

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 12 March 2024
Time: 11.00 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Max Hirst max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225718215 or email max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Membership:

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

Substitutes:

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

Non-Elected Voting Members:

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

Nikki Barnett	Further Education Representative
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John Hawkins
Maisy Humphrey
Declan Kiely

School Teacher Representative
Children & Young People's Representative
Children & Young People's Representative -
Substitute

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

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AGENDA

PART I

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

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 9 - 18*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 January 2024.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

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

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chairman.

5 **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the front of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution.

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on **Tuesday 5 March 2024** 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 **Thursday 7 March 2024**. 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 **Canon's House** (Pages 19 - 22)

To consider the attached report on the findings of the full Ofsted inspection of Canons House Children's Home carried out in November 2023. The report outlines the progress that has been made to improve services following the two previous Ofsted inspections in February 2022 and June 2023.

7 **Special Guardianship Orders** (Pages 23 - 32)

To consider the attached report, providing background information on Special Guardianship Orders (SGO), and an overview of SGOs granted between April and October 2023 (Quarter 1 and Quarter 2).

8 **Education Performance Outcomes** (Pages 33 - 40)

To consider the attached report which provides an overview of performance outcomes in assessments and/or examinations from ages 5 to 19 in the academic year 2022-2023.

9 **Business Plan Update** (Pages 41 - 64)

To consider the attached report outlining progress made between May 2023 and January 2024 on the activities for Families and Children and Education and Skills services as stated in the Council Business Plan.

10 **Regular updates**

Updates on information valuable for the committee, but unlikely to require a decision.

Members of the committee are therefore invited to indicate in advance of the meeting if they would like further information or have questions on these regular updates, so that relevant officers can be invited to attend the meeting.

10a **Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice Representative** (Pages 65 - 76)

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

10b **School Ofsted Judgements**

There will be no update on this item as there have been no further School Ofsted judgements since those presented to the committee on 24 January 2024.

10c **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education** (Pages 77 - 84)

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

10d **Working together to improve school attendance** (*Pages 85 - 88*)

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

This regular update is an opportunity for the committee to be aware of the latest requirements, as set out in the guidance.

10e **Schools Forum** (*Pages 89 - 90*)

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

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

10f **Corporate Parenting Panel** (*Pages 91 - 92*)

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

10g **Safety Valve update** (*Pages 93 - 100*)

To receive regular updates from officers on the development of the Safety Valve project, as well as input from the overview and scrutiny representative.

10h **Directors' update**

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

This is also an opportunity for matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

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

This is also an opportunity for matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

10j **Chair's update**

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

This is also an opportunity for matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

10k **Overview and Scrutiny Activities Updates**

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

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

11 **Forward Work Programme** (*Pages 101 - 106*)

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.

12 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting is due to be held on Thursday 6 June 2024 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

13 **Urgent Items**

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

14 **Glossary**

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

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Children's Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2024 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Helen Belcher OBE, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Kathryn McDermid, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, John Hawkins, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Kelvin Nash

Also Present:

Cllr Laura Mayes, Lucy Townsend, Ben Stevens

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Jon Hubbard
Dr Mike Thompson
Cllr Caroline Corbin

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved

To approve the minutes of previous meetings, held on 31 October 2023, and 7 December 2023, as a true and correct record.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

The committee was reminded that there would be an informal meeting straight after to consider the budget.

5 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

6 **Regular updates**

6a Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice Representative

An update including a summary of recent activities of the Wiltshire Youth Union

(WYU) and Children in Care Council (CiCC).

Concern was raised about a case of potential discrimination, with it being clarified that discussions were ongoing to ascertain the specifics and was being treated with seriousness.

Other concerns were raised at how carers and those in care were being defined and labelled in public, with foster children not wishing to be labelled as such in front of classmates. It was clarified that discussions with children, teachers and other parties were ongoing to understand how those in the system wished to be addressed and referred to and ensure no one felt uncomfortable in public settings such as classrooms.

The written report was noted.

6b School Ofsted Judgements

An update including information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports, presenting an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.

Officers were praised for recent OFSTED outcomes and the two remaining schools with “requires improvements” were noted as future targets for improvement.

It was noted that as the birth rate had dropped, schools were concerned over numbers for future cohorts.

Written report noted.

6c DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education

An update on developments relating to children’s services arising from the Department for Education.

The written report was noted.

7 Working together to improve school attendance

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

This regular update was an opportunity for the committee to be aware of the latest requirements, as set out in the guidance.

It was clarified that those children who used “alternative provision” for education were still recorded in attendance data.

On a question about levels of “off rolling” and “homeschooling” it was clarified that there had been an increase in numbers since COVID which was reflected

nationally. It was not being considered as a major concern but was being monitored.

Reasons given for elective home education are monitored but among a variety of reasons, lifestyle choice was commonly given and therefore wasn't concerning.

It was clarified that there are different categories for absences and that reasons such as medical appointments/procedures were examples of perfectly acceptable reasons to be absent from school.

The written update was noted.

8 **Schools Forum**

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

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

The written update was noted.

8a Corporate Parenting Panel

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

The written update was noted.

9 **Safety Valve update**

As agreed by the committee at its extraordinary meeting on 7 December 2023, the committee received a regular update from officers on the development of the Safety Valve project, as well as input from the overview and scrutiny representative.

It was stated that the final draft had been to Cabinet with some changes and were highlighted in the report. It had yet to be signed off, but this was expected soon. A capital request had also been submitted to DfE.

The Committee again praised officers for a very clear and well laid out report.

The written update was noted.

10 **Directors' update**

The committee received a verbal update from Directors highlighting any key issues (current or emerging), successes or milestones in their respective areas since the last meeting of the committee, which did not require a full agenda item and was not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

Lucy Townsend, Corporate Director for People – Kathryn Davis has taken over as interim director for Education and Skills and an advert has been put out for a permanent appointment. Cate Mullin, Head of SEND has also left her role and Lisa Fryer has been appointed permanently to the role.

Calens House has been upgraded from requires improvement to Good.

Wiltshire Council had been reappointed as a sector led improvement partner by the DfE.

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

The committee received a verbal update from the Cabinet Member and / or Portfolio Holders highlighting any news, successes or milestones in their respective areas since the last meeting of the committee, which did not require a full agenda item and was not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills – Sitting on the LGAs young people's board, there was a very good presentation on SEND and what is going wrong with the system and how to transform it. This would be shared with Wiltshire Council's SEND team.

12 **Chair's update**

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

There were no updates.

13 **Family Hubs**

The committee received a presentation from officers on the council's evaluation of the Family Hub pilot projects. The committee had also asked for information to be provided on the council's plans to monitor both the delivery and success of the Family Hubs.

Overall statistics were extremely positive with overwhelming responses being "very satisfied", "very positive" and "extremely aware" of the pilot.

Early success factors included working with the family in the home and at school, networking and collaborating alongside other organisations and

feedback received has been positive and grateful for these elements of the scheme.

Challenges had been identified to be addressed including consistency, capacity and further communication.

It was clarified that 24 families were being worked with currently.

Resolved

- **For progress reports to be presented to the Standing Task Group or the chair and vice-chair of the Select Committee (whichever is most appropriate at the time) as follows:**
 - **mobilisation of the new contract (May/June)**
 - **development of Family Hubs (September)**
 - **evaluation of performance (December)**

- **For a report to be presented to the full committee on 15 January 2025 detailing the mobilisation of the new contract, development of Family Hubs by Spurgeons and evaluation of performance, dependant on the updates received by the Standing Task Group.**

14 **School Health and Wellbeing survey**

The committee considered a report which provided an update to the Children's Select Committee on action taken in response to the findings of Wiltshire's Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021, which outlined plans for future health and wellbeing related surveys.

In September 2023, schools, and partners from across the system working directly or indirectly with children, young people and families were asked to complete a short, anonymous questionnaire to feedback on their awareness of the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing survey reports, and whether or how they used the findings. There were two questionnaires:

- 1) For school staff - to which there were 33 responses from 28 schools, and
- 2) For anyone else delivering or commissioning services for children and young people in Wiltshire – to which there were 147 responses available for analysis.

The responses provided a useful insight, school staff all reported using the reports generated by the health and wellbeing survey and indicated that the different styles of report were useful.

There were some who were less aware and therefore the need to improve communication was made clear.

It was clarified that 77 schools were involved, of which only 17 were secondary. A range of methods had been used to promote the survey to schools and their governors through governors' briefings.

Data around substance abuse was clarified as separating alcohol and tobacco from other substances.

Resolved

- **For the results of the Emotional Health Survey 2024, and proposals on actions to be taken, to be presented to the committee's Standing Task Group. At that same meeting the task group would also review the report that was received today, as it is assumed that a similar report would be produced for the 2024 Emotional Health Survey and the 2025 Health and Wellbeing survey, to ensure maximised use of the data and information gathered.**
- **In future it is proposed that this committee only receives the analysis reports, with links to the survey results. However, the committee would like to remain informed of the surveys taking place so that members can promote accordingly and encourage schools, alternative provision, home educators, etc. to take part.**

15 **Ofsted inspection outcome**

The committee considered the attached report detailing the key points of the outcome and findings of the Ofsted's inspection of Wiltshire Council's Children Services conducted in September 2023.

Since 2019's Ofsted inspection, service leaders had focused on strengthening existing services further and investing in new preventative services and teams. This has resulted in an improved quality and strength of services provided even as the level of need has risen.

Children benefitted from effective early support through the Integrated Front Door (IFD) that works with partner agencies to jointly assess and plan initial responses to referrals.

Once in the system, children received support in their health, education and social lives and appropriate and sensitive decisions were taken effectively.

Care leavers were supported in their roles well and given extensive training and pathway plans to ensure their own ambitions were supported and achieved.

Those in Social Work felt well led and supported by consistent and visible management, who in turn monitored performance and progress.

Two Ares for Improvement were identified as the effectiveness and quality of practise to support homeless 16- and 17-year-olds, and the quality and consistency of recording of supervision and frontline management oversight.

Resolved

- **The Committee congratulated the whole service for achieving outstanding,**
- **To receive the updated business plan at the March meeting**

16 **Dads Matter Too**

When the Committee considered the outcome of the review of the “Dad’s Matter Too” multi-agency project in September 2023, it resolved to receive an update in January 2024 on:

1. The partnership’s response to the learning and how this would be taken forward following consideration of the outcome of the review by the Families and Children’s Systems Assurance Group, Safeguarding Vulnerable People’s Partnership and the Under 1s Steering Group.
2. The evaluation of work with the Fatherhood Institute.

Following on from the evaluation, in May 2023, it was agreed that DMT would continue outside of the formal project for a further period of time so that the learning gained could be shared and embedded across the service. This would happen alongside the research project Improving Safeguarding through Audited Father Engagement (ISAFE) the service subsequently agreed to take part in, which seeks to improve engagement with fathers and father-figures. It aims to address the widespread difficulty faced by statutory social work services in routinely and systematically engaging, assessing, supporting, and challenging men in families. ISAFE has been developed as a proactive approach enabling local authorities to lay the foundations for confident, systematic father-inclusive practice throughout their social care provision (Foundations, DfE 2023).

The ISAFE presentation informed that of the 4 local authorities whose data had been examined to date, Wiltshire had the best starting point in terms of the % of fathers named on the child’s records; the % of fathers whose contact details were recorded on the system and the % of fathers invited to the initial and review child protection conferences.

Dads Matter Too has since continued with 2 full-time workers. In continuing the project, the geographical and age limitations in respect of the fathers was removed, opening up the provision to all of the SASS teams. As a result of adjusting the eligibility, the threshold for referrals was increased to families

whereby the child was subject to a child protection plan/pre-proceedings. Priority was also given to fathers who had experienced a previous child removal or who were themselves care experienced (this accounted for 33% of the fathers we worked with during the pilot).

The full report can be found in the agenda pack.

It was clarified that the project had ended and would become Business as Usual.

Resolved

- **To note the positive outcomes achieved by the Dads Matter Too intervention workers, future plans and interest from other Local Authorities.**
- **The Committee requested that an update on the embedding of Dads Matter Too be included, at an appropriate time, in the regular Director's update.**

17 Youth provision and area board youth funding task group executive response

On 21 September 2023, the Children's Select Committee endorsed the Final Report of the Task Group. The Executive Response was included in the agenda for consideration by the committee.

Officers stated that the response was detailed in the report which is attached to the agenda.

Resolved

- **To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Youth Provision and Area Board Youth Funding Task Group**
- **In July 2024 for task group members to receive an update on implementation of the actions as presented in the Executive Response, with a report to be presented to Children's Select Committee after September 2024 (latest date given for implementation).**
- **The Committee would like to review draft amendments to the area board funding criteria before it is published.**

18 Forward Work Programme and proposed activities

The committee was 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.

There was an omission on the agenda which was feedback from the standing task group on the School Traded Services Report.

The task group met with officers to review the report on 8th December. In summary they concluded the report was excellent. Most notably they appreciated the inclusion of a cost benefit analysis and the detailed format.

In terms of content, they felt it was good to see the directorate communicating with Stand Alone Trusts (SATS) and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) and were encouraged by the out of county contracts and hoped they would continue. They noted too that that the service was exceeding expectations in support to newly qualified teachers, safeguarding and school improvements.

The group noted the potential for the safety valve programme to impact the work and income of the directorate.

Resolved

- **To establish a Task Group on Children and Young Peoples Mental Health services and developments**

19 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 12 March 2024.

20 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

21 **PART II**

The minutes from the previous meeting on 7 December 2023 were submitted as an accurate record.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30am – 13.05pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Max Hirst max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services, direct line 01225718215, e-mail max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line 01225 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Wiltshire Council

March 2024

Ofsted inspection of Canons House Childrens Home

Background

1. Canons House were inspected by Ofsted in February 2022 and were found to be inadequate. They were re inspected on the 13th June 2023 and had an overall judgment of Requires Improvement.
2. In November 2023 Ofsted conducted a full inspection of Canons House which is registered to provide a short break service for up to seven children/young people at a time and overall, it supports 20 children/young people. Some children/young people have physical disabilities, learning disabilities and/ or sensory impairment.
3. The inspection report was published on the 22nd January 2024 (see appendix) and judged that the overall experiences and progress of children and young people is Good, an improvement on the last inspections:

Judgement	Grade
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Good
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Requires improvement to be good

Key highlights from the findings are as follows:

- Parents and professionals said they were very happy with the service provided to their children and described this as a 'vital' support.
- Staff contribute to the progress their children are making. For example, one parent said their child has made progress with their communication and now has increased social experiences.
- Good communication systems mean that parents and professionals are kept informed of their child's stay.
- Staff adapt their communication to suit the needs of each child. One parent said staff had received training in a specialist communication method suited to their child. This has improved communication and enabled their child to make more choices.

- Children's plans clearly detail important elements of children's communication styles.
- Children frequently have the opportunity to share their views about their time at Canons House and Managers and staff act on this feedback.
- Care plans are child focused.
- Managers have adapted how they plan children's stays, so they now consider the group of children staying together. This has improved children's experiences when they stay at the home.
- Children's safety and well-being are at the centre of staff practice. Staff are curious about children's welfare and report any concerns they have to leaders and managers. After managers have reported to safeguarding agencies, they robustly follow up on actions and outcomes to ensure they know how to safeguard the child.
- The registered manager is skilled and experienced and works hard to improve the service and ensure children receive an enjoyable short break. The leadership team understands the strengths of the home and are progressing with their development plan

4. Two areas for improvement were identified and our focus continues on these:

- Leaders and managers reviewing their current process for managing concerns about observed injuries or marks on children to ensure that the correct safeguarding procedures are followed.

The report states 'The current process for managing and reporting unexplained injuries or marks has a potential risk of staff undertaking investigatory tasks before a qualified social work professional has assessed the information'.

We were not in agreement with this finding which related to one young person, a number of children had been reviewed as part of the inspection. No concerns had been raised or examples given of incorrect safeguarding procedures around observed marks or unexplained injuries during the inspection. The Inspector was not in agreement that a Key Worker had spoken to a parent first, then as per process out of hours had spoken to a Social Worker, which is part of our safeguarding process. We disagreed with the Inspectors view.

The Director and Head of Service met with Ofsted's regional lead and the lead Inspector on 5th February. It was agreed that the wording on one document needed to be changed. We advised that we would not be reviewing our safeguarding procedure as it is fit for purpose. Canons House records have

recently been progressively transferred to our Liquid Logic system. We are in the process of transferring our safeguarding pathway on to our Liquid Logic system which will improve visibility of this process and decision making.

- This relates to the registered provider ensuring that children have achievable targets and staff have clear guidance on how they can support children with these.

We continue to update plans so that outcomes are clear and relate to specific activities and achievements for children and young people. We have set up an annual review process to work alongside Child in Need Planning to ensure these are agreed, achievable and measurable targets that are activity based, ie life skills, personal care, social skills. Canons will then support children and young people to achieve these during their respite breaks.

5. Children's services leadership and the Registered Manager are very proud of this achievement and the high standard of care provided to children and young people at Canons House and the dedication of the team. We continue to be ambitious in what we want our children and young people to experience and achieve during their respite at Canons House.

Conclusion

6. The Board is informed of the outcome of the inspection of Canons House Childrens Home and notes the plans in place to progress recommendations.

Appendices

Link to published Ofsted Inspection Report
[50237506 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspections/50237506)

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Report on Care Proceedings Ending and Special Guardianship Orders Granted during Q1 and Q2 2023

This report gives an overview of the outcome of court proceedings and those ending in Special Guardianship Orders during Q1 and Q2 2023:

Special Guardianship Orders will also be referred to as "SGO" throughout this report.

A Special Guardian is usually someone with a close relationship to the child, such as a family member, former foster carer or family friend. They apply to the court who consider their suitability and the child's needs, based on a report from the local authority. Special Guardianship is a formal court order which places a child or young person with someone permanently and gives this person overriding parental responsibility for the child. Special Guardianship means that the child lives with carers who have parental responsibility for them until they reach 18. If the child was looked after before the Special Guardianship Order was granted, they will no longer be the responsibility of the local authority.

Why apply for a Special Guardianship Order?

A Special Guardianship Order has several potentially positive effects:

- it gives a child the security of a long-term home.
- the child's birth parents retain shared parental responsibility.
- it gives the Special Guardian day-to-day control (jointly, if there are several Special Guardians)

Unlike adoption, a Special Guardianship Order will not remove parental responsibility from the child's birth parents. This means that the Special Guardian will have responsibility for the day-to-day decisions as well as all the important decisions about the child or young person but will need to consult the birth parents at times where key decisions are being made such as changing their name, moving overseas or agreeing adoption.

Child Arrangement Orders provide a legal framework for living arrangements of children with their parents or another carer. Parental responsibility remains shared between parents, but the order provides details of where a child should live and how their family time should be planned. This order can be made at the conclusion of care proceedings when the plan is for the child to remain with a parent but can also be used to place a child with a family member and can grant parental responsibility to that family member.

Interim Care Orders are made by the court during care proceedings where the local authority share parental responsibility with the birth parents. This is an interim order whilst assessments are undertaken as part of the court process to determine what the final care plan for the child will be. Children on Interim Care Orders will be children in care.

Care Orders allow the local authority to share parental responsibility and to make decisions that are in the child's best interests. A child subject to a care order will be a child in care, will be subject to reviews and will have an allocated social worker until such time when the child reaches adulthood, or the order is discharged.

The care orders which have been labelled as 'kinship placements', the children live with a member of their family or network and the kinship team completed a full assessment which may have recommended that the carer needed the ongoing support as a Connected Foster

Carer or the carer has stated that they do not want a Special Guardianship Order. Connected Foster Carers can always reconsider whether they wish to apply for a Special Guardianship Order at any time and this is considered annually. For some carers and children, it is entirely appropriate that they continue to be Connected Foster Carers as they may need additional support with children's complex need and/or complex family time arrangements.

Section 20 this is where children come into our care where there is agreement to this arrangement by those with Parental Responsibility. We can ask a parent for their child to come into our care or they can ask us to care for their child. Those with Parental Responsibility can withdraw their consent at any time. We are encouraged by the court to always consider the lesser order and some children can be in court proceedings under Section 20 arrangements. Section 20 arrangements can also be long term where appropriate.

Regulation 24 is where connected carers are approved as temporary Connected Foster Carers following an initial viability assessment. They then progress to a full fostering assessment. Many connected foster carers have both a full fostering assessment and Special Guardianship Order assessment undertaken at the same time.

We had 44 sets of care proceedings concluding in Quarters 1 and 2 of 2023.

9 sets of care proceedings involved sibling groups of 2 or more children.

2 sets of care proceedings resulted in siblings being made the subject of different orders. For one sibling group this enabled the stepfather to care.

3 care proceedings were issued as a result of a breakdown of existing Special Guardianship Orders granted within previous care proceedings.

The Orders we applied for:

Order	Applied for	Obtained
Child Arrangement Orders	2	3
Care Orders	17 (5 kinship placements)	17
Care and Placement Orders	8	8
Special Guardianship Orders	10	9
Supervision Order	10	12
No Order	1	2

The kinship team also completed 13 full Special Guardianship assessments which did not result in a placement with the relevant family member. Of these 13 full assessments:

- 2 were negative (one child being made subject to a Full Care Order and in foster care, the other child was adopted).
- 6 children remained or returned to the care of their parent/s.
- 5 recommended Full Care Orders with Connected Foster Carers.

During the period Q1 and Q2 of 2023, a total of 16 Special Guardianship Orders were granted for 23 children.

Total granted in Q1 = 6

Total granted in Q2= 10

Q1 (April – July 2023)

Child age at time SGO granted	2 years 7 months	2 years 2 months	3 years 3 months	4 years 6 months	3 years 5 months	14 years
Date SGO granted	05/04/2023	06/04/2023	25/05/2023	07/06/2023	19/07/2023 via private law application	14/07/2023 via private law application
Child CLA prior to SGO	Yes- ICO	Yes - ICO	Yes – section 20	Yes	No	No
Care proceedings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pre-proceedings	-	-	-	-	Yes	No
Guardian relationship	Paternal grandmother	Maternal grandmother	Maternal aunt & uncle	Step-father	Maternal Grandparents	Private Foster carer/grandmother of child's paternal half-sister
Guardian Reg.24 approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Other assessments	No	No	No	Yes – 1 other VA and 1 other full assessment	No	No

Commentary:

Of the SGO's granted in Q1, 1 was a private law application for a child (aged 14) who had been in a long-term Private Fostering arrangement, and not subject to care proceedings/pre-proceedings.

Of the other 5 SGO's granted in Q1, they were as part of pre-proceedings or care proceedings. 5 children were under the age of 5 years.

Of the 6 SGO's granted, 3 were made to maternal family. Two of the SGO's were granted to maternal grandparents, while the third were to a maternal aunt and uncle. The other 3 were made to paternal grandmother; a step-father and with regards

to the private foster carer, the carer was not biologically related to the child but was the paternal grandmother of child's half-sibling.

Of the 6 SGO's granted, in 4 situations, the children were subject to care proceedings and were Children in Care prior to the SGO being granted. In those cases, their Special Guardians were initially Regulation 24 approved foster carers for them.

In respect of 1 child, the SGO assessment was undertaken as part of pre-proceedings and secured via a private law application supported by the LA.

Q2 (August – October 2023)

Child's age at time SGO granted	12 years 6months 11 years 5 months 8 years	1 year 10 months	7 months	2 years 7 months	2 years 6 months	1 year 7 months	13 years 17 years	16 years 13 years 11 years 9 years 6 years	2 years 4 months	8 months
Date SGO granted	03/08/23	10/08/23	23/08/23	29/08/23 – private law	05/09/23	05/09/23	11/09/23	12/10/23	25/10/23	17/10/23
Child CLA prior to SGO	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes- long term Section 20	Yes	Yes
Care proceedings	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Pre-proceedings	No	-	-	No	-	-	No	No	-	-
Guardian relationship	Maternal grandmother	Paternal aunt	Maternal grandparents	Maternal grandmother	Paternal aunt & partner	Maternal grandmother	Mother's ex-partner	Maternal grandparents	Maternal aunt	Maternal uncle & partner

							(mother deceased)			
Guardian Reg.24 approved	Yes- but not fully approved.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes- then fully approved	Yes	No	Yes, then fully approved	Yes – then fully approved	Yes- then fully approved
Other assessments	Yes- VA and full assessment of paternal grandparents. Positive VA of maternal great aunty but did not have full assessment	Yes – positive assessment of paternal grandmother as fully approved foster carer.	Yes- a positive VA was completed but not progressed	No	No	No	No	No	No	VA of paternal grandmother to progress to full assessment – withdrew before full assessment commenced.

Commentary:

In Q2, 10 SGO's were granted for 17 children (sibling group of 5; sibling group of 3; sibling group of 2).

2 SGO's were not Children in Care and not subject to care or pre-proceedings. They were private law applications, although it is noted that the children were open to Children's Services.

14 of the children were Children in Care prior to SGO being granted and were placed in the care of family members who became their Special Guardians, of these 9 were subject to Interim Care Order's as part of care proceedings.

The sibling group of 5 were Children in Care, but not subject to proceedings. They had been accommodated under Section 20 since 2018, with a SGO secured via a private law application supported by the Local Authority.

Of the total SGO's granted, 8 were made to maternal family (5 maternal grandparents, 1 maternal aunty, 1 maternal uncle, 1 mother's ex-partner). 2 SGO's were made to paternal family (1 paternal grandmother and 1 paternal uncle).

With regards to the ages of the children where SGO was granted in Q2, 7 were under the age of 3 years. The other 10 children were the two-sibling group who ranged in ages from 17- 6 years.

Key points from Q1 & Q2

A total of 16 SGO's were granted for 23 children. 10 children were part of three sibling groups.

Of the 16 SGO's granted, 11 were made to maternal family

Of the 23 children, 11 (50%) were under the age of 4 years. The youngest child was 7 months old.

The oldest child made subject to an SGO was 17 years old (part of a sibling group).

Of the 23 children, 18 (78%) were Children in Care prior to the SGO being granted.

All of those 18 children who were Children in Care prior to SGO being granted were placed with the family members who were subsequently granted an SGO.

Other assessments

During Q1 & Q2, the Kinship Team undertook other assessments as part of proceedings, that did not result in SGOs being granted. The outcomes for these cases varied and included Adoption, Care Orders, Supervision Orders and CAO's. For some children and sibling groups we are required to assess a number of family relatives, who may be able to care for the children as part of permanence planning and as contingency plans. We encourage families to agree who is best placed to be assessed but this is not always possible, and we have multiple carers putting themselves forward. Those being assessed can decide they no longer want to be assessed, change their minds or are not assessed as suitable and we need to ensure the child is matched with the most suitable carer.

These additional assessments included 24 viability assessments and 23 full assessments.

The report highlights the volume of assessments completed that do not end in an SGO as part of court proceedings. This report will be shared with the Wiltshire Family Justice Board as part of our continued partnership working with the judiciary and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).

Nationally over the last nine years Special Guardianship Orders have increased from 11% in 2014/15 to 13% in 2021/22, this is also mirrored in our statistical neighbours where there

has been a similar increase from 9% in 2014/15 to 14% in 2021/22. In Wiltshire, the percentage ending with an SGO in 2014/15 was 13%, reaching 21% in 2021/22 on an upward trend. In 2022/23 at 11% rising to 23% in Q3. We are confident through a number of measures that our care planning for children is sound, with the court endorsing our plans at the end of care proceedings, which is why we know the number of children with a plan for SGO is the right number.

In the same period nationally there has been a gradual decline in adoption being the outcome from 17% in 2014/15 to 10% in 2021/22. This is also mirrored in our statistical neighbours' figures where the decline was from 17% in 2014/15 to 12% in 2021/22. In Wiltshire, with the exception of two years where the % has been above 20% (2016/17 and 2018/19), the rate has remained stable, ranging between 12% and 14%. In the latest reported year (2021/22) our rate was 14% and this has decreased slightly in 2022/23 to 11%. This demonstrates that we are still able to achieve adoption for the children requiring it.

We have 16% of our children in care placed with Connected Foster Carers just below our target range of 17% to upper limit of 21%. There is no other national or local comparison data for this measure, but we have seen a steady increase of 3% from 13% in Q1 2022/23. Our recent Ofsted Inspection found: "Rigorous panel processes support the recruitment of prospective foster carers and adopters. Foster carers and connected person carers receive high levels of support and have access to a wide range of formal and informal support networks. They are well supported in their roles and provided with extensive training that helps them to provide consistent and nurturing care to children. They help children to make much-needed progress".

Overall, this highlights that out of 44 sets of care proceedings cases 10 or 23% concluded with children remaining within their extended families under Special Guardianship Orders. Of the 44 sets of proceedings the court granted 97% (43) of the final orders we requested. There will be increased focus on placements of children under Special Guardianship Orders and Connected Foster Carers as part of the governments Stable Homes Built on Love reforms as we know that children progress well achieving good outcomes when placed within their extended families and anticipate we will see increases in numbers of SGO's and Connected Foster Carers and our targets will be reviewed as part of our service planning. We will consider amalgamating this information into other annual reports already in place to enable a fuller overview of permanence for children and young people, as reflected in the strategy.

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January 2023

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

February 2024 (data correct at 18/01/2024)

Performance Outcomes Report Academic Year 2022-2023

Executive summary

The report covers the academic year 2022-2023 with assessments and/or examinations taking place in this period including Statutory testing in the Primary sector alongside GCSEs and A levels in the Secondary phase. It has been shared with the Performance Outcomes Board in the first instance but has also been drafted in the context of Children's Select as per the previous year's report.

The intention of this report is to look at high level data which will then enable elected members to have a view of performance outcomes from ages 5 to 19.

With the Covid pandemic we went through a period of unpublished outcomes, so this is now only the **second set of validated data since 2019**. There should therefore be caution exercised when making comparisons with previous data sets and we can see this particularly in the context of both GCSE and A level outcomes which have declined statistically. Meaningful comparisons can only really be made with 2019 data, which is the last set of published outcomes before the pandemic.

The report starts with a summary of each phase of education and looks at where we sit as a Local Authority in relation to other Council areas where data is published. We are 1 of 158 Councils so this enables us to see where we are sitting currently in each phase as a point of comparison. There is then a percentile RAG ranking of how we compare and where our focus needs to be moving forward.

The report then goes through each Key Stage and the relevant data performance points and captures data from two main sources:

- Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) which provides a high level comparison of where we compare with national, our region and statistical neighbours
- NEXUS which provides more granular data in relation to the performance of groups

The overarching picture within Wiltshire is that performance overall is not too dissimilar from national for all pupils with slightly stronger performance in the Early Years and later in Post 14, but with a decline in performance at Key Stage 2 where we see a performance dip, particularly in the subject of mathematics. This profile mirrors the outcomes of the previous year where outcomes were strongest at either end of the education phases.

There are some positives in the data around SEND which should be noted and which can be built upon. The area that stands out for Wiltshire remains the disadvantaged learner gap. This is an area that remains a focus for improvement and has declined further in most of the published measures. There are two gaps that exist: the first being between our disadvantaged learners and all pupils and the second being

against our disadvantaged learners’ peers nationally. A closing of this gap would ultimately support an overall improvement for Wiltshire schools in terms of academic performance.

Wiltshire Performance Overview

Education performance ranking by age related data point (LAIT)

The measure should be read as 1 highest performing to 158 lowest performing.

	Performance Measure	Local Authority Ranking (Out of 158) in 2023	Percentile LA RAG Green top 33% Orange middle 33% low 33%
Early Years	Good Level of Development	45	
Year 1 Phonics	Screening Check	68	
Year 2 SATs	Reading, Writing and Maths at Expected	77 68 75	
Year 6 SATs	Reading, Writing and Maths combined at Expected	118	
Year 6 SATs	Reading, Writing and Maths progress	69 100 140	
GCSE	Attainment 8	53	
GCSE	Progress 8	62	
A level	Average Point Score Per A Level Entry	46	
By age 19	Level 2 qualification +	38	

In the context of Local Authority ranking if this was to be plotted on a graph there would be a curve around our comparative performance. There are stronger outcomes in the Early Years and then later on through both A level results and in the number of students achieving a Level 2 qualification which prepares them for adulthood. There is a dip in performance in Key Stage 2, in particular in mathematics where we rank in the bottom 33% of Local Authorities nationally for performance.

Early Years and Year 1 Phonics

Early Years Foundation Stage – Good Level of Development (GLD) achieved (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	68.9
South West	68.0
Statistical Neighbours	68.6
England	67.2

Early Years Foundation Stage GLD achieved by group (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	67.2%	19.9%	52.0%	62.7%
Wiltshire	68.9%	20.0%	46.5%	59.8%
Gap	+1.7	+0.1	-5.5	-2.9

Year 1 – Phonics Screening Check Pass (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	79.0
South West	79.0
Statistical Neighbours	79.1
England	79.0

Year 1 Phonics by group (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	78.9%	42.2%	66.8%	78.4%
Wiltshire	78.9%	44.6%	58.6%	74.4%
Gap	+/-0	+2.4	-8.2	-4.0

In the Early Years as a Local Authority, we perform above national for all pupils achieving a good level of development (GLD), and this would correlate with previous performance on LAIT. Pupils with SEND perform slightly above national at the end of the reception year, they also continue to perform better than national in terms of phonics. As a Council we have worked closely with the English Hub who deliver programmes to support phonics and early reading and they have been working with us in the context of pupils with SEND, so this may have had some impact in supporting the data.

There are though gaps that exist for our disadvantaged learners and English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners (against their peers and against National), with the disadvantaged gap then continuing throughout the primary phase; this is where our largest gaps are.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Key Stage 1 – Overview at expected standard (Rounded – LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils Reading	Percentage All Pupils Writing	Percentage All Pupils Maths
Wiltshire	68	60	70
South-West	68	59	71
Statistical Neighbours	69	60	71
England	68	60	70

Key Stage 1 – Reading, Writing and Maths at Expected Standard by group (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	56.0%	16.4%	40.1%	54.9%
Wiltshire	54.6%	17.1%	32.1%	53.0%
Gap	-1.4	+0.7	-8.0	-1.9

Key Stage 2 – Reading, Writing and Maths combined at Expected Standard rounded (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	56.0
South West	57.0
Statistical Neighbours	58.0
England	59.0

Key Stage 2 – Overview at expected standard (Rounded – LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils Reading	Percentage All Pupils Writing	Percentage All Pupils Maths
Wiltshire	73	69	68
South West	73	70	70
Statistical Neighbours	74	70	71
England	73	71	73

Key Stage 2 – Reading, Writing and Maths combined at Expected Standard by group (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	59.4%	20.1%	44.0%	60.5%
Wiltshire	55.7%	15.9%	34.3%	55.2%
Gap	-3.7	-4.2	-9.7	-5.3

Reading is the strongest area of performance at the end of both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and is in line with National data and therefore a comparative strength compared to other subjects. Writing performance is in line with National at Key Stage 1 but then a gap against National emerges in Key Stage 2. The greatest area of concern is mathematics, where at the end of Key Stage 1 we are in line with National but where in Key Stage 2 we have declined from the previous year and are

now 5% below the national average, placing us in the bottom 10% of Local Authorities when looking at progress from the previous Key Stage.

Pupils with SEND (EHCP and SEND Support) are the only group in Key Stage 1 that perform better than National, though this doesn't translate into the Key Stage 2 data set. EAL pupils again, are performing below National but the most significant gap is for our disadvantaged pupils where the gap in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 has further increased. As a Local Authority, we take this gap very seriously and this is a strategic priority of the Wiltshire Learning Alliance which has participation from both the Academy and Maintained sectors. It will take time to impact change, but there has been significant work undertaken to look more holistically at disadvantaged outcomes and approaches and we are working this year through the Affordable Schools Strategy as a systemwide approach to addressing the gap.

At a school level, there is evidence that performance outcomes do correlate with either Ofsted judgments and/or with our maintained schools, our Council evaluation.

Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5

Key Stage 4 – Attainment 8 (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	46.8
South West	46.2
Statistical Neighbours	46.5
England	44.6

Key Stage 4 – Attainment 8 by group (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	44.6	28.0	35.0	48.5
Wiltshire	46.8	28.5	31.5	52.6
Gap	+2.2	+0.5	-3.5	+4.1

Key Stage 4 - EBacc. Benchmark (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	4.05	2.31	2.97	4.39
Wiltshire	4.07	2.35	2.63	4.79
Gap	+0.02	+0.04	-0.34	+0.40

Key Stage 4 – Pupils achieving 9-4 in 4 or more subjects including English & Maths (NEXUS)

	All Pupils	SEND (All)	Disadvantaged	EAL
National	64.8%	30.2%	43.2%	66.5%
Wiltshire	66.3%	30.6%	35.1%	74.6%
Gap	+1.5	+0.4	-8.1	+8.1

Key Stage 5 – Average Point Score Per Entry (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	35.26
South West	34.05
Statistical Neighbours	34.28
England	35.63

Attainment by age 19 – Level 2 qualification + (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	84.30
South West	82.20
Statistical Neighbours	83.18
England	81.60

Percentage of 16 and 17 year olds in Education and Training (LAIT)

	Percentage All Pupils
Wiltshire	91.61
South West	90.50
Statistical Neighbours	91.03
England	92.30

The overall performance at the end of Key Stage 4 shows that Wiltshire reverses the trend at the end of Key Stage 2 and is above National overall with a stronger performance profile. Evidence of our Ofsted inspection performance which has improved at Secondary level would correlate to this data; so, the quality of education is likely impacting on the outcomes pupils are securing. The performance is below National in terms of Key Stage 5 Average Point Score but above both the South-West average and our statistical neighbours. In school Ofsted reports that cover Key Stage 5, this also is an area of strength. There is positive data around attainment by age 19 which shows us maintaining our performance above National.

At a group level which is only available for Key Stage 4 through NEXUS, we have a more positive profile for SEND pupils, EAL learners but still retain the disadvantaged gap which has increased from the previous year.

Conclusion

The report should be read in conjunction with other reports completed by School Effectiveness including those pertaining to Ofsted. The overall profile remains mixed in Wiltshire with strengths in the Early Years and Post 14, reading is a relative strength in Primary and there is a more positive profile for SEND learners overall.

It is our disadvantaged learner performance that remains a strategic priority alongside mathematics in the Primary phase which has shown a significant decline over the past twelve months. The disadvantaged strand is a key area of focus within the Wiltshire Learning Alliance, in the context of mathematics, there has been on-going engagement with one of the Mobius Maths Hub practitioners who have the strategic oversight of the subject in the Wiltshire area to understand the decline.

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

January 2024

Business Plan and Service Plan Update

Purpose of Report

1. To update the committee on the business planning process for the council, the link to the activity of Families & Childrens and Education and Skills services and the progress against that activity.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. This report explains the use of the current Business Plan as a structure on which to plan the activity of children, families and education services.

Background

3. On 15 February 2022 the Full Council approved the new 10-year Business Plan including:
4. Four Priorities:
 - Empowered People
 - Resilient Society
 - Thriving Economy
 - Sustainable Environment

10 Missions – To make Wiltshire a place where:

- We get the best start in life
 - We stay active
 - We are safe
 - We live well together
 - We are involved and decisions are evidence based
 - We have the right housing
 - We have the right skills to prosper
 - We have vibrant, well-connected communities
 - We take responsibility for the environment
 - We are on the path to carbon neutral
5. Each directorate has a service delivery plan which is centrally reviewed as well as in service areas.


Main Considerations

6. Each of the activities below is drawn from either the Education and Skills or the Families and Children Service Plan. Each activity has a primary link to one of the Business Plan Missions. Each activity may also have a number of secondary links to any of the other nine missions.
7. The distribution of primary links in the two plans is as follows:
The vast majority of activities, 82%, have a primary link to either the *Best Start in Life* or *The Right Skills*. There is a much wider distribution showing that the work of the two directorates covers the full spectrum of the Council's Business Plan. There is particularly strong representation for both *We are Safe* and *Vibrant, Well-connected Communities*.

Planned Activity and Updates

8. Below are outlined each of the planned activities and an update on progress.

Planned Activity	Ensure that children and young people are at the heart of service development. We will ensure their voice is clear in all our work and that they influence and understand fully why decisions are made.
Intended Impact	What we provide meets the needs of children and their families and we will deliver a service that is sensitive to the views of our children and young people using a relationship-based approach to our work.
Director	Jen Salter Main BP Link Involved in decisions
Updates	<p>The Voice and Participation Service provide routine updates to the committee on this topic. The team has expanded and is developing even further as set out in those updates. An annual report on impact is also presented to the committee.</p> <p>Practice audits from July to December 2023 evidence that 12% of audits have Outstanding evidence of voice, 67% are Good and 22% Developing. Themes in relation to those Developing are shared at the Senior Management Audit Group and translated into 6 monthly quality of practice reporting to the Performance and Outcomes Board to ensure action planning is taken forward to impact on future practice.</p>

Planned Activity	Ensure that father's voices are fully heard and inform our planning. We will support fathers to build on their strengths and manage risks where these are present.
Intended Impact	Improve parenting capacity of vulnerable fathers and in turn reduce risk and improve outcomes for babies and very young children.
Director	Jen Salter Main BP Link Involved in decisions
Updates	<p>A report on the findings of the extended Dads Matter Too project and how we will embed practice further across the Directorate was presented to the committee in January 2024.</p> <p> Dads Matter Too Next Steps Report Ja</p>

Planned Activity	Provide a multi-agency Early Help offer that is uniformly strong. Families will get the right help at the right time from the most appropriate professionals.
Intended Impact	Families will get the right help at the right time from the most appropriate professionals reducing the need for statutory services.
Director	Jen Salter Main BP Link Best start in life
Updates	<p>A routine update in relation to Family Help within our Families and Children’s Transformation (FACT) programme is provided to the committee separately.</p> <p>A paper in relation to Family Hubs was recently presented to the Committee, with a specific item presented to the committee in January 2024 by way of an update since the commissioned provider of Family Hubs was announced.</p> <p>Our Support Service is part of the Early Help offer, which has been subject to the evaluation by the Institute of Public Care, with the full report presented to the Committee in July 2023. This evidences very strong outcomes being achieved as a result of this prevention offer, reducing statutory demand positively and outcomes for children.</p> <p>Our recent Ofsted inspection in September 2023 noted: “Children and families benefit from effective early support led by family key workers who respond quickly to meet children’s needs. Children’s support assessments are timely and comprehensive, and written sensitively to them. They include information from the child, parents and carers, and relevant professionals. Risks to children are clearly identified and assessments lead to support plans that focus on what needs to change to reduce concerns for children and to improve family life. Children are seen regularly by workers who make effective use of practice tools to capture their wishes and feelings, measure progress and conduct safety planning with children and their parents. Parents are engaged well in interventions that help them to improve their wellbeing, address their own challenges and to focus on the quality and impact of their parenting. Children and families are helpfully signposted to community services for ongoing support when the aims of the plan have been successfully achieved. When concerns increase for children, or support does not make a sufficient difference in reducing concerns, children are appropriately referred into statutory services”.</p>

Planned Activity	Work collaboratively with partners to ensure children have good access to CAMHS and mental health services.
Intended Impact	Children enjoy good mental health and thrive educationally and socially.

Director	Jen Salter	Main BP Link	Best start in life
Updates	<p>We directly commission a range of bespoke services to ensure children and young people can access mental health support provision. This includes the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Children & Young People Emotional Wellbeing Service • Parenting Programmes • Workforce Training & Development • Youth Mental Health First Aid <p>Additionally, we joint commission the CAMHS contract with the ICB to support with early intervention and community mental health programmes.</p> <p>With the current contracts for Emotional Wellbeing (HCRG Care Group) and CAMHS (Oxford Health) both ending in March 2025, we are developing a needs assessment to understand the ongoing requirements for our communities and will work with all stakeholders in the development of options for meeting the mental health needs of children and young people as part of our recommissioning processes.</p> <p>The timeline for this is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 April 2024 - Needs Assessment to be completed. • March – Pre-meeting briefing to the committee, appointment of the task group. • April/May - Task Group meetings. • 06 June – Task Group report back to committee. • September 2024 – Advertise tender. • December 2024 - announce successful bidder. • April 2025 - Go live. 		

Planned Activity	Ensure children and young people who cannot live at home are matched to the right carers be that with extended family, in foster care or with adopters.		
Intended Impact	Children who are unable to remain living with their family benefit from in high quality placements close to home.		
Director	Jen Salter	Main BP Link	Safe
Updates	<p>Following a tender process for the residential block contract to deliver an additional 12 residential places in Wiltshire, a provider has been appointed and is now in the process of completing the mobilisation plans to start placement planning for Q1 of the 2024-25 financial year.</p> <p>A new residential block opportunity is currently in the early stages of development to support children with more complex needs, with the aim to support children in county. A cabinet paper is being drafted for April 2024, with the intention of requesting permission to tender for a provider to deliver this service.</p>		

We have a supported accommodation block contract which we are extending until September 2024. This is currently providing 14 beds with a further 3 from January 2024. The contract is with 3 Ofsted Registered providers for Wiltshire young people with a range of needs and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers. Following a successful capital bid, a new supported accommodation project is planned for 2024. This will include purchasing our own properties and commissioning a provider for the support element. This will provide a long-term holistic model for young people, made up of various levels of supported accommodation from 24/7 support to independent living. It will enable us to offer young people a home within Wiltshire and reduce out of county placements.

Our Step Forward from Residential Project continues to identify those young people ready to move from residential provision into a home setting. Work takes place with internal and external service providers to increase available provision to meet the needs of these children and young people.

We have committed to delivering the Staying Close pilot having successfully applied for the DfE for grant funding, which is a model which provides an enhanced support package for young people leaving care from children's homes. Staying Close provides an offer of move-on accommodation, alongside a package of practical and emotional support, provided by a member of staff from their former children's home or from someone who they know and trust. These bespoke packages of support help develop their confidence and skills for independent living, and for their emotional health and wellbeing. We have initially started working intensively with initially 11 young people, all of whom have either successfully moved from their residential provision or who have a clear plan in place and are expanding our work in this area throughout Q4.

We have been successful in our bid to co-lead with Cornwall on the South West Recruitment and Retention Hub. The programme is designed to deliver end-to-end improvements that support boosting foster carer numbers by attracting new leads and expanded support offer to those already fostering. All 15 local authorities in the region have signed up. The programme includes:

- A regional recruitment support hub to provide information about fostering and support alongside the assessment and approval process to maximise the number of people who make a fostering application
- A regional marketing campaign to attract new foster carers
- Roll out of Mockingbird in all 15 local authorities

Having already committed to launching the Mockingbird Programme we are on track to launch our first constellation in

	Fostering Fortnight and a launch event is planned for 18th May 2024. The programme which will offer peer support for foster carers, reduce placement disruptions, improve recruitment and retention and ensure a greater sense of identity and belonging for our children by increasing the number of foster homes locally.
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Planned Activity	Through introduction of a Whole Life Pathway ensure that the transition between children and adult services is seamless and that young people receive the right level of support.
Intended Impact	Young people to live well and achieve within their community.
Director	Jen Salter Main BP Link Safe
Updates	<p>The Transitional Safeguarding project provided an interim report to the committee and will return with a final evaluation in the Autumn of 2024.</p> <p>For children with SEND, this transition is also included as a priority project in the High Needs Block sustainability plan, which is part of the Safety Valve programme initially presented to the committee in December 2023.</p> <p>The Moving On Service has now launched, for young people with disabilities who transition into Adult Learning Disability and Autism Service post 18. The first group of young people have moved across and a working group is being established to consider next steps for this transition service.</p>

Planned Activity	Strengthen the training and development offer to our workforce ensuring they have the skills, knowledge and confidence to work highly effectively with families and children.
Intended Impact	Children and families benefit from working with a constant, knowledgeable and highly skilled lead professional
Director	Jen Salter Main BP Link The right skills
Updates	<p>Our workforce strategy priorities for 2020-2023 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing: we want a culture where you are valued and listened to with a manageable workload • Recruitment and retention: we want you to be part of an outstanding and stable workforce which delivers high quality services. We want you to be aspirational and to be committed to our children's services, to remain and develop your career here • Staff development: we want you to be confident and competent in your work with access to high quality learning and development and progression opportunities • Positive team culture: we want you to be well supported and participate in good quality supervision, thrive in a culture of positive praise, support and respectful challenge, and have your voice heard and visible in interactions and communication. <p>84% of our Social Workers are permanent. 91% of all posts filled utilising agency staff. 33% have been qualified up to 5 years, 43% up to 15 years and 25% 15-25+ years. Whilst we want all of our social workers to be permanent, this is a strong workforce</p>

	<p>profile, particularly considering the current landscape of social work shortages.</p> <p>Our recent inspection found: “There are lots of opportunities for workers to meet senior leaders and to help influence the development of practice. Workers benefit from a comprehensive employment and workplace well-being offer and are encouraged to pursue career progression and development. They have access to a comprehensive range of training which is informed by skills surveys and confidence surveys to ensure that it meets their needs. These measures are helping to ensure that there is a largely stable workforce, and this helps most children to build enduring relationships with their workers. Workers are incredibly positive about working for Wiltshire and are passionate and proud about their work with children and the difference they make for them”.</p>
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Planned Activity	Develop, deliver and/or improve an outcomes-based approach to quality assurance and practice learning – with an effective audit tracking framework to evidence impact		
Intended Impact	Improved knowledge and oversight of the quality of our service provision and quick identification of opportunities for further practice and service development		
Director	Tim Sandle (HOS)	Main BP Link	Healthy organisation
Updates	<p>More sophisticated reporting capabilities now offer increased insights into our social care practice and the impact and outcomes for our children and families. Launched in March 2022, our advanced, automated, Excel based, data repository system now includes two years of data gathered from across our teams and services, providing a window into practice. Audit activities in line with our Quality Assurance Framework significantly enhances visibility, planning, and scrutiny of practice.</p> <p>The data repository system has been developed and integrated into an application, ‘Go-Live’ is scheduled for April 2024. This will enable the facility to integrate information and data relating to practice from other activities such as direct observation, supervision, and peer reviews contributing to a more thorough and holistic understanding of our practice within the context of the operational environment.</p>		

Planned Activity	Act on recommendation from Ofsted, 2023, to improve the evidence of management oversight as well as consistently evidence reflective supervision.
Intended Impact	Improved recorded rationale and analysis which can evidence decision-making regarding a child and family and secondly a greater use and confidence applying reflective skills which will

	encourage better health and wellbeing and defensible decision making.		
Director	Jen Salter	Main BP Link	Healthy organisation
Updates	<p>A reflective supervision and wellbeing plan has now been produced and is being actioned this quarter. The plan will be increasing the knowledge/confidence of all supervisors in providing reflective supervision through internal action learning sets and training sessions with supervisors. There will be a rolling programme of training as well as trauma wellbeing training. The consistent application of reflective peer pods (peer learning) across all teams using an updated supervision tool and templates with input from practitioners with a robust dissemination and communication plan will further promote reflective supervision as an integral part of daily practice. A Quality Assurance focus will further assist to report on reflective supervision quality and management oversight outside supervision to assure improvements are made and sustained and become business as usual.</p>		

Planned Activity	<p>Our recent inspection recommended that 16 and 17 yr olds who present as homeless are not always provided with good enough help and support due to the timeliness and quality of joint housing assessments. "Assessments need to consistently lead to a clear or an immediate plan of what needs to happen to ensure young people are sufficiently safeguarded and have appropriate accommodation. Young people need to be provided with detailed information about their options and be able to access advocacy in a timely way. The assessment is currently undertaken by the services jointly but recorded on separate documents and systems, the thread of timing and decision making is not always clear due to this."</p>		
Intended Impact	<p>An improved joint housing assessment will show clear and timely decision making with information re advocacy given and access to timely and appropriate supported accommodation.</p>		
Director	Jen Salter	Main BP Link	Healthy organisation
Updates	<p>We have already reviewed our Joint Housing Protocol template alongside housing colleagues to produce a new updated assessment template that is joint and evidences the points above. This will be rolled out with joint training in March and April 2024.</p> <p>We are also meeting with commissioners to ensure there is sufficient resource in both housings supported housing stock and social care's commissioned supported accommodation via Section 17 or Section 20 for this age group.</p>		

Planned Activity	<p>Encourage our educational settings to strive for excellence in provision and achievement and use the best education establishments to help improve others</p>		
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Intended Impact	Pupils, including those who are vulnerable, can access high quality education provision and are well prepared for their next stage in life.		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	Best start in life
Updates	<p>Headline Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary outcomes overall are mixed, broadly in line with National in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 but weaker in Key Stage 2. The outcomes have parallels with the 2022 data set. • Disadvantaged learner outcomes remain an area of concern with both the gap against National and the gap against peers significant. This cuts across all phases from the EYFS, through to KS1 and then KS2. • SEND outcomes are broadly positive when compared to National in the EYFS and KS1, KS2 is more mixed. • In terms of subject areas, Mathematics at Key Stage 2 shows a significant difference against National for most groups at both the expected standard and for those at greater depth, this will be a priority area for 23-24 • Overall GCSE results are similar to 2019 in Wiltshire. Outcomes at grade 4 and above are 67.8% compared with 67.0% in 2019 nationally, in Wiltshire results were at 67.7% in 2023 against 68.0% in 2019, therefore there has been a slight decline in our overall outcomes. • The T level results are encouraging with a strong performance of pupils achieving merits or above which is significantly above National. • The data profile is mixed for both maintained schools and academies. • In the academic year 2023-2024 we have seen the percentage of students attending Good or Outstanding Schools as judged by Ofsted to be above the National average, with the number of SEND EHCP pupils significantly so. • Wiltshire has also seen an increase in the number of schools achieving a Good or Outstanding Ofsted judgement overall, but this remains below National. <p>Various training courses for all subjects within the National Curriculum have taken place this year blending virtual with face to face.</p> <p>There has been specific training on OPAL (Ordinarily Available Provision for all Learners), the Affordable Schools Strategy and some targeted training around Pupil Premium. Further training and support is planned as part of the High Needs Block Sustainability Plan.</p>		

	<p>The development of the Wiltshire Learning Alliance has seen greater systemwide collaboration. This has delivered work around Pupil Premium, Attendance and leadership.</p> <p>Consultant head teachers were seconded last year; these heads have provided effective support for new headteachers, provided targeted intensive support for identified schools as well developing a programme of Professional Development. In addition, we have extended the input of Leading Inclusion Practitioners and Leading Classroom Practitioners with a focus on pedagogy and practice.</p> <p>There are a range of examples of where we are using strong performing schools to support the others. We continue to work with the Regional Director's DfE team in brokering appropriate support to schools that have been judged requires improvement or are at risk of requires improvement. We have worked with a number of Trusts in the delivery of the Trust School Improvement Grant and have seen the impact of this on the ground in terms of increasing capacity at individual school level and/or an improvement in Ofsted judgements.</p> <p>The New School Improvement Framework has been implemented and this has in part contributed to an improved Ofsted performance in our maintained schools. The Framework has been well received by schools who continue to de-delegate funds for this activity. The framework has positively impacted on school-to-school collaboration.</p>
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Planned Activity	To provide high quality Early Years services from birth to 5 years		
Intended Impact	That all children under the age of 5 years in Wiltshire will have access to the services that they require, high quality early education, specialist services, health and wellbeing. That all children aged 0-5 years are able to thrive in their early years'		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	Best start in life
Updates	<p>Support from the Local Government Association (LGA) on the creation and writing of the Early Years Strategy has been awarded. The feedback from internal and local partner and parent engagement sessions have been included. A draft of the strategy has been completed and consultation started in January 2024.</p> <p>Additional funding was allocated by Cabinet (July 2021) to enable four new full time Early Years Inclusion Advisors (EYIAs) to be employed. This has resulted in an expansion of the EYIA role to provide an enhanced level of support for transition into school. Schools are able to access support for the first two terms when a child enters reception as well as access the EYIA training packages. This investment has also helped the team meet the increasing levels of demand: 495 referrals in 20/21 compared to</p>		

630 referrals in 21/22. This is a 27% increase in demand. To support this demand a further three temporary EYIA have been recruited on two year contracts to support and upskill settings which will reduce the current increasing demand on the service. These three temporary EYIAs are all now in post and, from January 2024, are enabling a focus on whole setting inclusion support. Further development of the Early Years Inclusion offer is included as a priority project as part of the High Needs Block Sustainability Plan.

We are continuing to see an increase in referrals into the service with 724 new referrals, this is a 13% increase on the previous year.

The EYIA team has also taken over the delivery of ISF (Inclusion Support Funding). We will be monitoring the uptake in ISF and the impact that it has for children in a mainstream setting.

Further support has been provided for the sector through the 'Dingley's Promise Early Years Inclusion project'. This is a 5 year project where all practitioners who work with Early Years children can access 10 online courses over the 5 years. The project has commenced. This programme will develop growing confidence in the sector to support children with SEND in a mainstream setting. Through participation in the programme, the hours that our early years children are able to access their provision will increase and practitioners will be better equipped to meet their children's needs within a mainstream provision. In April 2023 we had 514 learners across Wiltshire accessing the courses.

In January 2024, the programme has 6 courses available for settings to access and we have a total of 671 learners currently engaged in the courses and 5 settings/providers have received a mark of achievement (Wiltshire Early Years team being one of them). This is the highest number nationally, joint with Calderdale.

A further Five to Thrive (FTT) programme, including emotions coaching and further top up training for all of our 50 champions has been rolled out from the start of October 2022; all Early Years settings (PVI's) have been offered up to four spaces each and all childminders. Weekend and evening sessions are being offered to encourage uptake. We have had a further 308 practitioners engage on this roll out as well as the top up training for the 50 champions. From January 2024, we continue to offer training from the team to settings that need it. We continue to develop communities of practice where we explore how FTT can be and is being embedded into practice. The Early Years team have also purchased hard copies of the FTT documents for all Early Years providers; the team will be delivering these to the settings from January. A Polish translated version for settings with high Polish communities has been provided. These documents are for settings to share with families.

	97% of Early Years settings (Pre-schools and Nurseries) are either Good or Outstanding with 96% of childminders also being at this level. Work continues with those that fall into a category of requires improvement or inadequate to turn them back to at least good within either 12 or 6 months, respectively.
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Planned Activity	Run a successful Healthy Schools programme		
Intended Impact	Schools implement an effective whole school approach to health and wellbeing.		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	Best start in life
Updates	<p>The number of schools engaged in the programme has now increased to 132 (January 2024).</p> <p>63 schools hold current accreditation from the local multi agency quality assurance group, with more schools planning to accredit during May and June 2024.</p> <p>Schools are now also able to gain additional local accreditation as part of a Young Carer Friendly Award, a partnership with Carer Support Wiltshire. Additional options for schools to accredit locally as Affordable Schools and Asthma Friendly Schools are planned to be added during 2024.</p> <p>Although Healthy Schools supports schools with improving health and wellbeing more generally, the current focus of this service area is promoting a whole school approach to mental health.</p> <p>To date, 215 Wiltshire schools have attended DfE CPD for Senior Mental Health Leads. The majority of these attended a DfE assured course delivered by Wiltshire Council. This training has enabled schools to start implementing a whole school approach to mental health and apply for a national grant of £1,200. These schools are supported by an ongoing series of local network meetings. The DfE report that successful grant applications are significantly higher in Wiltshire (80%) compared with the South West (67%) and national (60%).</p> <p>Schools are provided with an ongoing offer of Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training to raise awareness among all staff. This training is also delivered, by the Council YMHFA training team, to other agencies who work with Wiltshire young people aged 8-18.</p>		

Planned Activity	Support Schools and education settings to develop their specific knowledge base and practice in meeting the needs of social care experienced children within an education setting.
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Intended Impact	Social care experienced children in Wiltshire will achieve their educational potential, creating opportunities for aspirational next steps in EET		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	Best start in life
Updates	<p>Census data shows a small increase in the number of children open to social care with suspensions over the previous 2 academic years with suspensions looking slightly lower at this point for this academic year. There has been just 1 permanent exclusion of a young person with a social worker in the last 24 months and no permanent exclusions of CLA in the last 3 years.</p> <p>The extended work of the Virtual School: The council has been delivering a non-statutory duty to promote the education of all children with a social worker, since September 2021. Delivery of this priority is located within the extended duties of the virtual school and the implementation plan was presented to CSC in Spring 2022. Section 31 grant funding has been confirmed by DfE to enable service delivery for Year 3 and 4, with developments in improving attendance of children with a social worker through greater emphasis on partnership working between education and social care.</p> <p>Multi-agency attendance processes focused on improving outcomes for the most vulnerable pupils are in place and shaping individual outcomes and strategic work. Work continues on the progression of shared understanding of educational neglect within safeguarding practice. The universal Five to Thrive trauma, resilience and attachment training for all schools in Wiltshire continues to be delivered with a 9th cohort scheduled to begin in February 2024. 75 training events have now been delivered across 2 years with 1839 participants from Wiltshire schools.</p>		

Planned Activity	Support schools in realising the full potential of their children, including those from disadvantaged groups who are at risk of educational underachievement.		
Intended Impact	Children in Wiltshire will achieve their educational potential, creating opportunities for aspirational next steps in EET		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	Best start in life
Updates	<p>We have maintained high levels of activity in relation to improving outcomes for Disadvantaged Learners. Notable developments for the academic year 2023/24 include:</p> <p>Disadvantaged Learners Conference in September 2024 and launch of the Wiltshire Affordable Schools Strategy. The strategy was collaboratively developed with Wiltshire schools (5 secondary and 6 primary crossing both the LA maintained and MAT sector) and aims to support schools to have a widely shared understanding of the causes, barriers and challenges faced by pupils and families who are living in poverty and make universal, positive changes to policies and practices that will improve the</p>		

	<p>experience of all, especially the most vulnerable. The conference was attended by 72 schools and a comprehensive toolkit and series of network meetings is available to all schools adopting the strategy alongside the option to gain an Affordable Schools Award (Bronze, Silver, Gold) which builds over the years to secure effective implementation.</p> <p>The Disadvantaged Learners network continues to be well attended by schools from the Primary and Secondary sector, including those that are maintained and those that are academies. There are themed opportunities through the network to share best practice and focus on pedagogical principles. High priority areas of DL focus include: attendance, high quality teaching, equitable curriculum, working with Governors, transition and strategic leadership.</p> <p>The work of the Wiltshire Learning Alliance is taking forward the disadvantaged agenda and particularly aiming to improve levels of cross sector engagement and collaboration. This work involves widening opportunities to explore best practice beyond our local context and understanding how this may contribute to improved Wiltshire outcomes.</p> <p>Targeted work is taking place with a group of 10 identified Wiltshire maintained schools on an Improving Pupil Premium Outcomes Programme (IPPOP). This work includes focused DL training and development, regular supportive school visits and strategic involvement across the LA service areas where it has been identified the school would benefit from additional support.</p> <p>A Wiltshire and Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) 'Evidence into Action Partnership' project is underway with a view to exploring practice and outcomes in Wiltshire and identifying a specific area of DL practice which could be the focus of a delivery project in the following two academic years. Pupil Premium Partner schools continue to make a valuable contribution to the DL agenda by being part of this 'Evidence into action partnership' ensuring that it is school led from representatives across the maintained and MAT sector.</p>
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Planned Activity	Deliver the priorities in the SEND and Inclusion strategy by 2023 to support learners with SEND and their families in Wiltshire.
Intended Impact	<p>Learners with SEND and their families are well supported in Wiltshire, through the delivery of our SEND and Inclusion strategy.</p> <p>All children and young people with SEND and their families will have a voice that is heard.</p>

Director	Kathryn Davis and Jen Salter	Main BP Link	The right skills
Updates	<p data-bbox="467 271 667 304">January 2024</p> <p data-bbox="467 342 1406 600">The Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) surveys were shared for the second time in May 2023 with views sought from young people, parent carers and practitioners where young people's are supported through either SEND Support or an EHCP. Over 400 families contributed to these and feedback is being used to shape the new SEND, inclusion and alternative provision strategy which will be completed in the summer of 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="467 638 1406 1149">The development of new education provision remains a key focus reflecting priority 4 of the current SEND and Inclusion Strategy. New resource base provision has been developed in partnership with two Wiltshire secondary schools and we hope to add additional secondary Resource Base places to our SEND provision over the next year and are currently in discussion with Wiltshire schools about this. The new special school in the South of Wiltshire opened in September 2023 and its new accommodation in Salisbury is now complete. This school, SAIL, will provide places for learners with ASD and/or SEMH needs. The new Silverwood build at Rowde will be completed in the academic year 2023/24 and will provide further capacity for SEND learners in a state of the art facility. The sites in Trowbridge and Chippenham will be retained for primary aged learners.</p> <p data-bbox="467 1187 1406 1480">There has been a continued emphasis this year upon the delivery of timely Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) alongside the ongoing development of processes and paperwork associated with this statutory process. At present, work is being undertaken with WPCC and with young people to update information sharing templates for the process of Annual Review. Timeliness of initial assessments is improved in 2023 but continues to be an area of significant challenge.</p> <p data-bbox="467 1518 1406 1771">A new SEND, Inclusion and Alternative Provision Strategy will be developed in the remainder of the academic year 2023/24. An extension of a year to the current strategy was agreed in January 2023. Initial information sharing and engagement has commenced in partnership with WPCC, with the first parent carer working event held in January and this will continue over the coming months.</p> <p data-bbox="467 1809 1406 1995">The development of a sustainability plan for the High Needs Block, and the discussions surrounding a potential Safety Valve Plan, have created several transformation projects that align with this business plan objective. These new projects will form an important context for the new SEND and AP Strategy.</p>		

	The financial sustainability of the High Needs Block is a top priority for the Council, but all workstreams carry an equally important aim of supporting the delivery of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.
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Planned Activity	Replace maintained schools' time-expired temporary buildings with new accommodation.
Intended Impact	Provision of new fit for purpose accommodation would enable schools to deliver the national curriculum in safe and stimulating environments, thereby raising educational standards. These old blocks have high running costs and with poor insulation and vent
Director	Kathryn Davis Main BP Link The right skills
Updates	<p>£12m of Council capital funding has been secured to enable an increased programme of mobile replacements over the next 5 years.</p> <p>Holbrook: Project to replace six mobile classrooms has now completed. The old mobiles have all been demolished.</p> <p>Studley Green : Project to replace the resource base pratten has completed. The old pratten has been demolished.</p> <p>Three mobiles at Grove Primary School have been identified as requiring urgent replacement. Planning application was submitted in January 2024.</p> <p>Frogwell Primary: Feasibility study being carried out regarding internal alterations and improvements which would enable demolition of the old mobiles and prattens.</p> <p>All mobiles in VC and C schools have been surveyed to assess condition and enable prioritisation of further schemes over the next few years.</p>

Planned Activity	Implement a school places strategy creating a good match between supply and demand for places.
Intended Impact	The strategy is intended to help key stakeholders understand what school places are needed in Wiltshire, now, and in the future, and how they will be provided.
Director	Kathryn Davis Main BP Link The right skills
Updates	<p>The School Places Strategy was approved by Cabinet in September 2023. Meetings will now be held with schools/Academy Trusts and Diocese to look at school organisation in areas with high surplus places.</p> <p>A proposal to close Shalbourne C of E Primary School was approved by Cabinet on 6 February 2024.</p>

Planned Activity	Acting as a broker between schools, colleges and businesses to increase opportunities for young people.		
Intended Impact	Young people are making informed decisions about their futures and data shows an increase in technical and vocational destinations		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	The right skills
Updates	<p>The Skills Bill has extended the duty to provide high quality careers guidance to young people from year 7, ensuring all pupils have access to information on technical and vocational destinations.</p> <p>Funding for the service continues but will look different for 2023-2024 in terms of reach. The offer can remain in place for the next academic year for schools in Wiltshire and Swindon. The offer is likely to extend to a small group of Primary Schools next year, aligned with a MAT, where early careers frameworks will be developed.</p> <p>Gatsby Benchmark: Wiltshire is performing in the 1st quartile nationally in 6 of the 8 areas</p> <p>Engagement with the Careers Hub is strong from across the maintained and academy sector.</p>		

Planned Activity	Work with Further Education providers to address the skills gaps that exist in supporting some of our industries.		
Intended Impact	Wiltshire's workforce has the right skills		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	The right skills
Updates	<p>Building Bridges delivery is well underway, and at the end of quarter (September 2023) had supported 46 participants, 17 of these young people under 25, with a further 17 referred pending support.</p> <p>Multiply is nearing the end of year 2 and reports regularly to the UKSPF Local Partnership Meeting. Successful project delivery is ongoing with internal and external partners, a highlight being the work in Erlestoke. Year 3 provision will focus on support for employers including pre and early-stage start-ups.</p> <p>Work supporting the roll out of DWP TA Swap pilot is underway with the pilot running January to March.</p> <p>WCUC has worked with the directorate to develop a bootcamp style early years course which maps into the qualifications needed in early years settings and will support the sector as it struggles with increasing skills shortages. The first cohort will start at the end of February.</p> <p>Partnership working with the college is underway to provide progression from FACL courses to college courses to enable pathways into employment.</p>		

	Cross directorate working with Economy and Regeneration and the Local Skills Improvement Plan is harnessing employer voice to support FE provision to closely align with employer need.
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Planned Activity	Work with key stakeholders to promote T-Levels and other vocational progression routes to improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups
Intended Impact	Improved destination outcomes for disadvantaged young people
Director	Kathryn Davis Main BP Link The right skills
Updates	<p>4 institutions in Wiltshire have been identified as requiring additional support and are receiving 1-to-1 bespoke guidance by Careers Hub team to improve careers programmes.</p> <p>Careers Leaders have access to regular masterclass workshops and newsletters to support the development of their professional practice and careers programmes.</p> <p>Targeted schools provided with a range of bespoke experience of the workplace activities in relation to disadvantaged learners.</p> <p>Continuation of a SEND and disadvantaged specific ‘virtual experiences of the workplace’ package, in partnership with NHS.</p> <p>Continuation of a S&W LMI Platform for SEND/Disadvantaged young people which is well received by the students: Swindon and Wiltshire – Your Futures</p>

Planned Activity	Maximise the use of external funding to support disadvantaged residents to improve their confidence, knowledge and skills and champion the creation of opportunities for young people, through partnership working with key stakeholders.									
Intended Impact	Reduced levels of worklessness									
Director	Kathryn Davis Main BP Link The right skills									
Updates	<p>A cross-departmental Care Leavers NEET Panel is in place to allow effective co-ordination of access to support.</p> <p>A Staying Close Education Employment Adviser role was introduced in April 2023.</p> <p>Care leavers in EET (Ofsted Calc)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Age</th> <th style="text-align: center;">End Q3 22/23</th> <th style="text-align: center;">End Q3 23/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17-18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">66%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19-21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">59%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">57%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Our January 2022 Ofsted care leavers focused visit highlighted the significant number of care experienced young people now attending further or higher education. Ofsted recognition of a strong focus on education, employment and training in care leavers’ pathway plans.</p>	Age	End Q3 22/23	End Q3 23/24	17-18	66%	51%	19-21	59%	57%
Age	End Q3 22/23	End Q3 23/24								
17-18	66%	51%								
19-21	59%	57%								

This outcome has been further strengthened following the ILACS Ofsted judgement of Outstanding overall and for Care Leavers (September 2023), with support for care leavers reported as a 'stand out strength'.

A one-off dip was seen in performance in Q3 23/24 for the 17-18 year old cohort as 9 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children hit this age bracket within that period. Performance over the last 12 months has consistently been between 65%-69% (which is within our target range of 65%-75%) and we expect to return to these levels in the coming period. In addition, we are improving our data capture across directorates to ensure status updates are sourced from every possible transaction within our case management systems.

A new offer of ESOL courses has been delivered to asylum seekers, with 57 learners supported. Meaningful links have been made with WCUC for learners who have completed all the courses to enable progression onto the Multiply ESOL for Maths course, and wider ESOL college based opportunities.

ESOL courses have been planned with the resettlement team and Army Welfare Service for Afghan resettlers being housed in MOD service family accommodation.

Development and provision of Smart courses for adults with learning disabilities, developing independent living skills and confidence.

- 127 enrolments in 2022/23 academic year
- 49 enrolments to date in 2023/24 academic year

Active exploration of future projects with partners including: Wiltshire Carers, Local Offer focus groups, early years advisory team, libraries (reading as a tool for prevention and wellbeing), apprentices (maths skills via Multiply).

Family Community Learning KPIs – snapshot below shows year to date data (August 2023 - Dec 2023)

Key Performance Indicators: 2023/2024	Target (Number)	Ytd (Number)
Responsiveness to Learners		
Total enrolments	1100	304
Total community enrolments	550	263
Total family enrolments	550	41
Total learners	500	183
Total community learners	250	157
Total family learners	250	28
Total referrals	700	252
Total family referrals	350	65
Total community referrals	350	187
Total withdrawals	-	11

Planned Activity

Provide professional traded services to improve school attendance, achievement, teaching quality and operationally

	support safe, secure, and financially sound school environments across the County.		
Intended Impact	Wiltshire offers quality education opportunities for everyone in well managed and supported education sites.		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	The right skills
Updates	<p>Effective engagement with schools around delivery and development of services and the communication plan has started with schools about the rollout of Oracle Payroll platform.</p> <p>100 plus schools are registering half termly to attend the School Business Manager events that happen 6 times a year.</p> <p>Active users of Right Choice have increased by a further 10% over the last 12 months. The database of users has been refreshed and there is a new exclusive Governor portal for all their related content.</p> <p>Social media now reaches Facebook, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn. Social media impressions continue to grow and the network of schools tagging @RChoiceWilts to their posts is increasing our audience.</p> <p>Training feedback on quality and content is regarded as very good to excellent by delegates. Income levels for training are exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Feedback from users of Right Choice continues to improve year-on-year.</p> <p>We continue to tailor our offers to schools and their needs, which is showing early signs of significant additional income for school improvement, school effectiveness, and moderation and monitoring.</p> <p>Indicators for traded income show a return back to pre-pandemic levels and schools reassured with delivery, as evidenced by their re-purchasing and training survey responses.</p> <p>Traded services income for 22/23 is £4,441,713, up from 21/22 of £4,301,669. The designated period for 19/20 was £4,377,831 pre-pandemic. Forecast for 2023/24 is showing a moderate increase on 2022/23 figures. The full position will not be fully known until August 2024. A 4.5% price increase has been set across all services for 2024/25.</p>		

Planned Activity	Safeguarding: Support schools and settings to reduce risks to vulnerable pupils by developing early help practices and multiagency support and therefore enabling these pupils to realise their potential and safely access EET.		
Intended Impact	Reduced levels of referrals into Children's Social Care. Higher conversion rate of MASH referrals to ESA. Risk reduced for children and families with a reduction of families at CiN and CP.		
Director	Kathryn Davis	Main BP Link	The right skills

Updates	<p>Contacts have increased from schools over the last 4 years however this is against a backdrop of rising contacts from all sources. Generally, the percentage of contacts from schools converting to either a social care referral, support assessment or Early Support Assessment (ESA) remains relatively consistent (52%-59%) however there has been a considerable change in the service these contacts receive with a much greater proportion now receiving ESA than pre pandemic and far less receiving a social care referral.</p> <p>Contacts received from School/Education Settings</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">Contacts</th> <th colspan="3">Contact conversion rates</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Referral %</th> <th>Support %</th> <th>ESA %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19/20</td> <td>3297</td> <td>26%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/21</td> <td>2429</td> <td>19%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/22</td> <td>3899</td> <td>21%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22/23</td> <td>4614</td> <td>16%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Activity continues via the Association Education Committee pilot - improving outcomes for vulnerable learners; implementation of the Alternative Provision Strategy Inclusion Plan for primaries being co-produced; and developing education links to the Family Help pilot.</p> <p>The new team of School and Family Support practitioners has been deployed from January 2024, to support implementation and review of ESAs.</p>		Contacts	Contact conversion rates			Referral %	Support %	ESA %	19/20	3297	26%	18%	9%	20/21	2429	19%	20%	14%	21/22	3899	21%	18%	20%	22/23	4614	16%	18%	17%
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Planned Activity	<p>Ensure all service areas within the People directorate have equal access to robust, accurate, timely and useful performance data, management reports and ad hoc analyses (e.g. demand modelling) – and they are supported to have high support/high challenge conversations - to inform their service development and effective delivery.</p> <p>Ensure management and leadership have appropriate aggregated performance reports to support oversight and scrutiny including on partnership activity (regional and with ICB).</p>
Intended Impact	<p>Informs service development and effective delivery which enables improving outcomes for vulnerable people</p>
Director	<p>Tamsin Stone Main BP Link Decisions are evidence-based (HOS)</p>
Updates	<p>Clearly defined structure of performance management forums for regular and robust scrutiny and challenge.</p> <p>Capitalised on integrated Liquid Logic IT platform to deliver a hugely expanded suite of management reporting tools - providing</p>

	<p>greater visibility to managers in real time across Social Care, Early Help, SEND, Education, Youth Justice and Young People Services, Commissioning, etc.</p> <p>As at Sept-20 = 72 performance reports available to managers As at Sept-22 = 263 performance reports available to staff As at Dec-23 = 337 performance reports available to staff</p>
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Planned Activity	Drive inspection readiness across People Services and prepare for new national performance and outcomes frameworks		
Intended Impact	Capacity and capability at all levels of services to robustly deliver improved scrutiny and performance management via quality assurance processes		
Director	Tamsin Stone (HOS)	Main BP Link	Healthy organisation
Updates	<p>ILACS inspection of September 2023 judged Children's Services to be Outstanding.</p> <p>Recruitment to interim role has provided additional capacity to support the introduction of new approach to SEND & Alternative Provision inspection. Inspection readiness planning and activities well underway and under partnership governance and oversight. Additional role to drive improved partnership quality assurance activity pending budget sign-off in February.</p> <p>Links within and between children's, education and adults inspection readiness plans are strengthening – reducing duplication and evidencing collaboration/alignment.</p>		

Planned Activity	Identify services within the People directorate with no (or limited) workflow management tools; scope requirements, secure funding/investment and source and implement solutions.		
Intended Impact	Ensures systems are in place to support fast, efficient and productive workflow across all teams – releasing capacity for more value-added activities and enabling greater management oversight		
Director	Tamsin Stone (HOS)	Main BP Link	Healthy organisation
Updates	Twelve significant workflow solutions and ten changes to existing workflow solutions have been delivered by Children's & Education Liquid Logic Systems Team in the last 6 months with no additional resource or investment required. In addition, four significant system upgrades across Children's & Education have also been delivered by the team.		

Safeguarding Implications

- A number of the planned activities have a direct impact on the Council's ability to provide safeguarding services.

Public Health Implications

10. Public Health implications only arise if changes to the planned activity are made.

Procurement Implications

11. Procurement implications only arise if changes to the planned activity are made.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12. All planned activity is given due care and attention to issues of equality and impact. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the Business Plan as a whole.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

13. A number of the planned activities have an impact on the Council's ability to impact environmental and climate change.

Workforce Implications

14. Workforce implications only arise if changes to the planned activity are made.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

15. If there is a decision to change the planned activity of either directorate the risk implication would be taken into consideration when altering the plan and the risk service-based risk registers updated during the normal quarterly update cycle.

Financial Implications

16. Any change to planned activity would have to be discussed with the Finance Team to ensure it could be met within the current budgetary envelope or planned budget development.

Legal Implications

17. The legal implications of any change to planned activity, particularly any change to the delivery of statutory services, would have to be carefully considered and a decision made only when informed by the correct legal opinion.

Proposals

18. The Committee is asked to note the update and make use of the information contained to help focus future deep scrutiny activity.

Kathryn Davis, Director of Education and Skills
Jen Salter, Director of Families and Children

January 2024

Background Papers

[Wiltshire Council's Business Plan 2022-2032](#)



Children Select Committee Update March 2024

Report Completed 21/2/24

Joe Sutton – Participation Manager

Child and Youth Voice

Children in Care Council

In the recent quarter, the team have continued to build the engagement with our Children in Care Council via activities.

Participants have had the opportunity to engage with a number of activities to increase their confidence and give them the platform to share their valuable experiences:

- In February, 13 Children in Care aged 8 to 12, embarked on an adventure to Cornwall with residential provider Go Beyond. This gave them an 'experience of a lifetime', and an opportunity to meet other Children in Care.

"We thought it was great and organised, Jay felt nervous until he got on the bus which Cameron recognised and once he got on bus, he was fine - he absolutely loved it still talking about it and desperate to go again. It just lit up his confidence can't thank you all enough." *Foster Carer*

"I know that KC had a great time - please thank everyone involved for making it such a fun week and helping her form fabulous new friendships!" *Foster Carer*

- CiCC Committee: The team consistently organises monthly sessions providing young people with valuable opportunities to engage with key professionals. These sessions serve as a platform for mutual feedback, fostering a two-way exchange of insights. Professionals benefit by refining their practices based on the feedback received from young individuals, while the children and young people gain insights into the supportive services offered by these professionals. The discussions from these sessions are skilfully recorded and shared as a podcast, aiming to enlighten broader audiences about the unique experiences of Children in Care and Care Experienced young people and adults.
- Meet Your Leaders – during the recent Meet Your Leaders session on 10/01/24 discussions focused on the theme of 'Staying Safe.' Several key initiatives and actions were highlighted. The Children in Care Council raised concerns about ensuring the safety and security of young people in placements. Leaders shared schemes that are in motion including the introduction of three new residential properties in Wiltshire. The Mockingbird programme, launched in May, aims to provide additional support through Satellite Carers, forming essential support networks. Involvement in the DfE-funded South-West Fostering Recruitment and Retention Hub, with Wiltshire and Cornwall as leads, further emphasises the commitment to improving fostering. Furthermore the establishment of the Care Experienced Hub, designed as a safe

space for care experienced young adults. . Prejudice against care experienced young people and adults , particularly in new parents was discussed. Various actions were outlined, including efforts to reduce stigma and involving young parents in training to health professionals. Leaders reiterated support for the implementation of welcome boxes for young people entering care, with information about staying safe and items to make them feel safe. The importance of feeling safe in different contexts, such as foster care, schools, and during the transition to independence, was emphasised. Ongoing projects like the Staying Close Project and the 18-25 Moving On Service aim to provide support and security for vulnerable service users in transition. Specific attention was given to the safety of young people with SEND, stressing the importance of addressing communication challenges with adult social workers. The next leaders session will focus on the mental health of service users during statutory assessment processes.

Youth Voice Ambassadors

We are proud to announce the recruitment of 10 dedicated sessional Voice Ambassadors, comprising a diverse mix of care-experienced young individuals and those with SEND backgrounds. These Ambassadors are now officially employed by Wiltshire Council. Their role is integral to ensuring that the youth voice remains central to the initiatives undertaken by the Voice and Participation service. Over the past three months, our Ambassadors have actively contributed to various significant events:

On December 5th, they co-delivered a workshop at the Virtual School Conference.

They took the lead in hosting Young Persons Panels during the interview process for key staff positions, such as the Head of SEND and Inclusion, and the Conference and Reviewing Operational Lead.

Additionally, our Ambassadors facilitated interview panels for prospective Foster Carers, and their valuable insights were incorporated into a concise 'mini report' presented to decision-makers at the Placement Services Panel.

Mind of My Own

Mind of My Own is an app that enables young people to share their thoughts and feelings directly with their workers. Since January 1st 2024 - 26 Young Person Accounts have been created.

Numbers of statements sent to workers.

Number of One Statements sent	86
Number of Express Statements sent	28
Total statements sent to Wiltshire Children's Services (One and Express)	114

One app Usage			
STATEMENT TYPE	SENT BY YOUNG PEOPLE	SENT BY PRACTITIONERS	TOTAL
Totals	45	41	86
Conference	1	3	4
Foster Care Review	8	2	10
My Life	9	20	29
My Wellbeing	4	4	8
Preparation	3	0	3
Problem	2	0	2
Share Good News	7	1	8
This Is Me	3	6	9
Worker Visit	8	5	13

Wiltshire Youth Council

Wiltshire Youth Council elections were held on the week Monday 29th to Friday 2nd February 2024. All schools in Wiltshire were offered an opportunity to have 2 Youth Councillors and a Deputy represent their school. Community Seats were also offered to ensure the Youth Council is inclusive to all, including those who are part of the home education community. As part of the election process pupils were asked to select the most important issue to them.

Make Your Mark Survey- what really matters to our young people.

Please Tell us What Issue is Most Important to You	Sum of Person
Health and Wellbeing	1108
Education and Learning	490
Rights, Equalities, and Democracy	401

Crime and Safety	354
Jobs, the Economy and Benefits	298
Climate Change and the Environment	285
Culture, Media, Sport	264
Transport	134
Youth Work and Young People's Services	94
International Relations	69

Grand Total	3497
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- A large majority, 1108 of 3497 votes were for Health and Wellbeing, which tells us that this is an important topic for Young People in Wiltshire.

The Make Your Mark Results will be combined with all LA's results who submit them across the country the winning topic will then be the key focus of the British Youth Parliament agenda

Special Advisors:

We are also offering Special Advisor roles to young people between the ages of 11-17 years old who speak for an underrepresented group in the community. These groups may include Young Carers, LGBTQ+ young people, BAME young people, military families, and children in care. The Special Advisors will be nominated from various community youth voice forums and will link in with those groups to ensure that their views are being fairly represented on Wiltshire's Youth Council.

Members of Youth Parliament:

On 2nd March the elected youth councillors will have the opportunity to stand in an internal election to become a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), Wiltshire has three seats on the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP). The MYP will take on the following additional responsibilities:

- be a champion for young people's issues locally and nationally
- work with their locally elected councillors and MPs to promote youth voice
- attend regional conventions of the UKYP (three Saturdays per year)
- attend the annual conference of UKYP (a residential weekend away)
- attend an annual debate in the House of Commons
- deliver the Make Your Mark youth voice campaign and other UKYP campaigns

Activities going forward:

Each full youth council meeting will have a guest invited who will seek the youth councillors' views on important topics such as environmental issues, transport, or mental health and the members of youth council will have a say in how policy at the council is shaped. With support from Wiltshire's Voice and Participation Service, the Youth Council will take part in activities such as youth inspections, advising on how money is spent for young people and advocating for young people where they live.

Feedback from departing Wiltshire Youth Councillors

“H.A loved working with you and being a Youth Councillor - she is at the University at UCL studying Politics now, so it was great inspiration to her!” *Parent*

“I just wanted to say a massive thank you to you for always being so supportive throughout my time with the Youth Council... the continued kindness and support from you and Joe has made the Youth Council such a welcoming and supportive place to be! Thank you for everything” *Youth Councillor*

Family Voice

The Family Voice Worker has been actively engaged in various activities aimed at enhancing communication and collaboration within the Family Voice group. This report outlines key contributions and initiatives undertaken by the Family Voice Worker.

1. Family Advisory Board Meetings: The Family Voice Worker has diligently attended four FAB meetings, demonstrating commitment to fostering positive communication. These meetings, held both in hybrid and in-person formats, included guest speakers such as the Service Manager for Quality Outcomes and the Director for Families and Children. During the last meeting chaired by the Family Voice Worker, new members were successfully integrated into the group, contributing to its growth and diversity.

2. Training Professionals: A primary focus of the Family Voice Worker's efforts within the FAB is the development of robust training packages for professionals. This aims to empower members by actively involving them in training for Social Workers in Domestic Abuse (DA) and Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) practices. The goal is to ensure that the voice and experiences of members are integral to shaping and influencing social work practices.

3. Care Leavers Parents Group: The Family Voice Worker has played a key role in facilitating the Care Leavers Parents group. This involvement includes successfully engaging the first advocacy client and actively participating in their Child Protection (CP) review. Prior to the conference, the Family Voice Worker liaised with Social Workers and the Chair to ensure that parents received relevant reports in a timely manner and that no new information emerged during the conference.

4. Engagement with CICC and Interview Panels: Beyond the Family Voice group, the Family Voice Worker has contributed to other meetings, including those with the Children in Care Council (CICC). Additionally, the Family Voice Worker has been a member of interview panels for the recruitment of new Voice Ambassador roles, showcasing a commitment to broader initiatives within the organisation.

5. Advocacy: The Family Voice Worker has played a pivotal role in advocacy. The successful engagement of the first advocacy client demonstrates a commitment to amplifying the concerns and needs of individuals within the system. Attending the Child Protection (CP) review of the advocacy client, the Family Voice Worker actively linked with Social Workers and the Chair before the conference to ensure that parents received relevant reports in advance. This proactive approach aimed to guarantee that no new information emerged during the conference, fostering transparency and empowering parents.

6. Family Voice Ambassador

The team's Family Voice Ambassador has attended 4 FAB meetings and participated in meetings with service managers. He has welcomed new members and is keen on developing his training skills in becoming a peer advocate to other parents with lived experience. We are just starting networking

with a group of parents and professionals and aim to collaborate together to participate in policy research and practice to promote a voice for parents and families.

SEND Voice

The team has recruited a SEND Voice and Participation Lead, Jo Edington. Jo has initiated efforts to streamline the SEND Service by engaging with various stakeholders, creating networking opportunities, and collecting valuable insights.

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:** A comprehensive list of contacts has been compiled, distinguishing between those already met and individuals mentioned in relevant meetings. The next step involves the SEND Voice Worker chairing initial meetings with service heads and stakeholders to assess current projects and future plans. An update and action tracker will be implemented to monitor progress.
2. **Safety Valve:** One of the primary focuses identified in discussions with the High Needs Block Sustainability Strategy Lead is the necessity to establish effective communication channels among services and stakeholders. This involves facilitating dialogues to exchange information about ongoing initiatives, available participation opportunities, and project plans. The aim is to foster collaboration, prevent duplication of efforts, and ensure efficient resource utilisation.
 - The SEND Voice and Participation Lead is currently coordinating schedules to identify a suitable date for a meeting with service heads and stakeholders.
 - Once the meeting is scheduled, further communication with High Needs Block Sustainability Strategy Lead will ensure that the agenda comprehensively captures all relevant information needed for future endeavours.
3. **SENDIAP:** As part of the commitment to co-produce with stakeholders and contribute to the development of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Inclusion, and Alternative Provision strategy for 2024-2029, the SEND Voice and Participation Lead will actively participate in a series of focused online discussion groups scheduled for March and April.
 - These sessions, conducted in collaboration with the WPCC, will address specific themes identified as priorities by parent/carers.
 - The themes have been derived from a thorough analysis of survey data, insights from live events, and interactive discussions.
 - The first focus is on the voice of the child and their family, emphasising the centrality of children in planning, listening to their views and aspirations, and considering parents as true partners.
4. **National Networking:** To foster collaboration and share best practices, the SEND Voice Worker has established a LinkedIn page inviting councils across England to join. This platform aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences related to SEND voice and participation.
5. **Children in Care:** Attending the Children in Care Council Meeting, the SEND Voice Worker gathered feedback on the new emotional wellbeing service. Insights from this meeting contribute to shaping and improving the support provided to children in care. The Send Voice Worker will also support children and young people with more complex needs to attend sessions and coproduce services. During a visit to the Go Beyond initiative, the SEND

Voice Worker interacted with 13 young people and gathered their perspectives on the Mind of My Own app. This direct engagement with service users provides valuable insights for enhancing the SEND Service.

- 6. Training Packages:** In the early stages of developing a training package, the SEND Voice Worker is collating information on best practices in SEND voice and participation. This initiative aims to equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance service delivery.

Families and Children's Volunteering

The team has facilitated its first training of new volunteers since the formation the new Families and Children Volunteer Team in October 2023. The training consists of 6 hours induction, 3 hours safeguarding (plus some online training for CSE and CCE) and this is followed by role specific training. The Mentors and Independent Visitors have a further 6 hours training. The Appropriate Adults have 3.5 hours plus a custody tour and shadowing experienced volunteers and the Panel Members have 6 hours training. The role specific training is also supported by existing volunteers. Feedback from the training included:

- *"It was interesting to get a deeper perspective of the Council's culture and values."*
- *"It was a supportive learning environment."*
- *"The overall facility is great." (the training was held in the new Hub.)*
- *"The objectives were clear to me; the team understood its audience."*
- *"I think the non-judgemental approach, whereby I suspend my personal biases, be empathetic and open minded was reinforced for me."*
- *"The content was really interesting and thought provoking, the topics stirred up some excellent group chat and examples."*
- *"The team and the positive feel about the service was contagious."*

Where we could have done better:

- *"Time constraints for each enjoyable module."*
- *"I would have liked to have known before I joined the scheme, how much training there would be and where it is held."*
- *"Legislation and Guidance: I appreciate that both need to be reviewed, however dry a subject it may be. Maybe the main differences between legislation and guidance could be discussed so the audience clearly understand the legal nature, authority, or enforceability of each?"*
- *"The safeguarding case studies had the potential to be very powerful and indeed could have lasted a full training day."*

The feedback has been very useful in us now being able to use it to tweak some of the content for our next training programme.

Holly Harward (Support Worker) went on secondment to another team on 1st January for 18 months, we are currently in the process of recruiting for Holly's replacement who will have more of a voice focus within the Youth Justice Service.

Primary Mentoring (8-11 year olds)

The Primary Mentoring funding has been extended beyond the 31st of March 2024 for another 6 months. The scheme was initially set up for children who do not have any other services involved. It is for children to help build their confidence, self-esteem and resilience and enabling them to cope with life's challenges and reduce the need for higher tier services in the future. We have a target number of matches per year of 30, which we achieved in the first quarter of the academic year. 86% of the children matched were in Year 6, which reflects the difficulties that children experience when transitioning to secondary school. Feedback that we received included:

Child- "it has helped me go home happier."

Mentor- "the child is making better choices and when to get involved or not."

School- "she displayed greater sense of self-esteem and resilience when facing a challenge."

Parent- "she has become more confident; she has always found it difficult to make positive relationships with adults due to the nature of her past experiences and the mentor became a well-trusted and familiar adult and mentor to her"

Community Mentoring (8–17-year-olds)

Community Mentoring is changing going forward and will be scaled back in terms of referrals. We will be concentrating of referrals from The Youth Justice Service and the Emerald Team. We are currently in the process of closing matches and will collate the feedback and stats at the end of March.

Transitional Safeguarding Mentoring (16–25-year-olds)

The Transitional Mentoring project will be coming to an end on 31st March due to the end of funding. The team are in the process of closing matches and will be writing a report about our experiences and findings. We have 2 vulnerable young people who are known to both YJS and the Emerald Team, we will be transferring them to the Community Mentoring in order to continue providing support. One of these young people spoke at the YJS Executive Board meeting about his experience of being mentored.

Parent Mentoring

The Parent Mentoring is also coming to an end on 31st March due to funding. We are in the process of closing the last 2 matches and will collate the feedback and stats at the end of March. The Support worker will be returning to their substantive post.

Appropriate Adults (AAs)

The AA scheme as faced challenges since Melksham Custody Suite closed for a revamp in February 2023. The Custody Suite was due to reopen in October 2023 however, this is now likely to be May 2024. The Scheme has been using the Swindon Custody Suite and been able to cover the rota for most of the time. We have lost some AAs who were not able to travel to Swindon who hope to return to the role once we are back in Melksham.

One of our AAs has successfully completed the Appropriate Adult qualification, which is a partnership between the National Appropriate Adult Network and Gateway Qualifications which is great achievement. The AA feels that she is now better able to carry out the role and she has gained

more understanding of the AA's place and importance within the justice system. The AA is now offering to support and encourage other AAs to complete the qualification.

Referral Order Panel Members

This service struggled with not having enough panel members last year however, following training that was held in September, November and January, we now have more panel members onboard. It has also helped that some of our existing Independent Visitors were interested in training to be panel members too. Many of our volunteers undertake more than one volunteering role.

Independent Visitors (IVs)

The service now has 82 children in care who are matched with an Independent Visitor. It can be a challenge when either a child or an IV moves away however, where this has happened, the IVs have continued having contact with the child once every 3-4 months thus maintaining having consistent adult in their lives.

With the incumbent YJS inspection, the team have been busy preparing information and have a cohort of volunteers doing the different roles who are going to meet with the inspectors.

Volunteer Recruitment

The team has set up a monthly meeting to look at our marketing and publicity material and events going forward. We have a rolling recruitment programme and are receiving enquiries every week. As part of this, the team have been busy chasing up enquiries from people who have expressed an interest in volunteering who have not returned their registration forms. Our next training for new volunteers is in April.

Advocacy

We are setting up an in-house Advocacy Service within the Voice and Participation Service in Wiltshire Council. The objective is to transition from a contracted external provider to an in-house model, aligning our efforts with the needs of the community and enhancing service quality, cost-efficiency, and control.

Benefits:

1. *Improved Customisation:* Aligning advocacy efforts with the Voice & Participation Service ensures a more tailored approach to meet the diverse needs of service users. We can also have another avenue of capturing young peoples and Families views to help implement council wide improvements.
2. *Cost-Effectiveness:* Shifting to an in-house model, utilising trained volunteers, minimises external service fees, administrative costs, and reliance on third-party providers.
3. *Improved Quality Outcomes:* Rigorous quality control measures can be implemented, ensuring consistent and high-quality impactful advocacy services, enhancing the overall effectiveness.
4. *Long term relational approach:* By being matched with long term advocates, children and families can build trust over a period of time.

Implementation Plan:

1. *Recruitment and Training of Volunteers:* Establish a Families and Children’s Volunteering Team, including Independent Visitors, to serve as advocates. Existing trusted relationships within children's learning communities will be leveraged.
2. *Training:* Provide e-learning training for schools, extended family members, and stakeholders involved in the child's life, enhancing advocacy support skills.
3. *Provision of Advocates:* Introduce an advocacy tracker to monitor progress and impact, offering volunteer or trained advocates based on the young person's preferences.

Plan for Families:

1. *Family Voice Worker:* Act as an advocate for families on Child Protection Plans, supporting them in developing self-advocacy skills and providing training to their support networks.
2. *Peer Parental Advocacy:* Establish a support group for families on Child Protection Plans, led by Voice Ambassadors with lived experience. Train them as advocates and extend this initiative to other volunteering parents.

Conclusion: The proposed in-house Advocacy Service aims to create a more personalised, cost-effective, and impactful approach, aligning with Wiltshire Council's commitment to enhancing the well-being of children and families in the community. This strategic shift is essential for achieving ongoing outstanding results in Children's Services.

Young Carers

In the upcoming year, the Voice and Participation Service in Wiltshire is poised to implement three roles aimed at elevating outcomes for young carers.

The Young Carers Voice Worker is anticipated to be a linchpin in empowering young carers actively involving them in the development of youth-led services. This includes the establishment of the Young Carers Council, driving innovative changes, producing comprehensive reports based on invaluable feedback, and implementing action plans derived from the insights of young carers. Moreover, efforts will be directed towards promoting youth-friendly consultation materials, and disseminating positive stories through strategic social media campaigns, thereby establishing a robust platform for impactful youth-led services.

Looking ahead, the role of the Young Carers School Worker is projected to play a pivotal part in supporting schools to attain the Young Carers in Schools Award, with a specific emphasis on secondary school provision. Responsibilities will encompass collaborative efforts with school staff to identify young carers, provision of training sessions for staff, and facilitation of workshops for students. The focus will also extend to the development of personalised support plans, advocacy for young carer-friendly policies, organisation of activities promoting wellbeing, and vigilant monitoring of the impact of support initiatives.

Simultaneously, we are looking to recruit a Young Carers Advocacy Worker to champion the rights and needs of young carers on an individual basis. Responsibilities will include guiding young carers through complex systems, advocating for seamless access to services, and empowering them through educational sessions. The role will also involve effective communication with professionals in schools, healthcare, and social services, along with the mediation of conflicts and the recruitment and training of volunteer advocates. Rigorous supervision and guidance for volunteers, coupled with coordinated oversight of their efforts, are envisioned to ensure alignment with organisational goals and ethical standards. The upcoming year holds the promise of a comprehensive and impactful

approach towards positively influencing the lives of young carers in Wiltshire, as reflected through the strategic implementation of these innovative roles within the Voice and Participation Service.

Conclusion

The Voice and Participation Service continues to promote the voices of children and young people through diverse and wide-ranging initiatives highlighted in this report. The service continues to empower Children in Care through transformative adventures to fostering youth-led advocacy with the Mind of My Own app. The engagement of Youth Voice Ambassadors, the establishment of a robust in-house Advocacy Service, and the strategic focus on young carers continues to support all our young people empowering them and valuing their experiences.

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DfE updates and changes – January to March 2024

Key Stage 2 attainment (revised): 2023 National Statistics

1. Results for the 2023 national curriculum assessments at key stage 2 [Key stage 2 attainment \(revised\): 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 14/12/23
2. Wiltshire's position: The Wiltshire position is clarified by point 4 below, which includes information on the revised attainment data.

Primary school performance tables: 2023 National Statistics

3. Information on the achievements of pupils in each state-funded primary school in England [Primary school performance tables: 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 14/12/23
4. Wiltshire's position: Reading is the strongest area of performance at the end of both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and is in line with National data and therefore a comparative strength compared to other subjects. Writing performance is in line with National at Key Stage 1 but then a gap against National emerges in Key Stage 2. Our area of focus is mathematics, where at the end of Key Stage 1 we are in line with National but where in Key Stage 2 we have declined from the previous year and are now 5% below the national average. Pupils with SEND (EHCP and SEND Support) in Key Stage 1 perform better than National, although this doesn't translate into the Key Stage 2 data set. The most significant gap is for our disadvantaged pupils where the gap in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 has further increased. As a Local Authority, we take this gap very seriously and this is a strategic priority of the Wiltshire Learning Alliance which has participation from both the Academy and Maintained sectors. It will take time to impact change, but there has been significant work undertaken to look more holistically at disadvantaged outcomes and approaches and we are working this year through the Affordable Schools Strategy as a systemwide approach to addressing the gap. At a school level, there is evidence that performance outcomes do correlate with either Ofsted judgments and/or, for our maintained schools, our Council evaluation.

England's first ever kinship care strategy launches Press Release

5. Backed by £20 million, strategy shines spotlight on the incredible extended family members keeping children out of care [England's first ever kinship care strategy launches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 15/12/23

The Kinship Team welcome these recommendations and actions, at both national and local level that raise awareness of kinship arrangements and more importantly provide additional support.

The Wiltshire Council Kinship Team:

- Carry out Viability Assessments of prospective connected persons foster carers and Special Guardians for children Looked After and those in either pre-proceedings or care proceedings.
- Carry out full connected persons foster carer and Special Guardianship Order assessments.
- Provide support and supervision to connected persons foster carers.
- Provide bespoke and individualised support to Special Guardians

- Assess the suitability and provided ongoing monitoring and support visits to Private Fostering arrangements.

The national strategy commits the government to a series of measures to support kinship carers to be better Supported, Empowered and Understood.

Support:

- We will launch a kinship financial allowance, paid at the same rate as the fostering allowance, beginning in up to 8 local authorities.
- We are expanding the Virtual School Head's role to promote the education of children in kinship care.
- We will ensure more eligible kinship carers are aware of their ability to access the Adoption Support Fund, by renaming it to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund, as well as analysing the fund's applications and the therapies provided.
- We will produce government guidance for employers on how kinship carers can be supported at work. This will include advice on adapting HR policies, signposting to existing workplace entitlements, and creating a culture of support.
- We will introduce a kinship leave and pay entitlement for Department for Education staff (subject to discussions on the detailed arrangements between the department and employee representatives).
- We will establish a kinship training, information and advice offer that all kinship carers will have access to.
- We will continue to support the delivery of peer support groups across England for all kinship carers.

Financial:

One of the main headlines of the proposed additional support relates to increasing financial support for kinship arrangements. The proposal is that in 8 Local Authorities, Special Guardians caring for children previously looked after, will be paid the same as the fostering allowance. The longer-term goal is "*exploring the case for mandating a financial allowance for all special guardianship and child arrangement kinship carers, in every local authority, equivalent to the corresponding local foster carer allowance*".

The current policy in Wiltshire Council is that where a Special Guardian was a foster carer for the child immediately prior to the SGO being granted, we will pay the Special Guardians a guaranteed amount for the first 2 years. After the first 2 years, any subsequent SGO allowance payment is subject to a means test and senior management authorisation.

Where the Special Guardian was not a foster carer, there is no guaranteed amount for any period and any SGO allowance payment is subject to a means test and senior management authorisation.

All Special Guardians can and should submit a claim for Child Benefit and the child element of Universal Credit, as SGO allowance payments are not to replace universal entitlements. The SGO allowance rates are based on what used to be the age-related fostering allowances.

In Wiltshire, we have approximately 330 SGO households, caring for approx. 430 children, of who approximately 220 were previously looked after. The current projected SGO allowance spend for 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024 is £2,794,120. With regards to allowance payments to those that hold a

Child Arrangement Order, this is considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to senior manager approval. The current projected Child Arrangement Order allowance spend for 01/04/2023–31/03/2024 is £26,520.

Other support:

Wiltshire already actively raises awareness of the funding available via the now named Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGAF). This is achieved via discussions during the assessment stage, within SGO support plans, and through our Kinship Support Workers.

Wiltshire Council holds a monthly Kinship support group that is open to all connected persons foster carers and Special Guardians. This provides an opportunity for crucial peer support. We also signpost to the support groups facilitated by the charity Kinship, as well as linking our out of county connected persons foster carers and Special Guardians to support groups in their home LA.

Connected persons foster carers have access to the same training offer as all foster carers. We are actively expanding the training offer to Special Guardians and Private Foster carers. This includes Responding to Distressed Behaviour training, which has proven very popular. The team is currently developing a course looking at supporting family time contact arrangements. Other training opportunities that have been sent to Special Guardians have also included topics such as Understanding School Avoidance, Supporting My Teen and Helping my Child with Anxiety and Worry.

Empowered:

- We will create a new Kinship Care Ambassador role, to work with local authorities and kinship carers to raise standards and share best practice.
- We will improve the availability of advocacy services for children in kinship care, by updating guidance and standards.
- We will establish the National Kinship Care Advisory Board and extend the Kinship Carer Reference Group.
- We will partner with Foundations - the What Works Centre for Children & Families and the sector to work towards every family being offered high quality family group conferences at pre-proceedings stage.
- We will use digital innovation to help social workers have a greater understanding of kinship families.

Understood:

- We will improve the visibility of kinship carers through a new definition of kinship care that will be used in statutory guidance.
- We will publish an updated version of the 2011 Family and Friends Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities. This will be called Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and will clarify to local authorities how they should support kinship families.
- We will create trust between kinship carers and practitioners by improving social worker training and developing a knowledge and skills statement for family help lead practitioners.
- Ofsted are updating their inspector training and guidance, so kinship care is well

embedded in inspection practice.

- The Law Commission will review legal orders and statuses for kinship carers and understand how we can both simplify and streamline these.
- We will work with the Ministry of Justice to improve our understanding of kinship care through better data join up.

Improving practice with children, young people and families **Guidance**

6. Advice for local areas to embed working together to safeguard children and the children's social care national framework in practice [Improving practice with children, young people and families - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-practice-with-children-young-people-and-families) published 15/12/23

7. Wiltshire's position:

Working Together 2023 and the National Framework are central to setting the national direction for children's social care practice and underpin government's vision for children's social care and wider safeguarding structures. The revisions in Working Together 2023 supported by the National Framework are focused on strengthening multi-agency working across the whole system of help, support and protection for children and their families, keeping a child-centred approach while bringing a whole-family focus, and embedding strong, effective, and consistent multi-agency child protection practice. In response Senior Managers in Wiltshire Children and Families have attended seminars run by the DfE to support the Government Strategy Stable Homes Built on Love including Working Together 2023 and the National Framework.

To support embedding Working Together 2023 and the National Framework a Task and Finish Group of Heads of Service and Senior Managers across children's social care, SEND and Education has been set up to consider where service delivery and practice in Wiltshire is aligned to Working Together 2023 and the National Framework and the wider government strategy. This task and finish group will also consider areas that might be developed to come more in line with the Working Together 2023 and the National Framework and the wider government strategy.

In addition, the SVPP are developing a workplan setting out the action that will be taken to support partner agencies including children's social care to respond to and comply with Working Together 2023 and the National Framework. This will include:

- Review of the multiagency policies and guidance
- Updates to multiagency training as relevant
- Identifying any assurance that will be required from partner agencies about how they are embedding the new guidance, including the new multiagency child protection practice standards
- Publication of the Annual Report for 2023-24 in September 2024
- Updating the Safeguarding Plan and publishing by December 2024

The Lead and the Delegated Safeguarding Partners have met with the DfE funded National safeguarding Partnership Facilitators to understand their roles and responsibilities as set out in the new guidance. The work plan is an evolving document and to further support partners a virtual briefing is being held on February 20th outlining key changes.

Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings: government response **Policy Paper**

8. Government response to the review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel [Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings: government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-with-disabilities-in-residential-settings) published 18/12/23

9. Wiltshire's position:

Following the National Review – Children with disabilities and complex health needs living in residential settings In April 2023, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) published their Phase 2 report reviewing safeguarding children with disabilities and complex needs in residential settings. This was in response to the appalling abuse suffered by children and three residential special schools dual-registered as children's homes run by the Hesley Group in Doncaster. The report set out recommendations for providers, central and local government, health and other partners for changes to policy and practice to improve the safety, support, and outcomes for children with disabilities and complex health needs. There were a number of recommendations that the Panel directed to providers of residential education and care for disabled children with complex health needs. These centred on safeguarding procedures within homes, safer recruitment, responsibility in recruiting, retaining and developing a skilled, stable, and compassionate workforce that can provide safe, excellent quality, culturally sensitive care to all children. Providers have been asked to review your policies and procedures to ensure that these are as robust as they can be and are being fully implemented across all your settings.

The local authority leads on sufficiency of residential and education provision. Commissioners work closely with Residential Home Providers to support increased market sufficiency and are an active participant in the Southwest Sufficiency Project. Additionally, the council have committed to developing opportunities with external providers to deliver services (both residential and educational) in Wiltshire Local Authority owned properties. Recent examples of this approach have been the commissioning of a block contract for 12 bed residential placements, and cabinet agreement to tender of a provider to deliver 45 primary SEMH and up to 25 secondary placements.

Families and Childrens commissioning and children's brokerage service work closely with operational teams when considering placements to ensure the right provision for children and young people and there are a number of assurance checks in place as part of compliance, such as current gradings, references etc.

Families and Childrens commissioning, as part of their contract management activity, review practice and procedures with residential providers to ensure that they are meeting requirements as set out in phase 2 of the report including: safeguarding policies, whistleblowing activity; ensuring the voice of children and young people.

Wiltshire Local Authority Commissioners in conjunction with education colleagues regularly undertake quality assurance visits to ensure provision is of high quality and safe.

Gender questioning children: draft schools and colleges guidance **Open Consultation**

10. We're seeking your views on our draft non-statutory guidance for schools and colleges about children questioning their gender [Gender questioning children: draft schools and colleges guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 19/12/23

11. Wiltshire's position: In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of children questioning the way they feel about being a boy or a girl, including their physical attributes of sex and the related ways in which they fit into society. This changing picture has required schools and colleges to navigate a highly sensitive and complex issue alongside polarised views; for example, conflicting views between parents and children. As a result, for the first time, the Department for Education, working closely with the Government's Equality Hub, has worked to produce this draft guidance with a view to providing clarity for schools and colleges, and reassurance for parents. The consultation on the guidance applies to schools and has been shared with our schools.

GCSE British Sign Language (BSL) Guidance

12. Subject content, aims and learning objectives for the British Sign Language (BSL) GCSE [GCSE British Sign Language \(BSL\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 21/12/23

13. Wiltshire's position: This information and guidance is signposted to our schools through the Heads Bulletins and regular updates we provide.

Major national drive to improve school attendance Press Release

14. Attendance hubs to more than double to support 1,000 more schools and £15 million investment to expand the attendance mentor pilot programme [Major national drive to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 08/01/24

15. Wiltshire's position: An increase in access to further attendance hubs is welcomed, as we continue to support schools to improve attendance. We continue to provide a School Attendance Support Team offer through the Education Welfare Service in line with the DfE guidance 'working together to improve attendance' (2022).

Support strengthened for children with SEND Press Release

16. Families who have children with SEND will soon receive further support with short breaks, supported internship opportunities and recognition of Down syndrome [Support strengthened for children with SEND - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 19/01/24

17. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire Council have recently completed a commissioning exercise for our Short Breaks offer, with Barnardos confirmed as the provider of respite activity, including holiday clubs and youth clubs until 2026. In conjunction with stakeholders, including parents and carers, children and young people and the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council, we are now embarking on a wholesale review of our offer to ensure that it meets the needs of families from April 2026.

Additionally, we continue to offer our capital funding via our Small Grants Scheme to providers of activities for children and young people with SEND to support a broad cross-county offer.

Wiltshire Council welcomes the additional support published by the Department for Education in relation to supported internship opportunities and recognition of Down Syndrome and will ensure that this is built into the development of our long-term offer.

Education secretary approves Dyson STEAM donation **Press Release**

18. £6 million donation for advanced facilities at Wiltshire primary school accepted by department for education, as education secretary approves school expansion [Education secretary approves Dyson STEAM donation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 22/01/24

19. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire Council has responded to the Department for Education's announcement that it has approved the Sir James Dyson's donation to Malmesbury Church of England School. Sir Dyson wants to provide a £6m donation to the school to build a centre for science, technology, engineering, mathematics (Stem) and arts, seven classrooms and a school hall.

While Wiltshire Council welcomes the contribution to these key areas as a whole, Council leaders have raised concerns around having all the investment in one location and the impact that the creation of a significant number of additional school places could have on the survival of neighbouring schools. The application will also need to go through the usual planning process.

Home-to school travel **Statutory Guidance**

2. Local authorities' responsibilities when making home-to-school travel arrangements for children of compulsory school age. Change made, updated the guidance to make minor clarifications. This includes updates about schools that arrange home-to-school travel for their pupils, children with education, health and care plans, and how local authorities should determine a child's nearest school [Home-to-school travel - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) updated 25/01/24

21. Wiltshire's position: Following the issue of the recently amended guidance and previously the new guidance from June 2023, there were no changes required to Wiltshire's existing mainstream or SEND transport policies and these will be reviewed and updated accordingly for the coming academic year

A Level and other 16 to 18 results: 2023 **National Statistics**

22. The attainment of students at the end of their 16 to 18 study in England [A level and other 16 to 18 results: 2023 \(revised\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 01/02/24

23. Wiltshire's position: The 'Average A Level' result for Wiltshire students in 2023 was C+; this is in line with the South West and England and the same as it was in 2019, the last time that A Levels took place without adaptations due to the pandemic. For Disadvantaged Learners, the average grade has increased from a C- in 2019 to a C in 2023. This the same as the South West; England has remained the same at a C.

In terms of Average Point Score (APS) for A Levels, Wiltshire (34.72) performed higher than the South West (33.97) and England (34.16) in 2023. This is an increase from a pre-pandemic APS of 33.5 in 2019 (SW was 32.79 and England was 32.87). In 2019 the APS gap for Disadvantaged Learners in Wiltshire was -6.92, significantly greater than that of the South West (-5.31) and England (-4.88). In 2023 the gap has closed significantly to -4.95 for Wiltshire compared to -5.4 for the South West and -4.93 for England.

Applied

The average applied general result for Wiltshire (Merit +) is the same as in 2019, this is in line with the South West and England. The average result for Disadvantaged Learners (Merit) has also stayed the same, however in the South West and England the average result was a Merit+.

The APS for applied general entry in Wiltshire was 28.02, this is below the figures for the South West (29.67) and England (29.52) however there is an increase of 1.06 points from the pre-pandemic figure. This increase is greater than that in the South West (0.69) and England (0.63).

For disadvantaged learners, the gap with non-disadvantaged peers in 2019 (-2.88) has closed to -2.55 in 2023, whereas this gap has widened in the South West (-2.21 to -3.06) and England (-1.54 to -2.4).

Tech Level

The average tech level result in Wiltshire was a Merit +, the same as pre-pandemic results and the South West and England. For Disadvantaged Learners the average result decreased from a Merit to a Merit -, whereas in the South West the performance of Disadvantaged Learners has improved and nationally it has stayed the same.

The APS for tech level in Wiltshire was 28.33, this is below the figures for the South West (29.66) and England (28.50) and is a decrease of -0.39 points from the pre-pandemic figure. The figure is also lower for England, with a decrease of -0.14 but the South West saw an increase of 1.67 points.

For disadvantaged learners, the gap with non-disadvantaged peers in 2019 (-3.61) has significantly increased to -8.75, this gap has also widened in the South West (-2.92 to -3.68) and England (-2.4 to -2.72) but not as significantly.

In summary, Wiltshire has performed well in A Levels and has closed gaps since pre-pandemic results but has not performed as well in Applied and Tech Level, especially in terms of DL for the latter.

TITLE:	Working Together to Improve School Attendance
FOR CONSIDERATION BY:	Children’s Select Committee
REPORT DATED:	29th February 2024
DIRECTOR:	Kathryn Davis Interim Director - Education and Skills
REPORT AUTHORS:	Karen Green Team Manager, Education Welfare

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a regular update on the Council’s implementation of the 2022 DfE guidance ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’.
- 1.2 The guidance was updated by the DfE on 29th February 2024, with the following changes:
- Greater clarity on the link between improving attendance and wider school culture, including the importance of working in partnership with families to find supportive routes to improve attendance.
 - Reflect changes to the law on keeping school attendance and admission registers including a revised set of codes, granting leaves of absence and access to, and sharing of, attendance information introduced through the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.
 - Set out the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices and reflect changes to the law introduced through the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.
 - Change ‘parenting contracts’ for attendance to ‘attendance contracts’ to better reflect the agreement between parents, schools and/or local authorities.
- 1.3 Expectations of schools have also been updated:
- Update to the section on pupils who are prevented from attending school due to physical or mental ill health to be clear where schools’ role starts and ends, provide further clarification around medical evidence, additional support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and part-time timetables.
 - Explain the new requirements for schools on data sharing introduced through the Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.
 - Provide clarification of the expectations of schools’ senior attendance champions.
 - Expect schools to inform a pupil’s youth justice service worker of any unexplained absences.
- 1.4 The expectations of local authorities have been updated:

- Provide further detail to clarify additional attendance services that may be traded with schools, local authority responsibilities in relation to cross-border pupils and how to hold effective Targeting Support Meetings.
- Allow flexibility in how local authorities work with independent schools to better suit the needs of different local independent schools.
- Provide further detail on cross partnership ownership of attendance improvement.

2. Attendance Data

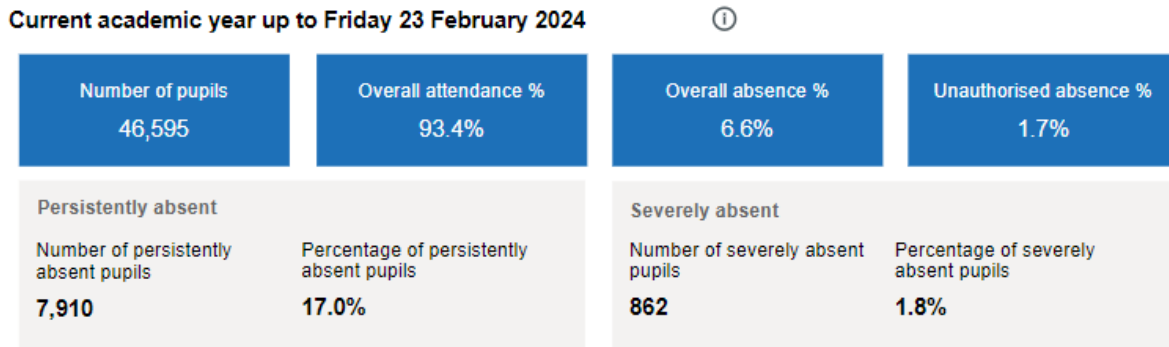
2.1 The committee has requested further breakdown of the attendance data from Wiltshire schools. The latest published data is for the academic year 2021-22. Data for the full academic year 2022-23 is due to be published by the DfE in March 2024.

Source: *Explore Education Statistics > Pupil absence in schools in England > Absence rates by pupil characteristic - full academic years:*

		Wiltshire	South West	England
Total	Number of pupil enrolments	62,957	678,215	
	Overall absence rate	7.5%	8.0%	7.6%
	Authorised absence rate	6.1%	6.2%	5.5%
	Unauthorised absence rate	1.4%	1.8%	2.1%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	22.1%	23.8%	22.5%
	Percentage of severely absent pupils (50% or more missed)	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%
Special	Number of pupil enrolments	814	10,557	125,126
	Overall absence rate	14.0%	13.7%	13.2%
	Authorised absence rate	12.2%	11.1%	10.3%
	Unauthorised absence rate	1.8%	2.5%	2.9%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	44.6%	43.0%	40.4%
	Percentage of severely absent pupils (50% or more missed)	5.7%	5.8%	5.8%
State-funded primary	Number of pupil enrolments	34,577	364,313	
	Overall absence rate	6.0%	6.4%	6.3%
	Authorised absence rate	5.1%	5.2%	4.8%
	Unauthorised absence rate	0.9%	1.2%	1.5%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	15.4%	17.4%	17.7%
	Percentage of severely absent pupils (50% or more missed)	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
State-funded secondary	Number of pupil enrolments	27,566	303,345	
	Overall absence rate	9.3%	9.8%	9.0%
	Authorised absence rate	7.2%	7.2%	6.2%
	Unauthorised absence rate	2.2%	2.6%	2.8%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	29.7%	30.7%	27.7%
	Percentage of severely absent pupils (50% or more missed)	2.7%	3.4%	2.7%
		Wiltshire	South West	England
SEN provision SEN Support	Number of pupil enrolments	9,041	94,183	948,254
	Overall absence rate	9.9%	10.7%	10.0%
	Authorised absence rate	7.4%	7.6%	6.8%
	Unauthorised absence rate	2.6%	3.1%	3.2%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	30.5%	33.8%	32.0%
	Percentage of severely absent pupils (50% or more missed)	3.0%	3.8%	3.0%
SEN provision Statement or E	Number of pupil enrolments	2,812	27,836	286,702
	Overall absence rate	12.0%	13.2%	12.1%
	Authorised absence rate	9.7%	10.2%	9.1%
	Unauthorised absence rate	2.3%	3.0%	3.0%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	37.6%	40.2%	36.9%
	Percentage of severely absent pupils (50% or more missed)	3.9%	5.9%	5.2%

2.2 Live attendance data is available via the DfE WONDE portal. This is **unverified data** but provides schools and the local authority with a useful tool to make initial judgements and trend comparisons related to school absence in real time.

Source: WONDE DfE



This reflects better performance in Wiltshire than is seen nationally:

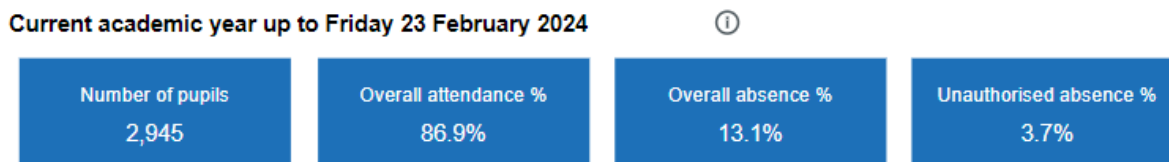
93.4% of sessions were recorded as attending in Wiltshire (compared to 93% of sessions at national level)

6.6% of sessions were recorded as absence in Wiltshire (compared to 7% of sessions at national level)

17% of pupils were recorded as persistently absent in Wiltshire (compared to 20.6% of pupils at national level)

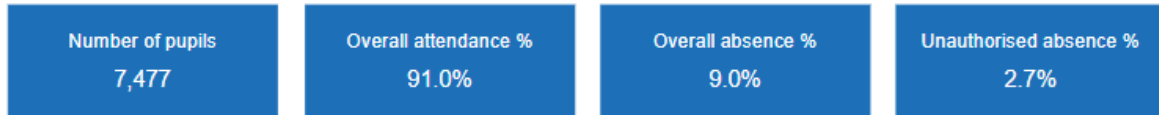
Attendance	National	South West	Wiltshire
Primary	94.6%	94.5%	94.9%
Secondary	91.3%	90.3%	91.2%
Special	87.1%	87%	88.1%

PUPILS WITH AN EHCP



PUPILS WITH SEN SUPPORT INDICATOR

Current academic year up to Friday 23 February 2024



Teams across children's services continue to work with families of children and young people with additional needs to help identify and overcome any barriers to school attendance.

- 2.3** Although attendance performance in Wiltshire typically compares positively with national and South West benchmarking, we are not complacent and continue to work towards achieving lower absence levels, in line with pre-pandemic outcomes.

3. Recommendation:

- 3.1** For the committee to note this update.

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

12 March 2024

Schools Forum update

Key discussion points/issues from meeting of Schools Forum – 18 January 2024.

- Updates from the joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group and from the Early Years Reference Group
- Update on FACT (Families and Children Transformation) Programme
- Dedicated Schools Budget – Budget Monitoring 2023-24
- School Budget Setting 2024-25
- School Revenue Funding 2024-25 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process
- Dedicated Schools Budget - Schools Block Update 2024-25 (Delegated Budget)
- Dedicated Schools Budget - High Needs Block Update 2024-25
- Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block Update 2024-25 (Indicative Allocations)
- Dedicated Schools Budget - Central School Services Block Update 2024-25
- School Budget Decisions 2024-25
- Safety Valve Programme Update

The next meeting of Schools Forum was due to be held on 14 March 2024 but has been cancelled due to lack of business. The next meeting will be held on 27 June 2024 and Children's Select will receive an update at their meeting on 16 July 2024.

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

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

12 March 2024

Corporate Parenting Panel update

Key discussion points/issues from meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel – 23 January 2024.

- Outstanding Ofsted Overview
- Annual Report on the Health of Looked After Children 2022-23
- Voice and Participation update
- Corporate Parenting Data and Exceptions Report for Quarter 2 – July to September 2023
- Data Spotlight – Six Month Update of Missing Data for Children Looked After
- Placement Sufficiency Update
- Update on Care Experienced Development Plan and the National Care Leavers Covenant
- Update on progressing care experience as a protected characteristic
- Updates from other Council Teams and other Representatives
- Strategic Priority Highlight – "To be the best that I can be, to achieve personally and educationally throughout my life and be supported to engage with training and employment opportunities
- Annual Report of the Virtual School Head 2022-23
- CAMHS InReach Overview

The next meeting of the Panel will be on 12 March 2024 and Children's Select will receive an update at their meeting on 6 June 2024.

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

12th March 2024

Safety Valve Update

Background

1. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is funding which local authorities in England receive to support schools. The DSG is split into four blocks which support different parts of the schools system.
2. One of these blocks is the High Needs Block which is used to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Since 2018/19 the High Needs Block has been under increasing pressure. This growth in expenditure has been seen in every council in England, and Wiltshire is no exception.
3. In Wiltshire from 2018/19 to 2022/23, this equated to a 51% growth in the number of children supported by an EHCP, and a 46% growth in the amount of money being spent from the High Needs Block. Over the same period, the money received into the High Needs Block from government only grew by 36%.
4. While High Needs Block income has not kept pace with the growth in demand, there are also changes that councils can make to respond to the changing strategic context.
5. The government introduced a statutory override which allows councils to hold their DSG deficit as a negative reserve on their balance sheet, walled off from the rest of the council's finances. This statutory override, however, is due to expire 31st March 2026 and at that point the cumulative unmitigated deficit could be £117.0m while the current forecast total general fund and earmarked reserves are £90m.
6. Safety Valve is a DfE programme to support councils that have a significant financial challenge with their High Needs Block. The invitation to join Safety Valve was received in August 2023 and if a deal can be successfully negotiated, and receives Secretary of State approval, the implementation phase begins in April 2024.
7. The High Needs Block Sustainability Plan for Wiltshire has been developed with stakeholders to identify improvements in our SEND system that will create better support for children and young people and their families, while addressing the financial challenges.

January update

8. Since the last Children's Select Committee meeting, further negotiations were held between the council and the DfE in an attempt to ensure a mutually agreeable deal.
9. The outcomes from those negotiations and the status of all Safety Valve Deals in this tranche are currently embargoed. As soon as the embargo is lifted, the council will make it public. This is expected before Cabinet on the 19th March as the DfE need to publicise the deals before the pre-election period for local elections in England.

10. There is no reason to expect that the deal will not be agreed and signed, based on the positive feedback that the High Needs Block Sustainability Plan received. That plan was submitted in January with endorsement from Children's Select Committee, Wiltshire Schools Forum, and a cross-sector board including membership from Wiltshire Parent Carers Council (WPCC) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
11. Given this, work has begun to ensure that projects are moving forward and the governance and reporting arrangements are in place to provide assurance to the council that the financial risk of the DSG is being managed effectively and in line with the likely shape of the deal.
12. The Programme Highlight Report (Appendix 1) sets out the top-line monitoring information, including key measurables and finance information. This will be regularly reported to Children's Select Committee.
13. Work on priority projects has begun. At this stage, these have been defined as ones which will have a significant early impact or ones which will have a big impact but need longer to develop. The programme team will be happy to report on progress made against these at the next Children's Select Committee.
14. The Secretary of State has approved a disapplication request for a block transfer above 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. For 2024/25 this figure is 0.55%. The council is still waiting to hear about the capital request of £5.7m that was submitted to bring forward the provision of special school places in the south of the county.
15. As reported in January, at the end of the plan period, the cumulative mitigated deficit is forecast to be £137.2m. It is expected that the council will need to cover £70-90m from other funding sources to completely remove the deficit.
16. The decision to enter the Safety Valve deal will crystallise that requirement which will in effect be the balance of the cumulative deficit set out in the plan less any contribution from the DfE. The council approved the creation of an earmarked reserve as part of the budget and will be taking an approach of maximising all opportunities to set money aside to fund the contribution required.

High Needs Block Sustainability Highlight Report

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Extracted for: Children's Select Committee
Extracted on: 04/03/2024

Wiltshire Council

The logo for Wiltshire Council, featuring a white wavy line underneath the text.

Transformation Summary - Overview

	Last Period	This Period
Overall Programme RAG rating		Green - On Track

	Last Period	This Period
DSG Deficit Trajectory RAG rating		Green - On Track

Work has been focussed on getting the Programme achitecture in place so that we can accurately report on progress and respond in an agile manner to changing circumstance.

Formally, the plan does not begin until the new financial year, so reporting this month is slightly artificial, however activity is beginning on the change programmes and these are amber turning green wheras most of the measures are red / amber which is what we woudl expect at this stage.

We are still waiting to hear from the DfE about the status of the deal and the capital bids that will underpin the work to deliver Workstream 2. The expectation is that we will hear before the end of the financial year.

Programme team are in the proces of being recruited, two out of three posts filled and starting in April. Despite this, work towards priority or medium/long-term projects has begun and the governance has been established to monitor and drive progress.

Deal Condition RAG Ratings	Last Period	This Period
1 - Improving support pre-EHCP to increase parental and professional confidence in mainstream inclusion		Green - On Track
2 - Preventing the need for escalation of support by ensuring the right support, first time		Amber - Off Track
3 - Ensuring value for money and the right contributions from partners		Amber - Off Track
4 - Enhance transition pathways to provide a range of opportunities to prepare for adulthood		Green - On Track
5 - Developing better communication and processes to change the culture in our SEND system		Amber - Off Track

Transformation Summary - Key Measures

Measure	Detail	Figure	Last Update	Last Period	This Period
Reduction in the number of ECH Needs Assessment requests submitted	If support outside of an EHCP improves, this figure should reduce - measured YTD	169	Jan-24		Red - At Risk
Reduction in the percentage of school population who have an EHCP	If we improve support and proactively cease this should reduce against forecast	On forecast	Jan-24		Amber - Off Track
Percentage of EHCP cohort who are in Independent Special School	If our local provision is right, we will reduce the INMSS placements - measured YTD	6.06%	Jan-24		Amber - Off Track
Percentage of EHCP cohort who move up provision within 1 year of placement		Still need to clean up the data to report accurately			
Average cost per EHCP	This figure should come down as we reduce reliance on expensive placements	£17,287	Jan-24		Amber - Off Track
Number of ad hoc funding decisions being made		Data feed is being established			
Number of EHCPs ceased that do not result in NEET within 6 months	This should go up. Numbers are too small to be meaningful - measured YTD	2 (33%)	Jan-24		Amber - Off Track
Percentage of post 16 EHCPs in ISP	As we enable other pathways, this figures should come down - measured YTD	Data coming	Jan-24		Amber - Off Track
Percentage compliance with Statutory SEND timeliness measures	Performance should improve as we sort the system	NA	Jan-24		Red - At Risk
Percentage of POET survey returns showing positive experience of SEND system	We should begin to see this annual survey show positivity against previous year		Jan-24		Amber - Off Track

Finance Summary

Financial reporting is being set up to enable monitoring of the progress. This is ready for the start of the new Financial Year.

Quarterly budget monitoring will enable us to report at every meeting on key finance metrics to assess where we are on track and where further work is required.

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KPI	Baseline	Budget	This Quarter	Variance	RAG
Total High Needs Block Spend	£97,098,336	£103,744,143	NA	NA	Green - On Track
High Needs Block In-year surplus/deficit	£24,503,927	£28,279,577	NA	NA	Green - On Track
DSG in year variance	£21,033,244	£28,279,577	NA	NA	Green - On Track
Cumulative DSG variance after all contributions	£56,247,009	£83,548,046	NA	NA	Green - On Track

Programme Mitigations	Baseline	Budget	This Quarter	Variance	RAG
Workstream 1 Savings	0	£1,753,000	NA	NA	Green - On Track
Workstream 2 Savings	0	£1,995,000	NA	NA	Green - On Track
Workstream 3 Savings	0	£979,000	NA	NA	Green - On Track
Workstream 4 Savings	0	£0	NA	NA	Green - On Track
Workstream 5 Savings	0	£0	NA	NA	Green - On Track

Programme Risk Log

Risk name	Risk	Score	Action	Target	Updated
Failure to deliver the required trajectory	If this happens then the DfE will make us responsible for the whole deficit and the council will be at risk of S.114	12	→ Creation of a credible plan to mitigate this risk as far as possible, creation of a High Needs Block reserve.	4	Feb-24
Partners struggle to engage at required pace	If this happens then the plan cannot be delivered and we will struggle to meet our statutory obligations	9	★ Continue to engage and co-design work.	3	Feb-24
Failure to recruit appropriately	If this happens then we will be severely hampered in delivering the programme	9	→ Recruitment successful for 2 of 3 programme posts. Early engagement with recruitment team for specialists	3	Feb-24
Failure to access capital required	If this happens then the plan is unachievable. Without an increase in capacity, the plan will fail	8	↓ Submission of additional DfE capital bid and anticipating a positive response based on feedback.	2	Feb-24
Capacity within stretched SEND team	If this happens then it will be impossible to deliver the change required, and could result in staff fatigue and vacancy	6	↓ MTFs and additional pressures money being used to bolster SEND and inclusion teams.	3	Feb-24

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Children's Select Committee (CSC) – Forward work programme Agenda items for the committee

Standing items (at all meetings)

Title - Details / purpose	Type	Report author / lead officer
Update from Wiltshire Youth Voice	Written	Joe Sutton
School Ofsted Judgements	Written	Andrew Best
DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education	Written	David Harris
Working together to improve school attendance	Written	Kathryn Davis
Schools Forum's update	Written	Lisa Pullin
Corporate Parenting Panel update	Written	Lisa Pullin
NEW Safety Valve update	Written	Ben Stevens
TBC Safeguarding update	Written	tbc
Directors' update Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holders' update Chair's update Verbal updates highlighting any key issues (current or emerging), successes or milestones in their respective areas since the last meeting of the committee, which may not require a full agenda item and are not covered elsewhere on this agenda.	Verbal	All directors Cabinet Members and Portfolio holders Chair

Future items for consideration by the Children’s Select Committee

Thursday 6 June 2024			
<i>Pre-meeting briefing topic: Corporate Parenting Panel – strategic priorities</i>			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
	Stable Homes Built on Love – update on actions in response to national review of childrens’ social care. To include learning from pilot projects and other local authorities.	CSC 31 October 2023	Tim Sandle / Jen Salter
	Early Years Strategy (deferred from 12 March 2024)	CSC 6 June 2023	
	Young Carers – Review the service specifications before commissioning of future provision (deferred from 12 March 2024)	CSC 31 October 2023	Mel Nicolaou Alison Elliott
	SEND provision in mainstream education, to include Resource Bases. (deferred from 12 March 2024)	CSC 31 October 2023	
Substantive	Report from Joint Rapid Scrutiny Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy	CSC 21 September 2023	

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Tuesday 16 July 2024			
<i>Pre-meeting briefing topic:</i>			
	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
	Stable Homes Built on Love – update on actions in response to national review of childrens’ social care. To include learning from pilot projects and other local authorities.	CSC 31 October 2023	Tim Sandle / Jen Salter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July 2024 for task group members to receive an update on implementation of the actions as presented in the Executive Response, with a report to be presented to Children’s Select Committee after 		

	September 2024 (latest date given for implementation).		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee would like to review draft amendments to the area board funding criteria before it is published. 		

Thursday 5 September 2024*Pre-meeting briefing topic: Corporate Parenting Panel – strategic priorities*

	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
	Childcare Sufficiency – Progress update	CSC 31 October 2023	Lucy-Anne Bryant

Longer term items

	Title Details / purpose and Timeframe (if applicable)	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
26 Nov 2024	Area Board Funding Criteria – Review amendments to criteria before publication and implementation. One outcome of the task group into youth provision and Area Board youth funding.	CSC 24 January 2024	
15 Jan 2025	Family Hubs - Report detailing the mobilisation of the new contract, development of Family Hubs by Spurgeons and evaluation of performance, dependant on the updates received by the Standing Task Group.	CSC 24 January 2024	Lucy-Anne Bryant

Items considered in the last 12 months

Meeting date (link)	Title Outcome / actions	Origins / history	Report author / lead officer
25 October 2022	FACT update		
17 January 2023	Roadmap to Excellence		Jen Salter
	National Review into Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs in Residential Settings		Jen Salter
	Shaping the Future Programme with Schools – verbal update		Helean Hughes
	Outcome of the Rapid Scrutiny on High Needs Block Funding		
14 March 2023	Independent Care Review of Children’s Social Care and National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson	Requested by officers	Jen Salter Fiona Hayward
	“Shaping the future” programme with schools - update on the model chosen	CSC 8 June 2022 Schools Ofsted judgements	Andrew Best Helean Hughes
	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	Requested by officers	Andrew Best Helean Hughes
	Performance Outcomes Report Academic Year 2021-2022 - Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations	Deferred from January meeting	Andrew Best Helean Hughes
6 June 2023	Family Hub Contract	Cabinet Item	Gary Binstead Jen Salter
	Business plan and action plan update	Regular item (6 monthly)	Directors
	Child Poverty	Current FWP	Lucy Townsend
12 July 2023	FACT – interim report data set and Family Help programme	CSC 25 October 2022	Simon Thomas

	Safeguarding processes – outcome of the review by the Institute of Public Care.	CSC 20 September 2022 (Jen Salter – Director’s update) CSC 8 June 2022 Chair’s announcement (Lucy Townsend)	Jen Salter/Professor Katy Burch (Oxford Brookes)
	Update on building developments at Silverwood	Cabinet item – June 2023	Melissa Hardwell
	Corporate Parenting Panel annual report	Regular item (annual). Reviewed by Standing Task Group 26 June	Netty Lee
	Community Health Services	HSC (4 July)	Fiona Slevin-Brown (ICB)
	Child, Youth and Family Voice Team annual report	Regular item (annual)	Joe Sutton
21 September 2023	Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy	ICB proposal	
	Outcome of the SEND LGA Peer Review	Officers requested	Helean Hughes/Richard Hanks
	Children missing out on education	Standing task group reviewed 6 Sept.	Kathryn Davis
	Elective Home Education	Standing task group reviewed 6 Sept.	Kathryn Davis
	Youth Provision and Area Board Youth Funding Task Group Report.	17 March 2020 endorsed by O&SMC	Cllr Jo Trigg
	Outcome of the Dads Matter Too multi agency project.		Professor Katy Burch
	Annual Adoption Report	Regular item (annual)	
31 October 2023	Briefing – Out of County education/Childcare Sufficiency	Requested by Committee	Helean Hughes/Richard Hanks
	Young Carers_ Update on strategy for future provision	Requested by committee	Mel Nicolaou/Netty Lee
	SEND – Assessment and Provision		Cate Mullen/Melissa Hardwell
	Childcare/Early Years Sufficiency		Lucy-Anne Bryant
	LGA SEND peer review – Action Plan		Richard Hanks
	Stable Homes Built on Love – Update		Jen Salter/Tim Sandle

7 December 2023	Draft Safety Valve Management Plan	All member briefing on Safety Valve Programme, 12 October 2023	Ben Stevens

Rapid Scrutiny

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21 September 2023	Review development of the ICB’s Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy. Joint rapid scrutiny to involve Children’s Select and Health Select Committee members. To take place Nov/Dec 2023 and present findings in January 2024.	Endorsed by CSC (21.09.23) and HSC (05.09.23).	Jane Rowland, Mental Health Transformation Lead, BSW ICB
24 January 2024	Establish a task group on children and young people’s mental health services.	Endorsed by CSC (24.01.24)	