

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

25 March 2014

Task Group update

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Educational for 16-19s Task Group

Membership:

Kaylum House
Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
George Jeans
Gordon King
Jacqui Lay
Mike Thompson

Terms of reference:

To review the quality, range and equity of access to further education in Wiltshire. The Task Group have also agreed the following outcomes for this review:

- a) Young people are aware of the full range of 16-19 opportunities available to them
- b) Young people feel supported to make informed choices from their local 16-19 offer
- c) The local 16-19 offer reflects what young people want
- d) Young people can access their local 16-19 offer
- e) The local 16-19 offer reflects the skill-sets that local employers want.

Recent activity:

The Task Group held their first meeting on 21 January and a verbal update was provided for the committee on 28 January.

The Task Group have agreed to undertake a piece of wide-ranging 'learner voice' work, surveying Wiltshire young people about their experiences of 16-19 education. This will cover the support the students received to choose their

preferred option, as well as the availability and accessibility of that option. The survey will cover young people preparing to begin their 16-19 education, those currently studying at 16-19, and those who have now completed it.

Officers have met with a student from Bath Spa University who is studying for a Masters degree in Education to discuss the possibility of her designing or running this survey as part of her qualification. This highlighted a number of issues which the chairman will discuss with education officers on 25 March 2014.

The Task Group's next meeting is scheduled for 26 March 2014 and will include:

- A discussion of key data around 16-19 opportunities across Wiltshire's communities.
- A briefing on the Your Choices website – an online portal providing information on the 16-19 courses available in Wiltshire.
- Further discussion of the learner voice work required.

2. Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

Membership:

Ken Brough
Andrew Davis
Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Alice Kemp
Bill Moss
Bridget Wayman

Terms of reference:

- 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.

Recent activity:

The Task Group met on 19 February 2014. This was one of the task group's four annual data meetings, where members focus on the latest performance indicators for safeguarding and children in care. Members used the meeting to:

- Define which indicators they will continue to monitor and which should be removed from the dataset.
- Challenge the rationale behind how safeguarding indicators are graded Red, Amber or Green.
- Request that under each safeguarding indicator, a year-to-date RAG-rating is provided, as well as a quarterly rating.
- Request that future reports include a reference to which indicators are likely to be impacted by the new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- Agree which indicators they have significant concerns about, so that these can be focused on at future meetings. These included:
 - % of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of a strategy discussion
 - % of Private Fostering notifications followed up within 7 days
 - No national comparator data available on % of single assessments completed within timescales
 - Issues around data recording with certain indicators.

The Task Group's next meeting is scheduled for 3 April and will be a topic-based meeting, focusing on the process of auditing the quality of children's social care casework.

3. Schools and the Local Authority Task Group

Members:

Ken Brough
John Hawkins
Jon Hubbard
Sheila Parker
Horace Prickett
Phillip Whalley (Chairman)

Terms of reference:

- a) To explore how the Council promotes excellence and fulfils its statutory duties to children and young people in Wiltshire's schools.

- b) To explore whether the services offered by the Council meet the needs of schools and students, and if not, how they could be developed to help improve outcomes.

Recent activity:

At their initial scoping meeting on 23 January 2014 members agreed that understanding what the Council's statutory duties to schools are and how they are fulfilled was an important first step for this review.

The Task Group's second meeting is scheduled for 19 March 2014 and members will receive a report and briefing from the School Effectiveness team on the statutory educational duties of the local authority, covering:

- What are they?
- How does the council meet them?
- Who in the council is responsible for meeting them?
- Does the council have to provide them for all schools?
- Each duty is RAG-rated on to what extent we are meeting each duty
- A summary of how we 'promote excellence'

Following this, on 22 April the Task Group will meet to receive a further briefing on the education services currently offered to schools by the council and their popularity.

On 29 April 2014 three Task Group members will attend The Academies Show 2014 in London – a national event comprising a comprehensive programme of talks and seminars on all areas of the academies programme.

4. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Task Group

Membership:

Ken Brough
Trevor Carbin
Mary Champion
Sue Evans
Simon Jacobs
Alice Kemp (Chairman)
John Walsh

Terms of reference:

To explore how we can best prepare young people with SEND for Adulthood, including:

- local education and training options, including managing transitions
- planning for employment and supporting local employers to employ young people with SEND

- providing housing options to support young people with SEND to live in their communities
- developing communities that are inclusive, welcoming and supportive of young people with SEND.

Recent activity:

The Task Group held their first meeting on 23 January and a verbal update for the committee was provided on 28 January. The task group had received comprehensive presentations from officers covering the SEND reforms nationally and the council's work as a DCA Pathfinder locally. It also covered some of the projects the council is involved with to improve education and employment opportunities for young people with SEND.

The Task Group agreed that its next meeting would be a more detailed look at the current Wiltshire landscape in terms of opportunities and challenges for young people with SEND, focusing on one of the task group's four chosen themes (above).

Following discussions with officers, the chairman has elected to focus first on "developing communities that are inclusive, welcoming and supportive of young people with SEND". This meeting is currently being arranged.

On 28 February the Chairman and Senior Scrutiny Officer attended an event hosted by the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC)

0-25 SEND Service Launch event hosted by WPCC launching the council's new 0-25 SEND Service. The learning from this event will be fed back into the task group's evidence gathering.

5. Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group

The final report of this task group is included elsewhere on the agenda.

Proposal

To note the update on task group activity provided.

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