

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)

The Task Group have met on a number of occasions since the Committee's last meeting:

14th October

- Clarified possible discrepancies between two data sets showing the post-16 destinations of Salisbury learners.
- Considered how well providers in Hampshire retain students from the Salisbury area once those students have started their post-16 courses.
- Discussed whether transport considerations were a significant driver in the exodus of post-16s to Hampshire.
- Discussed a working draft of the Task Group's final report, bringing together all of the evidence gathered so far.

2nd November

- Met with the principals of Totton College, Brockenhurst College and Sparsholt / Andover College in Hampshire, which attract a significant number of post-16 learners from the Salisbury area.

3rd November and 10th November

- Visited Sarum Academy, Salisbury. Met with groups of year 11 students to hear their views on the local post-16 offer, and with the principal, Ruth Johnson to hear about her plans for developing Sarum Academy's own post-16 offer.

The Task Group has to a large extent now concluded its evidence gathering. Its next meeting(s) will focus on drawing conclusions and agreeing

recommendations. The Task Group's final report is expected to be submitted to the Committee's 29th March meeting.

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 have not met since the previous Committee meeting. It will next meet on 15th December to consider the White Horse Education Partnership's annual report on the county's three PFI schools.

Visits to some of Wiltshire's children's centres are also currently being arranged, prior to the Task Group's meeting in March to consider the Council's children's centres contracts.

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 met on 14th November to consider the draft Children in Care Commissioning Strategy. A report of this meeting is included elsewhere on the agenda.

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 met on 21st September and the following was discussed:

- The Council's statutory duties with respect to post-16 SEN, the number of young people with SEN with placements at Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs) and the recent increase in provision of courses for post-16 learners with SEN at Wiltshire College.
- A report summarising the capacities and conditions of each of Wiltshire's six special schools.

Members agreed that, although there were likely to be many issues relating to special schools that could be explored within the remit of the Task Group,

their first priority would be the physical capacities and conditions of the schools. Members therefore agreed that they would visit each of Wiltshire's special schools. In order to engage with parents, it was agreed that a parent governor from each school would be invited to accompany members on their visit.

The Task Group will visit Larkrise School, Trowbridge on 17th November and the other visits are being arranged.

Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager

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