

Appendix 1 - Key activities and achievements for the Children's Select Committee (2017-21)

It should be noted that the public, formal activity of the Select Committee, and most scrutiny activities, were suspended between March 2020 and January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key activities and achievements for the Children's Select Committee (2017-21)			
Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
Task Groups:			
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) task group (joint with Health Select Committee)	November 2017 – ongoing	Highlighted lessons learned from the previous primary and specialist CAMHS model and quality assured the new governance arrangements. It is planned for the task group to carry on its work in the new council.	12 recommendations focusing on enhancing the experience for children and young people, including “early intervention”, continuity of care, and clarifying the self-referral process.
SEND School Provision task group	September 2018 - ongoing	The task group was originally established to look at the plans for the future provision of SEND schools and school places in Wiltshire, then evolved to consider the future provision of SEND education for Wiltshire's children and young people, for which it undertook a detailed review of evidence and visited all 6 special schools across the region, working with SEND schools and the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council.	11 recommendations relating to the potential future provision of SEND education in Wiltshire 16 recommendations on the proposed restructuring of the Wiltshire's special schools
Traded Services for Schools and Outdoor Education task group	February 2018 – March 2020	Established, following two rapid scrutiny exercises, to review the proposed developments for traded services to schools and to review and comment on the Cabinet report regarding the proposals for the future of outdoor education in Wiltshire. The task group then evolved to include scrutiny of the Council's advertising of the two outdoor education sites as well subsequent decision-making process regarding expressions of interest (bids).	5 recommendations were implemented as the task group carried out its work on Traded Services. The task group made a further 7 recommendations to ensure that traded services for school was successful and flexibly met customers' needs. The task group's key findings and recommendations were presented

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		Examined the potential impacts of closing the Braeside and Oxenwood educational centres, with both facilities now continuing to provide valuable outdoor learning opportunities for young people.	to two Cabinet meetings with regards to Outdoor Education and formed part of the decision-making process.
Youth Transport task group	May 2019 – March 2020	Established to investigate the current range of public transportation options available to young people in Wiltshire, and to identify any unmet needs, gaps in service provision, and potential areas of improvement.	Produced recommendations with a focus on the improvement of Wiltshire's public transport services for young people.
Rapid Scrutiny Exercises:			
Care leavers Local Offer	23 January and 27 April 2018	Helped to define the priorities in the council's new Local Offer for care leavers.	5 recommendations including prioritisation of funding, increase in grant (to align with surrounding areas) and reallocation of funding.
Youth democracy	June 2018 - ongoing	Appointed two new young Wiltshire residents as Youth Representatives on the committee to provide young people's voice in its debates.	To embed the voice of Young People in the work of the committee.
Children's Centre Consultation Rapid Scrutiny Exercise	15 April 2019	Established to consider the results of the consultation, the proposed closures and the plans for alternative venues for Children's Centres. Scrutinised proposals to transfer services from dedicated buildings to community settings. Made successful recommendations for improvement, including clarifying the rationale for the proposals and the alternative provision in place, to ensure current service levels are maintained and vulnerable groups continue to access support services.	The 6 recommendations from the rapid scrutiny exercise were presented to Cabinet ahead of a decision being made and later all accepted by the relevant Cabinet Member.

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Select Committee agenda items			
Corporate Parenting Panel	Annual reports	To consistently review the annual reports to ensure that the information presented can be scrutinised and adequately reflects the work undertaken by the panel.	Ensured that key figures and data sets are included to present a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Wiltshire with regards to children in care.
Childcare Sufficiency	Annual report	Continuously monitoring the council's work to meet the requirement to make available sufficient childcare in the local area, which is a statutory duty placed on the Local Authority.	Helped to ensure sufficient childcare is available in Wiltshire for working parents and parents who were studying or training for employment.
Safeguarding (performance monitoring)	19 January 2021	Considered how the council assesses the robustness and efficiency of its safeguarding processes.	Recommended two further scrutiny exercises; one to develop data sets and one to review the effectiveness of the FACT (Families and Children Transformation) programme.
Looked After Children (LAC)	2019-20	Recommended that improvements to supporting children in care were more clearly defined and were supported by appropriate metrics.	