

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

8 January 2019

Task Group Update

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. SEND School Provision Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Cllr James Sheppard
Mr John Hawkins
Ms Jen Jones

Supporting Officer: Adam Brown

Terms of Reference:

- 1) To consider the future provision of SEND education for Wiltshire's children and young people in the context of the challenges outlined in the "Wood Report"/WASSPP report (May 2017).
- 2) To receive evidence from:
 - a. Wiltshire Council officers;
 - b. Wiltshire schools;
 - c. Parents/guardians of children with SEND.

Recent Activity

The task group last met on 19th December to discuss the content of their next report following the outcomes from the 27th November 2018 Cabinet meeting which resolved:

- a) To approve consultation on the establishment of a new special school with buildings using the existing Rowdeford site and a new build adjacent;
- b) To approve the issue of a subsequent statutory notice of a proposal to discontinue St Nicholas, Larkrise and Rowdeford Special Schools with effect from 31st August 2023 at the latest. The notice also to refer to the opening of a new special school from 1st September 2023;
- c) To note that on the approval of a statutory notice there will be a four week statutory period for representations on the closure proposals and

that a final decision by Cabinet will be required. It is anticipated that this decision will come to Cabinet in March 2019;

d) To approve a parallel non-statutory consultation on a proposed specification for the new provision, so that the Council can undertake the process of identifying a preferred provider to be recommended to the Secretary of State;

e) To note and support the proposal for a parallel programmes to create a cross county approach to Post 16 special education, including provision in Chippenham and Trowbridge;

f) To note and support the proposal for a parallel programme to develop the outreach provision from Exeter House, Salisbury.

The task group's report will include a number of recommendations for the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills regarding the new build and evidence received during their recent meetings with officers and external SEND school visits in nearby counties.

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