

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 14 October 2014
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 713035 or email roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

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

Pre-meeting information briefing

There will be a briefing session starting at 9.30am, immediately before the meeting. Its focus will be on

- **Wiltshire Education Employment & Skills Strategy 2014, and**
 - **Child Sexual Exploitation**
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Membership:

Cllr Pat Aves	Cllr Simon Jacobs
Cllr Mary Champion	Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Christine Crisp	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Sue Evans	Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)	Cllr Philip Whalley
Cllr Chris Hurst	

Substitutes:

Cllr Chuck Berry	Cllr Peter Edge
Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Dr Helena McKeown
Cllr Terry Chivers	Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Stewart Dobson	Cllr Ian Thorn
Cllr Dennis Drewett	Cllr John Walsh

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Mr Ken Brough	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Rev Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Mrs Lynne Swainston	Bristol Diocesan Church of England Representative
Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocesan RC Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Miss Sarah Busby	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Miss Tracy Cornelius	Primary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Di Dale	Further Education Representative
Mr John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative

PART I

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

1 **Apologies**

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

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 June 2014.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable 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 no later than **5pm on Tuesday 7 October 2014**. 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 **Reducing Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2020** *(Pages 11 - 40)*

Amy Bird will be in attendance to present an update on the Wiltshire Child Poverty Strategy 2014-20.

Reducing child poverty has been a government target for many years. The Child Poverty Act, which commits this and future governments to eradicating child poverty by 2020, received Royal Assent in March 2010 tasking local areas to produce a child poverty needs assessment and strategy.

The Child Poverty Act sets targets for the government to meet by 2020 on four different measures of poverty – including relative income poverty. These targets are based on the proportion of children living in:

- relative low income (whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole) - target is less than 10%
- combined low income and material deprivation (a wider measure of people's living standards) - target is less than 5%
- absolute low income (whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms) - target is less than 5%
- persistent poverty (length of time in poverty) - target is to be set in regulations by 2015
- Data for these 4 measures are currently not available at a local level

The strategy supports both the reduction of child poverty in Wiltshire and mitigation of the effects of child poverty. It seeks to provide a view of the causes, barriers and challenges of child poverty, set a shared vision and encourage a coordinated approach to address child poverty and its impact.

7 **Final Report of the Early Help Strategy Task Group** (Pages 41 - 48)

The Chairman of the Early Help Strategy Task Group will introduce their final report to advise the Children's Select Committee on how it could monitor the implementation of the Early Help Strategy going forward, including additional recommendations to the current methods in use by the Council.

It is proposed that the Children's Select Committee endorse the recommendations of the Task Group as set out in this report and refer them to the Cabinet Member for a response.

8 **Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) and funding for 16-19 student transport - Chairman's proposal**

The Education and Skills Act 2008 means that all young people must stay in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and until at least their 18th birthday from 2015. Raising the participation age (RPA) does not mean young people must stay in school; they are able to choose one of the following options post-16:

- full-time education, such as school, college
- an apprenticeship
- part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week).

With regards to transport, the Department for Education has no plans for a national concessionary scheme. For 16-19 year olds in further education and training, local authorities have a statutory duty to make the arrangements they consider necessary to make sure that young people can attend education. Wiltshire Council runs a subsidised transport scheme for further education students aged 16 - 19 at the start of their course. Under this scheme, transport is provided to students attending, and living more than 3 miles from their designated sixth form or college. More details including the council's post 16

transport statement can be found on the council website's [transport to sixth forms and colleges](#) (link) page.

Young people in work (e.g. in an Apprenticeship, full-time work or part-time work alongside full-time study) may be able to pay for, or contribute towards their transport costs, and where need for support has been identified, the 16-19 transport duty and the financial support offered through the council's 16-19 Bursary Fund are together intended to meet the needs associated with increased participation.

The Chairman asks the Committee to endorse a proposal that, as Chairman of the Committee, he asks the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to co-sign a joint letter to the Secretary of State requesting the national concessionary transport scheme for children and young people in education should be extended to cover all young people in full time education and not just those up to the age of 16."

9 **Task Group Update** *(Pages 49 - 56)*

A report by the Senior Scrutiny Officer providing an update on Task Group Activity since the Committee's last meeting is attached.

10 **Update on Meetings with the Executive and Directors**

On 3 October the chairman and vice-chairman met with the three executive members and two associate directors for children's services to review the relevant existing topics on the Forward Work Programme and add new ones looking forward over the next 12 months. The objective was to achieve a comprehensive, forward looking work programme focused on outcomes aligned to the Council's Business Plan.

The report of these meetings will follow.

11 **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 57 - 58)*

The Committee is asked to note the attached document showing the relevant items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

12 **Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Education** *(Pages 59 - 64)*

A report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on developments relating to children's services arising from the Coalition Government is attached.

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 December 2014, in the Kennet Room at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

14 **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