

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Children's Select Committee**

**13 June 2017**

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## **Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme**

### **Purpose**

1. To report relevant topics on the single overview and scrutiny (OS) forward work programme as agreed by the OS Management Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2017. (The OS Management Committee co-ordinates the overview and scrutiny forward work programme).
2. To report the task group activity of the previous Children's Select Committee and re-establish those task groups and appoint memberships as appropriate.
3. To report the next steps for developing this Committee's section of the single OS forward work programme.

### **Background**

4. On 14 March 2017, the Children's Select Committee considered the key pieces of work it had undertaken during the 2013-2017 Council. These demonstrated the contribution it had made to decision-making, policy development and the good governance of the council.
5. The Committee also considered the topics within its remit remaining on the OS forward work programme, including forthcoming agenda items and ongoing or planned task groups. From this it agreed a list of topics that it recommended for inclusion on the OS forward work programme in the new council.
6. The Committee's recommendations, and those from the other select committees, were then considered by the OS Management Committee on 28 March 2017. From these, a legacy report was agreed and referred on to the Management Committee to consider in the new council. Management Committee will consider this report on 6 June and the topics relevant to this Committee are listed below (a verbal update on Management Committee's decisions will be provided at the meeting). Pending Management Committee's approval, Committee is asked to consider whether to take the work areas listed forward and any additional topics it wishes to explore:

| Activity  | Date                            | Brief Explanation  | Reason for Inclusion  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Pre-Meeting Information Briefings   | Standing item prior to meetings | Information briefings held prior to meetings where the information is of use to members but no formal resolutions are needed.<br><br>Possible future topics:<br>- PAUSE Initiative<br>- Child-Carers | To provide members with useful information-only briefings, and to agree possible future topics.                       |
| Activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)                       | Standing Item                   | Regular update reports from the WAY provided by the CSC Young People's representative.   | To continue closer working with Wiltshire's young people.   |
| Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations                        | Annual item                     | Provides an annual overview of pupil performance at the end of each key stage and compares Wiltshire's attainment with national, south west and statistical neighbours.                              | Committee requirement to receive these reports.   |
| Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel Annual Report                | Annual item                     | To continue receiving annual reports from the panel – with separate sections in the reports addressing Child Sexual Exploitation.  | Committee requirement to receive these reports. Resolved at January 2017 meeting to receive separate sections on CSE. |
| Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report                                   | Annual item                     | To continue receiving annual reports from the panel  | Committee requirement to receive these reports.   |
| Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report                       | Annual Item                     | To continue receiving annual reports from the panel  | Committee requirement to receive these reports.   |
| Post 16 Area Wide Review (Joint lead by Economy & Planning and Education) | 5 September 2017                | Report to Cabinet presenting the findings of the Post-16 area review of education in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Swindon.   | For CSC to comment and feed into the report prior to Cabinet.   |
| Children's Service Integration Project                                    | Autumn 2017                     | Update following the committee's endorsement of the direction of travel being scoped by the Children's services Integration Project Phase 2.   | Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC  |
| Nursery Places – 30hours Free Entitlement for Working Parents             | January 2018                    | Update to find out the impact of the increased childcare entitlement from September 2017.  | Resolved at January 2017 meeting when considering Nursery Places  |

| Activity   | Date             | Brief Explanation   | Reason for Inclusion   |
|--|------------------|---|--|
| Obesity and Child Poverty Update                       | March 2018       | 12-month update on the progress with the Wiltshire's Reducing Child Poverty Strategy following the outcomes, recommendations, and executive response of the Obesity and Child Poverty task group.   | Update following scrutiny activity.  |
| Adoptions West   | Ongoing updates. | Updates leading up to the scheduled implementation from April 2018.   | CSC has been regularly updated on the progress of this work.   |
| SEND Update  | TBC              | Update on the strategy and identified issues. To provide a summary of the current position and the future vision.   | Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC   |
| Early Help Dataset – Common Assessment Framework       | TBC              | The Early Help Dataset was created in September 2014. The dataset has continually evolved following ongoing review from the Early Intervention Sub Group and a formal review by the Early Help Task Group.  | It was noted further work was needed to assess those indicators about children and young people with CAFs. |
| Exclusion Zones for Fast Food Outlets                  | TBC              | Committee received a report on possible proliferation of fast food outlets (particularly near schools) through the planning process following reference to it in recommendation 12 of the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Risk Group. | Resolution following the item considered in December 2016  |
| Children's Community Centre Services                   | TBC              | Report on the progress made in this area.   | Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC   |
| Wiltshire Council Apprenticeships                      | TBC              | Report on what opportunities there are within the council, and the delivery of them.  | Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC   |
| Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Task Group | TBC              | (To be agreed - identified as a priority by CSC and WAY)  | N/A  |
| SEND Passenger Transport                               | TBC              | (To be agreed - to hold a scrutiny exercise on the provision of SEND transport when the results of the national study were available)   | N/A  |
| Academisation  | TBC              | (To be agreed - to leave as a priority to be considered dependant on the outcome of local authority MAT's)  | N/A  |
| Review of the Strategy and Support                     | TBC              | (To be agreed - recommendation endorsed by CSC from the School  | N/A  |

| Activity                             | Date | Brief Explanation                               | Reason for Inclusion |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|----------------------|
| Programme for Disadvantaged Learners |      | Improvement Strategy Task Group's final report) |                      |

7. On 24 May 2017 an OS councillor induction event was held and attendees were asked what key issues were raised by constituents during the election period. The list of issues put forward will be considered by Management Committee on 6 June 2017, including whether OS might add value, and updates will then be provided at the other select committees' first meetings where appropriate.

### Appointments to Task Groups and Rapid Scrutiny Exercises

8. The Committee may wish to appoint or re-appoint members to those activities it decides should continue or commence. As a number of vacancies have arisen following the elections, the Committee may wish to simply re-appoint those members who remain on the Council subject to their wish to continue and authorise the chairman and vice-chairman to fill any vacancies following expressions of interest. Current memberships are listed below.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Task Group  
[Vacancies]

SEND Passenger Transport Task Group  
[Vacancies]

Academisation Task Group  
[Vacancies]

Review of the Strategy and Support Programme for Disadvantaged Learners Task Group  
[Vacancies]

### OS representation on boards

9. In addition to task groups, OS does from time-to-time receive an invitation to appoint a representative to specific activities or projects. The Committee may therefore take the opportunity to re-appoint a representative to each. Those that are the direct responsibility of the Children's Select Committee are listed below, together with the OS representative under the previous council:

| Board                          | Current OS rep |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Education Transformation Board | [Vacancy]      |

### Next steps

10. In order to use OS's resources most effectively, the OS work programme should primarily be aligned to the council's agreed strategic priorities. It is therefore

timely that a new council Business Plan is being developed and will be presented to the Management Committee for input at an extraordinary meeting on 21 June. The final version will then be presented for approval by Cabinet on 3 July and adoption by Full Council on 11 July.

11. The new Business Plan will set out the council's priorities for the next ten years and should therefore be influential in developing an OS work programme that delivers maximum value for the people of Wiltshire. To facilitate this further, Management Committee has supported discussions between the select committee chairmen and vice-chairmen with the Executive and directors to gain a more informed understanding about priorities and plans. These will take place following Full Council's agreement of the new Business Plan and outcomes the meetings will be reported back to the Committee for discussion. The Committee may then want to agree further opportunities for discussing its work priorities.
12. The OS work programme should be viewed as a live document that is constantly reviewed and updated. It will be reported to every meeting of the Management Committee and relevant parts to the respective select committees. The Committee will need to be mindful of the capacity of councillor and officer resource when determining its work programme.

## **Proposal**

13. To consider the scheduled Committee activity agreed by the OS Management Committee (see paragraph 6), formally re-establishing task groups where appropriate;
14. To appoint the memberships of the relevant task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises and authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to name members to fill any vacancies following expressions of interest;
15. To note that a new council Business Plan will be brought to Full Council on 11 July, which will be influential in shaping the new OS forward work programme;
16. To support early discussion between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and directors (following adoption of the new council Business Plan) to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities, with outcomes reported back to Committee.