

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 25 March 2014
Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on Monday 17 March 2014_ and indicated that the reports detailed below would be to follow. These are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 713035 or email roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

- 7 **Final Report of the Positive Leisure Activities for Young People Task Group**_(Pages 1 - 8) A progress update report is attached.

 - 8 **Executive Response: Further Education in the Salisbury Area - 18 Month Progress Review**_(Pages 9 - 30)
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DATE OF PUBLICATION: Friday 21 March 2014

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

25 March 2014

**Progress Update:
Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group**

Purpose

1. To present an update on the work of the Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group.
2. NB. The committee had anticipated receiving the task group's final report at this meeting, with Cabinet originally expected to take its final decision on the review of positive activities for young people on 22 April 2014. Cabinet will now take the decision at an extraordinary meeting scheduled for 15 May 2014. It is therefore proposed that this committee holds an extraordinary meeting on 8 May 2014 to consider the task group's final report. This will give the task group more time to consider further evidence and undertake a more in-depth scrutiny review. The committee would also have more time to discuss the outcomes of the task group's review in detail. If endorsed, the task group's final report would then be referred to Cabinet for consideration on 15 May 2014.

Background

3. On 21 January Cabinet considered a report proposing that it reviews how it meets its statutory duty to secure young people aged 13-19 access to sufficient positive leisure-time activities that improve their wellbeing, and sufficient facilities for such activities. The report set out a range of options, with a provisional recommendation to develop a community led approach, subject to formal consultation.
4. On 28 January the Committee established a task group to respond to the consultation. All non-executive members were invited to express an interest in sitting on the task group. The committee's chairman and vice-chairman then selected the membership to as far as possible achieve a geographical and political balance.

Methodology

5. The Task Group comprises the following membership:

Mr Kaylum House (Young People's rep on the Children's Select Committee)
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Howard Marshall
Cllr Pip Ridout

6. The Task Group have adopted the following outcomes:

- a) Providing the leisure time activities that young people want
- b) Providing young people with opportunities to develop
- c) Ensuring all young people are aware of the activities available in their area
- d) Ensuring access to youth work and activities for all young people, including those from groups vulnerable to exclusion
- e) Ensuring safe accessibility to safeguarding and early intervention services
- f) Exploring the unintended consequences of any proposals
- g) Ensuring our youth workers have the appropriate skills and training
- h) Exploring opportunities for partnership working and other funding opportunities
- i) Finding the most effective and financially viable use of buildings for youth work and activities

7. So far the Task Group has met on four occasions and received written and verbal evidence from a variety witnesses, including Cabinet Members, Portfolio Holders, Area Board chairmen, VCS youth groups, youth workers and senior officers within relevant council departments.

8. The Task Group has also held a focus group session with 15 young people from across Wiltshire, including service-users and non-service-users, and representatives of the council's young people representation groups.

Initial comments from the task group

General

9. It was reported to Cabinet on 21 January that currently only 8 percent of the 13-19 population access the council's Youth Development Service¹. The task group are investigating the accuracy of this figure.
10. The task group welcomes the extension to the decision-making timescale, but remains concerned at the pace at which the review is being undertaken.

Options presented to Cabinet

11. The 21 January report to Cabinet presented four options for the future of the Youth Development Service, with 'D' being proposed as the preferred option:

Option A – Retain the current in-house service but reduce value

Option B – Outsource the service

Option C – Encourage and support staff to form a Public Service Mutual

Option D – Develop a community led approach

12. Because Option D is preferred, the task group is placing more emphasis on considering this in detail. However, it is also looking at the viability of A, B and C.

Option A – Retain the current in-house service but reduce value

13. It is reported that this internal restructuring option could be to develop four hubs and these would take on a developmental role in the delivery of local positive leisure-time activities.

Initial comments from the task group:

- The significant reduction in staff posts would reduce the service's capacity. It would also make the required savings difficult to achieve and is unlikely to be sustainable long term.
- A four hub model could potentially diminish the use of important local networks and have a negative impact on young people living in rural areas without good transport links.

¹ Represents 3585 individuals covering the period 01/04/2013 to 30/09/2013.

Option B – Outsource the service

14. This option would involve developing a new service specification and holding a competitive tendering exercise to identify and select a preferred provider.

Initial comments from the task group:

- Securing one overall provider would be difficult, resulting in multiple contracts which could prove difficult to manage. New providers may not have the infrastructure in place to deliver sufficient provision in rural areas.
- Option B could end up costing more for less overall provision due to potential hidden costs. Profit-led businesses might neglect the less lucrative areas of provision, such as rural areas.

Option C – Encourage and support staff to form a Public Service Mutual

15. Under this option a service specification and contract would be developed between the council and the mutual, shaped by key stakeholders and managed by commissioners.

Initial comments from the task group:

- The skills and knowledge required to manage a youth service are different to those required to deliver youth work and this does not seem a viable option at this stage.

Option D – Develop a community led approach

16. Under this model community areas would have an annual budget for youth activities, and would consult with young people to identify local needs and priorities and decide how this resource was deployed. This approach would involve the council moving from a direct provider of youth activities to an enabling role supporting VCS groups to provide activities using funding distributed by area boards.

Budgets

- Under Option D, a youth activities budget for each community area and would be available for individuals and community-led groups to set up new youth projects. The task group welcomed clarification that this money will be revenue funding, ringfenced for use on activities for young people.

The task group are investigating...

- The potential risk that VCS groups providing activities for young people would decrease their fundraising efforts when more money is available directly through area board grants;
- The potential risk that area boards would spend the new ringfenced funding on youth activities, but spend their non-ringfenced grant allocations on something else, yielding no increase in youth activities but at a higher cost to the council;
- How appropriate criteria would be designed and enforced to ensure that the funding ring-fenced for young people could only be used for that purpose;
- The Integrated Youth Service uses a range of services provided by other council departments effectively for no fee. Could these represent additional hidden costs to VCS groups that will reduce the funding available for the provision of actual activities?

Strategic oversight

- Under Option D, each area board would establish a specific sub-group to oversee the development and provision of activities for young people in their community area. The sub-groups would be based on the model currently used for Community Area Transport Groups (CAT-Gs).

The task group are investigating...

- What professional support and/or a defined parameters would these sub-groups need to meet this new responsibility effectively;
- The report proposes that 4 part-time Community Development Youth Advisors (2 FTE) would carry out this supporting function, with some additional support potentially being available from sports development officers. They would also coordinate Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) in all 18 community areas. Would this be a sufficient resource?;
- How VCS youth groups would fare if the current level of advice and leadership provided by the council's Integrated Youth Service was not available.

Targeted Youth Work and Safeguarding

The task group are investigating...

- Whether the proposed structure represent a reduction in the capacity for preventative youth work;
- If there is a difference between activities for young people and youth work and whether both are addressed in the preferred option;
- If the impact of low-level, preventative youth work could be measured more effectively, without becoming bureaucratic;
- Given the scale of the county, if the proposed 8 Youth Support Workers be able to build substantial relationships with young people referred to them. Whether young people seek or accept support from youth workers with whom they have no existing relationship;
- If there is a risk that the 8 Youth Support Workers proposed would act as quasi social workers, limiting their involvement in preventative work;
- How access and participation could be ensured for those young people who are unlikely to attend more activity-based youth work provided by voluntary/community groups due to a lack of confidence or other issues.

Further points

- The report to Cabinet states that some staff affected by redundancy could be reemployed by town/parish councils (or voluntary/community based organisations). Would town/parish councils be able to manage this additional responsibilities?
- Whether an alternative, workable and sustainable service model could address the concerns raised more effectively than the preferred option.

Proposal

For the committee to:

17. Note the progress update and raise any further issues for the task group to consider.
18. Agree that, following an extension to the original Cabinet timescale, the task group's review should be extended and an extraordinary meeting of the committee should be scheduled to consider its final report, prior to referral to the Cabinet Member.

Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

25 March 2014

Executive response to the 18-month progress review report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Purpose

1. To present the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to a report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group. The report was received by the Committee on 28 January 2014 and presented the results of a progress review undertaken by the Task Group 18 months after its final report was endorsed.

Background

2. In September 2010, the Children's Services Select Committee established the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group to undertake a review of post-16 education available in the Salisbury area. The Task Group was established to:
 - a) Identify the number of young people leaving the Salisbury area to access 16-19 education;
 - b) Identify why these young people choose to travel and the impact of doing so;
 - c) Investigate the young people's perception of the 16-19 provision available to them;
 - d) Make recommendations, if a gap is identified, as to how this need might be met.
3. The Task Group reported its findings to the Children's Services Select Committee in May 2012, making thirteen recommendations, all of which were endorsed. The Committee agreed to regularly monitor their implementation and received an update report in March 2013. The Committee also agreed to reconvene the Task Group 12 months hence to undertake a detailed review of progress. The review was actually undertaken 18 months after the final report was endorsed.
4. A report of the findings from the 18-month review was endorsed by the Committee on 28 January 2014. A copy of this report is attached at **Appendix 1**. Dr Mike Thompson, Chairman of the Task Group, also noted that some comments provided by the Wessex Partnership were received too late for members to consider them as part of the report. These included:
 - Grammar schools have a successful collaboration in place, providing a broad Level 3 curriculum, catering for approximately 700 students. This

results in a considerable net influx of post 16 students to the Salisbury area from other parts of Wiltshire and other counties.

- The Grammar Schools and Wiltshire College provide Careers and Higher Education Fairs.
- Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School had agreed a vision for a collaborative sixth form in the Salisbury Plain area. The schools noted that the population of the local area would increase significantly in the coming years due to local developments and the planned military influx. The aforementioned joint venture between AVC and Stonehenge would be difficult to achieve without major capital investment.
- Wiltshire College reported that many new students report poor experiences of Independent Advice and Guidance (IAG), with the Apprenticeship route being particularly neglected in the guidance students have received.

Executive response to recommendations

Recommendation 1. Wiltshire Council to produce a statement detailing its specific responsibilities as a school sponsor, as opposed its general educational responsibilities as a local authority.

Executive response: The Local Authority is engaging with the Academy at three levels. Firstly at the Annual Trustees meeting, secondly at regular Governor meetings by the local member for Bemerton Heath and thirdly at a School Improvement level by a Council officer meeting with the Senior Leadership Team. The Governors have resolved recently at their annual awayday that representatives of all the sponsors should meet and revisit the original vision for the school to understand more fully the strategic direction of the school in the future. Aligned and integral to this would be the role of each of the sponsors in the future. This is felt to be necessary as the Academy has now been in existence for nearly four academic years and each of the sponsors has also had, to a greater or lesser degree, structural changes.

The following bullet points encompass the work that the LA has done as a co sponsor in the past and will continue to do so in the future, dependent upon Officer capacity. The LA does not engage with other Academies with this kind of support or if it does, then a charge is made by the LA for its services.

Wiltshire Council's role as a sponsor has included

- A local Councillor who is a member of the Governing Body, nominated by the Leader of the Council. This ensures a local community perspective as part of the leadership of the school.
- School Effectiveness Officer support as part of the Ofsted Action Plan monitoring group, now a Governors sub Group, to ensure the school improvement progress is supported and challenged.
- School Effectiveness Officer support to the Trustees to ensure that the strategic direction of the school is enacted.
- School Effectiveness Officer support through the project management of the delivery of the new £17m build.
- School Effectiveness Officer support to the Governing Body following the last Ofsted report to support further development, structures and vision.

- School Effectiveness Officer facilitation of Extended schools priorities with primary schools.
- School Effectiveness Officer support for a Teacher Development Day re the new Ofsted Framework.

Recommendation 2. The local authority work with Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School to develop joint local post-16 provision.

Executive response: Officers continue to work with both schools to improve post 16 provision. In addition to developing the post 16 offer, officers are working with both schools on delivery of the school organisation plan for the Amesbury and Durrington areas to meet the predicted demographic and core strategy changes. The exact configuration of post 16 provision has yet to be determined, having regard to the impact of re-basing and Core Strategy developments.

Recommendation 3. Because the disparity in funding received by Wiltshire and Hampshire for post-16 education remains, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Chairman of the Children's Select Committee to write a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Skills and Lifelong Learning to draw attention to, and request a review of this situation.

Executive response: The national funding formula for 16-19 provision, implemented in 2013-14, is now based on a national funding rate per learner and that this will start to reduce disparities between different areas and types of provision.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Appendices

Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group as presented to the Children's Select Committee at its meeting on 28 January 2014.

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Children's Select Committee

28 January 2014

Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group:

18-month review of progress

Purpose

1. To report the outcomes of a progress review undertaken by the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group 18 months after its final report was endorsed by Committee.
2. To present further recommendations from the Task Group, based on the latest position, for Committee endorsement and referral to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response.

Background

3. In September 2010, the Children's Services Select Committee established the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group to undertake a review of post-16 education available in the Salisbury area. The Task Group was established to:
 - a) Identify the number of young people leaving the Salisbury area to access 16-19 education;
 - b) Identify why these young people choose to travel and the impact of doing so;
 - c) Investigate the young people's perception of the 16-19 provision available to them;
 - d) Make recommendations, if a gap is identified, as to how this need might be met.
4. The Task Group reported its findings to the Children's Services Select Committee in May 2012, making thirteen recommendations, all of which were endorsed. The Committee agreed to regularly monitor their implementation and received an update report in March 2013. The Committee also agreed to reconvene the Task Group 12 months hence to undertake a detailed review of progress. Due to the timings of local elections, a new Committee membership and the development of a new forward work programme, the review was actually undertaken 18 months after the final report was endorsed.

Progress review methodology

5. All of the providers involved in the Task Group's original scrutiny review were contacted and asked for their views on what had, or had not, changed since the Task Group's 2012 report. They were also offered an opportunity to meet with the Task Group in person. These included all 11-16 and post-16 providers in the Salisbury area as well as post-16 providers in Hampshire, which the Task Group's report had shown to be successful in attracting significant numbers of Salisbury students over the border for their post-16 education.
6. Members met with representatives from three Salisbury secondary schools in person, with a further five providing written responses, as did Wiltshire College. A further written consensus response was provided by the Wessex Partnership – the network of secondary schools in the south of the County. The Task Group also met with representatives from the steering groups of the two post-16 providers currently in development in central Salisbury: the South Wiltshire University Technology College (UTC) and the Salisbury 6th Form College (S6C) (a free school sixth form college being led by representatives from the three Laverstock secondary schools). No additional comments were received from the Hampshire providers. The Task Group wish to note their gratitude to all those providers who took the time to contribute to its review. A full list is provided in Appendix 1.
7. The Task Group also considered updated Education Funding Agency (EFA) data showing which providers students from the Salisbury area chose for their post-16 education (and for what Level of course) from 2008/9 to 2012/13 (Appendix 2). A report was provided by the Council's Education & Skills Coordinator giving status updates on the Task Group's original recommendations.

Current status

8. While there is a limited degree of between year variation in course and provider choices made by students transferring to in-county post-16 providers in the Salisbury area, young people continue to leave in large numbers to access post-16 education and training across the border. As with the in-county providers there is an ongoing variation in the profile of providers and courses chosen by students travelling to Hampshire for their post-16 education and training. (It should also be noted that, although outside the remit of the Task Group, this outflow is augmented by a number of 11-16 year olds travelling to Test Valley School, Stockbridge and Burgate School, Fordingbridge for their secondary education). In the absence of significant new provision yet becoming available the latest EFA data demonstrates that, unsurprisingly, the outflow of post-16 students from the Salisbury area had not changed in the 2012/2013 academic year, with 39.5% of travelling to Hampshire providers in 2012/2013, compared with 39.7% in 2011/2012. Whilst data for the current academic year (2013/2014) was not available, it may be concluded that the situation has not changed radically for young people in the Salisbury area, although Wiltshire College had closed its

AS/A2 provision on the Salisbury campus (loss of at least 80 places), Sarum Academy had recruited 160 students to its Sixth Form Centre (an increase of 95) and Stonehenge School reported that 30 of its students went to the new Sixth Form at Wellington Academy as opposed to travelling to Hampshire providers.

Findings

Developing Sixth Form Provision in Central Salisbury

Original recommendation 1: "In its strategic role to ensure the provision of effective and efficient local education and training, Wiltshire Council facilitates urgent discussions between the Laverstock schools and Wiltshire College regarding collaborative provision of a broad, high-quality post-16 offer, harnessing the strengths and resources of all four institutions. Particular consideration should be given to developing jointly-run sixth form provision with a focus on AS/A2 levels, to complement the existing grammar school provision, but also including opportunities for technical and vocational learning."

Original recommendation 2: "Parallel discussions are held with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to explore the capital and revenue funding implications of this project."

South Wiltshire UTC and Salisbury Sixth Form College (S6C)

9. Members noted that officers had worked with the Laverstock secondary schools and Wiltshire College to explore possible collaborative provision, and also met with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to establish their reaction to the Task Group's findings and recommendations. However, following initial discussions, the providers indicated that they wished to explore separate avenues for developing post-16 provision. Representatives from the Laverstock secondary schools pursued a Free School Sixth Form College, principally, but not exclusively, to provide post-16 education for students from the three Laverstock schools. An application to the Department for Education (DfE) to set up a Free School sixth form was successful and it is currently scheduled to open in September 2014, offering predominantly A2/AS-level provision. When fully open, the Salisbury Sixth-Form College will provide new places for up to 400 students.
10. Concurrent with the Free School Sixth Form initiative, an application was made to the Department for Education, supported by the Baker Dearing Trust, to establish a University Technical College (UTC) for South Wiltshire, focusing on defence and related industries. This is sponsored by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire College, Southampton University and major local employers. The South Wiltshire UTC is now scheduled to open in September 2015 offering academic, vocational and technical programmes to young people aged 14-19 years. When fully established, the South Wiltshire UTC will offer places for 600 14-19 year-olds drawn from the Salisbury area and beyond, including an additional 340 new post-16 places.
11. Whilst the Task Group was not aware of the details of the South Wiltshire UTC bid at the time of initial review, it warmly welcomes the development of these new

post-16 providers in central Salisbury and the increased local offer for Salisbury students they will provide. Members expect these to significantly reduce the number of students going out-of-county and the associated environmental, financial and quality of life impacts identified in the final report. Members were also pleased to note that the report was used as an important item of evidence by both project steering groups when successfully approaching the DfE for funding. The Task Group noted that whilst both the South Wiltshire UTC and the Salisbury Sixth Form (S6C) developments are supported through central government, both expressed a view that there is a role for the LA in coordinating and supporting these separate endeavours and assisting them to integrate into the family of providers in the area to ensure students were aware of the range of options open to them (see paragraph 35).

Sarum Academy

12. The Task Group met with four members of staff from Sarum Academy and were pleased to hear of the significant achievements in developing its sixth form provision. The school focuses on providing a diverse curriculum to a diverse cohort (including the gifted and talented) in a holistically supportive environment. From just over 100 sixth form students enrolled in 2012, 160 have enrolled in 2013, with a quarter being external pupils travelling from other areas of Salisbury and beyond. 200+ students are expected to enrol post-16, rising to a scheduled maximum of 250 in 2014. The Task Group were particularly pleased to hear that, in addition to a broad AS/A level offer, the school now offers other courses that young people had previously left the county to study, including triple sport, triple health and social care, hair and beauty, photography and mechanics. The school have formed a partnership with Salisbury City Football Club to offer Football Studies at an elite level. Outcomes have increased year-on-year and in August 2013 the Academy reported that the proportion of top grades were above the national average.
13. For the record, Sarum Academy wished the Task Group to note a potential conflict between Wiltshire Council's strategic responsibilities to all providers as the local authority, and its additional and specific responsibilities to Sarum Academy as a co-sponsor. An example of this is the Council's support of developing new providers such as the South Wiltshire UTC, which the Academy feels may have a bigger impact on them and other local providers than anticipated, particularly given that the UTC will be recruiting pupils from age 14. The school acknowledged the support they receive from Council officers and that the conflict between the Council's two roles may be difficult to resolve, but would like it to be recognised that such a strategic tension exists. The Task Group, in acknowledging these points, feels that the nature of the local authority's role as a sponsor of a range of schools – as opposed to its strategic role as a local authority – requires clarification for the benefit of all parties (**Recommendation 1**). The Task Group's conclusions regarding the strategic and coordinating role of the local authority are included from paragraph 35.

Wiltshire College (Salisbury Campus)

14. The Task Group's 2012 report referred to the College's development of an AS/A2-level offer on its Salisbury campus to complement its well-established vocational/technical provision and meet the needs of students unable or unwilling to take up AS/A2-level places at other Salisbury area providers. In 2013 the College decided to close this provision, having received a low number of student applications. The College now intends to focus on the promotion of its vocational offer, including an expansion of post-16 apprenticeships in Salisbury, in the areas of Engineering, STEM including Life sciences, Hospitality and Catering, Care and Early Years, Construction and Higher Apprenticeships. Publicity campaigns will target both employers (to create attractive vacancies) and potential apprentices.
15. The College has demonstrated significant improvements in attainment in recent years: In 2008 the overall success rate of the former Salisbury College was 62% – 12% behind the then national average for FE of 74%. Since 2008, the overall success rate at the campus has improved by 15% to 77% (latest figures for July 2013), compared to a 10% improvement in the FE average rate during the same period. In this context, the Task Group noted that Salisbury Campus remained the largest single provider of Further Education in the Salisbury Area (Appendix 2).
16. The College is a named partner on the Salisbury Sixth Form College and the South Wiltshire UTC.

Wyvern College, Laverstock

17. The Task Group welcomes the Council's successful bid for funding from the government's Priority Schools Building Programme to rebuild Wyvern College (an 11-16 school).

Improving the 16-19 educational offer in the Salisbury area

Original recommendation 3: "Wiltshire Council works with Wiltshire College and other 16-19 education providers where appropriate, to explore the factors behind:

- a. the higher average attainment demonstrated by learners from the Salisbury area who study at Hampshire colleges compared with those who study at in-county providers;
 - b. the greater retention of learners from the Salisbury area demonstrated by Hampshire colleges as compared with Wiltshire College;
 - c. the significant numbers of learners from the Salisbury area taking courses in Science and Maths, and Arts, Media and Publishing, at Hampshire providers; and designs and agrees plans to encourage improvements in these areas."
18. The Task Group notes that officers explored with the EFA the detail behind a-c above and that the EFA reported that attainment levels vary across all institutions

and will be based upon the prior attainment of learners, the amount of student contact time and the quality of teaching as well as the type of qualification that is offered.

19. The Task Group also notes that it is no longer the responsibility of the local authority to design or implement plans to secure improvements within the FE or Training Provider sector or for any school or academy who is not considered to be at risk or causing concern.

Improving the marketing and promotion of the 16-19 education offer in the Salisbury area

Original recommendation 4: "Wiltshire Council works with schools and colleges to improve the marketing and promotion of 16-19 education in the Salisbury area, with consideration given to ideas such as a comprehensive careers and training fair, common websites and/or a magazine circulated in and out-of-county to promote the full local post-16 offer."

20. The Task Group notes that the Council provides or facilitates a number of measures to market and promote the local offer: The 'Your Choices' campaign facilitated by officers; a theatre tour is offered free of charge to all schools; an application and a website with links to all providers' prospectuses. A range of printed materials is also available: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/choices
21. However, the Task Group believes that the local authority can play a greater role in coordinating the marketing and promotion of the post-16 offer in the Salisbury area. This is discussed further from paragraph 35 below.

Improving the Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) available to young people across Wiltshire

Original recommendation 5: "Recognising the substantial cuts in government funding for local authority Connexions services, and the responsibility for such provision shifting from the local authorities to schools in September 2012, Wiltshire Council supports Wiltshire secondary schools to develop their offer of impartial training and careers advice to their pupils and parents from Year 9, when they are making their GCSE choices, in order to maximise awareness of the full range of opportunities available to them."

22. The Task Group noted that the post for an officer to fulfil this work has been removed from the structure. Officers in Economic Regeneration have been leading on a Wiltshire Careers Education programme and recently produced a DVD. From September 2012, designated individual school support through a linked Personal Adviser is no longer available for all. Support for learners identified as vulnerable has continued to be made available.
23. The Task Group was pleased to note that there is some cross-partner work on this, for example Bishops Wordsworth and South Wilts Grammar Schools jointly

put on Higher Education fairs and Oxbridge Evenings attended by students from across the area and were also open to considering other areas of collaboration. Wiltshire College also puts on Higher Education Fairs, to promote both its own Higher Education programme and other HE options.

Developing school sixth form provision to the north of Salisbury

Original recommendation 6: "In its strategic role to ensure the provision of effective and efficient local education and training, Wiltshire Council encourages and supports the development of the Sixth Form Vision agreed by Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School."

24. In its 2012 report, the Task Group reported that Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School had agreed a vision for a collaborative sixth form in the Salisbury Plain area for the young people of Amesbury and Durrington and the neighbouring communities. (Avon Valley College has its own post-16 provision, but limited appropriate accommodation is preventing further expansion). A variety of sites, but no capital money, had been identified. The two schools believed that a proposed collaborative Sixth Form Centre would enable more Avon Valley College students to stay on and would also encourage students from The Stonehenge School to access their local provision. The schools noted that the population of the local area would increase significantly in the coming years due to developments in Porton Down, Solstice Park and, to a lesser extent, Durrington.
25. Following this, population growth in the Ludgershall area (10-15 miles to north-east) led to a successful bid for central government funding to expand overall provision at Wellington Academy. This has enabled a new sixth form centre to be built to free up 11-16 capacity in the rest of the school, and this represents an extra option for students to the North of Salisbury, particularly those from The Stonehenge School which has no on-site post-16 provision.
26. The significant forthcoming housing developments and military expansions in the Amesbury and Durrington area mean that there will be a need for more school places in the next decade, including local access to post-16 provision (this was an element of the business case for the UTC and the military have been involved in its development). There remains good will and collaboration between Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School toward developing a joint post-16 facility, but without major capital investment they will find it difficult to provide high-quality local post-16 provision beyond that already provided by Avon Valley College. Officers reported that according to demography and core strategy figures The Stonehenge School is predicted to reach capacity in 2018 and Avon Valley College in 2021 and they therefore don't yet qualify for development funding.

Original recommendation 7: "The Children's Select Committee notes its support for Wiltshire Council's submission of a bid for funding from the government's Priority Schools Building Programme for additional capital funding for The Stonehenge School."

27. This application was unsuccessful. The Task Group therefore recommends that the local authority works with Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School to develop joint local post-16 provision (**Recommendation 2**).
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Improving transport links and schemes

Original recommendation 8: "Wiltshire Council works with Wiltshire College and local bus companies to review and, if appropriate, revise existing bus routes and develop more attractive student travel schemes to enhance the appeal of study at Wiltshire College's Salisbury campus."

28. The Task Group noted that:
- Officers from passenger transport were working with education officers to continue to facilitate action with Wiltshire College and with other post-16 providers to review processes and initiate potential changes to support access.
 - A review of the transport policy has recently been agreed to support statutory changes to post-16 participation.
 - The transport team are working with both the Salisbury Sixth Form College and South Wiltshire UTC on travel plans.
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16-19 Education funding inequalities between Wiltshire and Hampshire

Original recommendation 9: "The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Chairman of the Children's Select Committee write a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Skills and Lifelong Learning to draw attention to, and request a review of the disparity between the funding received by Wiltshire and Hampshire for provision of post-16 education."

29. In the original executive response, it was reported that national changes to both pre- and post-16 educational funding and the development of a national funding formula were currently being introduced and will mitigate the need for a formal response to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.
30. However, these changes have not yet materialised and it seems very uncertain that they will (see **Recommendation 3**). The Portfolio Holder for Schools reported that a new central government funding formula is in development which could lead to an approximately £500 increase in funding per child by 2019.
-

Connexions and YPLA student destination data disparities

Original recommendation 10: "Wiltshire Council advises Wiltshire schools, colleges and other relevant bodies, of the disparities between the student destination data provided by Connexions and by the YPLA and the reasons behind these."

31. This action is complete. Connexions data used in the original report was provided directly from schools in the area through intended and actual destinations compared to YPLA (now EFA) data which included those learners already accessing education outside of the LA Pre-16 from the wider Salisbury area.
-

Encouraging students to remain on-campus at Wiltshire College, Salisbury

Original recommendation 11: "Recognising the challenges inherent in being a city-centre provider, the Task Group recommends that Wiltshire College considers the potential impact on learner retention and attainment of its 16-19 learners having such flexibility to leave the Salisbury campus when not in lectures and, if appropriate, implements measures to encourage students to remain on campus."

32. Wiltshire College responded to this recommendation in 2012.
-

Monitoring implementation of the Task Group's recommendations

Original recommendation 12: "The Task Group is mindful that any strategic developments must take into account the need for additional secondary school provision in the Salisbury area as housing developments are progressed; and that all providers, including the Trafalgar School at Downton, Sarum Academy, Wellington Academy and the Grammar Schools, are involved in the strategic planning. The Task Group is also aware that its recommendations may be seen as just another step in a long history of failed attempts to improve the provision of 16-19 education in the Salisbury area. To ensure that the recommendations are seen through to completion and the improvement of 16-19 education in the Salisbury area is brought to fruition, the Task Group therefore recommends that:

- a. a senior officer is identified to take ownership of and report on the implementation of the Task Group's recommendations"*
-

The Trafalgar School at Downton

33. It should be noted that the Trafalgar School at Downton's plans for sixth form provision were not described in the Task Group's final report, and the school subsequently made representations to the Committee about this. In response, the Committee asked the Cabinet Member to include Trafalgar School in any strategic consideration of post-16 education in the area, which was agreed.
34. The Trafalgar School at Downton still hopes to develop its own sixth form provision. This would follow the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma – a natural progression from the IB curriculum already offered to the school's 11-16 students. The School has identified a possible local building for their Sixth Form Centre and is now pursuing discussions with the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The Task Group is mindful of the significant challenges currently faced by

any provider seeking funding for developing new post-16 provision, but offers the school its full support.

The Local Authority's role

35. This 18-month progress review has revealed a great deal of activity to improve the range of post-16 options available to young people in the Salisbury area. The Task Group is particularly delighted to note and support the development of Salisbury Sixth Form College and South Wiltshire UTC initiatives to increase the range of in-county provision available to Salisbury's young people since the initial scrutiny review was undertaken. The Task Group recognises that it will take time for these initiatives to come to full fruition and recommends that the Local Authority supports these developments as fully as possible. In welcoming these developments, this progress review has, however, illuminated potential room for improvement in the coordination of that provision. This reflects the increasing range and diversity of providers in the Salisbury area, an increased level of competition due to national changes, and the reduced statutory role of the local authority. The Task Group is concerned that these factors could increasingly have a detrimental impact on young people's ability to identify and access the education and training options they want and need.
36. Thus, in the fullness of time, students in the Salisbury area will have the choice of post-16 courses from the Grammar Schools, Salisbury Sixth Form College (a free school sixth form), South Wiltshire UTC, Avon Valley Sixth Form College, Sarum Academy, Wellington Academy and Wiltshire College plus any further developments around Avon Valley College, The Stonehenge School and The Trafalgar School, as well as from Hampshire providers. Under the current and developing circumstances, there is a risk of an inadvertent increased level of inter-provider competition to the detriment of student choice and awareness of the full offer available. The Task Group believes that there are several areas where greater coordination would be of benefit:

1. Marketing

- a) Many of the providers who contributed to this review said that they would welcome greater collaboration amongst local providers in the marketing and promotion of their offers. In a complicated and fast-changing market, young people would undoubtedly benefit from having a single point of access to all of the local post-16 options available to them. The Task Group acknowledges the inherent, and to some extent healthy, tension between post-16 providers competing for students whilst simultaneously wanting students to access the most suitable course. In this context the Task Group is of the view that the Local Authority may have a role to play in helping to coordinate this process, as South Wiltshire UTC and Salisbury Sixth Form

College develop, such that students are presented with a coherent view of the options available to them.

- b) It has been reported that the Wiltshire Council-sponsored Your Choices website will be developed further to include links to each provider's prospectus. However, members believe this can be improved so that every providers' whole offer is presented at-a-glance through one location.
- c) Several providers commented that there was a need for coordination of basic activities such as provider open evenings to avoid them being held on the same date.

2. Independent Advice and Guidance (IAG)

- d) The Task Group is concerned that as more secondary schools offer post-16 provision the impartiality of the careers advice (now a duty of schools to provide) may be compromised. Some schools employ independent careers advisors but, with pressure on funding, not all have the capacity to do so. Informed and impartial careers advice will be particularly important for admissions to the South Wiltshire UTC at age-14 – not traditionally an age when students change learning institution.
- e) Wiltshire College reports that every year they contract an external company to survey new students regarding the route they followed to the College. Many of the students report poor experiences of Independent Advice and Guidance (IAG), with the Apprenticeship route being particularly neglected in the guidance students have received. The College suggest that, in this light, the take-up of Apprenticeships in the south of the county as compared with the national average deserves investigation.

3. Curriculum planning

- a) With two brand new post-16 providers being developed in the Salisbury area, the need for the coordination of the local curricula is greater than ever. Although some direct competition is natural and beneficial, neutral coordination could facilitate discussions and avoid both gaps and unnecessary overlaps.

4. Curriculum delivery

- a) A coordinator role could help providers share staff and students so that young people can access courses at more than one provider, particular for niche subjects.

37. When the Task Group met with individual providers from the Salisbury area many of them indicated that they would welcome the local authority taking a greater role in coordinating the aspects of local provision described above. However,

subsequent correspondence with the Wessex Partnership as a whole (the network of secondary schools in the south of the county) has clarified that its members would, as a group, prefer to develop the coordination of their activities in these respects, particular through their Partnership Director post, which the Local Authority funds. The Task Group welcomes this commitment from the providers to enhance their coordination and looks forward to seeing the results in the coming years.

38. While the secondary schools in the south of the county have used local authority funding to employ a partnership manager, the Task Group is unsure as to the degree of post-16 coordination that takes place between secondary schools in other parts of the county. It was reported that another schools network had turned down the funding available for a partnership manager and, whilst this was beyond the remit of the task group, members are concerned to understand how the schools in that area coordinated their post-16 offer. While legislative changes in recent years have diminished the Local Authority's statutory powers and responsibilities, the Task Group does not accept that this means the local authority has no role to play. Given local authorities' legal duty to promote educational excellence, and the increased level of inter-provider competition due to legislative changes, the Task Group feels that the local authority may be ideally placed to act as a neutral and honest broker in supporting the coordination of post-16 education for the benefit of Wiltshire students. We therefore recommend that further scrutiny is undertaken on the role the local authority plays in coordinating the aspects listed under paragraph 36 (**Recommendation 4**).

Proposal

39. That the Committee endorse the above Task Group's report and recommendations below and refers them to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services as appropriate for response.
- 1. Wiltshire Council to produce a statement detailing its specific responsibilities as a school sponsor, as opposed its general educational responsibilities as a local authority.**
 - 2. The local authority works with Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School to develop joint local post-16 provision**
 - 3. Because the disparity in funding received by Wiltshire and Hampshire for post-16 education remains, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Chairman of the Children's Select Committee to write a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Skills and Lifelong Learning to draw attention to, and request a review of this situation.**

4. That the Children's Select Committee explore the role of the local authority in helping providers to coordinate their post-16 marketing, Independent Advice and Guidance (IAG), and curriculum planning and delivery.
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Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of contributors to the Task Group's 18-month review

Appendix 2 – EFA Funded Salisbury Ward Resident Student Numbers by Institution and Qualification type

Appendix 3 – Map showing outflux of post-16 students from the Salisbury area (2010/11)

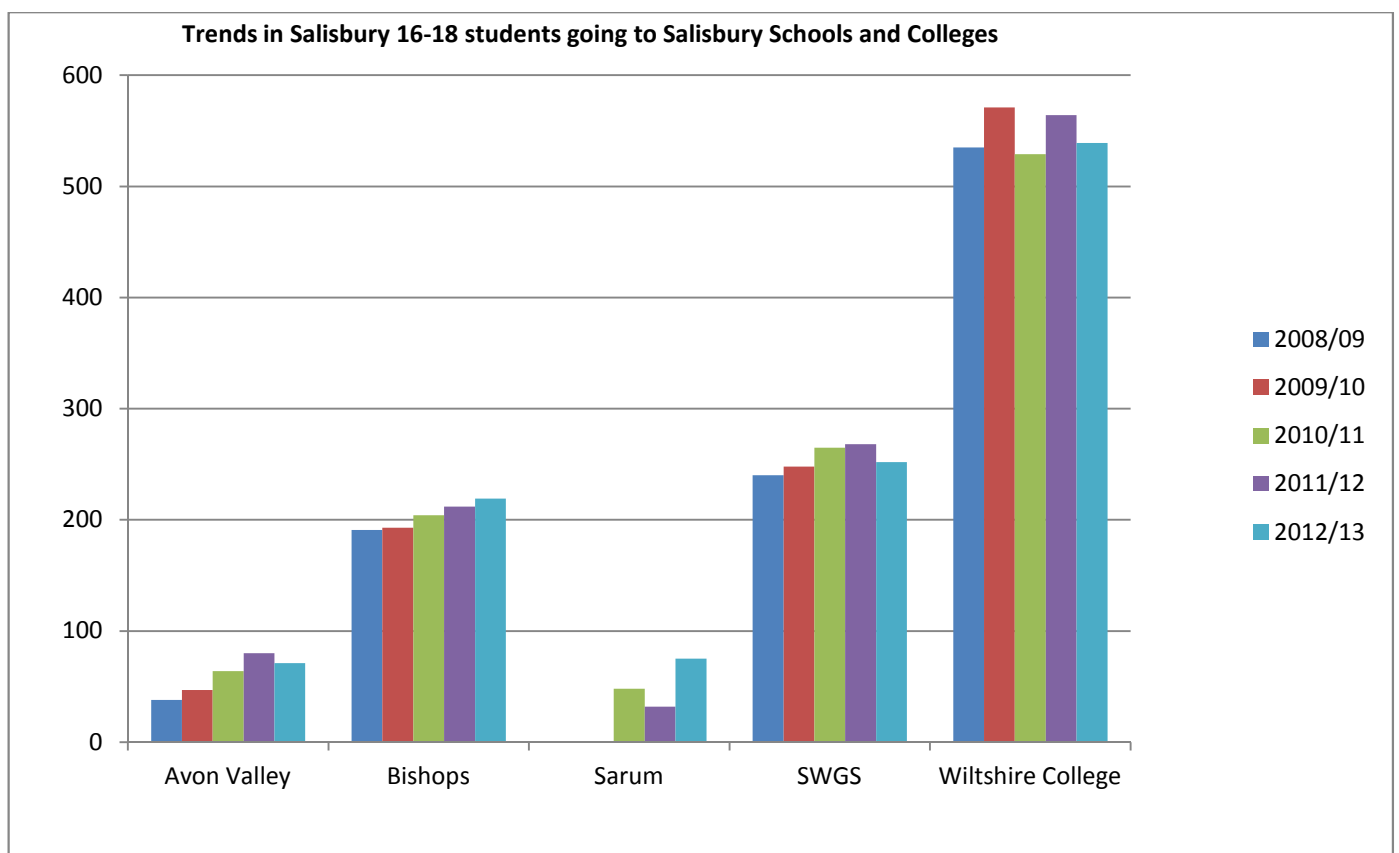
Appendix 1 – Contributors to the Task Group’s 18-month progress review

Mark Avoth, Principal	Avon Valley College
Stuart Smallwood, Head Master	Bishop Wordsworth’s School
Neil Owen, Steering Group Member Chair of Governors	Salisbury Sixth Form College (S6C) St Edmunds School, Salisbury
Sarah Busby, St Edmunds School	St Edmunds School, Salisbury
Ruth Johnson, Principal Daniel Jeffries, Director of Sixth Form Gareth Jones, Deputy Director of Sixth Form Jennifer Moore, Deputy Principal	Sarum Academy
Michele Chilcot, Headteacher	South Wilts Grammar School for Girls
Nigel Roper, Headteacher	The Stonehenge School
Jenny Lawrie, Headteacher	The Trafalgar School at Downton
Di Dale, Principal and CEO	Wiltshire College
Gordon Aitken, Project Manager	South Wiltshire UTC

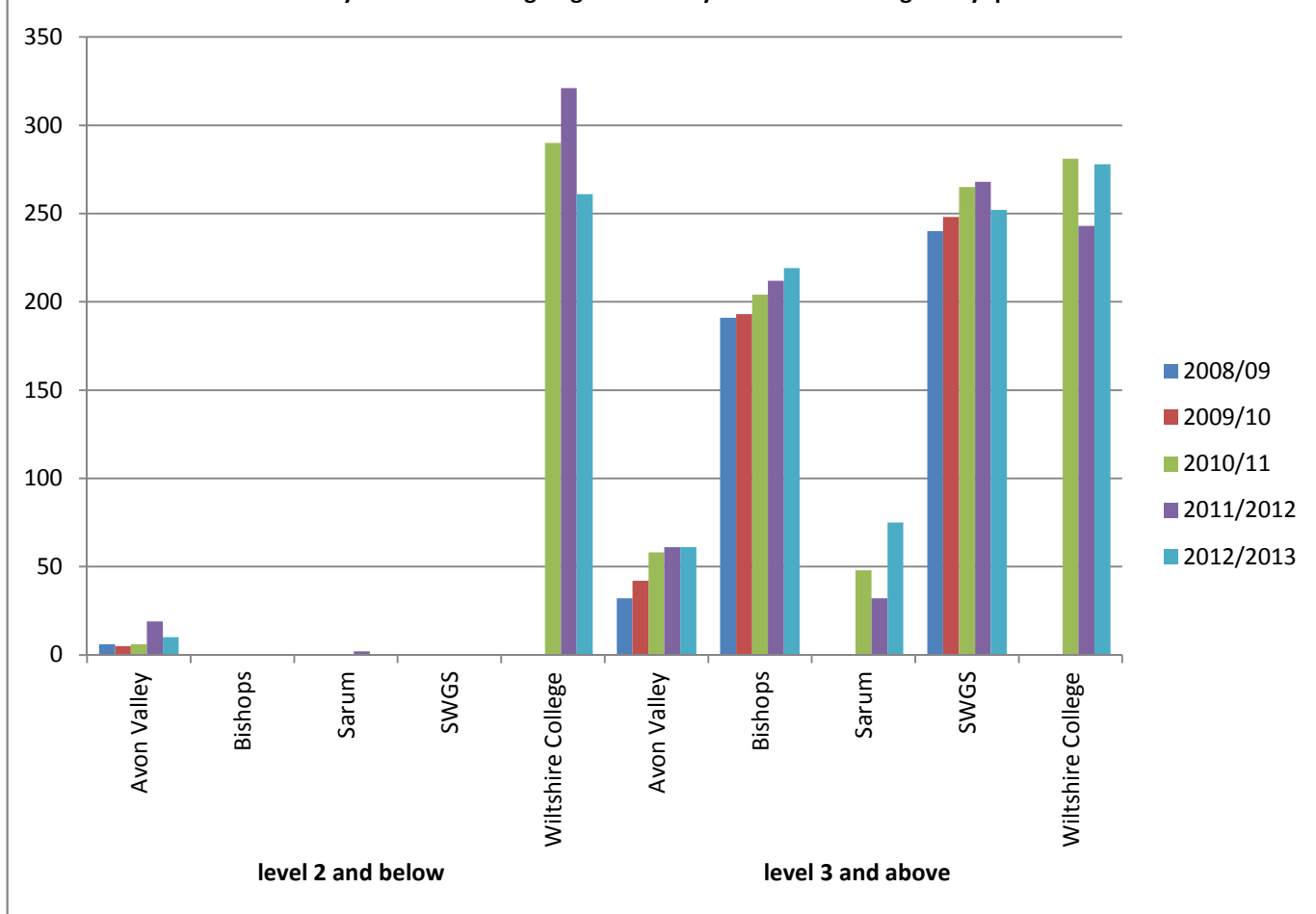
Appendix 2 – EFA Funded Salisbury Ward Resident Student Numbers by Institution and Qualification type

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Avon Valley	38	47	64	80	71
Bishops	191	193	204	212	219
Sarum[#]			48	32	75
SWGS	240	248	265	268	252
Wiltshire College	535	571	529	564	539

[#]Data for predecessor school, Salisbury High School, not included



Trends in Salisbury 16-18 students going to Salisbury schools and colleges - by qualification level

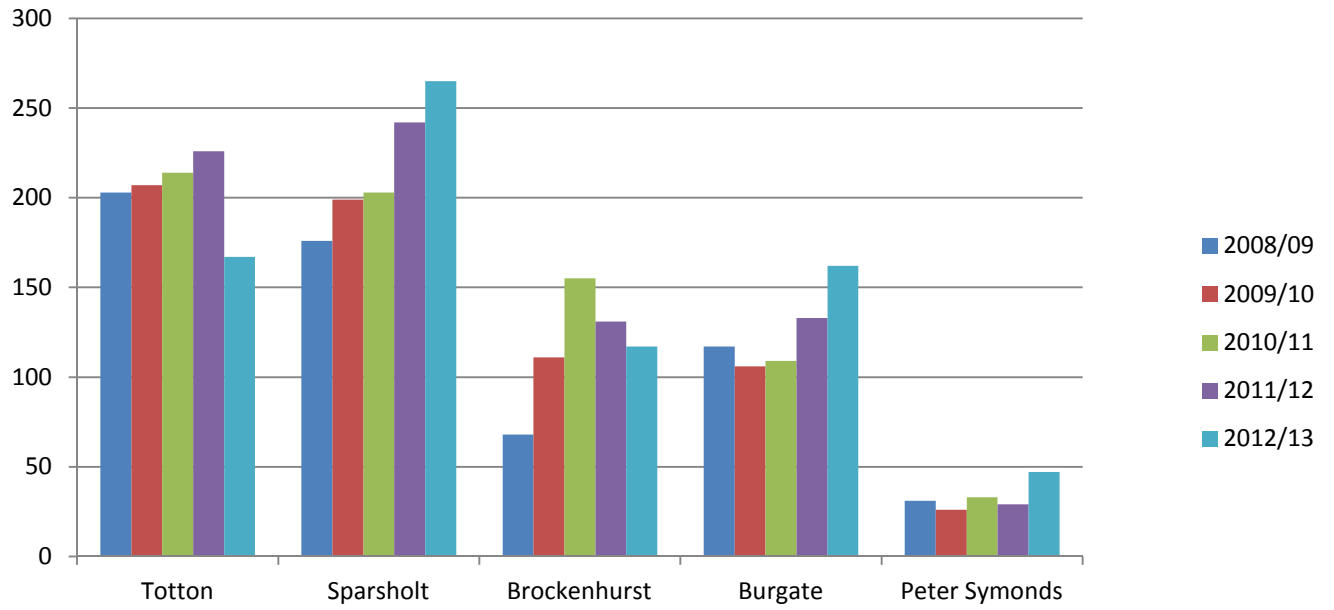


Salisbury 16-18 Trends in attending Hants Schools and Colleges

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Totton	203	207	214	226	167
Sparsholt [#]	176	199	203	242	265
Brockenhurst	68	111	155	131	117
Burgate	117	106	109	133	162
Peter Symonds	31	26	33	29	47

[#] Includes Andover College

Trends in Salisbury 16-18 students going to Hants schools and colleges



Note: Breakdown by qualification level not available before 2010/11

Secondary Schools and Post-16 Providers in the Salisbury Area

