Wiltshire Council

AGENDA

Meeting: **Children's Select Committee**

Place: **Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN**

Date: **Thursday 4 November 2021**

Time: **10.30 am**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Matt Hitch matthew.hitch@wiltshire.gov.uk, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718059 or email matthew.hitch@wiltshire.gov.uk

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Helen Belcher
Cllr Mary Champion
Cllr Carole King
Cllr Kathryn MacDermid
Cllr Kelvin Nash

Cllr Antonio Piazza
Cllr Mike Sankey
Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Caroline Thomas
Cllr Jo Trigg
Cllr Mark Verbinnen

Substitutes:

Cllr Trevor Carbin
Cllr Daniel Cave
Cllr Adrian Foster
Cllr Johnny Kidney

Cllr Jack Oatley
Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney
Cllr Martin Smith
Cllr Iain Wallis

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Dr Mike Thompson   Clifton Diocesan RC Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Nikki Barnett   Further Education Representative
Ms Sarah Busby   Secondary Head Teacher Representative

John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Maisy Humphrey	Children & Young People's Representative
Declan Kiely	Children & Young People's Representative - Substitute
Catriona Williamson	Primary Head Teacher Representative

Covid-19 Safety Precautions for Public Attendees

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Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
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- Do not attend if presenting symptoms of, or have recently tested positive for, COVID-19.
- Follow one-way systems, signage and instruction.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Wear a face-mask (unless exempt).
- Where it is not possible for you to attend due to reaching the safe capacity limit at the venue, alternative arrangements will be made, which may include your question/statement being submitting in writing.

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult Part 4 of the council's constitution.

The full constitution can be found at this link.

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

AGENDA

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1   **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

2   **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 9 - 18)*

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2021.

3   **Declarations of Interest**

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

4   **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chairman.

5   **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public. To ensure Wiltshire Council COVID-19 public health guidance is adhered to, a capacity limit for public attendance at this meeting will be in place. You must contact the officer named on this agenda no later than 5pm on Tuesday 2 November 2021 if you wish to attend this meeting. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and all requests may not be accommodated if there is high demand.

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this electronically to the officer named on this agenda no later than 5pm on Tuesday 2 November 2021. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the front of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution.

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on Thursday 28 October 2021 in order to be guaranteed of a written response. In order to receive a verbal response questions must be submitted no later than 5pm on Monday 1 November 2021. Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

6   **Regular Updates**

Updates on information valuable for the committee, but unlikely to require a decision.

Members of the committee are therefore invited to indicate in advance of the meeting if they would like further information or have questions on these regular updates, so that relevant officers can be invited to attend the meeting.

   6a   **Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice Representative** *(Pages 19 - 22)*

An update including a summary of recent activities of the Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU) and Children in Care Council (CiCC).

   6b   **School Ofsted Judgements** *(Pages 23 - 28)*

An update including information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports, presenting an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.

   6c   **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education** *(Pages 29 - 30)*

An update on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education.

7   **Business Plan 2022-32 Update**

To receive an update from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills on the Business Plan 2022-32.

8   **Covid-19 Impact Update**

To receive an update from Directors on the Council's current situation for

services within the remit of the committee with regards to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, including:

• current numbers compared to projections for latent demand;
• situation for staff (office/home working), impact on wellbeing and support in place;
• home education and children not in school.

9   **Getting to Outstanding** *(Pages 31 - 48)*

Following the verbal update provided at the committee's meeting on 7 September 2021 (minutes accessible [here](#)), to consider the attached report on plans and progress to date on aiming for outstanding at the next Ofsted inspection, including the four strands of work detailed at the previous meeting:
• Self-assessment.
• Service development.
• Roadmap to excellence.
• Line-of-sight.

The committee is invited to review the council's plans, and work to date, to achieve Outstanding (Ofsted), including its self-assessment processes, ensuring that the voice of the child is embedded in Children's Services' work, and best practice identified (from authorities having achieved Outstanding for example).

The committee is also invited to consider how Overview and Scrutiny could best add value to this process.

10   **Corporate Parenting Panel - Annual Report** *(Pages 49 - 106)*

The chair of the Children's Select Committee's Standing Task Group (reports) will present the task group's findings following its consideration of the draft annual report of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
The committee is also invited to note the finalised Corporate Parenting Panel report as considered by Council on 19 October 2021.

11   **Traded Services** *(Pages 107 - 122)*

A full year traded services report in November presented to the Children's Select Committee focussing on school purchasing and reports from each traded service on their trading period.

12   **Task Group and Board Representative Updates**

The committee will receive updates on active Task Groups.
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13   **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 123 - 138)*

The Committee is asked to note the attached documents showing the relevant items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

14   **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 19 January 2022, starting at 10.30am.

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

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Children's Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 2.30PM.

Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Helen Belcher, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Kathryn MacDermid, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Nikki Barnett, John Hawkins and Catriona Williamson.

Also Present:

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dominic Muns and Cllr Christopher Williams, Louise Lewis, Paul Redford, Lesley Lowe, Michelle Lewellyn, Mark Gurrey, Martin Davis, Helene Hughes, Cate Mullen, Julie Upson and Lucy Townsend.

28   **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mary Champion and Cllr James Sheppard. Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Helen Jones, Tamsin Stone and Elly Mills also stated that they would not be able to make it to the meeting.

29   **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 as a true and correct record.

30   **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

31   **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to additional Special Educational Needs and Inclusion funding that had been approved by Cabinet on 21 July. He also took the opportunity to praise young people for doing well in their exams at such a difficult time and noted that full school exam results would be presented to Committee in due course. The Chairman encouraged members to participate in a training session being designed to build upon the information provided in the Five to Thrive briefing given to Committee on 3 August.

Helene Hughes, Director of Education and Skills, was pleased to announce that Louise Lewis, Head of School Effectiveness, would be continuing as part-time head of service and was able to attend the meeting. Louise would be sharing the role until Lesley Lowe took over on a full-time basis.

32   **Public Participation**

No questions were received from the public.

33   **Regular updates**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, as per the previous meeting, regular updates had been listed a single agenda item. He invited members to submit questions ahead of the meetings if they would like to receive further information.

33a   Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice

The Chairman explained that an update was available in the agenda pack. The information provided included a summary of recent activities, such as a consultation with young carers, as well as plans for the establishment of the Wiltshire Youth Council from February 2022.

During the discussion it was noted that a report on mental health had been presented to senior council leaders. It was explained by officers that these were quarterly meetings, and that the agenda was prepared by young people. Officers said that they would seek the agreement of young people to bring an action plan based on these meetings to the Committee. Cllr Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Skills, also offered to follow up on the action plan with officers.

Further questions were submitted in relation to whether all schools would be participating in the school elections. It was explained by officers that plans were in place to ensure full school participation, including with special schools. The Chairman noted that he had been assured that work was also being undertaken to engage with children not currently attending school.

It was also asked whether recent events, designed to engage younger people in Wiltshire, had included members of the traveller and boater communities. Officers were not able to provide specific examples but offered to consult with colleagues to find out the details of engagement with those communities.

33b   School Ofsted Judgements

The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the update in the agenda pack outlining the most recent Ofsted inspection reports.

During the discussion it was asked why it was stated that four inspections had been undertaken but only the results of one had been included. Officers

explained that the results had not yet been published for all of the inspections, but the results would be bought to the Committee meeting after their publication.

33c   DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education

The Chairman referred the Committee to the document contained within the agenda pack which included information about new national funding schemes. During the discussion the Committee welcomed the additional funding, although noted that it was relatively limited and queried the amount that had been applied for and received by Wiltshire. Officers offered to include both national and Wiltshire figures in future updates and explained that only schemes applying automatically to Wiltshire, or those that could be claimed by Wiltshire, had been included.

Discussion then turned to the council's role in the roll out and oversight of the CO_2 monitor programme. The Director of Education and Skills noted that priority was being given to alternative provision and special schools. It was reported that:

• Downland School would receive 11 monitors on 13 September.
• Exeter House Special School would receive 14 monitors on 20 September.
• The Springfield's Academy would receive 18 monitors on 20 September.
• Silverwood School would receive five monitors on 20 September.

Given that Silverwood was receiving fewer monitors than other schools, the director noted that conversations were ongoing with the headteacher to ensure that more would be made available. However, beyond the special schools, it had yet to be decided when the roll out would take place.

The conversation then moved to what the anticipated actions would be in cases where the CO_2 level was found to be too high. It was reported that given the recent pandemic, work had been undertaken to improve ventilation in buildings. Health and safety officers were working with schools to ensure that high CO_2 levels were aligned to their risk assessments. It was noted that a report on ventilation had been commissioned by the Department for Education and that further information would be available upon its publication. The director also offered to share the most recent guidance with the Committee.

34   **Getting to outstanding (Ofsted)**

Martin Davis, Director of Families and Children's Services, provided a verbal update about key performance indicators and changes to the way that their performance was being assessed.

The director explained that the Ofsted definition of outstanding was an authority that is consistently good. He then outlined a four-pronged strategy of how to reach that goal:

- **Self-assessment.**
- **Service development.**
- **Roadmap to excellence.**
- **Line-of-sight.**

It was clarified that the Ofsted assessment framework had changed from 1 September to introduce additional requirements, so the council was adapting its **self-assessment** to reflect these changes.

Service development plans were being reviewed to ensure that they aligned with the council's business plan. It was explained that the majority of the council's key performance indicators were being met and compared favourably to national averages. Some areas of work were already approaching outstanding. Areas of focus included support provided to care leavers, to ensure that consistently good outcomes were achieved. Work was also being undertaken with the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Partnership to deliver better early health outcomes.

A document called **Roadmap to Excellence** would be written to outline the key findings from the self-assessment, as well as the changes being implemented as a result. The document would highlight key points in a child's life and use a quality assurance framework to ensure that senior members of the council would have a clearer overview of front-line services. A **Line-of-Sight** framework document would be developed on the back of this to combine the different ways of monitoring performance and make information more easily accessible for Ofsted.

The director used the findings of a peer review, which found that audits of certain issues were being undertaken too frequently, to illustrate why the four-pronged approach was being adopted. Rather than trusting that a good quality service was being delivered, too many audits were being undertaken in high performing areas when resources would be better directed at auditing areas in greater need. The director stated that he hoped that the **Line-of-Sight** framework would help to reduce the level of unnecessary scrutiny activity. He then concluded that having the confidence to reduce audit activity in certain areas was actually a strength, rather than a development that should cause concern. The director then offered to bring the full report to a future meeting of the Committee.

The input that Overview and Scrutiny could have in helping the authority to get to outstanding and how it could demonstrate the benefits of this to Ofsted were discussed. The director emphasised that Overview and Scrutiny would benefit from the transparency created by the new Line-of-Sight document. Scrutiny would be best targeted at specific areas where it was harder to produce consistently good results, such as providing secure accommodation for care leavers. If the more difficult areas could be targeted consistently well, then they would reach their goal of becoming outstanding.

Resolved:

1) **To thank the director for the update.**

2) **For the 4 November meeting of the Children's Select Committee, to receive a full report on plans (including the four strands of work) and progress to date on aiming for outstanding at the next Ofsted inspection.**

3) **At that time, to consider how Overview and Scrutiny can best add value to that process.**

35 **Wiltshire Council Draft Business Plan 2021-31**

The Chairman announced that Full Council would discuss the adoption of the new 10-year Business Plan for Wiltshire Council. The plan would set out the council's overarching strategy and its purpose was to enable senior officers to lead and manage the organisation to achieve the priorities set by elected members. He explained that each select committee would be invited to comment on the Business Plan priorities relevant to their remits, with comments being referred to Cabinet for consideration.

The draft plan was not available at the time of the meeting, but the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Skills was present to provide an update and outlined the four key priorities identified in the plan:

• **Empowered people.**
• **A resilient society.**
• **A thriving economy.**
• **A sustainable environment.**

The cabinet member explained that the executive was working on the plan and that Cabinet hoped to share the document ahead of the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. She then encouraged members to read the proposals and suggest potential additions that would assist her in her aspiration to put children at the heart of the plan.

During the discussion the Committee thanked the cabinet member for the update. They also stated that they would have welcomed the opportunity to read the document ahead of the meeting, so that they could have the best available information to scrutinise and contribute to the plans. It was noted that this was the sole opportunity at a formal Children's Select Committee meeting to provide input to the plan before it was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

The cabinet member said that she would welcome a coordinated response from the Committee if they were able to meeting informally before the next meeting of the O&S Management Committee. Options such as conducting a Rapid Scrutiny exercise, or an informal meeting, were then discussed.

Committee members raised questions about the budget implications of the plans, as well as how progress would be measured. They then offered a range of suggestions about issues that they would like to see included in the plan. Suggestions included:

• An emphasis on early years and family support.
• Stressing the importance of early intervention in achieving strong outcomes.
• Closing the attainment gap for disadvantaged and vulnerable children.
• A focus on mental health issues.
• Strengthening Local Youth Networks.

The cabinet member assured the Committee that all of the proposals would be affordable but given that the plan was due to cover a 10-year period there was scope for the addition of further ideas. She also noted that each service would have a delivery plan and that the details of how targets were to be measured would be included in those documents. In addition, she echoed the comments of the Committee about the importance of the issues that they had highlighted, stressing that she would review the document to ensure that the key messages came through strongly.

Resolved:

• To organise a briefing open to all members and substitutes of the Committee (likely to be Monday 20 September 2021) to discuss the Committee's priorities and the draft Business Plan, once available around Friday 17 September, which would then be fed back by the Chairman to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 21 September.

36   **Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership**

Mark Gurrey, Independent Chairman of the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP), provided a presentation about their recent achievements and plans for the forthcoming year. Following on from a briefing provided to members the day before, which provided background information about the SVPP, he reiterated that they were a scrutiny body helping to protect vulnerable people, including children, from safeguarding threats.

The SVPP Chairman went on to outline structural changes made as a result of their work. Alongside Swindon Council they had recently established an exploitation subgroup to help to protect younger people against safeguarding threats from outside of their families, such as from County Lines. The Community Safety Partnership had also been restructured to place greater emphasis on the safeguarding agenda.

The SVPP Chairman then took the opportunity to praise the effective use of demand modelling in Wiltshire to predict changes in demand caused by Covid-19. He also noted that an independent Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, recently established to provide oversight at a national level, had been very complementary about work carried out by Wiltshire Council and its partners.

Furthermore, it was reported that it would now be an expectation that a review would be carried out within 15 days of a tragic incident to establish whether a more in-depth review was required.

Among the priorities identified were children under one, given that there were more deaths and severe injuries among babies than many older age groups. A focus on meeting the needs of those suffering domestic abuse, exploitation and mental health issues were also seen as areas to focus on.

In summing up the SVPP Chairman spoke about the need for more specialist independent scrutiny, given that currently it primarily came from himself as an independent chairman. He then stated that he would outline plans for further scrutiny to be undertaken and looked forward to working with the Children's Select Committee to find areas of overlap. In order to assist with this process, the SVPP annual report would come to a future meeting.

During the discussion the Committee noted that they were grateful that SVPP had taken up the work formerly carried out by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards in providing an overview, given that work was being carried out between different agencies. They also gave their thanks for the briefing provided the day before by Julie Upson, Partnership Boards Manager SVPP.

Resolved:

1) **To thank the SVPP representatives for attending today and for yesterday's briefing.**

2) **For this year's SVPP's annual report to be considered by the full Committee. Consideration will be given to this annual report, and further annual reports, being considered by the Standing Task Group depending on timing of publication of the report.**

37   **Traded Services Team Structure and Governance Arrangements**

Paul Redford, Head of Traded Services, referred the Committee to the document attached to the agenda pack which proposed to bring an annual report to the Committee. The report would outline the services offered to schools, provide an overview of the performance of each service over the last year and give a list of objectives. Under these proposals an interim report would also be bought to the Committee. The most likely time for the interim report would be May, as this was after the window during which maintained schools undertook their purchasing for the year, so would provide a good indication of the level of activity for the following six months.

By bringing these reports to Committee it was hoped that it would allow members to offer suggestions for key areas of focus and to provide feedback from their own communities about the services being delivered to maintained, academy and independent schools. The officer also noted that Traded Services did actively seek feedback from schools and held a series of briefing events throughout the year.

During the course of the conversation the following points were made:

• The Committee thanked the officer for proactively inviting scrutiny to play a role in assisting the development of the service.
• It was noted that the frequency of reporting should be reflective of the level of difficulty faced by each service. The officer welcomed the point raised and confirmed that the report would focus on areas of concern. He clarified that Traded Services had to opportunity to raise concerns at the Performance and Outcomes Board chaired by the Corporate Director of People. If the Board then wished for the issue to be escalated to Children's Select than this might be possible in addition to the regular reports.
• A question was submitted about how the annual report would cover the balance of providing services to financially vulnerable schools with the need to improve the attainment of children. The officer noted that the focus of the report would be on the delivery of services. He also reassured the Committee that profit making was not the overriding focus of the service and they were keen to ensure that services were delivered to as many children as possible. He then explained that services could be offered to maintained schools at a cost neutral price if they were financially vulnerable. There was also an option for lower charges to be sent to smaller schools and for schools to come together to jointly purchase services.

Resolved:

1) **To thank officers for their continuing engagement with overview and scrutiny.**

2) **For the full-year update (November) and the six-month update (May) to be brought to the Standing Task Group and Children's Select Committee. Depending on the situation reported at this point, a decision will be made on the level of scrutiny required in future.**

38   **Task Group and Board Representative Updates**

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank members for expressing an interest in joining the newly established standing Task Group. He then apologised to those who had volunteered but had not been selected as one of the six standing members. He went on to stress that the Task Group was open to all members and substitutes of the Committee should they wish to attend and that the documents would be circulated to all members of the Committee. The six standing members of the Task Group were:

Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Helen Belcher
Cllr Jo Trigg
John Hawkins
Cllr Caroline Thomas

It was announced that the first meeting of the standing Task Group was planned to be held on the week commencing 20 September 2021 and would scrutinise the draft Corporate Parenting Panel report.

The Chairman also announced that he had been re-elected as the Chairman of the Adoption West Joint Scrutiny Panel and that the authority from which the Chairman was elected was allowed an additional representative to sit on the panel. The Chairman noted that two people had put their names forward but invited members to come forward if they also wished to be considered for the role.

39   **Forward Work Programme**

The Chairman referred the Committee to the documents attached to the agenda pack showing the relevant items from the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme and the latest version of the strategy list for the Children, Education and Skills Directorate. He then drew the attention of the Committee to two task groups and a rapid scrutiny exercise, as they were soon to be advertised to members so that they could volunteer to participate:

• Disadvantaged / Vulnerable Learners Task Group.
• In-house Foster Carers Task Group.
• Rapid Scrutiny: Housing – Provision of Accommodation for Young People at Transition Time.

40   **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 4 November 2021, at 10:30am.

41   **Urgent Items**

It was noted that there was a possibility that child refugees from Afghanistan would be supported in Wiltshire, so questions were asked about what preparations were in place for their arrival and to support their education. Lucy Townsend, Corporate Director of People, was in attendance and reported that there were currently three referrals in progress. It was explained that Wiltshire Council would contact the Home Office to notify them if it had accommodation available and then referrals would be sent by the Home Office. It was explained that all statutory obligations to provide education to school-age children and to meet their social care needs would be met, but that additional services could be provided in liaison with the Home Office. The director then offered to provide a briefing to members in order to give them updated information.

(Duration of meeting: 2.30 - 4.20 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Matt Hitch of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718059, e-mail matthew.hitch@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

Child and Youth Voice Children Select Committee Update

Report written 26th October 2021

Author: Joe Sutton, Child and Youth Voice Lead Worker

Wiltshire Youth Union

Young Carers Consultation

The CYV Team has completed its consultation with young carers in Wiltshire and will be supporting them to present their findings in a meeting with Wiltshire Council Leaders on 5th November. The report is available on request after the 5th November.

Wiltshire Youth Council

The Wiltshire Youth Council project is progressing at a good pace. There is now a steering group which meets monthly to discuss the progress of the project. The branding and school resources are now complete. The Leader and Deputy Leader have created a video with the aim of inspiring schools and young people to sign up. We have attended the WASSP meeting and received fantastic feedback about how we can include Wiltshire's special schools. Full council have been notified about the scheme and so have the Communities Directorate and Area Boards. The challenge now is to ensure that we have all 28 mainstream secondary schools signed up.

Members of Youth Parliament

We continue to support our current cohort of Members of Youth Parliament and will be accompanying them to a regional conference on the 30th October. The conference will focus on creating the next national Make Your Mark Survey and highlight the priority areas for young people that will be included in the survey. Wiltshire will be sharing the Make Your Mark Survey on the Wiltshire Youth Council electronic ballots. This is to ensure we get the maximum amount of take up in the questionnaire and the information can be broken down by schools and communities.

Other Community Connections

Staff from the team have linked in with the Local Youth Worker Network and have informed projects in Wiltshire of how they can put forward Special Advisors to the Wiltshire Youth Council.

Children Social Care

Children in Care Council (CICC)

We have listened to the feedback from the children in care who attended the PGL residential weekend in September. They told us that they did not want to have children in care council meetings that were too formal, and they would prefer to do activities and have more fun. We have taken this on board and are now working towards creating a 12-month schedule of fun, diverse activities that they can take part in. Staff members from the CYV team will support the participants to build trusting friendships with each other and then introduce creative workshops to ensure we are hearing what our looked after children are telling us about their experience of care.

Dragons Den Walkabout

The CYV Team and CIC Teams have worked collaboratively to give Wiltshire care leavers the chance to scrutinise Wiltshire's local offer. On Monday 25th October care leaver participants listened as the local offer was pitched to them, they were then given the opportunity to formalise questions and observations that were put to the CIC Team managers. A report of what was discussed will be made available to those who wish to read it. The report will be shared with Mark Riddell from the Department of Education when he visits Wiltshire to discuss the local offer.

Star Awards and Fashion Show

The Wiltshire Star Awards will be taking place on Friday 25th February 2022, this is an event that celebrates the achievements of children in care in Wiltshire. Planning is going well and details such as the venue and catering have been finalised. As part of this event, we will be linking in Tumaini Children's Charity and Kandu Arts to support children cared for by Wiltshire to put on a fashion show for everyone attending. A group of young people attended a planning session in the October half term holidays these young people will form the core group that will take part in the project.

Mind of My Own App

Mind of My Own is an award-winning app designed with young people for children and young people. It helps children and young people communicate their views in a way that suits them. They can create their own accounts, which can be used on any device at any time and is fully accessible in over 100 languages! Having a voice is empowering for young people and the Mind of My Own app helps them to share what's important and can help workers understand what is going on in their lives. It's also a very good way for workers to better evidence young people's views and show them that they are being listened to.

The CYV Team has been training social care teams on how to use the app effectively and ensuring that professionals are telling young people about this fantastic tool that children can use to express their views and say how they are feeling.

Wiltshire Council were recently awarded the Digital Champion's Award as Wiltshire was the top user of Mind of My Own in Q1 out of the 85 local authorities who also use the app! This is a fantastic achievement and we're not stopping here – encouraging all staff in all teams to make full use of the app to ensure we are listening to our children and young people.

Fostering Positivity Podcast

The CYV Team is supporting care experienced adults to create a podcast which enables them to tell their stories in a positive way. The podcast has been created for service users and professionals alike. By understanding the impact that historic decisions have had on real people's lives, we can learn to make more informed choices in the future. Recording for the first season of 8 episodes has been completed and it is now being edited by one of our fantastic youth consultants.

Find the podcast here
https://open.spotify.com/show/3gwaaNl5QRYDkNM1JfEQfa?si=AcuImBHCQXuxHGrREUJn_A&dl_branch=1&fbclid=IwAR3-PWupIB-k8CQdFIaeqEhv1RARUGqsb_0jPo571A2F6PWgFDWNHDrfM_Y&nd=1

Advice and Guidance

The team has offered advice and guidance on other initiatives in Children Social Care including -

- Providing advice on the Care Leaver App and Care Leavers Local Offer
- Delivering Language Workshops with the Principle Social Worker

Page 20

- Support with fostering panel ensuring that the views of those that have lived experience of being in care have a say on who becomes a carer

Future activities

Most of the work going into the next period will build on progress to date and further develop the above-mentioned activities. In addition, we are planning on working closely with the Fostering Team to enable more children in care to be involved in the training, support, and assessment of new foster carers. This will enable our prospective foster carers to better understand the needs of children in care and will also give children in care a say on who becomes a Wiltshire carer.

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

04/11/2021

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School Ofsted Judgements

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Executive summary

This report is a regular update for the committee focused upon Ofsted inspections in Wiltshire schools since the previous meeting. It reports on inspection judgements made under the education inspection framework that was introduced in September 2019. It makes judgements as below:

- Overall effectiveness
- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Early years provision
- Sixth form provision

Update

Following the July report there have been five section 5 inspections (full two-day inspections) and three section 8 inspections (1-day inspections for schools currently judged as good), two of which have been published. Details of the inspections are in the table below.

School name (web address to access Ofsted report below)	Status	Date of inspection	OE (previous)	Quality of education	Behaviour & attitudes	Personal development	Leadership & management	Early years provision	Sixth form provision
Westwood-with-Iford Ofsted | Westwood-with-Iford Primary School	Maintained	13&14/07/21	4 ↓ (2)	4	3	3	4	4	n/a
Studley Green Primary School Ofsted | Studley Green Primary School	Maintained	14&15/09/21	2 (3) ↑	2	2	2	2	2	n/a

Studley Green Primary School is a positive result as the school was previously grade as 'requires improvement', the report identifies the strong leadership and the inclusive nature of the school. Significant support was provided from the school effectiveness team which has supported the recognised improvements. The school has a special educational needs resource base as well as a high percentage of children receiving free school meals and again, provision for these pupils is

reflected in the positive report.

The outcome for Westwood-with-Iford is disappointing, however the school and local authority officers have been working hard on improvements since receiving the inspection. Additional leadership support has been brokered to support the current leadership team. The school is making good progress towards the areas identified within the report.

School graded as Good or Outstanding

Table 1: Published Ofsted outcomes for Wiltshire schools, by school type.
Source: External data - Ofsted Management [State funded school inspections and outcomes: management information - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](#)
(30th September 2021)

By schools	Primary		Secondary		Special		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Outstanding	18	9	5	17	0	0	23	10
Good	142	71	19	66	2	50	163	71
Requires Improvement	31	16	5	17	1	25	37	16
Inadequate	8	4	0	0	0	0	8	3
Not yet inspected (U)	3	1.5	0	0	1	25	4	1.5
Outstanding or Good (previous)	160	80 ↑ (79.1)	24	83 ↑ (80.0)	2	50 ↓ (66.7)	186	81% ↑ (78.9)
All	201	100.0	29	100.0	4	100.0	235	100.0

Table 2: Change in Ofsted categories.
Source: internal data (26 August 2021)

	Schools		No. of schools	Name of school
Movement	Number	%		
Up	53	22.3	1	Studley Green Primary
Same	130	54.3	1	Sherston
Down	41	17.2	1	Westwood-with-Iford
blank	0	0.0		
No previous grade	14	5.9		
Same or up	183	76.9	2	
All	238	100.0		

Since the previous report, three reports have been published. Although schools have been fully opened there has still been a huge disruption due to a rise in COVID cases, especially more recently. Schools continue to work relentlessly to provide all pupils with the education they deserve, while striving to ensure staff and pupils remain safe. It is acknowledged that there has been some negative impact on education due to Covid cases both within staff and pupils. However, school leaders continue to manage this well, as well as developing their schools through their school improvement plans. School effectiveness officers have been able to visit onsite this term and 'normal' school improvement systems have resumed.

Table 4: Ofsted Inspection Outcomes Over time – National, South West Region and Wiltshire
Source: External data - Ofsted Management State funded school inspections and outcomes: management information - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Good and outstanding schools (ALL) (%)	England	SW	Wiltshire
Oct-21	86	82	81
Jul-21	86	82	81
Jan-20	86	83	80
Oct-19	86	83	80
Jul-19	86	83	80
May-19	85	82	80
Mar-19	85	83	80
Feb-19	85	83	82
Jan-19	85	83	82
Dec-18	85	83	82
Nov-18	86	83	82
Oct-18	86	83	82
Sep-18	86	83	82
Aug-18	86	83	82
Aug-17	87	87	87
Aug-16	86	89	90
Aug-15	82	85	86

The picture for Wiltshire overall continues to improve from the lowest point in March 2019. Wiltshire have remained static since July 2021 at 81% schools graded Good or Outstanding, the South west remain +1% at 82%, however this is a decline of 1% since March 2019. The National picture remains static at 86%, with Wiltshire tracking 5% points below. This remains a frustrating picture, however school effectiveness officers have been able to resume their work alongside schools, to offer robust support and challenge, face to face, rather than remotely which will enable schools to continue to make necessary improvements to improve this picture.

Good and outstanding schools (ALL) (%)
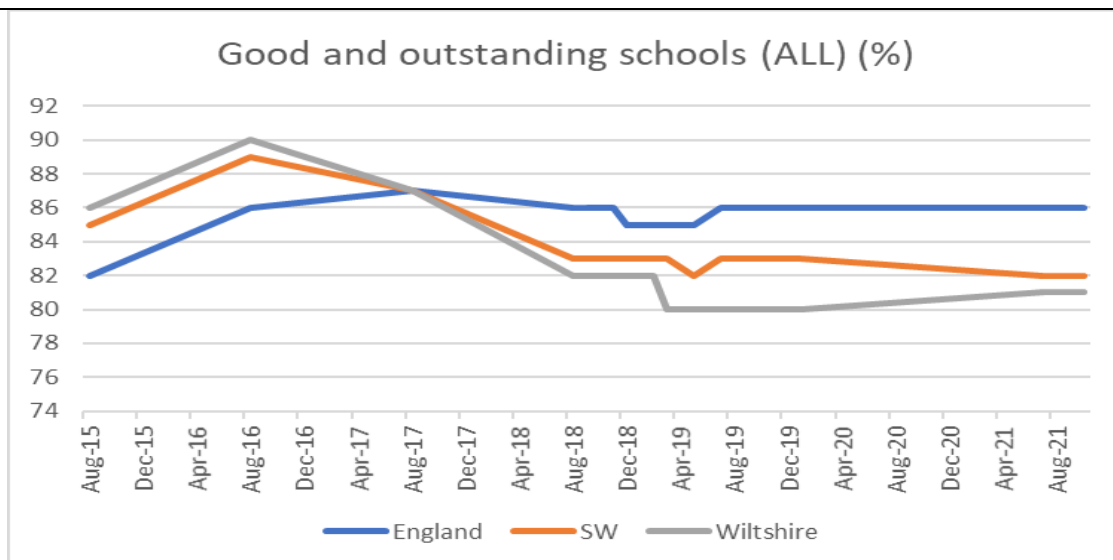
The school effectiveness team have resumed face to face visits in schools. Maintained schools have received at least one visit this term – many visits being extended to ensure that the quality of education pupils receive can be accurately evaluated. School Improvement Advisors and Regional Leads have continued to ensure that the school improvement framework is followed through. These initial visits have focussed on safeguarding effectiveness, leadership and the quality of teaching and learning as well as supporting governing bodies in carrying out head teacher performance management. Additional visits have been made to ensure rapid support is put in place when needed. Schools have welcomed this support.

Conclusion

A robust risk assessment activity took place following the term 6 school visits. This has enabled the school effectiveness team to focus their support on those schools most in need of a rapid support plan. This has been developed alongside intensive professional development sessions and school to school support. New headteachers have received additional contacts from school effectiveness, again to ensure that they have the support they need quickly and consistently. This has been mirrored by the support provided to schools who have newly qualified teachers working with them. We continue our focus on disadvantaged learners, leadership development, phonics, maths, and the wider curriculum offer, as well as launching the 'Wiltshire Year of Reading' to continue our work on developing every child as a reader.

Vulnerable schools and schools close to an OFSTED inspection have had additional support to ensure they are well prepared for inspection. Through these actions we are minimising the risk of a decline in inspection outcomes.

Covid, does however, continue to pose a risk for those schools affected by staff and pupil absence rates, although schools are working hard to mitigate this. However, schools have responded calmly and positively to the ongoing challenges of Covid and remain focussed on improving outcomes for all pupils. The school effectiveness team continue to engage with both maintained and non-maintained schools – expanding our offer of school support and CPD.

Author:
Lesley Lowe – Co-Head of School Effectiveness (interim)
Contact details: lesley.lowe@wiltshire.gov.uk
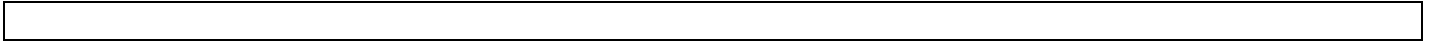
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Wiltshire Council

Children Select Committee

21 October 2021

DfE Changes – Updates September 2021 - October 2021

Tutoring revolution builds as students return to class

1. Schools will have greater flexibility to offer high-quality, 15-hour tutoring courses that meet the needs of their pupils, in a major expansion of the National Tutoring Programme backed by £1 billion.

2. The programme is expected to reach up to six million pupils across the country in total over the next three years to make sure students that need it receive quality catch up support. More information can be found here: Link

Training launched for mental health leads in schools and colleges

3. Eligible schools and colleges will be able to apply for a grant of £1,200, which can be used to enable senior leaders to gain the knowledge and skills they need to roll out an effective 'whole school or college approach' to mental health and wellbeing, embedding it into their culture and making it a priority alongside academic recovery.

4. Backed by a total of £9.5 million, announced in May, this grant funding includes training on how to use existing mental health resources more effectively, identify students who need mental health support, and on how to improve working with local mental health services so that children and young people who need specialist help, get this as soon as possible. Full details can be found here: Link

Free glasses to tackle poor eyesight and boost literacy

5. Thousands of pupils will benefit from an expanded programme that provides two free pairs of glasses to improve reading and writing by tackling poor eyesight. The 'Glasses in Classes' scheme aims to level up outcomes and will be adapted for five disadvantaged areas in England, under the Opportunity Area programme. This will reach more than 9,000 pupils in at least 225 schools. More information can be found here: Link

Adaptations in 2022 summer exams to ensure fairness for students

6. Students will sit GCSE, A and AS level exams next year with adaptations to recognise the disruption to their education.

7. Following a public consultation, the government and Ofqual on 30 September have confirmed changes such as a choice of topics in some GCSE exams like English literature and history; advance information on the focus of exams to focus students' revision in subjects, where there is not a choice of topics; and support materials like formulae sheets in maths. More details can be found here: Link

Over £300 million to attract and develop world-class teachers and leaders

8. A total of £129 million is available for trainee teachers starting in 2022/23, which includes increased bursaries of £15,000 for languages, geography and design and technology, and £10,000 for biology – in addition to the existing £24,000 bursary or £26,000 scholarship for maths, physics, chemistry, and computing.

9. This follows an announcement by the Prime Minister that teachers of maths, physics, chemistry, and computing in the first five years of their careers will receive salary boosts of up to £3,000 – to support the recruitment and retention of specialist teachers in these subjects. More details can be found here: Link

1,000 schools connected to top-of-the-class full fibre broadband

10. Full fibre networks stretching for thousands of kilometres are now supplying lightning-fast gigabit broadband to 1,084 schools and thousands of other public buildings previously stuck with slow speeds.

11. It means teachers can make use of the most cutting-edge learning tech - such as video conferencing platforms to host joint classes and assemblies with schools anywhere in the world and online tools that bring lessons to life such as films and learning games. It will also support teachers to spend more time planning and delivering lessons and less time staring at loading screens. The work is part of the government's national mission to level up internet access across the UK by investing in blisteringly fast gigabit broadband and busting barriers to speed up commercial roll out. Full details can be found: Link

Case studies on post-16 transition

12. This guidance has been developed to help those in alternative provision (AP) settings to support their year 11 students as they transition into post-16 destinations and avoid becoming not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

13. These best practice examples are provided by alternative provision settings that supported their year 11 students using the 2020 Alternative Provision Transition Fund. References to particular courses, assessments or platforms do not indicate that these are approved or recommended by the Department for Education (DfE). Full guidance can be found here: Link

Getting to Outstanding

Where are we on our journey?

Wiltshire Council

Our starting point – An independent view

- A stable workforce and social workers who have the time they need to work purposefully with families and children.

- Strong partnerships that strengthen the response that families get when they are in crisis.

- Social workers, Family Key Workers and Personal Advisors who know the children they work with very well. Children increasingly receive the help and support they need from the right people at the right time.

- Children in care and care leavers live in permanent, stable homes and make good progress in all but a small number of cases.

- A sophisticated approach to performance management resulting in there being a tight grip on practice

- A consistently good response to families and children

Ofsted 2019 Inspection of Children's Social Care Services – Judgement grade: GOOD

Wiltshire Council

# Progress on Ofsted recommendations

- Community awareness of private fostering arrangements

- Impact of services on children's health and education when in care

- Clarity and accuracy of children's records when in care

- The availability of suitable placements for children when they first come into care

- The quality of Social Work supervision

Wiltshire Council

Line of sight

- The Ofsted inspection of 2012 highlighted the importance of leaders maintaining a clear line of sight through to frontline service delivery.

- How effectively do our systems and structures ensure this is consistently achieved, that complacency does not creep in and that we have a detailed and accurate understanding of the quality of our practice and outcomes for families and children?

Wiltshire Council

Deputy Leader with responsibility for Children's Services, Education and Skills

Councillor Laura Mayes

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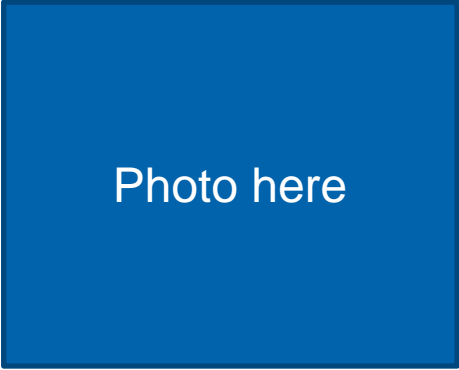
Personal statement here

Leadership & Scrutiny

- Challenge, scrutiny and support Children's Services through Performance & Outcomes Board
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Children's Select Committee
- Children in Care Council includng Shared Guardian Sessions

Practice & Performance

- Challenge, scrutiny and support at Annual Team Performance Reviews
- Scrutiny of complaints and compliments
- Scrutiny of Annual Reports: Audit, IRO, Corporate Parenting, SVPP, Fostering, Adoption West
- Oversight of outcomes from Peer Reviews and Peer challenges
- Reg 44 Visits to Cannon's House and & Aspire House

Voice

- Direct engagement with children and young people – facilitated by Child & Youth Voice Team
  - Podcasts
  - Celebrations
  - Shared Guardian Sessions
- Regular Child & Youth Voice review meetings

Wiltshire Council

Corporate Director – People; Director of Children's Services (DCS)

Lucy Townsend

Photo here

Personal statement here

Leadership & Scrutiny

- Chair of Children's Services Performance & Outcomes Board
- Regional South West Chair of Sector Led Improvement
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Children's Select Committee
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Children in Care Council
- People Directorate – Directors meetings

Practice & Performance

- Annual Team Performance Reviews
- Observations of practice
- Scrutiny of audits, complaints and compliments
- Annual Reports: Audit, IRO, Corporate Parenting, SVPP, Fostering, Adoption West
- Peer Reviews and Peer challenges

Voice

- Direct engagement with children and young people – facilitated by Child & Youth Voice Team
  - Podcasts
  - Celebrations
- Meet our Leaders
- Chair of Staff Reference Group
- Manager Forums
- Virtual walkabouts

Wiltshire Council

Director of Families & Children's Services

Martin Davis

Photo here

Personal statement here

Leadership & Scrutiny

- Attends Children's Services Performance & Outcomes Board
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Adoption West Board of Directors
- Children's Select Committee
- Children in Care Council
- Attends Performance & Outcomes Groups
- Co-Chair SMT Audit Group
- People Directorate – Directors meetings
- Chair of Senior Management Team (SMT) and Performance SMT
- Co-chair Vulnerable People's Stakeholder Group

Practice & Performance

- Annual Team Performance Reviews
- Observations of practice
- Scrutiny of complaints and compliments
- Annual Reports: Audit, IRO, Corporate Parenting, SVPP, Fostering, Adoption West
- Peer Reviews and Peer challenges
- Senior Management Team meetings
- Head of Service 'Keep in Touch' KIT meetings
- Service-level Team Meetings
- Auditing and moderation

Voice

- Direct engagement with children and young people – facilitated by Child & Youth Voice Team
  - Podcasts
  - Celebrations
  - Shared Guardian Sessions
- Children in Care Ambassador
- Regular Child & Youth Voice review meetings
- Meet our leaders
- Manager Forums
- Virtual walkabouts

Wiltshire Council

Self Evaluation

Our People

- Strong, passionate, political, strategic and operational leadership
- Stable, well trained and supported workforce and relationship-based practice model
- Quality data and effective performance management
- Ambitious and innovative transformation programme (FACT) and highly effective partnerships
- A highly effective Integrated Front Door
- An effective Family Keyworker Support Service intervening early and preventing the need for social care services
- Investment in an integrated case management system with work underway to connect to health records

Wiltshire Council

Self Evaluation cont.

- An enhanced QA system which demonstrates greater consistency of practice across service areas

- Continued innovation and strong performance during period of pandemic

- Achieving Fostering Excellence

- Addressing the risks of criminal and sexual exploitation

- Achieving better health and education outcomes for our children in care

- Delivering and continuing to improve our Care Leaver Offer

- Rapidly improving Child & Youth Voice engagement and co-production

- A strong scorecard benchmarking consistently well against statutory neighbours and good/outstanding LA's
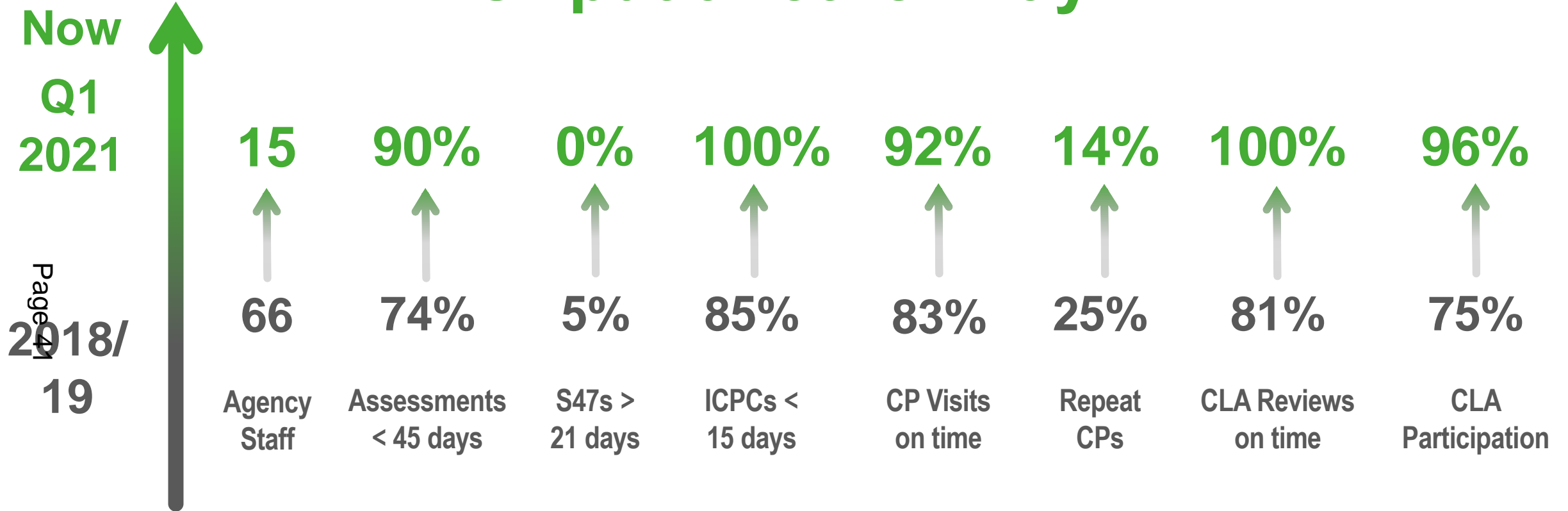
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Indicator	2018/19 (Q4, FY or 31 Mar snapshot)	Quarter 1 2021/22
Agency staff	66	15 (Sept 21)
Missing Return Interviews completed	48%	70%
Re-referral rate	15%	14.5%
Single Assessments within 45 days	80%	92%
Private Fostering notifications followed up within 7 days	82%	100%
S47s recommend ICPC	33%	49%
ICPCs over 21 days of Strategy Discussion	5%	2%
ICPCs within 15 days of Strategy Discussion	85%	93%
RCPCs within timescales	93%	99.6%
CP visits on time under 2 weekly practice standards	83%	93%
Repeat CP Plan within 2 years of last	14%	7%
CP Plan ceased over 2 years	5.3%	1%
CLA 2-year stability	75%	80%
CLA with 3+ placement moves in one year	8.9%	6.9%
CLA placed out of county	38%	29%
% in LA foster provision	35%	38%
Pathway/Care plans in place	45%	87%
CLA Reviews on time	81%	95%
CLA participating in Reviews	75%	95%
CLA with fixed term exclusions	84 (AYr)	63 (Ayr 20/21)
% of those leaving care who were adopted	23%	27%
CLA Early Years achieving a Good Level of Development	25% (AY)	50% (AY 20/21)

Performance snapshot

Continued and ongoing improvement driven by robust oversight and an open and transparent "high challenge, high support" performance management culture

Wiltshire Council

Or put another way…

Now
Q1
2021

2018/
19

	Agency Staff	Assessments < 45 days	S47s > 21 days	ICPCs < 15 days	CP Visits on time	Repeat CPs	CLA Reviews on time	CLA Participation
Now Q1 2021	15	90%	0%	100%	92%	14%	100%	96%
2018/19	66	74%	5%	85%	83%	25%	81%	75%

Wiltshire Council

Quality of practice…

- Consistent positive performance overall by practitioners - particularly proud of this given the impact of Covid-19
- Overall reunification, Life Story, child voice and quality in assessing have the strongest audit profile
- The number of Outstanding cases seen in audits is increasing and areas for development decreasing
- Strong multi-agency working is evident, with good planning
- Children and young people's views and welfare is integral and creative direct work is seen. Practice is child centred.
- A range of social work approaches are seen, strengths based, relationship based and trauma informed, highlighting a creative bespoke approach to each family

…and embedding learning

- A rich learning culture is evident
- Extensive range of practice improvement opportunities – responsive to local and national emerging themes (e.g. rise in referrals for eating disorders during covid)
- Engagement in regional and national training and development – effective Teaching Partnership programme
- Repeat audit and staff voice to evidence impact and any areas for continued development
- Course evaluations evidence improved staff knowledge, confidence and understanding

Wiltshire Council

Areas for practice development

- Reunification - recognising the enduring significance of family and relationships throughout the child's journey

- Consistent use of impact chronologies to enhance analysis and the effectiveness of planning

- Develop practitioner confidence in working with and assessing male domestic abuse perpetrators

- Ensure everyone understands the reason for our involvement and the changes required

- Balance holistic and targeted assessments when working with parents who misuse alcohol or substances.

- Ensure fathers fully feature in our assessments and planning and in doing so secure better outcomes

- Be even more tenacious and creative in our approach to engaging hard to engage young people

- Permanence planning is timely, and children understand their story and lived experience

- Transition planning will be seamless in preparing children and young people for adulthood

Wiltshire Council

Our drive to innovate remains undiminished

Establishing our Child and Youth Voice Team

The Social Care Academy

The implementation of TRiM for us all to access for support

The creation of the Practice Lead role

The Family Led Review

Relaunch of Mind of My Own App

Dad's Matter Too

Fostering Excellence

Family Drug & Alcohol Court (FDAC)

Safer Families

Let The Future In

Sector Led Improvement

Wiltshire Council

Seven strategic priorities

1. Children and young people are central to everything we do; therefore, **we will listen to their voice and use this to inform practice development**. We will ensure their voice is clear in all our work and they understand fully why decisions are made.

2. That **father's voices are heard, and we build on their strengths as well as recognising their potential risks**; that we work with them to be part of their children's lives.

3. Our Early Help offer is strong. Families get the right help at the right time from the most appropriate professionals; and our **partnership working encourages early help from the front door and upon step down.**

4. We work collaboratively and have **good access to CAMHS and SEND to support children** and young people's mental health and thrive educationally and socially.

5. Children and young people's needs are matched to the right carers be that with extended family, foster care or adoption. **We have placement choice** to match children and young peoples need for therapeutic care to support them to recover from their trauma. **Permanence planning is timely**, and children understand their story and lived experience

6. **Transition planning will be seamless** in preparing children and young people for adulthood.

7. To support our workforce to be their best; to be happy in their roles, learn and develop. **To promote creativity and celebrate our successes and differences**.

Wiltshire Council

1

PASSION
- We know our families and **care deeply** about them **achieving their dreams**

◣ We know our children and families well and want the very best for them
◣ Our relentless determination to do better each day in all that we do
◣ Our stable and effective management and leadership
◣ Our strong, passionate and dedicated workforce

2

PARTNERSHIP
- We create **strong relationships** to deliver real and lasting change

◣ Our commitment to effective relationships - creating openness and trust
◣ Our collaborative approach to improvement and innovation
◣ Our investment in our ambitious, collaborative Families And Children's Transformation Programme

3

PRACTICE
- We are relentless in our determination to deliver the **best possible service**

◣ Doing the simple things really well
◣ Our commitment to continuous learning and practice development
◣ Our reflective, open and strengths-based support for our staff
◣ Our relationship-based approach to supporting children and families to achieve their dreams
◣ Our integrity

Getting to outstanding

Ensuring all Wiltshire families thrive

PASSION PARTNERSHIP PRACTICE

Wiltshire Council

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Children's Select Committee - Standing Task Group (reports)

NOTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE - STANDING TASK GROUP (REPORTS) MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2021 AS A MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Helen Belcher, John Hawkins, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Caroline Thomas and Cllr Jo Trigg

Also Present:

Iona Payne

1   **Election of a Chair**

Cllr Jon Hubbard was elected as chair for the Standing Task Group.

2   **Apologies**

There were no apologies for the meeting.

3   **Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference were noted.

4   **Corporate Parenting Panel - draft report for full council**

The task group started by recognising the depth and breadth of the report presented and the year-on-year improvements made to it.

The task group reviewed the draft report in depth and offered the following suggestions in a bid to further strengthen the report.
This is to ensure that the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel, and outcomes achieved, were presented as strongly as possible to full council, as well as ensuring that the report is entirely "stand alone" and accessible to lay readers.

Overall comment

For ease of reading, it was suggested that the report cross-references paragraphs to data in the scorecard, this could be done using bookmarks (hyperlinks) within the document. This could avoid having to repeat data within the document yet offering evidence for the narrative.

<u>Suggestions</u>

(NB the paragraph numbers refer to the draft report as presented and may be different for the finalised report)

The task group felt that the report could benefit from an executive summary, either as a first page to the report or for each main section of the report (e.g. 4. scrutiny of performance, 5. The Corporate Parenting Strategy, etc.) which would offer a snapshot summary such as current situation (better / worse than expected or comparator), key figures and plans to address any known issues. This could also include a "what went well, and even better if…." section.

It was good to be provided with figures in paragraph 2.2 (background), it may be even better if these included the per 10,000 comparator as used in paragraph 13.4 (recent commentary discussed at the CPP meetings) to enable contextualisation as early as possible in the report. It may also be useful to include a short narrative to explain broadly why children and young people have come into care (as included in CPP scorecard - CLA Starts Breakdown).

Paragraph 2.2 – "26% are voluntarily accommodated". To better understand this figure, to include national and comparator authorities comparison as well as trend, over the last 3 years if possible.

Paragraph 3.2 – in future to list the reports considered and information received under the 8 categories of data, with cross-reference to the CPP's priorities. This would enable assurance that the CPP had received relevant information. This could be presented in a table with "ticks" to indicate which category of data and / or CPP's priority the report provided information on.
The task group fully supported the intention to order the priorities and category of data to match their importance in the "journey of the child".

Paragraph 5.4 – amend to reflect that all councillors, as Corporate Parents, had been offered training during the induction and check whether all had actually attended (or amend).
Paragraph 6 – to consider including school attendance rates for children and young people in care. If possible, to split that between the different types of placements.

Paragraph 7.1 (i) and (ii) – to include information on children and young people who have moved more frequently, if possible distinguishing between "positive" (e.g. move to independent living) and "negative" moves (e.g. placement breakdown).

Paragraph 7.5 – develop the narrative on plans in place to address the three themes identified in the Annual Disruption Report (e.g. support and supervision, more training, therapeutic approach, trauma informed, etc.).

Paragraph 9 – to include an explanation on contact and suitable accommodation for care leavers as the figures seemed to indicate a slight drift in performance (within the CPP scorecard) but there is no narrative on this within the report.

Paragraph 9.4 – to include the outcome of the campaign (recruitment of specialist foster carers).

Paragraph 9.5 – to include a definition / explanation for Connected Carers.

Paragraph 10.2, second bullet point – to adjust the wording along the lines of "22 children placed with their adoptive families in this period, awaiting Adoption Order".

Paragraph 15 – to add an indication of whether the actions taken have addressed the concerns raised by Ofsted, if work is still ongoing to add an indication of the current "rate of completion".

Paragraph 16 – to align, or cross-reference, the ambitions with the CPP's priorities and the eight categories of data.

Paragraph 20.1 – amend to wording along the lines of "the draft annual Corporate Parenting Panel report was considered by the Children's Select Committee' standing task group on Wednesday 22 September.
Dud to timings of meetings, this year the Children's Select Committee will receive the finalised annual Corporate Parenting Panel report".

Overall – if the council has the tools to measure whether in-house foster placements do deliver better outcomes for children and young people in care (e.g. less Missing from Care incidents, better attendance and attainment at school, etc.) these figures should be included in the report.

Conclusion

The task group wished to highlight some of the positives it saw in the report, including:
- placement stability (and the plan to review targets to keep driving improvement);
- plans to make the process (including wording and naming of) of Return Interviews more children and young people friendly;
- plans to keep developing the Offer to care leavers;
- support and supervision being developed for in-house foster carers.

5   **Next steps**

The Head of Children in Care & Young People agreed to implement as many of the recommendations as would be practicable before the report was presented to full Council.

A summary of the findings would be emailed to members of the task group for comments, then would be sent to officers for sharing at the Corporate Parenting Panel on 28 September 2021.

The findings from the task group and report as presented to Council would be included on the agenda for Children's Select Committee on 4 November 2021.

(Duration of meeting: 12:00-13.15)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Gondlach, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line 01225 713 597, e-mail
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Wiltshire

Corporate Parenting Panel

Annual Report

September 2020 – July 2021

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

19 October 2021

<u>**Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel**</u>
<u>**September 2020 to July 2021**</u>

Executive Summary

This report forms the annual update to Council from the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The role of Wiltshire's Corporate Parenting Panel is to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who are looked after or care experienced. All Councillors are reminded that they have responsibilities as a "corporate parent" for children and young people who are Looked After in Wiltshire.

The report gives an overview on the Panel's work programme, the scrutiny of performance, the Corporate Parenting Strategy, details and data within the key service areas, challenges/successes during Covid-19, progress since the 2019 Ofsted inspection, the Panel's impact and ambition, the work of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel and planned next steps to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.

This report was reviewed by the Children' Select Committee Standing Task Group on 22 September and by the CPP at their meeting on 28 September 2021.

Proposals

1. To receive and note the Annual Report and the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel to date, its functions and impact of its work and to ratify the improvements required to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.

2. To receive and note the Annual Report of the Children in Care Council 2020/21 attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Reasons for Proposals

To remind all Councillors that they have responsibilities as a "corporate parent" for children and young people who are Looked After in Wiltshire.
To ensure that the voices of children and young people continue to be heard and understood by Members, officers and all Corporate Parents whilst ensuring that these opinions are fully reflected in practice improvement.

Martin Davis
Director of Families and Children's Services

Lucy Townsend
Corporate Director – People/Director of Children's Services

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

19 October 2021

<u>**Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel**</u>
<u>**September 2020 to July 2021**</u>

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report forms the annual update to Council from the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

1.2 The report captures the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for children looked after and care experienced young people. The report outlines the key principles and priorities for the Council as Corporate Parents including a review of the performance data and activity aligned with this. The meetings relate to the strategic objectives as agreed by children and young people and elected members. This year has seen the growth and development of the work of the Child and Youth Voice team, ensuring the voice of young people are heard and transparent in all the work that we do.

1.3 The government introduced clear corporate parenting principles that require all departments within a local authority including staff, elected members and partner agencies to recognise their role as a corporate parent and encourage them to look at the support and services they provide. The principles are:

- To act in the best interest and promote the physical, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people looked after;
- To encourage children and young people looked after to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- To consider the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people looked after;
- To help children and young people looked after to gain access to, and make the best use of, the services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- To promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people looked after;
- To ensure children and young people looked after are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and/or work place;
- To prepare children and young people looked after for adulthood and independent living.

2. Background

2.1 The role of Wiltshire's Corporate Parenting Panel is to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who are looked after, or care experienced. All Councillors are reminded that they have responsibilities as a "corporate parent" for children and young people who are Looked After in Wiltshire.

2.2 Wiltshire Corporate Parents are responsible for 434 children who are looked after (end of Q1 2021/22) and 296 care experienced young people (66 aged 16-18, 174 aged 19-21 and 56 aged 22 – 25). Of those children in our care, 26% are voluntarily accommodated (children who were taken into care with the parent's agreement), with the remaining children subject to an interim or full Care Order. 81% of children looked come to our attention due to abuse or neglect, followed by 13% due to the family being in acute stress and 6% due to an absent parent.[1]

2.3 Since 2014, the number and rate of children in care in Wiltshire has steadily increased up until the most recent year, 2020/21, when it started to reduce. This mirrors the increasing trends seen in the national and statistical neighbour data however the latter group have seen a sharper increase over this period. The 2020/21 Wiltshire rate of 39 per 10,000 children aged 0-17 years remains significantly below the latest published rates (2019/20) for our statistical neighbours (57 per 10,000) and the National average (67 per 10,000).

2.4 Councillors Pat Aves, Mary Champion, Jane Davies, (Vice Chair), Peter Hutton, George Jeans, Laura Mayes (Chair), Stewart Palmen, and James Sheppard formed the membership of the Panel during the period July 2020 to May 2021.

2.5 On 6 May 2021 the local elections were held and the Panel's membership is now as follows: Councillors Mary Champion, Peter Hutton (Chair), Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney. The Lead Officer is Iona Payne (Head of Children in Care and Young People's Service).

2.6 The meetings were regularly attended by the following officers and representatives:

Neil Adlam (Children in Care Team Manager), Gary Binstead (Head of Commissioning – Families and Children), Naomi Black (Designated Nurse for CLA), Dexter Chipeni (Commissioning Support Assistant), Kathryn Davis (Service Manager – Virtual Head and Vulnerable Groups), Martin Davis (Director – Families and Children), Judy Edwards (Commissioning Programme Lead) Sally Ellis (Public Health Specialist), Simon Fairgrieve (Children's Services Information Lead), Samantha Heathcote (Locality Team Manager), Sara James (Service Manager – Quality Outcomes), Michele Llewellyn (Head of Service – Children in Care and Placement Services), Dr Cathy Mallet (Designated Doctor for Children Looked After (CLA)), Elly Mills (Operational

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[1] CPP Performance report is provided at Appendix 1 – CLA Starts Breakdown

Lead for IRO's and Child and Youth Voice), Steve Parfitt (Foster Carer and Wilts Fostering Association representative), Iona Payne (Head of Children in Care and Young People's Service), Lena Pheby (Designated Nurse for CLA), Rhys Schell (Communities Specialist Manager), Jemma Sherman (Personal Advisor), Karen Stokes (Missing Children and CSE Co-Ordinator), Cameron Strawson (Youth Voice Support Worker), Joe Sutton (Youth Voice Lead Worker), Lucy Townsend (Director of Children's Services), Jay Williams (Kinship and Fostering Manager) and representatives of Wiltshire CCG. Other Officers attended as required to present particular reports.

Tia Fear (Youth Consultant) attended the meeting on 19 January 2021 and Alex McDermid (Chair of the Children in Care Council) attended the meetings on 19 January, 23 March and 29 June 2021.

3.   Work Programme

3.1   The Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) has discussed a broad range of topics whilst considering the young people's views. A Children in Care Council (CiCC) representative has been invited to attend each Panel meeting and, whilst not able to attend all, they have provided invaluable help and opinion.

3.2   The Panel has received the following reports and information:

Quarterly Performance Data

- National and Local Key Performance Indicators for Children in Care data
- Looked After Children Missing data and commentary
- Initial Health Assessments and Review Health Assessments
- MOTIV8 (Substance Misuse Service) data

3.3   In Autumn of 2020 an Officer/partner working group had been set up to look at how the performance data was presented to the Panel and how the data might be matched up with the Panel's 8 strategic priorities. This was not a straightforward task as there was not a natural fit for some of the metrics, however a list of 8 categories/domains of data was devised as follows;

i)   Health and wellbeing
ii)   Safety and security
iii)   Stability and permanence
iv)   Timely and consistent support
v)   Education
vi)   Fostering
vii)   Care leavers
viii)   Child's voice

Annual Reports

- Adoption West – 2019/20
- Health of Looked After Children – 2019/20

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- Virtual School – 2019/20
- Wiltshire's Independent Visitor Scheme – 2020/21
- Independent Reviewing Officers – 2020/21
- Update on Disruption Meetings – 2020/21

Updates

- Management of the Children's placement budget
- Foster Carer Recruitment/Fostering Excellence Programme
- Councillors Strategic Priorities
- Virtual School – Provision educational results and analysis
- Work of the Children in Care Council and Youth Voice
- Key areas of Children's Services
- Forecast modelling on the Anticipated Increase in Demand for Children's Services
- Review of Local Offer for Care Leavers
- Mental Health Support Team Programme for Wiltshire Schools
- Panel's achievements for last 4 years and proposed workplan moving forward
- MOTIV8 service
- Working with young people – Community Engagement Team
- Update on Children's Services Demand (Covid recovery)

4. Scrutiny of Performance

4.1 There are two aspects to the scrutiny function of the Panel; the receipt of reports relating to the identified priorities (and the resulting analysis and discussion) and the scrutiny of performance data.

4.2 A new performance report was developed in late 2020 which aims to provide a consolidated view of data about our children, their achievements and the quality of the parenting they receive from us. The report consists of 3 main elements:

1. The CPP Scorecard
The scorecard aims to provide a balanced view of performance across the range of responsibilities and priorities Wiltshire has as a corporate parent. It provides a single view of indicators broken down into 8 domains (Health & Wellbeing, Safety & Security, Stability & Permanence, Timely & Consistent Support, Education, Fostering, Care Leavers and Child's Voice).

It has been developed upon the following principles.

- Report the latest data available for each indicator at the time of the corporate parenting panel.
- Report data that needs to be reported, not that which is 'easy to report' and has always been reported.
- Report data that can be compared with expected performance levels, previous time periods and where possible with other similar local authorities.

       ○   Provide the data in a format which balances accessibility with completeness.

At each meeting, an exception report is presented by the Head of Service for those indicators which are outside the expected range or below the required target level.

2. **At a Glance Datasheet**
This element provides demographic, placement and legal status breakdowns of our current caseload, those starting to be looked after within the year and those who have previously been in our care.

3. **Data spotlight**
This section provides an area where a more detailed view of data can be presented on a specific area of our corporate parenting responsibilities, the theme of which is agreed at the previous meeting.

A copy of the CPP Performance report is provided at Appendix 1 of this report.

5.   The Corporate Parenting Strategy

5.1   The Corporate Parenting Strategy was reviewed in 2020 and approved by Full Council in October 2020.

5.2   The fundamental aims of the Corporate Parenting strategy are to ensure that Councillors:

- Understand their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents
- Scrutinise and challenge how the Council performs in delivering its services as a Corporate Parent
- Engage effectively, with energy, consistency, and confidence with children and young people so that their voice is heard and has influence
- Support and enable children and young people to challenge where services need to improve.
- Maintain a comprehensive overview of the progress of children who are looked after and care experienced, scrutinising the quality, effectiveness and performance of the services that support them.

5.3   **The Priorities**: The Strategy, has eight strategic priorities. Each member of the Panel has a lead role for a strategic priority ensuring oversight and critical challenge. The revised priorities and the Councillor/Officer lead are detailed below:

1. A loving home where I have good relationships, respect and the opportunity to see my family. *Cllr Mary Champion – Support Officer – Michele Llewellyn – Young person lead – Amber M*

2. To have links with my local community where I am trusted, respected and accepted. This means I can access the local community and I am not left

out. *Cllr Laura Mayes - Support Officer – Rhys Schell – Young people leads – Konrad and Alex*

3. To feel and be safe. *Cllr Peter Hutton – Support Officer – Sara James – Young people leads – Konrad and Amber L*

4. Support with my mental health especially at school, at a time and a place that suits me and not services. *Cllr Stewart Palmen – Support Officer – Saffia Ahmad– Young person lead - Alex*

5. Support to be healthy and this includes opportunities to be involved in new activities. *Cllr Jack Oatley – Support Officer – Chris Hussey – Young person lead – Jess*

6. Support to be the best I can. *Cllr Dominic Muns – Support Officer – Kathryn Davis – Young people leads – Rose/Alex*

7. Support for as long as I need it. *Cllr Simon Jacobs – Support Officer – Neil Adlam – Young people leads – Daniel and Alex*

8. To be heard – my voice is not the only way I am heard, it may come out as my behaviour. *Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney – Support Officer – TBC – Young person lead - Alex*

5.4 Following the elections in May 2021 all Cllrs were invited to attend an induction training session titled "Introduction to Families, Children and Education Directorate" which included understanding what is corporate parenting and their role as a corporate parent. We had 53% attendance for this event, however those who could not attend were able to access the recording. This was followed by a more specific Corporate Parenting Panel training in June 2021 for existing Cllrs on the Panel and newly elected members joining the Panel. We had 75% attendance for this training as it clashed with the LGA Conference on CPP however again those who could not attend were able to watch the recording. The training was delivered by officers and children and young people from youth voice.

6. Our Virtual School

6.1 Kathryn Davis, the Virtual School Head (VSH), provided a verbal update to panel in September 2020, reporting on Key Stage 4 exam outcomes for academic year 2019-20. Unvalidated data indicated that 30.56% of our young people who have been looked after for at least 12 months achieved a 9-4 pass in English and Maths (27.91% for all children looked after). This was a significant increase on Wiltshire attainment in previous years and higher than most recent published national CLA data. Looking towards the end of the new academic year 20-21, the panel asked about predicted KS4 outcomes and the VSH advised that prior attainment data suggests attainment outcomes are not likely to be as strong, although aspirations remain high and models of support rigorously implemented.

6.2 In January 2021, the Head Teacher's Report was shared at CPP with an opportunity to scrutinise the Virtual School's performance at each key stage and to understand what this meant in terms of individual children's outcomes. Performance data was shared for attendance, exclusions, attainment, progress, PEP timeliness and PEP quality. The report also included a breakdown of Pupil Premium Plus spend of £763,600 and, for the first time, analysis was shared on impact of spend against pupil outcomes achieved, allowing for better quality scrutiny of 'what works well' for supporting care-experienced children in schools.

6.3 In order to support work towards CP strategic priorities, the Virtual School Head continued to meet with the Lead Member for Education and SEND during the academic year (AY), which included a meeting with our link young person in January 2021. The focus for the link work on the priority 'support to be the best I can' has been on education, employment and training opportunities for children in care and care leavers Post 16. In July 2021, the Virtual School Head met with the new Lead Member for Education to provide an update on the role of the Virtual School, with the next meeting for strategic priority development work scheduled for 2 September 2021.

6.4 The Virtual School has contributed to each data set for the new CPP score card introduced this year. In June 2021, education was the scheduled 'spotlight' focus for panel. The Virtual School Head highlighted to panel that National curriculum statutory assessments for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 were cancelled by DfE for the academic year 19/20 and for 20/21 due to Covid-19. Therefore, the attainment data in the scorecard (with the exception of GCSE results) is from latest published data in academic year 18/19. In the absence of statutory assessments, the Virtual School has continued to seek end of year teacher assessments from schools, so that important judgements about (and support for) the progress and attainment of our children could continue to be made. The Virtual School Head has proposed that this teacher assessment data is included in the score card from September 2021 (with a clear marker that these are not statutorily assessed outcomes) in order that panel can continue to provide effective scrutiny and make meaningful comparisons when looking at AY 21-22 data.

6.5 The VSH provided panel with a teacher assessment update noting that the percentage of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) increased by 20% in 19/20 from the previous academic year. The percentage of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 1 increased by 9.6% in 19/20 from the previous academic year. The percentage of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 increased by 15.37% in 19/20 from the previous academic year.

6.6 Latest published data (LAIT 2018 - 2019) shows that attendance of Wiltshire looked after children was higher (96.6%) than for looked after children nationally (94.9%), in the South West (94.4%) and for statistical neighbours (94.5%). There is no published data for 2020 or 2021 due to removal of requirements to report in the context of Covid-19. However, internal data sets,

before the Covid-19 impact from March 2020, we were on track to have absence rates lower than for CLA nationally (at 4.7%) by the end of the academic year. In academic year 2020-21, attendance reporting was again impacted by Covid-19. Schools and settings remained open to looked after children during the lockdown period January through March 2021.

6.7 Many education good news stories have been shared at CPP during the last year. Examples have included:

J (Y10) joined her school in September as a new student. This is the message received from her teacher during the most recent lockdown: "I am writing to let you know how impressed I have been with J's work in our live English lessons lately. Despite being faced with a new way of learning and submitting work, J has responded with nothing but resilience, tenacity and self-discipline. It is a pleasure to be her teacher. Please congratulate J on her hard work and encourage her to keep up the good work!"

C has been voted in as a prefect at her 6th form college

A is an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child and is in the last year of his L3 Engineering course at Chippenham College. He was supported to complete his UCAS personal statement by his VSO and SW and, due to A's commitment and effort, he has been offered a place at Anglia Ruskin University and has conditionals at UWE, Brighton and Bournemouth. He now has both apprenticeship and HE options available to him, which is so well deserved.

E achieved fantastic GCSE results - 6 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including a Grade 7 in Humanities. E attends a special school for SEMH and has really shown huge maturity and resilience particularly in the latter part of Y11. He has now started a Level 3 course at college, which he is very happy about.

T lives with his foster carer in Wales. His attendance at school before coming into care was around 35%, but at his new school in Wales he has had excellent attendance, receiving 100% attendance certificates 2 years in a row. In year 10 during a History trip to France, T was given the honour of placing the Welsh Guards' wreath on the memorial in Belgium. This honour is only given to young people who have proved themselves worthy and staff felt that T's support of other students and also of staff on the trip had been exemplary. T's commitment to the school community was also a factor in their choice. He was highly thought of amongst teachers and peers and managed to achieve his GCSEs this summer, including the equivalent of 5s (Welsh schools still use letter grading) for English Literature and Science, and is now progressing on to college.

6.8 This academic year has again generated many challenges for our children in care and care leavers, with a particularly significant Covid-19 impact for those in exam year groups. We know how hard our care experienced young people have worked; we know that it wasn't always easy and we know how much it matters. We're proud of all they have achieved and look forward to reporting to

CPP in the new academic year about the next stages of their education and training.

7. Placement Stability

7.1 There is a range of information made available to the Corporate Parenting Panel which helps to indicate the effectiveness of the Council's work in terms of Priority 8 "A loving home where I have good relationships, respect and the opportunity to see my family". **In June 2021**, the Panel were presented with a data spotlight report on stability and permanence. The two National Indicators relating specifically to placement stability are:

    i) **% of looked after children with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months**. In 2020/21, Wiltshire performance was 6.5%, exceeding the target range of 7-10%. This is a significant improvement to 2019/20 where it was at 11.0% and is much better than similar local authorities at 13%, the South West at 12% and the national average of 11%.

    ii) **% of children looked after for more than 2.5 years and in placement for at least 2 years.** In 2020/21, Wiltshire performance was 78.1%, again well within the target range of 75 to 82%. This is also an improvement to last year where it was at 77.0% and is again much better than similar local authorities at 66%, the South West at 68% and the national average of 68%.

    iii) A review of the 2020 – 21 data on placement moves identified that 83% of changes of placement were positive planned moves predominantly in line with the child's care plan. 17% of change of placement were due to the child's behaviour or the child requesting to end the placement.

7.2 It was also highlighted to Panel that children fostered who are in our in-house provision (including Connected) is 50.2% well within the target range of 45 to 55%. This is an improvement to last year where it was at 44%. This improvement was due to the Fostering Excellence project and with another 12 months to go we are ambitious this will rise to 75%. **The Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officers** presented in the **June 2021** Panel also highlighted that there are plans in place for 2021/2022 to ensure that Care plans promote permanence and stability for children in care and effectively meet their development needs.

7.3 In **September 2020** the Panel were informed the Commissioning team had reviewed residential placements and highlighted that a focus had been in place on 11 young people of which 3 had a successful move on placements from a residential home. This included positive moves to foster homes and semi-supported accommodation. Whilst we want as many of our children in care to be with our foster carers we also recognise for some young people residential homes are in their best interest and best placed to meet their needs. One young person as part of the children in care council and working with the commissioning team was able to share about her positive experience of being in care.

7.4 Disruption Meetings allow us to reflect upon situations that arise, leading to unplanned endings of arrangements for children. It is important that we learn the lessons about what happened and what could be done differently in the future, thus improving retention.

7.5 The Annual Disruption Report was presented to Panel in **June 2021** and three particular themes were identified, similar to previous years there was the support, supervision and training provided to foster carers; secondly the skills, experience and resilience of the foster carer, where we are reminded of the fact that foster carers come from a range of different backgrounds and experiences and these have an impact on continuing life experiences. The third area was the experience of the child or young person, acknowledging the impact of adverse childhood experiences and the trauma it produces and how this impact on their chronological functioning.   To address these three areas we have introduced further training: therapeutic and trauma informed; increased supervision through increased social work capacity.

8.   Children Missing from Care

8.1 The impact of COVID has been considered during 2020/21 and noted that whilst overall numbers of missing incidents reported had reduced, those that related to children looked after were consistent with previous reporting periods prior to the pandemic.

8.2 In January 2021 it was highlighted that 29% of all missing return interviews offered had been declined by the young person. It was noted that it is not mandatory for a young person to participate in a missing return interview, some young people state they have been out with friends and arrived home later than curfew and many do not share a reason why they do not want to take part in the process and simply decline. Work has been undertaken with Child and Youth Voice lead to discuss the missing return interview format and how best we can engage all young people in the process wherever possible. Changes to the reporting was undertaken to share the young person's voice with members.

8.3 In January 2021 is was also noted that the % of children looked after with a missing episode at 8.5% is lower than our statistical neighbours at 11%. Also the average number of missing incidents per CLA at 3.4 is below the reported average of 5.4. (Data from 19/20 published data, 903 census).

9.   Our Fostering Service

9.1 The Fostering Excellence programme was implemented in Spring 2020, following planning and preparation, including consultation with foster carers, over several months. Fostering Excellence is a three-year project seeking to transform our kinship and fostering services. Our ambition is that by creating positive change it will lead to improvements in our service, which will be reflected in our recruitment and retention data. An example of positive change is the introduction of Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP) that we have 'bought in' to train social work staff and others across the directorate and our

foster carers, specifically with reference to the PACE model. PACE acronym stands for Playful, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy. This has been delayed somewhat due to lockdown and reduced virtual group size. We have also been able to appoint an additional Assistant Team Manager using the Fostering Excellence funding.

9.2   Our main target is to have 65% of our children looked after living with Wiltshire Council approved foster carers by April 2023. There are two key aspects to achieving this ambitious target. First, seeking to recruit, assess, and approve approximately 100 new fostering households by April 2023 which would hopefully lead to a net increase of 60 fostering households. The second part is the retention of current fostering households through improved payment and support. If we seek to minimise our losses and increase our gains, our overall net growth of carer households will grow and enable us to achieve our target.

9.3   During 2020/21 (year 1 of 3) we successfully approved 36 new mainstream fostering households and de-registered 16 mainstream fostering households, providing a net growth of 20. This was a significant achievement as in the previous 5 years we had only achieved a net growth once and on that occasion, it was a net growth of 1. During the other 4 years we broke even once and experienced net losses on three occasions. Therefore, we can see the positive impact of the Fostering Excellence programme at a time when local authorities in England were overall shrinking in terms of approved household numbers. However, the evidence across England is that local authority available fostering beds have grown by 10% over six years, up until 2020. Our gains last year alone enabled us to grow by 8%, in terms of beds available. Since January 2021 we have been purposefully seeking specialist carers, to better meet our sufficiency need for older teenage children and children and young people with complex needs.

9.4   In January 2021 we ran a campaign to recruit specialist foster carers, which included our STEPS carers (Short Term Emergency Placements), Parent and Child, and Home Away from Home – Specialist. Working together with Comms and an external marketing agency we created a new digital brochure available to download and new independent web landing pages Wiltshire Council - Fostering (fosteringwiltshire.uk). We have continued to improve our digital advertising and social media, and our footprint continues to grow, in terms of followers and overall impact.   We ran a specialist fostering information session, linked to this campaign, which we recorded as this enables us to send the link to the film, to people who express an interest in those specific types of fostering.

9.5   As a result of the campaign to recruit specialist carers we have recruited an additional STEPS carer, parent and child carers, carers who have been able to take siblings and an application for specialist short breaks.

9.6   100% of foster carer enquiries are responded to within 1 working day. In this quarter the average response time continued to be 0.3 day. Across Q4 there were 30 formal enquiries, leading to 27 initial home visits and 15 applications to foster. There were 30 fostering assessments at various stages at the end of the

quarter and we approved 13 new carers in this period, 7 mainstream and 6 Connected carers (Kinship or Family and Friends carer). There were however, 4 mainstream de-registrations and 13 Connected Carers de-registered, although these were planned. National statistics indicate that our mainstream deregistration continues to be in line with other local authorities across England.

9.7 We make good use of our fostering capacity without compromising on placement matching as evidenced through our very strong stability rate; our occupancy is currently 79% compared to a national average of 62%. We will continue to monitor the impact of the fostering excellence programme including a review of the recruitment strategy.

10. Our Adoption Service

10.1 Adoption West is a collaboration between Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire local authorities, whose aim is to deliver an adoption service that offers improved outcomes for both children and those who want to adopt. Working together as part of a larger region will help recruit new families more effectively, enable children to move into their permanent homes faster and will improve adoption support services as well as allowing best practice to be shared and make our services even better.

10.2 The Panel received the annual report of Adoption West in **September 2020** and the performance of the Council in terms of achieving legal permanence for children through adoption. Children placed for adoption meets the CPP Strategic Priority 8 – *A loving home where I have good relationships, respect and the opportunity to see my family*. The headlines of the report were noted as:

- 15 Wiltshire children with a decision that adoption is in their best interest, not yet placed
- 22 children placed with their adoptive families in this period, awaiting Adoption Order
- 10 Adoption Orders made so far this year.

10.3 The **Wiltshire Council Adoption Service 2020 – 21 Year End report** is being submitted for 14 December 2021 Cabinet and to CPP 18 January 2022 which is just outside of the reporting period for this CPP Annual Report. It can be confirmed however for 2020 – 2021 that 23 children were adopted and of these 18 (78%) were placed within 12 months of the decision that adoption was in their best interest. At the end of the financial year there were 13 children waiting for an adoptive placement. In 2020/21 there were 33 families living in Wiltshire approved by Adoption West as suitable to adopt.

10.4 Achieving permanence for children through adoption is a high priority for the Council. The Adoption West partnership continues to develop with regular scrutiny through Cabinet and its own partnership scrutiny arrangements.

11.   Participation of looked after children

11.1 At June 2021 Panel, The Conference and Reviewing Service Annual Report was presented. The work and impact described in this helped the Panel to understand how children and young people are best supported.

11.2 The report shared that Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) chaired a total of 1191 reviews and 94.3% of these were held on time. This is an improvement from 89% last year. When a child can contribute directly to their review and it is held on time, the likelihood is that the arrangement will be better, difficulties can be spotted and resolved more quickly and children will have a positive family experience living with their foster carers and enjoying opportunities to achieve and succeed. The report showed that in the year 2020/21 95% children and young people participated in their reviews. This is an increase from 89% from 2019/20.

11.3 In April 2021 our new Child and Youth Voice (CYV) Team was launched. This includes a support and lead worker. CYV have been working closely with CPP and the CiC Teams at Wiltshire Council to enable all children in care to have a voice. CYV have been working collaboratively with CiCC and have set up the new CICC Ambassador and Consultant schemes. CiCC Ambassadors can be CICC members, council staff and councillors who have a specialist interest in an important issue to CICC such as mental health, housing, jobs, activities and tackling racism. These will reflect our priorities. We currently have over 30 CiCC Ambassadors. All of the Ambassadors get together at least twice a year to share information with each other.

11.4 The CiCC consultancy scheme means young people in care can be consultants and help the Council with important business and offer consultancy. Consultants are offered a high level of support, training and reimbursement by way of vouchers for their time and expertise. There is more about the CiCC Consultant and Ambassador Scheme in the separate CICC annual report which is attached as **Appendix 2** to this document.

11.5 Our CYV team have enabled children in care to be part of the recruitment of Social Care staff. CiCC members and consultants have interviewed Social Workers, Assistant Team Managers, CiC Personal Assistants, Independent Reviewing Officers and Independent Visitors. The CYV team supported CiCC members and consultants to deliver some training for the newly elected members.

12.   Children in Care Council (CiCC)

12.1 CYV were given the responsibility of supporting and facilitating CiCC in January 2021. Due to the COVID19 pandemic we were unable to meet face to face initially. In partnership with the CiCC chair a decision was made to hold twice monthly online CiCC meetings. These would be held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 4.30pm. The one on the first Thursday of the month would be a fun activity and the one on the third Thursday of the month would be offered up for consultancy. We have seen a gradual increase in membership

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and have about 19 members (membership does tend to be transient) but we are very lucky to have a dedicated CiCC Chair who has attended all of the sessions. There have also been fortnightly CiCC planning sessions with CYV and the CiCC chair to ensure collaboration and focus for all of the CiCC work.

12.2 As lockdown eased we were able to have some face to face activities. We have had a pizza night, a walk in the park with a 'shakeaway' and a trip to Longleat. We have also planned a residential weekend away at 'PGL' for 19 young people who are in the care of Wiltshire Council. The activities have been very popular, and we plan to have a twice yearly residential and trips every school holiday.

12.3 A breakdown of numbers of young people attending CICC is in the full CiCC report in the appendix. For our CiCC meetings we usually have between 3 and 7 attendees. The trips and activities do tend to be very popular and get booked up quickly (this reindeer was very popular on the Longleat trip as it provided 'selfie with a reindeer' opportunities).

CYV support worker with a monkey on the Longleat trip

12.4 The Children in Care Council continues to be a key stake holder group relating to matters included in the Corporate Parenting agenda. CPP have worked hard to maintain positive collaborative relationships with the CiCC. Through the Shared Guardian sessions, they have helped to influence the work and priorities of the CPP. Shared Guardian Sessions were held on 22 September 2020 and 18 March 2021. The next session is due on 16 September 2021.

12.5 CYV have just supported CiCC in a mental health consultation. This involved 2 big surveys (one for CiC facilitated by Bristol University) and one universal

survey for all young people in Wiltshire promoted over social media. CYV team also consulted with children and young people at schools and youth clubs. The findings of this consultation were shared at a 'meet the leaders' session in July 2021. A follow up session will be held in 6 months so CiCC members and consultants can 'hold the leaders to account' and ensure they have acted on the information provided appropriately.

12.6 CYV supported CiCC to undertake a 'young person's inspection' at Wiltshire Council's registered children's home 'Aspire House'. This also included a follow up inspection to ensure the recommendations had been actioned. The CiCC inspectors were very pleased to see all of the recommendations had been implemented. CiCC members gave advice on steps that could be taken to make the home more welcoming. These included a welcome book and bag. Advice was also given on hair and skincare to ensure all children and young people who stay at Aspire have their needs met and catered for.

12.7 CiCC had a session with one of the fostering managers about 'what makes a good foster carer'. This was the most popular CiCC session to date. The fostering manager has been able to feedback to the fostering service to ensure the service promotes the attributes identified. This session has also enabled a positive relationship link between CiCC and the fostering service. Two of the CiCC members are considering being part of the fostering panel to enable the voice of CiCC to be evident in panel.

12.8 CiCC have undertaken some work on 'what makes a good IRO' and 'what makes a good Social Worker'. The findings from these sessions have led to additional interview questions within the recruitment for these roles to reflect the views of CiCC.

13. Performance:

13.1 Performance reporting continues to be developed on the principle of reporting data that covers the full range of our corporate parenting responsibilities, over and above the standard measures which are reported nationally. Where local authority data can be benchmarked against other local authorities, our performance is reported against a range of comparators including Wiltshire's statistical neighbours, the regional and national averages, and those authorities who have received an 'Outstanding' Ofsted assessment.

13.2 Annually, the indicators themselves, together with their expected ranges and targets are reviewed in consultation with Heads of Service and the development of the new format Corporate Parenting panel performance report, as detailed in section 4, has been used to inform this process in 2021-22. The revised suite of indicators and target ranges is due to be presented and approved by the Performance and Outcomes Board in November 2021 and includes:

- Data relating to looked after children including social work performance, health and education outcomes, where they are living and placement and social worker stability

- Private Fostering data
- Adoption data focusing on outcomes for Wiltshire Council's children.

13.3 The full dataset is not repeated here but the key performance indicators are available within the performance scorecard in Appendix 1.

13.4 The recent commentary discussed at the CPP meetings.

- Given Wiltshire's low levels of deprivation, we would expect the rate of children in care to be below the national average. We have confidence in our threshold and know through external scrutiny (Ofsted 2015 and 2019) that we bring children into care at the right time. Through demand forecasting, it is anticipated that, despite the reduction seen in 2020/21, numbers will likely steadily continue in the future, despite minor fluctuations. Original 2020 modelling forecasts using long-term data across a broad range of indicators (e.g. relationship between referrals and rate of Child in Need (CIN)/Support and conversion into CLA), and national, local and strategic intelligence (including from FACT, Support and Safeguarding Service (SASS) evaluation, POG (Performance Outcome Group) and POB (Performance Outcome Board)) suggest we are likely to see our children in care numbers rise annually each year until 2023. The corporate parenting panel is regularly briefed by the Head of Performance, Outcomes & Quality Assurance on the latest forecasting data available.

- The age profile of children in care is broadly in line with the national and statistical neighbour profiles although in 2020/21, Wiltshire had slightly lower proportions of children under 5 and slightly higher proportions of children aged 10 – 15. This is likely a result of a higher rate of Special Guardianship orders (SGOs) being made in Wiltshire in 2020/21 which are primarily made for younger children. In the 6 months to May 2021, for instance, Wiltshire's percentage of children ceasing to be looked after due to a SGO was 25% compared to a statistical neighbour and national average of 13%.

- The placement profile is again broadly in line with the national and statistical neighbour profiles however in 2020/21 Wiltshire had a higher proportion of children in foster care placements at 80% (333) versus 72% for both comparator groups. 50% of these children are placed with Wiltshire Council carers, an increase on previous years. At the end of 2020/21, 10% (40) of children were placed in children's homes, lower than the national and statistical neighbour averages of 13% and 17% respectively. The other 10% of CLA would have been in either supported accommodation, living with birth parents or placed with their prospective adopters.

- In 2020-21, 94% of reviews for children in care were held in timescale and 95% included the views of children. Exception reports are provided to the Service Manager who monitors all late reviews and a suite of self-service reports are used to track review timeliness and participation in 'real time',

with Independent Reviewing Officers encouraged to make use of these reports to monitor their own performance.

- Distant placements. In 2020/21, the percentage of our children who are placed outside of Wiltshire was at 30%, better performance than Statistical neighbours (34%) and the National average (38%). However, National averages are skewed by small unitary authorities and London boroughs where children are frequently placed outside the Local Authority boundary but still close to home and for this reason we also report on children placed over 20 miles from home (whether this is in Wiltshire or out of our authority boundary). With this measure, we were at 37% which is above both Statistical neighbours (31%) and National average (20%). This reflects the challenges of securing local independent fostering and residential placements while the number of children in care within Wiltshire and across the region continues to grow.

- Placement stability. Despite limited placement choice our reported placement stability rates are strong across both key measures. As reported above in section 7, the number of children experiencing 3+ placements within the last 12 months in 2020/21 was 6.5%, considerably below that of the National average (11%), the South West (12%), and our statistical neighbours (13%). The number of children who are in secure long-term placements (looked after for at least 2.5 years and in the same placement for at least 2 years) at 78% is also better than the national average (68%), the South West (68%) and statistical neighbours (66%).

- Visits – overall the improvements in the timeliness of visits to our children in care has been maintained throughout Q1 2021/22 with 93% of visits being in time. This sustained performance has been helped, in part, by the development of a range of self-service reports which enable managers to keep better track of when visits are due in 'real time'.

- Adoption – In 2020/21, 23 children were adopted, slightly below the expected range of 27-32. At the same time, and as was predicted in last year's report, after several years of continued improvement against the adoption scorecard measures, performance was anticipated to worsen in 2020-21 as several older children, and therefore those harder to place, were adopted. The impact of these cases on the adoption scorecard measures is described in detail within the Annual Adoption report.

- Furthermore, over the last six years, the number of children entering care where adoption is in their best interest has decreased. This has been more pronounced in the last 2 years, primarily driven by an increase in the number of children where a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order has been determined to be a more desirable and suitable permanence option for them, adoption being the last resort. This is particularly the case for very young children who are often able to find a loving and supportive home environment with a set of grandparents. It is anticipated that, over future years, this trend, which is also seen nationally, will continue.

13.5 Priorities for the next period include:

- Improve compliance with the KPI range measures in order to improve outcomes for children
- Improve placement sufficiency so that more children are looked after by Wiltshire approved foster carers, closer to their homes, schools and communities
- Improve educational outcomes and progress for children looked after, and increase access to a range of training and employment opportunities for care experienced young people
- Continue to ensure timely adoption for children where it is in their best interest
- Have a clear line of sight regarding outcomes for care experienced young people and our local offer.

14. Challenges/successes during Covid-19

14.1 Early March 2020 saw the impact of the coronavirus, now known as COVID-19 on the country and therefore on the work of the local authority with government directed restrictive movement, temporary closure of businesses and the need for social distancing. The impact of the restrictions continued through to July 2021 with restrictions being lifted by the government on 19th July. The changes in the way we worked with children, young people and their families continued to this date and the COVID-19 Home Visit Guidance and has consistently been updated in line with DfE guidance and in partnership with Wiltshire Public Health Service

14.2 A rapid review was undertaken May – July 2020 by multi-agency partners to consider estimations of future demand based on the impact of COVID-19. In the autumn estimates considered a significant impact on the increase in children looked after however the longer the restrictions remained in place the numbers didn't increase as expected. June 2021 CPP were informed we had 430 CLA. As mentioned with the restrictions being lifted only recently in July 2021, the longer-term impact on children and families will become more apparent. We have had to therefore consider latent demand and the likelihood of more children coming into care and therefore financial planning has been taken into account with the financial pressure that an increase in CLA will bring to the Council.

14.3 With each CPP Agenda good news stories are captured about the progress and achievements of children in care and care experienced young people. For example August 2021 A level and vocational results has seen 6 year 13 students achieve results to enable them to take their next steps including university or apprenticeships. This will be shared at the next CPP in September.

15. Ofsted Inspection

15.1 In June 2019, the Families and Children's Service was inspected by Ofsted and there were five areas identified as needing to improve:

- Raising awareness of Private Fostering in the community
- The impact of services on children's health and education when they are in care
- The clarity and accuracy of children's records when they are in care
- The availability of suitable placements when children first come into care
- The quality of social work supervision.

15.2 Progress on actions in response to these areas are highlighted below:

Raising awareness of Private Fostering in the community

Improvements/positives in the last 12 months April 2020 – March 2021:

- The Kinship and Fostering Team had a detailed Private Fostering Awareness Action Plan 2020 – 2021. The following improvements were:
- A virtual workshop on Private Fostering, during Private Fostering week (November 2020) for staff to attend to gain advice and information about Private Fostering.
- Ongoing virtual workshop sessions
- Better oversight of PF cases, as all PF work is held within the kinship staff group, with consistency of workers.
- Improved and updated marketing materials.
- The SCYPP, continue to raise awareness of private fostering, linking to relevant multi-agency strategies, and through their website
- Recently, configuration changes have enabled private fostering data to now be captured on our case management system which will facilitate increased scrutiny of this data going forward by allowing staff to track their performance in 'real time'.

The impact of services on children's health and education when they are in care

In the 2019 Ofsted Report, inspectors stated that *leaders are not sufficiently rigorous in their monitoring of the work and impact of the virtual school officers resulting in the quality of personal education plans (PEPs) being variable*. The 2019/2020 CPP annual report highlighted:

- New Quality Assurance processes for PEPs drafted October 2019 and finalised November 2019
- A PEPs feedback and resubmission process for active PEPS via Welfare Call e-PEP from November 2019 was put in place.
- An internal PEP audit schedule had been created; first activity was scheduled with Director of Education & Skills in January 2020
- Pupil Premium Plus policy had been written, ratified and published (Jan 2020), in line with statutory requirements.

This year we have:

- PEP Quality Assurance rubric in place and has improved the consistency of QA judgements;
- PEP moderation activity takes place monthly at every Virtual School team meeting;
- introduced new training sessions for Designated Teachers, focused entirely on completion of a high quality ePEP;
- The virtual school now holds monthly POGs (a performance and outcome group) and
- the Virtual Head and Head of Service for Children in Care meet monthly to update on progress and new developments of the VS and work programmes

Regarding the health needs of children in care, inspectors stated that "challenges remain in ensuring that all children benefit from a timely initial and review health assessment".

- Review Health Assessments have remained high with 94% of children who had been in care for 12 months on 31st March 2021 having had a review health assessment in the last 12 months.
- A portal has now been developed which will provide an automated notification when a child becomes looked after this will enable more effective communication between Wiltshire Council and Virgin Care with the ambition of eliminating the risk of late notifications. This will be in place by mid-September 2021 following testing.
- The commissioning arrangements and more detailed KPIs for Virgin Care were completed in July 2020
- In 19/20, the CCG commissioned an in-depth review of CIC health services including those provided by Virgin Care and CAMHS. In 2020/21, IHA performance for children placed within Wiltshire had improved significantly with 87% of IHA's completed within 28 days. This is subject to ongoing scrutiny and challenge by the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The clarity and accuracy of children's records when they are in care

- Audits have been undertaken by the Principal Social Worker of children in care with a focus on life story work and the teams have undertaken audits on pathway plans for children in care and care leavers
- Practice leads had been recruited and identified in the children in care teams, however with change in staffing the children in care south team are developing staff to undertake this role.
- Ongoing improvements are being implemented in Liquid Logic (children's management information system) to improve the accuracy and quality of children's records, particularly around placement plans;
- "At a Glance" performance reporting has been developed in real time for children in care teams, these continue to allow reporting by exception and monitoring and enables managers to report in the performance outcome group (POG).

<u>The availability of suitable placements when children first come into care</u>

- As mentioned above the Fostering Excellence Plan is now in its implementation stage and has shown improved recruitment activity over the last financial year and achieved its target of a net increase of 20 carers.
- As part of the Specialist recruitment campaign there has been a focus on recruiting additional STEPS foster carers for emergency placements and carers for teenagers; and due to the positive increase in mainstream carers this has provided more placements for children in-house when they first become looked after.
- In addition to the Fostering Excellence approach described above further work is taking place with the South West Sufficiency Project (SWSP). The project aims to create a whole system approach, with new models of commissioning placements, to ensure we can achieve the desired outcomes for our children and young people. Our Head of Service for Children in Care and Young People chairs the SWSP Fostering Project Group for the South West.
- Families and Children's Commissioning have also been considering the DfE Children's Homes Capital Programme 2021-23 application.

<u>The quality of social work supervision</u>

- "At a Glance" reports have been developed in Liquid Logic for CIC, CIN and CLA and include case supervision
- Practice leads have been recruited to develop peer level scrutiny of supervision on a monthly basis and outcomes reported through Performance Outcome Groups and Performance Outcome Board

Ofsted Summary

15.3 The actions taken above will have met the requirements needed to improve practice within the service and improving outcomes for children and their families. We strive to continuously improve our progress against these five areas and going forward these areas will be captured in the ongoing work of the Corporate Parenting Board or through the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel.

16. Impact and Ambition

16.1 The Corporate Panel has received a breadth of activity relating to Wiltshire's children in care and care experienced young people. The body of this report indicates areas of impact whilst others are more subtle and are likely to arise because of raised awareness of the issues that most directly affect the lives of this group of children and young people:

- The Children in Care Council is now fully supported by the Child and Youth Voice team which ensures that the voices, experiences and opinions of our children and young people are reflected in operational practice development and in new areas of policy. *Strategic Priority - To be heard*

- Members have been able to consider key performance information relating to our children looked after and care experienced therefore allowing them to question officers about effectiveness, however this is balanced with narratives around good new stories, children and young people attending CPP, celebration of successes and raising awareness across the Council. *Strategic Priority – Support to be the best I can*

- The strategic priorities have been reviewed and agreed to continue into 2022. These have started to be driven jointly by Members and lead officers however we have seen newly elected Members and officers new to the CPP take on the lead for some of the priorities and there is an improved knowledge base for each area and opportunities to discuss with the Child and Youth voice team during Shared Guardian sessions. *Strategic Priority - To be heard*

- Members have been provided with information about Fostering Excellence and how this work is progressing, including the marketing campaigns. The marketing campaigns have more recently been geographically driven (more recently in Trowbridge) therefore Members can become involved at a much more local level to their constituencies. *Strategic Priority - A loving home where I have good relationships*

- There is a strong offer of council-wide support available to care experienced young people. The existing core offer has been reviewed regularly over the last 12 months, including the implementation of a care leavers app. The Offer will be further developed with the support of the CPP and will need to be a significant focus of the CPP over the next 12 months. *Strategic Priority - Support for as long as I need it*

16.2 It is important that the CPP ensures the best possible support is available to children in care and those who are care experienced. In terms of ambition, we want to achieve the following:

- Narrow the gap in outcome and achievement, in the broadest sense, between our children and young people and others living in Wiltshire, thus reducing disadvantage and stigma. *Strategic Priority - Support to be the best I can*

- For each of the priority areas, ensure that there are identified actions developed from scrutiny and challenge so that the CPP is an effective driver of change and improvement.

- Ensure that the comprehensive and innovative care offer to care experienced young people is based upon what they say they want and is effective. This will draw upon Council wide services and those that are provided by partner organisations and will be available to all our young people, including those who live outside Wiltshire, where applicable. *Strategic Priority - Support for as long as I need it*

- Continue to improve educational outcomes for our children and young people as we know this improves resilience and problem-solving skills, improve health and lifestyle outcomes and reduce social isolation – these are things

that young people are concerned about. *Strategic Priority - Support to be healthy*

- Increase accommodation options for children and young people, including approving more foster carers and Supported Lodgings providers, developing semi-independent and independent living options within Homes for Wiltshire and the voluntary sector. *Strategic Priority - A loving home where I have good relationships*

- Be sure that the voices of children and young people continue to be heard and understood by members, officers and all corporate parents whilst ensuring that these opinions are fully reflected in practice improvement. *Strategic Priority - To be heard*

17. Conclusion and Next Steps

17.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy received full Council approval in October 2020, with the updated strategic priorities included.

17.2 An enhanced reporting system through the CPP Scorecard and regular performance reports has helped to ensure a better understanding of panel as evidenced in the updates from strategic leads contained within this report. Members have a greater understanding of children in care and care experienced young people, through the participation of child and youth voice, the chair of the CICC, young people attending the Panel and joint shared guardian sessions. Panel have an increased narrative of children and young people's lived experience therefore enabling them to be the best corporate parent the children in care and care experienced young people need.

17.3 This reporting period has also seen a change of chairing responsibility (June 2021).

17.4 We will:

a) Review all priority areas to ensure they are being achieved and therefore the best impact upon outcomes for children and young people.

b) Continue to work closely with the Children in Care Council to ensure that the voices and experiences of children and young people in care are reflected in the work of the CPP and hence the wider Families and Children's Services.

c) Promote the importance of fostering and review the impact of the Fostering Excellence programme of work.

d) In partnership with health colleagues, continue to track the improvement in health outcomes for children and young people, continuing to ensure that Initial and Review Health assessments are completed in a timely way as already evidenced during Panel reporting.

e) Further strengthen and develop the offer for care experienced young people, particularly ensuring that those living outside Wiltshire are not disadvantaged.

18. Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

18.1 The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel (SCYPP) (which was established in February 2014) has continued to meet in September and December 2020 and March, June and September 2021. The role of the SCYPP is to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes to ensure that all Wiltshire children and young people are safe.

18.2 Councillors Pat Aves, Mary Champion, Jane Davies (Vice Chair), Ross Henning, Peter Hutton, George Jeans, Laura Mayes (Chair) and James Sheppard formed the membership of the Panel during the period July 2020 to May 2021. From June 2021 the following Members formed the Panel: Councillors Ross Henning, Jon Hubbard, Peter Hutton (Chair), Laura Mayes, Dominic Muns (Vice Chair), Nabil Najjar, Sam Pearce-Kearney and Suzanne Wickham.   Cllr Church stepped down from Panel having changed Cabinet Member responsibility and she was succeeded by Laura Mayes as the Chair. The Lead Officers are Netty Lee and Jen Salter (Heads of Service – Support and Safeguarding).

18.3 In the last year, the SCYPP has continued to receive briefings to enhance member's knowledge and understanding of Families and Children's Services responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people.

18.4 This has included; overviews of the core data which explains how the data is captured and monitored and used to compare Wiltshire with neighbouring councils and agencies, overview of the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme, overviews of missing children and young people data, including specific analysis of the decline in missing episodes.

18.5 Also the following updates – Activity in the Support and Safeguarding Service related to Covid, FACT programme, the numbers of children and young people who are placed outside of Wiltshire, the annual Private Fostering report for 2019/20 and the Panel's achievements over the 2017-2021 Council term.

18.6 A training session for the new Panel members was held in June 2021 when the Panel Members received introductions to the Families and Children's Services, Missing Children and the data received from the Emerald Team and the Performance, Outcomes and Quality Assurance Service and learned about the role of the School Effectiveness Safeguarding Leads

19. Main Considerations for the Council

19.1 The Council is asked to note the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel to date and the success within the year to strengthen its functions and impact of its work.

20. Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

20.1 In accordance with the agreed overview and scrutiny arrangements, "the draft annual Corporate Parenting Panel report was considered by the Children's Select Committee' standing task group on Wednesday 22 September.
Due to timings of meetings, this year the Children's Select Committee will receive the finalised annual Corporate Parenting Panel report".

20.2 Reassurance was offered that Wiltshire's thresholds had consistently been reviewed as appropriate (Ofsted inspections and Oxford Brookes University evaluation) and that the figures in Wiltshire were closer to the "proportion per 10,000" reported by local authorities classed as Good or Outstanding in their Ofsted inspection. The decision for children to become looked after remains with the Support and Safeguarding Head of Service via 'Edge of Care Panel' and thus provides consistency of threshold. This panel's decisions have been subject to independent review to provide continued assurance.

21. Safeguarding Implications

21.1 Within their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors monitor closely the safeguarding of children and young people looked after by Wiltshire Council and in doing so identify issues such as children missing from placement and children at risk of sexual exploitation. These safeguarding functions continue and will be enhanced.

22. Public Health Implications

22.1 Children Looked After are at particular risk of experiencing inequalities in health outcomes due to their difficult start in life. Within their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors monitor the health and wellbeing support received by our looked after children to ensure they receive regular holistic assessments of their needs supported by appropriate and accessible service provision. This may include access to a wide range of services including immunisations, emotional wellbeing support or substance misuse services.

23. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

23.1 Not applicable.

24. Equalities Impact of the Proposal

24.1 The proposals seek to bring Councillors and Officers to work together to ensure that our Looked After Children and Young People have a voice within the Council in order to influence the improvement of services for them.

25. Risk Assessment

25.1 Panel Members are required to have an enhanced DBS check undertaken and Risk Assessments will be drawn up for when visits are made to vulnerable children and when Councillors attend Officer Team Meetings, etc.

26. Financial Implications

26.1 Expenses for young people participating in the CPP will be paid for from the Children in Care budget.

27. Legal Implications

27.1 The Solicitor to the Council has confirmed that the Panel is an Advisory panel and not a Committee of the Council; it can therefore make recommendations but not decisions. Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director – People) is the lead decision maker.

28. Proposals

28.1 To receive and note the Annual Report and the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel to date, its functions and impact of its work and to ratify the improvements required to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.

28.2 To receive and note the Annual Report of the Children in Care Council 2020/21 attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Martin Davis (Director of Families and Children's Services)

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Date of report: 5 October 2021

Background Papers – None

Appendices

1 - Children in Care Performance Data 2021/22 Q1 *as at 30th June 2021*

2 - Annual Report of the Children in Care Council October 2020 to August 2021.

Corporate Parenting Performance Report

June 2021

Publication date: **21st June 2021**

Corporate Parenting Performance Report

The Corporate Parenting performance report provides a consolidated view of data about looked after children within Wiltshire local authority. It consists of 3 main elements.

1. CPP Scorecard - performance across a suite of key performance indicators.

2. At a Glance - data about those currently looked after in Wiltshire, those starting to be looked after in the year, and those young people who have since left care.

3. Data Spotlight - a deeper look at the data around a specific area of Wiltshire's parenting responsibilities.

CPP Scorecard Explained

The scorecard aims to provide a balanced view of performance across the range of responsibilities Wiltshire has as a corporate parent. It has been designed with the following principles in mind.

 - Provide a single view of key indicators.
 - Report data thats important to report, not just data that has always been reported.
 - Report the latest data available.
 - Provide data that can be compared with previous time periods and, where possible, other similar local authorities.
 - Provide the data in a format which is as accessible as possible, grouping indicators wherever possible.

The following section explains some of the terminology and logic applied to specific columns within the scorecard itself.

How Reported
This describes how the data is being reported for performance.

SS	Snapshot of current data at the end of previous month
R12M	12 month period up to the end of previous month.
YTD	Year to date performance from April of this Financial year to end previous month.
FY	Financial Year
AC	Academic Year
Q	Last completed quarter of current financial year.

Caution	Year to date figures, particularly early on in the new financial or academic year can be based on small numbers and can make the percentage less reliable.

RAG Ratings

Red	Performance is 10% or more below the low threshold of the expected range
Amber	Performance is within 10% of the low threshold of expected range
Green	Performance is above low threshold of expected range.

Comparisons

One month ago	Performance as it was the month before for SS, YTD, and R12M.
One year ago	Performance at the same point, a year ago, or the last published data where data for similar councils reported.
Similar Councils	The latest average performance of 10 Local authorities statististically similar to Wiltshire.

CPP Scorecard

Domain	Indicator	How reported?	Latest Data	What does good look like?	Expected Range		Latest Data and RAG Rating	Behind the %		One Month Ago		One Year Ago		Similar Councils	
					Low	High		Actual	Possible	Data	Latest is better, worse or same	Data	Latest is better, worse or same	Data	Latest is better, worse or same
Health & Wellbeing	% of CLA with a health assessment in last 12 months	FY	2019/20	High	100%	100%	96%	316	330	-	-	74%	B	86%	B
	% of CLA with a dental check in last 12 months	FY	2019/20	High	95%	100%	89%	295	330	-	-	91%	W	77%	B
	% of CLA with up to date immunisations	FY	2019/20	High	95%	100%	94%	309	330	-	-	91%	B	-	-
	% of Initial Health Assessments completed within 28 days (VC BSW Scorecard - In County Only)	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	80%	90%	88%	15	17	87%	B	76%	B	-	-
	% of Review Health Assessment caseload which is up to date (VC BSW Scorecard - In County Only)	SS	May-21	High	-	-	75%	279	370	77%	W	74%	B	-	-
	% of scored SDQs with an overall SDQ score of high (17-19) or very high (>=20)	SS	May-21	Low	-	-	47%	18	38	47%	S	48.7%	B	43%	W
	% of current CLA accessing Tier 2 or Tier 3 CAMHS Support	SS		-			NYA								
	Number of current CLA receiving MOTIV8 treatment	Q	Jan 21 - Mar 21	Low			13					9	W	-	-
Safety & Security	% of CLA with a missing episode	YTD	Apr-21	Low	-	-	3.2%	14	437	10.8%	B	11%	B	12%	B
	Average number of missing incidents per CLA	YTD	Apr-21	Low	-	-	1.9	-	-	4.1	B	5	B	5.4	B
	% of CLA aged 12 years and over with CSE screening in last 12 months	SS	May-21	High	-	-	64.2%	165	257	61.9%	B	30.5%	B	-	-
	% of CSE screenings completed on CLA resulting in Child identified as At risk or CSE	R12M	Jun 20 - May 21	-	-	-	12.8%	20	156	13.9%	-	15%	-	-	-
	% of CLA open to Youth Offending Service	SS	Jun-21	Low	-	-	2.1%	9	433	1.9%	W	-	-	-	-
	Number of Youth Offending Cases committing a proven offence whilst CLA	YTD	Apr 20 - Mar 21	Low	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	13	W	-	-
Stability & Permanence	% of placements ending due to child's behaviour	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	Low	-	-	20%	6	30	25%	B	7%	W	-	-
	Avg time between becoming looked after and moving in with their adoptive family (A1)	YTD	2019-22	Low	290	370	373	-	-	374	B	339	W	453	B
	Avg time between placement order being granted and being matched to a family (A2)	YTD	2019-22	Low	150	170	128	-	-	130	B	116	W	172	B
	% of looked after children with 3 or more placement moves in last 12 months	R12M	May 20 - Apr 21	Low	7%	10%	6.1%	26	428	6.8%	B	9.6%	B	13.0%	B
	% of children looked after for more than 2.5 years and in placement for at least 2 years	SS	Apr-21	High	75%	82%	78.2%	122	156	78.3%	W	75.8%	B	66.0%	B
	% of fostered children in long term placements (U1/U4/U5)	SS	Apr-21	High	-	-	44.0%	150	341	45.7%	W	43.9%	B	-	-
	% looked after children placed more than 20 miles from home (exc UASC)	SS	Apr-21	Low	-	-	37.6%	146	388	39.1%	B	36.6%	W	31.0%	W
	Number of looked after children made subject to an SGO	YTD	Apr-21	High	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	0	B	-	-
	Number of looked after children adopted	YTD	Apr-21	High	27	32	1	-	-	-	-	2	W	-	-
Timely & Consistent Support	% of CLA reviews in time	YTD	Apr-21	High	93%	98%	97.7%	43	44	94.3%	B	98.8%	W	-	-
	% Statutory Visits to looked after children in Time	Q	Jan 21 - Mar 21	High	90%	95%	93.7%	1490	1591	-	-	90.3%	B	-	-
	% CLA for 18 months with same social worker for 12 months	SS	Jun-21	High	-	-	45.3%	130	287	52.5%	W	-	-	-	-
	% CLA for 18 months with same IRO for 12 months	SS	Jun-21	High	-	-	94%	271	287	99.7%	W	-	-	-	-
Education	% of CLA looked after with an EHCP Plan (All CLA Stat School Age)	AY	Term 2	-	-	-	39.9%	114	286	-	-	39.2%	-	27.2%	-
	% of Personal Education Plans reviewed within statutory timescales (All CLA Stat School Age)	AY	Term 2	High	95%	100%	100%	269	269	-	-	100%	S	-	-
	% of CLA with Fixed Term Exclusion in Academic Year (All CLA Stat School Age)	AY	Term 2	Low	2%	12%	6%	18	286	-	-	7.7%	B	12.8%	B
	% of CLA with Permanent Exclusion in Current Academic Year (All CLA Stat School Age)	AY	Term 2	Low	0%	0.1%	0%	0	286	-	-	0%	S	0.05%	B
	% of Early Years Foundation Stage pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	48%	72%	0.0%	0	5	-	-	-	-	48%	W
	% of Y1 pupils achieving the expected standard in the statutory phonics screening check (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	64%	82%	67%	2	3	-	-	-	-	64%	B
	% of pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics (End of Key stage 1) (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	78%	91%	50.0%	3	6	-	-	-	-	78%	W
	% of pupils achieving the end of KS1 expected standard in reading, writing and maths (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	38%	63%	33.3%	2	6	-	-	-	-	38%	W
	% of pupils achieving the end of KS2 expected standard in reading, writing and maths (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	37%	65%	26.3%	5	19	-	-	-	-	37%	W
	Average Attainment 8 score for KS4 pupils (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	19.1	44.6	17.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.1	W
	Average Progress 8 score for KS4 pupils (CLA 12 months)	AY	2018-19	High	-1.23	-0.07	-0.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.23	B
	% of KS4 pupils achieving GCSE Grade 4 or higher in English and maths (CLA 12 months)	AY	2019-20	High	18%	70%	31%	11	36	-	-	18.20%	B	18%	B

CPP Scorecard

Domain	Indicator	How reported?	Latest Data	What does good look like?	Expected Range Low	Expected Range High	Latest Data and RAG Rating	Behind the % Actual	Behind the % Possible	One Month Ago Data	One Month Ago Latest is better, worse or same	One Year Ago Data	One Year Ago Latest is better, worse or same	Similar Councils Data	Similar Councils Latest is better, worse or same
Fostering	Number of new foster carer approvals - Mainstream	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	30	33	5	-	-	3	B	6	W	-	-
Fostering	Number of new foster carer approvals - Connected	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	-	-	3	-	-	2	B	7	W	-	-
Fostering	Current foster carers - Mainstream	SS	May-21	High	-	-	136	-	-	139	W	117	B	-	-
Fostering	Current foster carers - Connected (inc temp approved)	SS	May-21	-	-	-	41	-	-	39		46	-	-	-
Fostering	% CLA fostered in house provision (inc Connected)	SS	Apr-21	High	45%	55%	50.2%	215	428	50.0%	B	44%	B	49%	B
Fostering	% CLA fostered in IFAs	SS	Apr-21	Low	26%	28%	29%	124	428	29%	B	31%	B	22%	W
Fostering	Number of foster carer deregistrations - Mainstream	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	Low	-	-	3	-	-	1	W	4	B	-	-
Fostering	Number of foster carer deregistrations - Connected	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	Low	-	-	6	-	-	3	W	3	W	-	-
Care leavers	% Care leavers aged 17-18 we are in touch with (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	-	-	87%	67	77	89%	W	88%	W	83%	B
Care leavers	% Care leavers aged 19-21 we are in touch with (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	-	-	98%	173	176	98%	B	96%	B	85%	B
Care leavers	% Care leavers where contact recorded in last 3 months (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	-	-	87%	215	247	86%	B	-	-	-	-
Care leavers	% Care leavers in EET (17-18) - Latest Contact (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	60%	70%	61%	41	67	63%	W	64%	W	60%	B
Care leavers	% Care leavers in EET (19-21) - Latest Contact (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	50%	60%	54%	92	171	55%	W	54%	W	48%	B
Care leavers	% Care leavers in Suitable Accommodation (17-18) (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	85%	90%	85%	56	66	89%	W	80%	B	81%	B
Care leavers	% Care leavers in Suitable Accommodation(19-21) (Ofsted List 9)	SS	May-21	High	85%	90%	94%	162	173	94%	W	94%	W	81%	B
Care leavers	% Care leavers with a Pathway Plan updated in the last 6 months	SS	Jun-21	High	-	-	76%	220	288	83%	W	-	-	-	-
Child's Voice	% of CLA with missing episodes offered return interviews	YTD	Apr-21	High	-	-	96%	25	26	95%	B	98%	W	-	-
Child's Voice	% of CLA offered return interviews accepting them	YTD	Apr-21	High	-	-	84%	21	25	75%	B	69%	B	-	-
Child's Voice	Referrals to Independent Visitor Scheme for CLA	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	-	-	8	-	-	7	B	3	B	-	-
Child's Voice	Matches to Independent Visitor for CLA	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	-	-	1	-	-	1	S	1	S	-	-
Child's Voice	Mind of My Own One App: Average young people statements per month	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	-	-	31.5	-	-	30	B	4.5	B	-	-
Child's Voice	Mind of My Own One App: Average worker statements per month	YTD	Apr 21 - May 21	High	-	-	30.5	-	-	11	B	3.5	B	-	-
Child's Voice	Annual foster carer reviews	SS	May-21	High	95%	100%	98.0%	-	-	99%	W	92%	B	-	-
Child's Voice	Number of CLA referred for Advocacy	YTD	NYA	-			NYA								
Child's Voice	Number of CLA accepted for Advocacy	YTD	NYA	-			NYA								
Child's Voice	Number of CLA and young people participating in the CIC council	SS	Jun-21	High	-	-	4	-	-	5	W	9	W	-	-
Child's Voice	% of reviews the child has participated in (not DfE measure)	YTD	Apr-21	High	-	-	94.3%	83	88	91.5%	B	97%	W	-	-

CLA Caseload Breakdown

Category	Measure	What does good look like?	End Apr 2021	31st March 2020-21	31st March 2019-20	Similar councils (2019-20)
Total	Number of CLA per 10,000		428	424	458	-
Rate	Rate of CLA per 10,000		40.4	40.0	43.3	57
Gender	% Male		54%	54%	54%	57%
Gender	% Female		46%	46%	46%	43%
Age	% Under 1		4%	4%	6%	5%
Age	% 1 - 4		10%	10%	10%	13%
Age	% 5 - 9		16%	15%	15%	18%
Age	% 10 - 15		44%	44%	43%	40%
Age	% 16+		27%	27%	27%	25%
Ethnicity	% White		84%	84%	85%	85%
Ethnicity	% Mixed		4%	4%	4%	7%
Ethnicity	% Asian or Asian British		2%	2%	1%	1%
Ethnicity	% Black or Black British		2%	2%	3%	3%
Ethnicity	% Other ethnic groups		3%	3%	5%	3%
Ethnicity	% Other (Unborn/Refused)		5%	4%	3%	1%
Legal Status	% Full Care Orders	Higher	59%	61%	56%	57%
Legal Status	% Interim Care Orders	Lower	10%	10%	11%	16%
Legal Status	% Section 20	Lower	24%	22%	25%	20%
Legal Status	% Section 20 more than 1 year	Lower				-
Legal Status	% Placement Order		7%	7%	8%	8%
Legal Status	% Other		0%	0%	0	0%
Placement	% placed in foster care	Higher	79%	79%	75%	72%
Placement	% placed for adoption	Higher	4%	4%	5%	4%
Placement	% placement with parents		2%	2%	3%	4%
Placement	% placed at other community placement		6%	5%	7%	3%
Placement	% placed in Children's homes, secure units and hostels	Lower	9%	9%	9%	17%
Placement	% placed in other residential settings		0%	0%	1%	5%
Placement	% placed in residential schools		0%	0%	0%	0%
Placement	% placed in other placements		0%	0%	0%	0%
UASC	% Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children		4%	4%	5%	5%

CLA Starts Breakdown

Category	Measure	End Apr 2021	2020-21	2019-20	Similar councils (2019-20)
Total	Number starting to be CLA (no duplicates)	16	131	171	-
Rate	Children starting to be CLA per 10,000	18.1	12.35103	16.2	21.5
Gender	% Male	38%	56%	54%	55%
Gender	% Female	63%	43%	44%	45%
Age	% Under 1	19%	23%	23%	18%
Age	% 1 - 4	19%	18%	19%	18%
Age	% 5 - 9	31%	21%	20%	17%
Age	% 10 - 15	19%	27%	25%	30%
Age	% 16+	13%	11%	13%	18%
Need	Abuse or neglect	81%	82%	69%	60%
Need	Child's disability	0%	0%	2%	3%
Need	Parents illness or disability	0%	0%	1%	3%
Need	Family in acute stress	13%	4%	8%	9%
Need	Family dysfunction	0%	5%	9%	18%
Need	Socially unacceptable behaviour	0%	0%	1%	2%
Need	Low income	0%	0%	0%	0%
Need	Absent parenting	6%	9%	11%	11%
Legal Status	% Full Care Orders	0%	6%	3%	0%
Legal Status	% Interim Care Orders	13%	31%	43%	32%
Legal Status	% Section 20	88%	52%	48%	53%
Legal Status	% Placement Order	0%	2%	0%	0%
Legal Status	% Detained on child protection grounds	0.00%	9%	3%	11%
Legal Status	% Youth Justice legal statuses	0%	0%	3%	1%

Care Leavers Caseload Breakdown

| Category	Measure	End Apr 2021	2020-21	2019-20	Similar councils (2019-20)
Total	Care leavers	299	299	255	n/a
Eligibility	% Relevant	1%	1%	2%	n/a
Eligibility	% Former Relevant	97%	97%	96%	n/a
Eligibility	% Qualifying	2%	2%	2%	n/a
Age	% 16 - 18	25%	25%	31%	n/a
Age	% 19 - 20	47%	47%	46%	n/a
Age	% 21+	28%	28%	22%	n/a
Gender	% Male	60%	60%	58%	n/a
Gender	% Female	40%	40%	42%	n/a
UASC	% Former UASC	20%	20%	n/a	n/a

Stability and Permanence

Snapshot taken from ChAT tool produced 15th May 2021
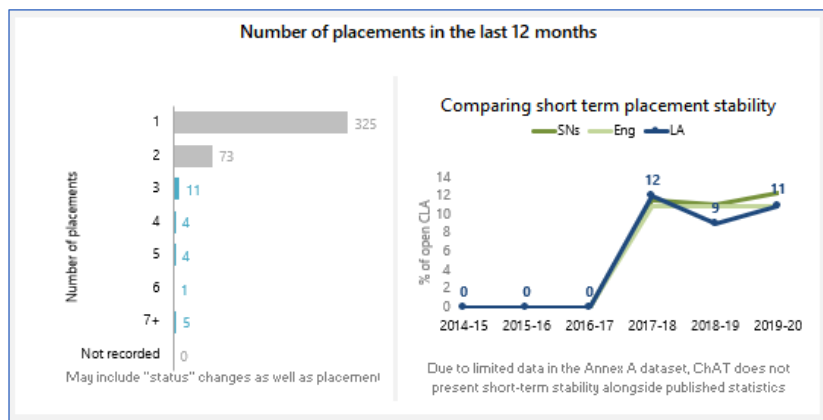
Graph shows percentage of open CLA who have had 3+ placements in the last 12 months

Comparator data only available from 17-18 onwards

Snapshot taken from ChAT tool produced 15th May 2021
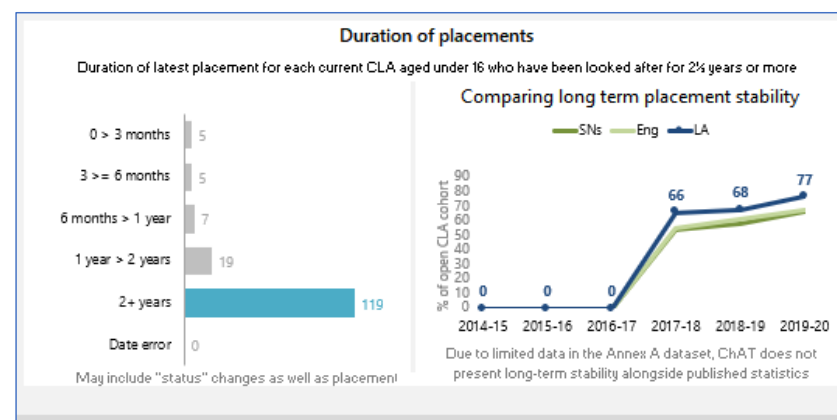
Graph shows percentage of open CLA who have been in placement for 2 years or more

Comparator data only available from 17-18 onwards

Snapshot taken from ChAT tool produced 15th May 2021

% CLA CEASED BECAUSE OF SGO	Wiltshire	Statistical Neigh.	Eng
2014-15	13	9	11
2015-16	16	12	12
2016-17	14	12	12
2017-18	12	12	11
2018-19	12	15	13
2019-20	14	13	13
Last 6 months	25		

Snapshot taken from ChAT tool produced 15th May 2021

% CLA CEASED BECAUSE OF ADOPTION	Wiltshire	Statistical Neigh.	Eng
2014-15	14	17	17
2015-16	14	14	15
2016-17	22	14	14
2017-18	14	14	13
2018-19	23	13	12
2019-20	12	13	12
Last 6 months	14		

Wiltshire

Children in Care Council

Annual Report

October 2020 – August 2021

1. <u>Introduction</u>

In 2019-2020 Wiltshire's Children in Care Council (CICC) was coordinated by the Children's Commissioning Team within Wiltshire Council. In November 2020 a decision was made to move this to a newly formed 'Child and Youth Voice Team' sitting within the Conference and Reviewing Service. The team's work on youth voice activity supports the Council's ambition that no policy, or service, related to children and young people is developed without first seeking their views. Wiltshire Council believes that participation and involvement is 'the business of every service and organisation that works with children and young people'. This report provides a summary

of CICC activities over the last twelve months, highlights key messages and outlines priorities for future development.
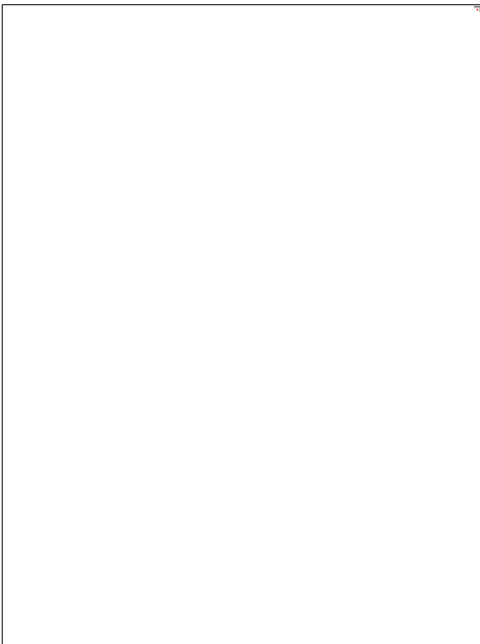
Youth Voice event at Salisbury Arts Centre

Cam our Support Worker doing research at a youth voice participation event

2. **What is CiCC and what have we done this year?**

CICC is a forum for young people, 10 years and above, who live in care, who also extend an open invitation to care leavers. Members volunteer to join the CICC and to have their voices

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heard in order to improve the lives of children and young people living in care and leaving care. Membership fluctuates as young people move onto new opportunities and given the time that they have available. CICC strives to be as open, inclusive, and accessible as possible. Over the past year we have had contact with over 30 young people. Our membership currently sits at around 9 young people who are committed to CICC and regularly attend meetings. We feel it is important to have a flexible approach to membership and allow young people to take part in activities and consultations in a flexible way with no pressure.

Flyer for a meet the Councillors session

CICC used to meet at least every other month, and twice a year these meetings were held jointly with members of the Corporate Parenting Panel and were called Shared Guardian Sessions. In January 2021 we made the decision to change the format of the meetings to meet more regularly via Microsoft TEAMs. We now meet twice per month (on the first and third Thursday of the month). The meeting on the first Thursday of the month is a fun activity and the meeting on the third Thursday of the month is offered up for consultancy so people can book into the meeting to consult with CICC members. Since the lifting of the Covid restrictions we have started meeting in person to do fun activities and promote relationships between CICC members.

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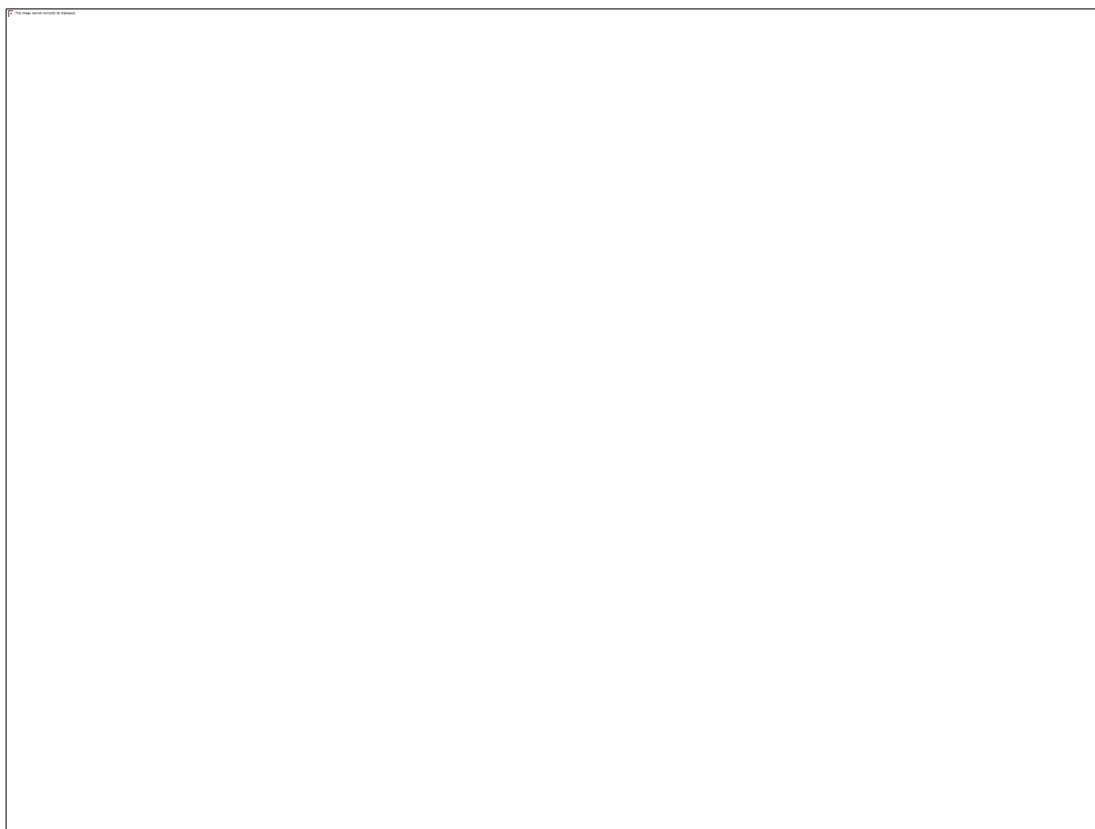
Reindeer from our CiCC trip to Longleat. 'Selfie with a reindeer' was very popular ☺

We have met up to do a trip to Longleat for CICC members, a chat and shakeaway picnic and a pizza night. We invite the 'corporate parent' Councillors to CICC meetings twice a year. We are also facilitating half termly 'Meet the Leader' sessions between CICC members and Council Leaders. We have had fortnightly CICC planning sessions to plan CICC activity with the CICC leadership Team. We made links with a successful CiCC in Oxfordshire in December 2020 and were given some good ideas to improve our CICC. This has included setting up a CICC Ambassador scheme which we will talk about further on in this report. We have also launched a CICC Consultancy and Champion scheme which have been very popular.

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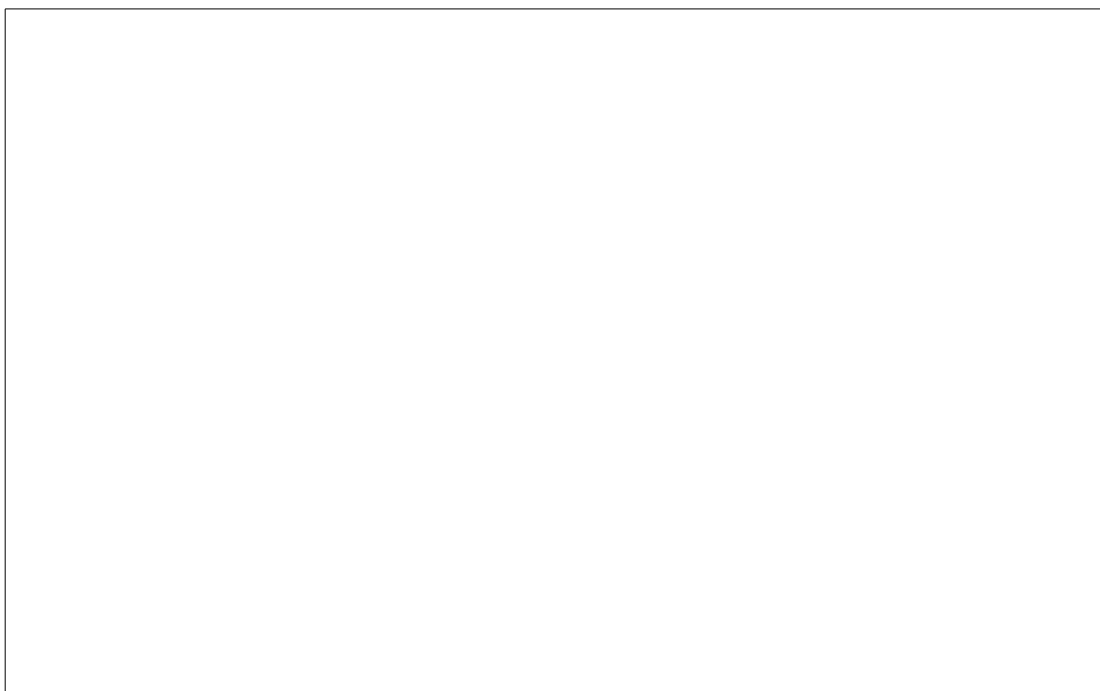
'Staff team selfie' at Longleat trip enjoying snacks on the boat trip.

CICC now have a members WhatsApp group which means we can stay in touch, share news, and give each other support. We feel this is working very well. We also have a Facebook group and sometimes meet up and play online Games via apps to stay in touch.

CiCC Leadership Team

Alex McDermid – CICC Chair

Joe Sutton – Child and Youth Voice Lead Worker

Cameron Strawson – Child and Youth Voice Support Worker

Elly Mills – Child and Youth Voice Operational Lead (Secondment)

CiCC Ambassador Scheme

Ambassadors can be CICC members, Council staff and Councillors who have a specialist interest in an important issue to CICC such as mental health, housing, jobs, activities and tackling racism. These reflect our priorities and the priorities of CPP. We currently have 18 Ambassador Council Staff members. All of the Ambassadors get together at least twice a year to share information with each other. If anyone needs information about the important issues, they can get advice from the Ambassador for that issue.

We have been particularly pleased that Pier Pritchard (Safeguarding Service Manager) agreed to be our 'Recruiting Good Social Workers' Ambassador.

Pier Pritchard our Ambassador for 'Recruiting Good Social Workers'

This means we have formed a good link with the operational teams. It has meant we have been an active part of the recruitment of Social Workers (sitting on panels and contributing towards the design of interview questions). We have been able to pass back to Pier what we think the important qualities of a Social Worker are so she can pass this on and promote these qualities in the staff.

Sharnia Matthews - our Ambassador for Diversity and tackling racism.

We also have Council staff Ambassadors for:

- Sports and Senior Management Links

- Missing Children and Young People

- Pets

- Tackling Climate Change

- New Arrivals (UASC)

- Family Time / Staying in Touch

- Clubs and Activities

- Diversity and Tackling Racism

- Residential Care Homes

- Mental Health

- Recognizing Achievements

- People affected by disability

- Keeping and feeling safe

- Housing

- Recruiting good social workers

- LGBT+

- Career Opportunities

- New Arrivals and advice about skin and haircare.

Flyer sent out to Council staff to recruit staff CiCC Ambassadors. All of these positions are now filled. We were all overwhelmed by the brilliant take up and buy in by Council staff.

We also invited people within the community from organisations that are important to us to be Ambassadors. These are called Community Ambassadors. We have Community Ambassadors for:

- SPORTS
- Emotional Wellbeing
- People who have an important Faith
- SCOUTS
- Drug and Alcohol problems – MOTIV8
- Tackling climate change
- PETS and mental health
- Athletics

Rev Steve Hawkes our CICC community Ambassador for People who have an important faith

Verity Ockenden our CICC *Community Ambassador for athletics*

We are in the process of recruiting Councillors to be Ambassadors. Councillor Stewart Palmen is our Councillor Ambassador for mental health. He has sat in on a number of important meetings and consultations about mental health. This has enabled CICC members to feel supported.

Cllr Stewart Palmen our CICC *Ambassador for mental health.*

Following the Councillor elections in May 2021 we were delighted that newly elected Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney put himself forward to be involved with CICC and CPP.
Sam has agreed to be our CICC Ambassador for Child and Youth Voice.

Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney our new CICC Ambassador for Child and Youth Voice

We are still recruiting young people to be CICC Ambassadors. We have young people Ambassadors for:

- Pets and new arrivals
- Recruiting good social workers
- Recognising achievements and sports
- Emotional wellbeing and drugs / alcohol
- Racial equality and Diversity

CiCC Consultancy Scheme

We have launched our CICC consultancy scheme. This means young people in care can be consultants and help the Council with important business and offer consultancy. Consultants are offered a high level of support, training, and reimbursement by way of vouchers for their time and expertise.

CiCC Champion Scheme

We have invited Council staff to be Child and Youth Voice Champions. The Champions meet on the third Thursday of the month via Microsoft Teams. We feel this has been an excellent way of promoting CICC and sharing important information so it can be passed on to all of the teams. The Champion role has been very popular. They have also been pivotal in sharing information about the Mind of My Own App and important consultations and CICC activity

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opportunities. Alex the CICC Chair has attended all of the Champions meetings to represent CICC.

3. Our Priorities for 2020-2021

The priorities identified in last report (August 2020) were (in order of priority):

1. Continuing to raise awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing
2. Raising awareness of bullying
3. Continuing to make newsletters and promote our group
4. Training new staff – children's services induction, Wiltshire college and any other opportunities
5. Being professional when we have meetings and develop skills to be effective representatives
6. Meeting CiCCs from other counties (it will be more fun if there are some activities)
7. Taking part in consultations
8. Influencing decision makers by sharing experiences and that of others.

What we have achieved with our priorities?

1. Continuing to raise awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing

Raising awareness about mental health and emotional wellbeing has continued to be an important priority for CICC. We now have Ambassadors for mental health and emotional wellbeing (Councillor, staff, community, and young people). We have had a half term of child and youth voice consultancy on mental health. This involved Elly, Cam and Joe going out to consult with young people in youth groups, a big survey for all young people and a mental health survey facilitated by Bristol University for children and young people in care. We then fed the outcome of the consultations to our leaders (Councillors, Directors and Chief Executive) at a 'meet the leader's session' in July.   We held a health and wellbeing online festival in July. We have found that meeting other young people in care and doing fun activities has helped our member's emotional wellbeing. It is also helpful to be able to talk to other members about mental health, find out about resources and advocacy and feel less alone. This has been particularly important in lockdown.

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South West CICC (children in care council)
Online Health and Wellbeing Festival

This is for all young people in care, their workers and their carers ☺

Monday 26th July at 10am
TIMETABLE FOR THE FESTIVAL
(MIGHT BE CHANGED)

10am – welcome everyone

10:15 -10:45 – Alan Levi (Emotional health workshop and exercises)

10:45-11 – Break

11.00-11.30 – Chris Eden cookery demo (Michelin star chef demonstrating how to make a healthy snack).

11.30-11:45 – Break

12:00- 12:30 – Verity Ockenden (professional runner, GB athlete and poet running talk, inspirational poems and questions and answers about running and athletics).

To book your place please email
childandyouthvoice@Wiltshire.gov.uk

2. Raising awareness of bullying

At CICC we promote anti-bullying and we strive to be an inclusive group. This does not mean that members get on all of the time and sometimes members can annoy each other. We make sure that everyone in CICC feels safe at our meetings and activities. Our leaders are always about when we meet up and are part of our WhatsApp group so they can offer support if bullying does become an issue for anyone. We are planning to have a big consultation on bullying in 2022.

3. Continuing to make newsletters and promote our group

Covid19 has caused some problems for promoting CICC. It has made it hard to post out newsletters and also meet up face to face. Our CICC members were keen to have a WhatsApp group as this enables young people to share information immediately and share details of events and meetings. Cameron and Joe oversee the WhatsApp group. We also have a secure Facebook group. We have not sent out any newsletters and this is something we need to have as a priority for next year. It has been agreed that we can have a regular slot in the Fostering Magazine which is sent out twice a year by the Fostering Team.   We have promoted our group by advertising our activities through Social Workers and also working closely with the Independent Reviewing Officers. We have also set up a residential weekend for September

2021. We were really pleased with how popular this was and nineteen young people will be attending, we also have a long waiting list for it. We plan to do a CICC residential twice per year as a way of promoting CICC.

4.   Training new staff – children's services induction, Wiltshire college and any other opportunities

Joe and Cam have been involved in staff training since they have been in post and have been going to team meetings to promote child and youth voice work. Cam has been involved with designing and delivering some language training. Auditing work has demonstrated that the recommendations made by Cam in his training have led to a cultural shift with Social Workers writing in a much more child and young person friendly way.

Next year we would want to become more consistently involved in training and inductions for all Council staff.

5. Being professional when we have meetings and develop skills to be effective representatives

Our CICC members have been able to join in with lots of meetings because of the move over to Microsoft Teams. We have learnt lots of skills because of doing this. We have also launched our Chid and Youth Voice academy so we can consistently have training and support to develop our skills and confidence. Joe has been on some 'AQA' training which means he can provide AQA certificates which CICC members can be awarded and put on their CVs.

6. Meeting CiCCs from other counties (it will be more fun if there are some activities)

Our leaders have met regularly with participation officers from other Local Authorities which means we get to hear about what other CiCCs are up to. We have formed good links with

Oxfordshire and Swindon CiCCs. We invited Swindon and Oxfordshire CiCC to our health and Wellbeing Festival. We are looking forward to meeting up with other CiCCs at national and local events now that the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted.

7. Taking part in consultations

We have been involved with lots of consultations over the past year. We have completed a Young Person's inspection of Aspire House. We made several recommendations which the staff at Aspire House have implemented.

CICC offer one of their meetings per month for workers to book in and have 'consultancy'.

CICC have been supported to provide a range of consultations which have included:

- What makes a good foster carer?
- What makes a good IRO?
- What makes a good social worker?
- How we find our health assessments?
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Community engagement.
- Tackling climate change.

Flyer for 'what makes a good foster carer' consultation. This was our most popular CiCC meeting to date.

Our CICC members and Chair have been involved with interviewing for a number of important Council jobs.

We have also:

- supported a small group of youth consultants to meet with the service manager of MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) to make the telephony more child friendly so it is now much easier for children and young people to report concerns to MASH.

- supported some youth consultants (approximately 4) to give their lived experiences of lockdown to CYPMH (young people's mental health network).

- been part of a working group who are designing a new care leavers app for all children in care to access important information.

- provided a booklet for carers and staff on ensuring skin and hair needs are met for all of our children and young people.

8. Influencing decision makers by sharing experiences and that of others

We have been able to achieve this through our consultations and through our meet the leader sessions. Cameron is sitting on fostering panel which means he can represent

CICC) and be a voice for children in care and CICC). Next year we hope to be more actively involved in some of the Council's decision-making forums.

A flyer for one of Cam's language sessions. Wiltshire's principal social worker (PSW) is confident there has been a cultural shift amongst Social Workers who now write to the child or young person in their reports.

9. Other Achievements

We have established positive links with our community engagement officers. One of our CPP priorities is about ensuring all CiC have the opportunity to feel connected to their local community. We were able to invite Rhys Schell (the manager of the Community Engagement Officers) to be part of the CPP team and Ollie Phipps one of his team is now our CICC Ambassador for community links.

We have supported one of our consultants to create a new podcast called 'Fostering Positivity'. The podcast lasts around 30 minutes and is released every 2 weeks. The show includes themes such as the consultant's life and her experiences of growing up in care and other guests talking about issues such as mental health support, care leavers at university, careers, and other important topics. The team helps the consultant by offering advice and guidance around topics and the Council will also share the podcast on its social media platforms.

Our CICC chair is going to be doing some work experience / consultancy work with 'Early Years' to assist the staff in gaining understanding of the needs of CiC.

CICC now has its own named police officer who can attend meetings and be a source of information for CiC.

4. <u>Our priorities for next year (2021-2022)</u>

- Building on our links with our communities to fulfil our priority of ensuring CiC have the opportunity to feel connected to their community.
- Continue our focus on mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Having a focussed consultation on bullying
- CICC members to receive AQA certificates for achievements
- Recruiting Councillor Ambassadors
- Recruiting a permanent Operational Lead for Child and Youth Voice (ideally someone who is care experienced)
- Recruiting some Deputy Chairs who can support the current CICC Chair
- Recruiting a care experienced apprentice who can work in the CYV Team.
- Following up our meet the leader session and our recommendations for Aspire House to see if we have had impact 6 months later on.

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5. <u>Summary</u>

We feel we have achieved a lot this year given that we have still been limited because of COVID.

We would like to thank all of our CICC members for their time, engagement, and hard work during this challenging period. Their participation Is invaluable and helps to ensure that we all remain focussed on meeting the needs of children and young people, by listening to their views.

Report authors

Alex McDermid – CICC Chair

Joe Sutton – Child and Youth Voice Lead Worker

Cameron Strawson – Child and Youth Voice Support Worker

Elly Mills – Child and Youth Voice Operational Lead (Secondment)

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

4 November 2021

Subject: **Traded Services Report 2020- 21**

Director: **Helean Hughes, Director, Education and Skills**

Executive Summary

To present the edited Traded Services Report for the designated period 2020-2021, to the Children's Select Committee for oversight and scrutiny.

Proposal(s)

To present the Children's Select Committee with the edited Traded Services Report for 2020-2021, that does not contain commercially sensitive information.

To propose that, due to the commercially sensitive information included in the Full Traded Report, Children's Select recommends greater scrutiny is conducted by the Standing Task Group to demonstrate transparency and clear accountability.

To propose that the findings of the task group are presented back to Children's Select Committee without public disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

Reason for Proposal(s)

This proposal would ensure that the delivery and ambition for all our Traded Services has a reporting structure and platform for challenge.

To safeguard there is clear accountability and transparency for all our Traded Services, supported with a framework of governance including oversight, scrutiny and decision making going forward.

Helean Hughes
Director, Education and Skills

Right Choice

Traded Services Report

for

Children's Select Committee

4 November 2021

Children's Select Committee

Traded Services Report – Designated Period 2020-21

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| **4 November 2021** | |

| **Subject:** | **Schools Traded Services** |
| **Head of Service:** | **Paul Redford** |

Head of Traded Service's Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to present an executive summary of our traded services teams, the contribution they make towards Wiltshire Council's budget and the impact they continue to have across Wiltshire. Combined with the statutory services they deliver; their endeavours continue to support improvements in the attainment of our children and young people across Wiltshire.

2. This report is one of two, that will be presented to the Children's Select Committee on an annual basis. This edited report will focus on the traded performance during the designated period of 2020-21. Due to the commercially sensitive information about traded services, it is intended that the full report will be made available to the standing task group, and this will present summaries from each service reflecting on their delivery during that period. There will be a report delivered in May that will review the progress on each services' priorities that they are working on for the current year, and an update on traded services income during the February and March purchasing window, which again will be available to the task group for scrutiny.

3. The 2020-21 designated period this report covers, includes all training course income where the training start date is between April 2020 and March 2021. It also includes all package/service income for contracts that run from April 2020 – March 2021 and September 2020 – Aug 2021. This enables a direct comparison year-on-year for the two different accounting periods for LA schools (April to March) and Academy based schools (September to August)

4. There are three key priorities that drives the delivery of our Wiltshire Council Traded Services, and they are as follows:
   - Deliver competitively priced services our customers need and want to buy
   - Promote the quality and value we offer to customers and the marketplace
   - Generate yearly income increases by cultivating a business-like culture.

5. Our trading teams deliver statutory services to education sites across Wiltshire, in addition to trading their expertise, support services and training catalogues to Early years settings, LA-maintained, Stand-Alone Trust and Multi-Academy Trust schools and Further Education Colleges. Independent and Private schools also subscribe to some of our traded services.

6. The total value of schools traded services income in 2020-21 was down compared to 2019-20. Education sites in Wiltshire including Multi-Academy Trusts, Stand-Alone Trust schools and Local Authority Maintained schools have continued to purchase contracts and services through these extraordinary times, which has resulted in a reduction in overall income of 5.6%. A full spend analysis of our traded services by customers and the services they buy is available in the full report being presented to the task group.

7. The difference for the same designated year-on-year period is attributable to the following combination of market conditions:

a. The pandemic prevented school visits, which are regularly bought in across several services in addition to annual contracts, to support additional needs during the year

b. Our training offer was paused due to the COVID lockdown in Mid-March through to April, whilst we created an online/virtual environment for our online learning programme

c. Some training during the 2020 Summer Term was delivered free of charge to support schools at a very challenging time to support their efforts

d. Wiltshire Schools' Insurance team negotiated a substantial discount on the annual policy covering schools and passed them on to every school that subscribes with us.

8. When considering these individual impacts, the level of income generated through this designated period, and the loyalty education sites have shown to our local authority services has been really encouraging. Budgets are always under scrutiny, and no doubt there are more challenging times ahead, however during the peak of the pandemic services have continued to be delivered and shaped to wrap around the needs of our educational sites.

9. The traded services teams have shown great resilience to continue their service delivery throughout, and always provide support and guidance to their customers. During this time, they have taken the opportunity to seek feedback and have either redesigned their services to create a more attractive offer or are in the process of finding better ways to deliver to their service with the new technologies available. This designated period has created a catalyst for change and teams are exploring the art of the possible in providing service opportunities going forward. This has enabled the expansion of traded offers being able to reach across borders, which services are considering for the current 2021-22 designated period.

10. There is plenty of optimism to be taken from the service summaries in the full report, especially when you consider the opportunities, they are exploring for 2021-22, and the key priorities being set for delivery in the same period. It is worth recognising that school budgets continue to be tightly funded, so the need to offer relevant services that demonstrate value for money in the outcomes they achieve is more relevant than ever. This is at a time when teams are stretching their resources to deliver both statutory and traded services, so where it is appropriate, cases will be proposed to consider investment in services to generate traded income.

Impact and achievements

11. The Traded Services Collective (TSC), which covers every service generating traded income from education sites, have continued to deliver a substantial income during 2020/21 contributing towards Wiltshire Council's budget, when other areas of fee income for Council Services were dramatically reduced or even ceased due to the pandemic. Services have continued to be delivered in innovative ways and appreciate their loyal customers by tailoring resources to deliver bespoke solutions where it best addresses their education demands.

12. With the changing needs of our customers during the pandemic, we have responded flexibly and positively to the demands generated by our education sites, the Department for Education, Public Health, and the Local Authority

13. The traded service team have collated customer requirements, sourcing creative solutions from local suppliers, and providing personal protective equipment in the early stages, was a valuable lifeline for education sites trying to safeguard their staff and children in line with

guidelines at the time. The traded service team were key to co-ordinating solutions to ensure they were made available in a timely manner to support education sites and keep them safe.

14. The traded service team have responded to DfE initiatives focussed on supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable children. During 2020-21, over 1,200 digital devices were distributed through schools and colleges. The eligibility criteria meant that over 2,500 children known to us qualified in Wiltshire, with a limited number of devices made available to us. Working across our social care, education teams and schools, our most in need children and young people were offered the opportunity to have access to a digital device for their studies, with a view to improving their outcomes during the pandemic.

15. To support DWP funding grants intended to support families facing financial hardship, the traded service team have distributed local authority funding grants, to make sure children can have lunches during the school holidays. Working closely with early years settings and every school in Wiltshire, almost 10,000 eligible children were identified across nurseries, pre-schools, schools, and colleges. Funding has been distributed to education sites and passed onto families for the December, February, and April school holidays. This funding distribution has continued during 2021-22.

16. Our relationships with schools have never been stronger through the Right Choice brand and our collective delivery through traded services. Our customer engagement has increased, the service has been re-designing services around changing demands, our customer portal has been shaped to make sure the most relevant and important documents were easily accessible to all, and we've created a new School Business Manager digital forum to bring these factors to life for them. There's more detailed information on the journey about customer engagement enclosed later in the report.

17. The service invested time into Right Choice social media presence because we know if we want to reach further with our traded offers, we need to generate more marketing and promotion opportunities for our traded services. We've created high quality services, delivered by experienced professionals, that are competitively priced in the market and we want to share them with more customers across Facebook, Twitter, and any other emerging platforms. Our reach is increasing each month and we're finding ways to improve it by galvanising our traded offers into our annual marketing calendar. Our progress during 2020-21 is captured later in the report and shows the progress we're making.

On-going challenges

18. There are significant pressures on the horizon that we will need to adapt too as we progress forward, and their impact on our offer and delivery going forward is yet to be quantified.

19. Whilst packages have continued to be bought by sites, the move to online and virtual delivery of services has changed our trading model and the funding that underpins it. Education sites could look at other online providers more readily, as our traded teams re-design their packages to deliver in new ways. This is coupled with an ongoing review of Wiltshire Council's budget for 2022-23, and an intention to increase traded income, whilst delivering balanced annual budgets.

3

20. The government has announced in recent months, a vision for education over the coming years promoting the academisation agenda. Wiltshire Council currently sees approximately 4 schools per year convert to an academy and join a MAT, which impacts on traded income generation annually.

Next steps

21. Other local authority services are reducing their education teams because their schools are looking elsewhere for better service and value for money, and we are using our reputation to start discussing services we could offer schools across our borders.

2021-22 Priorities

22. To commence a full cost recovery review for all our Traded Services Teams, working with our Accountancy colleagues.

23. Increase our social media engagement to support promotion and marketing of our services to education sites in Wiltshire and beyond borders

24. A formal governance framework that offers the opportunity for overview and scrutiny by committee and members.

25. Hold traded service teams to account to deliver their priorities for 2021-22, and update committee in May on their half year progress.

26. Support services to gather feedback from our customers, so they can continue to develop their packages to reflect customer demands.

Report Author: Paul Redford
Date of Report: 22 October 2021

Accountancy Summary

Wiltshire Council	**Children's Select Committee**
4 November 2021	

Subject:	**Accountancy Review, Schools Traded Services**
Head of Service:	**Marie Taylor**

Traded Services Financial Strategy

1. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new General Power of Competence (GPC), which explicitly gives councils more power to trade. This activity can include charging, or it can be undertaken for a commercial purpose, and could be aimed at benefiting the authority, the area, or its local communities.

2. In this way, the council can deliver value for money, help to sustain professional and operational services (for schools) where these may not otherwise be available or available and affordable. Market failure needs to be addressed if schools are to be kept viable.

3. It is planned to conduct a full review of traded services income and expenditure during the 2022-23 financial year.

4. The Council traded a range of different services to schools, and we intend to analyse traded teams into statutory / discretionary (preventative) / grant funded and traded activity. The direct and indirect cost of the traded activity can then be calculated, and trading prices reviewed. All contributory factors will be considered as part of this such as the market, competitor pricing, and whether a local authority subsidy should be applied.

5. It is council policy to apply full cost recovery to all traded services. There are, however, exceptions where subsidies are applied and these are, for example, safeguarding or, health & safeguarding training where statutory duties lie with schools and ultimately, the employer or, where schools who require support for improvement post inspection or following internal assessment and monitoring services.

6. Surpluses generated through trading activities can be used to help hold down council tax and/or directed into frontline services. Income generated from charging for the costs of supplying discretionary services can help the council's financial position.

7. For the 2020-21 designated period, a 2% increase was recommended across our traded services packages. This was in line with the forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and in line with pay settlements and resourcing costs increasing for Wiltshire Council.

Report Author: Marie Taylor   Date of Report: 22 October 2021

4 November 2021

Subject:	**Marketing & Social Media**
Lead / Service Manager / Head of Service*:*	**Ruth Whitaker**

Dashboard – Marketing & Social Media Performance Right Choice 2020/21

This report covers the marketing and social media development for the Right Choice brand, having launched in Spring 2020 supporting the Covid-19 communications to the education community. Services received promotion via the Right Choice website and social media channels running 18 awareness campaigns, covering 16 featured services, plus the support of 6 local or national funded programmes. The Right Choice website is used to publish articles and resources linked to the website homepage banner in conjunction with two social media platforms - Twitter and Facebook.
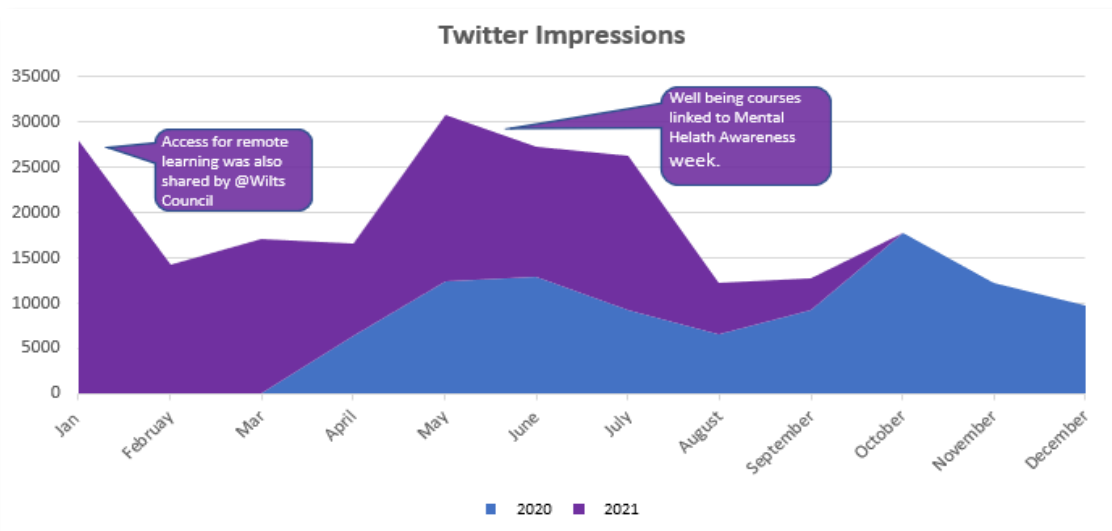
Impressions on Twitter - The number of people whom the information has reached, there is a correlation between the number of tweets and impressions.

Number of tweets reached the 1st peak during Apr-Jun 2020 due to Covid-19, Over 90 pandemic articles were posted via Right Choice and endorsed on Twitter. In September /October 2020 the 'New' online autumn training offer took the top promotion, with a high number of training courses advertised.

Impressions have steadily increased since April 2020. Top impression numbers were generated when reaching the wider community; for example, accessibility tips for home schooling (remote learning), the FUEL (Holiday, Activity and Food programme) plus mental health awareness courses during the national mental health week.

Reach on Facebook

This site is more successful with Childminders and Early Years settings who also follow the Early Years Facebook page.
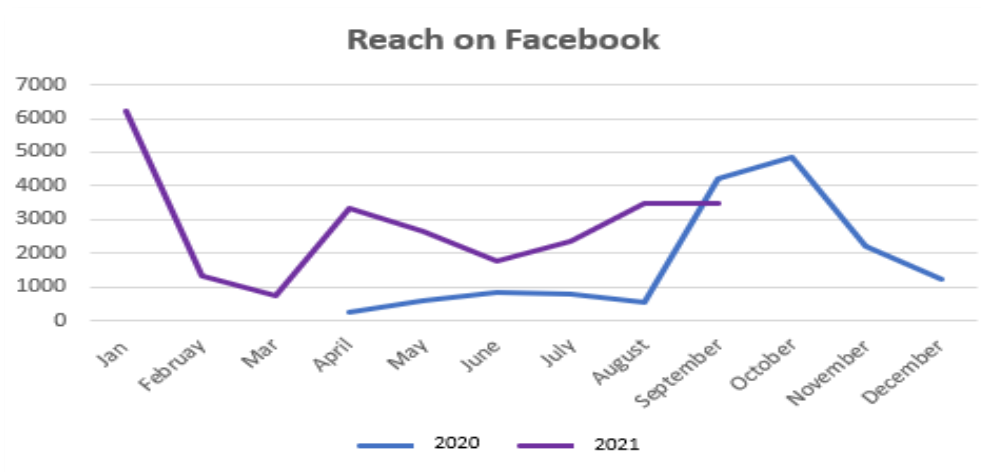
Sharing of the content on Facebook resulted in individual posts reaching up to 1,000+ views. Again autumn 2020 was a key time due to the new online training offer on Right Choice, with Dec/January sharing Free School Meal messages and 'story courses' in the new year aimed at childminders and settings.

Executive Overview

1. The Twitter impressions graph highlights the growth of the audience; averaging at **770 tweets per year** with an improved **impression growth of 33%** - **128,5k impressions** to compared to 96.7k (21v20). With **469 followers** this account has grown by 68%.

2. Major increases in readership were realised when content linked to the FUEL holiday programme included videos featuring sports personalities plus Mental Health week using the national #Well-being Hashtag.

3. The Facebook account averages in the region of **200 posts per year** with a **growth of 63%** of customers reached; **25,400 views** compared to 15,500 (21v20). This is the preferred digital channel to engage and attract the practitioner and childminder community.

4. During 2020/21 **30+ promotional articles** were published via the Right Choice website resulting in over **10,000 customer views**. Many articles were linked to social media adverts. This new way of linking marketing articles to social media, improves viewing figures driving engagement to the website and growing brand recognition.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

5. **Supporting and safeguarding the vulnerable -** Sharing the latest information be that policy updates or new resources, Right Choice media communicates vital news to schools, settings & childminders.

6. **Our Vision is to create strong communities in Wiltshire -** Marketing through Right Choice creates a greater opportunity for the education community to engage with the 30+ service providers. Developing educational professionals, supporting the attainment of children in Wiltshire.

7. **Growing the Economy -** Sharing resources and showcasing training opportunities, Right Choice supports customers to grow the skills and knowledge required in their educational profession, which in turn facilitates high quality settings, schools, and colleges.

8. **Innovative Council -** The Traded Services team have innovated the way customers are contacted using 'Right Choice' the digital face of marketing. Adverts on social media also incorporate branding and animated messages for improved cut through with the audience.

Impact and achievements

9. Launched a new annual marketing plan with little promotional history and activity to build on. In previous years marketing and social media was non-existent, promotion was very light and only in the form of seasonal news.
10. Provided enriched content and a high number of combined social media posts (900+ annually) a big achievement for such a small team
11. Increased the overall awareness of the Right Choice website and brand, supporting customer acquisition. Everything we do is customer centric with quick links to access the content.
12. A combined digital marketing process ensures customer engagement has the potential to improve brand awareness and encourage account set up with Right Choice
13. Successfully lead service providers to bring their offer and packages to life in the form of articles and resources, using customer testimonials to drive engagement.
14. Promotion of national programmes - DfE Digital Devices, Free School Meals, and the FUEL initiative. Feedback from the FUEL team **"without Right Choice marketing support the programme would not have been able to make such a significant difference to the lives of young people in Wiltshire who suffer from holiday hunger".**
15. New technology has been embraced with videos and animations to make content engaging. Training courses had bespoke advert designs to boost numbers and protect revenue during such a difficult trading time.
16. New homepage banners designed and refreshed regularly, new icons created for individual service areas, to raise their profile.

Areas of Opportunity

17. Increase our online community with key #hashtags & seasonal dates (world book day etc.)
18. Encourage more service area videos to be created as they perform well
19. Promote more packages & 'The Store' on the Right Choice website
20. Link into more national news (if relevant) and agree key sites to share from

On-going Challenges

21. Resource – Only one team member working on the social media channels
22. Marketing is a low priority for some service providers
23. Service providers could communicate more via Right Choice generating more news for social media- and be more active on social media sharing information to increase followers and engagement
24. Late organisation of events/ training, time to promote elapses
25. The Social Media planning platform (Orlo) is new to the team, and managed elsewhere – Our content could be at risk if the contract changes (Risk)

Next steps

26. A new list of relevant Hashtags to increase followers and a clearer understanding of which national media sites we should share.
27. Sponsorship opportunities for key events such as Wiltshire Year of Reading
28. Working with services who have had very little promotion beforehand – Pest Control, Healthy Schools and SEND.
29. Creating a marketing forum to improve awareness of events in the pipeline
30. Third-party provider marketing opportunity (requires service areas to take the lead – potential longer-term opportunity)

Who will miss out if we don't? and why?

31. Our service areas could lose revenue, training bookings /service uptake
32. The Right Choice brand identity would be less prominent, and be isolated from the educational community online
33. Competitors could acquire the business; customers could potentially use a lower grade service offer elsewhere; which in turn could affect the education of pupils in Wiltshire

2021-22 Priorities

34. Grow the followers on social media – utilising key hashtags & news feeds
35. Create a more collaborative approach with key members of the Traded Service Collective to ensure we are aware of new campaigns
36. Encourage more articles to be posted on Right Choice – to increase relevant content to use via our social media channels
37. Gain more knowledge from the results of our media to aid future planning
38. Promote our service providers supporting those new to marketing their offer
39. All the above = Increase account set-up on Right Choice

Report Author: Ruth Whitaker

Date of Report: 11 October 2021

Wiltshire Council   **Children's Select Committee**

4 November 2021

Subject:	**Right Choice & Customer Engagement**

Lead / Service Manager / Head of Service: **Ruth Starr**

1. Traded Services income during 2020-21 was reasonably stable despite some very challenging times. There was very little drop off in school or academy purchasing despite Covid-19. Conversion to on-line delivery of training during the summer term 2020 resulted in a reduction in income due to shorter sessions and lower charges. This was partly balanced by lower costs. Most training during the summer term 2020 was delivered free of charge to support schools at a particularly challenging time, which also impacted on income generated in this period.

Executive Overview

2. Right Choice is the digital face of Traded Services providing online visibility and enhancing brand recognition.
3. The Right Choice Team are responsible for the set-up, design, layout, functionality, and consistency across the website to ensure an excellent user experience. The website is constantly monitored to ensure quality and performance are maintained. All system developments are checked, and issues identified and resolved
4. Right Choice provides our customers with an easy way to learn more about our products, services, and business, and provides a quick and easy purchasing process through our online Store. The Right Choice Team is responsible for the set-up of all packages, services, and products, ensuring clarity of information, correct pricing, and availability. Invoices for all customers across all service areas are processed by the Team.
5. All school training courses are advertised through Right Choice, providing a quick and simple booking process and options for blended learning through face to face, on-line live events, and pre-recorded sessions. The Team are responsible for the set-up of all course management processes and monitoring, and the quality assurance of all content.
6. Right Choice is also our communication portal for schools providing our customers with access to all the latest news and information 24/7, across 83 service areas, and over 735 resource pages. The Team assist service providers with set up and publishing of communications and resource pages and quality assure all content to ensure it is clear, understandable, and accessible.
7. Right Choice also hosts the Governor Module, and the Team is responsible for the configuration and management of the module and assist the School Governance team in building customer engagement.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

8. Through Right Choice we champion educational excellence and support schools, leaders, and governors so that all children achieve their potential. This powers our economy, strengthens society, and increases fairness.

9. Right Choice promotes the collective momentum of Traded Services. We have an efficient, commercial approach which delivers traded income that supports our education services across Wiltshire.

10. Right Choice is the digital face of traded services providing a convenient, efficient, and reliable portal for us to engage with our customers and for them to engage with us. Innovative developments to support online delivery of training have enabled us to continue to support our customers at a particularly challenging time.

Impact and achievements

11. The challenges presented by Covid-19 were unprecedented, with schools and settings facing much uncertainty. Throughout the pandemic Right Choice has hosted a dedicated resource space, providing support to schools and settings through quick and easy access to relevant information, requirements, changes, and updates. Regular Covid-19 specific communications (194 in 20-21) have highlighted all relevant information to schools/settings with links to relevant content, forms etc

12. Covid-19 brought a sharp end to all face-to-face training and a swift move to on-line delivery. Right Choice system adaptations were quickly implemented to support the new method of delivery and ensure customers had access to links and joining instructions. 68 courses were moved across to online delivery for the summer term 2020, providing 6365 delegate places. The subsequent purchase and set up of the newly created, dedicated eLearning module streamlined the processes and improved access to meeting links and recorded content.

13. A new School Business Manager Connect Event was launched in February 2021. This was the first dedicated event for School Business Managers, providing relevant information and updates in a lively and engaging format. These events continue to run termly in line with the Headteacher Briefings and Governor Briefings. Online delivery of these events has meant they are more accessible, and engagement has been high. Events have been positively received and SBMs have an opportunity to input to session content for future sessions.

14. Updates to the Communication module in Right Choice have enabled us to direct our customers to relevant related content in a more user-friendly way e.g., page links, external links, links to specific articles and training courses as well as polls and quizzes, therefore enabling easier access to content and greater customer engagement. 767 articles were published in 20-21, keeping our customers up to date. Selected articles were promoted on the public portal as 'sliders' with engaging visuals to attract interest, and 30 promotional articles were linked to social media campaigns.

15. Right Choice website guidance sessions have moved from Face to Face to online delivery and have continued to be run regularly. These support new staff in accessing and navigating around the website.

16. The Governor module is no longer just a clerking tool and now has numerous dedicated pages and options for Governors themselves to view. A dedicated Right Choice home page for governors has also been set up with more targeted content including the new School Governance twitter feed. Termly data reports have been set up to monitor governor engagement across training, briefings, and communications.

17. The dedicated Right Choice email has provided ongoing support to all our customers in relation to account set up and management, booking and accessing training, service information and purchasing and access to information and content.

18. Right Choice provides a range of management information for service providers and the use of finance dashboards present year on year totals for comparison along with a breakdown of activity by site categories to support service providers with their financial management and reporting.

11

19. The annual survey was sent in the Autumn term 2020 with feedback informing 2021 Traded Priorities. Participation increased from 338 to 426 users, with 61% of users reporting their overall experience of Right Choice as good/very good, up from 49% the previous year.
20. The training feedback form was updated for the start of the academic year, in consultation with service providers. The new numerical data analysis will help identify school priorities and inform future planning.

Areas of Opportunity

21. Advance publication of courses across **all** service areas for the full academic year would assist school planning and allow greater opportunity for promotion.
22. Schools now expect to find all content on Right Choice, so we need to ensure **all** service areas are communicating regularly with schools through Right Choice.
23. Analysis of data across all traded services and sources rather than just within individual service areas.

On-going Challenges

24. The Right Choice Store is not currently available on the public portal meaning we are unable to promote packages to potential external customers. However, we need to consider capacity of services to be able to deliver to a wider customer base before promoting.
25. Set up of staff accounts has been left to individual schools so that they can determine relevant access rights for each user. However, this has resulted in not all staff being set up. Staff require a full user account to be able to login and fully engage with all content. The Automatic upgrade process as part of the e-learning module has helped with this as will the bulk upload for secondary schools.

Next steps

26. The move to remote delivery may create new opportunities as geographical barriers are no longer such an issue. External customers have a presence in Right Choice but may not access regularly. Explore what opportunities could be targeted to them and how.
27. A simplified version of the Store on the public portal will provide greater visibility of our packages and services and therefore a greater marketing opportunity. Explore how that may look like a template and across all relevant service areas.
28. We are currently looking at how we might increase the number of teacher accounts in Right Choice, so all school staff are able to engage directly. Schools have reported that set up is time-consuming so we're currently exploring a bulk upload for secondary schools, in the first instance.
29. As a result of recent system developments, we now have the functionality to set up 'Blogs' within Right Choice. Explore whether there is any interest within service areas and whether this format could be used to keep content fresh and attract attention. Also need to consider what makes a blog different from an article to ensure we don't have any duplication of content.
30. Specific customer groups e.g., Clerks, SBMs may welcome the opportunity to collaborate and share information within Right Choice. Explore the benefit of and interest in 'Groups' within specific customer groups.

Who will miss out if we don't? and why?

31. Schools rely on the services and training provided through Right Choice. All Wiltshire schools and academies purchase something. Services provided are high quality, good value and based on customer need. Schools trust the 'Brand' and have a good relationship with Service Providers who fully understand the business.
32. Some services could be sourced externally but the quality can't be guaranteed, and any profit would not be reinvested into Wiltshire's education system with the sole purpose of improving educational outcomes for children and young people.
33. Right Choice was launched to schools in 2018. Considerable time and resource has been invested in setting up and populating the system and in training internal and school users. Schools are now familiar and confident with the system and know how to access and find the information they need. Without Right Choice we would be unable to engage with our customers effectively or provide a co-ordinated package of support which may impact on standards and pupil achievement, as well as impacting on income generation for the Council.

2021-22 Priorities

34. Ensure a great customer experience in relation to our Right Choice Brand
35. Continue to develop the Right Choice portal through system developments and enhancements based on user feedback.
36. Maintain a focus on fresh, informative, and relevant content, across all service areas, that is easy to find.
37. Expand customer engagement with Right Choice by increasing the customer base.
38. Use existing relationships, and management information to understand more about our customers and what they buy, if not from us.

Report Author: Ruth Starr
Date of Report:11 October 2021

Children's Select Committee
Forward Work Programme

Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021

Children's Select Committee – Current / Active Task Groups		
Task Group	**Start Date**	**Final Report Expected**
Disadvantaged / vulnerable Learners Whilst Wiltshire has a relatively low number of disadvantaged learners, they are largely underperforming compared to regional and national levels. To be informed of the council's current work and aspirations. To identify the reason(s) for the higher underperforming than regional and national levels. To explore solutions to raise performance levels, based on best practice across the country.	31 October 2021	
In-house foster carers To identify: a. how the effectiveness of the Fostering Excellence project will be measured and reported; b. how the benefits to children in care being placed with in-house carers (receiving enhanced training / support as part of Fostering Excellence) will be measured and reported; c. best practice across the country for recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers, as well for anticipating demand (needs / demand modelling)	Tbc (membership set)	
Children and Young People's Mental Health This will follow on from the work of the CAMHS task group but the terms of reference will be reviewed to ensure a more holistic approach.	tbc	
Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) To scrutinise the impact and effectiveness of the FACT programme, whilst ensuring that the voice of the child is embedded in the FACT programme.	After November 2021 (briefing to	

Areas to focus on (based on the debate and areas for continuing improvement that were highlighted in the report) are detailed in the minutes of the CSC meeting on 19 January 2021.	CSC in November)	
Youth provision and youth service funding *Area Board youth service funding* To understand what the differences are (and why) in allocating youth funding and to determine whether the eligibility criteria and assessment / approval process are still relevant (where possible compare with other local authorities) and ensure clear "best practice" / guidelines. *Youth Provision – gap analysis* To consider the outcome of the Youth provision gap analysis undertaken (referred to in the Covid-19 update to Cabinet, 1 December 2020) and establish whether further scrutiny (e.g. task group) would be beneficial to ensure that demand / needs are met where possible and also that people are aware of the provision (effective promotion). **NB** link with Youth Voice team's work To develop consistency across the 18 area boards in terms of allocating youth funding and eligibility criteria.	tbc	
Access to Post-16 education To establish a clear picture of post-16 education provision available to young people in Wiltshire and availability of / options for transport to access that provision. NB – may link to follow up work from the Youth Transport Task Group's final report**.**	Spring 2022 (tie in with academic year)	

Children's Select Committee - Rapid Scrutiny		
Topic	**Details**	**Date**
Housing – provision of accommodation for young people at transition time	To consider how effective the council is at meeting housing needs (including availability of choice and location) for young people at transition time (e.g. Care Leavers or SEND "aging out" of existing provision).	27 October 2021
SEND provision – data set	tbc	
High needs block funding	To review the current processes and explore whether there would be	Start February

	value added in establishing a task group to consider options to manage pressures on high needs block budget whilst providing the most appropriate support at the earliest opportunity.	2022 onwards
Health Outcomes and meeting health needs	To explore how the council can best scrutinise what partners (and providers) are doing to provide health outcomes for Wiltshire children, this would include establishing what the current scrutiny by the council is (including information on the current and planned work on this topic of the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership).	Date tbc

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / Purpose of Report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
Standing items (at all meetings)					
	DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education	A report presenting an update on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education.	Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director - People)	Cllr Laura Mayes	Nicola McCann
	School Ofsted Judgements	A report which includes information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports. It will provide an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.	Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director - People)	Cllr Laura Mayes	Louise Lewis
	Update from Wiltshire Youth Union Representative	An update including a summary of recent activities of the Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU), the Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB) and the Children in Care Council (CiCC).	Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director - People)	Cllr Laura Mayes	Gary Binstead
5 January 2022					

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
5 Jan 2022	Performance monitoring report	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - that the committee receives performance monitoring reports on the overall service (following on from the pre-meeting briefing at the November meeting on the council's self-assessment process), likely to be June (to consider the year-end data from the previous year) then January meetings.		Cllr Laura Mayes	
15 March 2022					
Agenda item – date to be set					
	Child Poverty	To receive a report presenting figures / data for child poverty in Wiltshire (compared to national figures) and the services / provision in place to address this in Wiltshire, either delivered / supported by the council or third sector (that the council is aware of).			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
	School Improvement Programme	As agreed at the 10 March 2020 meeting (schools Ofsted judgments) to receive a report on implementation / progress of the school improvement programme. (NB with pre-meeting briefing as well)			
	Youth Transport (including SEND)	Update following task group's work and executive response - National Bus Strategy and any decision or progress regarding a single "Wiltshire Youth Card" . To include input from the council's review of transport services for children and young people with SEND (commissioning team). NB – may link to the proposed Access to Post-16 education task group			
	Outdoor education	Update following task group's work and executive response (CSC 10 March 2021)			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
	FACT update	Following consideration of update on 10 March 2020: Request an update for March 2021. The Chair and Vice-chair will identify specific areas for update from the report considered today and inform officers accordingly. The update should include more figures for improved outcome for young people and also figures on savings / costs avoided to demonstrate the impact of the FACT programme. For example number of Five to Thrive champions trained, outcome / learning from the Multi-Agency Use of CMS, outcome of performance reviews, etc.	Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director - People)	Cllr Laura Mayes	
Meetings after March 2022					
	Corporate Parenting bi-annual report	To consider the mid-year annual report from Corporate Parenting	Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director - People)	Cllr Laura Mayes	Lisa Pullin

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
Not before 1 Jun 2022	Performance monitoring report	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - that the committee receives performance monitoring reports on the overall service (following on from the pre-meeting briefing at the November meeting on the council's self-assessment process), likely to be June (to consider the year-end data from the previous year) then January meetings.		Cllr Laura Mayes	
Information briefings					
September / October 2021	Information briefing - MASH and early support	September / October 2021			
September / November 2021	Information briefing - FACT (Families and Children Transformation Programme): the journey so far	There is also a proposed task group and agenda item Timeline – late September, October for the briefing and November for agenda item.	Martin Davis (Director - Families and Children)		

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
Between 1 Nov 2021 and 31 Dec 2021	Information briefing - Young Carers in Wiltshire	This briefing could inform the scope of a potential task group or rapid scrutiny – to consider how to best promote the service and ensure that Young Carers and their families are aware of and access the support on offer.	Helen Jones (Director - Joint Commissioning)		
November 2021	Information briefing - school improvement programme	Linked to agenda item - briefing in November	Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)		
November 2021	Information briefing - SEND provision: See the person not the disability	To understand SEND and provision by the council (including awareness of funding). This briefing would underpin future scrutiny work (proposed rapid scrutiny) on SEND provision and High Needs block funding.			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
January 2022	Information briefing - employment and apprenticeship	To receive information on: • NEET (not in education, employment or training) numbers in Wiltshire – including national figures for comparison (ons) • Take up / outcome of the NEET government scheme in Wiltshire and nationally • Current number of apprentices in Wiltshire and schemes in place, including Wiltshire Council • Services in place / support available in Wiltshire to help young people move towards work, education or training e.g. Wiltshire Council's Employment and Skills (Work Wiltshire), programmes such as Building Bridges, etc.			
19 Jan 2022	Information briefing - School Funding	Yearly briefing ahead of consideration of the budget.			

	Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme		Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
Between 19 Jan 2022 and 26 Feb 2022	Information briefing - learning from Covid-19	To inform members on the lessons learnt from Covid on how some of the mitigations or new ways of working implemented to manage the pandemic could be adapted for ongoing use to improve the efficiency/productivity of the service (This potentially could be an agenda item at some point as well). NB the briefing should be linked to a presentation from Wiltshire CIL to Health Select Committee and work undertaken by Wiltshire Parent Carer Council.			
February 2022	Information briefing - Alternative Educational Provision	To receive information on processes followed and options available in Wiltshire, including information on the Service Level Agreement for funding delegated to secondary schools to support learners at risk of exclusion. Anticipated to be a shorter briefing (30 minutes).			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
February 2022	Information briefing - Family Learning Service	To raise awareness of the service and the support it offers to families. Anticipated to be a shorter 30 minutes briefing.			
February 2022	Information briefing - Demand modelling for children services	To develop some awareness of the work undertaken, common factors that drive demand, how to anticipate impact and volume – informing members of the complexities of managing and anticipating demand. Once this briefing has been delivered there may be further updates on specific demand analysis.			Tamsin Stone
Items for consideration by the standing task group (reports preview)					
	Corporate Parenting bi-annual report	March (brief update) October / November (annual report)			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
	Performance monitoring reports	To receive performance monitoring reports on the overall service, likely to be June (to consider the year-end data from the previous year) then January meetings.			
	Early Years and Childcare Standards Annual Report	To receive a report detailing local authority standards for early years and pre-school provision including sufficiency (which is a statutory duty), pupil outcomes and Ofsted grades.			
	Elective Home Education (including for Children with SEND)	Item follows the resolution from the 5th March 2019 Children's Select Committee: "To receive further data and analysis in 12 months on children with SEND receiving Elective Home Education."	Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)	Cllr Laura Mayes	Jen Salter

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
	Children missing education / children missing out on education	To receive dataset and policy on Children Missing Out on Education / Children Missing Education NB – may be timely to link to information briefing on Alternative Educational Provision			
	Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations	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.			
	Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership	To receive annual report from the partnership presenting work in the past year and priorities / objectives for the year ahead.			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 23 OCTOBER 2021		
Meeting Date	**Item**	**Details / purpose of report**	**Associate Director**	**Responsible Cabinet Member**	**Report Author / Lead Officer**
	Adoption	Annual item. To receive information on adoption from the following sources: Local authority's performance report with regards to adoption (statutory requirement that regular assurance reports are provided regarding the Council's responsibility for the adoption of children); Adoption West joint scrutiny panel's annual report.			
	Traded Services	Update following task group's work and executive response (CSC 10 March 2021): a. Progress and development for Traded Services b. Development of the Traded Services team c. The establishment of a project / governance board			