

CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2017 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr David Halik, Cllr Deborah Halik, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Hayley Spencer, Cllr Roy While, Mr J Hawkins, Cllr Stewart Dobson (Substitute) and Cllr James Sheppard (Substitute)

57 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Evans who was substituted by Cllr Sheppard
Cllr Chris Hurst
James Wilkins
Dr Michael Thompson
Miss Tracy Cornelius
Mr Paul Daniels

58 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 05 September 2017 as a correct record.

59 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

60 **Chairman's Announcements**

a) **Cabinet Items** At the 7th November Cabinet meeting it was heard that the following item would be considered:

- **Post-16 Area Wide Review of Education in Wiltshire**

- b) Julia Cramp** It was announced that Julia Cramp would be leaving her position at Wiltshire Council. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the committee for her work and co-operation as Associate Director for Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness.
- c) Jill Hughes** It was announced that unfortunately due to Ms Hughes withdrawing from her position as a parent governor she would also have to step down from her position on the committee as the Primary Parent Governor Representative. Work for re-electing to the position on the committee would begin shortly.
- d) NCASS** The Chairman explained that he had recently been to the 2017 National Children and Adult Services Conference in Bournemouth. The event focuses on adult and child social care, and how councils can work together.

61 **Public Participation**

No questions had been received from councillors or members of the public.

62 **Activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)**

The committee received a report by Judy Edwards, Senior Commissioning Officer, which provided an update on the activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY).

WAY has met twice since the last report. One meeting was joint with the Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB) on 20 September, the other was an online meeting on 17 October.

At the joint meeting with the YSB, members discussed the function of both groups and engaged in discussions on child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse; it was felt that both issues are best supported through Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. Members also discussed concerns relating to safeguarding and public transport, including travel by taxi.

It was heard that WAY members had worked hard to engage secondary schools in Make Your Mark, the UK's largest youth consultation. Over 7,000 of Wiltshire's 11-18 year olds took part in 2017.

The top five issues as identified in Wiltshire were:

1. Mental health
2. Protect LGBT+ people
3. Transport
4. A curriculum to prepare us for life
5. First Aid education for all young people

The national results yielded the following:

1. A curriculum to prepare us for life
2. Transport
3. Work experience hubs
4. Votes at 16
5. Protect LGBT+ people

The top five national issues will be debated by young people in the House of Commons on 10th November, which will include the three Members Youth Parliament for Wiltshire.

Members asked why LGBT was so high on Wiltshire's list, and asked whether it was a more prevalent issue in some schools than others. It was noted that this result could be broken down into the schools it featured highest in, and could be investigated.

Resolved

To note the update from the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY).

63 Anti-Bullying Update

The committee received a report by Judy Edwards and Dexter Chipeni, Level 2 Apprentice – Joint Commissioning, informing councillors about the ongoing support that the council provides for schools and young people during the year, with reference to the national anti-bullying campaign delivered by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) annually.

The role of the council with regards to bullying is to signpost and highlight resources for schools and partners that supports their anti-bullying practices. In particular, this takes place through the Healthy Schools framework and through training for schools on personal, social, health and economic education.

The National Anti-Bullying week 2017, from 13th to 17th November, has the theme 'All Different, All Equal'. Mental health and LGBT will be big topics during this. Wiltshire Council will also hold its third 'Big Conversation' with young people from representative groups within Wiltshire: the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth; Children in Care Council; Youth Safeguarding Board; and Healthwatch Wiltshire Young Listeners.

Data on bullying in Wiltshire was still raw and being analysed by Public Health. It was noted that schools receive their own data back so they can track their own trends and act accordingly.

Members asked if questions regarding proportions of schools with growing trends, and raised the growing concern of social media as a platform for bullying across all ages.

It was requested that a briefing on what is available to schools regarding tackling bullying be created and sent to members for them to share with their local schools and encourage their participation.

Resolved

To note the update on Anti-Bullying.

To request that a briefing highlighting the opportunity to become an “All Together School” be created for all members to share with their local schools.

64 School Places Strategy 2017-2022

The Select Committee received a report which asked them to consider the latest Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2017- 2022 and its associated proposals set out in the Implementation Plan.

The Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2017- 2022 will replace the 2015-2020 Strategy and will become a key framework document for the Council in considering any statutory proposals for changes to school organisation. This includes the commissioning of new schools, it will also inform future capital investment priorities. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, School Organisation Committees were abolished, and the main decisions on the provision and organisation of places, depending on the nature of the proposal and who is the proposer, are now made by the Regional School's Commissioner or the Secretary of State.

Clare Medland, Head of School Place Commissioning, explained that the report incorporates all available data including: child birth-rates, pressures from housing, and army rebasing. The structure of the strategy remained the same as two years ago. The document had been revised to include updated area data and projections. The strategy would be used to plan for expansions of schools and new schools across the county.

In response to a question over whether the strategy should go to Area Board in draft form for comment it was explained that the strategy had already gone out for extensive consultation. This included all schools, diocese, and councillors.

Members were informed that officers were happy to receive comments and views on the strategy, and that an update on the position of the strategy could be received in 12 – 18months time.

Resolved

To note and endorse the School Places Strategy 2017-2022.

To review the position of the Schools Places Strategy in 12-18months time to consider scrutiny involvement.

65 Post 16 Area Wide Review (Joint lead by Economy & Planning and Education)

A report was received informing the committee of the findings and recommendations from the government review of local further education provision which was completed earlier in 2017.

The government has recently carried out a review of further education provision in Wiltshire as part of a national post-16 area review process. Wiltshire College was the only provider in Wiltshire to be included in the 2016-17 Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire review. Findings were positive in that the College's curriculum delivers to the priority sectors identified by the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) whilst maintaining provision in all areas where there is employment demand in the region and beyond, such as construction, health and tourism.

Ariane Crampton, Head of Employment and Skills, explained in response to questions from the committee that the scope of the government report did not cover keeping children in county. Outcomes included in the final report of Children's Select Committee's Post-16 Task Group was noted as covering this topic in detail.

Members of the committee noted that the issue of Post 16 education was wider than just Wiltshire College, and that it would be good to learn why they move out of county. It was noted that it was quality of education in county which drove children out of county.

Resolved

To note the recommendations included in the Post-16 Area Wide Review

To highlight the concerns raised by the committee in relation to item H in the report - public transport

66 Wiltshire Council Apprenticeship Growth Plan

The committee received a report on Wiltshire Council's apprenticeship growth plan.

Apprenticeship growth was noted to be a key priority both nationally and locally. The Government had committed to deliver three million apprenticeships by 2020. A specific goal of the business plan is to provide 'more apprentices and improve access to further and higher education'. Wiltshire has a target of supporting the delivery of 31,500 apprenticeship starts for the academic years 2014 to 2020.

Promotion of apprenticeships is performed through the website "[Work Wiltshire](#)". With all apprenticeships pulled together under the one website. It was noted by the committee that this website needs better promotion.

The committee queried the range of apprenticeships currently on offer. It was explained this was relatively small, but there was a drive to offer a wider range.

Potential to receive future information on the council's work to meet their government apprenticeship growth requirement was discussed. It was requested that this includes information on care leavers and focused on meeting the requirements as a whole.

Resolved

To note the update on the Wiltshire Apprenticeship Action Plan

To receive the Wiltshire Council Apprenticeship Strategy at a meeting of Children's Select in early 2018.

67 Children's Service Integration Project

The committee received a report which gave an overview of the progress of the Children's Services Integration Project since their last update in March 2017. The report detailed how the CSI project will support the delivery of the Council's Business Plan and the financial implications.

The following services/functions no longer existed as separate entities:

- Early Help Service
- Safeguarding and Assessment Service
- Single Point of contact to Early help
- Single Point of Contact for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Phase 2 of CSI would consider the Children in Care, Placement and EDS, Youth Offending, Child Sexual Exploitation and SEND services, and improved integrated working with partners alongside the new model of service (Support and Safeguarding Service).

It was explained following questions from the committee that no services had stopped, however some have changed roles. All services delivered through the old service would continue to be delivered under the new service.

A single data set would be produced which could be made available to the committee. This would be up and running once it had been given a few months to collect enough data to produce indicators.

Resolved

To note the Phase 1 changes and the timescales and endorse the direction of travel being scoped by the Children's services Integration Project Phase 2.

To receive the data set for the new model at a Children's Select meeting in Spring 2018.

68 Final Report of the Traded Services for Schools Rapid Scrutiny Exercise

Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Cuthbert and Mr John Hawkins introduced the report of the rapid scrutiny project.

They explained that the project was unable to produce any solid recommendations from the two meetings due to a lack of information available to the members. Once the data was made available the members could continue and conclude their work.

Officers explained that there was a period following the absence of the previous Associate Director for Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness where full guidance was not available. As a result adequate information was not provided to the members.

Resolved

To note the report of the Traded Services for Schools Rapid Scrutiny Project.

To ask the rapid scrutiny membership to form a Traded Services for Schools Task Group.

To request that the membership of the Traded Services for Schools Task Group perform a separate piece of scrutiny on Outdoor Education.

69 DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education -

The Committee received an update from Terence Herbert, Corporate Director, on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education from August to October 2017 as follows:-

- National funding formula for schools and high needs block
- Primary assessment in England - Consultation outcome
- Maths and English functional skills: revised subject content
- Academies Update
- £20 million improvement programme for children's social care
- Corporate parenting, the local offer and personal adviser support – open consultation

- Revised guidance for virtual school heads and designated teachers – open consultation
- Junior individual saving accounts for looked-after children
- The Multi-Agency Response to Children Living with Domestic Abuse
- Inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) Pilot inspection update
- Self-evaluation of social work practice

Elizabeth Williams, Head of Finance Care, was in attendance and answered questions on the schools funding formula. A timetable had been set for the new formula, which included a short consultation period. This included going to Schools Forum.

Resolved

To note the update provided

70 **Task Group Updates**

Resolved

To note the update report

71 **Forward Work Programme**

Resolved

To note the forward work programme

72 **Date of Next Meeting**

Noted as Tuesday 19th December at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am. With a pre-meeting briefing at 9.30am in the meeting room.

73 **Urgent Items**

None.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713035, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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