

AGENDA

Meeting: Childrens Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chambers, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 23 September 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 Jon Hubbard
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman)
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	

Substitutes:

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

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:

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

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 - 10)*

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Childrens' Services Select Committee held on 22 July 2010.

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 Tuesday 21 September 2010**.

6) **Coalition Proposals for Children's Services and Education** *(Pages 11 - 18)*

In June, Members requested that a standing item be included on the work programme to receive updates on the Coalition Government's proposals for children's services and education.

Members are asked to note the update.

7) **16-19 Learning - Update on Transfer of Responsibility from LSC to LA**
(Pages 19 - 24)

In March, the Committee considered a report which provided details on the transition of responsibility for 16-19 learning from LSC to the Local Authority from 1 April 2010.

The Committee is now asked to consider the update provided and to comment as appropriate.

8) **Laverstock Schools - Update** *(Pages 25 - 30)*

In March 2010, the Committee received an update on St Josephs Catholic School, St Edmunds Church of England Girls' School and Wyvern College in Laverstock. Members were pleased to hear of the collaborative working taking place between the schools but were still concerned that there remained no solution to the poor condition of the school buildings. It was agreed therefore that a site visit would be arranged to aid Members' understanding of the issue.

A report on the visit and the latest position regarding the schools' status is attached for consideration.

The Committee is asked to note the report and comment as appropriate.

9) **Executive Response to the Recommendations of the Review of SEN Provision Rapid Scrutiny Exercise** *(Pages 31 - 48)*

On 8 June, the Children's Services Select Committee resolved to undertake a rapid scrutiny exercise looking at the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision; specifically the consultation process and results.

The Rapid Scrutiny Exercise was held on 15 July 2010 and its recommendations were considered by the Select Committee on 22 July 2010, alongside the report to Cabinet presenting the outcomes of the Review and proposals for service development. The Select Committee endorsed all of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise's recommendations without amendment or addition. Following endorsement, the Rapid Scrutiny Group's report was submitted to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 27 July 2010.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services' response to the exercise undertaken and recommendations made is now attached for note and consideration.

The Committee is asked to note the response and to agree how to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

10) **Social Care Update**

a) **Social Care Team Restructure - update** (Pages 49 - 54)

A report from Sharon Davies, Service Director for Children and Families Social Care, providing a progress report on the restructure of Children and Families Social Care and detailing early indications of the impact on service delivery is attached. This follows the report received in August 2009 introducing the restructure.

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

b) **Summary Report on Allocation and Vacancies in Children and Families Social Care** (Pages 55 - 62)

A report from Sharon Davies, Service Director for Children and Families Social Care, providing an update on case allocations and workforce vacancies within Children's Services in line with the Laming Report Recommendation is attached.

The Laming Report into the circumstances surrounding the death of Victoria Climbié in the London Borough of Hackney made recommendations into strengthening and improving reporting arrangements within local authorities in respect of staff recruitment and workload management.

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

c) **Ofsted Unannounced inspections of contact, referral and assessment** (Pages 63 - 76)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Department for Children and Education, informing members of the Ofsted assessment of the performance of the children's social care contact, referral and assessment services within Wiltshire is attached. The inspection samples the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect.

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

11) **Role of Schools Forum** (Pages 77 - 86)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children & Education, describing the function of the Schools Forum is attached. This followed a request from Cllr Helen Osborn.

Mr Neil Baker, Chairman of the Schools Forum and Headteacher of Christ Church CE Primary School, will attend to answer Members' questions.

12) **Task Group Update**

Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group update

Membership: Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Peter Colmer, Cllr Andrew Davis, Mrs Alice Kemp, Cllr Bill Moss and Cllr Helen Osborn.

The Task Group met for the second time on 18 August, and were joined by Lin Hitchman – Head of Children in Care, Jane Shuttleworth - Interim Head of Joint Commissioning, Sharon Davies – Service Director for Children & Families and Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services.

Although Members were generally satisfied with the direction of the Placements Commissioning Strategy, they remained concerned at the lack of a comprehensive project plan for its implementation. Members felt that the current action plan framed its targets in terms of officer work rather than outcomes for looked after children. Members have therefore requested to see a ‘master plan’ at their next meeting containing historic, current and aspirational KPIs and other historic and projected outcomes.

Members considered the arrangements in place for supporting and housing young people leaving care, resolving to receive the 16-24 Accommodation Strategy at the Task Group’s next meeting.

Members also received a report on the new brokerage function in DCE. This will include two new contract officers and is intended to enable better management of placement contracts, a greater focus on specifying outcomes within new contracts, a reduction in the number of placement providers and improved relationships with those placement providers. Members were generally satisfied with the rationale behind the brokerage function and the approach taken.

At the next meeting, as well the ‘master plan’ mentioned above, Members will receive a progress report on development of the adoption service and will be joined by Karen Reid, Virtual Headteacher, to discuss what educational support LAC receive.

13) **Holding the Executive to Public Account** *(Pages 87 - 88)*

A document showing the items to be considered at the next meeting of the Cabinet, Corporate Parenting Panel and Schools Forum is attached.

14) **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 89 - 90)*

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

15) **Date of Next Meeting**

10:30am, 25 November 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