

**Task Group update**

**1. Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group  
(formerly the Placements for LAC Task Group)**

Membership: Cllr Andrew Davis  
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)  
Rev Alice Kemp  
Cllr Bill Moss  
Cllr Carole Soden  
Cllr Bridget Wayman

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, the Committee established the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group to undertake a review of safeguarding arrangements in Wiltshire – an area the Committee had not focused on previously. It was agreed that the Task Group would hold its first meeting after the publication of the results of the recent Ofsted inspection of children's services in order to incorporate any actions arising in its work programme.

It was subsequently proposed that the existing Placements for LAC Task Group 'become' the new Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group using its existing membership. There were a number of reasons for this change:

- i. Efficient use of scrutiny resources (i.e. looking at both safeguarding and services for looked after children together)
- ii. The Ofsted report lists a number of remedial actions that the Council are required to complete either 'Immediately' or 'within three months'. Using the existing Placements for LAC Task Group membership allows the Safeguarding Task Group to begin work quickly, as well as harness the knowledge and experience of the membership.
- iii. The Placements for LAC Task Group had done a large amount of work to understand the current LAC picture and this role is now largely a monitoring one. This leaves room for the consideration of safeguarding issues.

The Task Group met on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and considered:

- a) The Children in Care Commissioning Strategy, now scheduled for Cabinet approval on 19<sup>th</sup> June, and
- b) The Ofsted report following its inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services in Wiltshire – March 2012, plus documents relating to the implementation of improvements, and the Task Group's scope and terms of reference.

## **Resolutions**

**The Committee is asked to agree that:**

- 1. The Placements for LAC Task Group is replaced by the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group;**
- 2. The Task Group will focus on scrutinising safeguarding arrangements, but will retain the ability to consider LAC issues by exception;**
- 3. The Task Group has adopted the following terms of reference:**
  - a) To monitor and scrutinise implementation of the improvements to safeguarding arrangements required by Ofsted following its inspection of Wiltshire's Safeguarding and LAC Services in March 2012;**
  - b) To support Wiltshire Council and its partner agencies in developing robust safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Wiltshire;**
  - c) To monitor and scrutinise the impact of safeguarding arrangements in Wiltshire on outcomes for children and young people; and**
  - d) To monitor and scrutinise the implementation of the Children in Care Commissioning Strategy and its impact on outcomes for Wiltshire's looked after children and their families/carers.**
- 4. Note that Cllr Hubbard has been elected as Chairman of the Task Group;**
- 5. Note that Cllrs Colmer and H Osborn have withdrawn from the Task Group and that Cllr Wayman has joined the Task Group, therefore the new membership is:**

**Cllr Andrew Davis  
Cllr Jon Hubbard  
Rev Alice Kemp  
Cllr Bill Moss  
Cllr Carole Soden  
Cllr Bridget Wayman**

- 6. Note that the Chairman of the Task Group will sit on the Safeguarding Improvement Board in order to maximise communication and collaboration between the two groups;**

## **2. Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group**

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

The Task Group has now visited all six special schools in Wiltshire. On 14<sup>th</sup> May the Task Group met with officers and the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to discuss all of the issues that have arisen as a result of these visits. They include:

- Limited funding for in-school medical care;
- Support for students transitioning from special schools to post-16 education;
- The limited physical capacities of some of the schools;
- The lack of residential provision for post-16 students with SEN in Wiltshire;
- Limited access to some special school buildings for wheelchair users.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr Payne and Rev Kemp attended a meeting of the Wiltshire Special Schools Heads' Forum, which was helpful in gathering more detail on the challenges faced by special schools in Wiltshire.

The Task Group will now be exploring the issues raised in greater depth, for- mostly the issue of funding for in-school medical care, before preparing its final report for submission to Committee.

## **3. Major Contracts Task Group**

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

The Task Group last met on 10<sup>th</sup> May and received an annual update on the Council's contracts with respect to children's centres. To this end, the Task Group had recently visited children's centres in Cricklade and Studley Green, Trowbridge, which have given members a greater understanding of the role of the centres and the different issues that affect centres in rural and urban locations.

As a result of the meeting the Task Group have requested:

- A breakdown of the number of children in each children's centre reach area and the percentages of children both registered and seen by children's centre;
- The number of volunteers currently supporting children's centres;
- The number of parents that have accessed parenting courses;
- An investigation into issues around access to services for families living in Purton
- An investigation into the anomalies about which children's centre reach area Semington falls into and the challenges around co-operative working with extended services.

---

**Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager**

Report author: Henry Powell, 01225 718052, [henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk)