

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

06 February 2018

Task Group Update

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. SEND School Provision Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chair)
Cllr James Sheppard
Mr John Hawkins
Ms Jen Jones

Supporting Officer: Adam Brown

Terms of reference:

1. To consider the future provision of SEND education for Wiltshire's children and young people in the context of the challenges outlined in the "Wood Report"/WASSPP report (May 2017).
2. To receive evidence from:
 - a. Wiltshire Council officers;
 - b. Wiltshire schools;
 - c. Parents/guardians of children with SEND.

Recent activity:

The task group met with officers on 4th January where they received a briefing and background information on SEND Schools and the progress of work so far. Following this they met on 12th January with Stuart Hall, director of the WPC, to discuss the work performed by them with parent carers.

Five out of the six SEND schools in Wiltshire have now been visited by the task group: Exeter House; Larkrise; St Nicholas; Downlands; and Rowdeford. At these visits the task group was given a tour of the school and sat down with the Head Teacher for a discussion. The task group plans to visit the remaining school (Springfields) in due course.

On the 2nd February, the task group will attend a WPCC public event for parent carers. This will be an opportunity for the members to engage with parent carers in order to hear their views first hand.

2. Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Phil Alford (Chairman)
Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Hayley Spencer
Cllr Fred Westmoreland

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

To be resolved at 5 February 2018 Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee, the CAMHS Task Group to sit across both Children's Select and Health Select Committees.

That the CAMHS Task Group:

- a) Consider the governance arrangements for the recommissioned CAHMS service;
- b) Explore and understand the new CAHMS model in comparison to the existing model and consider the evidence base for any changes. Then where appropriate, make recommendations to support its implementation and effectiveness;
- c) Look at existing data and ensure that the new model's performance will be robustly monitored and benchmarked against this by the council, partners and by the proposed future scrutiny exercise;
- d) Consider access and referral points within the new CAHMS model and, as appropriate, make recommendations to maximise take-up by children and young people in need of support;
- e) Explore where CAMHS sits within the overall landscape of children and young people's mental health and, within this, consider whether prevention services are effective

Recent Activity

The task group met on 17 January 2018 to agree their Forward Work Programme. Susan Tanner, Head of Commissioning, was in attendance to help provide guidance and suggestions for how the task group could pursue their Terms of Reference.

After the FWP had been agreed by all, Cllr Cape raised the point that she may have a conflict of interest; due to some work that she is currently undertaking with Oxford Health, as a part of her employment.

After liaising with Democratic Services and the task group's Chairman outside of the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Cape could continue to participate on the task group. However, during the instances where Oxford Health would be providing evidence, or attending as a witness, Cllr Cape would need to participate in the meeting in the capacity of an 'observer' only and the record would need to state her declaration of interest.

Proposal:

That Children's Select Committee endorse that:

Cllr Clare Cape remains on the CAMHS task group and that, during the meetings where Oxford Health are in attendance as either a witness or to provide evidence, Cllr Cape act as an 'observer' and not participate in discussion towards any recommendations of the CAMHS task group

3. Children in Care Leavers Rapid Scrutiny Exercise

Membership:

Cllr Chris Devine (lead)
Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Melody Thompson
Cllr Mary Champion

Supporting Officer: Adam Brown

Recent Activity:

Final report is included elsewhere in this agenda.

Proposals

1. To note the update on task group activity provided.

Report author: Adam Brown, Senior Scrutiny Officer; Natalie Heritage, Senior Scrutiny Officer