

## AGENDA

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**Meeting:** Childrens Services Select Committee  
**Place:** Council Chambers, County Hall, Trowbridge  
**Date:** Tuesday 8 June 2010  
**Time:** 10.30 am

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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](mailto:sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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

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### Membership:

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

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### 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	

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### 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

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### Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Mrs 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

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## **PART I**

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

1. **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman of the Select Committee for 2010/2011.

Nominations will be sought orally from those present at the meeting. Voting will be by way of a show of hands.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee for 2010/2011.

Nominations will be sought orally from those present at the meeting. Voting will be by way of a show of hands.

3. **Membership**

To note the membership of the Select Committee for 2010/11 as agreed by Full Council on 18 May 2010.

4. **Apologies and substitutions**

To receive apologies for substitutions.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 10)*

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Childrens' Services Select Committee held on 18 March 2010.

6. **Declarations of Interests**

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

7. **Chairman's Announcements**

8. **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 Friday 4 June 2010**.

9. **School Performance** *(Pages 11 - 20)*

A report from Stephanie Denovan, Service Director for Schools and Learning, exploring the contributory reasons for Ofsted judging 42% of Wiltshire's primary schools to be 'satisfactory' overall during their last round of school inspections (2006-2009). The report looks at the measures in place to raise Key Stage 2 standards and to reduce the most significant attainment gaps, which are key priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan 2010-14.

Members are asked to note the report's contents and to comment as appropriate.

10. **Primary School Strategy: Securing Primary School Improvement through the World Class Primary Plan** *(Pages 21 - 46)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director of Children and Education, providing an update on the recent developments within primary school improvement, including the development of a World Class Primary Plan for Wiltshire.

Members are asked to:

- (a) note the content of the report and comment as appropriate on the work done to develop Primary School Improvement;
- (b) approve the working draft of Wiltshire's World Class Primary Plan.

11. **SEN Transport** *(Pages 47 - 58)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director of Children and Education, and Mark Boden, Corporate Director of Neighbourhood and Planning, on the provision of transport for children and young people with special educational

needs (SEN) – an area of historic overspend for the Council.

The request for this item followed a DCE Fact-finding meeting focussing on SEN transport, which highlighted the joint working between DCE and the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) to improve management of the SEN transport budget.

Members are asked to note the report's contents and to comment as appropriate.

12. **Food Technology (to follow)**

A report providing responses to Recommendations 5 and 6 of the School Food Task Group's Final report, plus updates on implementation of the Task Group's other recommendations. The Task Group's Final Report can be found on the Council website ([link](#)).

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee commissioned this task group in September 2008 following consideration of a report updating members on the progress of the council's School Food Strategy. Its findings and conclusions were endorsed by the Committee in March 2009, who received executive responses to the report's recommendations in Jul 2009. The Chairman and Vice-Chair of the Select Committee then requested that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services provide further responses to recommendations 5 & 6 of the Task Group's final report plus an update on progress with implementation of the Task Group's other recommendations.

Members are asked to note the executive responses and updates to the Task Group's recommendations and to comment as appropriate.

13. **Annual Report for Major Contracts Task Group 2009-10** (Pages 59 - 62)

A report presenting a summary of the reviews carried out by the Major Contracts Task Group over the last 12 months.

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the work of the Task Group in reviewing Major Contracts over the last year.
- b) Endorse the membership of the Task Group to continue over the coming year and report back in 12 months time.

The Task Group's current membership is: Cllr Bill Moss (Chairman), Cllr Peter Colmer, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jacqui Lay and Cllr Carole Soden.

14. **Task Group Update**

a) **Major Contracts Task Group**

Please see Item 14 – Annual Report of the Major Contracts Task Group for a summary of this Task Group’s April meeting.

b) **Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group**

The Task Group’s current Membership is: Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Peter Colmer, Cllr Andrew Davis, Mrs Alice Kemp, Cllr Bill Moss and Cllr Helen Osborn.

The Task Group met on 21 May to consider a summary of the Commissioning Strategy for Placements for Looked After Children 2010, plus the outline project plan, which is being developed to manage the implementation of the Strategy. The new Strategy identifies priorities for securing sustainable, high quality and cost effective local placements, to improve outcomes for looked after children. Its objectives include:

- reducing reliance on expensive agency placements (foster and residential)
- ensuring that, where possible, children are diverted from care and if this is not possible, permanent placements are found via adoption/fostering
- securing appropriate 16+ accommodation for care leavers
- ensuring in-house foster provision is able to meet demand via improved recruitment and retention
- ensuring the in-house adoption service can progress enough assessments, approvals and retention of adopters to meet demand
- embedding robust processes for allocating appropriate placements and monitoring them to prevent drift
- introducing a brokerage function through which all placements (in-house and external) are sourced and contracted.

The Task Group’s first meeting served primarily as a fact-finding session into this huge area of work, with the Head of Children in Care, Interim Head of Joint Commissioning, Interim Head of Family Placements and Field Work Manager in attendance to answer members’ questions. Members expressed a number of concerns, primarily regarding the lack of specific targets and timescales to the Commissioning Strategy’s objectives.

The Task Group have therefore requested to receive a variety of additional information prior to its next meeting in early August in order to better understand the rationale behind the new Commissioning Strategy, its objectives and the plan for its implementation.

## 15. **Holding the Executive to Public Account**

### **Cabinet (22 June)**

- Youth Service Re-provision in Corsham and Salisbury  
To confirm the reprovision of youth services in Salisbury and Corsham
- Community Asset Transfer - Margaret Stancomb School  
To consider a proposal submitted by Wiltshire Rural Music School for the transfer of part of Margaret Stancomb School located at British Row, Trowbridge under the Community Asset Transfer policy.

(27 July)

- SEN Review  
Post-consultation report - To consider the outcomes of the consultation and make decisions on the issues considered in the Review

### **Corporate Parenting (not public) (1 June)**

- Children in Care Performance Data - March 2010
- Discussion Item from the Children in Care Council
- Annual Adoption and Fostering Service Update 2009/10 (Performance Review Update)
- Transition of Looked After Children to Adult Services
- Ofsted Inspection Report - Canons House, Devizes
- Events on the LAC Social Calendar to enable visits to Children's Homes by Members
- Improving Health Services for Looked After Children - 2008/2009
- Statistical Data - Wiltshire Looked After Children Offenders and ROBLAC
- Comparison of Corporate Parenting Groups across other Councils
- Groups Operating in Wiltshire Council which Focus on Looked After Children

### **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.

16. **Forward Work Programme** (Pages 63 - 70)

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

**Aftercare Provision for Young People leaving care**

Following its meeting to consider the Quarriers contract (an external residential placement provider), the Major Contract Task Group recommended that the Select Committee receive a report on aftercare provision and the work towards independent living for those leaving care.

Officers have suggested the report is scheduled for September's agenda.

Members are asked to consider whether they wish to request a report on this issue.

17. **Date of Next Meeting**

10.30am, 22 July 2010.

18. **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