

Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee

22nd July 2011

Task Group updates

1. Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Membership: Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Dr Mike Thompson (Chairman)

Since the Committee's June meeting, this task group have met with students and headteachers from the following schools to discuss their personal aspirations for and views on post-16 education in the Salisbury area:

- St Edmund's C.E Girls' School, St Joseph's Catholic School and Wyvern College (the three Laverstock schools)
- The Trafalgar School at Downton
- Avon Valley College
- The Stonehenge School

The Task Group also attended a meeting of the Wessex Partnership of Secondary Schools, attended by headteachers of most of the secondary schools in the Salisbury area, to discuss this issue.

The Task Group's next meetings will be with representatives from Wiltshire College on 21st July and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) on 27th July.

Further meetings will be scheduled for September and beyond in order for members to look at the evidence gathered so far and begin to discuss their conclusions.

2. Major Contracts Task Group

Membership: Cllr Peter Colmer
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Carole Soden

At the Committee's June meeting, members agreed to retain this task group. A schedule of meetings is currently being arranged.

3. Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group

Membership: Cllr Peter Colmer
Cllr Andrew Davis
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Helen Osborn

This Task Group last met on 8th July, when members received the latest key performance indicators for the family placements service, as well as a briefing on work underway to develop a new Children in Care Commissioning Strategy.

The new Strategy will have a broader focus than the previous Placements for LAC Commissioning Strategy (which this Task Group was established to scrutinise) covering all services for children in care rather than only focusing on placements.

The draft Strategy will be issued for consultation on 27th July, closing on 19th October. The final draft will then be presented for approval by Cabinet on 15th December. The Task Group agreed that it would be the most appropriate body for scrutinising the draft Strategy and therefore make the following recommendation to the Select Committee:

Recommendation:

That the Placements for LAC Task Group meets in mid-November to consider the Children in Care Commissioning Strategy, with any conclusions being referred for endorsement by the Select Committee at its meeting on 24th November, and (if appropriate) referral to Cabinet on 15th December.

4. Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group

Membership: Cllr Carole Soden
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Graham Payne
Cllr Anthony Trotman

The Chairman of the Task Group will be meeting with the Head of Targeted School and Learner Support on 14th July to discuss the direction of this Task Group. Task Group meetings are currently being arranged for September, October and November.

Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager

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