

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

6 June 2013

Forward Work Programme

Purpose

1. To report relevant topics on the overview and scrutiny forward work programme as agreed by the O&S Management Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2013. (The O&S Management Committee controls the overview and scrutiny forward work programme).
2. To report relevant topics suggested for future overview and scrutiny by attendees of the O&S Councillor Induction event held on 16 May 2013.
3. To report the task group activity of the previous Children's Select Committee and re-establish those task groups and appoint memberships as appropriate.

Background

4. On 28 March 2013, the Children's Select Committee considered the key pieces of work it had undertaken during the 2009 to 2013 Council. These demonstrated the contribution it had made to decision-making, policy development and the good governance of the Council. These are listed in a table at [Appendix 1](#).
5. The Committee also considered the topics relating to children and education remaining on the O&S forward work programme, including any forthcoming agenda items and ongoing or planned task groups. From this it agreed a list of topics that it recommended for inclusion on the overview and scrutiny forward work programme in the new Council.
6. The Committee's recommendations, and those from the other select committees, were then considered by the O&S Management Committee on 23 May (the Management Committee controls the Council's overarching overview and scrutiny work programme). The O&S Management Committee agreed a new forward work programme and those activities **relevant to this Committee** are listed below. The Committee is asked to consider whether to take this work forward as recommended and any additional topics it wishes to explore.

Table 1 - Task groups and rapid scrutiny activities

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation
<p>Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group</p>	<p>Established: May 2012</p> <p>Final Report received: March 2013</p> <p>Proposed to continue its work</p>	<p>Established following the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and services for Looked After Children (LAC).</p> <p>The final report was endorsed by the Committee on 28 March. The Cabinet Member's response is included under this meeting's agenda. The report will also be considered by Cabinet on 18 June.</p> <p>The Committee resolved that the Task Group should continue working for at least 18 months following the disbandment of the Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Board (the Board is still in operation) and adopt the following terms of reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To monitor the implementation of any recommendations made by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group that are endorsed by the Children's Select Committee and accepted by the executive. b) To scrutinise Wiltshire Council's delivery of improvements to safeguarding children and young people as set out in the Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Plan. c) To receive a twice-annual report from the Council's Lead Member for Safeguarding Children and Young People providing details of their safeguarding activity. d) To continue/conduct ongoing scrutiny of services for Looked After Children (LAC). e) To work in collaboration with the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel to clarify future joint-working arrangements [the establishment of which is proposed under Recommendation 35]

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation
Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group	<p>Established Sep 2010</p> <p>Final report received May 2012</p> <p>12-month progress review scheduled for Summer 2013</p>	<p>Established to review the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area and compiled a detailed report and submitted 12 recommendations. The Committee resolved to reconvene the Task Group in Summer 2013 to review progress. A number of key developments in FE in the Salisbury area are underway and an interim update on these was received in March 2013.</p>
Major Contracts Task Group	<p>Established 2009 as a standing Task Group</p>	<p>Established to provide a mechanism for non-executive members to scrutinise contracts of significant financial value</p> <p>The Task Group's work programme originally included four contracts, but two of the contracts have ceased (School Food and Quarriers). The remaining two are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White Horse Education Partnership (WHEP) – providers of serviced accommodation for Wiltshire's 3 PFI schools 2. Children's Centre cluster contracts – four cluster contracts with providers of Wiltshire's children's centres.
Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Wiltshire's Adoptions Service	<p>Proposed March 2013</p>	<p>On 28 March the Committee recommended that its successor Committee establish a rapid scrutiny exercise to consider the outcomes of the recent Ofsted inspection of Wiltshire's adoption service. Adoptions came under the remit of the former Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group, but it did not have capacity to review this area as well as safeguarding.</p> <p>On 18 June Cabinet will receive a report on the performance of the Adoptions Agency as required by the 2011 Statutory Adoption Guidance and the 2011 Adoption National Minimum</p>

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation
		Standards. The Committee may wish to recommend that the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise includes consideration of this report.

Table 2 - Scheduled Committee agenda items

Item	Date	Details
School Organisation Plan and school governance arrangements	Report, expected Aug 2013	<p>The School Organisation Plan details the population projections across Wiltshire and the implications for new schools, including how the academies programme has changed the process for determining governance arrangements for new schools.</p> <p>This item was requested in March 2013</p>
Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations	<p>Bi-annual report expected Aug 2013</p> <p>Annual report expected Jan 2014</p>	<p>Provides an annual overview of pupil performance and compares Wiltshire's attainment with national, south west and statistical neighbours.</p> <p>Enables member scrutiny of the success of the Council's various pupil performance improvement programmes.</p> <p>In March 2013, the Committee resolved to receive additional bi-annual reports detailing the Council's improvement programmes that help schools with pupil performance.</p>
Education for excluded pupils	Update report expected Nov 2013	<p>The Committee has monitored the implementation of new arrangements for educating permanently excluded pupils following the closure of the YPSS centres. The YPSS had received some poor Ofsted reviews so its replacement was a member priority.</p> <p>Update on its implementation expected in Nov 2013 (12 months into the project).</p>

Topics suggested at the Overview and Scrutiny induction event

7. On 16 May a councillor induction event was held on Overview and Scrutiny and attendees were asked to submit ideas for future consideration by the O&S committees. The topics suggested that related to children and education were:
- Improving provision and choice for post-16 young people with SEN, and
 - Improving support for children with complex healthcare needs in schools

Appointments to Task Groups and Rapid Scrutiny Exercises

8. The Committee may wish to appoint or re-appoint members to those activities it decides should continue. The membership of the Committee itself has changed significantly following appointments at Council and its Chairman and Vice-chairman will only be elected at today's meeting. It will therefore need to decide whether it feels it is sufficiently well-informed at its first meeting to make all/some of these appointments. At this stage, one option might be to simply re-appoint those members who remain on the Council subject to their wish to continue and delegate the chairman and vice-chairman to fill any vacancies as necessary. The previous memberships are listed below.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Andrew Davis
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Carole Soden (no longer a member of the Council)
Cllr Bridget Wayman

Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss
Dr Mike Thompson

Major Contracts Task Group

Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss

Cllr Carole Soden (no longer a member of the Council)

Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Wiltshire Adoptions Service

No membership yet appointed

Next steps

9. The Committee will have appointed its Chairman and Vice-chairman at today's meeting, which will provide leadership of the Committee and allow for informal discussion meetings to be arranged with the relevant Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors in order to gain common understanding and support over priorities in the O&S work programme.
10. It is understood that a review of the current Business Plan will be conducted in the near future which will provide an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to review where it focuses its attention. Overview and Scrutiny brings a real strength when it engages in developing policy on the big themes being highlighted and pursued by the Council and its partners.

Proposal

11. To consider the Task Group and Rapid Scrutiny activity agreed by the O&S Management Committee for inclusion on the forward work programme (see Table 1) and formally establish these as appropriate;
12. To appoint the memberships of the proposed Task Groups and Rapid Scrutiny Exercises as appropriate (see paragraph 8);
13. To authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to name members to fill any vacancies on these activities as appropriate;
14. To consider the scheduled Committee activity agreed by the O&S Management Committee (see Table 2) plus topics suggested by attendees of the O&S Councillor Induction event (see paragraph 7) for possible inclusion on the forward work programme;
15. To support early discussion between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities and report back on findings;
16. To note the intention of the Council to review its Business Plan and the potential implications for Overview and Scrutiny's work programme.

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Appendix 1 List of key pieces of work undertaken by the Committee during the
2009 to 2013 Council.