

Task Group update

1. Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

This Task Group's final report is included under Item 6 of this agenda.

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 met on 18 January and 4 February and received updates on the implementation of recommendations included in its Final Report (considered in July 2012). These included:

- Healthcare training for staff in special schools
- Funding support for nursing in special schools
- Usage of and waiting times for Canon's House and Hillcote respite facilities
- Planned developments to the Larkrise School, Trowbridge, following the Task Group's recommendation
- Planned developments to site of St Nicholas School, Chippenham, following the Task Group's recommendation
- Work around students' transitions from special schools to college

On 19 March, the Task Group visited Wiltshire College to meet with staff and experience the College's provision for young people with SEN and LDDD. Members enjoyed a lunch cooked by some of the students.

The Task Group will now meet in April or May and bring its final report to the Select Committee's meeting on 6 June.

3. Major Contracts Task Group

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

The Task Group met on 17 December 2012 to consider the Council's contract with the White Horse Education Partnership (WHEP). WHEP provide fully serviced accommodation at Chippenham (Abbeyfield School), Malmesbury and Royal Wootton Bassett.

The Task Group resolved to:

1. Note the reports provided and thank all attendees;
2. Note that in the contract year under consideration, database systems had been provided to contract standard, malicious damage had reduced significantly, the majority of latent defects had been resolved and the schools had increased their community usage;
3. Request that at the next meeting members receive a updates on:
 - a) discussions regarding whether responsibility for the Central Government carbon levy falls on the White Horse Education Partnership (WHEP) or the Council, plus details of how much the levy amounts to;
 - b) the drainage issues currently affecting the use of Abbeyfield School's playing fields; and
 - c) the roof issues at Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett schools

The Select Committee will be asked to consider the future of the Task Group on 6 June.

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