

AGENDA

Meeting: Childrens Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chambers, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 18 March 2010
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Sharon Smith, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718378 or email sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Paul Darby	Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Peter Fuller	Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Mark Griffiths	Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Russell Hawker	Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman)
Cllr J Hubbard (Vice-Chairman)	

Substitutes:

Cllr Ernie Clark	Cllr Chris Humphries
Cllr Peter Colmer	Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Christopher Devine	Cllr Howard Marshall
Cllr Peggy Dow	Cllr William Roberts
Cllr Nick Fogg	

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Mrs Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Mr Neil Owen	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Mrs Rosheen Ryan	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Dr Mike Thompson	Roman Catholic Church Diocesan Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Di Dale	Further Education Representative
Chris Dark	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Judith Finney	Primary School Headteachers Representative
John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Chris King	Children & Young People's Representative

PART I

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

1. **Apologies and substitutions**

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 12)*

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Children's Services Select Committee held on 28 January 2010 ([web link](#)).

3. **Declarations of Interests**

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

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

5. **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

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. The Chairman will, however, exercise her discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of any question) to the officer named above by **12:00 noon on 16 March 2010**.

6. **Laverstock Schools Update**

Nick Glass, Head of Secondary School Improvement, will provide a verbal update on Wyvern College, St Edmund's Girls School and St Joseph's Catholic School in Laverstock.

This follows the written update provided at the 28 January meeting ([web link](#)), when members noted that the Laverstock Academy project would not proceed, disbanded the Laverstock Academy Task Group, and agreed to receive a further update at this meeting before making any decision regarding establishing another task group to look at this issue.

7. **Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Commissioning Strategy - Update**

At its previous meeting, the Committee received a report providing national benchmarking comparisons for local authorities' expenditure on placements for LAC ([web link](#)). This highlighted how the budget for placements in Wiltshire has been an area of overspend in previous years and some of the factors that have influenced this.

A working draft of the new Placements Commissioning Strategy was expected for consideration at this meeting. Unfortunately, it requires further work before being ready for public scrutiny from members.

The Committee's next meeting, on 8 June, will take place after the Strategy has received final approval from the Children and Young People's Trust Board. Therefore, to allow for scrutiny of the Strategy prior to its adoption, members may wish to establish a task group (possibly requiring only one meeting) to meet before June to consider the Strategy and make recommendations to the Trust as appropriate.

Members are asked to consider if and how it wishes to scrutinise the Strategy and, if a task group is favoured, agree its membership.

8. **13 - 19 Strategy - Update on the Arrangements for Transfer of Responsibility from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Local Authority from 2010** *(Pages 13 - 20)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children and Education, providing an update on the progress and readiness of the Council to take on its new strategic responsibilities for learning and skills, including the planning and commissioning of education and training for 16-19 year olds from April 2010. The changes to the current arrangements relate to the July 2008 White Paper, 'Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver' ([web link](#)).

Members are asked to note the work done to ensure the Council is ready to take on its new strategic responsibilities and to comment as appropriate.

9. **Transition Planning - Progress made since Children's Services Scrutiny Committee 7 May 2009** *(Pages 21 - 40)*

A report from Julia Cramp, Service Director for Commissioning and Performance – DCE, outlining the progress made since May 2009 by the Transition Partnership Board in addressing the need to improve Wiltshire's approach to the transition of disabled young people and those with special educational needs (SEN) to adult services. A draft version of the Multi-Agency Transitions Protocol was presented at the Committee's meeting in May 2009 ([web link](#)).

Susan Tanner, Strategy Manager for Aiming High, and Susan Tomes, Programme Lead for Transitions, will attend to answer any questions arising.

Members are asked to note the progress made by the Transition Partnership Board and the work to improve the transition of young people to adult social care.

10. **Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board** *(Pages 41 - 66)*

A report from Sarah Webb, Head of Safeguarding, introducing the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), the multi-agency strategic Board which co-ordinates policies, training and all multi-agency safeguarding systems, and ensures the effectiveness of safeguarding children work.

Members are asked to note the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

11. **Wiltshire Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Update** *(Pages 67 - 70)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children and Education, providing additional information on the subject of teenage pregnancy and the work done to reduce incidences in Wiltshire.

This follows the report received in November 2009 ([web link](#)), after which members requested a further report on a) the 'causes' of teenage pregnancy, including on why Britain's teenage pregnancy rates are higher than those on the continent, b) further information on what work has already been done to reduce teenage pregnancy in Wiltshire, and c) whether the availability of social housing is a contributory factor.

Denzil Longland, Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator, will also attend to answer questions arising.

Members are asked to note and comment as appropriate on the report.

12. **Major Contracts Task Group Update**

An update on the work of this Task Group.

Membership:

Cllr Carole Soden
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Peter Colmer

The Task Group met on the 25 February to review the Children Centre contracts, which have a combined annual value of £4.1M and are funded through ring-fenced DCSF grants. After considering the current contractual arrangements, members acknowledged the work of officers in supplying inclusive services, along with their drive to use as much of the grant to provide services for children as possible.

As the current contracts will be retendered and come into effect as of March 2011, members discussed the different options and were reassured that any changes will not affect front line services - they may only change how the Centres are managed. These options are currently out to consultation with stakeholders and the results of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

Members are asked to note the update.

13. **Holding the Executive to Public Account**

Any Member of the Select Committee or any 5 Members of the Council can request an item on the Committee's agenda. The Constitution sets out the procedure to be followed should this happen. The following items relating to Children's Services will be considered by Cabinet or other Council committees:

Cabinet (22 March)

Youth Service Re-provision in Corsham and Salisbury - To confirm the re-provision of youth services in Salisbury and Corsham

Corporate Parenting (not public) (16 March)

Children in Care Performance Data - January 2010 - update

Working Draft - Commissioning Strategy: Placements 2010 – summary

Wiltshire Fostering Service - update

The representation and support of children and babies through the adoption process – discussion item

Schools Forum (24 June)

Final Dedicated Schools Grant(DSG) Settlement

Final Outturn 2009/10 and initial budget monitoring for 2010/11 - update on the final outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant 2009/10.

Schools Forum Regulations 2010 - update on changes to Schools Forum regulations which now require local authorities to have representation from Academies.

Schools Finance Regulations 2010 - update on Schools Finance regulations and any related changes to the Council's funding scheme.

Special Schools Banding Moderation Process - to agree the process for the moderation

of the banding for pupils in maintained special schools, which takes place each autumn and drives the funding model for Special Schools.

Social Deprivation Funding – outline of proposals for how the Council allocates funding to schools to target pupils from deprived backgrounds.

14. **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 71 - 78)*

A copy of the draft Forward Work Programme is attached for consideration.

15. **Date of Next Meeting**

10.30am, 8 June 2010.

16. **Urgent Items**

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

PART II

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

NONE