

Task Group updates

1. Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

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

This Task Group has not met since the Committee meeting in July. It is scheduled to meet on 14th October and 9th November and a meeting with post-16 providers in Hampshire is also currently being arranged to discuss this issue.

2. Major Contracts Task Group

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

This Task Group met on 2nd September and Cllr Moss was re-elected as Chairman.

Members received an update on the latest position with the Council's contract with Quarriers who provide residential placements for children and young people. The contract has recently been resized to a block contract of 5 placements, providing a saving of £400k. This reduction has been possible due to the increasing emphasis on finding alternatives to residential home placements. Members resolved to receive further updates on this contract at their meetings in December and March.

Members also received updates on the other contracts they had been monitoring previously:

- Sodexo School Food – there is no longer a corporate contract for providing school food. The contract was terminated due to low take-up from schools.

- White Horse Education Partnership (PFI schools) – it was agreed that the Task Group would meet to consider the Partnership’s annual report on the three PFI schools on 15th December.
- Sure Start Children’s Centres – savings had been made through the reduction to the the number of providers (and contracts) to four. It was agreed that members would visit children centres in various community areas and would receive further updates on the contracts in March.

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 have not met since the Committee’s meeting in July. Its next meeting is scheduled for 14th November, when it will consider the Children in Care Commissioning Strategy, with any conclusions being referred for endorsement by the Select Committee at its meeting on 24th November. If appropriate, they will then be referred to Cabinet who will approve the final Strategy on 15th December.

4. Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group

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

This Task Group will meet on 21st September. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager

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