

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Services Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 17 March 2011
Time: **10.30 am**
(Briefing for all Members - 9.30am): Schools with significant numbers of services children.

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

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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	Clifton Diocese Roman Catholic Church 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 - 14*)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Children's Services Select Committee meeting held on 13 January 2011.

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.

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 above 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 above (acting on behalf of the Director of Resources) no later than **5pm on Thursday 10 March 2011**. Please contact the officer named on the first page 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) **Coalition Changes – DCE update** (*Pages 15 - 18*)

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

7) **Budget & Performance monitoring**

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

Hard copies of the budget monitoring papers for Cabinet's March meeting will follow to all members on 10th March 2011.

No performance reports will be received by Cabinet in March. However, hard copies of the performance report considered by Cabinet in February have been sent to all members.

Where possible, members are asked to forward any specific questions regarding the current DCE budget or performance position to the Senior Scrutiny Officer in advance of the meeting.

8) **Transition Planning - update** (*Pages 19 - 22*)

An update on progress in relation to ensuring effective transition from children's to adult's services is attached.

The Committee last received a report on Transitions in March 2010. The focus at the time was to develop a plan to implement the Multi Agency Transition Protocol over the next 3 years.

Transitions falls within the scope of an on-going review of services for disabled children and adults (see page 75 of the Council Business Plan 2011-15), which is being led by the Corporate Director for Community Services. This systems thinking review forms part of a corporate plan to achieve savings of £21.3 million over the next four years. An update on this project is included within the report.

Julia Cramp, Service Director for Joint Commissioning, will attend to answer members' questions.

9) **Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2011 – 2015** (*Pages 23 - 36*)

The Business Plan 2011-15 was formally adopted at Council on 22 February having been approved by Cabinet the previous week. The 4 year Plan sets out how the Council intends to meet the challenges of reduced resources, legislative change and demographic impact whilst achieving the its goals. The Financial Plan 2011-15, also approved by Council, forms an appendix the Business Plan **(all members should have received copies of these documents – please bring your copy to the meeting for reference).**

The report attached identifies the content within the Business & Financial Plans that falls within the Committee's remit and seeks to determine an appropriate approach for future activity, as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Management and Co-ordination Liaison Board.

Members are asked to agree the list of themes/topics set out in the table within the report and discuss how to address these within the Committee's forward work programme.

10) **Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group** (*Pages 37 - 46*)

The report attached provides a recap of the work done by the Task Group since it was established and proposes its future direction and terms of reference.

The Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group was established in March 2010 to scrutinise the draft Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Commissioning Strategy and has since considered a large amount of information under the broad umbrella of Placements for Looked After Children. It is now appropriate to recap on the work done by the Task Group thus far and to agree its future direction. This is particularly timely as the new Business Plan 2011-15 lists the Family Placement Service as a key priority for the Council.

11) **Task Group update** (*Pages 47 - 48*)

An update on the activity of the Committee's various task groups is attached.

12) **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 9 June 2011.

13) **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

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2011 AT COMMITTEE ROOM III, COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Jane Burton, Cllr Trevor Carbin (Reserve), Cllr Peter Colmer (Reserve), Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Mike Hewitt (Chairman), Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr Pip Ridout (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bill Roberts and Cllr Judy Rooke

Also Present:

Cllr Jemima Milton, Cllr Jeff Osborn and Cllr John Thomson

153. **Apologies and Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Malcolm Hewson and Cllr Tom James.

Cllr Trevor Carbin and Cllr Peter Colmer substituted for Cllr Desna Allen and Cllr Malcolm Hewson respectively.

154. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendment:

Item 143 – Mental Health Service Reconfiguration

Cllr Judy Rooke requested that her vote be recorded to show a vote against the motion passed.

155. **Declarations of Interests**

Brian Warwick (WSUN) declared a personal interest in Item 11 – Care Pathways for Older People.

156. **Chairman's Announcements**

No announcements were made.

157. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

158. **Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), Oral and Maxillofacial (OFM) and Head and Neck Cancer Services Review**

A Review had been undertaken as part of the Healthy Futures Programme across Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES), Wiltshire and Somerset areas.

Maggie Rae, Corporate Joint Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, was in attendance to provide a presentation on the conclusions of the Review undertaken. Liz Eley, Patient Representative from the ASWCS and John Waldron, Medical Director RUH were also in attendance to answer questions arising.

Supporting documentation in addition to the presentation as provided with the agenda included:

Letters from Clinicians
Stakeholder Engagement Report
Equality Impact Assessment
Substantial Variation Impact Assessment for Wiltshire
Advisory Panel Final Recommendations

The Patient Representative provided further details on the proposed reconfiguration of service which included that a weekly meeting took place to discuss the appropriate care requirements for patients. Clarity was provided that those patients who were able to have surgery at RUH Bath could continue to receive treatment at that location. Those with more complex needs (such as reconstructive surgery) would receive treatment in Bristol although these patients would still be able to receive out-patient care either through the RUH or community based hospitals.

In order to address transport issues, a shuttle bus from Bristol train station had been arranged to transfer patients to the UBHT facilities. In addition the Trust had established a relationship with the local Premier Inn to accommodate relatives requiring overnight accommodation.

It was understood that the changes proposed were already in place for the Salisbury and Southampton areas and that the fundamental issue for selecting the UBHT in Bristol was due to patients' preference in being close to an otology specialist.

Comments received from the Committee included the importance of patient and Network involvement and the Committee welcomed the comprehensive analysis provided which indicated that both parties had been involved.

It was acknowledged that much work had been undertaken over a number of years to ensure that the focus remained on providing an excellent level of service. Clinician involvement had adhered to this focus whilst also taking into consideration transport and the ability to receive care locally.

Upon consideration it was proposed and seconded that the service reconfiguration did not represent a substantial variation to the current service provided. Upon vote this was passed.

Resolved:

That the Committee:

- 1) **Endorse the recommendations provided within the 'Advisory Panel Final Recommendations' paper supplied with the agenda as follows:**

Project Board recommends that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- **Supports the proposed clinical service model for a centralised hub for all inpatient and day case head and neck cancer, ENT and OMF services with satellite and spokes providing diagnostic, follow up and less complex procedures.**
 - **Supports the proposal for the centralised hub to be located at the BRI and hub services to be provided and managed by UH Bristol and for UH Bristol to proceed with implementation planning for May 2012 (in line with the opening of South Bristol Community Hospital).**
 - **Supports the proposal for UH Bristol to work with local commissioners and providers from across the network to ensure there is good access to spokes across the network area.**
- 2) **Agreed that the proposed reconfiguration did not represent a substantial variation to the service but that the Committee be kept informed as the service developed.**

159. **Public Health Update**

Maggie Rae, Corporate Joint Director of Public Health and Wellbeing attended the meeting to present the following items:

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2009/10
Public Health White Paper – Healthy Lives, Healthy People
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

A copy of the presentation can be found [attached](#). The following information was highlighted.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provided a summary of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people within Wiltshire. The 2010/11 JSNA had been summarised into five key areas as follows:

Children and Young People
Cancer and cardiovascular disease
Lifestyle choices
Health inequalities
Ageing population

The Corporate Director confirmed that in comparison to other areas within the South West and nationally, obesity and cancer figures were high within Wiltshire and that these were areas that the Committee may wish to explore in more detail at a later date.

Wiltshire had one of the lowest radiation levels which would be particularly important in terms of central government funding as there was likely to be a premium associated with reducing poor health and inequalities in the future.

In addition to the work of the public health department the health and wellbeing message proved of most benefit to the lives of Wiltshire residents if implanted at an early age.

Although members of the public were disappointed that central government had decided not to continue with the 'free swimming' scheme it was understood that alternative schemes could be provided to encourage healthy lifestyles within Wiltshire. Examples included exercise programmes for older people which was proven to stimulate endorphins which contributed to a healthy mind.

The aspirations of the Healthy Child Programme were also delivered to all Wiltshire state funded schools.

Successful health MOT fairs had taken place across the County to encourage public engagement in health and wellbeing where residents were encouraged to undertake a health check. Details of the Programmes available would be circulated to members following the meeting.

Although further details were awaited on funding available, the Corporate Joint Director, Public Health confirmed that alcohol misuse remained a key priority. Many of the children within the foster care/adoption system had parents with either alcohol or drug related problems.

Clarification was also provided that within the prison service a health check was undertaken for prisoners aged 40 and upwards. A Health Trainer Programme, where inmates could qualify to offer one to one health training for other inmates, was being promoted. This was also offered through the military service and it was hoped to become more widely promoted throughout the County.

Communication was expected to be circulated to Councillors on the immunisation programme within Wiltshire which had some of the best vaccine rates in the Country.

The Committee noted the stronger roles undertaken by GPs as part of the proposals made within the White Paper. A joint response from the Council and PCT to the proposals made would be provided by the Corporate Joint Director for Public Health. Details of the consultation would be circulated to the Committee if required.

The Director of Public Health also had a statutory duty to produce an authoritative independent annual report on the health of the local population. This would need to be completed by March 2012.

The work undertaken to date by the South West Authority and also the South West Office would be taken into consideration when producing the new model of working.

Although jointly appointed by the local authority and Public Health England the Director would be accountable to the Secretary of State for Health and also professionally accountable to the Chief Medical Officer.

The role of the Director of Public Health also included responsibility for community safety where one of the current priorities included road collisions.

The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Director for her presentation and confirmed that the Committee would continue to monitor the transitional period through the existing White Paper Task Group.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Director of Public Health for the update provided.**
- 2) That the White Paper Task Group would continue to monitor the transitional period.**

160. NHS Wiltshire Update

The Committee was asked to consider the report provided by NHS Wiltshire with updates on the following subjects:

- (i) Review of Children's Heart Surgery Services
- (ii) NHS Wiltshire Stakeholder Assembly
- (iii) NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

The Chief Executive, NHS Wiltshire, Head of Community Engagement, NHS Wiltshire and Director of Health and Wellbeing were in attendance to answer any questions arising.

- (i) The Committee was informed in August 2010 by the Specialist Commissioning Group that a review on childrens heart surgery services was being undertaken. A full public consultation would take place early 2011 which would allow the Committee the opportunity to comment on the options proposed. These were likely to include a more centralised way of working with part of the care pathway delivered locally.

Details of future stakeholder consultation meetings would be provided to the scrutiny officer for circulation. As members of the Public Health team would be in attendance confirmation was provided that details of the outcomes of the meetings could be provided upon request.

- (ii) The Stakeholder Assembly was held on 23 November 2010 where updates received included Transforming Community Services and Delivering Value for Patients. In addition a workshop took place on hospital admissions, length of stay and discharge. A report containing details of the feedback received would be presented to the Committee once available.

Clarification was requested on the status of Charterhouse, a community mental health service provided in Trowbridge, as the local media had reported bed closures were to be made. The Chief Executive, NHS Wiltshire clarified that although it was understood that discussions were ongoing in relation to the mental health service as a whole across Wiltshire no proposals had been made in relation to Charterhouse itself.

A representative from the Avon and Wiltshire Partnership (AWP) was in attendance and confirmed that a dementia strategy was being developed but at such an early stage no proposals had been made in relation to bed closures. The Mental Health/Dementia Task Group would be kept abreast of any developments in relation to the dementia strategy and would, at its next meeting to be held, seek further clarification on its status.

- iii) The NHS Operating Framework 2011/12, which set out what needed to be done over the transition year 2011/12 in response to the reform set out in 'Equality and Excellent: Liberating the NHS' and supporting documents can be found at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Planningframework/index.htm>

Resolved:

- 1) To thank NHS Wiltshire for the update provided.**
- 2) To refer further discussions on the dementia strategy to the Mental Health/Dementia Task Group.**

161. Primary Care Centre (PCC) Projects

The Chief Executive, NHS Wiltshire presented a report on the projects to provide GP and Community Health Services in purpose built Primary Care Centres within Westbury, Trowbridge, Devizes and Salisbury.

Clarification was provided that there remained a desire to bring the projects to a conclusion within this financial year but that the Committee should note that, due to the financial downturn, many of the partners involved in the PCC projects have had to give further consideration to costs, space, etc, which could result in a further delay.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank NHS Wiltshire for the update provided.**
- (2) That further updates on Primary Care Centres would be provided as part of the standing NHS Update item on future agendas.**

162. Transforming Community Health Services

The Committee was asked to consider a report from NHS Wiltshire on the future of community services in Wiltshire and a progress update from the assessment/decision making to transition phase.

Following a detailed evaluation process, the NHS Wiltshire Board at its meeting held on 9 November 2010, approved a decision to invite Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to become the preferred provider. Jenny Barker had been appointed the Transitions Lead for the ensuing year.

The Chief Executive, Great Western Hospitals Foundation Trust was in attendance to present the report and answer questions arising.

Confirmation was provided that positive meetings had taken place with staff. Sessions had been arranged between WCH and Great Western staff to ensure there was a clear understanding of the services.

Changes would be made to the Board of Directors which would result in an increase in the number of governors from the Wiltshire area to reflect the increased service. The non-executive director make-up would also be increased by one.

Following questions received the Chief Executive, NHS Wiltshire confirmed that the two stage selection process involved the use of a pre-published scoring category and was based on a similar vein to that used by the CQC. Upon receiving a valid bid, a presentation would be made to a panel consisting of both council representatives, service users and staff representatives. The ensuing process resulted in the GWH bid considered to be the most appropriate.

Concern was raised over the potential for GWH to implement car parking charges within community hospitals as a result of the successful bid. Clarification was provided that this issue had also been raised by members of staff and was likely to be discussed with the Swindon Council Scrutiny Committee. The Transitions Manager suggested that this Committee may wish to contact Swindon Council to discuss further.

In order to provide clarity, the Head of Community Engagement, NHS Wiltshire and Transitions Manager, GWH were liaising to ensure clear communication was provided. The Head of Community Engagement, NHS Wiltshire would request that the future of community health services be added as an item on Area Board agendas for wider communication.

In addition, the Chairman clarified that local community issues such as individual community hospital opening times should continue to be raised through the Area Boards in the first instance to ensure local communities were involvement at an early stage.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Chief Executive, Great Western Hospitals Foundation Trust for the update provided.**
- 2) To receive future updates on progress via the standing NHS Update item.**

163. Care Pathway for Older People

The Contracts Manager, DCS, was in attendance to provide an update on the development of the Information Strategy following the anticipated general meeting to be held in December 2010. Confirmation was provided that the meeting planned was now scheduled to take place in the Spring with a follow up event planned for April 2011.

An update on the 'Help to Live at Home' review which looked at the services supporting people living at home would be presented to Cabinet on 15 February with a briefing for Councillors held beforehand. The Contracts Manager confirmed that this included a number of the recommendations arising from the Care Pathway for Older People review.

A tendering process was currently underway for the new Independent Living Service which it was hoped would be let by Summer 2011. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services confirmed that the Committee would receive details of the tendering exercise prior to their submission to Cabinet.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Officer for the update.**
- 2) To receive further details on the Care Pathway for Older People once available.**
- 3) To request that the Committee receive invitations to the next care pathway participants meeting expected to take place in April 2011.**

164. Progress with Care Quality Commission (CQC) Improvement Plans

The Committee received a report which summarised the Council's progress made against improvements defined in the CQC's assessment of the performance of adult social care in Wiltshire during 2009/10.

The Interim Head of Performance was in attendant to present the report and to answer any questions arising.

Clarification was provided that the system of Inspection used by the CQC had been disbanded but that plans were underway to develop a new system of Inspection. Accordingly, the CQC would not now be utilising the Council's improvement plans as part of their routine performance management of the authority.

It was understood that the current proposal was for the CQC to monitor councils' progress and risks by exception. However, until the new process was announced, the Council continue to work on improving those areas identified, details of which are summarised within the report.

Upon question, the Interim Head of Performance confirmed that the Resource Allocation System (RAS), an area highlighted for improvement, had been piloted within the East of the county in the last quarter of 2010. The Department was awaiting the results of those pilots.

The Vice Chairman proposed that she liaise with the Head of Performance Improvement on a bi-monthly basis and provide the Committee with an update by exception.

Clarification was also provided that the Department of Health was currently running a consultation entitled 'Transparency in Outcomes' orchestrated nationally by Public Health. The aim of the consultation was to improve national statistical measures that would replace the National Indicators. The consultation was expected to conclude in February 2011 and details would be provided to the Committee once known.

Resolved:

- 1) **To thank the officer for the update provided.**
- 2) **That the Vice Chairman of the Committee would liaise with the Head of Performance Improvements to receive progress updates on the areas identified in the Improvement Plan and report by exception to the Committee.**

165. **Budget & Performance Update - Winter Preparedness**

The Chairman requested that both DCS and NHS Wiltshire provide the Committee with a report on how each organisation had coped with the additional demands and pressures arising from the recent extreme weather conditions. The Chairman requested the report include both financial and performance related information.

The Chairman understood that not all information may be available for the Committees meeting in March. Should this be the case, the Head of Community Engagement would liaise with the Scrutiny Officer outside of the meeting.

166. **Joint Scrutiny Budget Meeting**

Members of the Committee were reminded that the Joint Scrutiny Meeting to consider Cabinet's 2011/12 budget recommendation would take place on 10 February.

All non-executive members were invited to attend the meeting to provide comment on the budget recommendation prior to consideration by Full Council on 22 February 2011.

167. **Task Group Update**

An update on Task Group activity undertaken was provided for consideration.

NHS White Paper

The next meeting of the Task Group was currently being arranged. Upon its next meeting the Chairman would recommend that the name of the Group should be changed to Transition Task Group to accommodate the second part of the Group's role to consider the new arrangements for the management and provision of health services within Wiltshire.

The next Stakeholder Assembly was likely to take place late May/early June and include public involvement. NHS Wiltshire welcomed input from the Committee at the Assembly as a statutory consultee of the NHS.

Quality Accounts

In addition to the confirmed dates for site visits supplied with the Agenda, confirmation was provided that a visit to the Royal United Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases had also now been arranged to take place on 19 February.

Dementia and Mental Health

The first meeting had taken place in December 2010 where AWP had attended. George O'Neill, the Council's lead officer for dementia, was unable to make the meeting but was expected to make the next meeting to be arranged.

Major Contract

The Chairman presented the update which included a recommendation that the Committee should express its concerns relating to the revised inspection system. Upon consideration the following resolution was made.

Resolved:

That the Committee would write to the CQC, MP and Executive Members of the Council expressing its concern at the revised inspection assessment and seeking the rationale for implementing the new ratings system.

Carers Funding

Clarity was provided that Cllr Helen Osborn had attended the Task Group meeting held on 16 December and that the minutes of the meeting would reflect this.

In addition to the report provided the Chairman confirmed that the monies in respect of carers' breaks and dementia for 2009/10 and 2010/11 had been difficult to track as they had not been ring-fenced.

It was also acknowledged that some correspondence had been sent to NHS Wiltshire from a carers group which may not have been responded to and that this may have contributed to the confusion around carers funding.

Upon consideration the Chairman proposed that the Committee endorse the recommendations made by the Task Group as detailed within the report provided and that the Task Group should reconvene later in the year to revisit the recommendations made and to review the implementation of the Carers Strategy. Upon vote this was agreed.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank all those who attended and supplied evidence to the meeting.**
- 2) To note the explanation and clarity given by NHS Wiltshire at the meeting regarding budget decisions over the funding of these services.**
- 3) That both NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council give consideration to improving the effectiveness of communication locally on:
 - (i) funding and service issues in order to avoid future misunderstandings, (although acknowledging that there also appeared to be a change in style under the new coalition government to national announcements and requirements); and**
 - (ii) opportunities that exist to ask questions and make representations at NHS Wiltshire Board, Wiltshire Council and Area Board meetings.****
- 4) To welcome the consultation that would be undertaken regarding the funding of priorities under the new Carers Strategy 2011-15 including support for carers breaks.**
- 5) To note that the delivery of the Carers Strategy and the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Dementia would be the subject of more detailed discussion at the task groups.**
- 6) That the Carers Funding Task Group commence later in the year to revisit the recommendations of the rapid scrutiny and the actions relating to Carers in the Improvement Plan.**

End of Life Care

The Committee considered the joint response from Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire to the recommendations proposed by the End of Life Care Task Group.

Following discussion the Head of Community Engagement NHS Wiltshire would request that End of Life Care be added to the Area Board agenda for wider communication.

Resolved:

To note the joint response from NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council to the Task Group recommendations of the End of Life Care Task Group.

168. **Wiltshire's Strategy to Improve the Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Of Children & Young People**

The Children's Services Select Committee, at its meeting held on 25 November 2010 considered a report on progress to implement Wiltshire's Commissioning Strategy to Improve the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and Young People.

As the Committee had maintained an interest in mental health following its identification at the Committee's Development Day in October 2009, the report and ensuing minutes arising from the Select Committee were provided for noting.

The WIN representative expressed concern over the 8 week time period for appointments arising from referrals to specialist services. The Chairman confirmed that this concern would be referred to the Corporate Director for Department of Children and Education.

Resolved:

To note the report and ensuing Children's Services Select Committee minutes arising in relation to this item.

169. **Standing Stakeholders Update**

There were no further updates provided.

170. **Forward Work Plan**

The Committee noted that the Business Plan was now expected to be considered by Cabinet in February.

171. **Dates of future meetings**

10 March 2011.

172. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items for consideration.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Sharon Smith, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line (01225) 718378, e-mail sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee

17 March 2011

Coalition Changes – DCE update January/February 2011

Early Intervention Report

1. [“Early Intervention: The Next Steps”](#) interim report by Graham Allen was published highlighting the importance of early social and emotional development. His top three recommendations:
 - the 19 early intervention ‘top programmes’ identified in his Report should be supported and work undertaken with local areas to explore how they might be expanded.
 - Early Intervention should build on the strength of its local base by establishing 15 local Early Intervention Places to spearhead its development. These should be run by local authorities and the voluntary sector, who are already the main initiators and innovators of Early Intervention.
 - the establishment of an independent Early Intervention Foundation to support local people, communities and agencies, with initial emphasis on the 15 Early Intervention Places. He recommend that the Foundation should:
 - support local people, communities and agencies, with initial emphasis on the 15 Early Intervention Places;
 - be led and funded by non-central government sources, including local authorities, ethical and philanthropic trusts, foundations and charities as well as private investors who have already expressed an interest in this;
 - lead and motivate the expansion of Early Intervention;
 - evaluate Early Intervention policies based on a rigorous methodology and a strong evidence base, and encourage others to do the same; and
 - develop the capacity to attract private and public investment to Early Intervention.

Investment in 16-19 provision

2. Sixth-form colleges in England will receive investment as Schools Minister Lord Hill announced a £90 million package of funding. The money will enable sixth-form colleges to make essential improvements to buildings

and will help those schools and academies with sixth forms to meet the demand for additional 16-19 student places.

3. The funding package for 2011-12 includes:
 - £57.4 million to address priority building condition needs of the sixth-form college estate
 - £30 million for basic need funding for 16-19 student places to help sixth-form colleges, schools and academies meet the demands of demographic changes
 - making all sixth-form colleges eligible for Devolved Formula Capital for the first time – funding for maintenance will be given directly to the institution. This means the average sixth-form college will receive an additional £40,000
4. As discussed at the Children's Services Select Committee in January, Wiltshire is unlikely to receive any of this funding as there are no sixth form colleges in Wiltshire and there are no significant demographic changes.

National Curriculum Review

5. The Secretary of State for Education announced a major review of the National Curriculum in England. The review will be led by the Department for Education, supported by an Advisory Committee and Expert Panel made up of top teachers, academics, and business representatives. The review will:
 - replace the current substandard curriculum with one based on the best school systems in the world and provide a world-class resource for teachers and children
 - consider what subjects should be compulsory at what age
 - consider what children should be taught in the main subjects at what age.
6. The new National Curriculum will begin to be taught in maintained schools from September 2013. In order to allow schools time to manage the transition to the new curriculum effectively, the new Programmes of Study for English, mathematics, science, and physical education will be introduced from 2013, with Programmes of Study for other subjects coming into force the following year. The review will also advise on how the new curriculum should be phased in for each key stage.

Education Bill

7. The Education Bill was published 27 January 2010' It includes measures to tackle bad behaviour, tackle underperformance and improve the way in which schools are held to account. Measures in the Bill include:

- extending the Secretary of State's powers to intervene where schools are underperforming
 - introducing smarter school inspections. Ofsted will now focus only on four core elements of schools – pupil achievement, teaching, leadership and behaviour and safety
 - measuring our education system against the best in the world. Ofqual will compare our exam standards against the highest performing countries.
8. In addition, the Bill will strengthen teachers' powers to deal with bad behaviour. It gives teachers the power to search for any items schools ban that disrupt learning, like mobile phones and video cameras. It also gives schools the final say in expelling violent pupils and protects teachers from pupils making false allegations.

Academies Update

	Date opened
Sponsored academies	
The Wellington Academy	Sep 2009
Sarum Academy	Sep 2010
Non-sponsored academies	
Hardenhuish	Sep 2010
Lavington	Jan 2011
South Wilts	Jan 2011
Bishop Wordsworth's	March 2011

Munro Report

9. The interim report on child protection was published at the beginning of February. The areas for reform in the interim report include:
- the importance of a management and inspection process that monitors whether children are getting the help they need rather than being a tick-box exercise
 - developing social work expertise by keeping experienced, more senior social workers on the front line so they can develop their skills and better supervise more junior social workers
 - giving other professionals – health, police and family support services – easier access to social work advice when they have concerns about abuse and neglect
 - revising and reducing the statutory guidance, *Working together to safeguard children* – which is now 55 times longer than it was in 1974 – so that core rules are separated from professional advice
 - considering having a national system of trained reviewers of serious case reviews (SCRs), who can share findings so that lessons can be learnt nationally.

10. The final report is due in April 2011.

New Adoption Guidance

11. The government has launched [new adoption guidance](#) which aims to stop councils turning away potential adopters on basis of race, age or social background. The Government also plans to strengthen Ofsted inspections of adoption services to ensure services better serve vulnerable children in care and prospective adopters.

Vetting & Barring Scheme Remodelling Review

12. The [report and recommendations](#) were published in February suggesting that the new barring regime should cover only those who may have regular or close contact with vulnerable groups. Children's Minister Tim Loughton said:

- Protecting children and keeping them safe remains our top priority, but it's also important that well-meaning adults are not put off working or volunteering with children.
- The new system will be less bureaucratic and less intimidating. It will empower organisations to ask the right questions and make all the appropriate pre-employment checks, and encourage everyone to be vigilant.
- This is a commonsense and proportionate approach which will ensure that children are properly protected without driving a wedge between them and adults.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director, Department for Children and Education

Report author: Lynda Cox, Head of Performance and Information Management, Department for Children and Education.

Largely taken from the DFE website.

Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee

17 March 2011

Transition Planning - update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress in relation to ensuring effective transition from children's to adult's services.

2. Background

- 2.1 The last transition report to the Select Committee in March 2010 outlined the reasons why improvements to transition planning for young people transferring to adult services were required and how concerns raised by the JAR and parents were being addressed. Implementing a full transition programme and person centred planning process in all secondary schools is a complex and evolutionary process.

- 2.2 However, significant progress had been made.

2.2.a A Multi-Agency Transition Protocol had been agreed and signed up to by all the key agencies involved in transition planning (this Protocol has been identified nationally as an exemplar of good practice and has been adopted for use by several other local authorities), and

2.2.b An implementation plan has been developed and is being implemented, including the establishment of new multi-agency transition panels overseeing the transition of young people to adult services.

- 2.3 The Multi-Agency Transition Board was confident that the building blocks were in place to provide a firm foundation for a new operational model which was identified as being required to fully affect the implementation plan. This was the background to the Charteris review which commenced April 2010 to facilitate the necessary changes. The findings of this work with Charteris are now being used to inform the corporate review into disabled children and adults which is a transformational review across children and adults' social care.

3. Progress since March 2010

- 3.1 In 2009 Wiltshire was identified by the National Transition Support Team (NTST) as failing to meet some of the minimum standards required by statute, guidance, and good practice. Since then there have been significant improvements and in February 2011 Wiltshire was identified by the NTST as working at Development Stage 3 of 4 stages (with 4 being the highest level).

This means that Wiltshire is seen as meeting all statutory requirements and the majority of guidance requirements, and is able to demonstrate good practice across 5 focus areas which includes effective engagement with disabled young people and also their families, effect personalised approaches including person centred planning, and strategic partnership working including commissioning.

3.2 The NTST also recognised Wiltshire’s innovative practice including placing job coaches in two of our special schools. We have been commended by our regional adviser for the improvements we have made. The chart below illustrates the progress that has been made so far.

Subject	2009/10	20010/11
Identifying young people who will be eligible for adult social care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several small local panels. • Limited coverage of children (usually confined to the children’s disability teams.) • No follow up process. • Late intervention by adult care. • Children going off to residential college were “lost” to system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two panels (N&W / S&E co-chaired by the commissioning leads in DCE/DCS • Comprehensive coverage from year 9 (age 14) • Tracking system to monitor progress which will also “follow” children off to college. • Increases opportunity for early interventions by adult care • Starting to change working culture by setting standards / expectations.
Person Centred Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no person centred reviews being undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot with St. Nicholas Special School very successful. Training rolled out to four other special schools. Sixth special school has agreed to run training for staff. • Training for mainstream schools in Salisbury area in November 2010 • Training for professionals involved in transition has been ongoing. Training for parents to take place March 2011. • By their very nature person centred reviews start to change the culture, enrich the experience for parents and the information for future planning.
Cross departmental working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited communication “on the ground” between DCE and DCS. • Difficulties over information sharing / passing between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close working relationship between DCE and DCS commissioners. Shared vision. • Operational managers from a wide range of allied service sectors come together at panel. Vastly

	Departments.	<p>improves communication and consistency of message.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health now much more engaged at operational and strategic levels • Information sharing now much improved. • Transitions Partnership Board now bedded in. Strong parent involvement. • Adult Services Job coach working with pupils from year 9 in St Nicholas and Exeter house to raise the possibility of employment with young people, families and other professionals. • Project in Exeter House and St Nicholas overseen by adult services Community Connecting identifying what activities disabled young people wants to access at 18 and to raise the awareness of what is available in county. • Much improved intelligence for future planning
<p>Outcomes for young people and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor information • Many residential care home placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition events held for parents • Regular newsletter on transitions available. • Wiltshire Parent carer Council and Wiltshire Council have transition WebPages. • The improvements referred to above are most effective for 14-16 • Parents are given copies of the protocol on request. • All parents receive the easy read handbook to transitions • Already evidence of more families looking at support for their children in the community rather than residential care.

4. Proposal for further change

4.1 Whilst the current system is capable of making continuous improvements which will bring about improved outcomes and a better “customer experience” for young people and their families there are limitations to what can be achieved under it. There is a need for greater cultural change to further develop person

centred transition planning that encompasses all aspects of a young person's life rather than planning these elements separately. This requires even closer multi-agency working and engagement in the process by key partners.

- 4.2 These issues will be explored as part of the disabled children and adult's corporate review which is outlined in the section 5.

5. Disabled children and adult's corporate service review

- 5.1 This corporate review cuts across children and adult services and links in with other services including health and the voluntary sector. The review is being sponsored by the Director of Adult Services and led by the commissioning leads from both departments. Its aim is to ensure the council meets the necessary savings required of these departments whilst providing the best achievable level of support for disabled people and their families throughout their lives.
- 5.2 The scoping stage of the review has been completed; this involved parents and identified professionals focussing still more vigorously on activities that add direct and measurable benefit to service users.
- 5.3 Incremental savings have already been identified as a result of the work completed so far. However, it is envisaged that more substantial savings will be achieved as a result of this transformative review.
- 5.4 Work will continue on the review over the coming months.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Incremental improvements to the transition processes have been implemented over the last 12 months as the changes to working practices referred to above have become embedded into the transition service.
- 6.2 These improvements will continue but will remain limited in effect unless further fundamental change in operational delivery takes place across departments.
- 6.3 The requirement for these fundamental changes is being addressed through the corporate service review.

Report Author

Julia Cramp, Service Director Commissioning and Performance, DCE

Background papers

None

Appendices

None

Wiltshire Council

**Children's Services Select Committee
17 March 2011**

Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2011 – 2015

Purpose

1. To identify the content of the Council's new Business Plan relevant to the select committees and to determine an appropriate approach for future activity as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Management and Co-ordination Liaison Board.

Background

2. The revised draft Business Plan was formally adopted at Council on 22 February having been approved by Cabinet the previous week. The 4 year Plan sets out how the Council intends to meet the challenges of reduced resources, legislative change and demographic impact whilst delivering the Council's vision to create stronger more resilient communities and achieving its goals. The Plan describes the changing landscape and strategic direction of the Council and gives a number of benefits and outcomes to the action it will take. The Financial Plan also approved by Council forms an appendix to the Business Plan (all councillors have copies of these documents and the latest version should be retained for future reference).
3. The focus of the Joint Scrutiny meeting on 10 February was the revenue and capital budget 2011/12 but did touch on some of the longer term issues in the Financial Plan as well as references to the Business Plan.
4. The Liaison Board met in the afternoon following the Joint Scrutiny meeting when it received the draft Business Plan. The Liaison Board decided to ask each select committee with the support of scrutiny officers to identify the themes and individual topics from the Business Plan that fell within their remit and ensure that this then became the focus for revising the forward work programmes of the committees.

Approach

5. It was felt that a common approach across the select committees would provide consistency for the future. The select committees already have a guide for how they should run their meetings and also recently discussed optimum size of

agendas and briefing arrangements etc. This will also be turned into a guide for consideration by the Liaison Board at the next meeting. A discussion paper on the benefits of having a positive working relationship with the Executive and the actions necessary to achieve this was also adopted by the Liaison Board last summer. The resulting protocol will be considered as part of the wider governance review on involvement of backbench members in decision making called for by the Leader.

6. Scrutiny officers in consultation with the chairmen and vice-chairmen have been through the Business Plan and have identified the following themes as relevant to the **Children's Services Select Committee**:

Theme	Plan References	Timescale & £ Budget	Scrutiny approach current & future
<p>The Schools White Paper 2010</p> <p>“The paper sets out a strong strategic role for local authorities (LAs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs are encouraged to use their powers to act early when there is a cause for concern. • There will be more academies and free schools and a new approach will be trialled making schools responsible for the ongoing education of excluded children. • Schools will continue to be responsible for their own improvement and councils may provide improvement support on a traded basis alongside brokering school-to-school support. • LAs have a unique role in bringing together all services for children in a local area so that every child is ready and able to benefit from high quality teaching in excellent schools; • LAs have a particular role in supporting vulnerable children.” 	<p>Business Plan: Summary of Legislative Change</p> <p>(Page 11)</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Current approach</p> <p><u>Standing update to Committee</u></p> <p>The Committee is kept informed of all major changes emanating from the Department for Education (DfE) through a standing agenda item.</p> <hr/> <p>Future approach</p> <p>Central Government’s programme of change continues apace. The standing update remains necessary to keep the Committee informed.</p> <p>The impact of many of the changes remains to be seen and members may feel it is not yet appropriate to undertake further work. Future areas for attention may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Academies programme: How the LA will help academies to support underperforming schools and broker school-to-school support in general • The impact of schools taking on responsibility for the education of excluded children

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the Education Endowment Fund replacing the Education Maintenance Award (targeted support for those who face financial barriers to participation in post-16 education) • The results of Prof. Wolf's review of vocational education for 14-19 year olds, for completion by March 2011 • The possible emergence of a scrutiny role in scrutinising under-performing schools
<p>Vulnerable children</p> <p>Family Placement Service</p> <p>“Our service needs to continue to expand to meet the increase in numbers [in LAC]; dedicated foster carers are needed for unaccompanied asylum seekers, disabled children, those requiring respite and vulnerable teenagers. In 2010/11, there was a significant increase in the levels of service needed and this led to a shortfall in the budget - this deficit needs addressing to respond to these needs.</p>	<p>Business Plan: Protect – Invest – Save (Page 52)</p> <p>Financial Plan: Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable children (Page 13)</p>	<p>Annual change in base budgets (millions):</p> <p>2011/12: £0.675 2012/13: £0.650 2013/14: £0.000 2014/15: £0.000 ----- Total: £1.325</p>	<p>Current approach</p> <p><u>Placements for LAC Task Group</u></p> <p>This existing task group have been looking at the Family Placement Service since May 2010. Its members have recently recapped on the work done so far and agreed that the Task Group should continue.</p> <p>Please see the separate Task Group update report included at Agenda Item 10 for more details of how members of the Task Group wish to proceed.</p>

Our Family Placement Service (FPS) also needs to strengthen its post-adoption support to meet the needs of those young people who have been adopted with complex health needs due to maternal drug and alcohol misuse and parental health issues.

Future approach

It is recommended that the existing Placements for LAC Task Group continues to scrutinise this service area (please see separate report at Item 10).

Youth unemployment

“Claimant unemployment in Wiltshire has risen during the recession by 4,500 and Wiltshire’s growth in unemployment has been higher than the national average...”

“There is a clear need for a second phase of Action 4 Wiltshire (A4W) to deal with the challenges of continuing unemployment in Wiltshire with young people in the age group 19-24...[amongst other groups]....”

“Financial Plan 2011-15:

“It will be our intention to:

- Provide support for young people to move into employment and training working closely with our partners we have a range of strategies in place to support young people secure employment.
- The 100 in 100 Apprentices Campaign aims to have 100 new Wiltshire apprentices enrolled within the 100 day period
- Working with Job Centre Plus 8 week work experience placements for unemployed 18 – 24 year olds have been secured for 300 young people
- As part of the Action for Wiltshire initiative, the ‘Get Prepared Programme’ (16-18 year olds) supports young people moving into employment, training or further education
- We are ensuring that vulnerable groups have access to additional support and guidance, for example an intensive personal adviser is co-located with the Looked After Children

Business Plan:

Economy and unemployment (Page 54)

Financial Plan:

Protecting the economy (Page 14)

Financial Plan:

Ensure every service that is needed provides clear value for money (Page 30)

Annual change in base budgets (for

Protecting the economy overall) (millions):

2011/12: £1.000

2012/13: £0.000

2013/14: £0.000

2014/15: £0.000

Total: £1.000

Current approach

Basic Skills – reports to Committee

The Committee has received reports on progress with increasing Basic Skills attainment amongst the working age population in Wiltshire (in July 2010 and January 2011).

This included an update on the Action 4 Wiltshire programme as described in the Business Plan.

NEET– figures to Committee

Committee members receive hard copies of performance reports to Cabinet, which contain (when available) the latest NEET figures.

The Committee also received a report specifically on the issue of NEET in May 2010.

Future approach

Members may wish to consider the specific work areas relating to Youth Unemployment listed in the Business Plan (see left) and discuss how if/how they wish to monitor/scrutinise them.

<p>Children's attainment</p> <p>"We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and implement a system to broker school-to-school support, ensuring that there is no detrimental impact in those schools providing support to others build capacity, resilience and sustainability in schools, working with their local communities, where there are particular vulnerabilities, eg schools with a high percentage of children from service families invest in the provision of support to enable schools to better identify, plan for and meet the needs of vulnerable groups in order to raise attainment. We will challenge and support all schools to be achieving in line with our best performing schools. <p>What we are trying to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure no school is in Special Measures (SMs). Raise standards even further to ensure no 	<p>Business Plan: Invest in: children's attainment (Page 60)</p> <p>Financial Plan: Investment in children's attainment (Page 19)</p>	<p>Annual change in base budgets (millions):</p> <p>2011/12: £0.270 2012/13: £0.730 2013/14: £0.000 2014/15: £0.000 ----- Total: £1.000</p>	<p>Current approach</p> <p><u>Pupil Performance – reports to Committee</u></p> <p>The Committee currently receives annual reports containing all results from the previous academic year for Foundation Stage up to KS5.</p> <p>These reports contain specific sections on attainment gaps (FSM, LAC, SEN, Ethnic minority groups).</p> <p><u>Fact-finding</u></p> <p>The former Budget & Performance Task Group held Fact-finding meetings focussing on specific service areas (attended by relevant Select Committee Chairmen and Vice-chairs). A Fact-finding meeting held in May 2010 focussed on the work underway to reduce attainment gaps.</p> <p><u>Placement for LAC Task Group</u></p> <p>This task group has received a briefing on the educational support for LAC, which includes the work coordinated by the Virtual Headteacher.</p>
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<p>school is below the new floor standards of 60% combined English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 and 35% 5A*-C GCSE including English and mathematics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all Wiltshire schools are above the national averages for pupils' progress in the national tests • Continue to narrow attainment gaps for vulnerable groups of children and young people year-on-year • Secondary schools continue to be above the national results for the English Baccalaureate in English, mathematics, sciences, humanities and languages. • Improve the percentage of satisfactory primary schools to become outstanding or good. 			<p>Future approach</p> <p><u>Continued monitoring</u></p> <p>The annual Pupil Performance reports provide a useful overview of the attainment of Wiltshire's young people and of attainment gaps.</p> <p>The annual Ofsted rating reports includes the proportion of schools graded as satisfactory, good etc</p> <p><u>Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group</u></p> <p>This Task Group, commencing in March 2011, will include a look at attainment gaps between all pupils and those with SEN in special schools.</p> <p><u>Other approaches</u></p> <p>At the Committee's previous meeting, it was suggested that members might benefit from practical experience of the methods currently being used in classrooms to raise attainment and narrow attainment gaps.</p>
<p>Housing support for young people</p> <p>"We will continue to invest in housing support for young people through the use of the Early Intervention Grant. Effective cross-departmental working has already secured</p>	<p>Business Plan: Invest in: housing (Page 68)</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Current approach</p> <p>The Placements for LAC Task Group has received a briefing on the Host Family Scheme and homelessness amongst young people in general.</p>

<p>improvements for young people and we will continue to invest in the 'Host Family' scheme which enables young people to have a safe and secure temporary home whilst mediation and return home/other options are pursued."</p>			<p>Future approach</p> <p>It is recommended that the existing Placements for LAC Task Group continues to scrutinise the issue of Housing support for LAC e.g. the Host Family Scheme (please see separate report at Item 11).</p>
<p>Services for disabled children (Systems thinking reviews)</p> <p>"Four service areas have been subject to an initial phase of scoping [for Systems thinking reviews]. This work has aimed to identify the potential for achieving benefits based on systems thinking, including cost savings and improving our customers' experience.</p> <p>The lives of disabled people can very often be characterised by poor support through the transition from child to adult, and a life of repeated assessments. The current system creates confusion and frustration. It also represents poor value for money for the council and its customers. This workstream will establish a system that provides the services disabled people want in the way that best meets their needs and, at the same time, saves money."</p>	<p>Business Plan: System thinking review (Page 75)</p>	<p>Savings from the Systems thinking review <u>overall</u>:</p> <p>(Annual change in base budgets (millions)):</p> <p>2011/12: £1.000 2012/13: £13.598 2013/14: £6.700 2014/15: £0.000</p> <p>----- Total: £21.298 savings</p>	<p>Current approach</p> <p>The update report on Transitions included with this agenda (Item 8) includes an update on the corporate review of services for disabled children and adults.</p> <p>Future approach</p> <p>The scoping stage of the review has been completed and work will continue on the review over the coming months.</p> <p>At this early stage, the Committee may want to request updates on the review as it progresses so it can determine whether more focused work is required.</p>

7. Scrutiny officers, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Executive members, partners and directors, will undertake a work planning exercise around the above themes to establish their delivery, timescales, budget and potential scrutiny approaches. As mentioned above, this exercise should inform a revised work programme and be the priority for any future scrutiny activity. A draft revised work programme will be presented to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.
8. The Select Committee needs to be aware of the budget implications for support services for 2011/12 and this should be taken into account when determining the future work programme of the Committee, particularly in terms of how much activity can be supported at any one time. The capacity of elected members especially those that lead on key activities should be also taken into account. The Liaison Board and Scrutiny Manager will continue to monitor the overall position regarding workload and pressures but this needs to be done in conjunction with the need to deliver positive outcomes for the Council as a whole.
9. In looking at priorities, it is also important to remember that the focus for O&S Select Committees should be on strategic and policy development matters and not 'local issues' which should be retained for consideration at Area Board level.
10. The forward planning activity outlined in this report should allow for better management of work flow and hopefully scheduling and communication of briefings and meetings. The adoption of the new Business Plan will mean that the current departmental delivery plans will be reviewed. These will also provide helpful detail on relevant themes and activities.

Recommendation

11. The Select Committee is asked to:

- (i) note that Council on 22 February adopted the 4 year Business Plan on recommendation from Cabinet;
- (ii) note the decision of the Liaison Board on 10 February that work is undertaken to identify relevant content from the Business Plan for the individual select committees;
- (iii) agree the list of themes set out above but acknowledging that further refinement will be made when more detail emerges; and
- (iv) recognise the budget implications and the demands on the leading scrutiny members in determining priorities and workload.

Paul Kelly

Scrutiny Manager (and Designated Scrutiny Officer)

Appendices

Appendix A - current Forward Work Programme

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Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	9 JUNE 2011	Who
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</u> A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.		Carolyn Godfrey
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Budget & Performance Monitoring – Department for Children & Education</u>		Liz Williams / Lynda Cox
<i>November 2010</i>	<u>Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision – Update on Implementation</u> Update since November 2010.		Trevor Daniels
<i>Nov 09</i>	<u>Small Schools Strategy</u> Update report on the Small Schools Strategy and the work of the Small Schools Strategy Working Group.		Julie Cathcart
-	<u>Reducing Child Poverty</u> Cabinet will receive this Strategy on 14 June 2011.		Lynda Cox

Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	?? JULY 2011 Date of meeting to be confirmed	Who
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</u> A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.		Carolyn Godfrey
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Budget & Performance Monitoring – Department for Children & Education</u>		Liz Williams / Lynda Cox

Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	22 SEPTEMBER 2011	Who
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</u> A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.		Carolyn Godfrey
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Budget & Performance Monitoring – Department for Children & Education</u>		Liz Williams / Lynda Cox

Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	24 NOVEMBER 2011	Who
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</u> A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.		Carolyn Godfrey
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Budget & Performance Monitoring – Department for Children & Education</u>		Liz Williams / Lynda Cox
-	<u>Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group</u> To receive and endorse the Task Group's final report.		Task Group Chairman / Henry Powell

Began	COMMITTEE MEETING: Agenda out:	26 JANUARY 2012	Who
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</u> A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.		Carolyn Godfrey
<i>standing item</i>	<u>Budget & Performance Monitoring – Department for Children & Education</u>		Liz Williams / Lynda Cox
-	<u>Executive Response to the Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group</u> To receive the Executive's response to the Task Group's report and recommendations.		Task Group Chairman / Henry Powell

Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee 17 March 2011

Future of the Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group

Purpose of the report

1. To recap on the work done by the Task Group since it was established in March 2010 and to propose its future direction.

Background

2. The Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group was established by the Committee in March 2010 with the following resolution:

"To establish a task group to scrutinise the draft Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Commissioning Strategy and make recommendations to the Children's Trust Board and the executive as appropriate."

3. The Commissioning Strategy had initially been expected to be received by the Children's Services Select Committee, but was not ready for public consideration in time for the Committee's March meeting. The Task Group was therefore established in order to scrutinise the Draft Commissioning Strategy before being approved by the Children's Trust Board and Cabinet.
4. In reality, the Commissioning Strategy has been an evolving document and the number of issues that touch upon placements for LAC (accommodation, educational attainment, placement brokerage, family & parenting support etc) have required a rolling task group, meeting a number of times to consider the full scope of services for looked after children.

Task Group's work and future direction

5. The Task Group has had four meetings in total and has considered a large amount of information under the broad umbrella of Placements for Looked After Children. All the documents and information that have been considered are listed in a table at Appendix A, along with brief summaries of the particular issues and concerns that have arisen during members' discussions.
6. At the Task Group's meeting on 18 February 2011, members recapped on the work done so far and discussed how they would like the Task Group to move forward. It was agreed that members of the Task Group have gained considerable knowledge of the family placements service and related areas and that this would be essential in continuing to scrutinise these issues.

7. It was also noted that the Task Group had now agreed the format for the performance monitoring document, containing past, present and target Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data for the Family Placements Service, including regional and national benchmarking figures. These KPIs were chosen by members as the ones that reflect the Commissioning Strategy's impact on the historically volatile placements budget, and most importantly on outcomes for looked after children. This data is collected as part of the services' normal monitoring arrangements and officers are happy to provide it in the format that members have requested.
8. It was noted that the Council's new Business Plan 2011-15 lists Vulnerable Children and the Family Placements Service as a key priority for the Council over the next four years. The Financial Plan includes an additional investment for Vulnerable Children of £0.675m in 2011-12 and further investments of £0.650m each year until 2015, equalling an uplift in the base budget by year four to £1.325m. It reads as follows:
- "The number of looked-after children has continued to increase... We have responded to these pressures by developing an in-house fostering provision, recruiting local carers and expanding schemes such as supported lodgings and semi-independent accommodation for vulnerable teenagers. Our service needs to continue to expand to meet the increase in numbers; dedicated foster carers are needed for unaccompanied asylum seekers, disabled children, those requiring respite and vulnerable teenagers..."*
- Our Family Placement Service (FPS) also needs to strengthen its post-adoption support to meet the needs of those young people who have been adopted with complex health needs due to maternal drug and alcohol misuse and parental health issues.*
- The Family Placement Service will be strengthened to meet the needs of Wiltshire children in Wiltshire local family placements...Children adopted will receive good quality post adoption support."*
9. How the Select Committee will use the Business Plan to inform its work programme overall is discussed elsewhere in this agenda. However, members of the Placements for LAC Task Group feel that the Task Group is the most appropriate forum for scrutinising this particular key priority and propose its continuation to the Committee.
10. The Committee may also wish to note the recent activity of the Corporate Parenting Panel, which to a large extent shares its membership with the Placements for LAC Task Group. In 2010, members who sat on both bodies expressed some concern that the Corporate Parenting Panel was going outside of its advisory role by scrutinising and monitoring performance data and that consequently the two bodies were often receiving the same information and duplicating effort. Partly in response to these concerns, the Corporate Parenting Panel formed a small working group to look again at its approach to performing its role. At the Panel's most recent meeting, members agreed a revised way of working and in future will be placing less emphasis on the scrutiny and monitoring of performance data and receiving less formal

reports. Instead it will focus on exploring young people's issues and conducting research to aid understanding of their service needs. This leaves the Placements for LAC Task Group to scrutinise and monitor the performance and budget of the Family Placement Service.

11. Given the conclusions described above, it is proposed that the Placements for LAC Task Group continues its work with the following terms of reference:
 1. To monitor and scrutinise the implementation of the Placements for LAC Commissioning Strategy and its impact upon a) outcomes for Wiltshire's looked after children and their families/carers, and b) the Placements for LAC budget.
 2. To consider issues that have particular relevance to looked after children, including, but not limited to, accommodation and homelessness, fostering and adoption processes, educational support for looked after children, and support for their parents/carers and families.
 3. To monitor and scrutinise how the Council addresses the Family Placements Service as a key priority within the Business Plan 2011-15, including the specific objectives listed under this priority.
 4. To meet four times per year, with meeting dates agreed in advance where possible.

Proposal

12. Members are asked to agree that the Placements for LAC Task Group should:

Continue its work with the terms of reference listed at paragraph 11, retaining the current membership:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Cllr Peter Colmer
Cllr Andrew Davis
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Helen Osborn

Cllr Jon Hubbard – Chairman of the Placements for LAC Task Group

Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager

Report author: Henry Powell, 01225 718052, henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – Summary of areas considered by the Placements for LAC Task Group

THEME	COMMENTS
<p>The Commissioning Strategy and its objectives</p>	
<p><u>Documents considered:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning Strategy (working draft) • Project Plan for implementation of the Strategy • A map of where weaknesses have been addressed within the Project Plan • ‘Master plan’ for the aims and objectives of the Strategy • Proposed KPIs to be use to assess effectiveness of the Strategy <p><u>Issues raised:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Concern that the former Wiltshire County Council had undertaken a similar review of placements for LAC but with seemingly no gains made. b) The need to see the start, middle and end points of the project in order to know whether the Strategy was having the desired impact on outcomes. Members therefore requested a ‘master plan’ with measurable targets, against historic and benchmarking data, using a RAG-rating system. c) A draft list of KPIs appeared to suggest that officers did not know which KPIs were currently being collected. Officers clarified that the national indicators were currently under review by the coalition government. 	<p>Members have agreed the format for a performance monitoring document, containing past, present and target Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data for the Family Placements Service.</p>

Placement procurement

Documents received:

- **Report on the new Brokerage Function**
- **Details of current fostering allowances**
- **Snapshot of the distribution of current placements**
- **Children in Care – financial benchmarking data**

Issues raised:

- a) Members were supportive of the new Brokerage Function, which would allow greater strategic management of the procurement of placements and more robust contracts being put in place. Management of the Council's 200+ contracts with placement providers represented a significant workload.
- b) Members were concerned there were 25 different fee levels for placements and 32 different placement providers, some of them "one-off" suppliers. The new Brokerage Service would help to rationalise the number of providers and ensure only respected are used.
- c) Improvements to the placement budget were due to officers' negotiations with providers, a reduction to the block contract with Quarriers and more robust gate-keeping.
- d) The use of non-specialist but still very expensive placements was being actively reduced, with a list of preferred placement providers being compiled.

Accommodation for LAC

Documents received:

- **Report on Accommodation for Care Leavers**
- **16-24 Accommodation Commissioning Strategy**
- **Housing Pathway for 16-17 year olds**
- **Homelessness protocol between DCE, Housing & WASfYP**

Issues raised:

- a) In cooperation with Housing, Children & Families aim to reduce the number of children and young people in 'unsuitable' accommodation. Officers are focusing on Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) as the main provider of accommodation for those leaving care.
- b) Historically, ad hoc arrangements had been made with a wide variety of organisations, which had led to a rather chaotic accommodation system. A comprehensive directory of voluntary placement providers was being drawn up and service level agreements (SLAs) were being drawn up to ensure consistent provision.
- c) Members welcomed the Homelessness protocol as a useful document for professionals working in the field. They suggested that a more summarised version or a briefing note would be useful for Councillors.
- d) In October 2010, Towpath House, Trowbridge would due to be reopened as a stepping stones provision (or 'crash pad') for young people leaving care, contracted to an external provider.

Work has begun on a Briefing Note explaining the various rules and protocols around homelessness.

Adoptions and Fostering

Documents received:

- **Action Plan for Developing the Wiltshire Fostering and Adoption Service**
- **A verbal briefing on 'Private Fostering' and the Council's strategy for raising awareness of this issue**
- **A DVD produced by the Council describing the real life experiences of Wiltshire children in the adoptions/fostering process.**

Issues raised:

- a) The recent inspection of the authority's adoption procedures had been positive and all of the actions contained within the consequent action plan would be achieved by end of November 2010.
- b) Following some concern that the adoption process may be overly difficult to negotiate, Members were invited to visit the Adoption Team to learn more about the adoption process.
- c) More foster carers had been approved but most of these provide respite care.
- d) Greater focus was therefore now being put on attracting foster carers who were able to take the more difficult cases.

Members congratulated officers on how well-made and moving the DVD was, and recommended that it be shown to members before the next available meeting of Full Council.

Education for LAC

Documents received:

- **Verbal report on the educational support for LAC**

Issues raised:

- a) One of the goals of Placement Panels was to align the placement location with the young person's school. The Panels' roles were to scrutinise proposals for placements and retrospectively scrutinise emergency placements.
- b) Members asked what was done when LAC refused to attend school, referring to a previous scrutiny review where Quarriers had expressed concern at receiving referrals with no education plan in place. The recruitment of two children's services buyers would lead to performance measures such as LAC's attendance at school being specified within placement contracts.
- c) There have been no permanent exclusions of LAC in Wiltshire in the last year, despite the numbers of LAC increasing. There has also been an increase to the numbers of LAC in some form of training or education.
- d) Two years ago, the Council was one of the authorities selected by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to pilot a scheme where education for all LAC was overseen by a Virtual Headteacher.

Other

Documents received:

- **Family and Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy**

Issues raised:

- a) Members conveyed the following to Cabinet prior to its consideration of the Commissioning Strategy:

“The Task Group endorses the Family & Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy in terms of providing a stable framework for future commissioning and defining the Council's key priorities in this area. However, the Task Group does have concerns regarding the sources and levels of future funding for Family & Parenting Support and will be seeking reassurances that the changes proposed to how these services are delivered represent the most effective use of the funds available and lead to improved outcomes for families in Wiltshire.”

The Family and Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy was subsequently approved by Cabinet.

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Services Select Committee

17 March 2011

Task Group updates

1. Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Membership: Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Dr Mike Thompson (Chairman)

The task group's second meeting is scheduled for 10th March. An update on this will be provided at the Committee meeting.

2. Major Contracts Task Group

Membership: Cllr Peter Colmer
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss (Chairman)
Cllr Carole Soden

The Task Group met on the 4th March 2011 to review Sure Start Children's Centres and the progress to retendering the current contracts. Councillors were supportive of the work undertaken in letting the contracts and acknowledged the work to keep centres open in a challenging financial situation. In addition the Task Group wished to acknowledge the performance of staff during a period of difficult circumstances.

The next meeting of the Task Group will be in September to review the performance of Quarriers.

3. Placements for Looked After Children (LAC) Task Group

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

A separate report on the work of the Task Group and proposals for its continuation is attached at Agenda Item 11.

The Task Group held its fourth meeting on 18 February. This included a tour of the new Fostering and Adoption Centre on the Whitehorse Business Park. Here, members had an opportunity to ask questions of officers involved in the adoption and fostering process.

Members were also shown a DVD produced by the Council describing the real life experiences of Wiltshire children in the adoptions/fostering process. The Task Group were extremely impressed by the film and have made a recommendation that it is shown to all members before the next meeting of Full Council.

Members also received a briefing on the Council's responsibility regarding 'private fostering' (i.e. young people living long-term with friends or family) and considered the latest KPI figures for looked after children.

4. Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group

Membership: Cllr Carole Soden
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Graham Payne
Cllr Anthony Trotman

After some initial difficulty, membership has now been finalised for this Task Group and the date of its first meeting will be confirmed shortly.

5. 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
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.

Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager

Report author: Henry Powell, 01225 718052, henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk