

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 27 January 2011
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.

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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:

Rev. 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
Mr 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 25 November 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 **5:00 pm on Thursday 20 January 2011**.

6) **Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education (DCE)** (*Pages 11 - 18*)

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for DCE, will present an update on the Coalition Government's proposals for children's services and education.

7) **Budget Monitoring - DCE** (*Pages 19 - 30*)

Following the disbandment of the Budget & Performance Task Group, responsibility for scrutiny of departmental budgets has passed to the relevant Select Committees.

As was requested at the previous meeting, Committee members were sent hard copies of the full Cabinet budget papers in December. Cabinet received no budget papers in January and therefore the papers circulated in December remain the most current reports. Edited versions of them, containing only the information relating to DCE, are included within today's agenda papers.

8) **Integrated Working in Wiltshire** (*Pages 31 - 34*)

In January 2010, the Committee considered a report providing an update on progress made within Wiltshire to implement the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional.

The Committee requested a further update in January 2011 on the implementation and work of the CAF and a report from Julia Cramp, Joint Service Director Commissioning and Performance, is attached for consideration.

The Committee is asked to note the progress made in respect of implementing CAF & Lead Professional across Wiltshire.

9) **Pupil Performance Figures** (*Pages 35 - 50*)

A report from the Director, Schools and Learning, providing a comparison between Wiltshire's attainment and the national expectations across all phases of performance in public tests and examinations is attached.

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

10) **16-19 Learning and Skills ~ Strategic Priorities for 2011-12 and update on the transfer of responsibility from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Local Authority** (*Pages 51 - 72*)

In September 2010 the Committee received a report providing details of the progress made by the Council following the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 learning from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from 1 April 2010.

A report presenting the draft Strategic Priorities Statement for Wiltshire 16-19 year olds in 2011-2012 is attached. It also provides an update of progress since the Local Authority took on the strategic responsibilities for education and training for 16-19 year olds from the Learning & Skills Council.

Julie Cathcart, Head of Lifelong Learning, will be in attendance to now present the Commissioning Plan for the 2011/12 academic year.

11) **Basic Skills Update** (*Pages 73 - 78*)

In July 2010, the Committee received a report on the level of Basic Skills (amongst adults) in Wiltshire. This followed comments in the 2009 Common Area Assessment that "too many people in Wiltshire did not have basic reading and maths qualifications. Public services had increased their targets for the number of people getting basic qualifications but it was not clear whether they had met them."

Alistair Cunningham, Service Director for Economy and Enterprise, will present an update report on the work underway to increase the levels of Basic Skills (amongst adults) in Wiltshire, particularly the programme of work enabled by the Performance Reward Grant that commenced in August 2010.

12) **OfSTED Children's Services Annual Rating 2010** (Pages 79 - 86)

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director for Children and Education will present a report with attaching Ofsted rating letter dated 9 December 2010 following the assessment of the performance of children's services within Wiltshire.

The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and attaching letter which is to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 25 January 2011.

13) **Task Group Update**

a) **Major Contracts Task Group**

Membership: Cllr Bill Moss (Chairman), Cllr Carole Soden, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Colmer and Cllr Jacquie Lay.

The Task Group met on the 16 December to carry out the annual review of the White Horse Education Partnership (WHEP). In addition to this meeting, Councillors visited the three schools within the contract to better understand services provided and any performance matters they experience. Following discussion, the Task Group were satisfied at the performance of the contract and the progress by WHEP to resolve latent defects. In addition, Councillors heard about a number of changes in cleaning, catering and maintenance, which have resulted in improved service over the last year. In catering, WHEP are implementing a cashless payment system for young people. This will result in parents being able to monitor the foods eaten by their children, but also contribute to reducing stigma attached to those receiving free school meals.

Future meetings of the Task Group have been arranged for 2 February 2011 to review Quarriers, and 4 March 2011 to review the Sure Start Children's Centres contract.

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

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

The Task Group have not met since November's Committee meeting. Their next meeting, to take place in February, is currently being arranged and will incorporate a visit to the Adoption Centre in Trowbridge, where members will learn more about the adoption process.

This Task Group was initially established in May 2010 to consider the Placements for LAC Commissioning Strategy. So far it has met on three occasions and received a large volume of data and reports regarding residential placements, fostering, adoptions, educational provision for those in care, parenting etc. Overall, members have

been generally satisfied with the Strategy's approach to placements commissioning but have had some concerns regarding an apparent lack of specific, measurable target outcomes for the Strategy. For this reason, members have requested a 'master plan' showing past, present and target data for the Key Performance Indicators with relevance to placements, including regional and national benchmarking data. This, together with the knowledge of placement issues gained from previous meetings, will enable Task Group members to closely monitor the impact of the Placements for LAC Commissioning Strategy on this important but economically volatile area.

Discussions have been underway regarding the approach and make-up of the Corporate Parenting Panel, the remit of which some members felt overlapped with the Placements for LAC Task Group. These discussions are still underway and are likely to affect the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel rather than the Task Group.

c) **Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group**

Membership (TBC): Dr Michael Thomson (Chairman), Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Bill Moss and Cllr Pip Ridout

This Task Group was established in November 2010 to look at provision of 16-19 education in the Salisbury area. The Task Group had their first meeting on 2 December 2010 and the key outcomes were as follows:

Dr Mike Thompson was elected as Chairman, and the review is expected to require 12 months. It was agreed that although the catalyst for the review was the Committee's visit to the three Laverstock schools, this Task Group will be looking at the broader issue of 16-19 choice in the Salisbury area, with no presumption that it is insufficient at present.

The Task Group's remit will include all 16-19 training/educational opportunities (college courses, A-levels, vocational), but will not cover 16-19 provision for those with SEN/LDD. This will be covered by the new Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group and the FE in the Salisbury Area Task Group will take note of its work.

Members agreed the following terms of reference for the review:

- 1. To identify the number of young people from the Salisbury area who travel out of county and for long distances to access 16-19 education provision.***
- 2. To identify why those young people travelling long distances to access provision do so, the quality of life and employment implications, and the financial and environmental impact.***

3. *To seek young people's perception of the 16-19 education provision available in the Salisbury area, both in and out of county.*
4. *To identify and make recommendations as to where there may be viable opportunities for expanding or improving provision of 16-19 education in the Salisbury area.*

The Chairman and Senior Scrutiny Officer are due to meet on 18 January to discuss the Task Group's second meeting and a further update will be provided to the Committee following this.

d) **Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group**

Membership (TBC): Cllr Carole Soden, Rev Alice Kemp and Cllr Tony Trotman

This Task Group was established in November 2010 with the following terms of reference:

1. *To establish the strengths and weaknesses of current special school and post-16 SEN provision in Wiltshire, taking into account the views of service users, parents and other stakeholder groups;*
2. *To consider examples of best practice in special school and post-16 provision in Wiltshire and other authority areas;*
3. *To make recommendations with respect to how special schools and post-16 SEN provision can be developed to ensure improved outcomes for Wiltshire residents with SEN.*

Membership and dates for the first meeting are still being agreed. There may be a further verbal update to provide at the Committee meeting.

e) **Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Green Paper - Children & Young People with SEN and Disabilities**

Membership (TBC): Cllr Paul Darby, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Rev Alice Kemp, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Helen Osborn and Cllr Carole Soden

In September, the Committee agreed to undertake a rapid scrutiny exercise to respond to the Government's Green Paper on Children & Young People with SEN and Disabilities. The Green Paper is yet to be released.

14) **Forward Work Programme (Pages 87 - 90)**

A copy of the Committee's Forward Work Programme and Terms of Reference are attached for consideration.

15) **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Children's Services Select Committee is scheduled for **10:30am, 17 March 2011**.

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