

CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2013 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER.

Present:

Cllr Pat Aves, Ken, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Sue Evans, Mr J Hawkins, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Kaylum House, Rev. Alice Kemp, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Helena McKeown, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Ricky Rogers and Cllr Philip Whalley

Also Present:

Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Graham Payne and Cllr Anthony Trotman

73 **Election of Chairman**

Resolved:

To elect Cllr Jon Hubbard as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Cllr Jon Hubbard in the Chair

74 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Resolved:

To elect Cllr Jacqui Lay as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

75 **Membership of the Select Committee**

Resolved:

To note that at its Annual Meeting on 14 May 2013, the Council appointed the following councillors to serve on this Committee for the ensuing year:-

Conservative (7)

Cllr M Champion
Cllr M Douglas
Cllr S Evans
Cllr S Jacobs
Cllr J Lay
Cllr B Moss
Cllr P Whalley

Lib. Dem. (4)

Cllr P Aves
Cllr J Hubbard
Cllr C Hurst
Cllr H Mckeown

Labour (1)

Cllr R Rogers

Independent

Cllr H Osborn

Substitutes

Cllr A Davis
Cllr C Crisp
Cllr S Parker

Cllr D Allen
Cllr N Blakemore
Cllr D Jenkins
Cllr L Packard

Cllr J Walsh

Cllr T Chivers
Cllr D Drewitt
Cllr R Hawker
Cllr J Osborn

Council also appointed the following non-elected members to the Children's Select Committee:-

Non-Elected Voting Members
Vacancy

Dr M Thompson

Vacancy

Mrs A Kemp

Mr K Brough

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members
(Up to Five)

Mrs D Dale

Vacancy

Vacancy

Mr J Hawkins

Mr K House

Representing
Church of England

Clifton Diocese RC Church

Parent Governor (Secondary)

Parent Governor (Special Educational Needs)

Parent Governor (Primary)

School, Children and Young People representatives

Further Education Representative

Secondary Schools Headteachers' Representative

Primary School Headteachers' Representative

School Teacher Representative

Children & Young People's Representative

76 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Mike Thompson.

77 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 March 2013 as a correct record.

Matters arising:

Min. No. 63: Chairman's Announcements – Teacher Representatives on the Committee

The Vice-Chairman referred to discussions that had taken place at the previous meeting concerning the availability of representatives of Primary School and Secondary School Headteachers to attend meetings of this Select Committee and enquired as to how this matter was being progressed.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that he had written to the Chairmen of the primary and secondary headteachers' associations but to date nothing had been agreed.

After some discussion, during which the input of both primary and secondary headteachers was considered to be very important,

Resolved:

- 1. To ask the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet with the primary and secondary headteacher associations and discuss how schools can contribute to the Committee's work when considering relevant issues.**
- 2. To note that the senior scrutiny officer will investigate filling the Church of England representative vacancy on the Committee.**
- 3. To note that in the coming months a process will be run to appoint a new secondary parent governor representative.**

78 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of disclosable interest or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

79 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

80 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present or councillors' questions.

81 Executive Response to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group

The Select Committee received a report which set out the response of the Lead Member for Children's Services to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group which was endorsed by the Committee at its last meeting on 28 March 2013.

It was reported that the Task Group's final report along with an update on the implementation of improvements had been added to the Cabinet Forward Work Programme which would be considered by Cabinet on 18 June 2013.

The report had been presented to the April meeting of the Safeguarding and Adoption Improvement Board, whose independent chairman and also the Department for Education representative had commented favourably on the Task Group's work and recommendations.

Action on the 41 recommendations of the Task Group were set out in Appendix 1 to the report from which it was noted that five of the recommendations had been completed and a further 19 were being progressed with action taken. It was noted that:-

(1) Action on the following 3 recommendations would happen in the future as requested by the Task Group:

R6 Reports on the Safeguarding and Adoption Plan to highlight milestones which are slipping ie: red or amber

R7 "SMART" approach to all reports to the Improvement Board

R28 Safeguarding training for the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

(2) The following 4 recommendations were being considered before a decision was made:

R8 Creating a new, permanent 'Safeguarding Peer Liaison' post

R9 Attendance at MAFs by Safeguarding Peer Liaison' post or a social worker – links to R8

R20 Review and optimise the alignment of the various geographical clusters

R41 "Safeguarding considerations" section in all committee and Cabinet reports

- (3) The following 6 recommendations would be subject of future scrutiny:
- R10 Quality assurance of MAFs
 - R12 Social care workforce strategy and key workforce performance indicators
 - R19 Referral and assessment.
 - R29 Mid-term progress and annual report from WSCB
 - R30 WSCB business plan implementation through analysis of minutes of meetings.
 - R34 Rapid Scrutiny exercises will take place

It is also noted that:

- Scrutiny Members would visit teams and services (R31)
- The Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group would be re-established (R32)
- The Task Group would continue its work for at least 18 months after the Safeguarding Improvement Board had been disbanded and that the group would receive an update on the work of the Safeguarding Improvement Board (SIB), or from the WSCB upon the SIB's demise, at each meeting (R33)

After discussion,

Resolved:

- 1. To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group.**
- 2. To urge the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Cabinet as a whole, to respond positively to Recommendation 41 in the Task Group's Final Report: "All reports to Wiltshire Council committees, including Cabinet, should include a dedicated 'Safeguarding considerations' section", with a trial of this system being considered as a possible option.**
- 3. To request that the executive response document be amended to include details of timescales for implementing the recommendations and that it be circulated to members of the Committee.**
- 4. To note that Recommendation 6, "Any groups scrutinising the delivery of the Safeguarding and Adoption Improvement Plan should be provided with a 'RAG-rated' exception report highlighting which milestones are slipping (i.e. red or amber milestones)", has now been implemented.**

82 **Final Report of the Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group - part 2**

The Select Committee received the final report of the Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group-part 2 for endorsement. It was recalled that this Task Group had brought an initial final report with recommendations to the Select Committee in July 2012 but further work had been requested.

Cllr Graham Payne, Chairman of the Task Group, introduced the report and thanked all members of the Task Group for the work they had undertaken and also Henry Powell for his excellent work in supporting the Task Group. He explained that it had met further on three occasions and had undertaken a number of other evidence gathering activities, the outcomes of which were set out in the report. However, the Task Group had not had the capacity to investigate the following new topics as requested by the Select Committee in addition to its existing work programme:-

- Consideration of the identification of Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BSED) in primary school-aged children.
- An investigation to identify out of county resources being used by Wiltshire.
- An examination of mainstream schools to identify the level of SEN provision they make.

Cllr Payne reported that the Task Group had attended meetings of the Special Schools Head's Forum, which was a sub-group of WASSH, and had visited Wiltshire College's Trowbridge campus to experience the provision for post-16 learners with SEN and LDD (Learning Difficulties and Disabilities) as requested by the Select Committee.

Progress had been made with a number of the Task Group's original recommendations and in particular those regarding Larkrise School, Trowbridge and St Nicholas School, Chippenham, details of which were included in the report.

Members also fully supported the Task Group's recommendations regarding services for children with SEN or LDD and their families as a priority within the work programme.

Resolved:

- 1. To endorse the Final Report part 2 of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group and refer the recommendations to the appropriate executive bodies for response.**
- 2. To note that a process of developing the Committee's forward work programme would be discussed under a later item, and that these**

discussions were likely to include a consideration of issues relating to children and young people with SEN/LDD and their families.

83 Information Services Review

Consideration was given to a report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, which provided an update on the implementation and impact of the changes made to information services for families in Wiltshire from July 2012.

It was noted that the update was requested following a rapid scrutiny exercise in 2012 which had been established to consider the nature of any duplication in the Family Information Service. Following on from this the following changes had taken effect from 1 July 2012:-

- Family Information Service (FIS) focused on information and signposting for general services via a helpline and website. (Cost £120,000 per annum)
- The Early Years Team within Wiltshire Council launched the Childcare Information Service (CIS) and became the single point of contact in relation to childcare. (Cost £40,000 per annum)
- Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) became the single hub of information on services relating to Disabled Children. The Special Educational Needs / Disability Information Service (SENDIS) costs £35,000 per annum.
- The Revenue and Benefits Team within Wiltshire Council became the single point of call for queries relating to family finances. The additional work has been absorbed without additional cost.

It was noted that the current contract with Ask was due to terminate on 31 March 2014 and consequently commissioning intentions were currently being developed for service requirements from April 2014.

After some discussion

Resolved:

- 1. To note the update report on the implementation to changes made to information services for families in Wiltshire from July 2012**
- 2. To note that the current contract with Ask for providing the Family Information Service (FIS) was due to end on 31 March 2014.**
- 3. To agree that future discussions regarding the Committee's forward work programme should include consideration of establishing a task group to help shape commissioning intentions for the future provision of this service.**

84 Coalition Changes - Update March to May 2013

The Select Committee received and noted a report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on developments relating to children's services arising from the Coalition Government.

It was noted that the Government had announced a new package of support, totalling £750,000, to help local authorities attract and retain more foster carers from a wider range of backgrounds. Carolyn Godfrey explained that Wiltshire would be competing for a proportion of this funding.

Resolved:

To note the update on the latest changes from the Coalition Government relevant to children's services.

85 Forward Work Programme

Consideration was given to a report by the Senior Scrutiny Officer which provided background information on the topics currently on the Overview & Scrutiny forward work programme relating to children and education and on which the Select Committee was being invited to make a number of decisions regarding future activity.

After discussion,

Resolved:

- 1. To establish the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group with the terms of reference proposed and the membership listed as follows (subject to those members' final agreement):**

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

- 2. To reconvene the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group for one meeting only in order to review progress with its recommendations, and to ask the Task Group to report back at the Committee's next meeting. The Task Group will have the following members subject to their final agreement:**

**Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay**

**Cllr Bill Moss
Dr Mike Thompson**

- 3. To note that the O&S Management Committee has asked scrutiny officers to contact all non-executive members regarding their areas of interest in participating in overview and scrutiny task groups.**
- 4. To authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to name members to fill any vacancies on the Committee's task groups as necessary.**
- 5. 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 with a report on findings coming to the Committee's next meeting.**
- 6. That the rapid scrutiny exercise to look at the Wiltshire Adoptions service, which was recommended by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group, is discussed with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors prior to further consideration at the Committee's next meeting.**
- 7. That the continuance of the Major Contracts Task Group is discussed with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors prior to further consideration at the Committee's next meeting.**
- 8. To approve the agenda items currently scheduled on the Committee's forward work programme (listed in Table 2 of the report).**
- 9. (a)To note that Cabinet will receive a report on the Review of the Council's Business Plan on 23 July 2013 with a view to recommending to Full Council.**

(b)To recommend that the O&S Management Committee asks each of the select committees to establish a rapid scrutiny exercise to consider the relevant parts of the new Business Plan, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 23 July 2013.

86 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

87 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved:

To note that the next meeting of the Select Committee would be held on Thursday 1 August 2013 at the Council's Offices at Monkton Park, Chippenham, starting at 10.30am.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713035, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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