

**Wiltshire Council**

**Children's Select Committee**

**20 September 2022**

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## **Task Group and Rapid Scrutiny Update**

### **Purpose**

To provide an update on any recent work from task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises linked to the Children's Select Committee (CSC), as well as information on any upcoming overview and scrutiny (OS) activities for the committee.

### **Updates from active Task Groups**

#### **1. Children's Select Committee – Standing Task Group**

*Supporting officer: Marie Gondlach*

#### Membership

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

#### Terms of Reference

At its 6 July 2021 meeting, the Children's Select Committee resolved to establish this Standing Task Group:

1. To undertake detailed reviews of the regular reports that come within the Children's Select Committee's remit and to bring updates to the Committee on its work;
2. To present any key issues, findings and recommendations to the Children's Select Committee, and / or other relevant committees, for discussion, endorsement or further scrutiny where appropriate;
3. To invite all members and substitutes of Children's Select Committee to its meetings, should they wish to attend and participate.

#### Recent activity

No meeting.

## **2. Fostering Excellence Task Group**

*Supporting officer: Marie Gondlach*

### Membership

Cllr Liz Alstrom  
Cllr Chuck Berry (Chair)  
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson  
Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney  
Cllr Mark Verbinnen

It should be noted that Cllr Jack Oatley was appointed to the task group but had to resign at the second meeting as he was no longer able to attend the scheduled meetings of the task group.

### Terms of Reference

For the Fostering Excellence task group to:

1. review how the Fostering Excellence project has been / is / will be addressing the issues identified in the report presented to CSC on 10 March 2020:
  - a. Increase initial enquiries and therefore assessments and approvals of Wiltshire Council foster carers;
  - b. Improve the retention of Wiltshire approved foster carers;
  - c. Increase the percentage of Wiltshire children in foster care cared for by Wiltshire Council foster carers (at the time 46%);
  - d. Maintain high occupancy rates of Wiltshire approved foster carers (at the time 80%+).
2. identify how the effectiveness of the Fostering Excellence project will be measured and reported, and be satisfied that this is robust and delivering improvements whilst achieving the savings identified in the budget 2022-23;
3. identify how the benefits of being placed with Wiltshire Council foster carers (who are receiving enhanced training / support as part of Fostering Excellence) for children in care will be measured and reported, and be satisfied that this is robust;
4. identify best practice across the country for recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers.

### Recent activity

The task group is scheduled to meet on

### **Upcoming activities**

The following rapid scrutiny exercises (RS) and task groups (TG) will have been advertised and all members of the committee are welcome to express an interest:

- High Needs Block Funding RS
- Road map to excellence RS
- The council's options in terms of setting its own MAT (multi academy trust) RS
- Children and young people's mental health TG
- Youth provision and youth service funding TG
- Provision for post-16 TG

## **Proposals**

- 1. To note the update on task group and rapid scrutiny activities provided.**
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