

## AGENDA

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**Meeting:** Childrens Services Select Committee  
**Place:** Council Chambers, County Hall, Trowbridge  
**Date:** Thursday 22 July 2010  
**Time:** 10.30 am (9.30am - SEN Review Members' Briefing)

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Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Sharon Smith, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718378 or email [sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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### Membership:

Cllr Paul Darby	Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Peter Fuller	Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Mark Griffiths	Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Russell Hawker	Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman)
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Vice-Chair)	

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### Substitutes:

Cllr Ernie Clark	Cllr Chris Humphries
Cllr Peter Colmer	Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Christopher Devine	Cllr Howard Marshall
Cllr Peggy Dow	Cllr William Roberts
Cllr Nick Fogg	

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### Non-Elected Voting Members:

Mrs Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Mr Neil Owen	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Mrs Rosheen Ryan	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Dr Mike Thompson	Roman Catholic Church Diocesan Representative

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### Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Mrs Di Dale	Further Education Representative
Chris Dark	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Judith Finney	Primary School Headteachers Representative
John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Chris King	Children & Young People's Representative

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## **PART I**

### **Items to be considered while the meeting is opened to the public**

1. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Jon Hubbard's resignation as Vice-Chairman of the Committee takes effect from this meeting. It is therefore necessary to elect a new Vice-Chairman.

Nominations will be sought orally from those present at the meeting. Voting will be by way of a show of hands.

2. **Apologies and substitutions**

To receive apologies for absence.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 12)*

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2010.

4. **Declarations of Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

6. **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. The Chairman will, however, exercise her discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of any question) to the officer named above by **12:00 noon on 18 July 2010**.

7. **Basic Skills in Wiltshire** *(To Follow)*

A report from Alistair Cunningham, Service Director for Economy and Enterprise, on the level of basic skills amongst people in Wiltshire. This follows

the comment in the 2009 Common Area Assessment (CAA) that “too many people in Wiltshire do not have basic reading and maths qualifications. Public services have increased their targets for the number of people getting basic qualifications but it is not clear whether they have met them.”

8. **Coalition Proposals for Children's Services and Education** (Pages 13 - 16)

At the Committee's 8 June 2010 meeting, Members requested that a standing item be included on every Agenda providing updates on the new Government's proposals for children's services and education.

A verbal update to the written report will be provided at the meeting.

Members are asked to note the update.

9. **NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) progress update** (Pages 17 - 22)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children & Education, updating Members on the position regarding levels of NEET amongst young people in Wiltshire and the actions being taken to reduce them.

Merfyn Williams, Head of Individual Learner Support Services for Young People, will attend to answer Members' questions.

Members are asked to note the report and comment as appropriate.

10. **Youth Work Staffing Allocations 2010/11** (Pages 23 - 28)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children & Education, providing an update on proposed changes to the allocation of Youth Worker staffing discussed by the Committee on 28 January 2010.

Members are asked to note the content of the report and comment as appropriate on the current implementation of the staffing funding formula.

11. **Review of SEN Provision Post Consultation Report (to follow)** (To Follow)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children & Education, providing the outcome of the consultation on the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision that was held from 22 February to 24 May 2010. The report makes recommendations for decisions on future provision based on the matters considered in the Review.

On 8 June, the Children's Services Select Committee resolved to undertake two rapid scrutiny exercises looking at the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, as follows:

1. Rapid scrutiny of the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision consultation process

2. Rapid scrutiny of the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision consultation results

Members will therefore be asked to consider the report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercises alongside the Review of SEN Provision Post Consultation Report.

12. **Holding the Executive to Public Account** *(Pages 29 - 30)*

A document showing the items to be considered at the next meetings of Cabinet, Corporate Parenting Panel and Schools Forum are attached.

13. **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 31 - 32)*

A copy of the draft Forward Work Programme is attached for consideration.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

10.30am, 23 September 2010

15. **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

**PART II**

**Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed**

## CHILDRENS SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

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### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDRENS SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2010 AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

#### **Present:**

Cllr Paul Darby, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Peter Davis, Mrs J Finney, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Cllr Russell Hawker, Mr J Hawkins, Mrs A Kemp, Mr Chris King, Cllr Helen Osborn, Mr Neil Owen, Mrs R Ryan, Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman) and Dr M Thompson

#### **Also Present:**

Cllr L Grundy OBE, Cllr Richard Gamble and Cllr Richard Clewer

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#### 69. **Election of Chairman**

Cllr Carole Soden was elected as Chairman of the Committee for 2010/11.

#### 70. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Jon Hubbard was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2010/11.

#### 71. **Membership**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Peter Davis who was appointed to this Committee by Full Council on 18 May, replacing Cllr Peter Hutton.

#### 72. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Di Dale, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Bill Moss and Cllr Pip Ridout.

#### 73. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 74. **Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interest were received.

## 75. Chairman's Announcements

### 1. **Special Educational Needs (SEN) seminar**

Following a request from Cllr Osborn, a seminar would be provided by officers on Special Education Needs (SEN) provision prior to the Committee's next meeting on 22 July 2010. This would provide some context to the SEN Review post-consultation report due for consideration at that meeting. The seminar would begin at 9.30am and it was requested that all councillors be notified of the seminar.

The Vice-Chairman requested that two Rapid Scrutiny Exercises be arranged: The first to look at the SEN Review consultation process. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman felt there has been weaknesses in the way the Review's rationale had been communicated. The second was to consider the SEN Review consultation results in order to add value to the recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet. The findings of both exercises would be reported to the full Committee's next meeting and considered alongside the post-consultation report.

Cllr Darby, Cllr Hubbard, Mrs Kemp, Cllr Osborn and Cllr Soden expressed interest in taking part in the exercise.

#### **Resolved:**

**To undertake Rapid Scrutiny Exercises into the SEN Review consultation process and consultation results prior to the next Committee meeting on 22 July 2010.**

### 2. **Letter regarding the proposed closure of the Special Learning Centre, Longleaze Primary School**

A letter from Mrs Ceri Seal and sent to Jon Hubbard was circulated. The letter outlined Mrs Seal's protest over the proposed closure of the Specialist Learning Centre at Longleaze School in Wootton Bassett. An officer response was also included for noting.

### 3. **Laverstock schools visit**

The visit to the St Edmunds, St Josephs and Wyvern College schools in Laverstock requested at the previous meeting would no longer take place on 29 June 2010. The Senior Scrutiny Officer would contact councillors to arrange an alternative date.

#### **4. New Corporate Plan**

The new Corporate Plan was approved by Full Council on 18 May. The Plan outlined the Council's priorities and where resources would be allocated to ensure the Council's goals and vision were realised.

The Plan's focus, in relation to children's services, was on improving Wiltshire's primary schools, pupil performance at Key Stage 2, and the reduction of attainment gaps between all children with Special Educational Needs, Looked After Children, children receiving Free School Meals and their peers.

A Delivery Plan would be produced by the Department of Children and Education (DCE) which would provide details on how these targets would be achieved, which was expected to be ready for consideration by the Committee in September.

#### **5. Downlands School funding**

At the Committee's previous meeting, Neil Owen, Secondary Parent Governor representative, expressed concern over the Schools Forum decision in January regarding Downlands School.

The decision related to the School being over-funded in previous years due to a mismatch between their census form and the formula used to calculate the appropriate funding. With this in mind, the Schools Forum agreed to implement a transition period whereby the school's funding would be reduced to the correct level over a period of four years.

Neil Owen and the Chairman of the Committee had arranged to meet with Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director DCE on 14 June to discuss the matter. A full update would be provided to the Committee in July.

#### **6. National Review of Children's Cardiac Surgery Services**

At its meeting in May, the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee was informed of plans for a national review of specialised children's cardiac surgery. The results of the review would eventually determine where centres for children's cardiac surgery would be located around the country.

Recommendations would be developed in 2010 and shared with local commissioners and stakeholders, including the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, who were leading on this process for the Council. The Children's Services Select Committee would receive regular updates and given the opportunity to provide input.

## **7. Coalition Government - Plans for Children's Services**

An outline of the new Government's proposals for children's services and education was circulated. Members of the Committee were requested to consider the content of the paper outside of the meeting and provide the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Senior Scrutiny Officer with comments on proposed priorities by 1 July. It was also agreed that a standing item be included on each agenda for officers to update the Committee on the latest developments.

The Corporate Director for Children's Services reported that funding to Children's Services could be reduced by approximately £1m per year, every year.

### **Resolved:**

**A standing item to be included on each agenda for officers to update the Committee on implications of the new Government's proposals for children's services and education.**

### 76. **Public Participation**

None.

### 77. **Primary School Strategy: Securing Primary School Improvement through the World Class Primary Plan**

Members considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children and Education, providing an update on recent developments within primary school improvement, including the World Class Primary Plan for Wiltshire and the programmes of support currently provided by the local authority to primary schools. Julie Cathcart, Head of School Improvement, and David Ross, Head of School Support, presented.

Ensuing discussion included:

- (a) The Council had been asked by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to produce a World Class Primary Plan for Wiltshire by end of April 2010. The future status of these plans was now unclear following election of the new coalition Government. Much of the Plan was built on existing strategies and activities and provided details on how the authority supported schools that were currently below the performance target, methods of maximising progression, how to encourage consistent performance and how to transform schools from good to great.



- (b) The report highlighted key features of Plan, to include the role of the School Improvement Partner (SIP). In March 2010, Wiltshire Council was asked to take part in a project to develop the role of the SIP and look at how they could take an increased role in brokerage.
- (c) Under the coalition's new Academies Bill, it was proposed that schools judged as 'outstanding' by Ofsted could be fast-tracked to academy status by the autumn. 1,114 schools nationally had registered to become an academy, though it was still unclear how many schools in Wiltshire would do so.
- (d) The nature of academy status would change the way in which local authorities provided support to those schools, which could result in a change to the Plan. The local authority would have no responsibility for academies as they are independently run, but they were likely to retain some funding passing through the local authority such as for Special Educational Needs (SEN). Admission requirements were clearly set out prior to the announcement on academy status and it was hoped that academies would remain in the same situation as schools with Foundation Status. Funding arrangements were anticipated to be included within the documentation supplied for academy status.
- (e) Wiltshire Council had been contacted by the new Department of Children and Families to provide advice on the work of 'schools supporting schools' as the authority was considered to have expertise and experience in this area.
- (f) Links between the local authority and diocese schools were strong and work was underway to ensure that in future, diocese and council were heard as once voice.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To thank the department for the report and note its contents.**
- 2. To request that changes to the primary school policy framework and related resources implications were reported to the Committee when known.**

**78. School Performance**

Stephanie Denovan, Service Director for Schools and Learning, presented a report on why a high proportion of Wiltshire's primary schools were judged by Ofsted to be no better than satisfactory, with a small number inadequate, in the 2009 assessment of children's services in Wiltshire. The assessment also commented that the gap between the majority of children and young people and those in vulnerable circumstances was closing in some areas but that the

picture was inconsistent for different groups. The report explained the factors influencing these results and the work being done to improve primary school performance and narrow the attainment gaps.

Ensuing discussion included:

- (a) Nationally, Wiltshire is in the top quartile at Foundation Stage profile and Key Stage 4 but over the last four years progress at Key Stage 2 has been broadly in line with the national average. This is disappointing given the county's socio-economic position and the department will continue to strive to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the new Corporate Plan.
- (b) There are various factors correlating with poor primary school performance. Other local authorities producing similar results to those found in Wiltshire tend to have a similarly high proportion of small, rural schools. In Wiltshire, this has been addressed with closures, amalgamations, federations and collaborative re-starts involving Wiltshire's National Award Schools and National Leaders of Education. Attainment levels for paired infant and junior schools were also generally lower than those of primary schools, and this has also been addressed through amalgamation where appropriate.
- (c) Schools with a high proportion of children from a services background tended to show average or below average pupil performance. Wiltshire also has one of the highest proportions of voluntary-aided or voluntary-controlled schools in the country. Further partnership working with the Dioceses about our combined support and challenge work is underway.
- (d) It was unclear whether the Accredited Provider Programme would continue under the new government, but the principals would continue to be taken forward, with stronger supporting struggling schools to improve.
- (e) Some of the early intervention programmes that have shown significant success are under threat of removal of government funding. For example, the newly formed Department of Education (formerly the Department for Children, Schools and Families) is to be cut by £670 million, including £311 million from council spending on schools. In addition to this there is an announced £47 million nationally less for one-to-one tuition and £40 million less for Every Child schemes such as Every Child a Reader.
- (f) The three areas with the widest attainment gaps were Free School Meals (FSM), Children Looked After (CLA) and Special Educational Needs (SEN). The greatest attainment gap was in the SEN area, and the root and branch review of SEN services underway is intended to address this.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To thank the Department for the report and to note its contents.**
- 2. To request a breakdown of Wiltshire's schools by governance arrangements against Ofsted grading.**
- 3. To request that changes to the primary school policy framework and any resource implications are reported to the Chairman and Vice-Chair once known.**

**79. SEN Transport**

Trevor Daniels, Head of Special Educational Needs (SEN), and Jason Salter, Principal Officer – PTU, presented a report on joint working between officers from DCE and the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) to reduce the cost of providing transport for children and young people with SEN. The report was requested following a DCE Fact-finding meeting that highlighted various issues relating to this historic area of overspend for the authority.

Ensuing discussion included:

- (a) Responsibility for procuring and managing transport arrangements and for managing the Passenger Assistants sits with the PTU. Responsibility for determining entitlement to transport, ownership of the budget, and responsibility for budget management, lies with DCE.
- (b) In recent years the SEN Transport budget had overspent while the mainstream transport budget had experienced significant under-spends. DCE had previously expressed concern that the savings achieved on the SEN Transport budget by applying eligibility criteria and implementing other measures had not been reflected in a proportionate reduction in the overspend.
- (c) The PTU would now be making every effort to achieve good value for money with its SEN Transport contracts and would be providing timely and comprehensive management information to allow more accurate forecasting and budget setting by officers in DCE.
- (d) It was acknowledged by members that the SEN Transport budget was extremely difficult to manage due to the fluidity of the requirements of children with widely varying needs.
- (e) Passenger Assistant salary costs had increased by £350,000 per annum over the last three years. The Council employs Passenger Assistants directly rather than contracts them through an agency, which is unusual amongst local authorities and carries its own associated costs. A

preliminary review has already been undertaken, and further work is being commissioned as a matter of urgency to progress this further. A report outlining the recommendations from this work is expected in October 2010. It was requested that the Chairman and Vice-Chair be informed of the outcome of this review.

- (f) There was member concern that the Constitution does not make provision for scrutiny of 'internal contracts', such as the arrangement between DCE and the Passenger Transport Unit. It was agreed that a request would be submitted to Cabinet and the Focus Group on the Constitution to add such a provision.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To thank the Department for the report and to note its contents.**
- 2. To request that, once plans regarding the future provision of Passenger Assistants are known, the Chairman and Vice-Chair are kept informed so an update can be provided to the Committee.**
- 3. To recommend to Cabinet and the Focus Group on the Constitution that a provision be included within the Constitution allowing members to scrutinise internal contracts.**

80. **Food Technology**

The Final Report of the School Food Task Group, which made twelve wide-ranging recommendations on school food provision, was endorsed by Committee in March 2009. This update report included executive responses to Recommendations 5 & 6 of the report, plus updates on the implementation of the Task Group's other recommendations.

Mrs Rebecca MacDonald, Chairman of the Task Group and a co-opted member of the previous Committee, attended the meeting.

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children and Education, provided the following further information:

- (a) The latest statistics on obesity levels in Wiltshire indicated that Wiltshire was bucking the trend against national and regional levels of obesity. Weighing and measuring programmes were now taking place in Reception year and Year 6.
- (b) The Sodexo corporate school catering contract was due to expire last April but was extended on a 3-month rolling basis. An extensive consultation had taken place with schools, with Sodexo agreeing to provide a range of different options for schools to buy into. At the time of

the original report, 120 schools were part of the corporate school catering contract but only around 30 schools now remain.

- (c) Concern was expressed that cuts in local authority funding could impact upon cooking and nutrition within schools.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To note the executive's responses to recommendations 5 and 6 of the final report of the School Food Task Group.**
- 2. To note the progress made with respect to implementation of the School Food Task Group's recommendations.**

**81. Annual Report for Major Contracts Task Group 2009-10**

A report was presented to the Committee providing a round-up of the reviews undertaken by the Major Contracts Task Group. Since July 2009, the Task Group had considered the Council's contracts with:

- the White Horse Education Partnership (who are responsible for the accommodation at 3 North Wiltshire Schools)
- Sodexo, who supply school meals
- Wiltshire's children's centres, and
- Quarriers, who provide residential placements for young people with complex needs.

As well as noting the report, the Committee was asked to re-appoint the membership of the Task Group for 2010-11.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To note the work of the Task Group in reviewing Major Contracts over the previous year.**
- 2. To endorse the membership of the Task Group to continue over the coming year and report back to the Committee in 12 months time.**

**82. Task Group Update**

An update on the work of the Major Contracts Task Group was included in the previous item.

A written update on the Placements for Looked After Children Task Group's first meeting was provided with the Agenda. Further information had been requested for the next meeting, scheduled to take place in August.

**Resolved:**

**To note the updates.**

83. **Holding the Executive to Public Account**

Items from the Cabinet, Corporate Parenting and Schools Forum work programmes relevant to children's services were listed on the agenda for consideration by the Committee.

Ensuing discussion included how Youth Provision in Corsham had disappeared from the programme. The Portfolio Holder for Youth Services confirmed that he would investigate this outside of the meeting.

**Resolved:**

**To note the items in the Cabinet, Corporate Parenting Panel and Schools Forum forward work programmes listed in the Agenda.**

84. **Forward Work Programme**

**Aftercare Provision for Young People leaving care**

A recommendation was received from the Major Contracts Task Group requesting that a report on aftercare provision and the work towards independent living for young people leaving care be added to the Select Committee's work programme. This followed comments from Quarriers, one of the external residential foster placement providers, that this was lacking at present.

It was agreed that the remit of the Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group would include looking at aftercare, and so an item to Select Committee was unnecessary.

**Basic Skills**

Following the comment in the Common Area Assessment that Basic Skills was one of nine key areas requiring focus in Wiltshire, members requested that an initial report be brought to the Committee's next meeting.

### Role of Schools Forum

Due to the Chairman of Schools Forum being unable to attend the Committee's July meeting, this item was slipped to September.

#### **Resolved:**

1. **To request that a report on the issue of Basic Skills be brought to the Committee's July meeting, including an outline of the partnership arrangements, what initiatives are in place and plans for the future.**
2. **To note the Forward Work Programme, with the amendments agreed.**

#### 85. **Date of Next Meeting**

10.30am, Thursday 22 July, at County Hall, Trowbridge.

#### 86. **Urgent Items**

None.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Sharon Smith, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line (01225) 718378, e-mail [sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Services Select Committee 22 July 2010

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#### Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education

We now have the Department for Education (DfE) but its core business remains the same as the former Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). There have been no machinery of government changes and ministers have made it clear that, whilst education is the first priority, they are fully committed to building more effective children's services.

Headlines have been dominated by:

- The Queen's Speech with its commitment to education reform
- Academies – letters to all headteachers inviting them to consider academy status and those with an “outstanding” judgement from OfSTED to receive automatic entitlement to become an academy, probably from September
- Parents being able to request and set up schools in their local areas where they perceive the need – the Swedish “free school” model
- Letters from the Secretary of State to Lead Members with positive messages about working in partnership with local authorities (LAs)
- Children's trust arrangements encouraged where they add value locally but the statutory framework to be repealed
- £670m reductions from DfE budget as contribution to £6.2bn – made up of a mixture of Area Based Grant (ABG), field forces and DfE reserve funding, hitting DfE elements of the ABG heavily (£311m) - £2.1m in Wiltshire
- The inspection programme continues for now with 6 unannounced safeguarding inspections in the South West since the election – Wiltshire still waiting for inspection to take place
- Professor Eileen Munro has been commissioned to lead a review of children's social care practice with the explicit aim of reducing bureaucracy
- Children and Families task force announced by Deputy Prime Minister to develop proposals that will make the biggest positive difference to family life (PM will chair)
- National Citizen Service (NCS) to be flagship policy for youth, delivered by charities, social enterprises and businesses

**n.b.** There *will* be a summative judgement of the effectiveness of children's services for each LA 2009/10 as this remains on the statute books, even though the Common Area Assessment (CAA) has been abolished. This will be published in November/December 2010, assuming these arrangements remain in place.

## **Next steps likely to include**

- Major reduction in the Government Officer for the South West (GOSW) field force support to local authorities – starting in autumn 2010 and with most impact from April 2011
- The Joint Improvement Support Programmes (JISPs) from field forces and the DfE offered to local authorities and their children's trust partners to end
- Review of the role of the GOSW Children and Learners team in autumn 2010. Detailed work on policy strands already underway as Government Office London to be abolished from April 2011

## **Issues for Chief Executives**

Overall, LAs and their local partners will have much greater autonomy with less central direction, control and regulation. The Department for Education is moving rapidly to implement the Coalition's policies of decentralisation and localism. However, the combination of a reduction in resources from central government and the potential loss to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as schools adopt academy status poses a severe financial challenge.

## **Immediate Implications**

**Safeguarding** - Chief Executives will retain responsibility for children's safeguarding as determined by the previous government following Lord Laming's second report in 2009 unless/until there is a change in legislation and regulation. This may arise from the Munro Review and/or a review of OfSTED's role.

Safeguarding inspections continue. The first cycle of annual unannounced inspections should be completed by the end of August. There are no indications that the triennial inspection cycle of safeguarding and children in care has been reviewed yet, so it has to be assumed that they will continue. They are extremely demanding and we have had the full range of outcomes in the South West.

**Academies and Free Schools** – each new academy/free school will take its share of the DSG plus around 8–10% drawn from the amount of non-schools DSG and core funding. This will have major implications for the LA services provided to schools from the non-schools DSG. Conversations are required at schools forum and with headteacher executive groups to assess how academies, schools (including “free schools”) and the LA will work together in the future and what services academies may wish to purchase. A “ready reckoner” has now been published which enables calculation of the amount of additional funding each school would receive from the LA budgets if the school becomes an academy.

It is proposed that planning regulations will be simplified and that a wide range of sites could be used for Free Schools e.g. shops or other large buildings on the high street or in local communities, without the need for ‘change of use’

consent. Guidelines expected before summer recess highlighting a clear presumption in favour of setting up new schools. Planning teams likely to need to work with local groups, transport and local communities where there is clearly an appetite for this style of school. (New School Network has been set up – a charity supporting groups through the simplified application process).

**Children’s Trust arrangements** – it will be for local authorities and partners to determine what kind of partnership arrangements exist in the future. In a climate of financial restraint and looser structures generally, there are strong arguments to keep the key partners engaged on delivering the agendas that require their engagement. Children’s services elements of total place approaches, for example, require radical multi-agency decision making that can both improve outcomes and achieve significant savings.

The Big Society agenda, in particular relationship to the provision of youth services and NCS, will require both capacity building and greater partnership with the local voluntary and community sectors.

**Universal and preventative services** – given overall budgetary pressures and the growth in demand for tier 3 children’s social care provision, there will be considerable pressure on: a. universal services (schools, children’s centres, primary health care) to make sure they contribute to the preventative agenda; and, b. preventative services themselves as they are non-statutory but contribute to keeping children and families away from needing the more expensive tier 3 services. Vital that preventative services are maintained or LAs will find themselves with greater cost pressures overall.

**Play** – funding levels are affected this year. Revenue grants will not be paid to the Playbuilder authorities and revenue support for Play Pathfinder authorities will be reduced to 50% although this funding remains ring-fenced. Ring-fences have been removed from all play capital grants as set out in the Secretary of State letter to Directors of Children’s Services on 16 June. Conversations are required to ensure funds for builds in progress are maintained and clear handling strategies are agreed between all partners where consultations have taken place and community expectations are high. In Wiltshire, we are continuing with the Playbuilders projects already in development.

### **School Capital**

Many Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects across the country have been cancelled. Capital funding for Sarum Academy in Salisbury has been put on hold pending assessment by the DfE on a case by case basis.

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(Largely taken from GOSW update June 2010)

Report author: Lynda Cox, Head of Performance Management & Co-ordination

5 July 2010

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## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Services Select Committee 22 July 2010

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#### NEET progress report

#### Purpose of this Report

1. To update Members on the position regarding NEET amongst young people in Wiltshire and the actions being taken to achieve reduced levels

#### Introduction

2. NEET is the acronym for those young people Not in Education, Employment or Training<sup>1</sup>
3. It was introduced a decade ago as a measure of non-participation by young people in structured opportunities (such as further education or vocational training) following completion of their compulsory education.
4. Data on the current activities and participation of young people aged 16-19 is recorded on an ongoing basis by the Connexions Service: this is reported monthly to the Department for Education (DfE) and is the source of the NEET measure for Wiltshire
5. 16-18 year old NEET is one of the national performance indicators (NI 117), one of the measures making up the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 14, the aim of which is *"to increase the number of young people on the path to success"*.

#### Key features of NEET

6. NEET is not a static measure: the NEET "population" fluctuates constantly as young people enter or leave employment or enrol on education or training programmes. As a result there is a discernible annual cycle of rising and falling NEET, generally reflecting the main periods of the year when young people leave and join further education, overlaid by seasonal variations.
7. Young people may become NEET on more than one occasion and they may remain NEET for varying periods of time; the average duration of NEET amongst 16-18 year olds is 25 weeks - this reduces to an average of 20 weeks if young mothers who are NEET are excluded from the data.

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<sup>1</sup> NEET in this report refers to 16-18 year old NEET as measured by NI 117. NEET as a measure was developed about 10 years ago as a measure of participation amongst 16-19 year olds and is reported on by Connexions Services whose remit is for 13-19 year olds. However, recent references to NEET in the media and government have started using the term generically for those in older age groups but particularly 18-24 year olds who are unemployed. The official measures will be those recorded by Jobcentre Plus (Dept Work and pensions) of jobseekers and claimants (unemployed). Responsibility for this age group rests with the DWP and not the LA

8. In Wiltshire there are roughly equal proportions of males and females within the NEET population. As a general rule the incidence of NEET amongst 16 to 18 year olds increases with age.
9. Levels of NEET vary across the County. The community areas where NEET numbers are numerically highest include Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge, although significant concentrations are evident in Tisbury, Tidworth, Wilton and Westbury. Identifiable “hotspots” at ward level include Westbury Ham, Salisbury Bemerton, Trowbridge Drynham, John of Gaunt, Warminster West and Melksham North.
10. The incidence of NEET is significantly higher amongst young people who are vulnerable or have other difficulties such as those who are looked after, teenage mothers, have or are at risk of offending, or have disabilities

### **Importance of NEET reduction**

11. The under-achievement and unfulfilled potential of young people who are NEET is self evident and, given that the incidence is higher amongst vulnerable groups, there is also an equalities perspective to be addressed.
12. There is clear correlation between the incidence of NEET and of antisocial behaviour, substance misuse and offending. Tackling NEET is likely to have a beneficial impact on some of these related issues.
13. The average economic cost of each person NEET over their lifetime has been estimated at almost £100,000. As this is an average, there will be many individuals for whom the cost will be substantially greater. These costs include lowered contributions and additional support required as a result of unemployment and underachievement, poor health, substance misuse, and involvement with crime running to billions of pounds. There is clearly therefore an economic incentive to reduce NEET.
14. 16 –18 year old NEET (NI 117) reduction is included within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and as such is one of the measures of Council performance.
15. Successfully reducing NEET is a key element in preparing for the raising of the participation age (RPA) to age 17 (in 2013) and 18 (in 2015)

### **Current NEET level and trends**

16. The 16-18 year old NEET target for Wiltshire is 4.1% (of the 16-18 year old population), measured as an average of the 3 monthly outturns for November, December and January.
17. A significant decrease in employment opportunities for young people resulting from the economic downturn has impacted upon NEET levels. Following a rise in 2008/9, there has been a trend of gradually reducing NEET amongst 16-18 olds evident in the last 12 month period. This is illustrated at Annexe 1
18. Notwithstanding this reducing trend there has been an unexpected upturn in NEET since March. This is largely due to one training provider terminating a large number of

individuals, and also completers from an FE course of less than a full academic year duration.

19. The most recent reported figure (May 2010) shows NEET standing at 6.2%, representing 644 young people. This compares with 6.4% (680 young people) in May 2009.

### **Actions to address NEET**

20. An annually updated NEET Reduction Strategy and Action Plan is in place to guide and monitor activities to reduce the level of NEET amongst young people. Key elements of this Plan include:

- Rigorous tracking activities to ensure awareness of those young people who are NEET as a basis for providing support and assistance. This includes caseloading of all NEET young people to a Connexions Personal Adviser, conducting a frequent and regular programme of interviews of those who are NEET, maintaining contact via telephone, selective use of call centre arrangements at some periods in the year, backed up by home visits to those who do not respond to other attempts at maintaining contact. Personal advisers endeavour to work closely with other agencies supporting young people who may be NEET such as aftercare or Youth Offending Services, opportunity providers such as Wiltshire College or other training providers, Voluntary Sector providers, benefits agencies and Jobcentre Plus
- Provision of advice and guidance to assist young people's progression into available learning and work opportunities:  
All NEET young people 16-18 are supported by Connexions Personal Advisers to assess their needs, develop their motivation and set goals; develop their understanding of the local employment and learning options; provide employment and training vacancy information; assistance to access work opportunities including CV preparation; referrals to pre-apprenticeship programmes such as E2E and Foundation Learning; liaising with and referring to other support agencies as required;  
Intensive personal adviser support is provided for young people in identified vulnerable groups or who have multiple difficulties or barriers to overcome, encouraging them to engage and to participate in available opportunities
- Developing and commissioning suitable and flexible provision to ensure that the needs of all young people can be accommodated.

21. In recognition of the heightened risk and incidence of NEET amongst vulnerable young people additional support is being provided through the creation of personal adviser roles working specifically with groups such as looked after children and those at risk of offending. Other changes within the Department such as the creation of the new Targeted Services area will ensure that there is earlier identification of young people at greatest risk of NEET and improved support provided jointly by services.

22. A number of other strategic plans and actions are also in place that include NEET reduction as a key feature, thereby ensuring a coherent and corporate approach by the Council and its partners to addressing this issue. These include:

- Inclusion of NEET reduction as a key priority within the Children and Young People's Plan (Children and Young People's Trust Board), encompassing targeted support for NEET, achievement of September and January Guarantees;

- Inclusion of NEET reduction activities as a priority within the Department for Children and Education Plan;
- The Wiltshire Work and Skills Plan, a partnership plan led by the Economy and Enterprise Service
- The 13-19 Strategy and Implementation Plan, including the provision and support to prevent NEET
- Activities arising from the Action for Wiltshire Initiative. These include provision of mentoring support for NEET young people through senior leaders within the Council, initially Service Directors, and the development of work experience provision for NEET young people via local employers. An additional support and progression pathway to be jointly delivered by Connexions and Wiltshire College is under development
- Adoption of recommendations set out in the South West Councils Review of NEET. Amongst those aimed at Local Authorities to help prevent and tackle NEET are:
  - The need to make full use of information about the needs of young people and knowledge of the local economy as a basis for commissioning provision and support;
  - The need to ensure sufficient advice and guidance capacity to support the progression of young people;
  - Enabling participation of the third sector in delivering NEET support services;
  - Involvement of the Local Authority as an employer in providing work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.

23. The Connexions Service is funded through the Area Based Grant (ABG) and recent changes in central government policy direction have seen the overall grant funding available reduced by 24% in year for 2010-11. The Department for Children and Education is looking at where savings can be achieved and the impact on priority areas will be assessed.

## **Recommendation**

24. That the Committee note and comment as appropriate on this report.

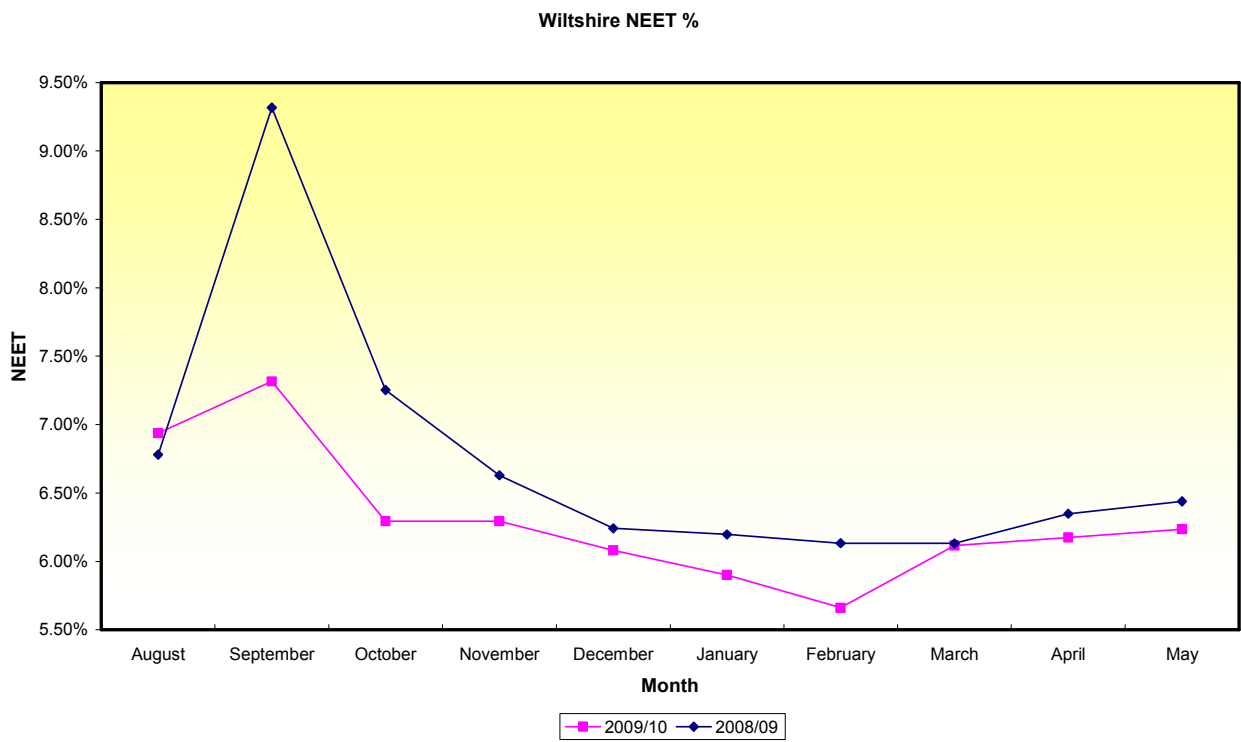
CAROLYN GODFREY  
 Director, Department for Children & Education

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report: NONE KNOWN

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**Wiltshire Council**

**Children's Services Select Committee**  
**22 July 2010**

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## **Youth work Staffing Allocations 2010/2011**

### **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update to the verbal presentation made to the Children's Services Select Committee on 28 January 2010 following the request from Cllr Helen Osborn for further explanation regarding the Members' Briefing Note, No. 23, dated 4 December 2009. This briefing note had outlined the proposed changes to the allocation of staffing following a fair and equitable formula approach based upon the following criteria:

- 25% of the total budget as a fixed core funding for each community area
- 50% based upon the numbers of 13-19 year olds in each community area
- 10% based upon deprivation using the indices of multiple deprivation
- 10% based upon rurality/sparsity
- 5% held centrally to cover emergency and/or training/maternity cover.

The current situation described by community area is contained in Appendix1.

### **Proposal**

That the Committee:

Notes the content of the report and comments as appropriate on the current implementation of the staffing funding formula.

### **Reason for Proposal**

To ensure that Members have the latest information regarding the implementation of the youth work allocation staffing funding formula and the opportunity to gain a wider understanding of the current implementation.

Author: David Whewell, Head of Youth Work

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## **Purpose of Report**

1. To ensure that Members have the latest information regarding the implementation of the youth work allocation staffing funding formula and the opportunity to gain a wider understanding of the current implementation.

## **Background**

2. A Members' Briefing Note (No. 23) detailing proposed changes to the youth work staffing allocations were circulated in December 2009. At the meeting of the Children's Services Select Committee on 28 January 2010 questions were raised about the implementation of this funding formula approach and the intended implementation of it for the year 2010/2011. Following detailed discussions Member's asked for a further update to be made to the September meeting of the Select Committee. Subsequently the Chair of the committee asked for this update to be brought forward to the July meeting.

## **Main considerations**

3. Attached at Appendix 1 is the detail of the current situation with regard to the allocation identified by community area. This has followed the detail of the staffing allocation contained within the Members' Briefing note and indicates the phasing of this allocation within some of the community areas.
4. In the Salisbury Community Area significant work has been undertaken to address the reduced allocation and external funds have been identified to ensure that current levels of delivery are maintained.
5. In the Marlborough, Pewsey and Tidworth Community Areas the allocation is being phased in as the boundary changes implemented as a consequence of 'one council' may have an impact upon the population of 13 – 19 year olds. The Office of National Statistics will release the latest update on 24 June and these new figures will determine the final allocation.
6. In the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area, local Members have been working with officers to address the potential reduced allocation and are in the process of close negotiations with the town Councils to consider alternatives.
7. In the Bradford Community Area negotiations are underway to address the historical funding of a local group in one of the villages to deliver youth work.
8. The implementation of temporary contracts for assistant part-time youth workers since September 2009 has allowed this transition to be managed.

## **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

9. At this stage there are no specific or known environmental impact as a result of the implementation of this staffing funding formula.

## **Risk Assessment**

10. At the point of developing this approach to a funding formula it was designed to be delivered within known and available resources and within the existing policy framework. It is also in line with the Council's desire for a transparent and local approach to the delivery of services.

## **Financial Implications**

11. As identified within the risk section of this report the allocation was developed in line with known financial resources. The potential changes required by central government may have a subsequent impact but these are not known at present.

## **Legal Implications**

12. The approach currently enables the Council to meet its statutory responsibilities contained within the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act, 2006.

## **Conclusions**

13. This update offers Members of the Committee the opportunity to be further informed regarding the implementation of this staffing funding formula and ask further questions as appropriate.

## **CAROLYN GODFREY**

Corporate Director, Department for Children and Education

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Report Author: David Whewell, Head of Youth Work

Unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report: None.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Update on Staffing Funding Formula – June 2010.

### Update on Staffing Funding Formula – June 2010

The implementation of the Staffing Funding Formula is being implemented on a phased basis until September 2010 due to the revision of population statistics in some Community Areas, caused by boundary amendments but workers are continuing to develop plans. Final population figures will be available on 1st August 2010 and revised allocations will be published shortly after. All part time vacancies have been on a temporary basis since September 2009 to assist with the transition.

Community Area	Current Status
AMESBURY	There is a difference in budget which is due to the transfer of responsibility for Amesbury Leisure Centre to Leisure Services. The actual allocation for youth work has increased.
BRADFORD	There is currently a proposal to reduce the contribution to Holt Youth Club (voluntary sector) from 6 hrs pw to 3 hrs pw. Understandably the local committee is not happy with the decision and we are currently in negotiations over the timescale for implementation.
CALNE	There will not be an impact on the actual level of service delivery.
CHIPPENHAM	There will not be an impact on actual level of service delivery.
CORSHAM	Historically this area was under spent so the reallocation of the formula will not impact on the level of service delivery.

Community Area	Current Status
DEVIZES	There will not be an impact on actual level of service delivery.
DOWNTON	There has been a significant Increase in the formula allocations and plans are to extend the service to rural villages not currently receiving youth work delivery.
MALMESBURY	There has been a slight increase which will extend delivery into rural villages.
MARLBOROUGH	Awaiting outcome of revised data on boundary changes with Pewsey Community Area, but likely to be an increase and the plan is to extend services into rural villages not currently receiving youth work.
MELKSHAM	There will not be an impact on actual level of service delivery.
MERE	There has been a significant increase in the formula allocations and plans are to extend service delivery to rural villages not currently receiving youth work delivery.
PEWSEY	Awaiting outcome of revised data on boundary changes. Discussions are underway to withdraw staffing support for the school based breakfast and lunch clubs with the potential for local parents to volunteer to operate these.
SALISBURY	Significant decrease in formula funding allocation which would have reduced service delivery. Staff have identified partnership funding to meet shortfall this financial year only but in the long term, youth work hours will be reduced unless external funding continues.
TIDWORTH	The reduction in the staffing allocation will not have an impact on actual level of service delivery as the current professional worker is a worker in training and there is a saving on her salary.

Community Area	Current Status
TISBURY	Increase in allocation will extend service delivery to rural villages not currently receiving youth work delivery.
TROWBRIDGE	Increase will consolidate service delivery in the Court Mills Centre and provide street work in Trowbridge which has been short term funding previously.
WARMINSTER	Increase will extend service delivery to rural villages not currently receiving youth work delivery.
WESTBURY	Increase will extend service delivery to rural villages not currently receiving youth work delivery.
WILTON	Significant Increase in staffing allocation and plans are to extend service delivery to rural villages not currently receiving youth work delivery as well as increasing service delivery in Wilton Town through the provision of new youth club building provided by sale of Middle School site.
WOOTTON BASSETT & CRICKLADE	Significant decrease in staffing funding formula. Plan is to move Senior Youth Worker from Malmesbury and to appoint a Rural Outreach Worker in Training post to be based in Wootton Bassett to provide youth work in rural parts of the community area to include Purton, Cricklade and Lyneham. This has implications for current delivery in Purton and Cricklade and we have been discussing with local Members for Cricklade and Purton other options to secure funding to enable provision to continue to deliver 2 evenings per week.



## Agenda Item 12

### Holding the Executive to Account - Items that may be of interest to the Children's Services Select Committee

Subjects	Date of Meeting	Specific Issues for Discussion	Responsible Member	Officer Contact
<b>Cabinet – 27 July</b>				
Youth Service Re-provision in Salisbury and Corsham	27 June 2010	To confirm the re-provision of youth services in Salisbury and Corsham.	Cllr John Noeken	Mark Stone
Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) - Post Consultation Report	27 July 2010	To consider the outcomes of the consultation and make decisions on the issues considered in the Review.	Cllr Lionel Grundy	Trevor Daniels
<b>Corporate Parenting Panel (not public) – 8 September</b>				
Children in Care Performance Data				
Consideration of Case Studies				
Members briefing/feedback on the Total Respects				
Training				
Discussion Item from Children in Care Council ("How very young children get their voices heard in the various processes throughout the Council").				
Achievements of the Looked After Children (prior to awards ceremony (tbc)				
Experiences of Young People present of the care system (tbc)				

# Agenda Item 12

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Specific Issues for Discussion</b>	<b>Responsible Member</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
<b>Schools Forum – 7 October</b>				
TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

# Agenda Item 13

Work Area	Last at Committee	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	<b>23 SEPTEMBER 2010</b> 15 September 2010	Who
Safeguarding	Sep 09	<b><u>Social Care Team Restructure</u></b> Update detailing the early signs of impact from the restructure.		Sharon Davies
Enjoy & Achieve	Nov 09	<b><u>Small Schools Strategy</u></b> Update report on the Small Schools Strategy and the work of the Small Schools Strategy Working Group.		Julie Cathcart
Enjoy & Achieve	March 2010	<b><u>16 - 19 Learning – update on transfer of responsibility from LSC to LA</u></b> Following the report received in March, an update on the passing of responsibility for 16-19 Learning from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Council on 1 April 2010.		Julie Cathcart
-	March 2010	<b><u>Transitions Planning</u></b> An update on implementation of the Multi-Agency Transitions Protocol, for transitioning young people from children's to adult services		Susan Tanner & Susan Tomes
Be Healthy	Jan 2008	<b><u>Child &amp; Adolescent Mental Health</u></b> Progress update on the CAMHS Strategy.		Julia Cramp

Work Area	Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	<b>25 NOVEMBER 2010</b> 17 November 2010	Who
Enjoy & Achieve	June 2010	<b><u>Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision</u></b> A report at the beginning of a review of SEN Provision for children and young people in Wiltshire.		Trevor Daniels

Work Area	Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	<b>27 JANUARY 2011</b> 19 January 2011	Who
-	Jan 2010	<b><u>Integrated Working in Wiltshire</u></b> Update report on the implementation of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Performance.		Sharon Davies

Enjoy & Achieve	<i>Annual report</i>	<p><b><u>Pupil Performance figures</u></b></p> <p>Annual report on educational attainment.</p>	Julie Cathcart
Enjoy & Achieve	<i>September 2010</i>	<p><b><u>16 - 19 Learning – Commissioning Plan for 2011-12</u></b></p> <p>Following the transfer of responsibility for commissioning 16-19 learning from the LSC to the LA on 1 April 2010, to receive the Commissioning Plan for the 2011/12 academic year.</p>	Julie Cathcart