

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 17 January 2023
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

Pre-meeting information briefing

There will be a briefing session starting at 9.30am, immediately before the meeting. Its focus will be on the Roadmap to Excellence.

Membership:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)	Cllr Antonio Piazza
Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Mike Sankey
Cllr Helen Belcher OBE	Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Mary Champion	Cllr Jo Trigg
Cllr Carole King	Cllr Mark Verbinnen
Cllr Kathryn MacDermid	Cllr Caroline Corbin
Cllr Kelvin Nash	

Substitutes:

Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney
Cllr Daniel Cave	Cllr Martin Smith
Cllr Adrian Foster	Cllr Iain Wallis
Cllr Johnny Kidney	Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Jack Oatley	

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocesan RC Representative
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Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Nikki Barnett

John Hawkins

Maisy Humphrey

Declan Kiely

Further Education Representative

School Teacher Representative

Children & Young People's Representative

Children & Young People's Representative -
Substitute

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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

Pre-meeting information briefing

The meeting will be preceded by a presentation starting at **9.30am**, in the meeting room.

Topic: Roadmap to Excellence

All members and substitutes of the Children's Select Committee are welcome to attend.

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 - 20*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 October 2022.

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.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. 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 **10 January 2023** 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 **12 January 2023**. 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 **Roadmap to Excellence** *(Pages 21 - 44)*

To receive an update from the council on its roadmap to excellence for children's social care.

7 **National Review into Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs in Residential Settings** *(Pages 45 - 50)*

The committee will be informed of the outcomes and recommendations of the Quality and Safety Reviews of 10 Wiltshire children and young people with disabilities and complex needs requested by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to all Directors for Children's Services (DCS) on 23 August 2022.

8 **Shaping the Future Programme with Schools**

To receive a verbal update on the chosen model.

9 **Outcome of the Rapid Scrutiny on High Needs Block Funding** *(Pages 51 - 62)*

To consider the final report from the Rapid Scrutiny on High Needs Block Funding.

10 **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.

10a **Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice Representative**

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

10b **School Ofsted Judgements** *(Pages 63 - 70)*

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.

10c **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education** *(Pages 71 - 76)*

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

for Education.

10d **Working together to improve school attendance**

The DfE published new non-statutory guidance in May 2022 to help schools, trusts, governing bodies and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance. The guidance applies from September 2022.

This regular update is an opportunity for the committee to be aware of the latest requirements for schools, trusts, governing boards and local authorities in maintaining high levels of school attendance, as set out in the guidance.

10e **Schools Forum** (*Pages 77 - 78*)

To receive a very brief update highlighting key items from the last meeting of Schools Forum, to enable the Children's Select Committee to be informed in a timely manner of the work undertaken by the Schools Forum through the year.

Full agendas and minutes for the Schools Forum can be accessed here [Schools Forum | Wiltshire Council](#)

10f **Corporate Parenting Panel** (*Pages 79 - 80*)

To receive a very brief update highlighting key items from the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel, to enable the Children's Select Committee members, as Corporate Parents, to be informed in a timely manner of the work undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Panel through the year.

10g **Directors' update**

To receive a verbal update from Directors highlighting any key issues (current or emerging), successes or milestones in their respective areas since the last meeting of the committee, which may not require a full agenda item and are not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

10h **Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holders' update**

To receive a verbal update from the Cabinet Member and / or Portfolio Holders highlighting any news, successes or milestones in their respective areas since the last meeting of the committee, which may not require a full agenda item and are not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

10i **Chair's update**

To receive a verbal update from the chair on any work undertaken or news since the last meeting that would not require a full agenda item and would not be suitable under Chairman's Announcements (where no debate is allowed).

11 **Overview and Scrutiny Activities Updates**

The committee will receive updates from active Task Groups, Rapid Scrutiny exercises and the committee's board representatives.

A report by the Senior Scrutiny Officers providing an update on Task Group activity since the last meeting is attached.

12 **Forward Work Programme** (*Pages 81 - 116*)

The Committee is asked to note the attached documents 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.

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

14 **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

15 **Glossary**

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 25 OCTOBER 2022 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Helen Belcher, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Kathryn MacDermid, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Mark Verbinnen and John Hawkins

Also Present:

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Tony Jackson and Cllr Laura Mayes

80 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

- Cllr Kelvin Nash
- Cllr Caroline Corbin
- Dr Mike Thompson – Clifton Diocesan RC Representative
- Nikki Barnett - Further Education Representative

81 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 September 2022, as a true and correct record.

82 **Declarations of Interest**

The chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest that he was a trustee of the 4 Youth charity.

83 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

84 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

85 **FACT (Families and Children's Transformation) programme**

The Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme Lead explained that they were a multi-agency initiative focusing on the principles of early intervention and prevention. He introduced a report on their key priorities, as well as the governance and systems in place for monitoring and reporting on their projects. He outlined the three key projects they were currently working on namely, Early Support Assessment, Transitional Safeguarding and Family Help, including further detail about the timeline for the delivery of these projects, as shown in paragraph 48 of the report.

The programme leader elaborated on the goals of the Family Help project, including joining up services to improve the consistency between different agencies and making a central database of information for the public. He noted that they would report at the end of March 2023 to review whether the changes made had improved outcomes. He explained that as part of this project a pilot study was being run in Warminster and Westbury, to explore a local delivery model where local groups would work closely with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) to coordinate services.

During the discussion key points included:

- Members thanked the programme lead for the report and stated that they admired the ambition of the project to improve practice, systems, and culture.
- The governance of the FACT programme included a multi-agency operational board, which the chair of the Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum sat on, to ensure that local groups were involved in the delivery of the services.
- The committee emphasised the value of working directly with local groups such as town and parish councils, the Wiltshire Community Foundation and Community First.
- The members of Warminster and Westbury Area Boards present at the meeting highlighted that they would welcome close engagement with the pilot study in their areas. They stressed the importance of working with local youth clubs and considering transportation issues in rural areas. The chairman of Warminster Area Board also invited representatives from the project to attend one of their meetings.
- The project lead noted that they had looked for examples of good practice in other local authority (LA) areas and that most came from urban conurbations. They had been working closely with Research in Practice, a national charity that had put them in touch with useful contacts.
- Oxford Brookes University would assist with the evaluation and monitoring of the Family Help project and would play a role in establishing short term performance indicators.
- Members noted that they would like the opportunity to review an interim report on the indicators in advance of the publication of final report on the Family Help programme in 2024.
- In response to a question about how it would be ensured that a central online directory for the public would be kept up to date, the project lead explained that Wessex Community Action's Wiltshire Together platform would be used, and that funding was in place for its development and maintenance. The site would allow organisations to advertise their events and opportunities. Online

workshops would also be set up to inform groups how to revise information and reminders would be sent to check that information was being updated.

- The project lead stressed that anyone working with children and young people would be able to access the website. The Director of Family and Children's Services reported that the ambition was that none of the partners within FACT would be replicating information on each other's websites, other than third party sites or where it was a statutory requirement.

- The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services Education and Skills highlighted that the Wiltshire Learning Alliance would play a role in spreading the good practice learnt from the project throughout schools.

Resolved

1. To thank the programme leader and director for the report and note the update provided.

2. To invite officers, as part of their stakeholder events, to engage with local members, relevant Area Boards, and town councils to share information about the pilot project in Westbury and Warminster.

3. For FACT to liaise with the different groups in Westbury and Warminster, funded by Wiltshire Community Foundation and Community First, that support children and young people.

4. To invite officers to consider a mechanism where signposting to other services is led centrally and kept regularly updated.

5. To receive a further update in a year's time including on the progress towards the key milestones identified in paragraph 48 of the report.

6. To receive a report on the outcome of the Family Help Programme, including the Westbury and Warminster pilot project, by September 2024.

7. To receive an interim report as soon after March 2023 as practical to review the data set that has been created and how the Family Help programme was being implemented.

86 Children and Young People's Mental Health

Provision Part-Funded Through Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

The Executive Place Director for Wiltshire at BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) Integrated Care Board introduced a report about how Wiltshire Council, together with partners, commissioned targeted and specialist CAMHS provided by Oxford Health. The Associate Medical Director at Salisbury Community CAMHS explained that they received referrals to a single point of access (SPA) where families could then be signposted to the relevant services. She highlighted the impact of the services being delivered, noting that they met regularly with young people to hear about their experience of CAMHS. She mentioned that waiting times for services were broadly in line with the national average and was pleased to report that around 50 percent of all children achieved a full recovery, compared to the national averages of between 34 and 44 percent.

The Associate Director at Thames Valley CAMHS also provided an update, stating that there had been an increase in the number of mental health referrals for young people since the pandemic, particularly in relation to eating disorders. In response to this, they were in the process of enhancing their Crisis and Resolution Home Treatment Service, so that additional resources were put into treating people in the community. The changes involved working closely with schools and had led to a reduction in the number of admissions to in-patient or residential units. Part of the additional investment had been running a pilot study for young people with eating disorders called Hospital at Home. As part of this study people that had been referred for an in-patient bed were instead being treated at home. Of the 26 young people receiving treatment at home in the past year, in only one case was it necessary to transfer their treatment to hospital. Due to the success of this study, the Hospital at Home programme was being expanded and an equivalent service would also be set up for people with learning disabilities and autism.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- Members thanked the directors for the report and welcomed the inclusion of information about the impact of the services provided.
- It was noted that an Assessment and Liaison Paediatric In-patient with Eating Disorder (ALPINE) model pilot study was being undertaken to reduce the use of tube feeding in treating young people with eating disorders.
- Although the average waiting time for a mental health assessment was nine and a half weeks, the directors clarified that all children referred to the SPA were signposted to the relevant service within 24 hours.
- The Associate Medical Director at Salisbury Community CAMHS noted that they were improving collaboration with partners in the voluntary sector to provide interventions at an earlier stage. She also confirmed that children requiring an emergency appointment would be seen within 24 hours. In addition, work had been undertaken to review recruitment, which had been increasing in recent months.
- The Associate Medical Director also reported that they were working on an equivalent to the Sleepio App, a treatment for insomnia, which they had been running successful trials with.
- When asked about the figure of 96 percent of patients being allocated a hospital bed within their catchment area, it was confirmed that the catchment area for Wiltshire residents was Berkshire, Oxford and Swindon. The nearest CAMHS in-patient centre was Marlborough House in Swindon.
- In response to a question about what was being done to improve mental health provision in schools, the Executive Place Director explained that they were working with their educational colleagues to get their views. Work was also being done at a national level including around the issue of exam stress in schools.
- When asked about why the percentage of Children Looked After in Wiltshire whose emotional wellbeing was a cause for concern was above the national average, the Director of Families and Children's Services noted that mental health was the most significant issue facing children in Wiltshire and that it had been discussed at a recent transitional safeguarding event.

- The Associate Medical Director explained that 50 percent of young people that had a diagnosable mental health disorder fell below the threshold for having a diagnosable disorder after receiving care via Oxford Health. The support available after receiving care would depend on the level of recovery of each individual patient.

Wiltshire Council Funded Mental Health Services for Children and Young People

The Interim Head of Service for Whole Life Commissioning introduced a report about the impact that the bespoke mental health services, commissioned directly by Wiltshire Council, were having on young people. She noted that the council were reviewing the services that they commissioned to ensure value for money and to avoid duplication of services. As examples, she highlighted two of the current contracts, with Rethink and Bernardos, that were due for renewal over the next couple of years. The interim head of service also explained that they were developing mental health first aid training skills within the council. She felt that the review of commissioned services had been a valuable activity in building their strategy and reported that there was still lots of work to do over the next financial year. Wiltshire Council were keen to work with partners such as Healthwatch Wiltshire and Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living to ensure that the views of young people were considered.

During the discussion points included:

- Members thanked the interim head of service for the update.
- It was noted that a review was ongoing about whether the Primary Mentoring In-house Service was duplicating the Kidscape Rise Transition Programme.
- In response to queries about the statistical discrepancies in paragraph 91 of the report, including in the number of people starting and completing the Rethink service in 2021-22, the interim head of service explained that they would clarify the figures with Rethink and discuss the way in which they provided figures.
- Members noted that they would welcome a detailed statistical analysis of the impact of the Rethink programme. The Director of Procurement and Commissioning reassured the committee that a formal meeting would be held with the provider in November and consideration was being given to alternative options for the contract going forward.
- It was noted that around 9,000 young people in Wiltshire had a diagnosable mental health condition, so reassurance was sought about the level of support that was available. The Director of Procurement and Commissioning explained that the services outlined in the report were part of wider services being offered. The Executive Place Director for Wiltshire at BSW Integrated Care Board reassured the committee that any individual who came through the SPA at Oxford Health would get support and there were not referral thresholds.

- The Interim Head of Service for Whole Life Commissioning noted that lots of work was being carried out as part of the Independent Living Strategy to find suitable accommodation for young people.
- The Director of Procurement and Commissioning offered to ask officers to provide a report on the Parenting Programme funded through the Supported Families Initiative, including information about the outcomes of the STOP Parenting Programme.
- Members observed that they would appreciate further information about the level of need and impact delivered through Bernardo's Early Mental Health Service, as well as information about the level of service received after the early intervention. The interim head of service noted that they were seeking further information through contract monitoring and said that the contract was due for tender in the forthcoming year.
- Members welcomed the review of the contracts and stated that they would be grateful for further details about clawback agreements within contracts.
- The Director of Procurement and Commissioning noted that they would submit a report to Cabinet before the next tranche of contracts went to tender, outlining the expectations about contractual management arrangements.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services Education and Skills observed that it would be useful to collate all of the information about the mental health services commissioned together to give an overview of the overall demand and provision. The chairman endorsed these comments and stressed the importance of looking at early intervention.
- The Director of Procurement and Commissioning highlighted that there was an ambition to develop a Wiltshire Council strategy for emotional wellbeing to give further direction to the commissioning of services. Conversations were ongoing with health colleagues about whether some of the funding earmarked for CAHMS after 2025 could be directed towards early intervention.

Resolved

- 1. To thank the Interim Head of Service for Whole Life Commissioning for the report.**
- 2. To express concern about the lack of information on key performance indicators provided by some of the key contractors.**
- 3. For the Children's Select Committee to scrutinise the expectations of contractors before the next tranche of contracts go out to tender.**
- 4. To receive a report on the Parenting Programme funded through the Supported Families Initiative.**

87 Capital expenditure on school buildings

The Head of School Place Commissioning gave an update about the School Capital Programme approved by Cabinet in February 2022, including an overview of Wiltshire Council's statutory responsibilities. She explained that the council was responsible for the maintenance programme for community, voluntary controlled and foundation schools, but not for academies or voluntary aided schools. However, as the council was ultimately responsible for the provision of a sufficient number of school places, it did finance expansion of all schools regardless of type. The head of service noted that a portion of the

budget was always held back each year in order to respond to emergency maintenance issues. She also highlighted the impact of inflation of building costs on the capital programme.

During the discussions the following points were made:

- It was confirmed that Section 106 money from developers could only be used for additional building and not for the maintenance of schools.
- Members sought reassurance about whether delayed work might place too high expectations on the building programme for the following year. In response, the head of service noted that they undertook a rolling five-year programme of condition surveys and spent approximately £3 million per year on maintenance to manage the demand. However, she did note that the school estate was aging which was increasing demand over time.
- The head of service highlighted the importance of ensuring that there was sufficient funding left for maintained schools as a greater number of schools became academies up until 2030.
- It was reported that an extra surveyor had been recruited to the school team.
- It was confirmed that an academy would be technically responsible for ensuring school places were available for their children if they had a maintenance issue preventing a school from opening. However, the head of service reassured the committee that Wiltshire Council would be involved in supporting efforts to ensure that alternative provision was available.
- The Leader of the Council noted that crisis management was not a traded service, so it would not be possible to guarantee that costs of providing support could be recovered.
- The head of service clarified that when a maintained school became an academy the school building would be transferred on a 125-year lease that would specify the maintenance requirements for the building. Once all schools had become academies by 2030 then Wiltshire Council would no longer receive maintenance funding from government for school buildings. All schools would continue to undergo an annual assessment by Wiltshire Council's Health and Safety team.
- The head of service noted that when schools became academies it would be prudent for Multi Academy Trusts to keep some reserve funding to deal with maintenance emergencies, but this might be more challenging for some smaller trusts.

Resolved

To thank the Head of School Place Commissioning for the update and note the report.

88 **Adoption**

The chairman noted that the Standing Task Group had recommended that the different reports linked to adoption were presented to the Children's Select Committee simultaneously to enable committee members to have a holistic overview of adoption in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council Adoption Service: 2021-2022 Year End Report

The chairman referred the committee to the suggestions of the Standing Task Group as outlined in the report.

Adoption West Annual Report 2021-22

The chairman reminded members that he was the chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Panel. He reported that the panel had met on 19 October to consider the report, which it felt was positive. He highlighted that one key newly developed area of work, undertaken by the Birth Link team, was a pilot group in Bristol supporting birth families.

Adoption West Joint Scrutiny Panel Annual Report

Cllr Carole King, Wiltshire's representative on the Joint Scrutiny Panel, explained that she felt that the success of the organisation was built upon partnership, being equally owned by six LAs and representing a diverse population. She was pleased to report that the number of Wiltshire's children being placed outside of Adoption West's geographical area had reduced since the previous year. She also highlighted that the organisation had achieved a good Ofsted result earlier in the year. Although there were now fewer adopters, the support in place for people adopting children had improved including a website with detailed information.

Resolved

- 1. To note the three reports provided and the overall adequate performance of the council with regards to adoption, as well as the performance from Adoption West.**
- 2. To refer this item to the Children's Select Committee's Standing Task Group to engage with the three report's authors to develop an overarching cover report introducing each of the three reports – this should enable simplification of each report (not having to reference the other two reports) as well as clarifying the relationship between the Local Authorities and Adoption West, and the responsibilities for performance at different stages of the adoption journey.**

89 **Regular updates**

The chairman reminded the committee that they were 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.

89a Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice Representative

The chairman introduced the report and stated that he was looking forward to engaging with the Child and Youth Voice Team, and the young people they

work with, during the relevant forthcoming task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises.

89b School Ofsted Judgements

The committee was pleased to see that Wiltshire was slightly above the regional average for the number of pupils attending a good or outstanding school. Members welcomed the report but sought clarification about the figures in tables 3 and 4 in the report. They also stated that they would appreciate feedback about how confident schools were about forthcoming A level exams given the disruption caused by the pandemic to the current Year 13.

89c DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education

The report was welcomed by members. The chairman did raise concern about the increase in the number of young people vaping and spoke about the importance of educating children about this issue through their schools.

90 Working together to improve school attendance

The chairman reminded the committee that The Department for Education (DfE) had published new non-statutory guidance in May 2022 to help schools, trusts, governing bodies and LAs maintain high levels of school attendance. He also welcomed news that Wiltshire was performing well in terms of school attendance. A question was asked about the catching up that children had to do after a period of exclusion.

90a Schools Forum's update

The report was welcomed by members. The chairman noted that the committee would receive a briefing on school budgets, which was likely to be split into two sessions.

91 Corporate Parenting Panel update

The committee received an update highlighting key items from the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

92 Directors' update

The Director of Family and Children's Services reported that they had had a positive visit from the DfE the previous week where the DfE had complemented the cross-council work done to support care leavers, including in housing provision. She also mentioned that an annual discussion with Ofsted was expected to take place by the end of November and a corporate peer review was due to take place shortly.

She then reminded the committee that her team had reviewed the use of Aspire House within the council's Stronger Families Service and found that an outreach model had been more effective than the continued use of Aspire

House. The Aspire House building would now be used as part of the tendering process for services, as a new children's home, to enable more Children in care to be housed within the county.

93 **Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holders' update**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services Education and Skills made the following announcements:

- She reminded the committee that it was National Care Leavers' week. She explained that cabinet members had been challenged to live off of Carer's Allowance, £57 per week, which she was doing that week.
- She would, along with the chairman and officers, be attending the National Adult and Children's Conference in Manchester, which would be a useful event allowing Wiltshire to compare its practice to other LAs.
- A Dyslexia awareness event had recently been held in County Hall and work was going on with schools to achieve the British Dyslexia Quality Mark.
- The Leader and she were due to meet representatives from Wiltshire Youth Council later in the afternoon.
- Discussions were due to commence the following week to prepare the budget for the following year.

The Leader noted that he was waiting for further detail from central government about plans for LA Multi Academy Trusts, but that Wiltshire's bid was still being considered.

94 **Chair's update**

The chairman highlighted that he had met with officers to organise a briefing about school budgets to be brought to the committee, as noted in the earlier School's Forum item.

95 **Overview and Scrutiny Activities Updates**

The chairman advertised vacancies to the following task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises:

Rapid Scrutiny Exercises

High Needs Block Funding – 9 November
Road Map to excellence – 1 and 9 December

Task Groups

Children and Young People's Mental Health
Youth Provision and Youth Service Funding
Access to Post-16 Education

He also noted that options for a rapid scrutiny exercise into Wiltshire Council potentially establishing a Multi Academy Trust would be discussed when further information was available.

96 **Forward Work Programme**

The chairman noted that the vice-chairman and he would be meeting on 1 November to shape the Forward Work Programme for the forthcoming year and invited suggestions from the committee for items that they would like to see added.

97 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 17 January, at 10:30am.

98 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.35 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Matt Hitch
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Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Achieving our Aspirations

Roadmap to Excellence For Children's Social Care

May 2022-May 2024

Our Core Vision:

Working together with our partners we will ensure that every child in Wiltshire receives the best support when they need it, to keep them safe and enable them to reach their full potential.

Contents

Foreword

How do we review the quality of our practice?

Our Mission Statement

What are the key areas of focus to achieve our ambitions?

1. Enhancing and embedding the voice of children, young people and families to inform practice development
2. Empowering our workforce through effective leadership and oversight
3. Partnership development of early help (Family Help)
4. Improving sufficiency and choice of suitable placements and post 16 support
5. Good access to mental health/SEND support and services for children and young people

Leadership team enablers

APPENDIX A: Evaluation criteria for Ofsted inspection of local authority children's services framework

Foreword

Families and Children are at the heart of everything we do in Wiltshire. We are ambitious for them, for our staff and for ourselves and together we share a determination to see all Wiltshire families thrive.

The core of our practice is a shared value base; we ensure that all decisions we make are always for the betterment of the most vulnerable in our community.

With strong, passionate political, strategic and operational leadership, and with a robust culture of learning, self-evaluation and high-performance culture, we have a good understanding of our strengths and areas for development.

We have worked relentlessly to improve our services and multi-agency partnerships over recent years through the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme. We aim to deliver consistently good services that ensure the needs of families and children are met at the right time by the right people. This is reflected in the Ofsted inspection report from July 2019 which rated children's services as 'Good' across the board. This is a credit shared by every member of staff who has or is currently working in children's services. The focused visit undertaken by Ofsted in January 2022 further confirms the strong delivery of services.

Continuous improvement is part of our learning culture and core values, as we want the best outcomes for our children, young people and families. Whilst we share an ambition for our services to be judged 'Outstanding' we know that the real reason that we are here is to improve the outcomes for children and families in Wiltshire and this is what drives our improvement planning.

How do we review the quality of our Practice?

To deliver our aspirations we must have a well-developed knowledge of self and a clear focus on the areas where further development is needed. We have a mature and comprehensive quality assurance framework and a detailed self-assessment which stands up well to internal and external scrutiny.

In delivering continuous improvement we need to ensure that our practice is kept up to date and enhancing the outcomes for each individual child and young person.

We have a long-standing performance and outcomes review culture with each service area having a Performance and Outcomes Group where performance measures and audit outcomes are reviewed, these groups feed into an overarching Performance and Outcomes Board which looks at the holistic picture across children's services. This system is key to providing a clear line of sight for the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member (see Line of Sight document for further detail).

Furthermore, with partners we have the Families and Children's Systems Assurance and Partnership Practice Review Groups that meet regularly to share practice and innovation across children's and adult social care services and the wider partnership. These partnership groups operate under the governance of our Safeguarding Vulnerable People's Partnership (SVPP), within these structures there is a strong culture of high challenge and mutual support.

The interaction between the groups and boards is a constant driver for practice, service and strategic development. Our managers have the information they need to drive performance forward including a secure suite of data, key performance indicators and learning from audit. This enables us to be prepared with data to hand to support peer reviews and inspections as they arise. There are other forums in which performance is also scrutinised; Senior Management Team (SMT) quarterly performance meetings, SMT Audit Group (which oversees the effectiveness of our Quality Assurance Framework) and team Performance Review meetings. Members also have regular opportunities to rigorously scrutinise and oversight practice through established groups including Children's Select Committee, Corporate Parenting Panel and Safeguarding Children Panel.

We listen carefully to our children, young people and families and recently implemented our Children and Young People Voice Service to continue to develop our practice and processes so we can ensure that children's voice is central to everything we do. There have been key successes in this area including developing the Wiltshire Youth Council. Youth Councillors have met with the senior leaders within the council, engaged with our local MP's and developed the Youth Union. While we are proud of what has been achieved to date, we recognise the critical importance of this work and have therefore set this as an ongoing strategic priority to support us in delivering our ambitions.

We regularly audit our own practice and also lead and participate in the sector led improvement programme which ensures that we are regularly benchmarking against other authorities within the South West region, statistical neighbours and 'Outstanding' authorities across the country. This means we have a clear grasp of where our performance is positioned, and which areas need further review and improvement. We continually learn through review and will be working on incorporating smaller, more discrete services into the quality assurance framework such as Canon's House and Aspire House our two registered children's homes which are regulated and inspected by Ofsted. This will strengthen the visibility of these services ensuring that issues that arise can be addressed in a timely manner and quality of services monitored more closely.

We operate a clear complaints process and ensure that we respond appropriately and in a timely manner to our children, young people and families where concerns are raised.

Our Mission Statement



As an authority, Wiltshire's ambition is to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children and young people. This includes children and young people in need of family support, children in need or at risk (in or outside the home), children with disabilities, children on the edge of care and/or

involved in criminal activity and children in our care who need permanence through kinship care, fostering and adoption. In order to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people our service mission statement is:

- *We strive to promote good outcomes for children and young people; for them to be happy, safe, and emotionally resilient; to fulfil their own potential, have opportunities, and engage in their communities. Families are supported to be autonomous and to be together.*
- *We work collaboratively with partners to support families to sustain change. We work in partnership with families, promoting their strengths, listening to their voice, developing family led plans, and empowering them to flourish.*
- *We provide the right help at the right time, empowering parents, and carers to be their best.*
- *We are committed to listening and learning from the families we work with and build this into our practice and service development plans.*
- *We are proud of all the people who are in our teams, who show commitment and dedication to the families and teams they work with. We have a highly skilled workforce who are supported to develop. Our communities have a strong voice and are listened to, informing our practice and service development. Our communities feel part of a service with shared values, to provide the best service to the families we work with. Our people feel well supported by managers and happy in their roles and are encouraged to be autonomous and creative.*

To ensure that we achieve the best outcomes for our children and young people, we recognise that we need to continually review and adapt our approaches to improve our practice and thus opportunities.

What are the key areas of focus to achieve our ambitions?

This Roadmap brings together identified areas for development from a wide range of sources including:

- Self-assessment
- Performance Groups and Board
- Consultation with children and young people
- Audit
- Inspection and peer review
- National learning

In order to achieve our ambition, we have set ourselves the following five key strategic priorities:

1. Enhancing and embedding the voice of children, young people and families to inform practice development

2. Empowering our workforce through effective leadership and oversight

3. Partnership development of Family Help (Early Help)

4. Improving sufficiency and choice of suitable placements and post 16 support

5. Good access to mental health/SEND support and services for children and young people

We have agreed these following a broad consultation exercise and drawn evidence from a wide range sources. These priorities are reflected in service development plans where the detailed actions to deliver our objectives sit. The overarching improvement plan will be reviewed through the Children's Performance and Outcomes Board and locally through Service Performance and Outcomes Groups. The Director, Families and Children's Service hold responsibility for its delivery. Progress will be reported to and monitored by Children's Select Committee, Children's Safeguarding Panel and Corporate Parenting Panel.

We have included the Ofsted inspection framework for local authority children's services as an appendix to this document, which will serve as a guide to enable us to benchmark against.

1. Enhancing and embedding the voice of children, young people and families to inform practice development

Action	Where identified	Output	What will this mean for children and young people?
1.1 We will undertake training with practitioners to ensure that records are written to the child and that the views of children, their family and carers are made explicit within their records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service plans 2022/2023 • Audit • Feedback from parents and children 	Improved evidence and inclusion of the views of children and young people	Children and young people will be able to identify their feedback clearly ensuring that they feel their thoughts and views have been taken into account. They will better understand their life story and influence their care planning
1.2 We will continue to improve how we listen to and involve children, young people and families so that their views inform all aspects of service planning and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service plans 2022/2023 • CYP Voice Service 	Improved voice information and user engagement	Children, young people and families feel their views are valued and inform service planning so that the service they receive is better suited to their needs
1.3 We will continue to develop and explore routes for gathering the views of children and young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service plans 2022/2023 • Audit • CYP Voice Service 	Improved engagement and feedback from young people	Children and young people can give their views in a way that suits them and have confidence

people e.g. Mind of My Own and family fun days		including children with a disability and non-verbal children	that this will inform the way we work with them
1.4 We will work to increase the evidence of the voice of fathers and male partners across contacts, single assessments, planning meetings and focus groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service plans 2022/2023 • Self-assessment • Audit • Ofsted 2019 	Improved engagement of fathers and male partners, more accurate assessment and analysis	Children and young people will know that the holistic views of the family will have been sought and taken into account in decision making

2. Empowering our workforce through effective leadership and oversight

Action	Where identified	Output	What will this mean for children and young people?
2.1 Ensure that all staff have balanced and reasonable caseloads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce strategy Ofsted inspection and framework Service plans 2022/23 	Our staff have the time to work meaningfully with families and children	Children and families benefit from relationship-based practice, with a dedicated practitioner who knows them well and understands how best to support them to achieve their potential
2.2 All staff have attended the council's equality, diversity and inclusion training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service plans 2022/2023 	Improved evidence of inclusion in their practice	Children and young people are treated fairly and consistently
2.3 We will review all processes to ensure that transitions and handovers are minimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service plans 2022/2023 Self-assessment CYP Voice Service 	Improved consistency of worker for child/family	Children and young people are supported by a consistent practitioner who they can build a relationship with
2.4 We will ensure that discrete services, such as our registered children's homes, have their performance embedded into the existing quality review processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Inspections 2022 Performance reviews 	Improved and consistently high quality of services	Children and young people attend or have placements in children's residential homes that are at minimum rated 'good' by Ofsted
2.5 We will ensure that all managers have refresher training in the Council's Our Identity values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service plans 2022/2023 Council priorities and business plans 	Improved application of the Our Identity values	Children and young people benefit from staff who feel empowered to their best
2.6 We will ensure that staff have access to Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) for social care practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service plans 2022/2023 Covid stocktake Staff consultation 	Improved resilience in staff group	Children and young people are supported by resilient staff and improved consistency in worker
2.7 We will provide regular forums and methods for staff to feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service plans 2022/2023 	Improved engagement and understanding of staff views	Children and young people will be supported by a workforce that feels supported by its leadership

2.8 We will continue to enhance an effective safeguarding culture in all Wiltshire schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted annual conversation November 2021 	Improved continued professional development within schools and effective support delivered	Children and young people will be safeguarded from harm
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3. Partnership development of Family Help (early help)

Action	Where identified	Output	What will this mean for children and young people?
3.1 We will work with partners to deliver the Family Help pilot from September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 	Intelligence will be gathered through the pilot to inform how family help can best be delivered across Wiltshire	There will be a cohesive Family Help offer across all partner agencies within Wiltshire so that families and children get the right support at the right time from the right people, reducing the requirement for statutory intervention
3.2 We will embed the Early Support Assessment (ESA) across the multi-agency partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 	Increase in the number of registrations of ESAs	Children and families will receive the support they need following a comprehensive assessment of Early Support needs, planning and review
3.3 We will agree basic building blocks for a shared understanding in practice and language with partners e.g. the rollout of Five to Thrive Attachment Trauma, Resilience training and Restorative Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme 	Staff from all partners working with children, young people and families have a consistent approach and language	Children and families receive more consistent and understandable interactions for professionals regardless of the agency they are from
3.4 We will continue to work regionally across the South West to access funding and share best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Priorities and Recovery Plan for the South West 	Best practice seen regionally can be implemented locally within Wiltshire	Children and families will benefit from national and regionally recognised innovation programmes which improve outcomes
3.5 We will continue to embed Contextual Safeguarding and Transitional Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 	Staff in organisation across the safeguarding landscape will be effectively trained in the	Children and young people will be safeguarded from harm

<p>approaches both within the Council and across multi-agency partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme 	<p>Contextual Safeguarding/Transitional Safeguarding approaches</p>	
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4. Improving sufficiency and choice of suitable placements and post 16 support

Action	Where identified	Output	What will this mean for children and young people?
4.1 We will work across social care and commissioning to continue to develop a robust placements strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 Self-assessment Performance review POB 	Improved understanding and identification of placement needs	Children and young people will have access to local placements that meet their needs
4.2 We will work regionally and with partners to review and ensure that specialist placements are available as close to home as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 Self-assessment Performance review POB 	Increased provision for children and young people with more specialist needs	Children and young people will have access to the support they need in order to thrive and in/or close to Wiltshire
4.3 We will continue to identify funding opportunities to improve and increase placement provision within Wiltshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-assessment Sufficiency Strategy 	Increased provision through market development and an increase in the number of placements available	Children and young people will be supported in placements within their community
4.5 We will continue to ensure that suitable supported accommodation is available for those aged 16+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of legislation September 2021 Self-assessment Sufficiency strategy 	Fewer young people will be in unregulated/unregistered provision	Young people will be appropriately supported in the right environment
4.6 We will ensure that sufficient supply of permanent accommodation is available to disabled young people and care experienced young people providing support when they need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service plans 2022/2023 Self-assessment Sufficiency strategy 	Fewer young people will be homeless or in temporary accommodation	Young people have a permanent home and can call on support when they need it and for as long as they need it
4.7 We will continue to raise the profile of private fostering in local communities in Wiltshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted inspection report July 2019 Performance review 	Awareness of private fostering increases across community areas	Children and young people live in the right environment where they

			are safe and have the opportunity to thrive
4.8 We will continually review our local offer from the Corporate Family to care experienced young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service plans 2022/2023 • Visit from DfE Adviser 2021 • Ofsted Focussed Visit 2022 	Increased offer to young people and extend opportunities that are available to them	Young people have access to a wider range of services and support

5. Good access to mental health/SEND support and services for children and young people

Action	Where identified	Output	What will this mean for children and young people?
5.1 We will continue to improve access to mental health support within schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 Self-assessment 	<p>Assessment and increase of mental health support teams in schools</p> <p>Development of emotion coaching support within schools</p>	Children and young people can access support when they need it
5.2 We will work with partners to improve access to and support from Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 SEND Strategy 2020-2023 	All eligible requests for support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are met within the national required standards within 24 weeks	Children and young people can access specialist support when they need it
5.3 We will work across partners and the voluntary sector to fully understand the impact of the pandemic on the demand within mental health services for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 Families and Children's Transformation Programme 	Increased understanding of demand through partnership modelling and identification of gaps	Across the partnership there will be greater understanding of what support is available for children and young people and how they can access it
5.4 We will explore more innovative ways of providing mental health support to children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND Strategy 2020-2023 	Improved digital offer across home and educational settings including schools and colleges	Children and young people are able to access support in a way that is meaningful for them
5.5 We will continue to work with health and education partners to ensure that Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are completed in a timely manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND Strategy 2020-2023 	A reduction in the number of plans exceeding the set timescales	Children and young people will have effective plans that meet their needs when they need them
5.6 We will extend the target age group of the Young People's Service to include those up to age 25 and remove system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and Children's Transformation Programme 	Ensure appropriate resources and skills are in place to support smoother transitions	Young people and young adults will be supported across transitional boundaries

barriers associated with the transition from children to adult services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 		
5.7 We will establish an integrated approach to the commissioning, design and delivery of services and pathways (including crisis response) related to Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autistic Spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Annual Conversation November 2021 	Improved understanding of and simplification of pathways based on need	Children, young people and families are involved in co-production for the development of pathways
5.8 We will develop and implement Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) and the graduated response as part of the inclusion strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted annual conversation November 2021 SEND Inclusion Strategy 2020-2023 	Improved information available for school and parents	Children and young people will be supported effectively

Evaluation criteria for Ofsted inspection of local authority children’s services framework

Priority 1:

The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection

Early Help

- Children, young people and families are offered help when needs and/or concerns are first identified. The early help improves the child’s situation and supports sustainable progress. The interface between early help and statutory work is clearly and effectively differentiated.

Identifying and responding to children’s needs and appropriate thresholds

- Professionals identify children and young people in need of help and protection. They make appropriate referrals to children’s social care and are able to access social work expertise and advice. There is a timely and effective response to referrals, including out of normal office hours and referrals to the designated officer. Professionals understand thresholds. This leads to children and families receiving effective, proportionate and timely interventions, which improve their situation.

Making good decisions and providing effective help

- Children and families experience child protection enquiries that are thorough and lead to timely action, which reduces the risk of harm to children.
- Allegations of abuse, mistreatment or poor practice by professionals and carers are taken seriously. Steps are taken to protect children and young people and the management of allegations against staff is robust and effective.
- Assessments and plans are dynamic and change in the light of emerging issues and risks. Assessments (including early

help assessments) are timely and proportionate to risk. They are informed by research and by the historical context and significant events for each child. They result in direct help for families if needed and are focused on achieving sustainable progress for children. Help given to families is proportionate to the level of need. Information-sharing between agencies and professionals is timely, specific, effective and lawful.

- Children in need of help and/or protection have a plan setting out how they will be helped, how their needs are going to be met and how risk will be reduced within the timescales appropriate for the child. If families refuse to engage, clear contingency plans are in place. These are based on the assessment of need and risks to the child. Action is taken to avoid drift and delay. Plans and decisions are reviewed. Alternative decisive action is taken if children’s circumstances do not change and the help provided does not meet their needs, or the risk of harm or actual harm remains or intensifies.
- Children and young people are protected through effective multi-agency arrangements. Key participants attend multi-agency meetings (for example, case conferences, strategy meetings, core groups and multi-agency risk assessment conferences). These meetings are effective forums for timely information-sharing, planning, decision-making and monitoring. Actions happen within agreed timescales and the help and protection provided reduce risk and meet need.

Management oversight of frontline practice

- Decisions are made by suitably qualified and experienced social workers and managers. Actions are clearly recorded. Systematic and high-quality management oversight of frontline practice drives child-centred plans and actions within the timescales appropriate for the child. Effective and timely planning, support and decision-making takes place during pre-proceedings work.

Participation and direct work with children and families

- Children, young people and families benefit from stable and meaningful relationships with social workers. They are consistently seen and seen alone by social workers if it is in the best interests of the child. Practice is based on understanding each child’s day-to-day lived experience. Children are safer as a result of the help they receive.
- Children and young people are listened to. Practice focuses on their needs and experiences and is influenced by their wishes and feelings. Children, young people and families have timely access to, and use the services of, an advocate. Feedback from children and their families about the effectiveness of the help, care or support they receive informs practice and service development.
- Neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional abuse are effectively identified and responded to. Children and young people who live in households where at least one parent or carer misuses substances or suffers from mental ill-health, or where there is domestic violence, are helped and protected.

Identifying and responding to all types of abuse recognising the vulnerability of specific groups of children

- Social workers recognise the factors that can make children more vulnerable and tailor their interventions appropriately.

This includes, but is not limited to, disabled children, children who are privately fostered, children not attending school, vulnerable adolescents and children at risk of radicalisation or exploitation or becoming involved in gangs.

- Children and young people who are missing from home, care or full-time school education (including those who are excluded from school) and those at risk of exploitation and trafficking receive well-coordinated responses that reduce the harm or risk of harm to them. The local authority has arrangements in place to identify the number of children not in full-time school education and to respond if there are concerns about their welfare. For those who are missing or often missing, there is a clear plan of urgent action in place to protect them and to reduce the risk of harm or further harm.

Priority 2:

The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers

Making good decisions for children

- Children and young people become looked after in a timely manner and in their best interests. Decisions that children should be in care are based on clear, effective, comprehensive and risk-based assessments, involving, if appropriate, other professionals working with the family.
- If it is not possible for children to return home, suitable and timely plans for permanence are made for them to live away from the family home.
- If the plan for a child is to return home, there is purposeful work carried out with the family so that it is safe for the child to return. Further care episodes are avoided unless they are provided as a part of an appropriate plan of support.
- The wishes and feelings of children, and those of their parents, are clearly set out in timely and authoritative assessments and applications to court. Assessments of family members as potential carers are carried out promptly to a good standard.
- Children’s care plans comprehensively address their needs and experiences, including the need for timely permanence. Children’s plans are thoroughly and independently reviewed with the involvement, as appropriate, of parents, carers, residential staff and other adults who know them. Plans for their futures continue to be appropriate ambitious

Participation and direct work with children in care and care leavers

- Children are seen regularly and seen alone by their social worker and children understand what is happening to them. Children have positive and stable relationships with professionals and

carers who are committed to protecting them and promoting their welfare.

- Children in care and care leavers are helped to understand their rights, entitlements and responsibilities. They know how to give feedback or complain and understand what has happened as a result of their complaint. Their complaints are treated seriously and are responded to clearly. Urgent action is taken and services improve when necessary. Children and young people have access to an advocate and independent visitor when needed. Care leavers are well-informed about access to their records, assistance to find employment, training and financial support.
- The local authority celebrates the achievements of children in care and care leavers. It shows it is ambitious for their futures.
- Children in care and care leavers are well represented by a Children in Care Council or similar body, which is regularly consulted on how to improve the support for these children and young people.

Helping and protecting

- Children in care and care leavers are protected or helped to keep themselves safe from bullying, homophobic behaviour and other forms of discrimination.
- Any risks associated with children and care leavers offending, misusing drugs or alcohol, going missing or being sexually exploited or exploited in any other way are known well by the adults who care for them. Children receive help to reduce the risk of harm or actual harm. Children and care leavers are safe and feel safe. They are helped to understand how they can keep themselves safe.

Health

- Children in care and care leavers are in good physical and mental health, or are being helped to improve their health. Their health needs are identified and met.
- Care leavers have access to and understand their full health history.

Learning and enjoyment

- Children and young people make good educational progress at school or other provision since being in care. They receive the same support from their carers as they would from a good parent.
- Children and young people who do not attend school have prompt access to suitable good-quality registered alternative provision. There is regular review of their progress. Urgent action is taken if children are missing from education or if their attendance reduces.
- Children and young people enjoy what they do and have access to a range of social, educational and recreational opportunities. Adult carers have suitable delegated authority to make prompt decisions about children’s day-to-day lives.

Stability and permanence

- Children and young people are safe and settled where they live. They move only in line with care plans, when they are at risk of harm or are being harmed. They do not live anywhere that fails to meet their needs. They are able to live with their brothers and sisters when this is in their best interests, including when they are adopted. Children and young people have appropriate, carefully assessed and supported contact with family, friends and other people who are important to them.
- Children and care leavers who live away from their ‘home’ local authority have access to education and health services that meet their needs as soon as they move outside of their ‘home’ area. Placing local authorities notify the

‘receiving’ local authority that a child is moving to their area promptly and ensure that services are in place to meet the child’s needs before the child moves.

- There is a sufficiently wide range and choice of placements available to meet the needs of children in care.
- Effective recruitment, assessment, training and support of carers (including, as appropriate, foster carers, adopters, special guardians and residential staff) ensure that children and young people receive high-quality, safe and stable care that meets their diverse needs.
- All agencies and professionals work together effectively to reduce any unnecessary delay in receiving support and achieving permanence for children.
- Children are effectively prepared for, and carefully matched with, a permanent placement. Their wishes and feelings influence the decisions about where they live. Children are helped to develop secure, primary attachments with the adults caring for them. They are helped to understand their life histories, experiences and identities.
- The accessibility, style and clarity of case records enhance the understanding that children in care and care leavers have about their histories and experiences.
- Adoption is considered carefully and promptly for all children who are unable to return home or to their birth families and who need a permanent alternative home. This includes good use of concurrent and parallel planning, the Adoption Register and Fostering for Adoption.
- Fostering and adoption panels, and the respective decision-makers, ensure that children are effectively matched with families. Local authorities have arrangements in place to ensure consistently good practice and receive regular feedback on the effectiveness of the work of panels.
- Children who are adopted, their adoptive families, their birth relatives and adopted adults are informed, and are aware of, their entitlement to receive an assessment of their adoption support

needs. When support is needed, it is provided quickly, effectively and leads to improved circumstances for the children, young people, families and carers involved.

Care leavers and transitions

- Care leavers have timely, effective pathway plans (including transition planning for children in care with learning difficulties and/or disabilities). These plans address all young people’s needs. Reviews of plans for care leavers are thorough and involve all key people, including the young person, who understands their pathway plan and contributes to its development. Plans for their future continue to be appropriate, as well as ambitious.
- Care leavers develop the skills and confidence they need to maximise their chances of successful maturity to adulthood, including parenthood. Care leavers have trusted relationships with carers and staff from the local authority and develop supportive relationships within the community, including with family and friends. They receive the right level of practical, emotional and financial support until they are at least 21 and, when necessary, until they are 25.
- Care leavers move towards independence at a pace that is right for them. Young people are encouraged to remain in care until their 18th birthday when this is in their best interest. They can remain living with their carers beyond their 18th birthday or, if more appropriate, receive ongoing support to live in permanent and affordable accommodation that fully meets their needs.
- Care leavers have good education and employment opportunities, including work experience and apprenticeships. They are encouraged and supported to continue their education and training, including those aged 21 to 24 years. Care leavers are progressing well and achieving their full potential through either being in further or higher education or in their chosen career/occupation.
- Care leavers have accommodation that best meets their needs and helps them to develop their independence skills safely. Risks of tenancy breakdown are identified and addressed; alternative plans are put in place promptly when necessary. Houses of multiple occupation are only used when it is a young person’s preferred option and it can demonstrably be shown to be in their best interests. When young people live in unregulated settings, the local authority takes steps to ensure that their accommodation is suitable and that they are protected against any risks to their safety or welfare.
- Care leavers are provided with all key documents they need to begin their lives as young adults, such as national insurance numbers, birth certificates and passports.

Priority 3:

The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families

Strategic leadership

- The leadership of the council, including the chief executive, lead member (and other members) and the DCS recognise and prioritise the needs of children and this is reflected in corporate decision-making, action and active attendance at key committees and boards.
- The chief executive and lead member are well informed and hold the DCS and their leadership team to account for the quality of practice and the challenges in the local area. This is exemplified through accurate assessments of practice that drive improvement.
- Strategic leaders ensure that relationships with key partners, including the health community, the police, schools, Cafcass and the family courts, provide a helpful and effective context for social workers and practitioners to work effectively with children and families.
- The local authority is an active, strong and committed corporate parent – in line with the corporate parenting principles (see Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017). There is a corporate sense of responsibility for children in care and care leavers and the chief executive leads a local authority that recognises and prioritises the needs of children in all aspects, such as housing, career opportunities, education and learning.

Learning culture

- The local authority has a track record of responding appropriately, effectively and quickly to areas for development, service deficiencies or new demands, and shows resilience to new challenges. The local authority’s self-evaluation of practice is accurate.
- The local authority has detailed and relevant knowledge of its local communities, including children in care

and care leavers and uses this knowledge effectively to meet their needs. Leaders identify the vulnerable groups in their local areas and their needs and ensure that there is an effective response for these groups of children. Commissioned and in-house services have sufficient capacity and meet the needs of local children, young people and families in need of help, care and protection.

- The local authority can demonstrate evidence of practice that is informed and sustainably improved by feedback, research and intelligence about the quality of services. The experiences of children, young people and families who use them are important, including learning from their complaints and from successful or disrupted placements or adoption breakdown.

Performance management

- The local authority, through performance management and monitoring, has an accurate and systematically updated understanding of its effectiveness and uses this to drive improvement.
- Management oversight of practice, including practice scrutiny by senior managers, is established, systematic and used clearly to improve the quality of decisions and the provision of help to children and young people.

Workforce

- Careful monitoring of workloads and oversight of the impact of wider systems on working conditions for practitioners ensure that practitioners have the capacity and ability to develop meaningful relationships with children and families. The impact of any systems change is well managed, with a sustained focus on the experience of children and families.

- The local authority social care workforce is sufficient, suitably qualified and accredited to deliver high-quality services to children and their families. (For more information about accreditation, see the [national assessment and accreditation system \(NAAS\)](#)). Managers and practitioners are experienced, effectively trained and supervised and the quality of their practice improves the lives of vulnerable children, young people and families. There is effective organisational support for the training and professional development of social workers and managers. Leaders and managers have created an environment where good social work can flourish and this is evident in the overall quality and impact of social work.

National Review into Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs in Residential Settings

Wiltshire Council - Outcome of Review

Purpose of Report

1. This report contains the outcomes and recommendations of the Quality and Safety Reviews of 10 Wiltshire children and young people with disabilities and complex needs requested by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to all Directors for Children's Services (DCS) on 23 August 2022.

Background

2. On 23 August 2022, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel issued a letter to all Directors of Children's Services (DCS) requesting two actions be completed. These actions were to provide further assurances in relation to a national review that has been considering the experiences of children placed in three specialist independent residential settings located in the Doncaster area subject to allegations of widespread abuse.
3. Due to the findings in the national review, it was recommended that additional assurance was needed immediately for children in similar placements to ensure that they remain safe and are receiving the most appropriate and high-quality care.
4. The actions requested of the DCS to be carried out by 23 November 2022 were as follows:
 - Action one - Carry out Quality and Safety Reviews for all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living in residential specialist schools registered as children's homes (those who are resident for part of the year as well as those who are resident all year)
 - Action two - In relation to the same group of people, the host authority LADO for each individual establishment is to review all information on any referrals, complaints and concerns over the past 3 years relating to the workforce to ensure they have been appropriately and actioned. Also, to contact any local authorities who currently have children placed in the establishments in their area if there are any outstanding enquiries being carried out regarding staff employed at the home
5. Following completion of the actions, a report of the findings was requested to be compiled and shared with safeguarding partners, local parenting boards and the Regional Improvement Support Lead within the Department for Education by 23 December 2022.

Action One:

6. A multi agency review of the 10 children (10-17 years old) has been undertaken as requested by 23 November 2022. Of these 10 children, 7 are children in care, 1 child in need, 1 subject of a Single Assessment under S17 and 1 not open to children's social care. The average distance between the child's home and placement address is 54 miles.
7. Of the 6 establishments these children are placed within, the Ofsted judgements are: 2 Outstanding, 3 Good and 1 Requires Improvement (RI).
8. All children were seen in both their school and home setting.

9. No immediate or significant concerns have been raised as part of these reviews. Any matters requiring improvement were already subject to additional monitoring and assurance with the providers. The decision for children to remain in establishments judged RI is taken on a risk assessed, needs led basis. Therefore, this was completed prior to the review as per procedures for the 1 child placed in the RI establishment.
10. The review has highlighted areas of good practice as well as identifying areas that would strengthen practice.
11. In 100% of cases the Communication Plan was in place, up to date; with supporting evidence of how it was being used effectively.
12. In 100% of cases the most recent Positive Behaviour Support Plan was being used and was up to date. In all settings training was in place and staff supported in the implementation of these plans.
13. In 2 cases there were incidents that related to medication not being administered sufficiently well that resulted in discussion about how this would be prevented and monitored more robustly in the future.
14. All children are registered with the GP, Dentist and Optician/Specialist and have a Statutory Health Assessment in place where applicable, all actions have been completed, except for one child whose assessment is currently being updated as it is overdue.
15. All reviews identified a good level of understanding of the mental health and well-being needs of the children. Examples of this included use of PACE, music therapy and psychology/psychiatrist appointments, family therapy, speech and language support, interests being catered for and personalised communication approaches and strategies.
16. All of the children subject to this review are engaged in education. Attendance ranges between 79-100%, with lower attendance attributed to the needs of the child rather than a concern about the providers/practitioners role in supporting this. All the children have clear progress targets for their education, and these are quite often termly targets which are regularly reviewed.
17. Each establishment had their own method for maximising contact with the significant people in these children's lives. Examples included video calls, sharing of photographs, 'open door' policy around time with family and weekend visits to grandparents. There was a very strong emphasis on this family time with a variety of methods of frequencies employed that met the child's and family's needs.
18. There was evidence the child's voice was heard and their lived experience understood, with quotes used to describe in children's own words. This was harder to achieve in one instance due to how the child was feeling on that day, which is why rounded methods of understanding 'voice' is key as children may not feel able or want to speak with their lead practitioner when they visit for example. There were ample examples of how other professionals could recognise the positive impact of the care upon the child's wider outcomes. Strong relationships were a theme, as well as consistency of staffing. There was also evidence of issues being raised and challenge given where dissatisfaction existed.

19. Feedback from parents and carers highlighted very positive views of care, as well as some frustrations they appeared 'stuck' with resolving. For example, a parent's request for their child to receive the covid vaccination not being met. It is important all parents feel able, and are asked routinely, about their views on care in order for practitioners to support them in resolving matters if this isn't being achieved through their own liaison with the home.
20. Safeguarding concerns were raised for 4/10 children. Three of these did not raise any concerns and evidenced the safeguarding practice was robust. In another, there was agreement that the provider should have alerted the social worker to the incident sooner, but their practice did not give rise to on-going safeguarding concerns. Liberty Protection Safeguards are in place for all relevant children.
21. The multi agency group reviewed staffing records against the required level of staffing and found them to be satisfactory excluding any incidents already referenced above within the safeguarding section. For most individuals support is provided as 1:1 during the day, 2:1 in the community, and shared support overnight.
22. Where children and young people are eligible for an Annual Review, actions from the latest reviews have been checked and where actions are still outstanding there is either a plan to complete those actions or they are due to be completed at a date specified into 2023.
23. Areas of consideration:

Quality Assurance

- Regulation 44 reports are not routinely received by the Children's Commissioning team, the review enabled these to be requested. This has highlighted that there are sometimes incidents in these reports that may not have been previously flagged to commissioners or the relevant case holding team that builds a bigger picture of the child's lived experience.
- How providers ensure regulation 44 visits remain independent and provide the necessary scrutiny is a consideration.
- A routine sharing of information meeting led by commissioning to inform the on-going overall and assurance of a provider.

Providers

- The review highlighted some good practice examples with providers following processes robustly but also some where incidents are not notified to the relevant workers as quickly as they should be.
- Although most staff have been trained in Positive Behaviour Support and use the plans, there were a couple of instances where holds were used that were not written into the plans and had been classed as 'emergency' holds.

Action Two:

24. As Wiltshire has no current establishments meeting the criteria of the review there were no actions for the DOFA (Wiltshire LADO) to undertake.

Recommendations

25. The multi agency review group have reviewed all assessments and findings and identified some recommendations to strengthen the oversight of children and young people in these types of placement:
- Commissioning will lead in establishing further quality assurance mechanisms with providers, to include that all Regulation 44 visits will be routinely requested and reviewed by commissioning where there are concerns expressed about a provider, or where their Ofsted rating is requires improvement, or inadequate.
 - Improve communication between commissioning and practitioners involved in these children's lives through additional meetings and engagement; ensuring a comprehensive view of the care children are receiving and that it remains the most appropriate and high quality.
 - That all staff working with these children continue to be alert to the on-going consideration that these are some of our most vulnerable children, living at distance. Ensuring everyone understands their individual role in assuring themselves around the care children receive from these providers is paramount.
26. We have determined it is important to undertake a further phase of work in early 2023 to review similar residential placements for children and young people not in dual registered establishments. This will ensure that the same rigor and assurance process has been carried for all children with similar vulnerabilities and consider any additional learning.

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

17 January 2023

High Needs Block Funding Rapid Scrutiny – Final report

Purpose of the report

1. To present to the Children's Select Committee (CSC) the findings and recommendations from the rapid scrutiny exercise undertaken on High Needs Block (HNB).

Membership

2. Cllr Jo Trigg (lead), Cllr Pauline Church and Cllr Kathryn MacDermid.

Terms of reference

3. The aim of the rapid scrutiny was:

To review the current processes and explore whether there would be 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.

Meeting

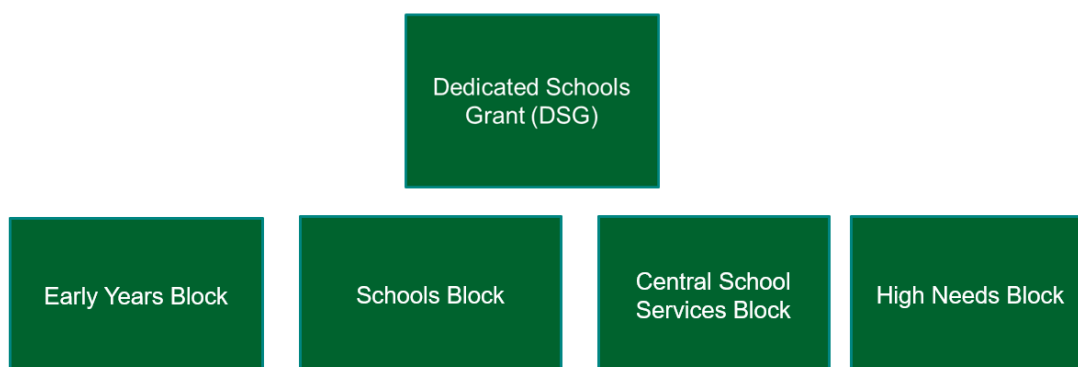
4. There was a single meeting held on Wednesday 9 November 2022.
5. The rapid scrutiny members were grateful to the following officers and Executive Members for their attendance and the information they provided at the meeting:
 - a. Cllr Jane Davies, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion
 - b. Anthony Fennell, Delivering Better Value in SEND Lead
 - c. Cllr Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills
 - d. Cate Mullen, Head of SEND and Inclusion
 - e. Marie Taylor, Head of Finance, Children & Education
 - f. Lucy Townsend, Corporate Director People
 - g. Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Portfolio Holder for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and Inclusion

Findings

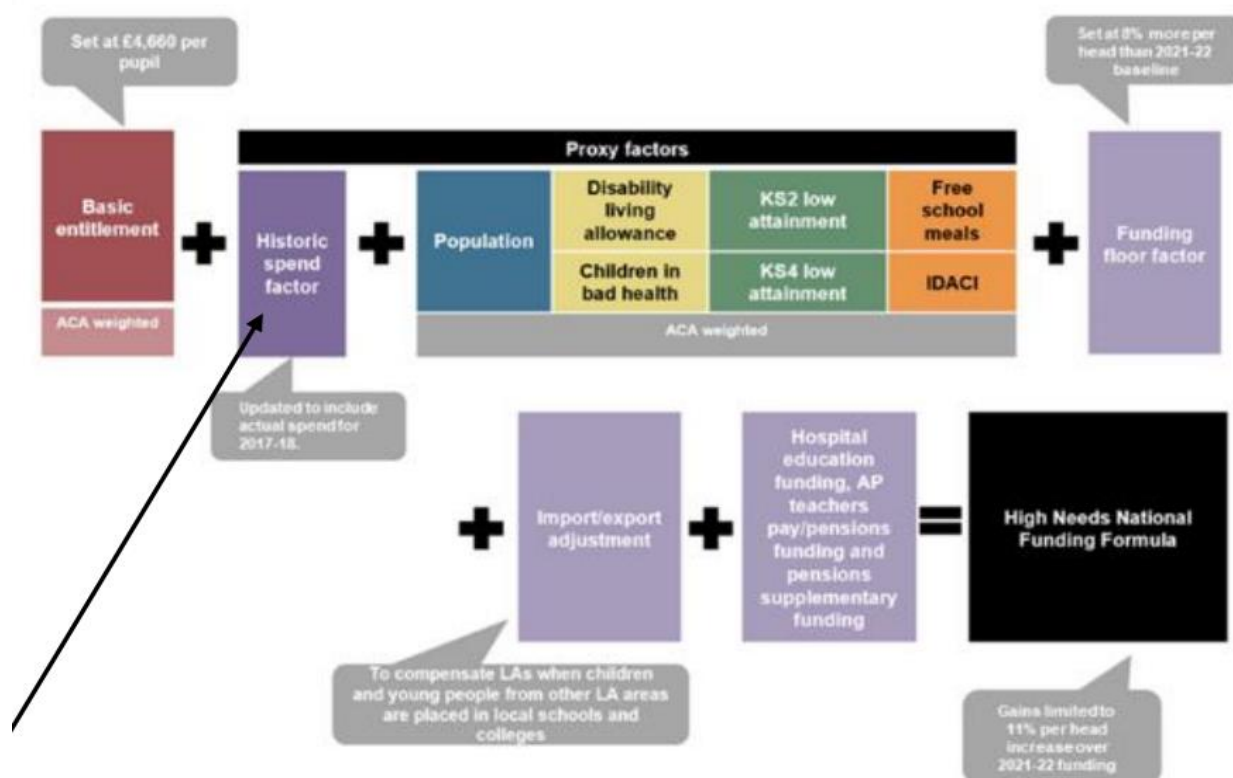
- Members of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise, thereafter referred to as “members”, received a very comprehensive presentation to provide them with a clearer picture of the current situation in Wiltshire regarding HNB (High Needs Block) funding.

What is HNB funding

- High needs funding supported provision for pupils and students with SEND, from their early years to age 25, and alternative provision for pre-16 pupils who, because of exclusion, illness, or other reasons, could not receive their education in mainstream classrooms.
- High needs funding is provided to local authorities through HNB of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), enabling them to meet their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014
- HNB was one of four funding blocks within the DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant). The DSG for Wiltshire in financial year 2022/23 was £422m (which it was noted was effectively more than the council's overall budget) and the HNB allocation was £63m (around 15% of DSG).



- Since 2004, there had been limited flexibility for local authorities to re-allocate the DSG between the four blocks, with only a 0.5% transfer to HNB available to the Schools Forum. Any additional or higher transfer of money between the blocks would need to be approved by the Secretary of State. The Wiltshire's Schools Forum have voted to transfer 0.5% from schools block to high needs block for a number of years (since 2018-19 at least).
- HNB is allocated based on National Funding Formula (NFF). There are 12 elements to the high needs NFF which form the basis for local authority HNB allocations. The following diagram shows the funding factors, and complexity, in the high needs NFF.



12. Historic spend – the members’ attention was drawn to the historic spend which created issues for Wiltshire as it was based on actual spend from 2017 to 2018. In 2017 Wiltshire was below national average with regards to numbers of plans (and statements of SEN), whereas in 2021 Wiltshire was above the national average. This meant the historic spend factor had been increasingly discrepant from the needs of young people in Wiltshire.

The Wiltshire picture

13. In Wiltshire, at the time of the meeting, there were 4608 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) which represented 4% of school age population. An EHCP was a legal, and binding, personalised document. It set out the education, health and social care needs of a child or young person aged 0 to 25 years old with special educational needs or disabilities. It was noted that there had been a constant and significant increase in EHCPs since their introduction in 2015 as shown in the table below.

Total EHCPs in Wiltshire	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	1992	2342	2733	2982	3349	3784	4142	4594*

14. The rate of request for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) in Wiltshire was also showing continuity in the pressure in demand and anticipated increase year on year (with an exception during Covid-19 in 2020) as shown below. There were over 500 EHCNA underway in Wiltshire at the time of the meeting, with 1001 requests for EHCNA received in 2022.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of requests	503	505	690	722	588	737	857
							16% increase from 2021

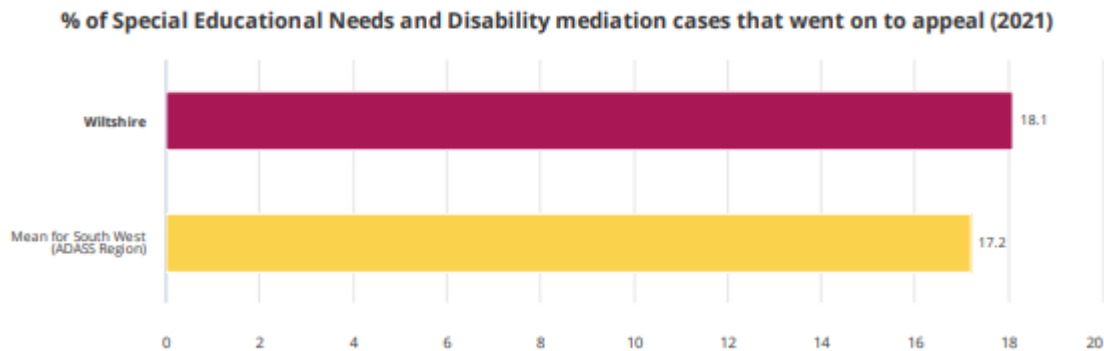
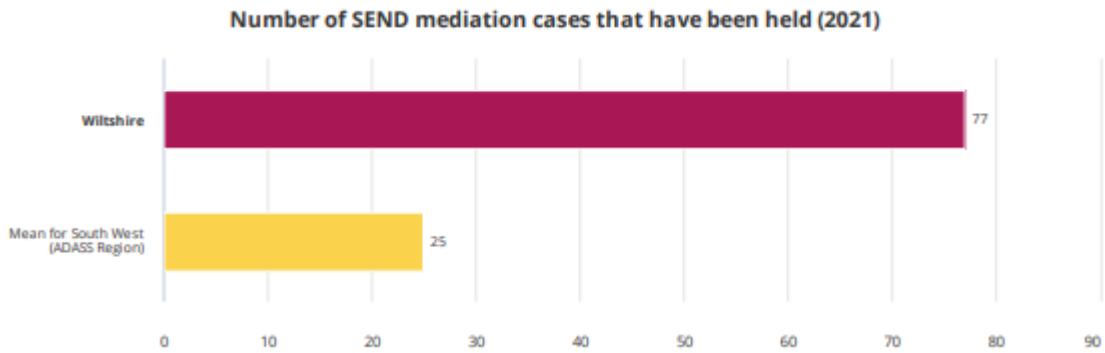
15. EHCNA were the first step in the process of requesting an EHCP, although not all will lead to an EHCP a majority were anticipated to. Members noted that the process for decision making by the SEND Discussion and Decision (DaD) Group was quite innovative and had been co-produced with parent carers (further information on the decision process is provided in Appendix 1).

16. The refusal rate to assess in 2021 was lower in Wiltshire (11.4%) than the average in the South West (19.4%) but it had increased by 3.9% compared to 2020. There were no single or particular reason identified for refusal of EHCNA meaning that there were no identified issues in communication and information to schools, parents, professional, early years setting or young people (who were the sources of EHCNA requests in 2021 and 2022) with regards to the EHCP process. Requests were refused where the information provided indicated that the young person's needs could be met within the resource which were ordinarily available to the school or setting.

17. Five main national challenges highlighted in the LGA / ISOS report 2018 were identified by officers as still relevant to Wiltshire:

- a. Cuts to inclusion support which lead to a downward spiral with reduction in services since 2008,
- b. Around 85% of spend is on places and top-ups with are committed long-term and attached to individual children,
- c. The legal system with some variability in tribunal decisions and lack of clarity on the impact of a recent judicial review,
- d. Limits on borrowing and ability to transfer money or de-delegate which made “invest to save” difficult,
- e. Special schools being largely full, and the difficulties linked to creating new provision, leading to more placements out of area placement or in Independent, Non-Maintained School Settings (higher cost).

18. These pressures were further compounded by a sharp increase in mediation requests and families being legally represented in the dispute resolution process, which meant that officers' time spent on these was effectively diverted from processing EHCNA and / or EHCPs, therefore “feeding” the downward spiral of frustration and negative public perception regarding the timeliness of completing EHCPs, which in turn raised expectations.



Source - [Local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities report for Wiltshire Council | LG Inform](#)

19. With regards to meeting the twenty-week completion timeliness for EHCNA (including exceptions) Wiltshire, at 24.3%, was performing significantly lower than the South West (49.3%) and national average (57.9%). However, it was noted by members that Wiltshire did have a higher rate of pupils with SEN (2021/22 academic year) at 17.7% than the mean for the South West (16.7%), as well as a higher rate of looked after children with an EHCP (44.8% compared to 37.5%) and Children in Need with an EHCP (32.3% compared to 28.6%).
20. It was explained that the pressures identified in paragraph 17 were experienced nationally, which was corroborated by the background information the members had accessed, but that the added difficulty for Wiltshire was the increasing discrepancy between the historic spend factor of the funding formula and the current, and ever increasing, levels of needs, leading to significant funding pressure and what could be seen as disproportionately unfair funding.
21. In Wiltshire there were 867 places being provided in 3 Special Schools, 339 places in Resource Bases in 18 primary schools and 290 places in Enhanced Learning Provision in 27 secondary schools (only 2 secondary school did not offer Enhanced Learning Provision, both being selective grammar schools).

22. For resource bases and enhanced learning provision funding was paid on the basis of the number of places with an additional top-up reflecting the particular needs of each child as detailed in their EHCP. Place funding was determined by the DfE at £6,000 per filled place per school year but top-up rates were agreed locally by Schools Forum and the current rates in Wiltshire are reflected in the table below (it should be noted there is a level which comes with no funding). Additional funding may also be received by schools depending on each child's circumstances (e.g. deprivation, low attainment, pupil premium, etc.). The principles were broadly similar for special schools but places were funded at £10,000 per place.

Band	L1	U1	L2	U2	3	4
Rate	2,023	4,067	5,569	7,384	10,822	15,796

23. It was positively noted that thanks to resource bases (primary schools) and enhanced learning provision (secondary schools) there were more pupils with an EHCP educated in mainstream schools in Wiltshire in 2022 (49.5%) than the South West (42.1%) and national average (40.4%). And also that NEET (not in education, employment and training) figures in Wiltshire were some way below national and regional average.

Mitigating the HNB deficit in Wiltshire

24. It was anticipated the opening of the SAIL school in Salisbury and planned developments at Silverwood would somewhat ease pressure in terms of providing additional places and avoiding higher costs (out of area and / or Independent, non-maintained schools' placements).

25. Members were informed of a plan to develop a provision similar to Resource Bases (currently only available in primary schools) for secondary schools, with pilot ones opening from September 2023. Resources Bases could simplistically be described as "a school within the school" and were designed to provide specialist and therapeutic teaching within a mainstream school. Each school would determine the "specialism" for its resource base, e.g. complex needs, communication and interaction, physical or hearing impairment, etc. (*further information can be access on the council's website [Schools and secondary providers - Local Offer \(wiltshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-and-secondary-providers-local-offer)*).

26. Officers also described their plans to improve on-going monitoring of independent placements and other highest-cost packages whereby savings in excess of £1m had been tracked at pupil level over 12 months. The monitoring of spend was also an issue raised by members with regards to best practice in the way schools would allocate the money they would have received to meet a child's needs.

27. Officers offered reassurance that an exercise to establish a costed provision map for each EHCP was underway. Due to the current number of EHCPs this could not be undertaken for every existing EHCP at present time but was

instigated as part of each new EHC needs assessment as well as any application for re-banding of a current EHCP. This process would enable an oversight of the provision in place for a learner and the costs associated with providing this.

28. The sharing of good-practice as well as exploring a model of collaborative, school-to-school support networks, were already being considered by officers to support schools and help them access effective and implementable information with regards to early intervention, inclusion and improving school attendance.
29. It was noted that Wiltshire Council subscribed to the f40 group – the campaign for fairer funding in education – which undertook lobbying at a national level to seek fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live. *Further information can be found on the [f40 group website](#).*
30. The DfE had a series of programmes of support for local authorities with deficit balances. The Safety Valve programme was designed to support 20 local authorities whose deficits were of most concern, Members were informed that Wiltshire would be part of the “Delivering Better Value in SEND” DfE-led programme in partnership with CIPFA and Newton Europe, which was aiming to support local authorities with a deficit to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services were sustainable.
31. These 55 local authorities, with significant HNB deficits, would be taking part starting in 2022-23. The programme was split into two phases: diagnostic (6 months) and implementation (18 phases) with the DfE proposing Wiltshire diagnostic phase starting in January 2023. [**Note** – since the meeting took place the DfE have accepted a request from officers to defer start date to Summer 2023 to align with local timescales for a programme of SEND transformation].
32. This would be an opportunity for systematic work to identify HNB pressures and cost drivers.
33. Members also noted that there was an existing HNB working group reporting to Wiltshire’s Schools Forum.
34. It was noted by members that although a majority of local authorities experienced HNB deficit some did not. Of the 149 authorities responsible for education in England 77 had responded to the f40 SEND survey in the autumn of 2022. Of the 77 local authorities that responded, 69 expected their SEND budgets to be in deficit for 2020/21, with only eight expecting to have a balance or to finish even. On 5 May 2022, Disability Rights UK stated that “*As of the end of March 2022, there was a high-needs SEND funding black hole in England of £1.3bn - an increase of £465 million. Three quarters of local authorities (LAs) now have SEND funding deficits, some of which have*

doubled or tripled in the past year". Source [SEND funding 'black hole' grew by 52% last year | Disability Rights UK](#)

35. The deficit position in Wiltshire was reported to Schools Forum on 9 June 2022 as follows:
- a. The HNB overspend for 2018/19 was £4.8m, 2019-20 was £9.1m, 2020-21 was £11.507m and for 2021-22 was £8.948m which correlates to the continuing rise in request for new Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and banding / funding increases. At the end of the last financial year the DSG reserve held a cumulative £25.973m deficit (includes Early Years adjustment).
 - b. Although the deficit is supported by a recovery plan, this is a long-term programme of change. The requirement for significant additional funding at national level is clear and acknowledged by the DfE.
 - c. The forecast position for 2022-23 is subject to another report but shows an overspend once again and should this come to fruition the DSG deficit reserve will be even greater which is becoming unsustainable for the local authority to cashflow. The latest forecast position showed a HNB overspend of £12m and a forecast DSG deficit reserve at the end of the 2022-23 financial year of £35m.
36. Concerns was shared by all attending the meeting over the current HNB deficit for Wiltshire and the financial implications there could be. Whilst the DfE had given local authorities 3 years in which to address their High Needs deficit, at the end of that 3-year period any debt could become a real issue. Councils were required by law to produce a balanced budget, if they could not find a way to balance expenditure then a Section 114 order would be issued.

Conclusions

37. It should be noted that HNB and EHCP processes are far more complex than represented in this report, but the focus of the rapid scrutiny was to determine whether further scrutiny, through a task group, would add value when considering options to manage pressures on high needs block budget, not to find solutions to these challenges.
38. The rapid scrutiny exercises members concluded that a task group, at this point in time, would be unlikely to add value when considering options to manage pressures on high needs block budget, as reflected in paragraphs 40 and 48 below.

Further scrutiny

39. Although the situation in Wiltshire was concerning with regards to the HNB deficit, there was recognition that, with some exceptions, most local authorities were in the same position. There was no clear panacea for the problem, nonetheless it could be beneficial to have clarity on how some local

authorities managed not to have a deficit, and whether any of the actions they had taken would be applicable for Wiltshire Council. [*Recommendation 1*]

40. Members felt that Wiltshire Council's engagement with the "Delivering better value in SEND" DfE-led programme would provide an in-depth review of the same areas and issues that an overview and scrutiny task group would focus on. A task group would therefore be unlikely to provide added-value and would run the risk of doubling efforts. However, there could be added value in involving an overview and scrutiny councillor in the process, who could provide regular updates to the Children's Select Committee on plans made and actions taken to reduce the HNB deficit [*Recommendation 2*]
41. Although members were concerned over the figures presented regarding timeliness of processing EHNCA, they felt that it would be unlikely that further overview and scrutiny involvement at this time would improve the situation. There was a clear awareness of the issue demonstrated by officers. [*Recommendation 3*]
42. Lobbying was also thoroughly considered by members, in so far as whether it could improve the HNB funding for Wiltshire Council. They concluded that the f40 group provided adequate lobbying on behalf of the council as a whole, however it would be beneficial for councillors to be aware of lobbying processes with regards to education and SEND [*Recommendation 4*].
43. Members felt strongly that young people only got "one shot" at going to school and that their experience of school would have an impact on the whole community in future; therefore each Wiltshire Councillor would benefit from exploring how inclusive the school(s) in their division were. [*Recommendation 4*]

Other actions

44. Members believed that all councillors could benefit from further understanding of the HNB deficit and potential financial risk to the council during budget consideration [*Recommendation 5*]
45. Members welcomed the proposals on Resource Bases in secondary schools and also wished to recognise the work undertaken by officers to engage with, and support schools, on their inclusivity journey. Members felt it would be beneficial for the committee to receive information on the success of the roll-out of Resource Bases. [*Recommendation 6*]
46. Members wished to express their support for the planned work on costed provision maps. Furthermore, members wondered if some upfront investment in dedicating more officer time to the costed provision maps could provide a longer-term saving for the council with more robust monitoring of effectiveness. Members also felt that it would be beneficial for an update to be provided on the roll-out of costed provision maps. [*Recommendations 7 and 8*]

47. However, members had a remaining concern over performance measurement in terms of how the council could receive assurance, without creating an unnecessary bureaucratic burden for schools, on the appropriate use and effectiveness of the funding allocated for SEND (aside of EHCP funding for which effectiveness would be measured through the costed provision map), however this fell outside of the remit of this exercise.
48. The existence of the HNB working group which reported to Schools Forum further confirmed members' views of the limited benefits of an overview and scrutiny task group on this topic. However, it was felt that there could be better awareness of the existing working group. There may be an opportunity for the HNB working group to refresh its terms of reference and inform the Children's Select Committee of these, and its membership, through one of the regular updates from Schools Forum. [*Recommendation 9*]

Recommendations

The task group recommends that the Children's Select Committee

Recommendation 1 – approve the establishment of a rapid scrutiny exercise or short-term task group (as two meetings may be required) to collect information on local authorities who have managed to avoid a deficit for their HNB. Once that information is collected it should enable the committee to decide whether or not further scrutiny of Wiltshire Council's approach regarding its HNB deficit would be beneficial.

The task group recommends that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills and / or the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Inclusion

Recommendation 2 – consider offering a place for an overview and scrutiny member on the council's governance body linked with the "Delivering better value in SEND" DfE-led programme.

Recommendation 3 – Ensure that the issue of timeliness for EHCP and EHCNA is regularly reviewed by the relevant performance and outcome board and to ask officers to provide a briefing for the chair and vice-chair of the Children's Select Committee in 6 months-time (June / July 2023) on improvements made to timeliness. Members of the rapid scrutiny exercise would also be invited to the briefing. Based on information provided at the briefing a decision could then be made on the benefits of further scrutiny of this particular issue.

Recommendation 4 – Raise Wiltshire Councillors' awareness of the lobbying tools available for the young people and school(s) in their division as well as encourage councillors to explore how inclusive the school(s) in their division are. This could be a light touch approach through the regular communications to Councillors or via the Councillors' Hub.

Recommendation 5 – Ensure that the HNB deficit and risks associated to it are brought to councillors' attention when they receive information and / or

training on the budget, as well as when the budget is presented. Consideration could be given to a standalone page, with an explanatory note, as part of the budget papers.

Recommendation 6 – Provide an update to the Children’s Select Committee in June / July 2024 on the success of Resource Bases in Secondary Schools (as started in September 2023).

Recommendation 7 – consider investing more officer time into the roll-out of costed provision maps to enable these to be undertaken for all EHCP within a reasonable timeframe. This may be an “invest to save” approach as it should provide better monitoring of impact and performance.

Recommendation 8 – Provide a briefing for the chair and vice-chair of the Children’s Select Committee in 6 months-time (June / July 2023) on the roll-out of costed provision maps. Members of the rapid scrutiny exercise would also be invited to the briefing. *This could be part of the same briefing as proposed in recommendation 3.*

Recommendation 9 – Use one of the regular updates from Schools Forum to the Children’s Select Committee to provide further information on the HNB working group, including terms of reference and membership.

Cllr Jo Trigg (Lead) – High Needs Block Funding Rapid Scrutiny

Report dated: 16 December 2022

Report author: Marie Gondlach, Senior Scrutiny Officer,
marie.gondlach@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 713 597

Appendix 1 – [SEND - Discussion and Decision Groups \(DaDs\)](#)

Background documents

[Education Policy Institute – High Needs Funding: An overview of the key issues](#)

[f40 \(the Campaign for fairer funding in education\) – a crisis in High Needs](#)

[Have we reached a ‘tipping point’? Trends in spending for children and young people with SEND in England. Isos Partnership \(commissioned July 2018\)](#)

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

17 January 2023 (data correct at 04/01/2023)

School Ofsted Judgements

Executive summary

1. This report is a regular update for the committee focused upon Ofsted inspections in Wiltshire schools. The report shows schools inspected since **between September 2022 and December 2022** and provides updates on inspection judgements based on the inspection framework introduced in **September 2019** using the categories below:
 - Overall effectiveness
 - Quality of education
 - Behaviour and attitudes
 - Personal development
 - Effectiveness of leadership and management
 - Early years provision
 - Sixth form provision

Update

2. The data is correct as of **01 January 2023** and shows the number of inspections per phase for the first and second half of the Autumn Term 2022

Phase of Education	01 September – 31 October 2022	01 November – 31 December 2022
Primary	6	25
Secondary/Post-16	5	5
Special	0	0

Inspections explained

3. There has been a change since September 2022 from what had been defined previously as Section 8 and Section 5 inspections. The Ofsted handbook provides information about what are now graded, ungraded and urgent inspections of maintained schools and academies under sections 5 and 8 of the Education Act 2005.
4. Graded, ungraded and urgent inspections are all based on this handbook. Monitoring visits have a separate handbook. Please note that all inspection reports prior to September 2022 will have been classified as either a Section 8 or Section 5 but any post September 2022 should be seen in the context of graded and ungraded. All inspections referenced in this report will be graded or ungraded.
5. Graded inspections use the full Ofsted framework and will grade the school for its Overall Effectiveness and against the key judgements grade descriptors as described in the Executive Summary above.
6. Ungraded inspections focus on determining if the school remains at the same grade as the previous inspection. This does not result in a graded judgement. The key areas of focus in these inspections will be:
 - The Quality of Education and Safeguarding (as in a graded inspection)
 - Behaviour
 - Gaming and off-rolling
 - Pupils' wider development: breadth of curriculum (beyond academic, vocational or technical) / SMSC / careers provision (secondary schools)
 - Workload
7. Published inspection outcomes of all schools (April 2022-October 2022)
Previous OFSTED grades are in brackets

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
Saint Edmund's Catholic Primary School Ofsted Saint Edmund's Roman Catholic Primary School	Academy	13/09/2022 Graded	RI (RI)	RI	G	G	RI	G	
Salisbury Sixth Form College Ofsted Salisbury Sixth Form College	Academy	27/09/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						G
The Stonehenge School Ofsted The Stonehenge School	Maintained	21/09/2022 Graded	G (G)						

Westbury Leigh CE Primary School Ofsted Westbury Leigh CofE Primary School	Maintained	04/10/2022 Graded	RI (RI)	RI	G	G	RI	G	
Crudwell CE Primary School Ofsted Crudwell CofE Primary School	Maintained	21/09/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
Churchfields Primary School Ofsted Churchfields, the Village School	Maintained	29/09/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
Matravers Secondary School Ofsted Matravers School	Maintained	21/09/2022 Graded	G (RI)	G	G	G	G		G
Longleaze Primary School Ofsted Longleaze Primary School	Maintained	12/10/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
Melksham Oak Community School Ofsted Melksham Oak Community School	Academy	4/10/2022 Graded	G (RI)	G	G	G	G		G
The Wellington Academy Ofsted The Wellington Academy	Academy	5//10/2022 Graded	G (G)	G	G	G	G		G
The Manor VC Primary School Ofsted The Manor CofE VC Primary School	Academy	11/10/2022 Graded	RI (I)	RI	RI	G	RI	G	
All Cannings CE Primary School Ofsted All Cannings Church of England Primary School	Academy	01/11/2022 Graded	G (O)	G	G	G	G	G	
Sambourne CE Primary School Ofsted Sambourne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Maintained	02/11/2022 Graded	G (G)	G	G	G	G	G	
Shaw CE Primary School Ofsted Shaw CE Primary School	Academy	02/11/2022 Graded	G (RI)	G	G	G	G	G	
Wilton CE Primary School Ofsted Wilton CofE Primary School	Academy	22/11/2022 Graded	G (I)	G	G	G	G	G	

Walwayne Court Primary School Ofsted Walwayne Court School	Maintained	01/11/2022 Graded	RI (G)	RI	G	G	RI	G	
Kingsdown School Ofsted Kingsdown School	Academy	01/11/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
Mere School Ofsted Mere School	Maintained	08/11/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
St John's Catholic Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Maintained	22/11/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
Shalbourne CE Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Maintained	10/11/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
St George's CE Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Academy	15/11/2022 Graded	G (=)	G	G	G	G	G	
Baydon St. Nicholas CE Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Maintained	17/11/2022 Ungraded	G* (G)						
Bellefield Primary and Nursery School Published but not on Ofsted website	Maintained	08/11/2022 Ungraded	G* (G)						
St Peter's CE Academy Chippenham Published but not on Ofsted website	Academy	09/11/2022 Graded	RI (G)	RI	G	G	RI	G	
Bratton Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Maintained	09/11/2022 Ungraded	G* (G)						
Woodford Valley CE Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Academy	08/11/2022 Graded	RI (O)	RI	G	G	RI	RI	
St Peter's CE Primary Academy Published but not on Ofsted website	Academy (Free School)	15/11/2022 Graced	G	G	G	G	G	G	

Westbury Infant School Published but not on Ofsted website	Maintained	15/11/2022 Ungraded	G (G)						
St Mary's Broughton Gifford CE Primary School Published but not on Ofsted website	Academy	22/11/2022 Graded	G	G	G	G	G	G	

* There has been no change to this school's overall judgement of good as a result of this ungraded (section 8) inspection. However, the evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might not be as high if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now. Inspectors are recommending the next inspection to be a graded inspection.

Schools inspected and awaiting published reports	Type
Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy	Academy (Primary)
Broad Hinton Primary	Maintained (Primary)
Bishop Wordsworth Grammar	Academy (Secondary)
Clarendon Infant School	Maintained (Primary)
Stratford Sub-Castle CE Primary	Maintained (Primary)
St Patrick's Catholic Primary - Corsham	Maintained (Primary)
Abbeyfield Secondary School	Maintained (Secondary)
Hilmarton Primary School	Maintained (Primary)
St. Laurence School	Academy (Secondary)
Hullavington Primary and Nursery School	Maintained (Primary)
Sheldon School	Academy (Secondary)
Seend CE Primary School	Academy (Primary)

Table 1: Ofsted Inspection Outcomes October 2019 to Current – National, Southwest Region and Wiltshire. Schools graded Good or Outstanding

External data: NCER Primary and secondary schools.

	England	SW	Wiltshire
January 2023	88.4	85.6	82.4
October 2022	87.7	84.3	81.5
June 2022	87.3	83.6	82
February 2022	87.1	83.4	81.6
October 2021	86	82	81
July 2021	86	82	81
January 2020	86	83	80

Table 2: Ofsted Inspection Outcomes October 2019 to Current – National, Southwest Region and Wiltshire. Pupils attending Good or Outstanding schools

External data: NCER Primary and secondary schools.

	England	SW	Wiltshire
January 2023	87.5	85.7	88.4 (Improving)
October 2022	87.1	84.7	85.5

Table 3: Ofsted Inspection Outcomes. Profile of small schools based on Oct 21 census with less than 150 on roll v Wiltshire overall profile

External data: NCER Primary and secondary schools.

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Less than 150 NOR	1	78	17	4
All schools	7	75	15	3

Table 4: Comparison table: OFSTED grades-maintained schools and academies in Wiltshire. (January 2023)

External data: NCER Primary and secondary schools.

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
All schools	7	75	15	3
Academy	8	69	17	6
Maintained	5	81	14	0

Table 5: Schools maintaining, improving and/or declining in Ofsted performance April 2022 - October 2022 (Published Reports)

	Improving	Maintaining/No change	Declining
All schools	7	16	7

Table 6: Inspection outcome analysis – key common strengths and areas of development from the April-October 2022 Inspection Reports

	Strengths	Areas of development
September - December 2022 Ofsted Report Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision/ambition • Broad curriculum intent • Phonics and early reading • Mathematics curriculum/teaching • Safeguarding • Pastoral provision • Extended learning opportunities • Teacher workload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation subject planning and sequencing • Inconsistency in teaching • Assessment to check understanding • Monitoring of the curriculum (Foundation Subjects) • Adapting learning to meet need (SEND) • Understanding of protected characteristics

The tables above provide an overview of the Ofsted performance across Wiltshire with what remains a mixed profile. It should be noted that the number of inspections undertaken in Wiltshire increased significantly in the second half of the Autumn Term with 30 inspections carried out in the space of 7 weeks.

The most significant statistic is the improvement in the percentage of children and young people attending a Good or Outstanding school which outweighs the number of schools judged to be Good or Outstanding. This reflects an improvement in Secondary School performance where the numbers of pupils will be of greater

statistical significance. There is now a difference in the overarching performance of our Secondary schools when compared to Primary.

There remain some differences between maintained schools and academies in terms of performance, but previous caveats remain. Academies in areas like Wiltshire that are less academised are more likely to take on more vulnerable schools which can then potentially skew data, so the data needs to be considered with some caution. We are seeing schools convert to academy, but these remain predominantly schools that under the school improvement framework are vulnerable and/or that have been judged Requires Improvement or Inadequate at the last inspection.

What we are not yet seeing is the number of improving schools within a term outweigh the numbers that are then declining, and this remains a priority; most schools are maintaining judgements, but we are seeing schools that are declining good or that have been judged Requires Improvement by the inspectorate. The National trend around very limited numbers of schools achieving an Outstanding judgement is also being played out in Wiltshire, with no school achieving this grade during the Autumn Term.

As a Council we share the latest Ofsted data and performance with all our school leaders through Heads and Governor briefings. We also provide updates through these sessions on the latest strengths and weaknesses that are coming through the reports and provide guidance and training to address specific areas of focus e.g. leadership/curriculum/SEND etc...

Conclusion

8. The percentage of Wiltshire schools with Good or Outstanding grades has improved slightly from the previous report, the significant change has been though in the percentage of pupils that now attend a Good or Outstanding school which reflects an improved performance at Secondary level. There remains a priority in working as a system to ensure schools judged 'Requires Improvement' secure a 'Good' judgement at their next inspection and in identifying early where schools could be vulnerable to a Good declining judgement. Through the Wiltshire Learning Alliance, we have targeted the areas of leadership and governance alongside disadvantaged learners as areas for improvement which should have an impact overtime on our Ofsted performance. The continued emphasis on schools working collaboratively is also important as the declining judgements at times have been where schools have been working more in isolation.

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Wiltshire Council

Children Select Committee

17 January 2023

DfE updates and changes – October 2022 to January 2023

Creating sustainable high needs systems

1. Information on how local authorities can manage their high needs systems and associated spending in a sustainable way. Change made: Guidance on our intervention work with local authorities' document updated to reflect latest progress on the Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme including list of participating authorities and an updated list of Sector Steering Group (SSG) members [Link](#) (updated 18/10/23)
2. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire is taking part in the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme.

Local skills improvement plans

3. Statutory guidance for the development and review of local skills improvement plans (LSIPs). Change made: Updated statutory guidance [Link](#) (updated 19/10/22)
4. Wiltshire's position: Business West won the tender for the LSIP for Swindon and Wiltshire. They are working closely with the LEP Skills and Talent Board to agree priorities.

Support for apprentices with a learning difficulty or disability

5. Information for apprenticeship providers about reasonable adjustments for apprentices with learning difficulties and disabilities [Link](#) (published 19/10/22)
6. Wiltshire's position: This information is being shared through Employment and Skills and the Careers Hub with businesses and business representative organisations.

£180 million to improve children's development in the early years

7. Thousands of early years professionals will benefit from investment to drive quality and training, and to better support the next generation of children [Link](#) (published 20/10/22)
8. Wiltshire's position: We are advertising all of the support and training on offer and recommending settings to receive support to the DfE and programme partners. Information has been sent out via direct emails, newsletters, social media and Right Choice.

Statistics: pupil absence

9. Statistics on overall authorised and unauthorised pupil absences by school type, including persistent absentees and pupil characteristics. Change made: Added 'Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn 2021 and spring 2022'. [Link](#) (updated 20/10/22)

10. Wiltshire's position: Absence for Autumn term 2021-2022 in Wiltshire was higher than national but lower than regional averages. Attendance for pupils with EHCP was better than both national and regional. Pupils with SEN Support status had better attendance on average than pupils across the South West, but lower than national average attendance.

Pupil Premium

11. Information on pupil premium funding, how school leaders can use it effectively and pupil premium strategy statements. Change made: 'Use of the pupil premium' section has been updated to reference the menu of approaches and the 'Service pupil premium' section has been updated to correct inaccuracies in 'Pupil premium: overview'. 'Pupil premium strategy statement template' and 3 example statements have been updated [Link](#) (updated 27/10/22)

12. Wiltshire's position: The Council have provided updates for Heads Newsletters on the changes and most schools sign up to the DfE update service which provides the necessary information and changes.

Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges

13. Find out what help you can get to develop a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing. Change made: A link has been added to the guidance on promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Further detail on the increased numbers of Mental Health Support Teams from 2024 has also been included [Link](#) (updated 28/11/22)

14. Wiltshire's position:

To support these current national government initiatives:

- We provide the [Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme](#) to encourage, support and accredit local schools to take a whole school approach to health and wellbeing. [The programme currently engages 125 schools](#), 62 hold current accreditation.
- Wiltshire, working with B&NES and Swindon, has been delivering a DfE assured programme of [Senior Mental Health Leads training](#) to local schools and colleges since 2021. This 1 ½ days of training, with ongoing network meetings, enables education settings to sustain a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. The training also enables most education providers to claim the DfE grant.
 - In total 163 Wiltshire schools and colleges have attended this training
 - During 2021-2022 our local training was attended by 111 Wiltshire schools and colleges
 - 52 Wiltshire schools have accessed this training from another national provider
 - 20 schools have booked to attend Wiltshire training from January 2023

144 Wiltshire schools and colleges have so far claimed the DfE grant of £1,200, [according to data published by the DfE](#) - a total of £170,800 for Wiltshire schools.

- In addition to the DfE resources to support RSHE, Wiltshire provides a range of CPD and network meetings to support schools teach [PSHE/RSHE education](#). So far this year, 60 schools have attended CPD events focussing on this curriculum area.
- In Wiltshire we have three [Mental Health Support Teams](#) and will bid for more national resources to expand this local support, when the next opportunity arises.
- We have promoted the free national online [Psychological First Aid training](#) and [other mental health and wellbeing resources](#) to schools as well as a range of additional [support available locally](#). This includes an ongoing programme of [Youth Mental Health First Aid training](#) for schools, Foster Carers, Wiltshire Council staff, Youth Councillors and those from other agencies that work with young people aged 8-18. Our Early Help offer of mental health support for young people, which also links to CAMHS and other support services, can be found at [On Your Mind](#).

Children looked after in England including adoption: 2021 to 2022

15. Information on looked-after children at both national and local authority levels for the financial year 2021 to 2022 [Link](#) (published 17/11/22)

16. Wiltshire's position: The budgeted number of children in care for 2022-23 financial year is 434. The actual number of children in care at Q2 end was 464. Our number of children in care is within target range currently and has not seen the sharp increases other Local Authorities have. This is due to the successful prevention and early support services preventing such escalation of needs. There does however remain a small, predicated increase in demand which is being discussed as part of wider budget considerations.

Early years stronger practice hubs

17. Information for early years practitioners about stronger practice hubs. Change made: Guidance updated, including details of the successful first round hubs [Link](#) (updated 18/11/22)

18. Wiltshire's position: The Stronger practice hubs have now been announced. We do not have any physical hubs in Wiltshire, but settings will be able to get support from them with the closest hubs being based in Bristol. These are funded for the next 2 years until late 2024.

National school breakfast club programme

19. How eligible schools can apply for support for breakfast club provision [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

20. Wiltshire's position: This information has been sent out in the newsletter and an article on Right Choice. Applications are now open for schools to put forward an expression of interest for the provision.

Apprenticeships and traineeships: November 2022

21. Apprenticeships and traineeships statistics covering the 2021 to 2022 academic year in England, with additional official statistics relevant to the apprenticeship service [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

22. Wiltshire's position:

Wiltshire Apprenticeships

19-24

Over the past 3 years both the achievements and starts in apprenticeships have decreased. Whilst this may not be surprising given the pandemic, it is contrary to the pattern seen in South West and national starts overall.

Wiltshire 19-24 starts decreased from 1750 in 2019/20 to 1530 in 2021/22, a decrease of 12.6%, whilst, achievements decreased by a quarter; from 900 to 680.

Under 19

Meanwhile, under 19 apprenticeship starts in Wiltshire increased by 4.4% over the period 2019/20 to 2021/22, and this is a greater increase than that seen nationally (1.6%) and regionally (0.7%).

Achievements over this same period though, closely followed the national and regional and decreased by just over a quarter- 27.7%, compared to the SW (22%) and nationally (27%).

Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England: autumn term 2021 to 2022

23. Levels of permanent exclusion and suspension in the autumn term 2021 to 2022 by school type, and reasons for exclusions and suspensions [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

24. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire's permanent exclusion rate for autumn term 2021/22 was 0.0%, compared to a national rate of 0.03%. Wiltshire's suspension rate for the same period was 2.25%, compared to a national rate of 2.21% and a regional rate of 2.65%.

Multiplication tables check attainment: 2022

25. Information on the 2022 multiplication tables check, including breakdowns by pupil characteristics, at national and local authority level [Link](#) (published 24/11/22)

26. Wiltshire's position: This information has been sent out in the newsletter in terms of Headline information, further information will be shared at Heads Briefings.

CO2 monitors and air cleaning units for education settings – reminder

27. Last year, the Department for Education (DfE) provided carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitors for 50% of teaching spaces in state-funded education settings. DfE will now be providing additional CO₂ monitors for the remaining 50% of classrooms, to help balance ventilation with energy costs.

Good ventilation in education settings remains important, both for managing the transmission of airborne illnesses like COVID-19 or flu, as well as aiding concentration and alertness.

Further education and a small number of early years settings, namely eligible childminders, will be contacted separately with more information on how to receive additional monitors.

DfE is also reopening their programme for DfE-funded air cleaning units. These are for use in classrooms where it is not possible to maintain adequate ventilation and where CO₂ levels are consistently over 1500ppm.

Air cleaning units can help reduce airborne contaminants while remedial work is undertaken. DfE is providing guides on how to apply and on how to use an air cleaning unit.

How to guide:

<https://dfecomms.blob.core.windows.net/guidance/CO2HowtoGuide2022.pdf>

<https://dfecomms.blob.core.windows.net/guidance/ACUHowToGuide2022.pdf>

How to apply:

<https://dfecomms.blob.core.windows.net/guidance/HowtoapplyforaDfEfundedaircleaningunit2022.pdf>

Application form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yXfS-qrGoU2187O4s0qC-ZrWrzYoXuBFvIczJ5dewXtUREg3R0RESkEyQVZSUDVSSkJES1I5Q0ozMS4u>

28. Wiltshire's position: As A Council we have notified our schools of this opportunity through our communications.

Funding to help schools with high energy bills

29. The Department for Education (DfE) has today (6 December) announced that schools and colleges in England will be allocated a share of £500 million of funding to spend on energy efficiency upgrades, helping to save on bills during the winter months and manage energy consumption [Link](#) (published 06/12/22)

30. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire schools and colleges will be allocated a share of £500 million to spend on energy efficiency upgrades, helping to save on bills during the winter months and manage energy consumption. This will not only help them save money, but it will make them more energy efficient during the cold period and increase winter resilience for future years. DfE estimations show that on average, a primary school will receive approximately £16,000, a secondary school will get £42,000 and a further education college group will benefit from £290,000. Improvements could

include installing better heating controls, insulation to reduce heat loss from pipes or switching to energy efficient lighting. This builds on the [Government's Energy Relief Scheme](#) which is supporting schools and colleges this winter, and will run until the spring.

School capital funding

31. An overview of school capital funding, who it's for, current and past allocations, how it's calculated and spending guidance. Change made: 'Additional school capital funding for the 2022 to 2023 financial year' section has been added [Link](#) (updated 6/12/22)

32. Wiltshire's position : The DfE have announced that schools will receive an additional capital allocation in the current financial year to improve energy efficiency. The allocations are based upon all schools receiving a flat rate of £10k per school plus a per pupil amount. All schools will therefore receive at least £10k. Payments will be made to schools in late Dec/early January. Schools have been advised of these allocations, provided with the DfE guidance document and reminded that they can access support and advice through Energy Sparks.

£490 million skills training boost to help get more people into jobs

33. Multimillion pound investment to radically improve university and college facilities and provide better teaching for students [Link](#) (published 08/12/22)

34. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire College were not awarded any of this funding, however they have received capital investment over the last few years which has led to improvements at Lackham and Salisbury and a new Electric Vehicle training workshop in Trowbridge.

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

17 January 2023

Schools Forum update

Key discussion points/issues from meeting of Schools Forum – 8 December 2022.

- Updates from the Early Years Reference Group and the joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group
- Dedicated Schools Budget – Budget Monitoring 2022-23 as at 31 October 2022
- SEND Update
- Dedicated Schools Grant Consultations 2023-24
- Local Consultation – School Improvement Services 2023-24
- Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2023-24
- National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Neds 2023-24
- Autumn Statement Update
- Update on additional Devolved Formula Capital Grant for Schools for 2022-23

The next meeting of Schools Forum will be held on 19 January 2023 and Children's Select will receive an update at their meeting on 14 March 2023.

Agendas and minutes for Schools Forum can be accessed on: [Browse meetings - Schools Forum | Wiltshire Council](#)

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

17 January 2023

Corporate Parenting Panel update

Key discussion points/issues from meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel – 15 November 2022.

- Child and Youth Voice Team update
- Corporate Parenting Data Scorecard 2022
- Update on Covid vaccinations for children and young people
- Update on Children's Placement Budget
- Updates on Councillors Corporate Parenting Strategic Priorities
- Update on the Council's provision for Care Leavers
- Update on Canons House
- Updates from Council colleagues and other partner representatives
- Update on the Panel's draft annual report to Council
- Adoption Service 2021-22 year-end report
- Update on year 2 of the Fostering Excellence project
- Update on the progress following the Child Safeguarding Practice Review: Long term sexual abuse of children in care
- Overview of the Staying Close project

The Panel are in the process of reviewing their strategic priorities and will be meeting in January to discuss this further.

The next meeting of the Panel will be on 17 January 2023 and Children's Select will receive an update at their meeting on 14 March 2023.

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Children's Select Committee – Forward work programme – November 2022 Agenda items for the committee

Standing items (at all meetings)

Title - Details / purpose	Type	Report author / lead officer
Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice - summary of recent activities	Written	Joe Sutton
School Ofsted Judgements - effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.	Written	Andrew Best
DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education	Written	David Harris
Working together to improve school attendance - latest requirements of the non-statutory guidance the DfE published in May 2022 to apply from September 2022.	Written	Kathryn Davis
Schools Forum's update - very brief update on key items from the last meeting of Schools Forum	Written	Lisa Pullin
Corporate Parenting Panel update - brief update highlighting key items from the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel	Written	Lisa Pullin
Directors' update Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holders' update Chair's update Verbal updates highlighting any key issues (current or emerging), successes or milestones in their respective areas since the last meeting of the committee, which may not require a full agenda item and are not covered elsewhere on this agenda.	Verbal	All directors Cabinet Members and Portfolio holders Chair

Future items for consideration by the Children’s Select Committee

Tuesday 14 March 2023, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive	<p>Child Poverty</p> <p>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).</p>	Current FWP	
Substantive	<p>FACT – interim report to review the data set that has been created and how the Family Help programme has been implemented</p> <p>Including an update on the following recommendations:</p> <p>To invite officers, as part of their stakeholder events, to engage with local members, relevant Area Boards, and town councils to share information about the pilot project in Westbury and Warminster.</p> <p>For FACT to liaise with the different groups in Westbury and Warminster, funded by Wiltshire Community Foundation and Community First, that support children and young people.</p> <p>To invite officers to consider a mechanism where signposting to other services is led centrally and kept regularly updated.</p>	CSC 25 October 2022	Simon Thomas

Tuesday 14 March 2023, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive	<p>Safeguarding processes – outcome of the review by the Institute of Public Care (access here) to consider the council’s safeguarding process and target rates</p> <p>To bring the council’s review of its position with regards to these recommendations.</p> <p><i>NB – may link to a briefing on safeguarding</i></p>	<p>CSC 20 September 2022 (Jen Salter – Director’s update) CSC 8 June 2022 Chairman’s announcement (Lucy Townsend)</p> <p>Deferred from January meeting</p>	<p>Jen Salter</p> <p>Lucy Townsend</p>
Substantive	<p>“Shaping the future” programme with schools - update on the model chosen (linked to number of schools rated good or outstanding and Wiltshire “plateauing”) and update on the School Advisers programme</p>	<p>CSC 8 June 2022 Schools Ofsted judgements (Helean Hughes)</p> <p>Deferred from January meeting</p>	<p>Helean Hughes</p>
Informative	<p>Business plan and action plan update (every 6 months)</p>	<p>CSC 20 September 2022</p>	<p>Directors</p>
Informative	<p>Childcare sufficiency</p>	<p>Requested by officers</p>	<p>Lucy-Anne Bryant</p>

Tuesday 6 June 2023, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive			
Substantive			
Informative			
Informative			

Wednesday 12 July 2023, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive			
Substantive			
Informative	<p>School Health and Wellbeing survey</p> <p>To receive an update within the next 12 months to inform the committee on actions taken, or plans made, by the council based on the outcome of the survey.</p> <p>NB – identifying schools that have not participated so councillors can lobby them.</p>	CSC 6 July 2022	Sally Johnson
Informative			

Wednesday 20 September 2023, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive			
Substantive			
Informative	<p>Children missing education / children missing out on education</p> <p>To receive an annual report but for it to first be considered by the Standing task group in its draft form to ensure that it provides the information needed by the committee to be reassured about the quality of the council's performance.</p>	CSC 20 September 2022	Kathryn Davis
Informative	<p>Elective home education</p> <p>To receive an annual report but for it to first be considered by the Standing task group in its draft form to ensure that it provides the information needed by the committee to be reassured about the quality of the council's performance, especially as the DfE is working to formalise the data collection for elective home education from October 2022 which should enable benchmarking.</p>	CSC 20 September 2022	Kathryn Davis

Tuesday 31 October 2023, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive	FACT – one-year update , including progress towards the key milestones identified in paragraph 48 of the report	CSC 25 October 2022	Simon Thomas
Substantive			
Informative			
Informative			

Tuesday 16 January 2024, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive			
Substantive			
Informative			
Informative			

Tuesday 12 March 2024, 10.30am			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive			
Substantive			
Informative			
Informative			

Longer term items			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
Substantive	Report on the outcome of the Family Help Programme, including the Westbury and Warminster pilot project. By September 2024	CSC – 25 October 2022, FACT item	Simon Thomas, FACT lead
Substantive			
Informative			
Informative			

Items considered in the last 12 months

Meeting date (link)	Title Outcome / actions	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
25 October 2022	FACT update		
17 January 2023	Roadmap to Excellence		
17 January 2023	Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations		
17 January 2023			
17 January 2023			

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Children's Select Committee – Forward work programme – November 2022

Items for consideration by the standing task group

Future items for consideration by the Children's Select Committee's (CSC) standing task group

Meeting date / timeframe	Title Details / purpose	Type Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Planned reporting to CSC
BEFORE CSC JANUARY MEETING	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.	Current FWP + requested by service		17 January 2023
Page 89	January 2023 (CSC 17 January)			
	February 2023 (no CSC)			
	March 2023 (CSC 14 March)			
	April 2023 (no CSC)			
	May 2023 (no CSC)			
	June 2023 (CSC 6 June)			

Meeting date / timeframe	Title Details / purpose	Type Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Planned reporting to CSC
After committee briefing on School Improvement on 6 June	Ofsted inspections – data presented to the committee Comparator of recent inspections (as outstanding not inspected for years) Breakdown between primary and secondary schools Governors – level of recruitment (vacancies) and commitment to school improvement plan [NB possibility of further scrutiny on effectiveness of / role of governors in the current system and different types of roles across different types of schools]	CSC 8 June 2022 School Ofsted Judgements (Cllr Helen Belcher / Helean Hughes)		17 January 2023
July 2023 (CSC 12 July)				
August 2023 (no CSC)				
September 2023 (CSC 20 September)				
October 2023 (CSC 31 October)				
November 2023 (no CSC)				
December 2023 (no CSC)				

Meeting date / timeframe	Title Details / purpose	Type Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Planned reporting to CSC
January 2024 (CSC 16 January)				
February 2024 (no CSC)				
March 2024 (CSC 12 March)				
January Page 91	<p>Performance monitoring reports</p> <p>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.</p>	Annual		
	<p>Accommodation Strategy</p> <p>To consider the draft of the Accommodation Strategy covering the needs of children and young people with learning disability, mental health, and autism</p>	<p>One-off</p> <p>CSC 15 March 2022 (RS final report)</p>		
	<p>Mental Health – ensuring performance monitoring of contracts</p>	One off	Helen Jones Victoria Bailey	

Meeting date / timeframe	Title Details / purpose	Type Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Planned reporting to CSC
MAY GO TO NEW TASK GROUP	To scrutinise the council's expectations of contractors before the next tranche of Mental Health contracts go out to tender. Following concerns raised at CSC re quality of monitoring information provided by contractors	CSC 25 October 2022		
June Page 92	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.	Annual		
July / early September 2023	Children missing education / children missing out on education To receive an annual report but for it to first be considered by the Standing task group in its draft form to ensure that it provides the information needed by the committee to be reassured about the quality of the council's performance.	One-off CSC 20 September 2022	Helean Hughes Kathryn Davis	September 2023
July / early September 2023	Elective home education To receive an annual report but for it to first be considered by the Standing task group in its draft	One-off CSC 20 September 2022	Helean Hughes Kathryn Davis	September 2023

Meeting date / timeframe	Title Details / purpose	Type Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Planned reporting to CSC
Page 93	<p>form to ensure that it provides the information needed by the committee to be reassured about the quality of the council's performance, especially as the DfE is working to formalise the data collection for EHE from October 2022 which should enable benchmarking.</p> <p>+ whether the council has developed its understanding of / partnership working with support groups for EHE in Wiltshire</p> <p>+ do we have data for success rates at exams of EHE?</p> <p>+ outcome / update on project with EET team to better understand destination for EHE</p>			
Page 93	<p>Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership</p> <p>To receive annual report from the partnership presenting work in the past year and priorities / objectives for the year ahead.</p>	Annual		
November 2023	<p>Traded Services - annual report (November 2022)</p> <p>To receive the second traded services annual report - this should be linked with the Standing Task Group meeting on 4 January 2022</p> <p>This should integrate the changes proposed in recommendation 3 of the task group.</p>	One off	Paul Redford Helean Hughes	January 2023

Meeting date / timeframe	Title Details / purpose	Type Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Planned reporting to CSC
	<p>At this point in time a decision will be made on the frequency of future reporting and whether these reports come to the Children's Select Committee or Standing Task Group.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION from that one – after this annual briefing to chair and vice-chair ahead of going to Cabinet</p>			
Page 94	<p>Safeguarding Exception Dataset Report</p> <p>This report comes to the committee twice a year and the Standing Task Group will consider the other two Quarters and report back to the committee.</p>	19 January 2022	Tamsin Stone	
	<p>Business plan and action plan update</p> <p>The more detailed information – service plans (the overall will go to committee)</p>			

Items considered by the Children's Select Committee's Standing Task Group in the last 12 months

Meeting date	Title Actions	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer	Reported to CSC
4 January 2022	Traded Services			15 March 2022

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Children's Select Committee – Forward work programme – November 2022

Task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises

Children's Select Committee – Current / active task groups

Name (establishment date by CSC) Terms of reference / aims Meeting(s) update	Membership Vacancies Supporting officer	Start date Final report expected
<p>Children's Select Committee's Standing Task Group</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Meeting(s) update:</u></p>	<p>Cllr Helen Belcher John Hawkins Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chair) Cllr Jacqui Lay Cllr Jo Trigg Cllr James Sheppard</p> <p>No vacancy</p> <p><i>Supporting officer</i> <i>Marie Gondlach</i></p>	<p>6 July 2021</p> <p>n/a - Standing task group</p>
<p>Adoption West Joint Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>The panel acts as a critical friend, providing independent scrutiny of the work of Adoption West (AW). It is an essential element of assuring democratic accountability for the use of public funds.</p>	<p>Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chair) Cllr Carole King</p> <p>No vacancy</p> <p><i>Supporting officer:</i> <i>Marie Gondlach</i></p>	<p>Tbc</p> <p>n/a - Standing task group</p>

Name (establishment date by CSC) Terms of reference / aims Meeting(s) update	Membership Vacancies Supporting officer	Start date Final report expected
<p>The objective of the panel is to make constructive recommendations to ensure that AW meets its performance targets and expectations. The focus of the panel is on the Region and members of the panel work in partnership to focus on performance for the Region overall.</p> <p><u>Meeting(s) update:</u></p>		
<p>Fostering Excellence task group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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%+). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p><u>Meeting(s) update:</u></p>	<p>Cllr Liz Alstrom Cllr Chuck Berry (Chair) Cllr Ruth Hopkinson Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney Cllr Mark Verbinnen</p> <p>No vacancy</p> <p><i>Supporting officer Marie Gondlach</i></p>	<p>18 January 2022</p> <p>17 January 2023</p>

Children's Select Committee – Planned rapid scrutiny exercises

Name (terms of reference / aims)	Membership (vacancies)	Planned start date Final report expected
<p>Multi Academy Trusts option – rapid scrutiny</p> <p>To review the options available to the council in setting its own MAT. To explore differences between MATS, stand alone trusts and maintained schools, especially with possibility of LA's MATs.</p>	<p>Cllr Helen Belcher Cllr Jo Trigg Cllr Iain Wallis Cllr Mark Verbinnen</p> <p>No vacancy</p> <p><i>Supporting officer Marie Gondlach</i></p>	<p>Tbc – <i>still awaiting government's decision</i></p>
<p>Roadmap to excellence - Rapid Scrutiny</p> <p>Following a presentation at the March 2022 meeting it was agreed that a Rapid Scrutiny exercise would take place to review the proposed road map (timeline) for “getting to outstanding” – the council's strategy to achieve an Ofsted's Outstanding rating.</p> <p>It is planned for this to be 2 meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st meeting to consider the existing strategy and service plans - 2nd meeting to consider future reporting to Children's Select Committee 	<p>Cllr Jon Hubbard</p> <p>Vacancies: 2</p> <p><i>Supporting officer Simon Bennett</i></p>	<p>Tbc</p> <p>14 March 2023</p>
<p>TO DISCUSS AT EXEC / OS MEETING</p>		

<p>SEND provision – data set Rapid Scrutiny (no further background information, on current FWP)</p>		
<p>TO DISCUSS AT EXEC / OS MEETING</p> <p>Health Outcomes and meeting health needs Rapid Scrutiny</p> <p>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).</p>		

Children's Select Committee – Planned task groups

Name (terms of reference / aims)	Membership (vacancies)	Planned start date Final report expected
<p>Mental health for children and young people – task group</p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy (draft expected late 2022 / early 2023 as informed at Sep 2022 meeting) to be considered by the task group</p> <p>Task group to explore the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a clear picture of all services available for children and young people in Wiltshire to support their emotional wellbeing and mental health (across all sectors and all funding streams); - whether there are any duplications of services or gaps (particular cohorts of children and young people or geographical areas not able to access the support they need); - how the council can best remain aware of that wealth of support and how to ensure there is a joined-up approach across all providers; - how to best communicate information on the different services to Wiltshire residents (report stating a third of referrals received in the Single Point of Access – CAMHS – are “preventable”, from carers who struggle to know where to go to access the support they need for their young person. - that performance across services commissioned by the council is monitored in the best way possible and how this can best be reported to the Children's Select Committee in future. - the issues around recruitment / workforce and if anything could be developed across the sector in terms of opportunities through new roles and maximising offer to staff <p><u>Meeting(s) update:</u></p>	<p>Cllr Caroline Corbin Cllr Jo Trigg Cllr Mark Verbinnen</p> <p>Vacancies: 2</p> <p><i>Supporting officer Marie Gondlach</i></p>	<p>After 25 October 2022</p>
<p>Youth provision and youth service funding – task group</p>	<p>Cllr Helen Belcher</p>	

<p>It is proposed that the task group considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the council utilises the Local Youth Network funding (circa £350,000) via the Area Boards • How the council assures itself that it is meeting its duties with regards to youth service provision • How the council ensures that young people are aware of what youth provision is on offer <p>The task group is likely to engage with the Youth Voice team as well as Area Boards, with the aim to develop consistency across the 18 area boards in terms of allocating youth funding and eligibility criteria, as well as the voluntary sector. This work should also ensure that all councillors are aware of the current youth provision and can effectively promote what is on offer in their area.</p> <p><u>Meeting(s) update:</u></p>	<p>Cllr Jo Trigg Cllr Iain Wallis Cllr Mark Verbinnen Cllr Jack Oatley</p> <p>Vacancies: 0</p> <p><i>Supporting officer</i> <i>Marie Gondlach</i></p> <p>Lead officers Ros Griffiths Simon Thomas Mandy Timbrell Andrew Griffiths Joe Sutton / Sara James</p>	<p>December 2022 / January 2023</p>
<p>Post 16 provision – task group</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This should also take into consideration the following information the committee had previously identified as of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the Youth Transport task group’s work and executive response – including 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). <p><u>Meeting(s) update:</u></p>	<p>Cllr Jo Trigg Nikki Barnett Cllr Graham Wright Cllr Bridget Wayman</p> <p>Vacancies: 1</p> <p><i>Supporting officer</i> <i>Marie Gondlach</i></p> <p>Lead officers Kirstie Barter Cara Madden Clara Davies</p>	<p>February / March 2023</p>

<p>TO DISCUSS AT EXEC / OS MEETING</p> <p>Whole Life Pathway Task Group (to be initiated – with HSC)</p>	<p>TBC</p>	
<p>TO DISCUSS AT EXEC / OS MEETING</p> <p>To establish a Task Group to review the metrics of the Business Plan.</p> <p>Based on outcome of above task group - to establish a second Task Group to review the service plans once the metrics have been confirmed.</p>		
<p>TO DISCUSS AT EXEC / OS MEETING</p> <p>NEW – to be endorsed by CSC</p> <p>Budget and Major Contracts task group</p> <p>To regularly review implementation of the budget and impact on services, and to consider major contracts (value to be agreed) either when they are approaching renewal or extension or before the tender process with a focus on the council’s expectations and requirements with regards to the quality, quantity and frequency of monitoring information provided by contractors and how that information will be monitored by the council (including overview and scrutiny involvement)</p>		

Children's Select Committee – task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises completed in the last 12 months

Name Actions / monitoring	Membership	Final report Executive response
Rapid Scrutiny exercise on Provision of Accommodation for Young People at Transition Time - Gap Analysis	Cllr Carole King (Lead Member) Cllr Mike Sankey Cllr Jo Trigg	19 January 2022 15 March 2022
Disadvantaged Learners Task Group	Cllr Jo Trigg (Chair) Cllr Trevor Carbin John Hawkins Cllr Kathryn Macdermid Cllr Gordon King Cllr Caroline Thomas	7 June 2022 6 July 2022
High needs block funding Rapid Scrutiny To review the current processes and explore whether there would be 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.	Cllr Jo Trigg (Lead) Cllr Pauline Church Cllr Kathryn MacDermid <i>Supporting officer Marie Gondlach</i>	17 January 2023 14 March 2023

Children's Select Committee (CSC) – Forward work programme – November 2022 Briefings for the Chair and Vice-Chair

Briefings for the Chair and Vice-Chair of CSC (Children's Select Committee)

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
November 2022				
17 November 2022	Online	Children's home care	Cabinet Paper (Nov 2022)	Gary Binstead
December 2022				
18 December 2022	Online	Proposal to Retain and Invest in Silverwood School Chippenham and Trowbridge Campuses	Cabinet Paper (13 December 2022)	Melissa Hardwell
P 105	Online – NB invite task group members	<p>Disadvantaged Learners – update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the council's expansion plan to increase the number of pupil premium partner schools to ensure further reach for the Disadvantaged Learners team, and the principles it is helping to promote (recommendation 3) • report detailing the council's transitional plans in response to the reduction in funding for School Improvement Advisers (recommendation 8) • Update from the "Social Mobility Team" which was being established (paragraph 4 of the Executive Response) <p>That further collaboration takes place between the council's SEND and Disadvantaged Learners teams to further tailor the council's</p>	<p>CSC 6 July 2022 (Disadvantaged Learners task group - Executive response update)</p> <p>CSC 8 June 2022 (Disadvantaged Learners task group – final report)</p>	<p>Andrew Best Emma Cooke Kate Wilkins Helean Hughes</p>

Meeting date / timeframe Need level	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
		support of Disadvantaged Learners, particularly those with SEND, recognising that quality of teaching is key to both. The Children’s Select Committee is invited to add this work area to its forward work programme.		
January 2023				
February 2023				
March 2023				
April 2023				
May 2023				
June 2023				
July 2023				
August 2023				
September 2023				

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Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level				
October 2023				
November 2023				

Briefings received in the last 12 months (where relevant recordings are accessible in the Councillors' Hub)

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Meeting date	Recording available	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer

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Children's Select Committee (CSC) – Forward work programme – November 2022 Briefings

Future briefings for the CSC (Children's Select Committee)

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level				
December 2022 (no CSC)				
December	In person x2	<p>School Funding x2</p> <p>Yearly briefings ahead of consideration of the budget.</p> <p>Briefing 1 – jargon busting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Schools Forum • Delegated, de-delegated and joint responsibilities (what is it and what does it mean?) • What are the budgets that schools have to work with? • What is / isn't included in the budget (e.g., school transport) <p>Briefing 2 – pressures and potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and ongoing pressures • highlight the importance of the pupil premium, potentially building liabilities. Financial pressures. 	Current FWP	Marie Taylor
January 2023 (CSC 17 January)				

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level 17 January 2023	In person (pre CSC)	Roadmap to Excellence What would excellent look like What is the roadmap		Jen Salter
February 2023 (no CSC)				
March 2023 (CSC 14 March)				
14 March 2022 Page 1 of 10 1 – must have	In person (pre-CSC) 14 March 2023	SEND provision: See the person not the disability To understand SEND and provision by the council (including awareness of funding). Update on reduction of cost achieved (linked to the work of the SEND task group – reducing costs by bringing in-house) Include update on Silverwood and delivery of service across the 3 sites.	CSC 20 September 2022 (Helean Hughes)	Cate Mullen Helean Hughes
April 2023 (no CSC)				
Anytime 2 – should have	Online	employment and apprenticeship (and Family Learning Service) 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 FWP	

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level		Details / purpose		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		
Anytime 3 – would be good to know	Online	Family Learning Service (and employment and apprenticeship) To raise awareness of the service and the support it offers to families. Anticipated to be a shorter 30 minutes briefing.	Current FWP	
May 2023 (no CSC)				
June 2023 (CSC 6 June)				
6 June 2022 2 – should have	In person (pre-CSC)	school improvement programme understanding the programme + funding that comes into it MUST HAVE someone from planning to come and talk about Section 106 funding linked to schools.	Current FWP	Andrew Best Helean Hughes
July 2023 (CSC 12 July)				
Anytime		Young Carers in Wiltshire	Current FWP	

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level				
1 – must have (links to an agenda item)	In person (pre-CSC)	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.		
August 2023 (no CSC)				
September 2023 (CSC 20 September)				
anytime Page 142 – must have	In person (pre-CSC)	Corporate Parenting Panel – strategic priorities To receive presentations from the CPP lead Councillors and Strategic Lead Officers on their CPP strategic priorities at pre-meeting briefings of the Children’s Select Committee	CSC 15 March 2022 Corporate Parenting Panel report	
October 2023 (CSC 31 October)				
November 2023 (no CSC)				
December 2023 (no CSC)				
January 2024 (CSC 16 January)				

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level		Details / purpose		
February 2024 (no CSC)				
March 2024 (CSC 12 March)				
Date to be set				
Anytime Page 113 *** - must have	In-person	The journey of the child (including child protection, children in care and CP numbers) Link with Corporate Parenting Panel and Safeguarding panel MAY BE A TRAINING SESSION	Current FWP CSC 19 January 2022	
Anytime 1.5 - must have	Online	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).	Current FWP	
Anytime	In person (tour)	MASH and early support Tour of MASH	Current FWP	

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title Details / purpose	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level 2 – should have		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is MASH • Who is MASH • How do councillors “use” MASH <p>Either side of the tour – Safeguarding briefing</p>		
Anytime 2 – should have Page 114	In person (tour) BUT must be recorded	<p>Safeguarding briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is safeguarding • How it should be embedded in everything the council does (included in all Cabinet reports) • Councillors’ responsibility and role regarding Safeguarding (process of referral) 		
Anytime 2 – should have	Online	<p>Safeguarding update</p> <p>To receive information on actions taken by the council following recommendations made to Wiltshire Police after two inspections and three significant notifications to Ofsted.</p> <p>MAY BE REPLACED BY REGULAR UPDATE</p>	CSC 20 September 2022 (Lucy Townsend)	
Anytime 3 – would be good to have	Online	<p>Demand modelling for children services</p> <p>To develop some awareness of the work undertaken, common factors that drive demand, how to anticipate impact and volume –</p>	Current FWP	Tamsin Stone

Meeting date / timeframe	Online / in person	Title	Origins / history	Lead officer
Need level		Details / purpose		
		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.		
Discuss at Exec meeting – is this still relevant?		<p>Remodelling our services for the future (learning from culture changes from Covid-19) and how this is working for service users</p> <p>To inform members on the lessons learnt 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</p>	Current FWP	

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Briefings for the Children’s Select Committee received in the last 12 months (where relevant recordings are accessible in the Councillors’ Hub)

Meeting date	Recording available	Title	Origins / history	Lead officer
		Details / purpose		
25 October 2022	No (pre-CSC briefing)	FACT programme – the journey so far		Simon Thomas

20 September 2022	No (pre-CSC briefing)	How Mental Health services and support for children and young people are funded in Wiltshire.		Helen Jones Lucy Baker (ICS)
06 July 2022		Virtual Schools		
16 December 2021		Traded Services		
12 October 2021		Statutory duties in schools		
06 September 2021	Yes	Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership		
03 August 2021	Yes	Five to Thrive		