurate record.**

### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN RBWM SCHOOLS

Rebecca Askew, Senior Specialist Educational Psychologist - Wellbeing, gave a presentation on mental health and wellbeing within schools. There was a rising prevalence of mental health difficulties, with one in eight children having mental health needs. There was also a rising level of suicide in under 25s. Over the past few years, a significant amount of progress had been made. There was more recognition that there was an overlap between mental health and physical illness. In RBWM, the universal offer of youth services had been reduced but were doing well in the family hubs. The team had seen an increase in the number of eating disorders and disordered eating, which was where a child could possibly be eating the same thing each day and therefore not getting a balanced diet. High numbers of referrals were happening for anxiety.

Looking at the national data, over 190,000 18 year olds were referred to children and young people's mental health services between April 2021 and June 2021, this was an increase when compared to the previous year. An increase in 80% of young people had been referred to crisis care. Recently a survey had been undertaken on health and wellbeing, which had been run by Oxford University and was sent out to RBWM schools who could then help children fill it out. The data from this survey could be used to help develop plans and inform the local transformation plan. Questions covered things like bullying and access to services, it had been clear from the survey results that a number of children preferred not to access mental health services in a school setting and would use the internet after school instead. Of all the year groups, students from Years 11 and 12 seemed to be most affected during the first survey.

Rebecca Askew explained that she managed the Wellbeing team of therapists who could offer help and support to young people, the only requirement was that they attended a school in RBWM. Each wellbeing practitioner was linked to a school in the borough so they could offer

advice and support on an ad-hoc basis. They also supported children and young people 1 to 1 and in small groups through the Early Help Hub and Social Care. The RBWM wellbeing team had been decreasing in size but referrals through early help had doubled during the past year. Waiting times for the 'getting help' team were favourable in RBWM compared to its other East Berkshire neighbours Slough and Bracknell. Mental health support teams were in place at 14 different schools across the borough which had been launched in September. Individual and group support, as well as peer mentoring, would be offered and the teams would be hosting whole school assemblies and embedding a whole school approach for mental health and wellbeing in each school.

Councillor Coppinger thanked Rebecca Askew for the presentation and asked for the presentation to be circulated after the meeting to the Forum.

**ACTION – Mark Beeley to circulate presentation to the School Improvement Forum.**

Councillor Del Campo commented on the loss of the universal offer and asked if those that were left were coming through the wellbeing services.

Rebecca Askew explained that the wellbeing team was separate to the family hub, she was specifically talking about the youth service which did not impact on other activities like summer programmes.

Councillor Del Campo made reference to a graph which had been shown as part of the presentation, where the number was 0. She asked if this meant that no treatment had taken place at this time.

Rebecca Askew said that during the lockdowns the data was not totally accurate but there were significant drops at these times.

Councillor Del Campo asked what the team needed from RBWM.

Rebecca Askew said that there was a huge amount of positive development which would take time to move through the system. Clear communication to parents and carers was important, so that young people knew where and how they could access services. Sports facilities and funding for these was very beneficial for wellbeing and mental health. Staff wellbeing was also something that should be focused on, teaching staff had worked hard over the course of the pandemic.

Councillor Coppinger handed the Chairman role back to Councillor Carroll.

The Chairman apologised for joining the meeting late but arrived at the start of the presentation. He said that the themes discussed in the presentation were a critical priority and supporting mental health, particularly with younger people. It was pleasing to see that the waiting times were lower compared to other areas, but these were still too high. The Chairman asked what was specifically needed to drive down the waiting times and what problems were occurring which meant that some had to wait longer than others.

Rebecca Askew said that there was a difficulty with staff leaving and employing new staff, this was a national problem. This was coupled with a huge increase in referrals. CAMHS were working on their wait list times and were looking at how young people could be supported whilst on a waiting list.

The Chairman asked for Rebecca Askew's view on the health system and the education system working well together so that young people were being helped as much as possible to avoid disruption to their education.

Rebecca Askew said it was important to meet both educational and mental health needs. There had been an improvement in the connection between these two systems, things like the mental health support teams in schools would help to develop this link further.

## SEMH PROGRAMME IMPACT WITHIN OUR SCHOOLS

Alasdair Whitelaw, SEMH Coordinator, gave a presentation on SEMH programme impact within schools across RBWM. The social, emotional and mental health project had been running since 2019 and was due to end at Easter 2022. It was a statutory requirement for schools to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of children with complex SEMH. The project was developed as there had been a rise in the number of exclusions, particularly at primary school. Alasdair Whitelaw had spent some time in different primary schools understanding the behavioural needs of some children and the communication links between teachers and parents. In total, the team had visited 21 schools which was 21 families who had received specialist support and help. Some funding had recently been secured which would allow for a secondary model to be trialled across six schools over 2021 and 2022. The most positive outcome of the trial was that no child involved was excluded. Exclusions had come down as a result of the project but had not been eliminated entirely. Looking at some of the feedback from headteachers on the project, 16 of the 21 said that the outcomes of the project were fully met, while 3 headteachers believed that the outcomes had been partly met, while the other two still had the project ongoing.

Judith Street, Headteacher at Queen Anne First School, explained that the project had helped a child who was a concern and had been excluded previously. As a result of the project, there had been a significant change in the child's behaviour and also the schools strength and confidence in supporting children with their own individual needs. A really important aspect of the project was the link between the parents and the school which was guided by the coach, who was part of the project. Judith Street thanked Alasdair Whitelaw and his team for all their help and support with the project.

Alasdair Whitelaw said that the project had also allowed a license to be purchased for all schools in RBWM to have an online Boxall profile, which was an assessment tool that identified strengths and weaknesses for each child. Progress could be tracked and RBWM was the first borough in the country to be offering this to all its schools. An SEMH email had been set up which allowed headteachers to email the team directly for any children who were at risk of exclusion, within 24 hours advice could be offered. Alasdair Whitelaw concluded by explaining that a paper would be taken to the Schools Forum in November 2021 with recommendations derived from the working group of headteachers which would outline the potential ongoing services to be agreed and funded.

The Chairman said that he was pleased to hear about the positive feedback from headteachers, the project had made a positive difference and it continued to do so. He thanked Alasdair Whitelaw for his leadership on the project. The Chairman asked what the challenges were of integrating services together and asked if more services could be integrated going forward.

Alasdair Whitelaw said that the ability to discuss cases virtually had proved to be beneficial. The Early Help hub was able to pick up cases, but there was always more that could be done. Data protection was an issue and often it could be hard to get the detail from the wealth of information that was available. Alasdair Whitelaw said that he would like to see communication improved further across different services.

Helen Huntley, SEND Consultant, said that there was more cross service discussion now than there had been previously. Governance was also much improved and issues were discussed at various meetings which involved multiple teams.

The Chairman suggested that Alasdair Whitelaw and Judith Street could be invited to one of his Cabinet Member briefings to discuss the detail further.

**ACTION – Clive Haines to invite Alasdair Whitelaw and Judith Street to the next Cabinet Member briefing.**

Councillor Del Campo said that it was good that children were being given extra support from an early age. She asked how behaviour could be evaluated that did not meet the behaviour threshold.

Alasdair Whitelaw said the difference could be made on those children in younger age groups. There were performance indicators which were reported back on, with suspensions in schools something that would be considered.

Helen Huntley said that the Boxall profile would be useful as it would identify the areas of need and evaluate the data using the profile. The team would have access to this data, with the schools permission, which would help inform development going forward.

Councillor Del Campo asked what happened from here, after the paper went to the Schools Forum.

The Chairman explained that the paper would be considered by the Schools Forum and would also come through to the Cabinet Member briefing. A decision would then be made on whether a Cabinet paper was needed. A report could also either be brought back to the School Improvement Forum or the Adults, Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Hunt, as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, said it would be good to have the report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The next meeting was considering the Budget but an additional meeting could be required to consider this and other items on the work programme.

**ACTION – Clive Haines and Councillor Carroll to discuss the report and see whether something can be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme.**

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, starting at 5pm.

The meeting, which began at 5.00 pm, finished at 6.40 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....