

# AGENDA

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**Meeting:** Children's Select Committee  
**Place:** Kennet Committee Room, County Hall, Trowbridge  
**Date:** Wednesday 15 May 2019  
**Time:** 10.30 am

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Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 713035 or email [roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## **Pre-meeting information briefing**

There will be a briefing session starting at 9.30 am, immediately before the meeting. Its focus will be on **The Safeguarding Vulnerable People's Partnership**

## **Membership:**

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)	Cllr Deborah Halik
Cllr Mary Douglas (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Hayley Illman
Cllr Mary Champion	Cllr Chris Hurst
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Johnny Kidney
Cllr Christopher Devine	Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Sue Evans	Cllr Roy While
Cllr David Halik	

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## **Substitutes:**

Cllr Pat Aves	Cllr Nick Fogg MBE
Cllr Clare Cape	Cllr Peter Fuller
Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Ernie Clark	Cllr Jim Lynch
Cllr Stewart Dobson	Cllr James Sheppard

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## **Non-Elected Voting Members:**

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

Tracy Cornelius  
Miss Sarah Busby  
John Hawkins  
Maisy Humphrey  
Declan Kiely

Primary Head Teacher Representative  
Secondary Head Teacher Representative  
School Teacher Representative  
Children & Young People's Representative  
Children & Young People's Representative -  
Substitute  
Further Education Representative

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## **Recording and Broadcasting Information**

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**Monkton Park, Chippenham**

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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

## PART I

### Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies**

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 16*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2019.  
(Copy attached)

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

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 **Wednesday 8 May 2019** 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 **Friday 10 May 2019**. 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 **Corporate Parenting Panel Bi-annual Report** *(Pages 17 - 34)*

As part of the Children's Select Committee's statutory responsibilities it will receive a bi-annual update from the Corporate Parenting Panel.

A report by the Director, Families and Children's Services is attached. The report provides an update to Children's Select on the progress made against each of the seven strategic priorities of the Corporate Parenting Panel. At each Panel meeting one priority is a focus for the meeting and the lead Councillor for that priority will present an update.

The committee are provided the opportunity to ask questions regarding the update and asked to note the report from the Corporate Parenting Panel and include the draft full annual report in their forward work programme for September 2019.

7 **Childcare Sufficiency Report - 2019** *(Pages 35 - 46)*

The committee received a report in February 2018 reporting on the impact of the increased childcare entitlement from September 2017. Following this report, the committee agreed to receive a further update in 12months time.

A report by the Director, Commissioning is attached. The report details how well we are performing in Wiltshire regarding meeting the duty to secure sufficient Early Years & Childcare places across Wiltshire.

The committee are provided with the opportunity to ask questions with the intention of reassuring themselves that Wiltshire has sufficient Early Years & Childcare places.

8 **Report of the Children's Centre Consultation Rapid Scrutiny Exercise** *(Pages 47 - 52)*

The Children's Centres Consultation rapid scrutiny exercise was established by this committee on 5th March 2019 and held on 15th April 2019 with the task of considering the results of the consultation, the proposed closures and the plans for alternative venues.

Following their meeting the rapid scrutiny exercise submitted their report for consideration at the [30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Cabinet meeting](#), where they considered the report as part of the overall Children's Centres Buildings Consultation item.

The report by Cllr Trevor Carbin, Lead Member for the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise is attached. The committee are asked to receive the report for information and receive any updates which may be available on their recommendations from the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills.

9 **School Ofsted Judgements**

The committee will be provided with a report which includes information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports. It will provide an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.

10 **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education**

A report by Terence Herbert, Corporate Director, will be circulated presenting an update on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education.

11 **Task Group and Board Representative Updates** *(Pages 53 - 56)*

The committee will receive updates from active Task Groups 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 57 - 60)*

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 16 July 2019 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.

**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**

None

## **CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2019 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.**

**Present:**

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr David Halik, Cllr Deborah Halik, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Roy While, Dr Mike Thompson, Miss Sarah Busby, John Hawkins, Cllr Trevor Carbin (Substitute), Cllr James Sheppard (Substitute) and Ms Jen Jones

**Also Present:**

Cllr Laura Mayes and Cllr Philip Whalley

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17 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Cllr Mary Douglas, who was substituted by Cllr James Sheppard.  
Cllr Hayley Illman, who was substituted by Cllr Trevor Carbin.

18 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 January 2019.**

19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

20 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

**a) Cabinet items**

For information on 5 February Cabinet considered the following items

**School Capital Programme 2019-2024**

## **School Admissions Policies 2020/21**

On 26 March Cabinet was due to consider the following items:

### **Proposal to join a Flexible Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Independent and Non-maintained Special Schools (ISS)**

Scrutiny engagement – due to the relation with their work, the SEND School Provision Task Group would receive a briefing on this prior to the Cabinet meeting.

### **Children's Centre Buildings Consultation**

Scrutiny engagement – topic is included on this agenda.

### **b) Overview and Scrutiny Councillor Workshop Outcomes**

*To be confirmed from 28 February workshop*

## **21 Public Participation**

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

## **22 Update from Youth Representative**

The Chairman welcomed Charlie Sweetman and Heather Newton who were attending this meeting to present their report which provided a summary of activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY), Youth Safeguarding Board ((YSB) and the Children in Care Council (CiCC) during the period December 2018 to January 2019.

The Committee was informed that members of the WAY, YSB and CiCC were committed to the proposal for a refreshed identity which would bring them together under one brand - the Wiltshire Youth Union. Work was being taken forward with the branding team to work with young people to create the brand re-launch in Summer 2019.

Members of the Wiltshire Youth Union and CiCC took part in a council-generated online survey throughout January 2019. This was facilitated to ascertain their views and opinions on a set of three questions posed by the Schools & Youth Liaison Supervisor at Police headquarters in Devizes as part of a 'sextortion' consultation. The questions were as follows:-

- What would be the best form of communication from the Police regarding child sexual exploitation and how to help prevent it?
- What age range should be targeted?
- What would you want highlighted the most?

The youth feedback from this survey had been captured in their November 18 to April 2019 'You Said, We Did' report.

It was pointed out that Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day was taking place on 18 March 2019.

Members were pleased to note that following on from his attendance at the last meeting of this Committee, Joel Mutagayika, Member of the Youth Parliament for Wiltshire East had been interviewed by the Wiltshire Times, the Wiltshire Gazette & Herald and by the Council's Communications Team. Joel had spoken passionately about why he became a MYP and sent out a positive message to other young people to do likewise.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To thank Charlie Sweetman and Heather Newton for their presentation.**
- (2) To note the contents of the report.**

23 **Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education Datasets**

Consideration was given to a report by the Director, Families & Children's Services which provided an update relating to the current position in Wiltshire of those children who were classified as Children Missing Education (CME).

It was explained that the report referred to those children and young people who were missing, i.e. their family or their individual whereabouts being unknown. Generally this was in respect of children who had moved out of Wiltshire, their destination was not known and they did not appear to be on the roll of another school in England.

Members welcomed the report and were pleased to note that, despite the difficulties involved in identifying these children, there had been a reduction in children missing education from 130 in 2017 to 80 as at 14 February 2019, as a result of more vigorous checking and working with partners, including Police and health staff. However, it was appreciated that there were more children that should be included in this category including children from travelling communities, numbers of which were unknown. It was also noted that children were likely to be moving into Wiltshire but were not registered.

The Committee also received a report which provided an overview of the current situation in Wiltshire relating to Elective Home Education. It was noted that a parent/carer could elect to home educate their child at any stage of a child's education. Should this option be taken at the earliest pre-school stage then that child would not be registered on any school roll. However, if the option was taken at a later stage, schools were required to notify the Local Authority and remove the child's name from the school roll. The Local Authority held a register of all children who were known to be home educated, which was overseen by the Education Welfare Service.

The number of young people known to be electively home educated had been steadily increasing from 385 in the academic year 2015-2016 to 619 in 2017-2018. The numbers home educated in the current academic year so far had reached 596. Work was currently being carried out to ascertain the reasons for this increase, bearing in mind that parents/carers had every right to home educate their child. Sometimes the reason was poor school performance and this was being investigated. It was also noted that work was being undertaken to ensure that the standard of home education was good; in most cases the standard was fine.

Reference was made to the needs of children with special educational needs and it was noted that some parents/carers considered that they did not receive sufficient support from mainstream schools.

After further discussion,

**Resolved:**

1. **To note the information and data provided on Children Missing Education in Wiltshire.**
2. **To note the information and data provided on Elective Home Education in Wiltshire.**
3. **To receive the correct figures on Children Missing Education for the following, and to circulate with the minutes of the meeting:**
  - **Gender Breakdown**
  - **Ethnicity Breakdown**
4. **To add Children Accessing Alternative Educational Provision to the committee's forward work programme as a future pre-meeting information briefing in autumn 2019.**
5. **To receive further data and analysis in 12 months on children with SEND receiving Elective Home Education.**

24 **Family and Children's Transformation (FACT) Update**

The Committee received a report by the Director, Family & Children's Services which provided an update on progress of the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) programme.

The report outlined the programme of achievements for 2018 and also the work plan for 2019. Members were informed that the new workstreams for 2019 were:-

- A good education for all
- Getting the best start in life
- Delivering Multi Professional Support at the earliest point.

- A whole life approach for children and adults with additional needs
- Core skills and a single approach to how we support families

It was noted that the conclusions were missing from para. 42 of the report and officers undertook to provide them for the Committee.

After some further discussion,

**Resolved:**

1. **To note the update on the Families and Children's Transformation programme.**
2. **To circulate the report conclusions with the minutes of the committee meeting.**
3. **To receive a report in 12 months on the impact of the programme on the outcomes for young people in Wiltshire.**

**(Note:** Subsequent to the meeting the conclusions were provided and for ease of reference are set out below as follows:-

Many of the developments from last year are now in the go live delivery stage and impact and benefit realisation work is underway and will be reported in the next round. This will be in the structure of a balanced scorecard for each historic and new workstream

- What was the baseline (what were we looking to improve upon)
- Investment received time and people resources from the council and other partners and efficiencies or cashable savings achieved
- Report on the success criteria for each workstream – localised wherever possible
- How were families involved and the outcomes of their feedback)

25 **Children's Centre Buildings Consultation**

A report by the Director of Commissioning was received which set out why the Council was proposing moving children's centre services from buildings to community venues and the related consultation process it was undertaking. This subject was due to be brought to Cabinet on 30 April 2019 and Members were asked to provide comments on the report prior to the Cabinet decision.

The Director explained that the Council was facing reduced funding and, to meet the budget gap in 2019-20, services had been reviewed to identify whether they could be delivered more efficiently. In reviewing children's centres, the Council had considered what savings could be made without having a significant impact on frontline services. Based on the successful use of wider

community venues for children's centre services rather than tie money up in the running costs of buildings,

it was being proposed that the number of buildings be reduced by six and more services be delivered in the community where they were needed and where the families could easily access them. This was a development of the work that was already taking place and followed discussions at contract meetings with providers about how efficiencies could be made with the least impact on services for the most disadvantaged families. Saving money on buildings meant that delivery of staff would be retained and able to work with families. The centres that would be de-commissioned were in the less deprived areas and had very little service delivery taking place in the buildings. It was anticipated that these changes would achieve savings of £250,000 in 2019-20.

The Committee noted that 10 consultation events had taken place in different parts of Wiltshire and all had been very positive. It was ascertained that parents were very keen that the services be maintained but not necessarily in the current children's centre buildings. By way of example, it was pointed out that the Longfield Community Centre in Trowbridge was well used rather than the Longfield Children's Centre.

After further discussion,

**Resolved:**

**To establish a rapid scrutiny exercise on the Children's Centre Buildings Consultation to examine the results of the consultation, the proposed closures and plans for alternative provision, and investigate the potential scope for further scrutiny.**

26 **Educational Outcomes for Disadvantaged Learners**

The Committee considered a report by the Director, Education & Skills which provided an overview of the performance of Disadvantaged Learners at the end of each key stage comparing outcomes in Wiltshire with national figures and comparing outcomes in Wiltshire with national figures and also with other local authorities. The report provided an overview of strategic school improvement activity carried out by the School Effectiveness Team.

During discussion, the Chairman suggested that a rapid scrutiny exercise be undertaken to ascertain if the establishment of a Task Group might be productive. Members also considered that there was a need for greater publicity for the courses which were available from the Local Authority. Members welcomed the establishment of a rapid scrutiny exercise and

**Resolved:**

1. **To note the data on the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in Wiltshire.**

2. **To establish a rapid scrutiny exercise to meet with officers and investigate the potential for the development of a full terms of reference for an Educational Outcomes for Disadvantaged Learners Task Group.**

27 **Interim Report of the SEND School Provision Task Group**

Consideration was given to a further report from the SEND School Provision Task Group. The report followed the Cabinet decision in May 2018 to enter a pre-consultation stage on three options for the future provision of SEND education in Wiltshire. Since the end of this pre-consultation the Task Group began evidence gathering regarding the Wiltshire vision for SEND school provision.

After some discussion,

**Resolved:**

**To endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the interim report of the SEND School Provision Task Group and refer them to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills for response to the next Children's Select Committee meeting.**

28 **School Ofsted Judgements**

The Committee received a report by the Director, Education & Skills which included information regarding the most recent Ofsted inspection reports from December 2018 to mid-February 2019. It provided an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted inspection.

It was noted that six inspections had been carried out since the last report. They were all maintained schools which had retained a 'good' grading. The inspections were all short one-day inspections.

**Resolved:**

**To note the update on Ofsted Inspection from 6 December 2018 to 13 February 2019.**

29 **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education**

The Committee received an update from Terence Herbert, Corporate Director on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education from December 2018 to February 2019., as follows:-

- Ofsted 2017/18 Annual Report

- National funding formula tables for schools, early years and high needs: 2019 to 2020
- Childcare and early years survey of parents:2018
- Life-saving skills in school
- Consultation on out-of-school settings
- Introduction of T Levels
- Academies Update
- Transport to education and training for people aged 16 to 18
- SEND provision capital funding for pupils with EHC plans
- Autism strategy
- Review of Children in Need – Interim findings
- Safeguarding children affected by parental alcohol and drug use
- Consultation on draft handbooks launched

**Resolved:**

**To note the update provided.**

30 **Task Group and Board Representative Updates**

The Committee received an update on the activities of the Traded Services for Schools Task Group.

**Resolved:**

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

31 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received the relevant items from the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme, together with the latest version of the strategy for the Children, Education & Skills Directorate.

**Resolved:**

**To note the Forward Work Programme for this Committee and the Children's Services Strategy List.**

32 **Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**To note that the next scheduled meeting of this Committee was due to be held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.**

33 **Urgent Items**

There were no items of urgent business.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.25 pm)

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

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDRENS SELECT COMMITTEE

15 MAY 2019

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## **Bi Annual Update from the Corporate Parenting Panel**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide a bi-annual update to the Children's Select Committee on the progress and achievements of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 On 19 December 2017, the Chair of the Panel (Cllr Laura Mayes) and Vice Chair (Cllr Pauline Church) and lead officer (Martin Davis) met to review the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- 2.2 At that meeting it was agreed that the seven strategic priorities were relevant and should continue – this view was supported by the fact that no changes had been requested via the young people on the Children in Care Council. Moving forward it was proposed that the format of the Panel meetings would be changed so that each meeting focused on a strategic priority. There would be some statutory items that would also need to be considered at all meetings, but focus would need to be given on what is brought forward to meetings. These plans were presented to the CPP on 9 January 2018 and members were in full agreement to this proposal.
- 2.3 The Corporate Parenting Strategy was updated following this and now includes the updated "Promise" to children and young people in care. The Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.4 The Corporate Parenting Strategy requires a six-monthly update to Children's Select on the progress made against each strategic priority and at each Panel meeting one priority is a focus for the meeting and the lead Councillor will present an update. This report provides this update.

### **3. Update on Strategic Priorities**

- 3.1 CPP Meeting – 13 March 2018 – Councillors George Jeans and Melody Thompson were the lead Members for *Strategic Priority 4 – "Improve care leavers journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: education, employment and training, independent living, housing options and health"*.

It was reported that the Children's Select Committee had convened a rapid scrutiny group who were asked to examine the draft of Wiltshire's Care Leavers Covenant which set out the Council's corporate responsibility for care leavers. This group first met in January 2018 and examined how the local offer intended to meet its goals and how it could address any perceived gaps or potential improvements.

Options for the offer included:

- Recruitment of two additional Personal Advisors;
- Introduction of the Grandmentors programme;
- Free Leisure Centre passes for Care Leavers;
- An increase to the Care Leaver Grant from £2,000 to £2,500;
- Council Tax exemption for Care Leavers;
- Contribution towards Wi-Fi payments;
- Payment of tuition fees; and
- Free bus pass for Care Leavers.

At the Panel meeting on 13 March 2018, members were asked to provide their feedback and opinion on the care leaver offer – particularly those which had financial implications and prioritise them in order of preference so that this could be fed into the next rapid scrutiny group meeting.

Since this time, work on providing an appropriate offer has continued.

3.2 CPP Meeting – 18 September 2018 – Councillor Phil Whalley is the lead Member for *Strategic Priority 5 – “Improve the educational outcomes for looked after children; closing the gap between looked after children and other children in the county”*.

At the meeting, the following was highlighted:

- That life chances would be improved if a young person had a good education and that Wiltshire Council had a moral and legal responsibility for all Looked After Children;
- There were currently 280 school aged Looked After Children and the Panel noted the Virtual School's results on pages 59 and 60 of the agenda. The Panel was asked to note that those children being assessed is small (e.g. 7 KS1 children and 18 KS2 children) and so this can skew the figures;
- There was some improvement for the KS1 and KS2 results for reading, writing and maths compared to last year although the results for KS4 are weak with 20.9% achieving levels 4-9 in English and Maths;
- Issues that impact on education performance to consider are the age at which a child came into care as this is a factor for when they might start to receive enhanced support, how long they have been in care and what disruptions and changes they have experienced;

- The Virtual School always look to place Looked After Children in Good or Outstanding Ofsted rated schools. If a school is then rated as “Requires Improvement” a judgement is made by the Virtual School and Social Worker as to whether it is in the child’s best interest to be moved to a different school;
- Personal Education Plans (PEPs) will be carried out using an electronic process (ePEP), the designated teachers from each school will be able to use the form to overview progress and identify areas of concern;
- The Pupil Premium (PP) allowance for LAC is £2,300 and it was confirmed that there was a robust process for the release of this funding – schools are required to indicate what they intend to spend it on and what improvements and outcomes are expected. Chris Whitfield (Virtual School Head - VSH) has the ultimate say on the PP spend and will re-iterate to schools that education must be the priority for young people;
- Every local authority must have a VSH and Wiltshire was in the original pilot scheme in 2007 so this position has been in place for over 10 years;

Chris Whitfield (Virtual School Head) reported that the Virtual School would be buying in an ePEP package for next year and that a Governing Body for the Virtual School was well established. Panel members asked to receive an update from the Virtual School Governing Body at a future meeting.

### 3.3 CPP Meeting – 20 November 2018 – Councillor Jane Davies - the lead Member for *Strategic Priority 2 – “Continue to improve timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options”*

At the meeting, the following was highlighted;

- The Permanence Framework that is for the establishing of emotional permanence (attachment), physical permanence (stability) and legal permanence (the carer has parental responsibility for the child) which gives a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity – a sense of “home” and belonging;
- Social work teams and how they work closely together to achieve permanence for a child;
- Clear planning and review process and how it is undertaken for a child and what this involves;
- Monitoring of progress and outcomes takes place and with whom the data collected is shared and discussed;
- Routes to permanence which include adoption, long term fostering or orders such as a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order (CAO) or a return home;

*It was confirmed that one of the FACT workstreams is focussing on reunification. When it is the plan that a child will return home, the voice of the child, parents and the views of foster carers on how this might work will be taken into account.*

- Wiltshire's Adoption Scorecard for 2014-17 (for which Wiltshire shows strong results in the three key areas);

*During the 2015 Ofsted inspection they positively commented on the adoption results and performance has continued to improve since. It is anticipated that the implementation of Adoption West will help improve things further and members were assured that Wiltshire's performance would not be negatively impacted by the results of the other authorities who were part of Adoption West.*

- Regular monitoring reports are prepared and provided for Cabinet in relation to adoption;
- Definition of a long-term placement is one which is intended to provide for a child until they are 18 plus – if all goes well it is hoped they would 'stay put' in foster care. Long term matches with Wiltshire approved foster carers are agreed at Foster Panel. If a child has to be placed with an agency foster carer they can still be long term matched if it is the right plan for the child. In this case, due diligence would apply and requests are approved by the Permanence Panel and then Foster Panel;
- If children are unable to live safely at home with parents, the next best option in terms of outcomes for the child may be a placement with extended family or close family friends for example – this would require a Special Guardianship Order or a Child Arrangement Order;
- In 2015-16, 29 SGOs were granted for Looked After Children (2 broke down). In 2016-17, 21 SGOs (1 broke down) and in 2017-18, 19 SGOs were granted. There is a support group for those holding SGOs and the children are invited to the Christmas party with carers;
- It should always be considered whether a child can and should return home. Research shows that after leaving care many young adults do return home. So, the question should always be asked whether a return home is viable and safe;
- There is a lot of work going on as part of the FACT programme with the Sufficiency of Placements work stream, Reunification work stream and Kinship (Connected Persons) work stream;
- Placement stability, which can influence permanence, is measured by National Indicator 62 (placement stability: 3 or more placements during the year) which is currently at 8.8% (below current target range of 9-12%) and NI 63 (placement stability: 18 months plus in same placement) is currently 75%, above our statistical neighbours and the national average;

- In the post Looked After Children review audit completed in January 2017 almost 79% of those children reviewed had a care plan which included a plan for permanence. Those without an up-to-date plan were followed up – this audit is due to be repeated;
- The challenges faced are:
  - i) Sufficiency of placements around fostering and adoption – *When the Corporate Parenting strategic priorities were reviewed, it was agreed that this priority should remain, transformational work is located within FACT.*
  - ii) Assuring the breadth and flexibility of support around complex children – *The No Wrong Door programme and strong partnership approach will help with this, especially with those children that are hard to place.*
  - iii) The implementation of Adoption West reflecting a period of change – *As this has not yet gone live, we have been unable to assess the impact of the changes but will do so as soon as possible.*
  - iv) Adoption West will not support Special Guardianship Order work previously held by the Adoption Team, so this work will transfer to the Fostering Team.

3.4 CPP Meeting – 29 January 2019 – Councillor Pauline Church - the lead Member for *Strategic Priority 6 – “Ensure that looked after children are protected from the risk of child sexual exploitation and reduce the frequency with which some looked after children and care leavers currently go missing”*

At the meeting, the following was highlighted:

- Blair Keltie had retired in his role as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Missing Children Service Manager and Andrea Brazier will be taking responsibility for this area of work and supporting Cllr Church with her strategic priority focus;
- The Ofsted recommendations of what local authorities should do to prevent CSE includes:
  - Ensuring that managers oversee all individual CSE cases and that plans are progressing appropriately
  - Ensuring that every child returning from a missing episode is given a return interview and that information obtained should be centrally collated and used to inform and improve future operational and strategic activity
  - Ensuring that schools and the LA cross-reference absence information with risk assessments for individual Looked After Children and Young People
  - Establishing a targeted preventative and self-protection programme on CSE for Looked After Children;

How we (the Council) respond to Looked After Children who go missing includes:

- Robust communication with Wiltshire Police with reports being sent directly to Families and Children Service Missing Co-Ordinators (Karen Stokes and Mel Gillingham) to manage responses
- Systems of escalation as required
- The Missing Co-Ordinators track and monitor completion of Return Interviews
- The performance is monitored by the fortnightly Performance and Outcomes Group (POG)
- The information and data collated is analysed and reported in quarterly reports to the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board, the Exploitation Sub Group, senior managers and to the Corporate Parenting Panel;

A graph recording Looked After Children missing episodes from 2015/16 to 2017/18 showed evidence that our responses to our children residing in Wiltshire is having a positive (trend) outcome with fewer missing incidents and more Return Interviews completed;

A graph recording our children residing out of county from 2015/16 to 2017/18 shows that our responses are improving but there is further room for improvement as the baseline was low;

There are a number of ways which are being used to support improvements in outcomes for Looked After Children who go missing which include:

- Reviewing and understanding criteria of top missing children
- A risk based approach to missing incidents and return interviews (assessing that although a child may not be where they are supposed to be at a certain time and are classed as “missing” it may be due to a missed curfew and it is known where they are/who they are with and they are not “at risk”)
- Police report direct to the Missing Co-Ordinators for children placed out of county
- Information is communicated for Looked After Children prior to placement starts and the responses made to the top missing incidents
- The need for standardised procedures – development of practice standards
- An update on national guidance (issued in 2014) to include resolving cross border issues where relevant information is not passed on/received
- The Safeguarding Panel is looking to map out CSE hotspots in the county
- CSE training for staff and for the dedicated Emerald Team.

Panel Members asked about County Lines – it was reported that there is a list of around 22 children who are thought to be involved with this and they are regularly discussed and monitored, but none of these are Looked After.

Return Interviews can be carried out face to face or online or via skype as appropriate. One of the issues faced is how “missing” is reported/recoded as there is a lack of standardisation of the definition of missing; that is differences between how Police and the Local Authority interpret it. The risk-based approach on deciding whether a Return Interview should be offered and completed is the best way using the intelligence known.

Work is ongoing to reduce missing incidents and it was confirmed that information is shared with Foster Carers before and during placement and the nature of any risk is discussed (if known) by the carer’s Supervising Social Worker. E-Learning on CSE/Missing children is available for staff and Foster Carers to complete.

Councillor Church had previously suggested that a RAG risk rating be introduced to identify the Looked After Children that are the most vulnerable and Officers had reported that this information would not be easy to achieve and as a result the Panel now received more detailed information in the quarterly missing reports that referred specifically to Looked After Children.

Councillor Church agreed to continue to explore the possibility of RAG risk rating and will liaise with Andrea Brazier about this so that all relevant teams are aware of, and can work together to help, the most vulnerable children and young people.

3.5 CPP Meeting – 19 March 2019 - Councillor Stewart Palmen - the lead Member for Strategic Priority 7 “*Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services*”

At the meeting, the following was highlighted:

Those who might identify emotional and mental health issues in Looked After children and young people included:

- Foster Carers
- Medical Professionals during regular health assessments and via the completion of Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs)
- School staff
- Social Workers
- Family Support Workers
- Other Agencies that come into contact with the Looked After Children
- Self recognition of issues

Once issues are identified this would lead to an assessment by a CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) LAC Therapist.

Another channel of entry to support children could come via a GP referral or from an A&E department following a self-harming episode requiring treatment or hospital admission.

The CAMHS Looked After Children Therapist (Roger Duncan) can be used to bridge the gap between services. He has been in post for 2 years and supports Looked After Children in the following ways:

- By meeting with the Looked After Children nurses for a weekly team meeting
- By joining the weekly Emerald Team meetings with Lena Pheby (Looked After Children Nurse) to identify any Looked After Children at risk of CSE
- By joining the monthly Vulnerable Adolescent Contextual Safeguarding Panel (VACS – previously Risk Management Panel) with Lena Pheby to identify any LAC who are considered at risk.

The CAMHS LAC Therapist offers the following:

1. Assessment of Looked After Children mental health needs and risk
2. Support for referrals to CAMHS
3. Short term therapy work for Looked After Children (10 cases)
4. Short term therapy work for Unaccompanied Young People (2 cases)

If further support is required after a set number of sessions the young person would be referred onto the CAMHS service. Currently there is only one CAMHS Looked After Children's Therapist, so capacity is limited. The CCG were carrying out a review of demand and capacity to identify the commissioning gaps.

It was confirmed that Roger Duncan does work with young people if their application to CAMHS is declined and if support has been requested by the family.

The CCG reported that there had been less bounce back from the young people in the system since the CAMHS Looked After Children Therapist role had been introduced. Other support services are available including Kooth (on-line counselling). Between April 2018 and March 2019, an average of 4.5 referrals of Looked After Children have been accepted in the specialist CAMHS Service – with a range of between 2 and 8 each month. This does not take into account those accessing Services through staff embedded in other teams, such as schools or The Emerald Team.

It was reported that there are many life experiences that can lead to mental health problems and Looked After Children are more likely to have experienced them; and not addressing these issues can lead to mental health issues in the future:

Early Life Experiences or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Witness to Domestic Violence
- Neglect

- Trauma (especially true of unaccompanied young people, sometimes arising from events in their country of origin) leading to PTSD. Interpreters are often needed to find out about these issues.

There are issues with providing CAMHS support for Looked After Children and Care Experienced young people, as follows:

- CAMHS is a “brand” that some young people may not want to be associated with as there is a stigma attached to the word “mental”
- Family care workers offering outreach in other Specialist areas are essential to provide support for those who don’t want to see a CAMHS therapist; children cannot be made to have CAMHS support
- Initial Health Assessments can be delayed, more often for children placed out of county
- SDQ scoring is sometimes not completed in a timely manner
- There is no quantitative data available to see how well we are doing.

Cllr Palmen shared his improvement suggestions as follows:

- Improve support for Unaccompanied Young people
  - *I am aware that recently funding has been secured for three levels of training that can Support UASC; Clinically, as a Social Worker and at a support worker/residential level.*
- Recognise Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) early on and provide counselling and support quickly
  - *I feel this approach would benefit from multi-agency training and support including school as key front-line agencies.*
- Have quantitative measures of more than time for Initial Health Assessments.
- Improve the CAMHS brand?
  - *I am aware that recent changes in the CAMHS structure and establishment of the CAMHS Wiltshire Wellbeing team is currently addressing this.*
- Looking at the Panel’s Strategic Priority – do we need to take the focus off “Timely Support” and onto “Preventative measures with correct support?”

Lucy Baker (CCG Commissioning) wished to assure the Panel that the reported issue of timeliness of IHAs had been picked up and work was being undertaken to make improvements. They were talking to colleagues in Islington who are high performers in timeliness of IHAs to find out what they do. Lucy also reported that national funding was coming and that they would be looking to make improvements early on in a young person’s pathway.

Lena Pheby reported that they are considerate in the way they address and discuss emotional health issues when they are talking to young people to take away the “mental” stigma.

A Panel Member asked whether young people had to be in a “stable” placement before they could access the CAMHS service. If we are aware of a drug or alcohol issue, then we would recommend a referral for a Motiv8 session with hope that more would be provided.

Lucy Townsend (Director – Families and Children’s Services) reported that Tracy Daszkiewicz (Director of Public Health) was leading on the core skills workstream under the FACT project which was looking at support for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

A Panel Member asked if counselling should be offered to all children coming into care as standard?

Lucy Baker responded that workshop/play therapy is offered for younger children that come into care, particularly being available in school holidays so that they can continue to receive support during those times. Outdoor based activities and forest walks and talks are sometimes appropriate for older children. Lucy confirmed that the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are used for adult support and she offered to see if they would be able to extend their service to young people. Chris Whitfield (Virtual School Head) suggested that she and Lucy Baker could meet to discuss support further and that funding from the top sliced Pupil Premium could be used.

A Panel Member asked if Wiltshire currently use the NSPCC for support work. It was confirmed that they do, but that they carry out specialist work and that they have a long waiting list to access the service.

The Panel requested an update in six months with an update on progress and Councillor Palmen would look to propose new wording for Strategic Priority 7 to cover more than speed of access to CAMHS support.

#### **4. Proposal**

- 4.1 That the Committee note the update from the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 4.2 A draft full annual report will be presented to Children’s Select around September 2019 for planned presentation to Council in October 2019.

#### **Lucy Townsend (Director Families and Children’s Services)**

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Report Author: Deborah Barlow (Interim Head of Service - Children in Care and Young People)

2 May 2019

Appendix 1 – Revised Corporate Parenting Strategy

# **Wiltshire Council Corporate Parenting Strategy**

The Corporate Parenting Strategy is important

Hello and welcome to Wiltshire Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy, which is about what looked after children and care leavers expect our corporate parents to do and work towards to be good in their role.

The strategy is about us – the children and young people in and leaving Wiltshire Council's care. It's about how we are looked after and how things can be made better for us – not just while we are in care but also afterwards.

Within the strategy the corporate parents have worked with the Children in Care Council to set out a number of priorities. This is important as it means our views are included within the strategy.

As the Children in Care Council represent that voice of all looked after children and care leavers, it is really important to us that the strategy works, so that children and young peoples' experience of being in Wiltshire's care is a positive one and builds solid foundations for our future.

We run this programme to benefit all Children in Care. As young people, we feel like our voice is not always heard and we ask that all Corporate Parents commit to spending time listening to us.

- Children in Care Council members, January 2017

## 1. Introduction

Wiltshire Council (the “Council”) recognises that Looked After Children and Care Leavers are among the most vulnerable children and young people in our society.

The Council has a legal duty to act as a good and effective Corporate Parent to children and young people in its care.

The Council is guided in its duty as a Corporate Parent by The National Children’s Bureau, which has produced guidance supported by central government, including a summary of the legal and policy guidance that informs Corporate Parenting. This strategy has been developed having regard to that guidance.

An effective Corporate Parent will ensure that looked after children and care leavers have at least the same care, nurture, support and life chances as any other child in our society might expect. Where these opportunities are not provided Corporate Parents will have failed in their primary duty.

As a responsible and reasonable Corporate Parent, the Council will deliver on our Promise to looked after children. This Promise was reviewed in the Autumn of 2017 at a Shared Guardian Session with the Corporate Parents and representatives from the Children in Care Council. The Promise was then updated with the agreement of the children and young people and all Panel Members agreed and signed The Promise as detailed below on 14 November 2017:

We, the Corporate Parents commit to the following promise for the children and young people in care

We promise:

- A choice of home where you can stay until you are ready to move on from care
- To keep you together with brothers and sisters whenever we can, and to help you stay in close contact with your family if that’s what is right for you
- To listen to your views, act on them when we can and be honest when we cannot
- That your social worker will work hard for you to solve problems
- To tell you what your rights are and what you are entitled to
- That you will be involved in decisions taken during your looked after child review
- To involve you in decisions about school and to help you get to school so that your education can continue

- To arrange transport for you that is reliable and gets you to school, and important meetings, on time
- To invite you to group activities with other children living in care, and those leaving care, to help you feel more confident
- That we will deal with bullying quickly and efficiently
- To support you when you need help with school, leaving school and preparing for employment and training

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that the Council's Corporate Parenting functions support improvement in services and to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people. In order to achieve this, it is essential that Councillors:

- Understand their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents.
- Scrutinise and challenge how the Council performs in delivering its services as a Corporate Parent.
- Engage effectively, with energy, consistency, and confidence with children and young people so that their voice is heard and has influence.
- Support and enable children and young people to challenge where services need to improve.
- Maintain a comprehensive overview of the progress of looked after children and for care leavers, ensuring they consistently scrutinise the quality, effectiveness and performance of the services that support them.

## **2. Corporate Parenting - Defined Responsibilities**

Services for looked after children and care leavers need to be co-ordinated, focused and effective. Responsibility for this rests at a corporate level with Councillors who will hold senior staff accountable for the implementation of strategies and services.

In 2009, The National Children's Bureau, funded by the Government, created a gold-standard approach to corporate parenting, with a range of resources available to Councillors to help them design the best-fit corporate parenting model for local needs and to understand and fulfil their corporate parenting roles. This has been updated year on year and is available on the NCB website:

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/corporate-parenting>

NCB publications identify three distinct levels of role responsibility for Councillors; 'universal', 'targeted' and 'specialist'. These responsibility levels are defined below:

### **Universal responsibility**

Every elected member and manager within Wiltshire Council, in conjunction with members of governing bodies of partner agencies, needs to:

- Understand their 'Corporate Parenting' role

- Have knowledge of the profile and needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers
- Understand the impact of council decisions on all looked after children and young people
- Examine information about current levels of quality of care and services for young people and assess whether this would be 'good enough' for their own child
- If shortcomings in services and support for young people are identified, ensure that action is taken to address these shortcomings and strive to continually improve outcomes.

### **Targeted responsibility**

For elected members who visit Children's Homes or who are members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, and for managers of children's services, their responsibilities are as above.

In addition, they will also need to make sure, in partnership with those with lead responsibility in partner agencies, that they:

- Are aware of Government expectations regarding services for looked after children and young people
- Have access to and examine qualitative and quantitative information about children and young people in Wiltshire
- Consider how they are going to respond to and hear the voice of children and young people and their carers/parents
- Continually take action, in conjunction with officers and partner agencies, to improve services and respond to changing needs

### **Specialist responsibility**

This includes key roles of the Lead member for Children's Services, the Director of Children's Services, and the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel. There is a responsibility for these individuals to:

- Provide leadership across the Council in safeguarding and monitoring the welfare of looked after children and young people
- Ensure effective governance arrangements are in place
- Undertake regular in-depth analysis of the needs of looked after children and young people and the services required to meet these needs

- Ensure the strategic plans of the Council and joint plans with partner agencies reflect the needs of looked after children and young people
- Keep up-to-date with national research and new performance indicators in relation to looked after children and young people

### **3. Corporate Parenting Panel – Functions and Terms of Reference**

The Corporate Parenting Panel is the primary vehicle for Councillors to meet with key officers and to challenge and scrutinise the performance, quality and efficacy of Wiltshire Council's services.

The Corporate Parenting Panel will comprise up to 8 Core Members drawn from elected Councillors politically balanced and nominated by group leaders. Group leaders will ensure that they appoint substitute members to cover absences.

Associate Members will include officers from the council and key partner agencies and comprise of:

1. Corporate Director Children and Education
2. Director – Families and Children
3. Head of Care, Placements and EDS
4. Senior Commissioning Officer – Children's Social Care (Voice and Influence)
5. A Representative from the Children in Care Council
6. Cabinet Member for Children's Services
7. Chair of Wiltshire Fostering Association
8. Conference and Reviewing Service Manager
9. Designated Doctor/Nurse for Looked After Children
10. Virtual School Head

If any of the core members are unable to attend a meeting they will send a substitute representative.

On behalf of all Councillors acting as Corporate Parents, the Corporate Parenting Panel will ensure delivery of the following seven strategic priorities:

- Strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function across Wiltshire Council as a whole.
- Continue to improve timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options.
- Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children within Wiltshire which meets the needs of those children. Prioritise placement within Wiltshire.
- Improve care leavers journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: education, employment and training, independent living, housing options and health.

- Improve the educational outcomes for looked after children; closing the gap between looked after children and other children in the county.
- Ensure that looked after children are protected from the risk of child sexual exploitation and reduce the frequency with which some looked after children and care leavers currently go missing.
- Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services.

The Panel will appoint a Chairperson on an annual basis.

To ensure that strategic oversight and critical challenge is effective, each member of board will have a lead role in relation to delivery of one strategic priority.

#### **4. Quorum**

The quorum of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be 75% (6) Councillors, 70% (7) Associate Members in attendance. Where the meeting is not quorate, the Chairperson will adjourn the meeting.

#### **5. Frequency of meetings**

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet bi-monthly with a minimum of 5 meetings a year.

#### **6. Reporting**

The Panel would report its work through the Wiltshire Council Children's Select Committee. Following each meeting the Chairperson will send a copy of the Panel minutes to the Chairman of Children's Select Committee. On a six monthly basis the Panel Chairperson will prepare a report for Chairman of the Children's Select Committee, addressing progress against each of the seven strategic priorities.

In addition to this the Chairperson of the Corporate Parenting Panel will present an annual report to Full Council which will be shared with the Children's Select Committee prior to submission.

#### **7. Terms of Reference**

Corporate Parenting Panel will;

- Make a commitment to prioritising the needs of looked after children and young people and their carers and demand that all departments within the Council prioritise the needs of this group
- Receive reports from the Children in Care Council and act on their views
- Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting

- Show ambition and aspirations for all looked after children and care leavers
- Ensure that all councillors and Wiltshire Council departments are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively. This may involve, for example, the Corporate Parenting Panel organising specific education and training events for all members to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be corporate parents
- Investigate on behalf of all Councillors ways in which the role of Corporate Parenting can be improved, using examples of research and effective practice from other local authorities
- Listen to the views of children, young people and their carers to involve them in the assessment and development of services
- Engage with children and young people who are looked after, or have left care, by inviting them to act as advisers to the Panel
- Monitor the performance, quality and outcomes of the Council's services in relation to children and young people in public care and identify any areas for improvement
- Scrutinise key performance indicators in relation to children and young people in the care of Wiltshire Council
- Meet with government inspectors, where appropriate, for their input into inspections
- Participate as members of the adoption and fostering panels
- Agree a work plan, review progress, membership of the panel and attainment of its role and terms of reference and report to the Cabinet and Children's Services Select Committee as appropriate, and in any case to the Full Council annually.

Revised and agreed May 2018

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**Wiltshire Council**

**Children’s Select Committee**

**Date: May 2019**

## Childcare Sufficiency Report - 2019

### 1. Purpose of Report

To update the Children’s Select Committee on how well we are performing in Wiltshire regarding meeting the duty to secure sufficient Early Years & Childcare places across Wiltshire.

### 2. Background

As a local authority, we are required to secure sufficient childcare places<sup>1</sup>, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment with children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). This is also relevant for children who are entitled to Two-Year-Old Funding, Three and Four-Year-Old Funding (universal entitlement and the extended 30 hours entitlement).

Overall, we have sufficient Early Years & Childcare provision across Wiltshire, but there are pockets of the county where more provision is required. We will continue to encourage the expansion of existing provision or new developments in areas of need. There have been a high number of closures over the last year, but equally there have been new openings and expansions. We will continue to monitor the Army Basing area closely to ensure that there is sufficient Early Years provision for the return of families over the summer of 2019.

#### Percentage of children aged two benefiting from some free early education (Data from the Local Governments Interactive Tool - LAIT)

Local authority	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Wiltshire</b>	71%	77%	78%	87%
<b>England</b>	58%	68%	71%	72%

#### Numbers of children aged three or four benefiting from some free early education (Data from the Local Governments Interactive Tool - LAIT)

Local authority	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Wiltshire</b>	94%	96%	95%	94%
<b>England</b>	95%	95%	94%	94%

Wiltshire’s pattern of take up of free education for three and four-year olds is following a similar pattern to the data for other Local Authorities in England which is indicating a slight decline. However, we are performing well above the national average for two-year olds.

<sup>1</sup> Early Education & Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (March 2017)

### 3.Challenges

Despite the challenges of the introduction of 30 hours Free Entitlement, it has been successfully embedded in Wiltshire. Only one setting closed stating the introduction of the 30 hours Free Entitlement as being the reason for closure. In this case, another provider re-opened an Early Years setting in the same building. Providers report that the greatest challenge is the recruitment of staff.

Overall, we currently have sufficient Early Years provision. Close monitoring needs to continue to ensure we are meeting the future demands for Early Years places as the population grows. This is due to the increase in new housing across Wiltshire. There are less children three and under living in Wiltshire in August 2018 compared to August 2017.

#### Comparison of the number of children aged under 1, 2 and 3 on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

Overall totals as at 31st August 2017		Overall totals as at 31st August 2018		
Ages of children		Ages of children		Differences
Under 1	4898	Under 1	4914	+16
1	5418	1	5013	-405
2	5407	2	5536	+129
3	5604	3	5523	-81
<b>Total</b>	<b>21372</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20986</b>	<b>-386</b>

As a rural county, there is a need to work closely with parents to address any access issues in some areas, particularly for parents who cannot drive. As more provision is established in 2019 and 2020, this should become less of an issue in the future.

#### Update on recent closures, openings and planned projects.

Over the summer of 2018, 10 Early Years settings closed. Closure of Early Years settings was for a range of reasons including the loss of use of premises, retirement of owners and issues around viability. There have been no further closures since then.

Since September 2018 we have seen 7 new Early Years settings open with a further 5 expanding the numbers of children that they are registered to take. This does not include further options related to former Children Centres buildings.

Information on the number of places by community area is available in **Appendix 1** with information on projects that have opened recently and potential projects for the future in **Appendix 2**.

Key to getting development right is good local knowledge regarding how a local community operates e.g. knowing how many families work away, what sort of hours they work, where they are in relation to local schools and bus services etc. In addition, not all three and four-year olds will take up a full-time place, so one free place available may allow two children to access their 15 hours Free Entitlement. Working parents may also use Early Years provision near to where they work which could be out of county. An example of this is Westbury, which despite the growth in population is seeing low occupancy levels in some Early Years settings.

Local knowledge and data also play an important role in allowing us to either apply for grants from the Department for Education or request S106 Contribution from developers to support areas within Wiltshire where more provision is required.

#### 4. Childminders

Childminders play an important role in ensuring we have sufficient Early Years & Childcare provision. Childminders give parents choice as they often have more flexibility than a nursery or pre-school by offering longer hours beyond the 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. day. They can also offer overnight care. Childminders help meet the demand for Early Years & Childcare in rural areas where there are not sufficient children to require a nursery or pre-school. There are 416 Childminders operating in Wiltshire with a further 17 people waiting to become a Childminder in county. Numbers of Childminders in Wiltshire remain stable. This is due to Childminding being actively being promoted as a career across Wiltshire through schools, Early Years setting, use of the Council's Facebook page and promotion in local communities. 313 Childminders are recorded as offering the extended 30 hours entitlement.

For the first time, some individuals expressing an interest in becoming a Childminder are registering with a Childminding Agency rather than registering with Ofsted. A Childminding Agency has been set up in Swindon. It is too soon to say if this will increase the number of Childminders in Wiltshire.

**Appendix 3** provides information on the number of Childminders registered with Ofsted in 2017/2018 compared with the number of Childminders currently registered with Ofsted by community area.

<b>Numbers of Childminders operating in Wiltshire</b>		
<b>September 2017 to August 2018</b>	<b>2019 April</b>	<b>Difference</b>
440	416	-24

A further 17 people are waiting to be registered with Ofsted to become a Childminder.

#### 5. Finance

Below are the projects completed in 2018:

<b>Name of setting</b>	<b>Source of funding (Delivery Support Funding)</b>	<b>Use of funding</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
<b>Brambles Pre-School, Fighldean</b>	Department for Education	Expansion project	£3,000
<b>Little Robins Nursery, Melksham</b>	Department for Education	Expansion project	£3,000
<b>YMCA Kings Nursery, Malmesbury</b>	Department for Education	Expansion project	£3,000
<b>Downton Pre-School Expansion</b>	S106	Allowed a move to improved premises	£76,830

Below is an update on the remaining capital funding obtained from the Department for Education to support the delivery of 30 hours:

<b>Name of setting</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>	<b>Balance remaining</b>
<b>Old Sarum Nursery New Build</b>	£666,120	This project remains on hold and the full award will no longer be available. This is due to recent changes to the rules relating to EU State Aid.

<b>The Rise refurbishment project</b>	£374,310	£36,762.58
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Below are the S106 contributions obtained from housing developments in Wiltshire:

Area	Source of funding	Amount of contribution	Amount committed to date
<b>Bradford on Avon Early Years provision</b>	S106 contribution for Early Years & Childcare provision	£90,743 (This is the first payment; further funding is due)	No funding has been committed. Awaiting the further payment
<b>Corsham/Rudloe Project</b>	S106 contribution for Early Years & Childcare provision	£57,428	£20,000 of this funding has been allocated to the Springfield Hub Early Years project

### Potential future projects

Officers are currently supporting two further applications for capital funding for two schools in Wiltshire to provide their own Early Years provision. One school is in Devizes and the other one is in Warminster. The amount of the funding requested for these two applications is for a total of £677,959.

### Opportunities

Interest from schools wanting to set up their own Early Years provision, as well as national providers wanting to set up Early Years provision in Wiltshire, has contributed to grow. With a rise in school and regional/national business/charity providers, there are now fewer parent led nurseries.

### 6. Commissioning Considerations

By using data and local knowledge, officers will continue to work with providers and communities to ensure that there is sufficient high-quality provision where there are particular areas of demand. The Early Years Sufficiency Team works with communities to ensure there is sufficient provision in each area. In addition, Wiltshire Council has officers who support the quality, achievement of learning and educational goals and safeguarding for childminders and childcare settings.

### 7. Actions for 2019-20

The key actions identified for 2019-20 are as follows:

Actions	By who
<b>Continue to seek opportunities for new Early Years provision when required</b>	Sufficiency Team
<b>Promote Childminding as a career to support gaps in areas of need e.g. villages where there is no Early Years provision despite a demand</b>	Sufficiency Team
<b>Promote the opening of Out of School provision when required</b>	Sufficiency Team
<b>Work with failing settings to identify a new provider to take over the setting when there is a need for the provision in the Community Area</b>	Sufficiency Team

## 8. Safeguarding Considerations

As the Local Authority, Wiltshire Council is obliged to ensure that there is “effective safeguarding and promotion of welfare of the children for whom the early education is provided”. In addition, all Early Years settings are registered with Ofsted and as part of their Ofsted Registration they must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well.

## 9. Public Health Implications

The provision of sufficient childcare is part of the Local Authority’s overall commitments to support the health and wellbeing of Wiltshire’s communities. No specific issues have arisen out of this work, apart from acknowledging that access to good Early Years & Childcare is a significant part of supporting children’s and families’ health and wellbeing.

## 10. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

There are no specific environmental and climate change issues due the developing of Early Years & Childcare provision.

## 11. Financial Considerations

The DfE funding is allocated from the Early Years funding block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which is calculated on a per pupil basis and allocated on part time equivalents (PTE) i.e. children attending settings.

The hourly rate for 2-year olds is funded at £5.32 and remains unchanged for 19/20. Under the terms of the grant, the support services required across the sector are funded by top slicing the 3 and 4-year-old grant. Although the funded rate from the DfE remained unchanged, the hourly rate to providers was increased to £4.20 for 19/20 – this is because funding is based on a 100% take up and the actual take up of the offer in Wiltshire averages at 96.97%. There is risk associated with this which is mitigated by leaving a contingency to fund any increase in the take up level in 19/20.

The Early Years funding block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) was agreed at the January meeting of Schools Forum, the total provisional allocation from the DfE is £26.769 million. The detailed budget is shown in the table below

	PTE	Hourly Rate	19/20 Allocation agreed by Schools Forum £m
3&4-Year-Old Funding	9,484	£4.20 (increase 4p)	22.705
2-Year-Old Funding	835	£5.32 (no change)	2.531
Early Years Inclusion Fund			0.367
Early Years Disability Access Grant			0.123
Early Years Pupil Premium			0.143
Early Years Childcare & Early Development Team			0.231
Other Early Years Support			0.669
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26.769</b>

## 12. Commercial considerations

Early Years & Childcare provision provides job opportunities across Wiltshire. It is also important that there is sufficient Early Years & Childcare across Wiltshire so that parents and carers can take up employment and training opportunities. Sufficient Early Years & Childcare provision also provides

opportunities for parents to take up the range of Government funding to pay for Early Years & Childcare provision, this supports the viability of the sector.

### **13. Equalities Impact**

Childcare sufficiency seeks to promote equality and inclusion, particularly for disadvantaged families, looked after children, children in need and children with special educational needs and disability by removing barriers of access to free places and working with parents to give each child support to fulfil their potential. As a Local Authority, we must ensure that we meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and take account of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 0-25 when securing free places so that all families can access the provision they require in the right place.

### **14. Risk Management and Financial Implications**

There are risks related to not ensuring we have sufficient Early Years & Childcare provision. Without sufficient Early Years & Childcare provision:

- Wiltshire Council would not be meeting the statutory duty to ensure, where reasonable, that we have sufficient provision. If we had a lack of provision, parents would not be able to access Government funding to pay for Early Years & Childcare
- Children may not have access to an Early Years setting and as consequence may not have the experiences they require to ensure that they are ready for school
- Local businesses may find recruitment more difficult if parents have to stay at home full time for childcare

### **15. Legal Implications**

It is a legal requirement that we ensure that there is sufficient Early Years & Childcare available across Wiltshire for all those parents who wish to access provision. Lack of provision leads to complaints from parents which can escalate to legal challenge. This has not happened in Wiltshire to date.

### **16. Conclusions**

Most community areas across Wiltshire have sufficient high-quality nursery provision that is keeping up with local demand but monitoring of all areas will continue to ensure that expansion or the development of new provision in areas of need is encouraged. Local intelligence is gathered by both local knowledge and the use of surveys. Officers will continue to work with the Early Years & Childcare sector, colleagues within the council, communities and others to ensure that we have sufficient provision.

We will also maintain to support our current numbers of Childminders as they provide choice for parents particularly in areas where there are not sufficient children to run a viable group setting.

**Author:** Angela Brennan – Lead Commissioner Early Years & Sufficiency.

**Director:** Helen Jones – Director of Commissioning

**Appendix 1 - Number of places available in Early Years setting across Wiltshire by Community Area for September 2018.**

	January 2017			December 2018		
Community Area	Number of Early Years Places			Number of Early Years Places		
Places	0-1	2	3 to 4 yr olds	0-1	2	3 to 4 yr olds
<b>Amesbury</b>	126	219	508	129	253	513
<b>BOA</b>	42	73	188	43	71	219
<b>Calne</b>	27	118	300	20	102	288
<b>Chippenham</b>	135	189	635	192	322	680
<b>Corsham</b>	58	126	325	70	164	400
<b>Devizes</b>	68	134	461	129	155	350
<b>Malmesbury</b>	105	115	352	50	120	313
<b>Marlborough</b>	54	123	398	60	140	281
<b>Melksham</b>	84	164	372	61	170	370
<b>Pewsey</b>	6	21	146	27	93	133
<b>RWB &amp; Cricklade</b>	52	148	398	72	264	548
<b>Salisbury</b>	129	264	572	96	276	755
<b>Southern Salisbury</b>	67	113	287	82	201	361
<b>SW Salisbury</b>	73	122	322	37	83	175
<b>Tidworth</b>	73	104	267	63	148	302
<b>Trowbridge</b>	97	209	530	113	228	634
<b>Warminster</b>	30	145	338	36	122	264
<b>Westbury</b>	15	84	198	15	102	179
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>2471</b>	<b>6597</b>	<b>1295</b>	<b>3014</b>	<b>6765</b>
<b>Increased places</b>				<b>+54</b>	<b>+543</b>	<b>+168</b>

This table shows us that some Community Areas have seen a decrease in the number of places available, however, overall across Wiltshire we have seen an increase in the number of places since January 2017 to December 2018.

**Appendix 2 – Details of projects that have opened recently and potential projects for the future.**

<b>Community Area</b>	<b>Opening since September 2018</b>	<b>Planned projects for 2019 and beyond.</b>	<b>Current situation in relation to sufficiency.</b>
<b>Amesbury</b>	Nursery in Fighledean now offers a further 8 places. As part of the new school in Larkhill a new 72 place nursery for babies through to school aged children has opened Two new nurseries have opened recently in Amesbury town.	An expansion project is planned at one of the nurseries in Bulford	No more provision is currently needed in the town of Amesbury, but sufficiency will need to be monitored for Bulford and Larkhill on an ongoing basis as these places are part of the Army Basing Area.
<b>Bradford on Avon</b>	New nursery opened in January 2019	Potential new nursery to open in Limpley Stoke in 2019	No more provision is currently needed in this area
<b>Calne</b>	Expansion of 8 places in one nursery	None	Current provision can support the community. No more provision currently needed
<b>Chippenham</b>	One nursery	No current plans	Area requires monitoring to ensure expansion is stimulated as housing in the town grows
<b>Corsham</b>	One of the closed nurseries re-opened in new premises	A new nursery is to possibly open in the Springfield Hub	Area requires monitoring to ensure expansion is stimulated as housing in the town grows
<b>Devizes</b>	None	One school is planning to offer Early Years provision	Area requires monitoring to ensure there is sufficient provision
<b>Malmesbury</b>	Expansion of 8 places in one nursery	A new nursery is planned for to be opened in Sherston.	Different options are being pursued

<b>Marlborough</b>	None	None	There is sufficient provision, but parents cannot always have their first choice of setting
<b>Melksham</b>	None	Though the new school will not be open for several years, there will be nursery provision as part of this new school	There is sufficient provision in Melksham.
<b>Pewsey</b>	None	A new nursery is due to open in Up Avon for September 2019.	Current provision can support the community. No more provision currently needed.
<b>RWB &amp; Cricklade</b>	None	A new provider has been identified to open a new nursery in Lyneham.	Choice for parents is limited in Royal Wootton Bassett, more all-round provision offering longer hours would be welcome.
<b>Salisbury</b>	A nursery class opened at the new St Peters School in Fugglestone Red	The Early Years provision at St Martins school should re-open in Sept 2019	No more provision is currently needed in this area.
<b>Southern Salisbury</b>	Downton Pre-school re-opened in new premises, this was funded by S106 funding.  One nursery has created 8 more places for babies.  A small private nursery has recently opened in Old Sarum.	Expansion opportunity at Alderbury Pre-school (S106 funding)	No more provision is currently needed in this area.
<b>SW Salisbury</b>	None	There are plans to open a nursery on the site of Hindon School. There are plans for a new nursery in Wilton.	No more provision is currently needed in this area.

<b>Tidworth</b>	None	Two new nurseries are planning to open in Tidworth 2019/20. There will be nursery provision as part of the new school in Ludgershall, the nursery provision will be available in January 2020.	This area will be monitored closely to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of the growing population over the Summer 2019 due to Army Basing.
<b>Trowbridge</b>	West Ashton School are now taking pre-school children.	None	This area will be monitored closely to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the demands brought about in the growth in housing.
<b>Warminster</b>	A new nursery has opened in Crockerton  One nursery has expanded its provision  Two schools have recently opened their own nursery provision.		No more provision is currently needed in this area
<b>Westbury</b>	None	There are potentially new projects planned for Westbury	Occupancy levels of current provision is low, the expansion of housing does not appear yet to be having an impact on current provision
<b>Totals</b>	6 settings increased the number of children that they could take. 12 new Early Years settings opened.	2 settings are planning to expand and potentially 14 new Early setting are planned to be opened by a range of provider from 2019 onwards	

We will continue to submit requests for S106 contributions for Early Years & Childcare on a regular basis and apply for grants from the Department for Education as opportunities arise

### Appendix 3 - Number of Childminders across Wiltshire by area

Each Childminder cares for approximately 3 early years children, with around 1300 children potentially being cared for by Childminders at any one time. Some children will spend some time in a nursery and with a Childminder, whilst others will be cared for wholly by a Childminder.

Community Area	Number of Childminder operating in each area	
	September 2017 to August 2018	Autumn 2018
Amesbury	51	51
Bradford on Avon	19	17
Calne	25	25
Chippenham	41	40
Corsham	18	19
Devizes	32	32
Malmesbury	10	11
Marlborough	14	14
Melksham	13	13
Pewsey	8	8
RWB & Cricklade	41	38
Salisbury and the South	51	51
Tidworth	35	36
Trowbridge	49	46
Warminster	18	19
Westbury	15	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>435</b>

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**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Children's Select Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

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## **Report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Children's Centres Consultation**

### **Purpose**

1. To report to Cabinet and the Children's Select Committee (CSC) the outcome of the rapid scrutiny exercise established by CSC on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to consider the results of the consultation, the proposed closures and the plans for alternative venues.
2. To make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills.

### **Background**

3. The Children's Select Committee received a report outlining the Council's proposals for moving children's centre services from buildings to community settings and the consultation process at its 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 meeting. Following discussion, the committee resolved that a rapid scrutiny exercise be arranged to examine the results of the consultation, the proposed closures and plans for alternative venues, and investigate the potential scope for further scrutiny.

### **Membership**

4. The following Councillors were appointed:

Cllr Trevor Carbin (Lead Member)  
Cllr Russell Hawker  
Cllr Bob Jones

### **Evidence**

5. The following paper was made available prior to the meeting:
  - [Report to Children's Select Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019](#)
  - Summary Report of the Results of the Children's Centre Consultation Survey
  - Consultation Response Data
  - List of alternative community venues

- Map detailing the locations and spread of provision
- Spurgeons Children's Centre Fact Sheets

## Witnesses

6. Members of the rapid scrutiny would like to thank the following councillors and officers for attending the meeting and providing evidence:

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills  
 Helen Jones, Director of Commissioning  
 Judith Westcott, Acting Head of Commissioning and Joint Planning  
 Lucy-Anne Bryant, Lead Commissioner

## Deliberations

7. The detailed proposals were presented to the scrutiny members. During the ensuing discussion, questions were asked and aspects of the policy further explored, including the following:

### Consultation Results

8. Members were informed that a total of 262 responses had been received to the consultation run by the Wiltshire Council Commissioning Team during 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
9. Regarding changes to proposals following the consultation it was confirmed that the proposals to be included in the report to Cabinet would be the same as those referred to in the consultation, proposing the closure of the same 6 children's centres.
10. Scrutiny members noted that Pewsey was not listed in any responses to the question, "*Which of the following Children's Centres is the closest to where you live?*". Officers had visited the local area and engaged with the school where the Pewsey children's centre is located. They had also engaged with Pewsey Town Council and Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board. It was explained by officers that no services are currently run from the Pewsey children's centre and that it delivers its services through outreach work.
11. Some of the children's centre buildings were noted as having sensory rooms, and a number of consultation responses expressed concerns that this resource would be lost. It was reported that these resources were not consistently well used. Members also heard that sensory tents, such as the one available in Westbury, were now being used as they provided the opportunity to transport the resource to various locations.
12. Several responses to the consultation suggested that alternative income sources for children's centres could be sought through either voluntary "pay what you can" fees or charging small standard fees for services. Members

requested the views of officers and the Executive on this option. Concern was raised that either of these methods would inadvertently alienate the most vulnerable. Whilst the voluntary payment scheme would not oblige users to pay for services, those who could not afford a voluntary payment would potentially be discouraged from accessing services due to embarrassment.

13. Members queried the other children's centres located in less-deprived areas which were not included in the proposals, despite the report to Children's Select on 5<sup>th</sup> March referencing location in a less-deprived area as a reason for proposing closure of other centres. It was explained that the centre in Tisbury was retained for storage due to its size, at a rent of £600/year. The centre in Tidworth was retained to ensure ongoing provision due to significant army rebasing in the area. The centres in Calne and Chippenham were retained due to their strategic locations.
14. The members questioned the apparent reliance upon the deprivation indices in the proposals presented in the report to Children's Select Committee. It was reported that the criteria considered when developing the proposals included levels of deprivation in the local area, usage of the children's centre building and utilising outreach provision to reach the most vulnerable who are not using the children's centre buildings. Members requested that emphasis also be placed on the other rationale for the proposals, so that it didn't appear to rely solely on levels of deprivation. Officers accepted that the report to the Children's Select Committee appeared to incorrectly rely upon the deprivation indices and would make amendments following the member's comments and will be including in the Cabinet report the other reasons which included low usage particularly by families from vulnerable groups.

#### Consultation Reach

15. The consultation was advertised in children's centres and sent to all registered centre users who had provided an email address. This totalled approximately 5000 emails. The Facebook link had received around 1,500 click-throughs in total.
16. The face-to-face public meetings were similarly advertised however received low attendance with 10 parents and 14 professionals attending the 12 events. Comments from attendees to the events were recorded as part of the overall consultation feedback.

#### Alternative Venues

17. The research undertaken on potential alternative community venues was questioned by the scrutiny members. It was explained that the alternative community venues referenced in the list received by the members had been contacted in January 2019 and had expressed their commitment. Members questioned whether the list was still reliable as they had heard that some venues had more recently stated they would not be willing or able to host. It

was requested that further research be performed, and the list updated with greater detail. The suitability of using library space was also questioned. It was explained that library space could be used out-of-hours and objects be moved to create space if necessary (**recommendation 6**).

18. Members questioned what would be done to ensure support services continue to be accessed by those living in isolated areas. The charity-funded “Big Blue Bus” was referenced as an example of one method. It was explained that many people living in isolated areas already struggle to reach children’s centres due to the large distances involved.
19. Emphasis was placed by the members on ensuring that activities offered through alternative venues are visible to everyone who needs access, with a focus on the most vulnerable. Members questioned how this would be done. It was reported that the Community Engagement Manager and Local Area Co-ordinator roles were being utilised to develop a network of advertising the available outreach work to those who need it. Members asked how efficient this approach was and it was reported that the approach was consistently being developed and improved. Concerns were expressed by the scrutiny members regarding the coverage across the whole county, with specific concern regarding the northernmost areas.
20. Members queried whether it was possible to develop a comprehensive list of the community service activities available and to then incorporate this list into the network model mentioned above to improve the visibility of provision. It was requested that the planned approach to ensuring ongoing visibility of services be set out in the Cabinet report (**recommendation 5**).
21. It was reported that service users were increasingly accessing information through digital technology, including hearing about the services available through social media, rather than through a physical children’s centre building. The scrutiny members agreed that these changing needs needed to be met, along with avoiding the exclusion of others. It was felt that the definition of the services “meeting changing needs” needed to be properly defined within the Cabinet report.
22. Scrutiny members were particularly concerned that the removal of children’s centres and moves to alternative venues in the form of community-located outreach could be interpreted as a sign that the services currently available were being “run down”. Reference was made from the scrutiny members to services in the Warminster, where consultees claimed that promised services did not happen. Members were reassured that this was not the case. It was noted that previously children’s centre buildings were relied upon as a visible sign of the services. Officers were now working with families who utilise digital platforms, including social media, to access events and services. They explained that this allowed for flexibility in the choice of venues. Members sought assurance that there would be an appropriate balance between reflecting changing user needs and continuing to consider those who still valued children’s centre buildings.

23. Visibility of the services and the point of first contact were noted as key areas to address under the new way of working. Ensuring people know who and what to connect with to reach the services they require would be crucial to success.
24. The savings figure of £250,000 was equivalent to a total reduction of 7% across the budget area. Assurance was provided that the services could continue to be delivered through alternative venues under the new structure and it was confirmed that Spurgeons had agreed that they would be willing and able to deliver their work out in the community (**recommendation 1**).
25. Scrutiny members suggested that monitoring of the alternative venues be established using the baseline figures from 2018/19. It was requested that the monitoring should include activity usage and outcomes from usage, although it was acknowledged that the latter may present a challenge as it would require measuring the impact of early help and prevention (**recommendation 7**).

#### Other Considerations

26. Members sought assurance that the children's centre buildings would not be left vacant if the proposals were approved. It was confirmed that new tenants would be sought to avoid the buildings being left vacant. These would include childcare providers, with providers in the buildings paying rent to Wiltshire Council. Members were reassured that a strategic map was being developed and that it was not a case of closing those buildings that would be most profitable to lease (**recommendation 4**).
27. Members confirmed with the officers and the executive that maternity staff should be included in the list of key stakeholders referenced in the 5<sup>th</sup> March report to the Children's Select Committee. They also requested that the Health Select Committee be made aware of the outcome of the 30<sup>th</sup> April Cabinet meeting. Particularly regarding the addition of pre-natal as key stakeholders, along with the existing key stakeholders relevant to the Health Select Committee.
28. Members asked whether research into the work of other local authorities had been undertaken. Similar rural counties, including Somerset and Dorset, had been contacted regarding their experiences with these services. It was noted that physical children's centres worked better in urban environments, where issues of user transport are less of an issue.
29. There was concern that storage space for equipment would be lost with the closure of any of the children's centres. It was reported that leasing strategic storage locations was relatively cheap compared with whole buildings, and that equipment could also be kept with some service providers.
30. Responding to a question from the scrutiny members it was reported that a local area's town or parish council could open conversations with Wiltshire Council

regarding paying to keep their children's centre open. Officers confirmed that they would be happy to discuss the potential, but that areas would need to bear in mind additional staffing costs and outreach work. It was also noted that Wiltshire Council would not risk damaging the alternative venue approach..

## **Recommendations**

**The rapid scrutiny group recommends that the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills notes the following recommendations with regards to the Children's Centres Consultation:**

- 1. Provides reassurance that the current services will, at minimum, continue at the existing levels when moving to the alternative venues and confirms the commitment from Spurgeons and The Rise Trust to offer this level of services.**
- 2. Provides an outline of alternative venues and the approach for delivering alternative provision at the 30<sup>th</sup> April Cabinet meeting.**
- 3. Develop a comprehensive plan, including contract management, to ensure that the families with the greatest need are accessing a service**
- 4. Provides assurance and confirmation when available that the children's centre buildings will be used by alternative providers and will not be left vacant.**
- 5. Develops a comprehensive and evolving list of the community activities available and provide the list to the Community Engagement Managers and Local Area Co-ordinators to raise the visibility of services offered in the community.**
- 6. Undertakes further research into the list of alternative venues and update the list with greater detail, including detail on the venues and the commitment to the services they would host.**
- 7. Develops a monitoring framework for the alternative venues starting with the 2018/19 baseline data and report to Children's Select Committee 12 months from the commencement of that provision.**

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**Cllr Trevor Carbin, Lead Member for the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise**

Report author: Adam Brown, Senior Scrutiny Officer, 01225 718038,  
[adam.brown@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:adam.brown@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Background documents**

None

**Wiltshire Council**

**Children's Select Committee**

**15 May 2019**

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## **Task Group Update**

### **Purpose**

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

### **1. Traded Services for Schools Task Group**

#### Membership:

Mr John Hawkins (Chairman)  
Cllr Trevor Carbin  
Cllr Jon Hubbard  
Cllr Tony Jackson

Supporting Officer: Marie Gondlach

#### Terms of reference:

1. To review the proposed developments for traded services to schools, considering the outcomes of the service review of traded services (commenced in October 2016), with a particular focus on the following areas:
  - a) The model for the centralised trading unit and the proposed traded services team structure and appointments to ensure sustainability and quality of service;
  - b) The cost of services that are currently provided against projected costs to ensure value for money;
  - c) The plans for marketing to ensure continuous take-up;
  - d) The current policy;
  - e) How traded services will be future-proofed.
  
2. To review and comment on the Cabinet report regarding the proposals for the future of outdoor education in Wiltshire, with particular focus on the Evidence based analysis that led to the options presented within the report. Comments from the task group will be presented to Cabinet at the same meeting at which the report is considered (scheduled for 28 March 2018 at the time of writing).
  
3. To review and comment on:
  - a) the Council's advertising of the two outdoor education sites (Braeside and Oxenwood);
  - b) the Council's consideration of expressions of interest, including evaluation

criteria and weighting;  
c) the report to Cabinet (planned for 9 October 2018 at time of writing) presenting the findings on the expressions of interests.

Recent Activity:

The task group met on 9 March 2019 and received updates on Right Choice, a draft charging policy and appointments to the team. The task group met the then-newly appointed Commercial Manager and he informed the task group of his plans going forward.

The task group's next meeting on 20 June 2019 will focus on the council's planned direction for traded services and the model for the balance sheet (*statement of financial position*) to be used.

At its meeting in June the task group will also be reviewing its terms of reference to reflect the current situation with regards to both outdoor education and traded services, bearing in mind the establishment of the Commercialism Task Group.

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

Membership:

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

*Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage*

Terms of Reference:

That the CAMHS Task Group:

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

### Recent Activity

Following Children Select and Health Select Committees' consideration of the Final Report – Part One and Executive Response on [8 January 2019](#) and [5 March 2019](#) respectively, it has been agreed that the Task Group remain dormant until Autumn 2019, when relevant service data will become available.

### **3. SEND School Provision Task Group**

Membership:

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

Supporting Officer: Adam Brown

Terms of reference:

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

Recent activity:

The Task Group is due to meet on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to receive updates on the extended consultation and Wiltshire Council's Free School bid.

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## Children's Select Committee Forward Work Programme

Last updated 1 MAY 2019

<b>Children's Select Committee – Current / Active Task Groups</b>		
<b>Task Group</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Final Report Expected</b>
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	October 2017	TBC
Youth Transport	May 2019	July 2019
SEND School Provision	October 2017	TBC (Interim received June 2018 & March 2019)
Traded Services for Schools	December 2017	TBC

<b>Children's Select Committee - Rapid Scrutiny</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
Children's Centres Consultation		April 2019
Outcomes for Disadvantaged Learners		TBC

<b>Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme</b>			Last updated 1 MAY 2019		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Details / Purpose of Report</b>	<b>Associate Director</b>	<b>Responsible Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Report Author / Lead Officer</b>
15 May 2019	Corporate Parenting Panel Bi-annual Report	To receive the bi-annual update of the Corporate Parenting Panel.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Family and Children)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Martin Davis
15 May 2019	Nursery Places Update	To receive the annual update on nursery places.	Jones	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
15 May 2019	Report of the Children's Centre Consultation Rapid Scrutiny Exercise	To receive the report of the rapid scrutiny exercise and consider the recommendations.	Helen Jones (Director - Joint Commissioning)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Adam Brown
15 May 2019	School Ofsted Judgements	To receive a report detailing school Ofsted judgements since the last school term.	Helean Hughes	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
16 Jul 2019	Apprenticeships Update - Service Provider Contract Obligations	To receive an update from the Corporate Director for Growth, Investment & Place on the progress made towards building in obligations into service provider contracts to ensure Level 2 apprentices are included within their Wiltshire-based workforces.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Alistair Cunningham

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 1 MAY 2019		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
16 Jul 2019	Wiltshire Council Apprenticeship Growth Target	To receive details on Wiltshire Council's submission to central government on how we are fulfilling our apprenticeship target.	Pitt	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Joanne Pitt
16 Jul 2019	Performance & Outcomes for Families & Children's Services	To receive an overview of the performance and outcomes of children's social care.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Family and Children)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Lynda Cox
12 Nov 2019	Pre-Meeting Information Briefing: Children Accessing Alternative Educational Provision	To receive the topic as a pre-meeting briefing following the resolution from the 5th March 2019 Children's Select Committee meeting.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Family and Children)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
12 Nov 2019	Higher Education Strategy	To receive an update on the progress of the SWLEP Higher Education Strategy as agreed by the committee in November 2018.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Jackie Tuckett
10 Mar 2020	Elective Home Education for Children with SEND	Item follows the resolution from the 5th March 2019 Children's Select Committee:  "To receive further data and analysis in 12 months on children with SEND receiving Elective Home Education."	Lucy Townsend (Director - Family and Children)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Jen Salter

<b>Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme</b>			<b>Last updated 1 MAY 2019</b>		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Details / purpose of report</b>	<b>Associate Director</b>	<b>Responsible Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Report Author / Lead Officer</b>
10 Mar 2020	Families and Children's Transformation Programme: Impact and Outcomes for Young People	To receive the item following the resolution from the 5th March 2019 Children's Select Committee:  "To receive a report in 12 months on the impact of the programme on the outcomes for young people in Wiltshire"	Lucy Townsend (Director - Family and Children)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Theresa Leavy