

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber, Monkton Park, Chippenham
Date: Thursday 31 May 2012
Time: 10.30 am

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

Membership:

Cllr Paul Darby	Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Peter Davis	Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Peggy Dow	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Peter Fuller	Cllr Sheila Parker
Cllr Mark Griffiths	Cllr Carole Soden
Cllr Mollie Groom	

Substitutes:

Cllr Christopher Devine	Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Nick Fogg	Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Tom James MBE	Cllr William Roberts
Cllr John Knight	

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Rev Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Mr Neil Owen	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Mrs Rosheen Ryan	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocesan RC Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Mrs Di Dale	Further Education Representative
Mr Chris Dark	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Judith Finney	Primary School Headteacher Representative
Mr John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Kaylum House	Children & Young People's Representative

PART I

Items to be considered whilst the meeting is open to the public

1 **Membership**

To report the membership appointed by the Council (as printed on the front page).

2 **Apologies**

3 **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.

4 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by Standards Committee.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

7 **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named above for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named above no later than **5pm on Thursday 24 May 2012**. Please contact the officer named on the first page of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

8 **Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)

- i) To note the Terms of Reference for the Children's Select Committee as agreed by Full Council on 15 May 2012 as follows:
- Deliver the children's services elements of the overall work programme (as directed by the Management Committee) in line with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules set out in the Constitution
 - Membership to include co-opted voting parent governor and church representatives in accordance with the Constitution
 - Report and make recommendations to the Management Committee through its minutes
 - Establish ad hoc task groups
 - Six meetings per year will be fixed in the Council diary
- ii) To receive details of the new arrangements agreed by Council on 15 May in the form of a revised structure chart and summary of improvements and developments.

9 **Legacy Issues and Development of Future Work Programme** (Pages 5 - 6)

A discussion document will be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee at its first meeting to be held on 30 May 2012. This is attached for information and an update will be given at the meeting.

10 **Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group**

The Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group is circulated separately from the Agenda pack.

This Task Group was established to undertake a review of the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area. This followed a visit by several members of the Committee to three secondary schools that are co-located in the Laverstock area of Salisbury. During the visit, a number of students and staff expressed a wish for the schools to have their own joint sixth form provision. The Committee had also received reports of significant numbers of students from the Salisbury area travelling large distances, often outside of Wiltshire, to access post-16 education and it was this broader issue that the Task Group was later established to consider.

The Chairman of the Task Group, Dr Mike Thompson, will give a brief presentation introducing the report, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion. Members are asked to consider and endorse the recommendations

of the Task Group, which are listed on page 54 of the report. These will then be referred to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services formal response at the Committee's next meeting (26th July).

11 **Wiltshire's Readiness To Meet The New Requirements For Raising The Participation Age (RPA)** *(Pages 7 - 34)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, providing an overview of Wiltshire's readiness to meet the new statutory duties for Local Authorities set out in the Education and Skills Act 2008, to Raise the Participation Age (RPA). These duties increase the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning, requiring them to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015. The report was requested at the Committee's March meeting.

Julie Cathcart, Head of School Improvement, will attend to answer members' questions.

The Committee is asked to note the report and comment as appropriate.

12 **Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and LAC Services and DfE Adoption Scorecard** *(Pages 35 - 102)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, informing members of the March 2012 Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children services in Wiltshire and the Department for Education Adoption Scorecard.

Ofsted's multi-agency inspection took place between 5th and 16th March and involved case audits, interviews with staff and managers, focus groups with a range of stakeholders including children and families. The inspection looked at the contribution made by all agencies to ensure that children and young people are properly safeguarded and the quality of service provision for looked after children and care leavers. The report was published on 24th April 2012 and is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

NB: On 29th March, the Committee established the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group, which met for the first time on 3rd May and considered the Ofsted report and the various proposals for improving safeguarding arrangements in Wiltshire, plus agreeing the Group's scope and terms of reference. These are proposed for Committee endorsement under Item 16 – Task Group update and it is anticipated that the Task Group will take the lead in scrutinising all safeguarding and looked after children issues.

The Committee is therefore requested to note the information provided and refer specific issues for further exploration to the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group.

13 **Coalition update March to May 2012** (Pages 103 - 108)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on developments relating to children's services arising from the Coalition Government.

14 **Report of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise** (Pages 109 - 118)

A report presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise established by the Children's Services Select Committee on 29th March and held on 11th May. Cllr Jon Hubbard was elected as Lead Member.

On 29th March 2012, the Children's Services Select Committee received a report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on a review of the Family Information Service and Parent Partnership Service. The review had concluded that there was significant duplication around provision of information for parents and carers, particularly parents and carers of children with disabilities/special educational needs. It was decided that significant changes to the FIS and PPS service specifications and contracts were therefore required and proposed a number of changes that reduced the service specifications in the Council's contract with Ask and the level of funding to be provided.

At the time of the Committee meeting on 29th March, a final decision had not been made as to the continuation of the Council's contract with Ask and the level of funding to be provided in the future. The Committee resolved to undertake a rapid scrutiny exercise to explore further the nature of any duplication in the provision of the Family Information Service and plans for how the service will be provided in future.

The Committee is asked to endorse the recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny Group and refer them to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response.

15 **Multi-Agency Thresholds document - update** (Pages 119 - 128)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, providing an update on progress with implementation of the Multi-Agency Thresholds Document (MATD), which sets out processes for accessing support for children and young people with additional needs.

This was first brought to the Committee in September 2011 and members requested an update six months hence.

Members are asked to note the report and comment as appropriate.

Julie Cramp, Service Director for Commissioning and Performance, will attend to answer members' questions.

16 **Task Group update** *(Pages 129 - 132)*

The Committee is asked to note the attached report providing an update on Task Group activity.

17 **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 133 - 138)*

To note the Committee's forward work programme.

18 **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

19 **Date of Next Meeting**

26 July 2012

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

None