

Task Group updates

1. Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

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

The Task Group held their third meeting on 24th May 2011. Members received data showing the post-16 destinations of Salisbury year 11 students in 2010, enabling a comparison with the same data for 2009, received at the previous meeting. The data showed a general decrease in those taking A-levels, and increase in those taking Level 3 courses, but no significant shift in the percentages of those going out or staying in county for post-16 study (36% and 64% respectively (2010)).

Members also received briefings on:

- Levels of transport provided by out-of-county post-16 providers for Salisbury-based students;
- Numbers of in-county post-16 placements funded in 2010 and how the number of places is calculated using a 'lagged learner' approach;
- Post-16 destinations of leavers from individual Salisbury secondary schools;
- The influence of pupil performance on post-16 destination choice;
- The influence of whether the secondary school has post-16 provision on pupils' post-16 destinations;
- Which Salisbury secondary schools are considering academisation
- The likely impact of proposed housing developments in the Salisbury area on future post-16 demand.

The Task Group's next meeting will be held at St Joseph's Catholic School, Laverstock on 10th June. Members will meet students, headteachers and governors from all three Laverstock schools to discuss their views on post-16 provision in the Salisbury area.

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 has not met since the Committee's previous meeting. There is a proposal to disband this task group elsewhere on this agenda (see *Scrutiny of Procurement and Commissioning*).

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

This Task Group was scheduled to meet on 7th June but due to a clash with Corporate Parenting Panel will now be rescheduled.

4. Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group

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

This Task Group held their initial scoping meeting on 12th May and were joined by Mark Brotherton, Head of Targeted School & Learner Support, Karina Kulawik, Manager for Inclusion and Tina Pagett, Senior 13-19 Advisor.

Members received briefings on

- the current designations, capacities and Ofsted ratings of each of Wiltshire's six special schools;
- the potential impact of special schools becoming academies;
- the national policy direction in terms of special educational needs.

For their next meeting, members requested a report providing an outline of post-16 SEN issues, including what facilities Wiltshire has, what are the funding arrangements, plans for the future etc.

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.

However, on 20th May, Cllr Jane Scott and Carolyn Godfrey hosted a workshop to co-ordinate a Wiltshire response to the Green Paper, including councillors, officers and representatives from the health service as well as parent groups. The event was also attended by Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Lay and Rev Alice Kemp from the Select Committee. Attendees split into small groups, each taking a portion of the 59 broad-ranging consultation questions, before feeding suggested responses back to the group. Officers from DCE are now compiling the results and a draft response will be circulated amongst attendees for comment prior to submission to the Department for Education (DfE). **This draft response will be circulated to members of the rapid scrutiny group. Members may wish to decide if, given the event above and the size of the consultation, whether members still wish to meet and form the Committee's own response to the Green paper. The deadline for response is 30th June.**

Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager

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