

## AGENDA

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**Meeting:** Children's Select Committee  
**Place:** Committee Rooms A - C, Monkton Park, Chippenham  
**Date:** Thursday 26 July 2012  
**Time:** 10.30 am

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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](mailto:roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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

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### Membership:

Cllr Paul Darby	Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Peter Davis	Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Peggy Dow	Cllr Sheila Parker
Cllr Peter Fuller	Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman)
Cllr Mark Griffiths	

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### Substitutes:

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

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### 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

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### Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Mrs Judith Finney	Primary School Headteacher Representative
Mr John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Kim Hunte	Further Education Representative
Kaylum House	Children & Young People's Representative

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## **PART I**

### **Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public**

1 **Apologies**

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 12)*

To approve and sign the minutes of the Children's Select Committee meeting held on 31 May 2012.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of non pecuniary or pecuniary interests or dispensations granted by Standards Committee.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

5 **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 19 July 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.

6 **Executive response to the Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group** *(Pages 13 - 20)*

A report presenting the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Scrutiny Task Group (May 2012).

This Task Group was established in September 2010 to undertake a review of the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area. The Task Group's report was endorsed and referred to the Cabinet Member by the Children's Services Select Committee on 31 May.

The Committee is asked to note the Cabinet Member's responses and agree further action as appropriate. Recommendations 9 and 12 are directed toward Wiltshire College rather than the Cabinet Member and responses will be sought and reported to the Committee once received.

NB. In May 2012, the Committee agreed to reconvene the Task Group in May 2013 to consider progress and agree any further action required.

7 **Executive response to the Final Report of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise** *(Pages 21 - 28)*

A report presenting the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the final report of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise. The exercise was held on 11 May and its report was endorsed by the Committee on 31 May.

The Children's Services Select Committee established the rapid scrutiny exercise on 29 March following receipt of a report on the a review of the Family Information Service (FIS) and Parent Partnership Service (PPS). It had been decided that significant changes to the FIS and PPS service specifications and contracts were 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 29 March, a final decision had not been made as to the continuation of the this contract 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 note the Cabinet Member's response and to agree any further action necessary

8 **Final Report of the Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group**

A report presenting the Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group for endorsement and referral to the Executive will be circulated.

The Task Group began its work in May 2011 and during the review met formally on five occasions, visited Wiltshire's six special schools and Studley Green Resource Base (or Specialist Learning Centre) in Trowbridge. It is chaired by Cllr Graham Payne.

The Task Group's recommendations focus on the following themes:

- Projecting and meeting future demand for SEN provision
- Healthcare in Wiltshire's special schools
- Capacities, facilities and accessibility at Wiltshire special schools
- Post-16 education for pupils with SEN
- Residential care for children with SLD in Wiltshire

The Committee is asked to endorse the report of the Task Group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and other parties where appropriate for response.

9 **Interim report of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group**  
(Pages 29 - 32)

A report updating the Committee on the work of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group since it was established on 29 March 2012. The Task Group is chaired Cllr Jon Hubbard.

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

10 **The Role of Wiltshire Council in Informal Education** (Pages 33 - 66)

A report from the Service Director for Schools and Learning presenting the outcome of the consultation on adult education in Wiltshire. The consultation is now complete and the Committee is invited to consider the results, which will be presented to Cabinet in September 2012.

On 17 January 2012, Cabinet resolved that a review of the Council's informal adult learning provision be undertaken to ensure that it is appropriate to the needs of Wiltshire communities and the expectations of the Department of Business Innovation and Skill (DBIS). DBIS intended to pilot locally based "community learning trust" models to channel its future funding for adult education and to lead the planning of local provision. Cabinet also resolved to undertake a service-led consultation with service users, Area Boards, communities and partners on the development of a service to facilitate provision at a local level instead of the focus being on a fixed place of delivery.

The consultation has now taken place. The Committee is therefore asked to consider the four options for future delivery of informal adult education (presented in Appendix B) and the consultation responses received. The Committee may wish to submit comments or recommendations to Cabinet, who will consider this matter on 11 September.

11 **Update on the Academy Schools Programme** (Pages 67 - 80)

A report from the Service Director for Schools and Learning providing an update on the Academies Programme in Wiltshire. Appended to the report is the briefing paper 'Academy Types and Governance Models', which outlines the background to academies and free schools both nationally and locally and was

sent to all elected members on 25 May following a request from the Children's Services Select Committee.

The Committee are asked to consider the report and agree further action as appropriate.

12 **Coalition Changes update - May to July 2012** (Pages 81 - 88)

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

The Committee are asked to consider the report and agree areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.

13 **Forward Work Programme** (Pages 89 - 92)

The Committee is asked to note draft Forward Work Programme attached.

14 **Urgent Items**

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

15 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 September 2012, starting at 10.30am at the Council's Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

**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**

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## **CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE**

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### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2012 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM.**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Peggy Dow, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Cllr Russell Hawker, Mr J Hawkins, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Kim Hunte, KaylumHouse, Rev. A Kemp, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Mr N Owen, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Carole Soden and Dr M Thompson

#### **Also Present:**

Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE and Cllr Laura Mayes

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#### **1 Membership**

The membership of the Select Committee as appointed by Council at its annual meeting on 15 May 2012 was noted.

#### **2 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Bill Moss.

#### **3 Election of Chairman**

##### **Resolved:**

**To elect Cllr Carole Soden as Chairman of the Select Committee for the ensuing year.**

Cllr Carole Soden in the Chair

#### **4 Election of Vice-Chairman**

##### **Resolved:**

**To elect Cllr Jacqui Lay as Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee for the ensuing year.**

## **5 Declarations of Interest**

Mr Neil Owen, Mr John Hawkins and Mrs Kim Hunte each declared a personal interest in Item No. 10 – Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area task Group, because of their involvement with further education at St Edmund's School, Salisbury, St Joseph's School, Salisbury and Wiltshire College respectively.

They would each take part in the debate but Mr Neil Owen, as a Non-Elected Voting Member, would not vote.

## **6 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Peggy Dow and Sheila Parker as new members of the Committee and also Mr Kaylum House as the new Children's & Young People's representative.

## **7 Public Participation**

The Committee noted the rules on public participation and the manner in which the meeting would be held.

## **8 Terms of Reference**

The Select Committee noted the following terms of reference as agreed by Council at its meeting on 15 May 2012:-

- 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

The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that a review of the scrutiny committee structure had been undertaken which culminated in Council agreeing a new committee structure as circulated. Although the revised structure appeared rather similar to the previous structure there were some significant changes as follows:-

(1) The new Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee would sit above three select committees, viz. Children's, Environment and Health.

(2) The Management Committee would have the following two functions:-



- (i) To undertake scrutiny of corporate issues (as before), and
- (ii) To manage the overall O & S work programme.

**Resolved:**

**To note the new Overview & Scrutiny Committee structure and the Children's Select Committee's terms of reference as agreed by Council on 15 May 2012.**

**9 Legacy Issues and Development of Future Work Programme**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that there would shortly be compiled a single O & S work programme which would be coordinated by the Management Committee. It was envisaged that it would choose what scrutiny activities the select committees would undertake but the Management Committee recognised these committees, being the experts in their individual areas, would propose work topics which the Management Committee would then approve.

Each Select Committee was being asked to prioritise its work programme in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors and ensure that they were closely linked to the Council's Business Plan. The results of this exercise would then be considered by the Management Committee at its next meeting on 17 July 2012 which was scheduled to be held before the next meeting of this Select Committee on 26 July 2012.

During discussion Members stressed the importance of recognising that the scrutiny function should be proactive and not responsive in policy development and accordingly that Cabinet should involve the scrutiny function at an early stage in the process.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To note the core scrutiny values as adopted by the Management Committee.**
- (2) To request the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Director, to compile a priority list of items from the Select Committee's existing work programme for consideration by the Management Committee at its next meeting.**

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

Dr Mike Thompson, the Chairman of the Task Group, gave a presentation by way of introduction to the Task Group's report on further education in the Salisbury area.

Dr Thomson explained that this Task Group had been established to undertake a review of the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area, following on from a visit by several members of the Committee to three secondary schools 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.

Mrs Jenny Lawrie, Headteacher of The Trafalgar School, Downton then addressed the Committee setting out her views and those of the School's Governing Body on the Task Group's recommendations. She stated that:-

- The report misrepresented the School's views, suggesting that the needs of the students at that School would be served simply by their not having to travel long distances to Salisbury for post 16 education. She went on to explain that although it could well be disadvantageous to the area to lose so many young people to Hampshire provision, there was evidence to show that these students were not educationally disadvantaged by receiving their post 16 education in Hampshire.
- The report made no mention of the School's candidature for the Middle Years Programme of The International Baccalaureate (IB) which would lead perfectly on to the IB's post 16 qualification – the higher regarded Diploma. There was a clear gap in the Salisbury area for an international curriculum. The School's aim was to offer the IB Diploma.
- A significant proportion of secondary school students in Salisbury wished to remain at their individual schools for their post 16 education where they felt a sense of belonging, whereas there was evidence to show that some students found transition to a new school and joining an existing cohort difficult. Students from The Trafalgar School would continue to prefer to study at the Hampshire Colleges rather than to attend a new facility in Salisbury.

- The report suggested that students at The Trafalgar School would be the only 16 year olds in the Salisbury area who would not be able to stay on at their school for post 16 education. Bearing in mind the stated policy in Wiltshire was for every secondary school to offer education to 11-18 year old students, the Board of Governors at The Trafalgar School were aghast that this policy appeared to have been ignored by the Task Group and thus lead to the isolating of this School to a less favoured status and therefore threaten its future viability.

Dr Thompson confirmed that the Task Group was most impressed by what was seen on its visit to the School and assured Mrs Lawrie that her School's concerns would form part of the submission to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and that the needs of the School would be taken into account.

Cllr Lionel Grundy confirmed that discussions were already being held with representatives from the Laverstock schools and also the College to take this forward.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:-

- Young people from the south west of Wiltshire, especially from the Mere and Tisbury areas, were attending secondary schools in Dorset at Gillingham and Shaftesbury, this arrangement having been formalised as part of the three tier review of education in the south of Wiltshire several years ago.
- There was an apparent lack of understanding amongst parents as to what sixth form facilities were available in Wiltshire. It was important that the services in Wiltshire were adequately marketed. How many sixth form places in Wiltshire remained unfilled and how many students chose to undertake their sixth form studies outside of the County?
- A suggestion was made that sixth form provision be made at Amesbury, Salisbury and Downton but it was recognised that there were considerable financial restraints on what could be provided.

Dr Thompson reported that a good proportion of students interviewed had expressed the desire to continue with their sixth form studies within Wiltshire. However, if all the sixth form places in Wiltshire were taken up there would still be a shortage of 500 places.

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, welcomed the report and considered it a useful document to share with the Education Funding Agency. She explained that the Local Authority was not the strategic commissioner of sixth form provision.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To express the Select Committee's thanks to Dr Thompson and the Task Group for producing an excellent and comprehensive report and to Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer for drafting the document.**
- (2) To endorse the final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group and refer its recommendations, together with the concerns expressed by the Headteacher and Board of Governors of The Trafalgar School, Downton, to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response at the Select Committee's meeting on 26 July 2012.**

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

The Select Committee received a report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director which provided an overview of Wiltshire's readiness to meet the new statutory duties for Local Authorities set out in the Education & Skills Act 2008, to Raise the Participating Age (RPA). These duties would increase the minimum age at which young people in England could leave learning, requiring them to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turned 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015. The report was requested at the last meeting of the Children's Services Select Committee.

It was noted that the requirements of the 2008 Act required young people to choose one of the following options:-

- Full-time education, including school sixth form, college or home education.
- Work-placed learning, such as Apprenticeship.
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

After discussion,

**Resolved:**

- (1) To note the contents of the report.**

- (2) **To request a short update at the November meeting of the Select Committee and a further more detailed report in 12 months' time.**

12 **Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and LAC Services and DfE Adoption Scorecard**

Consideration was given to a report by 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 Scorecard.

It was noted that Wiltshire's safeguarding services overall effectiveness was graded by Ofsted as inadequate but its capacity for improvement was graded as adequate. The overall effectiveness of Wiltshire's looked after children's services was graded as adequate and its capacity for improvement was graded as good.

The report set out the measures that had been, or was about to be put in place to deal with the weaknesses Ofsted had identified. It was anticipated that Ofsted would carry out a re-inspection within a year.

It was noted that a Task Group had been set up to look at Safeguarding Children & Young People and this Task Group was already focusing specifically on the results and implications of the Ofsted report. Cllr Hubbard, Chairman of the Task Group, stated that the Task Group would welcome input from other Members of this Select Committee either by attendance at meetings or by submitting their views. He also undertook to provide the Select Committee with regular updates.

After discussion,

**Resolved:**

- (1) **To note the contents of the report.**
- (2) **To receive regular progress reports from the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group.**

13 **Coalition update March to May 2012**

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

Arising therefrom:

- School Funding Reform Mr J Hawkins reported that as part of these new funding arrangements, the service children's allowance was disappearing. This was confirmed but the Committee was informed that discussions were taking place with officials at the Department for Education bearing in mind that Wiltshire contained the second highest number of service families in the UK.

#### 14 **Report of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise**

The Select Committee received a report presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise which had been established by the Children's Services Select Committee on 29 March 2012. It had met on 11 May 2012 and elected Cllr Jon Hubbard as Lead Member.

Cllr Hubbard introduced his report and explained the recommendations which were as follows:-

1. The Rapid Scrutiny Group welcomes the proposed six month review of the reconfigured Family Information Service, but recommends that a wider subset of agencies, partners and service users be involved, including the Police, health visitors, voluntary groups (such as the Trussell Trust), nurseries, pre-schools and the providers of the Family Information Service;
2. The Rapid Scrutiny Group is concerned that
  - a) those children and families previously or currently receiving outreach services from Ask must be 'picked up' by outreach services provided by children centres;
  - b) the potential benefits of a 'one stop shop' for family information should not be lost as a result of this service reconfiguration;
  - c) the reconfigured Family Information Service must be monitored to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of vulnerable users;

and therefore recommends that the Council and Ask work closely together to ensure that these concerns are addressed, including in the proposed six month review of the reconfigured service.

Mr Keith Hillman, representing ASK, confirmed that ASK was fully committed to working with the Council and supported the recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny Group.

After discussion,

**Resolved:**

**To endorse the recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny exercise and refer them to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response.**

**15 Multi-Agency Thresholds document - update**

Consideration was given to a report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director which provided an update on progress on the implementation of the Multi-Agency Thresholds Document. It was noted that this document had been distributed to schools and other partner agencies in July 2011 to provide a framework for integrated working within Children's Services and to provide guidance on whether children and young people's needs should be met in universal, targeted or specialist services. This had first been brought to the Children's Services Select Committee in September 2011 and Members had requested an update in six months' time.

After discussion,

**Resolved:**

**To note the update.**

**16 Task Group update**

The Select Committee received an update on the activity of the following Task Groups:-

- Placements for LAC Task Group
- Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group
- Major Contracts Task Group

**Resolved:**

**(1) To agree/note:**

- (i) That the Placements for LAC Task Group is replaced by the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group and that this be a Standing Task Group;**
- (ii) That the Task Group will focus on scrutinising safeguarding arrangements, but will retain the ability to consider LAC issues by exception;**

(iii) The following terms of reference as adopted by the Task Group:

a) To monitor and scrutinise implementation of the improvements to safeguarding arrangements required by Ofsted following its inspection of Wiltshire's Safeguarding and LAC Services in March 2012;

b) To support Wiltshire Council and its partner agencies in developing robust safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Wiltshire;

c) To monitor and scrutinise the impact of safeguarding arrangements in Wiltshire on outcomes for children and young people; and

d) To monitor and scrutinise the implementation of the Children in Care Commissioning Strategy and its impact on outcomes for Wiltshire's looked after children and their families/carers.

(iv) That Cllr Hubbard has been elected as Chairman of the Task Group;

(v) That Cllrs P Colmer and H Osborn have withdrawn from the Task Group and that Cllrs C Soden and B Wayman have joined the Task Group, therefore the new membership is:

Cllr Andrew Davis  
Cllr Jon Hubbard  
Revd. Alice Kemp  
Cllr Bill Moss  
Cllr Carole Soden  
Cllr Bridget Wayman

(vi) That the Chairman of the Task Group will sit on the Safeguarding Improvement Board in order to maximise communication and collaboration between the two groups.

(2) To note the contents of the report.

## 17 Forward Work Programme

The Select Committee received the Forward Work Programme for consideration and comment.

**Resolved:**



18 **To note the Committee's Forward Work Programme.  
Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items of business.

19 **Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved:**

**To note that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 26 July 2012, starting at 10.30am, at Monkton Park. Chippenham.**

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.30 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](mailto:roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Services Select Committee 26 July 2012

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#### **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Scrutiny Task Group**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the Executive's response to the final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Scrutiny Task Group (May 2012).

#### **Action Required of the Committee**

2. To note the Executive's responses and agree further action as appropriate.

#### **Background**

3. In September 2010, the Children's Services Select Committee established a task group to undertake a review of the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area. This was to become the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group. The Task Group was, in summary, 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. At the Meeting of Children's Select Committee 31 May 2012 the Committee endorsed the final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group and referred its recommendations, together with the concerns expressed by the Headteacher and Board of Governors of The Trafalgar School, Downton, to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response at the Select Committee's meeting on 26 July 2012.

## Task Group Recommendations and Executive Responses

### Developing sixth form provision in central Salisbury

*Select Committee 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.”

**Executive response:**

- (i) Officers have acted swiftly and held initial meetings on 18.06.12 and 10.07.12 with the Head teachers of the schools on the Laverstock Campus regarding future strategic planning for the site. Further meetings are planned and will include other key providers.
- (ii) Initial discussions have been held with Wiltshire College and more detailed discussions are already taking place between the College and the Schools on the Laverstock Campus regarding the potential to establish a Post 16 partnership with the College franchising funded places to the partnership. (With this strategy the College will remain responsible for the provision, although the local management would be on the Laverstock Campus schools)
- (iii) For the medium to longer term developments officers will work with the Schools, the College, Education Funding Agency (EFA) and Department for Education to explore all other potential opportunities for Post 16 provision in the Salisbury area including the potential of; Individual Sixth Form development, a University Technical College, and/or 16-19 Free School options.

*Select Committee recommendation:*

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

**Executive response:**

- (i) An initial meeting between Local Authority Officers and the Education Funding Agency took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July to share the report and establish the EFA’s initial reaction to the findings and recommendations within the report.
- (ii) The EFA were unable to respond at the time regarding available capital funding and further meetings are planned. With regard to revenue funding, the EFA confirmed that the use of funding on a lagged learner basis would allow for student numbers to grow under a franchise

partnership with Wiltshire College. Discussions to date indicate there is no obvious development funding available at this time.

- (iii) The EFA were unable to comment in relation to the development of an independent Sixth Form being established on the Laverstock Campus; officers will however continue to seek a view/response in relation to this and the other potential developments.

### **Improving the 16-19 educational offer in the Salisbury area**

#### *Select Committee 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 & Maths, and Arts, Media & Publishing, at Hampshire providers;

and designs and agrees plans to encourage improvements in these areas.

#### **Executive response:**

- (i) Local Authority officers are exploring with the EFA how, within the statutory framework and available resource, it may be possible to respond in detail to bullet points a to c. In the meantime officers will work in partnership with all providers to effectively use the latest available data to inform decision making, including targeted improvement of provision.
- (ii) Officers are continuing to work in partnership with providers across the South Wiltshire area to support improvement to provision, especially where the qualification offer is not available in the identified curriculum areas. It is important to note however that it is not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council to design or implement plans in order to secure improvement within individual providers, especially in the FE, Training Provider or Academy sectors or for an LA maintained school who are not considered to be at risk or causing concern.

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

#### *Select Committee 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.

***Executive response:***

- (i) Local Authority officers are working and have facilitated a number of projects and campaigns to support the availability of information to young people and their parents and carers, including the 'Your Choices' website/App, leaflets, theatre tour, all at no cost to the user. More information can be found at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/choices](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/choices). Under the Raising Participation work this type of provision will continue.
- (ii) Economic Development, Economy and Enterprise within Wiltshire Council funded, in February 2012, an Apprenticeship Fair in Salisbury for young people, employers and providers. This created a valuable source of information, it is hoped that a similar event will be provided in 2013.
- (iii) Changes to statutory duties and responsibilities in relation to the provision of information advice and guidance coupled with the reduction in funding means that it is not possible for the Council to provide marketing and other information. This duty rests with the National Careers Service and individual providers, however officers will work with local providers to explore how further to support this recommendation.

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

*Select Committee 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.

***Executive response:***

- (i) Support is available to secondary schools and providers to develop the quality of their Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). This is a service offered at cost recovery as this is no longer a duty on the Local Authority.
- (ii) From September 2012 designated individual school level support will no longer be provided by the Council for CEIAG. Support for learners identified as vulnerable will continue to be provided via a Personal Adviser.
- (iii) Under the statutory responsibilities for Raising the Participation Age (RPA) the 'Your Choices' campaign aims to raise awareness of choices available for young people across Wiltshire. [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/choices](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/choices)

## Developing school sixth form provision to the north of Salisbury

*Select Committee 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.

**Executive response:**

- (i) An officer has been working to support this joint development over the last 18 months and has supported the development of the joint vision and the development of the existing action plan. The officer is continuing to work and support the development of this partnership and it remains part of the Post 16 Statement of Priorities.
- (ii) The Post 16 developments associated with Avon Valley College and The Stonehenge School have been raised with the EFA and will continue to be discussed with them into the future.

*Select Committee recommendation:*

7. The Children's Services 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.

**Executive response:**

- (i) Since the publication of this report the DfE have advised Wiltshire Council of the outcomes of the Priority Schools Building Programme. Wiltshire was successful in its application for two of its projects, including Wyvern College. Unfortunately the application for Stonehenge School was not seen as a priority in this round by the DfE. The Council will bring the application forward again should further rounds become available.

## Improving transport links and schemes

*Select Committee 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.

**Executive response:**

- (i) Officers from passenger transport working with education officers will continue to facilitate action with Wiltshire College and with other Post 16 providers to review processes and initiate potential changes to support access.

*Select Committee recommendation:*

9. Whilst recognising the challenging economic climate, Wiltshire College considers providing their own student transport service as is currently offered by some of its major competitors.

***No Executive response is provided as Wiltshire College will respond directly to this recommendation***

#### **16-19 Education funding inequalities between Wiltshire and Hampshire**

*Select Committee recommendation:*

10. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Chairman of the Children's Services 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.

***Executive response:***

- (i) I will consider the evidence in relation to the latest Post 16 Funding Guidance (released July 2012) and the differentials between authorities and respond as appropriate when the information is clearer.

#### **Connexions and YPLA student destination data disparities**

*Select Committee recommendation:*

11. 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.

***Executive response:***

- (i) This action is complete. The data provided by the former Connexions Service and used in the original report came directly from schools in the area and showed intended and actual destinations. This data was compared to the former Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA) data which includes those learners already accessing pre -16 education outside Wiltshire from the wider Salisbury area.

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

*Select Committee recommendation:*

12. 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.

***No Executive response is provided as Wiltshire College will respond directly to this recommendation***

### **Monitoring implementation of the Task Group's recommendations**

*Select Committee recommendation:*

**13.** 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; and

***Executive response:***

- (i) Wiltshire Council officers already work in a strong partnership with The Wessex Partnership (TWP) in planning and supporting developments within the Salisbury area, this includes funding a specialist 13-19 officer post within the TWP. In the future it is anticipated that officers of the council will work both with the TWP coordinator, Head teachers and Principals to support the delivery of the actions outlined in this paper.
- (ii) The strategic responsibility for 13-19 education is part of School Improvement within Schools and Learning. I have therefore asked Julie Cathcart as Head of School Improvement to take the strategic lead on these developments and have asked that Tina Pagett Coordinator for 13-19 Education and Skills to oversee the operational implementation of the actions.
- (iii) However, I am also conscious that this activity will be delivered in the context of the changing statutory responsibilities within the phase, reducing resource and increasing demands and expectations and have therefore asked officers to work realistically and keep me updated in relation to progress.

*Select Committee recommendation:*

The Children's Services Select Committee

- b. requests that the Cabinet Member's response to the Task Group's recommendations is accompanied by an action plan setting out how and when they will be implemented;

***Executive response:***

- (i) I am aware that officers have started developing the action plan but wish to do so in full collaboration with all 16-19 providers in the Salisbury area and the EFA to ensure that actions are realistic, timely and deliverable. This work is not yet complete as further discussions are required with both the providers and EFA, I anticipate the plan to be completed early in the Autumn term.

*Select Committee recommendations:*

- c. regularly monitors those actions and reconvenes the Task Group 12 months hence to undertake a rapid scrutiny exercise to consider progress and future plans; and
- d. disseminates the Task Group's report as widely as possible.

***No Executive responses required***

**Conclusion**

- 6. **Members are asked to:**
  - 1. **Note the above Executive's response to the final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Scrutiny Task Group; and**
  - 2. **Agree any further action as appropriate.**

---

**Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

**Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director**

**Appendices**

None

**Background documents**

Final Report of the Review of Further Education in the Salisbury Area Scrutiny Task Group

## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Select Committee

26 July 2012

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#### **Executive response to the report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise:**

#### **Family Information Service**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the Executive's response to the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise established by the Children's Services Select Committee on 26 March and held on 11 May. The recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise were endorsed by the Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

#### **Action Required of the Committee**

2. To note the Executive's responses and to agree any further action necessary.

#### **Background**

3. The Children's Services Select Committee established a rapid scrutiny exercise on 29 March following receipt of a report on the a review of the Family Information Service (FIS) and Parent Partnership Service (PPS). It was reported that the review 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 had been 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 29 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.
4. The Rapid Scrutiny Exercise took place on 11 May and on 31 May its report and recommendations were endorsed by the Committee and referred to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for response. The response is presented below.

## **Rapid Scrutiny Exercise Recommendations and Executive Responses**

### Recommendation 1

The Rapid Scrutiny Group welcomes the proposed six month review of the reconfigured Family Information Service, but recommends that a wider subset of agencies, partners and service users be involved, including the Police, health visitors, voluntary groups (such as the Trussell Trust), nurseries, pre-schools and the providers of the Family Information Service;

### Executive Response

The proposed review will take place between January and April 2013. The Children's Services Commissioning Team will ensure that a range of agencies/partners and service users have an opportunity to provide feedback on the reconfigured service. Service providers will be involved in a meeting at the beginning of the review.

The purpose of the review will be to look at how Family Information Services should be delivered from April 2014. In the current financial climate, the review will need to focus on ensuring that the Council continues to meet its statutory responsibilities whilst providing best value for money. The review will include research on how Family Information Services are being delivered in other authorities.

### Recommendation 2

The Rapid Scrutiny Group is concerned that

- a) those children and families previously or currently receiving outreach services from Ask must be 'picked up' by outreach services provided by children centres;
- b) the potential benefits of a 'one stop shop' for family information should not be lost as a result of this service reconfiguration;
- c) the reconfigured Family Information Service must be monitored to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of vulnerable users;

and therefore recommends that the Council and Ask work closely together to ensure that these concerns are addressed, including in the proposed six month review of the reconfigured service.

### Executive Response

The Children's Services Commissioning Team will continue to work closely with Ask and other providers to ensure that families with different information needs are able to access the information they require. All providers will be monitoring telephone calls and visits to their website and will be recording any feedback from service users.

Children's Centres, Health Visitors and other front line professionals such as Parenting Support Advisors will continue to ensure that vulnerable parents receive the information and help they need. The work of Children's Centres and Health Visitors is monitored through contract management processes led by the local authority and the Primary Care Trust. The monitoring of contracts includes looking at how well services meet the needs of vulnerable parents.

## **Conclusion**

**Members are asked to:**

**Note the above Executive's response to the report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise for the Family Information Service and agree any further action as appropriate.**

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**Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE – Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

**Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director**

Report author: Julie Cramp, Joint Director for Commissioning and Performance

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1      Report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Family Information Service

## **Background documents**

None

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**Report of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise:  
Family Information Service**

**Purpose**

1. To present the conclusions and recommendations of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise established by the Children's Services Select Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> March and held on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Background**

2. On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Children's Services Select Committee received a report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on the Family Information Service and Parent Partnership Service review. This report had been requested by the Chairman of the Committee and is attached at Appendix 1.
3. A review of the Family Information Service (FIS) and Parent Partnership Service (PPS) had been stated as a priority in the Family and Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet in November 2010. The report provided a summary of this review and subsequent dialogue with the then provider of the services, a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCO) organisation called Ask. The services in question covered general information for parents and carers, child care information and information/advocacy for families with a disabled child or a significant special educational need.
4. 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. The Family and Parenting Support Commissioning Group 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. A number of meetings with Ask took place to discuss current service delivery, future service requirements and funding levels.
5. At the time of the Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

6. The Rapid Scrutiny Exercise was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, with the following members taking part:

Cllr Mary Douglas

Cllr Jon Hubbard

Cllr Bill Moss

Lead Member for the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise

7. The following officers attended to answer members' questions:

Julia Cramp

Matthew Look

Service Director for Commissioning and Performance

Senior Procurement and Contracts Officer

8. The Rapid Scrutiny Group were provided with a report giving an update on discussions with Ask regarding the proposed changes to the Family Information Service. Ask had accepted the offer of a contract extension to continue to provide the Family Information Service for 2012/13 and 2013/14. Ask had made it clear that it would use its reserves to continue to provide additional support for parents over and above requirements set out by the Council in both previous service specifications and the revised specification.

### **Summary of discussions**

9. It was reported that the development of the Family and Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy had provided an opportunity to look at Family Information Services holistically and strategically, and the service duplications being discussed had been identified as a result of that process.

### **Outreach services**

10. It was reported that prior to the review, Ask had been undertaking outreach work with families, but had not been contracted by the Council to do so. This may have been due to the Council's contract with Ask including a requirement to meet the Council's Section 12 'advice and guidance' statutory duty, with providing outreach possibly being viewed by Ask as one component of doing so.
11. It was reported that Ask were now being asked to 'sign-post' users to the children's centres. Members noted that a report brought to the Major Contracts Task Group indicated that the Council was not meeting its targets in terms of the percentage of children being registered by children's centres (in 2011/12 the children's centres registered on average 57% of the children in their reach against a target of 60%). Members were therefore concerned that children and families previously or currently receiving outreach services from Ask could potentially slip through the net.



### 'One stop shop'

12. It was reported that some local authorities (e.g. Swindon Borough Council) provide all of their family information services through their customer care team.

It was reported that under Wiltshire Council's new service configuration, every team involved in the Family Information Service had clear roles in terms of what information they were expected to provide. The Early Years and Childcare Team would now be providing all childcare information, which it was their statutory duty to hold anyway. One employee of Ask would be TUPE'd across as part of the revised contract to help provide this information to customers.

Members noted that holding statutory information is not the same as communicating it effectively to customers. It was pointed out that parents 'don't know what they don't know'. Members expressed general concern that the benefit of having a 'one stop shop', providing a wide array of child and parenting information, was that users could be more effectively sign-posted to other services and that breaking up this gateway could ultimately lead to less joined-up provision. The new approach was seen as akin to cutting out the GP, who provides the initial diagnosis and signposts to a range of services, and instead sending patients directly to the consultants, who will only operate within their specialism.

### Parent survey

13. As part of the review of the FIS, officers had conducted an online survey to establish parents' current use of the Family Information Service (FIS) at Ask, to establish how parents prefer to look for or be given information and to request their ideas on shaping the service for the future. The results were provided to the Rapid Scrutiny Group.
14. The survey found that the most popular way to access information on childcare, local activities and other family issues was the internet. However, members expressed concern that the results of any survey conducted online were very likely to be skewed towards the internet. It was reported that the results of the survey had not been heavily relied upon to draw conclusions and that it had also been possible to take part in the survey over the telephone or by submitting paper responses.

### Other issues

15. It was reported that a the revised contract with Ask would be monitored through the normal contract monitoring processes. The Early Years and Childcare Team were monitoring the numbers of calls they received and the Service Director was in regular contact with the Revenues and Benefits team regarding customer queries about childcare benefits etc, which it was estimated totalled approximately 90 calls per month.

16. It was reported that some costs (as well as savings) would result from the reconfiguration of the FIS: The TUPE arrangements for transferring a member of Ask staff to the Council; and a small investment to upgrade the Wiltshire Parent Council's website to enable it to deliver its new service effectively.

17.

### **Recommendations**

1. **The Rapid Scrutiny Group welcomes the proposed six month review of the reconfigured Family Information Service, but recommends that a wider subset of agencies, partners and service users be involved, including the Police, health visitors, voluntary groups (such as the Trussell Trust), nurseries, pre-schools and the providers of the Family Information Service;**

2. **The Rapid Scrutiny Group is concerned that**

a) **those children and families previously or currently receiving outreach services from Ask must be 'picked up' by outreach services provided by children centres;**

b) **the potential benefits of a 'one stop shop' for family information should not be lost as a result of this service reconfiguration;**

c) **the reconfigured Family Information Service must be monitored to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of vulnerable users;**

**and therefore recommends that the Council and Ask work closely together to ensure that these concerns are addressed, including in the proposed six month review of the reconfigured service.**

**Cllr Jon Hubbard – Lead Member for the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise**

**Paul Kelly – Scrutiny Manager and Designated Scrutiny Officer**

Report author: Henry Powell – Senior Scrutiny Officer

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### **Background documents**

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1      Report to Children's Services Select Committee, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012  
'Family Information Service and Parent Partnership Service  
Review'

## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Select Committee

26 July 2012

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#### Interim report of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group (July 2012)

#### Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the work of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group since its establishment on 29 March 2012.

#### Background

2. The Task Group was formally established by the Committee on 29 March to undertake a review of safeguarding arrangements in Wiltshire – an area the Committee had not focused on previously. It was subsequently agreed that the existing Placements for LAC Task Group 'become' the new Safeguarding Task Group using its existing membership, in order to enable a quick start-up and to harness the experience of those members.
3. As well as a focus on safeguarding, the Task Group retains responsibility for looking at issues relating to Looked After Children (LAC). Its terms of reference are as follows:
  - a) To monitor and scrutinise implementation of the improvements to safeguarding arrangements required by Ofsted following its inspection of Wiltshire's Safeguarding and LAC Services in March 2012;
  - b) To support Wiltshire Council and its partner agencies in developing robust safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Wiltshire;
  - c) To monitor and scrutinise the impact of safeguarding arrangements in Wiltshire on outcomes for children and young people; and
  - d) To monitor and scrutinise the implementation of the Children in Care Commissioning Strategy and its impact on outcomes for Wiltshire's looked after children and their families/carers.
4. The Task Group's membership is:

Cllr Andrew Davis  
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)  
Rev Alice Kemp  
Cllr Bill Moss  
Cllr Carole Soden  
Cllr Bridget Wayman

### **Activity to date and forward work programme**

5. The Task Group has now met on three occasions with further meetings scheduled until November. These meetings have focused on the following objectives:
  - a) Understanding the 'safeguarding picture' – what responsibilities and functions Wiltshire Council and its partner agencies have in terms of safeguarding children and young people and how these are met
  - b) Understanding the particular weaknesses identified in the Ofsted Inspection report
  - c) Deciding which areas of safeguarding the Task Group wish to focus on during its review and how

#### Understanding the 'safeguarding picture'

6. Members of the Task Group have now undertaken safeguarding training delivered by the Community Safeguarding Head of Service. Safeguarding is a complex area and training was thought to be essential to give members an understanding of the relevant legislation and processes, which will enable them to conduct a more productive scrutiny review.
7. The Task Group plan to enlist the services of a safeguarding specialist to act as a consultant to the Task Group and guide its activities. This will be a person from outside of Wiltshire with no previous connection to the local authority in order to ensure independence. The Democratic Services department hold a small budget for funding independent expert advice for scrutiny reviews.
8. The Task Group also plan to enlist the help of an elected member who has undergone a similar scrutiny process in the past. This will also be a person from outside of Wiltshire. This will give the Task Group a member's perspective on the pitfalls of conducting a scrutiny review into safeguarding

services. The Task Group will discuss these appointments further at their meeting on 26 July.

9. The Task Group are in contact with two other local authorities in the South West that have recently received Ofsted grades of 'Good' for their safeguarding services. Members hope to visit these authorities' safeguarding teams to hear their views on what makes a good safeguarding service and understand what improvement measures might be applied in Wiltshire.
10. The Task Group will receive a briefing on the new Ofsted Inspection framework for safeguarding services, which focuses more on outcomes and 'the child's journey' than processes and performance statistics.

#### Understanding the weaknesses identified in the Ofsted Inspection report

11. The Task Group has received a detailed presentation from the Community Safeguarding Head of Service on progress with implementing improvements to the Council's Referral and Assessment (R&S) processes. R&A act as a triage service, responding to referrals from people who have concerns about a children and young people, and deciding the appropriate course of action. Weaknesses to these processes were identified in the Ofsted inspection report.
12. The Task Group has received briefings on the recruitment of further Referral and Assessment staff, extra R&A staff training, managing the backlog of R&A cases that developed following an increase in referrals after the Inspection report, and the results of the internal audit of cases currently in the R&A system.
13. The Task Group intends to meet with groups of teachers, SENCOs, youth workers and other staff working with children to discuss their experiences of referring cases to the Council's R&A team.
14. The Task Group intends to meet groups of frontline R&A staff in order to understand their perspectives on the weaknesses identified in the Inspection report and their suggestions for how to improve these.
15. The Ofsted Inspection report includes measures for improvement for the local health services and for Wiltshire Police Authority, as well as for the Council. The Task Group is still considering where and how it can be effective in scrutinising the issues highlighted in the report in regards to these partner agencies.

16. The Chairman of the Task Group also sits on the Safeguarding Improvement Board (SIB), whose membership includes the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Children Services, Wiltshire Police and representatives from the local Health bodies. The SIB was established following the Ofsted inspection to assess evidence of improvement and direct action and its work is monitored by the Department for Education (DfE). The Chairman's membership of the SIB ensures better communication between these two bodies and prevents duplication of work.
17. The Task Group keeps informed of progress with the implementation of all the improvements required by Ofsted by receiving updates on the Safeguarding Improvement Plan – the key document of the Safeguarding Improvement Board. The Task Group also receives the weekly bulletins that are now sent to all Wiltshire Council social care staff.

## **Proposal**

**The Committee is asked to note the update on the work of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group.**

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**Cllr Jon Hubbard – Chairman of the Placements for LAC Task Group**

**Paul Kelly – Designated Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Manager**

Report author: Henry Powell – Senior Scrutiny Officer

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## **Appendices**

None

## **Background documents**

Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and LAC Services – March 2012

## Wiltshire Council

### Children's Select Committee

26 July 2012

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## The Role of Wiltshire Council in Informal Adult Education

### Purpose of Report

1. This report presents the outcome of the consultation on adult education in Wiltshire which has been undertaken and invites the Select Committee to make recommendations on the result of the consultation which will be presented to the cabinet in September 2012.

### Background

2. At its meeting held on 17 January 2012 Cabinet received a report on the Proposed Creation of Central Devizes Customer Access Point and the Closure of Browfort, Urchfont Manor and Bradley Road Buildings. The cabinet resolved:
  - i. To delegate to Dr Carlton Brand, Corporate Director, in consultation with Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Campus Development and Culture (including Leisure, Sport and Libraries) the authority to :-
    - i. undertake all necessary actions to secure, develop and deliver a new customer access site in central Devizes as well as providing hot desk facilities and an alternative Ceremony Room in the Devizes area;
    - ii. instruct officers within the Transformation Programme to commence the necessary consultation with key stakeholders and staff to enable the closure of Browfort offices during autumn 2012;
    - iii. complete the early closure of Bradley Road in autumn 2012, ensuring the relocation of the current customer access facility to the refurbished County Hall ensuring these complement the new Library and other customer facilities within the refurbished building;
    - iv. undertake the required actions to secure the closure of Urchfont Manor by the end of September 2012. Recognising that future Adult Education Service provision including, where required, local flexible delivery in line with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills strategic proposals for Further Education and Skills, will be determined by Cabinet after consultation with service users, area boards, local communities and partners;

- v. market and dispose of the Bradley Road offices and Urchfont Manor sites as part of the Transformation Programme;
  - vi. market and dispose of the Browfort offices site if officers cannot develop an appropriate, financially viable, alternative long term public service use for the site, such as use by another public body or Extra Care provision;
  - vii. ask the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that the overall savings generated by these proposals are identified and tracked within the council's budget setting process and the costs of the alternative provision is properly reflected and funded in the council's capital and revenue budgets;
- ii. That when disposing of Urchfont Manor, officers working with the community, take whatever steps are necessary to ensure continued community access and management of Oakfrith Wood, appropriate ongoing access by the school and community to the playing fields to the north of the Manor House and as far as is practicable, long term use of the existing cricket pitch by the Cricket Club. These arrangements are to be structured after negotiation with the successful purchaser in a manner that allows the council to achieve the maximum capital receipt whilst ensuring ongoing community use and access with completion of these negotiations to be delegated to the Corporate Director (Dr Carlton Brand) following consultation with the Cabinet member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services.
3. The cabinet confirmed its decisions at an extraordinary meeting held on 30 January 2012 following a request from the Organisation and Resources Select Committee that Cabinet reconsider the decision to close Urchfont Manor College in light of inadequate consultation, as defined within paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Cabinet procedure rules in Part 7 of the Constitution.'

### **The Consultation Process**

4. The consultation with service users, area boards, local communities and partners has been undertaken by the Service Director for Schools and Learning in association with the Corporate Director of Public Health and Public Protection Services and comprised two parts:
- i. A questionnaire survey for completion by service users and members of the public to gather information on the demand for, and type of, adult education which could be provided. The questionnaire is reproduced at Appendix A.

The survey was publicised by local media and could be completed on-line or on paper with copies being available from public libraries and the council's hub offices. Additionally, individual copies were sent to 6,688 students and tutors of Urchfont Manor College. A total of 1741 completed questionnaires were returned, 286 on-line and 1455 paper. Of these 719 were from respondents who could be identified as being



Wiltshire residents.

- ii. A consultation paper on the role of the council in respect of adult education was prepared for consideration by area boards and education providers. The report is reproduced at Appendix B.

The report was considered as a full agenda item and recommendations made by 11 of the 18 area boards.

A slightly amended version of the report was sent to all maintained secondary schools (including academies); eight independent schools, Wiltshire College and three other adult education providers. Two responses have been received which came from adult education providers.

### Consultation Responses

5. A report on the responses to the questionnaire survey is attached as Appendix C. Copies of the additional comments received are available on-line from the council's website.
6. The survey sought information on 14 topics. The summary responses from Wiltshire Residents were as follows:

1	Age Bracket	Over 80% are aged 55 or over
2	Participation	44% attended Urchfont Manor College in the past year. 29% have not participated in the past year
3	What matters most	Interest in topic (86%); Affordable price (77%); Within 5 miles of home (39%)
4	Price prepared to pay	£50 for full day (80%)
5	Price for residential accommodation	£50 (61%) Not interested in a residential course 24%
6	Prepared to travel	Up to 20 miles 76%
7	Residential accommodation	At the course venue 63% Would not like residential 30%
8	Duration of residential course	3 days 46%; 2 days 45%
9	Duration of non-residential course	Full day of 6 hours tuition 64%
10	Preferred subject/topic	Crafts (62%); Art and Design (59%)
11	Preferred source of information	Direct from providers 67% Internet 56%
12	Able to find all local activities in one place	Yes, on the internet 48%
13	Preferred venues	Schools and colleges (79%) Village and community halls (73%)
14	Refreshments	Basic refreshments only 42%

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7. The summary responses from respondents who could not be identified as Wiltshire residents were as follows:

1	Age Bracket	Over 80% are aged 55 or over
2	Participation	49% attended Urchfont Manor College in the past year. 25% have not participated in the past year
3	What matters most	Interest in topic (80%); Affordable price (69%); Staying at the venue to share experience (52%)
4	Price prepared to pay	£50 for full day (84%)
5	Price for residential accommodation	£50 (73%) Not interested in a residential course 13%
6	Prepared to travel	Over 20 miles 58%
7	Residential accommodation	At the course venue 76% Would not like residential 18%
8	Duration of residential course	3 days 47%; 2 days 56%
9	Duration of non-residential course	Full day of 6 hours tuition 76%
10	Preferred subject/topic	Crafts (60%); Art and Design (56%)
11	Preferred source of information	Direct from providers 73% Internet 52%
12	Able to find all local activities in one place	Yes, on the internet 48%
13	Preferred venues	Schools and colleges (71%) Village and community halls (59%)
14	Refreshments	Basic refreshments only (34%); Light refreshments (34%)

8. The responses from Wiltshire residents and those from elsewhere are broadly similar apart from their views on the importance of residential education. 52% of respondents from outside Wiltshire consider this to be one of the three most important factors (Figure 3) as opposed to 34% of Wiltshire residents. 30% of Wiltshire respondents do not wish to attend a residential course whereas this applies to 18% of respondents from outside the county. (Figure 7). This difference is maintained in the related topics of paying for accommodation, travelling distance, course duration and the provision of refreshments (Figures 5, 7, 8, 9 and 14).
9. The recommendations from area boards are summarised as Appendix 4.
10. Nine area boards support Option 3 : Wiltshire Council to facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level. This would involve community networks and other groups identifying demand for adult education

in each area and the council working with education providers to meet the identified demand. This option is supported by the survey which indicates that 62% of Wiltshire residents do not wish to travel more than 20 miles and for 39% being within five miles is an important factor.

11. Five of the nine boards supporting Option 3, plus one other, support Option 4: Wiltshire Council to coordinate and promote informal adult learning opportunities offered across the county. Activities being offered by different providers would be collated and indexed by community area. Small education providers would be able to promote their activities to a wide audience at low cost possibly encouraging new providers. The survey shows that 80% of respondents would like to be able to find information on all learning opportunities in their area in one place in printed form or on the internet.
12. Comments from the two education providers both favour Option 3 with some support for Option 4
13. The proportion of area boards and education providers who did not respond is significant and may indicate interest in the council's role in adult education, and adult education more generally, to be a low priority for them. However, implementation of options 3 or 4 would require the active participation of community networks and education providers.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

14. Informal Adult Education is a non-statutory service for a local authority meaning that the council is able to decide the extent of its involvement in the planning and provision of the service.
15. In comparison with many other areas, Wiltshire does not have a history of local authority involvement in the local provision of adult education as it has preferred to concentrate its provision from the fixed location of Urchfont Manor College. As such it has no existing adult education service from which to build a new offer. The council must now decide whether to continue to support the direct delivery of adult education or to adopt a different role.
16. The financial pressures upon the council suggest that any new role should be largely self-financing although it may be necessary for financial support to be given initially.
17. Option 3 would support the council's vision to create stronger and more resilient communities by facilitating provision on demand which has been identified at a local level. Some local communities already arrange adult education provision themselves.
18. The Department for Business Industry and Skills has selected a small number of adult education providers to pilot a variety of approaches aimed to focus the identification of need, and provision, at a community level, although the size of the pilot "communities" vary. However, it is expected that government funding for adult education will be available only to larger providers from

2013. Wiltshire will need to join together with partners if it is to be able to attract government funding in future.

### **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

19. The environmental impact of a change in the council's support for adult education will primarily relate to travel. A locally-based service would reduce the length of journeys but this may be affected by an increase in the number of journeys relating to more frequent attendance.
20. The withdrawal of provision could lead to a reduction in travel if participants find no alternative or an increase if they have to travel further to access provision elsewhere.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

21. The equalities impact of a change in the council's support for adult education will primarily increase access for more deprived groups. A locally-based service would be more attuned to the needs of a community and the reduction in travel will make activities more accessible.
22. Although a comprehensive analysis of existing service users has not been undertaken it can be seen from the responses to the consultation that the majority are aged over 55, many travel from outside Wiltshire and are prepared to pay to attend. Therefore, the withdrawal of the existing provision would impact most heavily on older people. It is believed that few disadvantaged individuals, or those from minority groups, access the current provision.

### **Risk Assessment**

23. Establishing a new service on a self-financing basis would introduce the risk of failing to attract sufficient income to meet the costs of the service. The financial model for such a service will need to be developed to assess and reduce the financial risk to the council.
24. Withdrawal of the service could present a risk to the well-being of existing service users. Such a risk is impossible to quantify.

### **Financial Implications**

25. It is expected that any new service will have to be self-financing and therefore will not place any financial pressure upon the council.
26. If the service is withdrawn, there will be no financial implications.

### **Legal Implications**

27. There are no legal implications which need to be taken into consideration at the present time.

## **Options Considered**

28. Options considered are as set out in Appendix B.

## **Conclusions**

29. That Cabinet be invited to determine Wiltshire Council's future role in respect of informal adult education from the following options:

- i. to take no action and have no role in respect of informal adult education;
- ii. to facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level.
- iii. To coordinate and promote informal adult learning opportunities offered across the county.

## **Proposal**

30. That the Children's Select Committee comment upon the findings of the consultation on adult education and the proposals to be presented to Cabinet.

## **Reason for Proposal**

31. The proposal is made in the interests of transparent decision making.

**Stephanie Denovan**  
**Service Director, Schools and Learning**

---

Report Author:  
Simon Burke  
Head of Business and Commercial Services  
Tel. 01225 713840  
E-Mail: [simon.burke@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.burke@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Date of report: 17 July 2012

## **Background Papers**

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

'None'

## **Appendices**

- A. Survey Questionnaire
- B. Report to Area Boards
- C. Report of Questionnaire Survey
- D. Recommendations from Area Boards

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## Adult Education in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council is undertaking a review of its provision and support of adult education across the county.

Currently, the council offers adult education through public libraries, its Family Learning team and at Urchfont Manor College (which is due to close in September 2012). Other providers who offer informal adult education include Wiltshire College, The Workers' Educational Association and Learning Curve, in addition to which there is a huge range of activities organised by groups and individuals which takes place in communities across the county.

Understanding the needs of individuals and the perception of informal adult learning in our communities is essential if the council is to be able to support and facilitate the provision of activities to meet those needs.

This consultation will inform cabinet on the role which the council will take to support opportunities for informal adult learning in Wiltshire.

### About you

Q1 Name .....

Q2 Post code of home address.....

Q3 Age

Under 18.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
18-24.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-34.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
35-44.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
45-54.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
55-64.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over 65.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Have you taken part in any adult education activity within the past year organised by the following? (please tick all that apply)

Wiltshire College .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urchfont Manor College .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workers' Education Association (WEA) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning Curve .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Bath.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other education provider (please name below).....	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have not taken part in any adult education activity in the past year but I may in the future .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have not taken part in any adult education activity in the past year and I am unlikely to in the future .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other education provider: .....	

## What matters most?

**Q5** What would encourage you to take part in more organised adult education activities? (please tick the three issues which are most important to you)

- Affordable prices .....
- Available within five miles of my home .....
- Having the option to stay away to reduce travelling .....
- Having the option of staying at the venue so that I can continue to share my experiences with other attendees outside of formal session time .....
- Topics I am interested in .....
- Better information on what is available .....
- High quality venues e.g. hotels .....

## Prices

**Q6** What is the maximum amount you would consider paying to attend a full-day (6 hours tuition) course in a subject which interests you? (please tick one option only)

- I would only attend a course which was free, even though I understand that my choice would be limited .....
- £25 .....
- £50 .....
- £75 .....
- Over £75 for the right course .....

**Q7** How much extra would you be prepared to pay for a residential day (i.e. evening meal, bed and breakfast) (please tick one option only)

- £25 .....
- £50 .....
- £75 .....
- Over £75 .....
- I would not be interested in taking part in a residential course .....

## Travel

**Q8** How far would you be prepared to travel to attend a full-day course which interests you? (please tick one option only)

- 0-5 miles .....
- 6-10 miles .....
- 11-20 miles .....
- Over 20 miles .....

## Duration

**Q9** Would you like to attend a residential course where you stay at or near where the course is being held? (please tick one option only)

- No .....
- Yes, to stay at the course venue (e.g. in a hotel or college) .....
- Yes, to stay near to the course venue (e.g. bed and breakfast) .....



- Q10** If you answered yes to question 9 above, how long would you like a course to be?  
(please tick all that apply)
- 2 days .....
  - 3 days .....
  - 4 days .....
  - 5 days .....
  - 6 days .....
  - 7 days .....
  - over 7 days.....

- Q11** What form would you prefer a non-residential course to take?  
(please tick one option only)
- Full days of six hours tuition each .....
  - Day or evening sessions of three hours each taking place in the same week ....
  - Day or evening sessions of three hours each taking place once a week across a number of weeks .....

## Content

- Q12** What subjects and topics might you take part in a course about?  
(please tick all that apply)
- Basic skills (e.g. literacy and numeracy) .....
  - Skills and knowledge which will help my career (e.g. computing and IT, childcare, management) .....
  - Art and design .....
  - Crafts.....
  - Languages .....
  - Construction and DIY .....
  - History and archaeology .....
  - Other, please specify - .....

## Information

- Q13** How would you prefer to find out about adult education opportunities  
(please tick all that apply)
- Advertisements in newspapers and magazines.....
  - Internet search .....
  - Direct from providers .....
  - Information in public libraries .....
  - Local advertisements (e.g. posters in shop windows or on the street) .....
  - Word of mouth .....
  - Other, please specify - .....
- Q14** Would you like to be able to find information on all adult education opportunities from different providers in your area in one place? (please tick one option only)
- No .....
  - Yes, on the internet.....
  - Yes, in printed form.....
  - Yes, in public libraries and other public buildings.....

## Suitable accommodation

**Q15**      **Where would you like adult education courses to be held?** (please tick all that apply)

- Schools and college premises .....
- Village and community halls.....
- Public libraries .....
- Wiltshire Council premises (e.g. leisure centres, community hubs) .....
- Hotels .....

**Q16**      **What refreshments would you like adult education courses to offer?**

(please tick one option only)

- No refreshments.....
- Basic refreshments (e.g. tea / coffee).....
- Light refreshments (e.g. sandwiches and cakes) .....
- Full meals (e.g. cooked lunch).....

**Thank you for completing this survey, if you have any other comments or suggestions please enter them below -**

**Q17**      **Other comments:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Please return this survey in the envelope provided by 19 June 2012. If you do not have an envelope please post it to:**

**Adult Education Consultation  
Post Room, County Hall  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 8JH**

## **INFORMAL ADULT EDUCATION IN WILTSHIRE**

### **What is Informal Adult Education?**

1. Informal adult education (also known as informal adult and/or community learning) refers to courses which are offered as leisure activities and not those which are focused on developing basic skills or qualifications relating to employment.

### **Why should we be concerned about Informal Adult Education?**

2. Informal Adult Education contributes to economic and social well-being in communities. It can help with a variety of objectives including:
  - adult social care
  - health and well-being
  - crime reduction and community safety
  - democratic engagement
  - economic development.

### **What does Wiltshire Council do?**

3. Currently, Wiltshire Council offers informal adult education through public libraries, its Family Learning Team and at Urchfont Manor College (which is due to close in September 2012).

### **Who else is involved?**

4. Other providers who offer informal adult education include Wiltshire College, the Workers' Educational Association and Learning Curve, in addition to which there is a huge range of activities organised by groups and individuals taking place in communities across the county.

### **Does the council have to provide it?**

5. Informal Adult Education is a non-statutory service for a local authority meaning that the council is able to decide the extent of its involvement in the planning and provision of the service.
6. Local Authorities may take a range of roles in relation to informal adult education, including direct delivery, strategic commissioning, shaping the new all age careers service, coordinating with the Work Programme and as key players in Local Enterprise Partnerships.

### **What does the Government do?**

7. The government, through the Department for Business, Industry and Skills (BIS), provides financial support for informal adult education (which it mostly refers to as "community learning"). The government's support for community learning in Wiltshire is much lower than that provided to other comparable local authorities. Government funding to Wiltshire Council currently supports the provision of Family Learning which is focused upon improving the basic skill level of parents to enable them to support their children's learning.

8. BIS is reviewing its strategy to support community learning and is intending to use the public funding subsidy to support access, and progression in its widest sense, especially for people who are disadvantaged.
9. In the 2012/13 BIS will pilot different locally-based 'community learning trust' models to channel funding and lead the planning of local provision in cities, towns and rural settings. If this proves to be effective the model will be rolled out across England to begin full operation from summer 2013. The new trusts are intended to take account of the views of local government, local communities and local business leaders to ensure the purpose and objectives for the budget are implemented in ways that meet local need.

### **Why are we being asked about Informal Adult Learning now?**

10. At its meeting in January, the council's cabinet decided to close Urchfont Manor by the end of September 2012 while recognising that future Adult Education Service provision, including local flexible delivery in line with the BIS proposals, will be determined by cabinet after consultation with service users, area boards, local communities and partners;
11. Wiltshire Council is taking this opportunity to undertake a review of its provision and support of informal adult education across the county.
12. This report seeks the views of the Area Boards on the council's future policy towards informal adult education.
13. The council is establishing a community campus in each community area. These premises could be used to offer accommodation for a variety of activities, including informal adult education.

### **Options for Consideration**

#### **14. Option 1 – Wiltshire Council to take no action in relation to informal adult education**

The council does not have to get involved with Informal Adult Education. There are a number of adult education providers which are able to offer activities as and when they wish. Some receive government funding to support their provision while others rely upon payments by participants or support from other sources. The council has no current budget of its own to support informal adult education.

For:

Activities organised by Wiltshire College and other providers will continue  
No financial risk to the council

Against:

Unable to seek government funding  
Council and communities have little influence over what is offered  
No continuation of activities run at Urchfont Manor College

15. Option 2 – Wiltshire Council to be a direct provider of informal adult education.

The council could continue to offer adult education direct to the public on a similar basis as the courses offered at Urchfont Manor College. The council would decide what would be offered, make all the arrangements and promote the courses. Unless a subsidy was available, the full cost would be charged to participants. Activities could be held on a residential basis, utilising suitable residential accommodation in the county, or on a non-residential basis.

For:

The council could use information from communities to decide what to offer  
Some courses from Urchfont Manor College could continue in different venues  
The council could ensure the quality of activities being provided.

Against:

Financial risk for the council  
Depends upon the ability of participants to pay  
The council will need to develop a system to organise courses, take bookings, etc.  
May be seen as being in competition with other providers

16. Option 3 – Wiltshire Council to facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level.

Rather than be the organiser and provider of activities, the council could work through its network of area boards and community area networks to identify the demand for specific informal adult education provision in each community area. The demands will include provision for leisure learning and that needed to reach disadvantaged members of the community. The council could establish partnerships with adult education providers to share this information and meet this demand. Providers would be able to offer activities with reduced risk and in venues to suit the participants.

This approach would require the active involvement of members of the community area networks if it is to be delivered in a affordable way.

For:

Uses expertise and experience of other providers  
Little financial risk to the council  
Reduced financial risk to providers  
Builds upon network of community areas  
Providers and council able to bid for BIS funding

Against:

Level of activity may vary from one area to another  
Will have to establish system to identify demand  
Different providers use different systems

17. Option 4 – Wiltshire Council to coordinate and promote informal adult learning opportunities offered across the county.

Currently, every provider publishes their own prospectus and promotes their activities independently. With the support of education providers, it may be possible to collate this information to provide a single compendium of informal adult education in Wiltshire, both residential and non-residential. Such a publication (available on-line) could not only serve to improve access to informal adult education but may also encourage more education providers who would be able to promote their activities in a cost-effective way.

For:

Single source of information for participants  
Joint promotion may increase take-up  
Providers able to reach more people  
Low cost to providers

Against:

Initial development costs  
Difficulty in linking to providers' systems  
Willingness of providers to contribute

**What do you think?**

18. The area board is invited to comment upon the options presented above.
19. The area board is invited to indicate which of the options it would wish to recommend to cabinet.

**Next Steps**

20. A questionnaire survey is available for completion by service users and members of the public.
21. The cabinet will receive a report in September 2012 on the outcome of the survey, together with the responses from area boards which will inform its decision on the council's strategy for informal adult education.

STEPHANIE DENOVAN  
SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

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Report Author: Simon Burke  
Head of Business and Commercial Services  
Schools and Learning

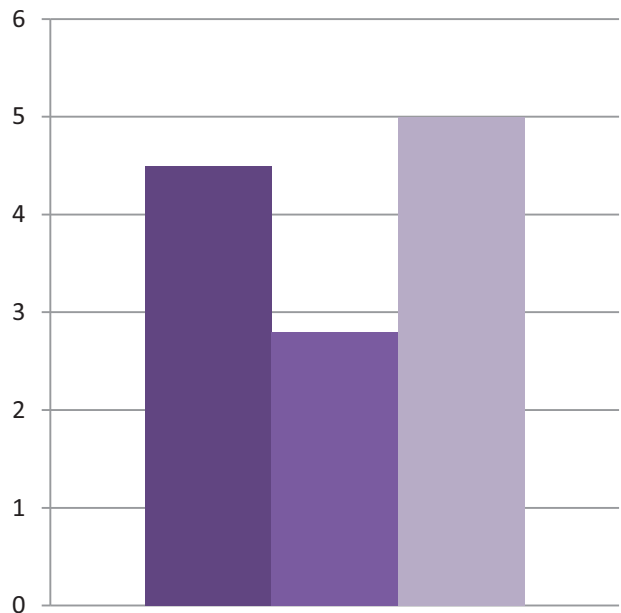
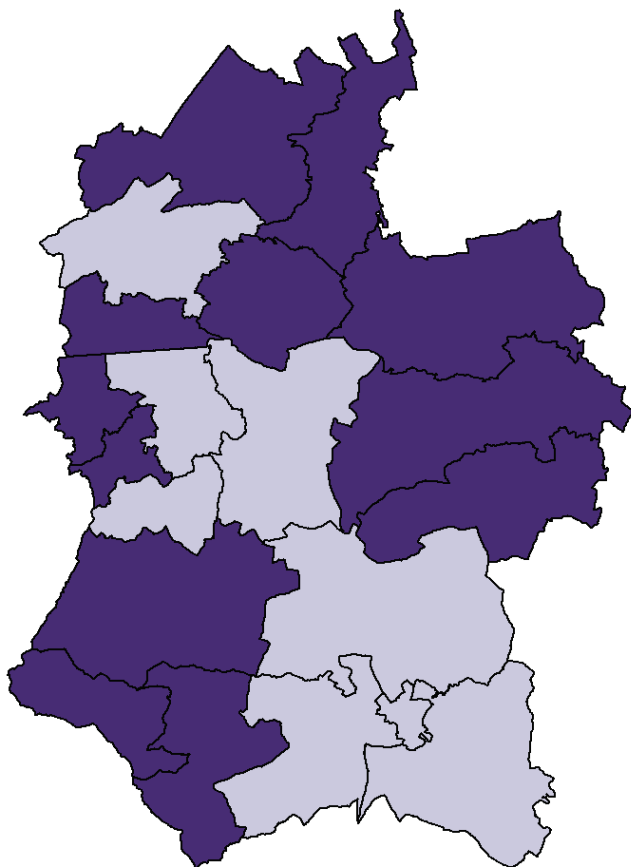
Contact: Tel.: 01225 713840  
[simon.burke@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.burke@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: None

# Adult Education Consultation

## A review of adult education provision in Wiltshire

Maggie Rae, Corporate Director of Public Health and Public Protection Services



Part of the JSA family



## Contents

Introduction .....	2
About you.....	2
What Matters most?.....	4
Prices.....	5
Travel.....	7
Duration .....	7
Content .....	10
Information.....	11
Suitable accommodation.....	13

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## A review of adult education provision in Wiltshire

### Introduction

Throughout May and June 2012 a review of adult education provision in Wiltshire was carried out through online and paper questionnaires. The questionnaires were distributed to previous attendees of adult education courses in Wiltshire and those who had expressed an interest in them, as well as being available to the general public.

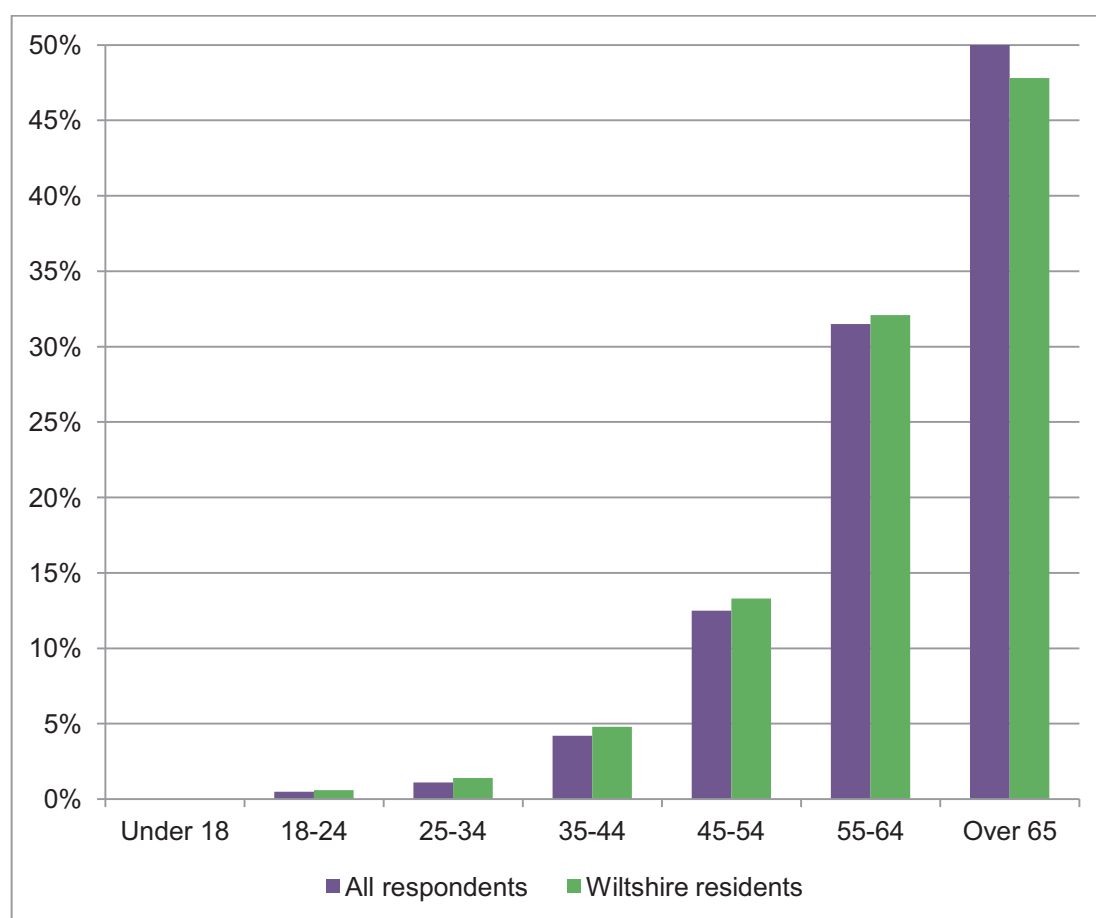
This review was of adult education courses which are offered as leisure activities and those which are focused on developing basic skills or qualifications relating to employment.

The following report summarises the total results and separates those which can be identified as being from Wiltshire residents and those from respondents outside Wiltshire or whose location cannot be identified.

### About you

A total of 1741 completed questionnaires were returned; 286 electronic and 1455 paper. Of these 719 were from respondents who could be identified as being Wiltshire residents, the remainder either live outside Wiltshire or did not provide a postcode which could be used to identify their location.

**Figure 1 – Age bracket**

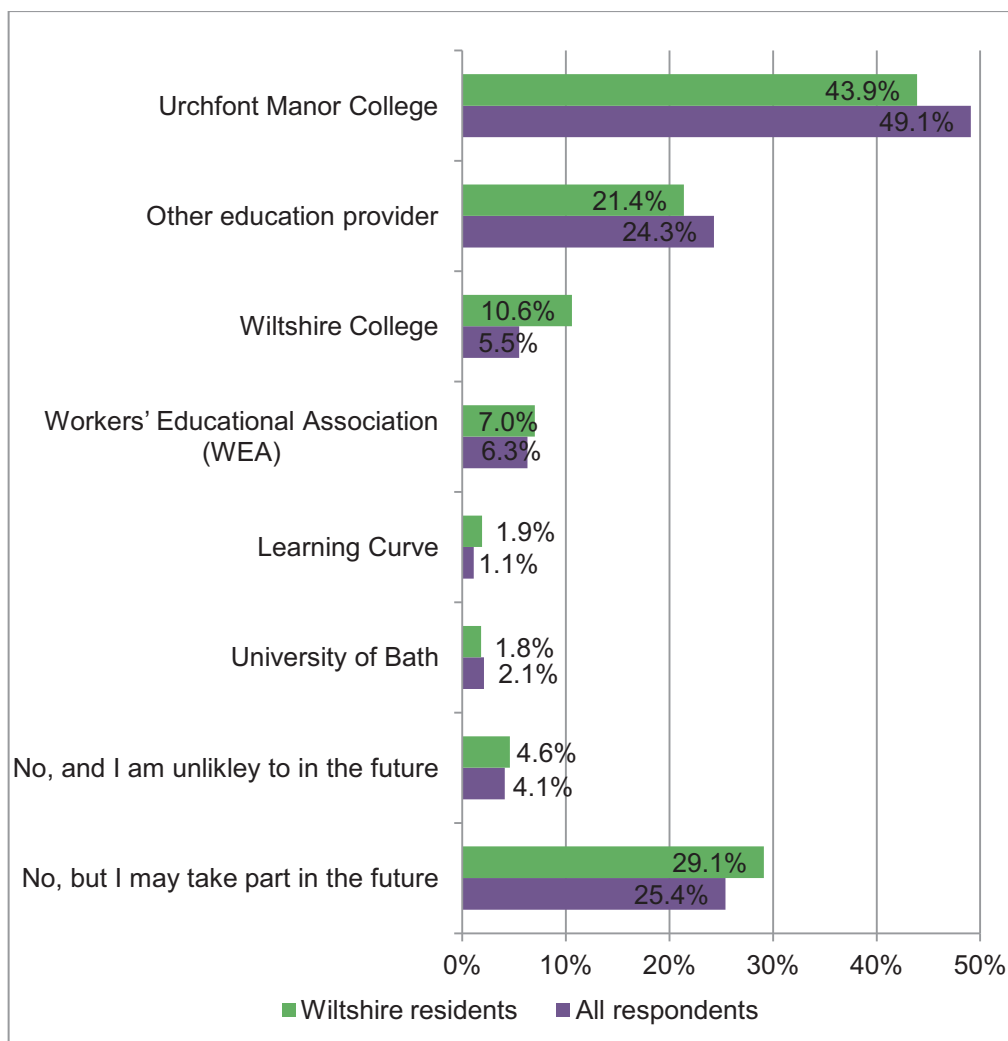


Base 1701

Figure 1 shows that 50% respondents were aged over 65 and that the number in each group decreased with decreasing age.

The same pattern was found amongst the respondents identified as Wiltshire residents; with 48% being over 64 and 32% aged 55-64.

**Figure 2 – Have you taken part in any adult education activity in Wiltshire within the past year organised by the following? (Please tick all that apply)**



**Base: 1741**

Figure 2 shows that 30% respondent had not taken part in any adult education activity in Wiltshire in the past year, with 86% of these saying that they may in the future and 14% that they were unlikely to. Very similar results were found amongst the selection of respondents who live in Wiltshire.

Urchfont Manor College was the most popular adult education provider with nearly 50% respondents having attended a course organised by them. Only 6% respondents had attended a course organised by the Workers' Educational Association, just under 6% organised by Wiltshire College, 2% by the University of Bath and 1% by Learning Curve.

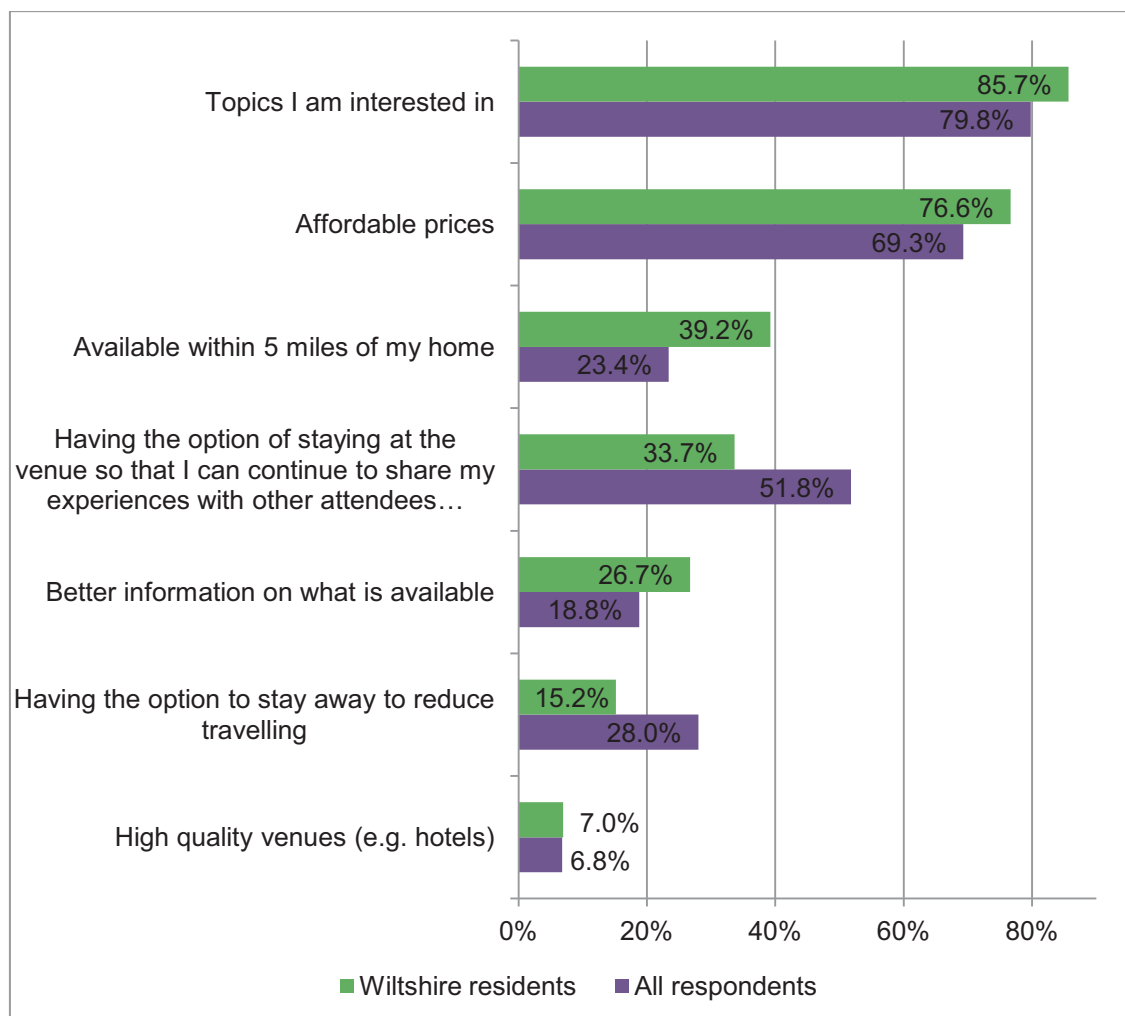
Results from Wiltshire residents followed a similar pattern with 44% having attended a course run by Urchfont Manor during the past year, 11% a course run by Wiltshire College, 7% a course run by the Workers' Educational

Association and 2% a course run by the University of Bath and Learning Curve.

See appendix 1 for a list of other education providers who were named in response to this question.

### What Matters most?

**Figure 3 – What would encourage you to take part in more organised adult education activities? (Please tick the three issues which are most important to you)**



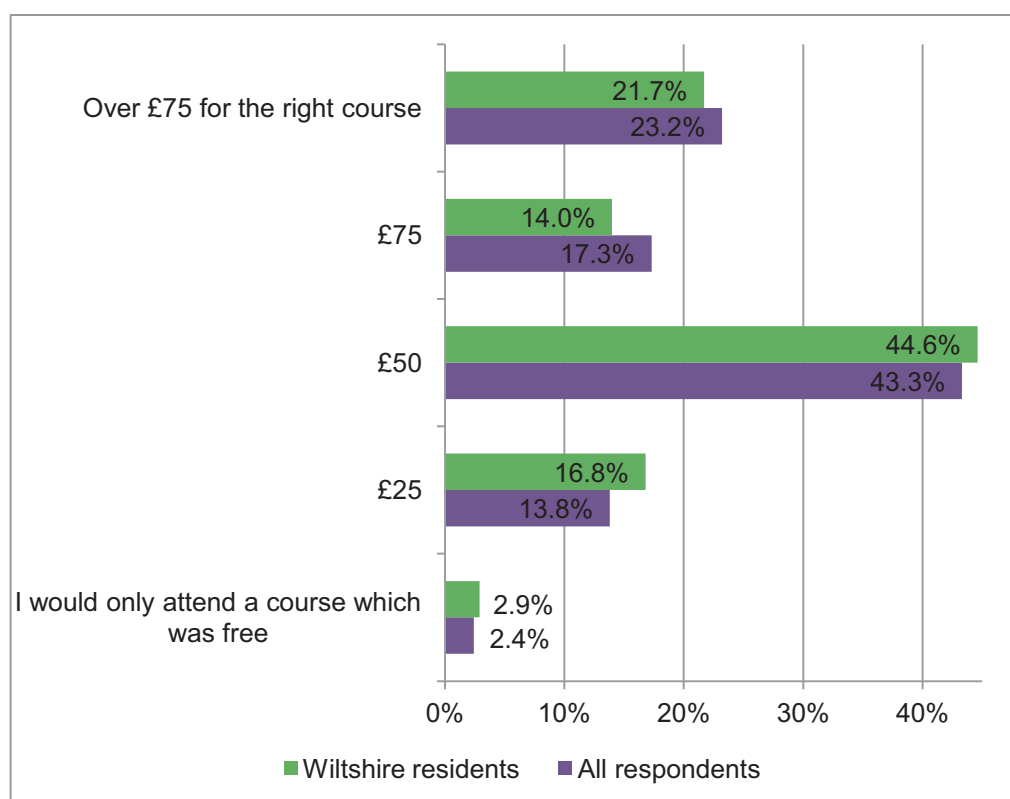
**Base: 1741**

Figure 3 shows that the factors which would most encourage respondents to take part in more organised adult education activities are courses on topics that respondents are interested in, run at affordable prices. These were the most important issues for both Wiltshire and non-Wiltshire residents.

For Wiltshire residents the next most important issues were having courses within 5 miles of their home and having the option of staying at the venue so that they can continue to share their experiences with other attendees. Non-Wiltshire respondents were more concerned about the latter issue and were also more concerned with being able to stay at the venue to reduce travelling time.

## Prices

**Figure 4 – What is the maximum amount you would consider paying to attend a full-day (6 hours tuition) course in a subject which interests you?**

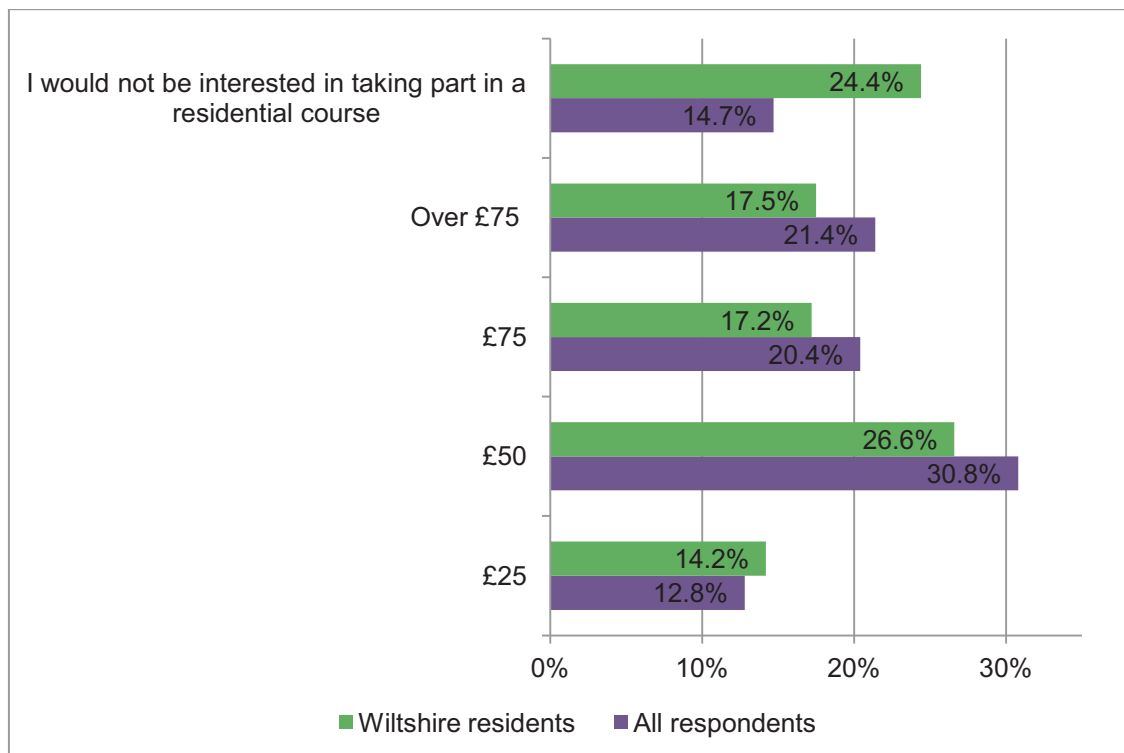


**Base: 1408**

Figure 4 shows that the vast majority of respondents would be prepared to pay to attend a full-day course in a subject which interests them. Only 2.4% respondents and 2.9% Wiltshire respondents would only attend a course which was free, even on the understanding that their choice of course would then be limited.

The most popular maximum amount for a full day course was £50, which was selected by over 40% respondents; approximately 20% would pay over £75 for the right course. Fewer respondents said that they would pay a maximum of either £75 or £25.

**Figure 5 – How much extra would you be prepared to pay for a residential day (i.e. evening meal, bed and breakfast)?**



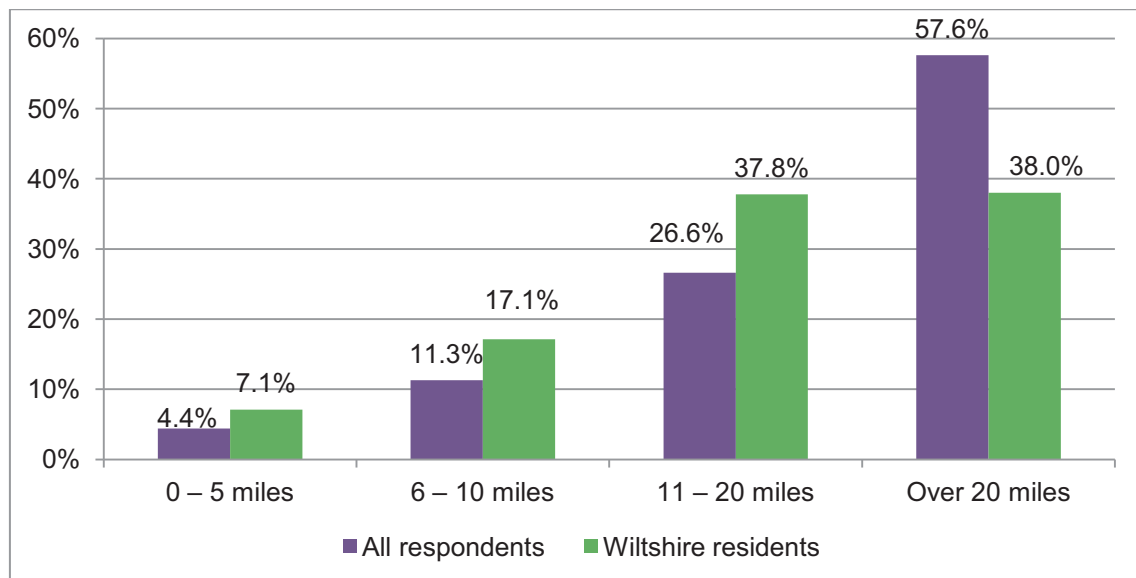
**Base: 1251**

15% of respondents would not be interested in taking part in a residential course, although this figure increased to nearly 25% when looking at only the results from the Wiltshire residents.

The amount which most respondents were willing to pay for a residential day was £50 extra amongst both Wiltshire and non-Wiltshire residents. This was followed by over £75 and up to £75. Fewer respondents were only prepared to pay up to £25.

## Travel

**Figure 6 – How far would you be prepared to travel to attend a full-day course which interests you?**

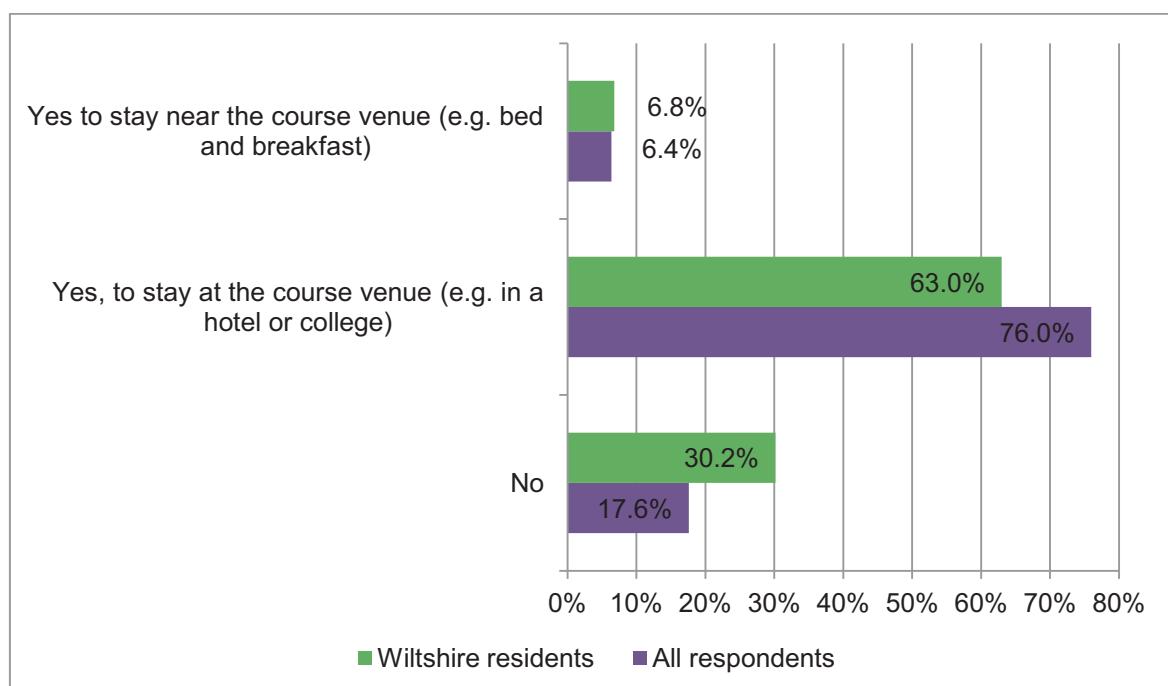


**Base: 1622**

Figure 6 shows that the majority of respondents would be prepared to travel at least 10 miles to attend a full-day course which interests them, with 38% of Wiltshire residents prepared to travel over 20 miles.

## Duration

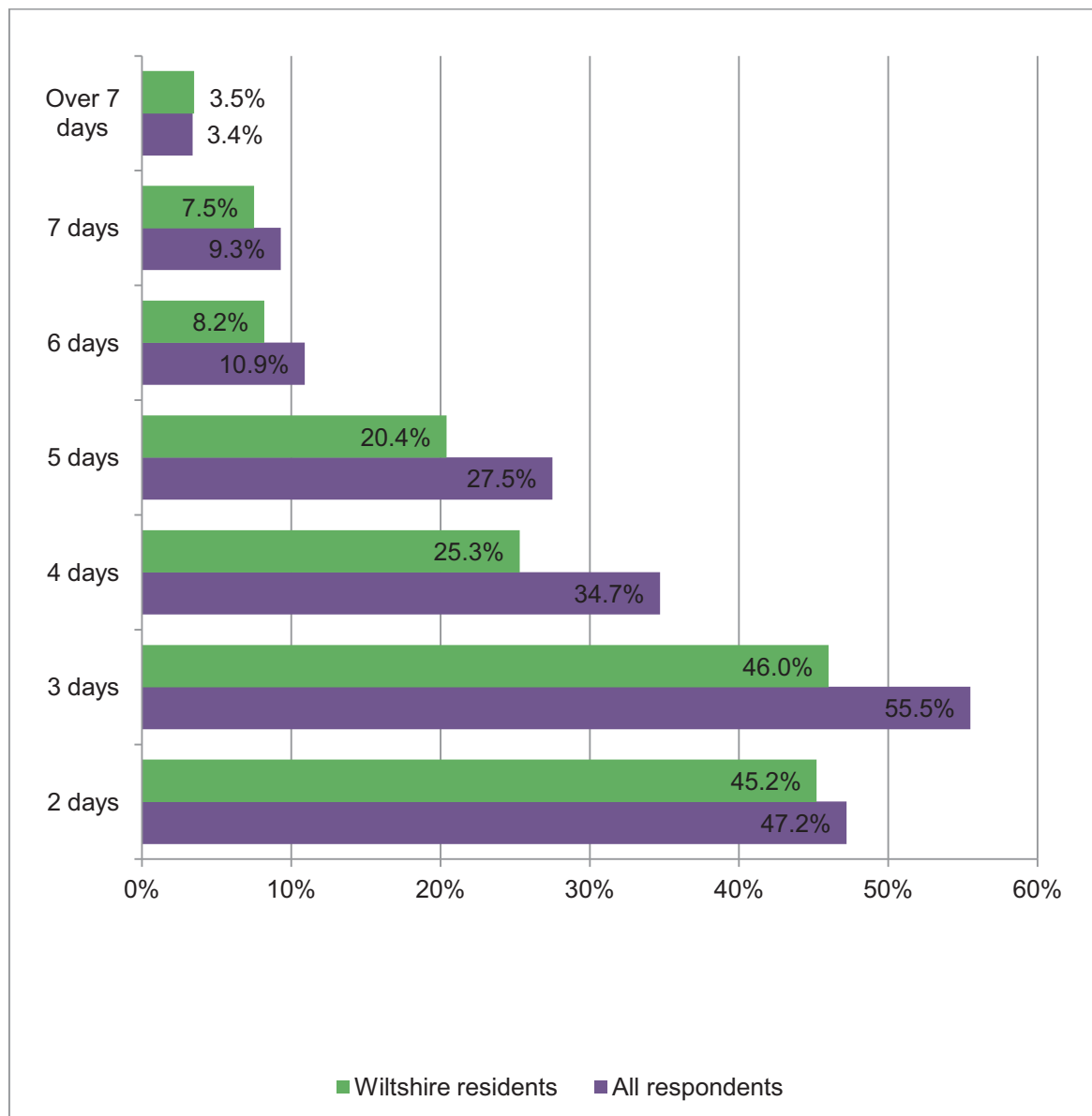
**Figure 7 – Would you like to attend a residential course where you stay at or near where the course is being held?**



**Base: 1636**

Figure 7 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer to attend a residential course and stay at the course venue. Very few respondents would want to stay away from the course venue.

**Figure 8 – If you answered ‘yes’ to question 9 above, how long would you like a course to be? (Please tick all that apply)**



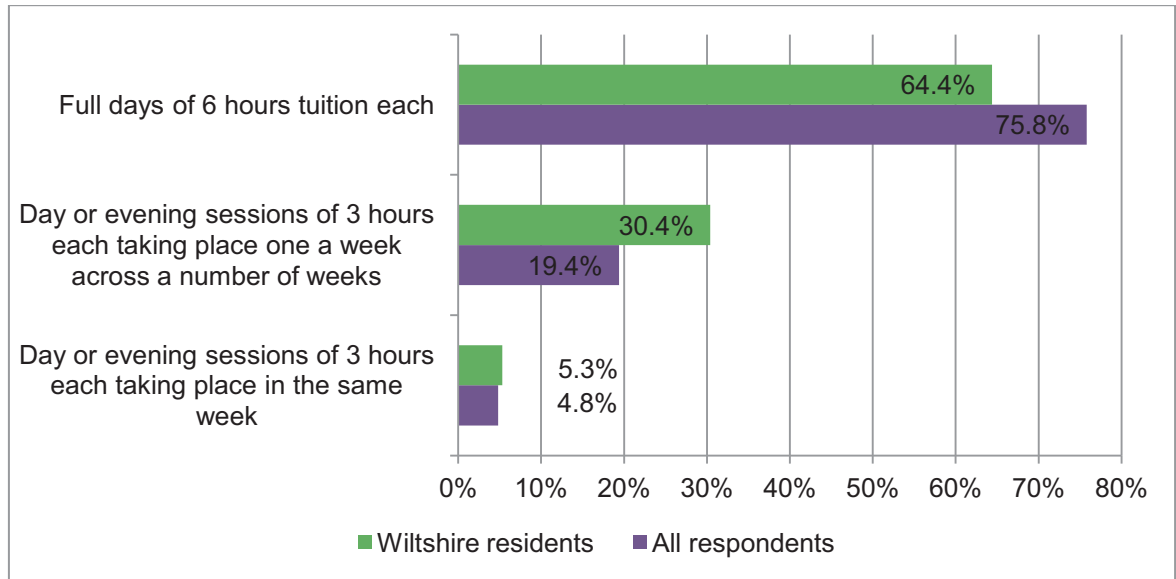
**Base: 1348**

*N.B. A smaller percentage of Wiltshire residents than overall respondents expressed an interest in participating in a residential course, which is how fewer Wiltshire residents can have chosen each of the options.*

Figure 8 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer a course to be of 2 or 3 days in length. For lengths of time under 3 days, the longer the course, the less popular it was.

The same trend can be seen amongst the total group of respondents and the Wiltshire residents.

**Figure 9 – Would you prefer a non-residential course to be in the form of:**



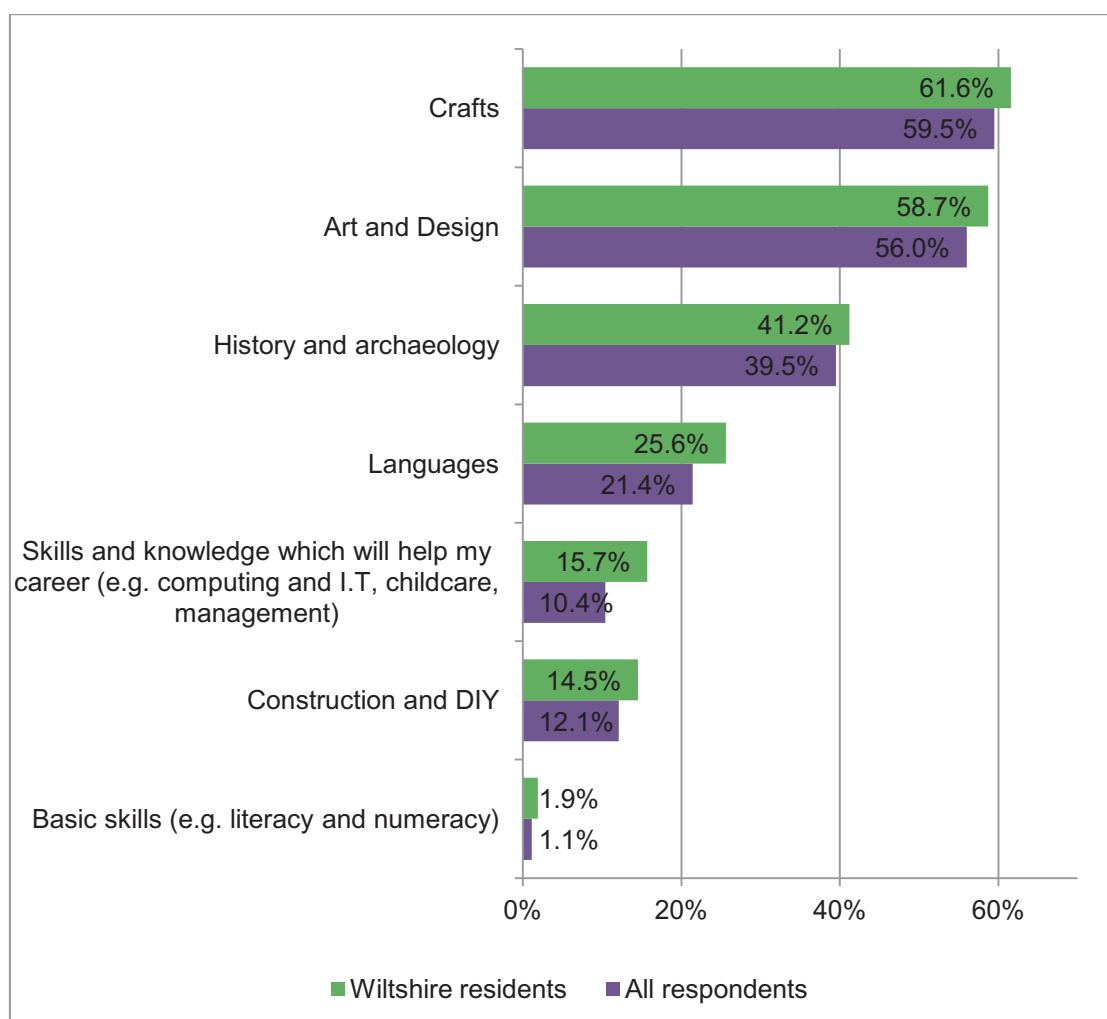
**Base: 1551**

Figure 9 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer a non-residential course to be in the form of full days of 6 hours tuition each. Day or evening sessions of 3 hours each, taking place across a number of weeks was the second preference. Day or evening sessions of 3 hours each taking place in the same week as only selected by a minority of respondents.



## Content

**Figure 10 – What subjects and topics might you take part in a course about? (Please tick all that apply)**



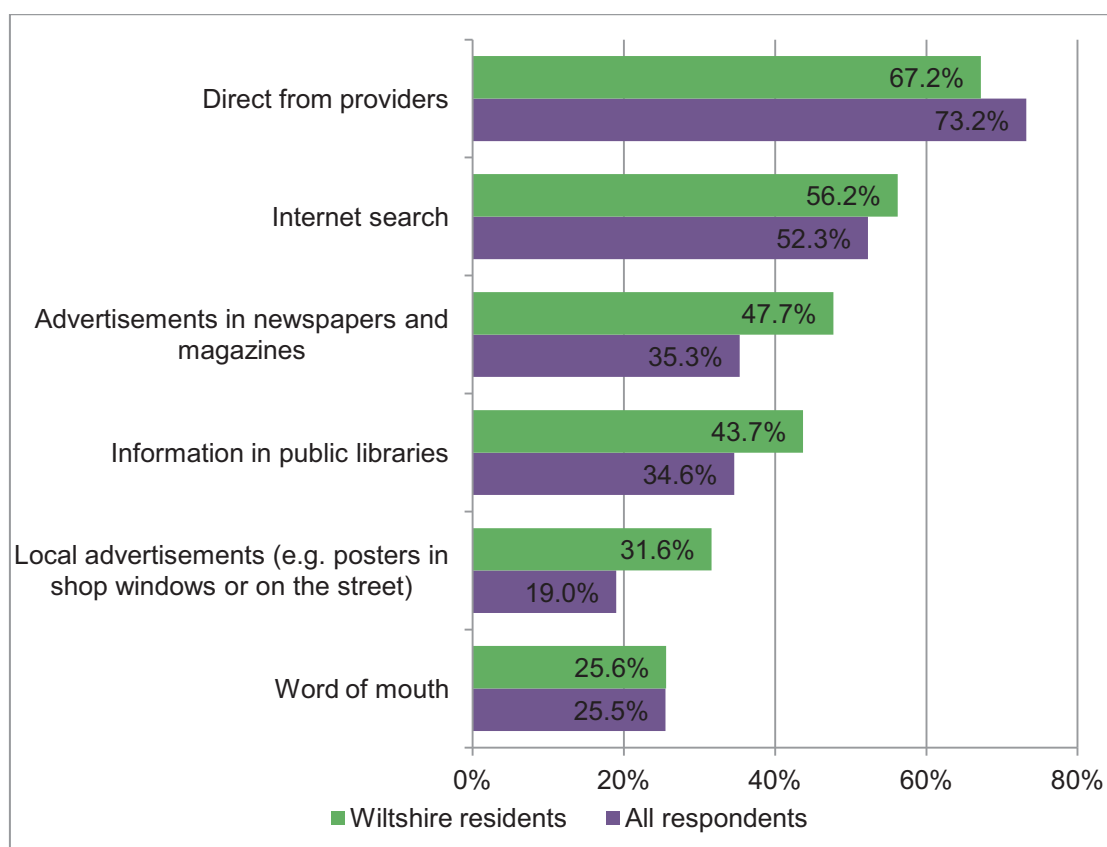
**Base: 1741**

Figure 10 shows that respondents would consider taking part in all the courses listed. The most popular courses for both respondents overall and those from Wiltshire were crafts, art and design and history and archaeology. Fewer respondents expressed an interest in languages, skills and knowledge to help their career and construction and IT; a minority of respondents were interested in learning basic skills.

See appendix 2 for a list of the other courses which respondents would be interested in taking part in.

## Information

**Figure 11 – How would you prefer to find out about adult education opportunities? (please tick all that apply)**



**Base: 1741**

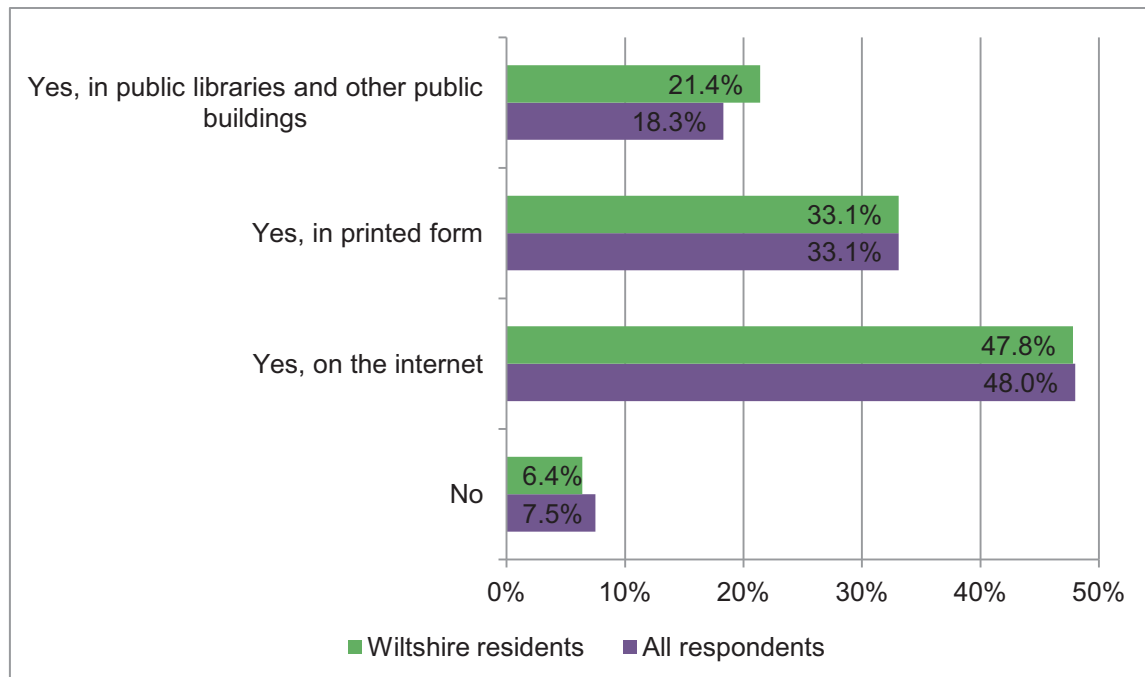
Figure 11 shows that the preferred method for respondents to find out about adult education opportunities was direct from providers – although it is not specified whether this is by post or electronically.

Other preferred methods were through internet searches, through advertisements in newspapers and magazines and from information in public libraries.

By word of mouth and through local advertisements were the least popular methods.

See appendix 3 for a list of other preferred methods for finding out about adult education opportunities.

**Figure 12 – Would you like to be able to find information on all adult education opportunities from different providers in your area in one place?**



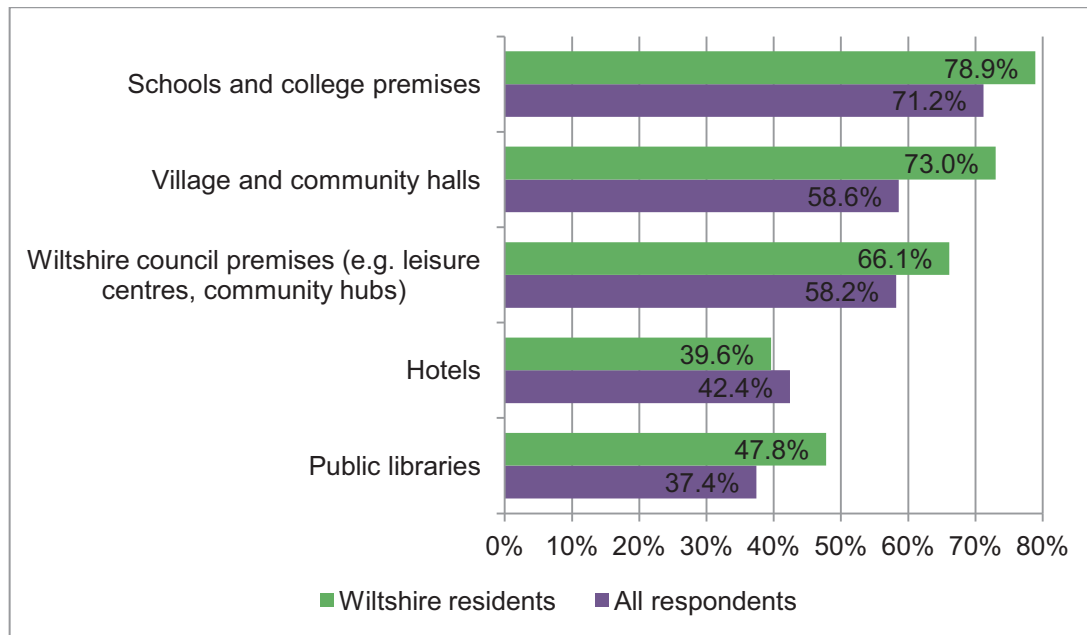
**Base: 1741**

Figure 12 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer to be able to find information on all adult education opportunities from different providers in their area in one place with only 6% Wiltshire respondents saying that they wouldn't.

Nearly half of respondents would like to be able to find out about all adult education opportunities in their area on the internet, fewer would like to find out about them in printed form and fewer still in libraries and other public buildings.

## Suitable accommodation

**Figure 13 – Where would you like adult education courses to be held (please tick all that apply)**

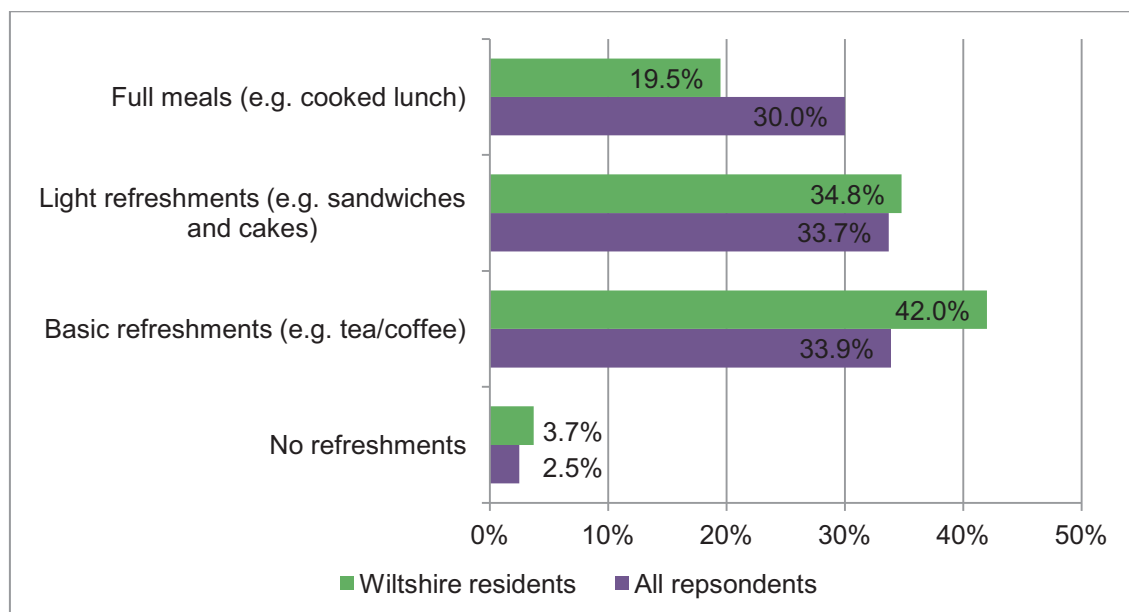


**Base: 1741**

Figure 13 shows that school and college premises and village and community halls were the most popular choices for locations for adult education courses. Wiltshire Council premises e.g. leisure centres and community hubs were also chosen by over half the respondents.

Hotels and public libraries were the least popular locations but were still chosen by over a third of respondents.

**Figure 14 – Would you like adult education courses to offer:**



**Base: 1609**

Figure 14 shows that basic refreshments are the preferred choice, followed by light refreshments and then cooked meals. A minority of respondents would prefer to be offered no refreshments at all.

Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available on request in other languages including BSL and formats such as large print and audio.

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<b>Area Board Meetings</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Amesbury	Recommend Option 3
Bradford on Avon	No recommendation
Calne	Recommend Option 3
Chippenham	Recommend Option 3 + 4
Corsham	Recommend Option 4
Devizes	No recommendation
Malmesbury	Recommend Option 2 + 3
Marlborough	No recommendation
Melksham	No recommendation
Pewsey	Recommend Option 3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	Recommend Option 3 + 4
Salisbury	Recommend Option 3 + 4
South West Wiltshire	Recommend that adult education be provided by local Campuses around the county with assistance from Wiltshire Council
Southern Wiltshire	No recommendation
Tidworth	Recommend Option 3 + 4
Trowbridge	No recommendation
Warminster	No recommendation
Westbury	Recommend Option 3 + 4

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

Date: 26 July 2012

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## Update on the Academy Schools Programme

### Purpose of Report

1. On 25 May 2012 the briefing paper at **Appendix 1, 'Academy Types and Governance Models'** was sent to all elected members following a request from the previous Children's Services Select Committee. This outlines the background to academies and free schools both nationally and locally. Rather than repeat information, this report is a brief update on developments since May 2012 for information purposes only. As background to this paper it is advisable to read Appendix 1 first.

### Main Considerations for the Council

2. Currently of Wiltshire's 234 schools (199 primary, 29 secondary and 6 special schools) 26 of them are academies (17 secondary, 8 primary and 1 special). It is important to examine the number of children in Wiltshire in academies as the amount of money taken from the LA to support academies to purchase services they would have received as maintained schools is based on numbers of pupils rather than numbers of schools. Currently there are 64,892 (as at January 2012 census) children in Wiltshire's schools and 17,806 or 27.4% of pupils are being educated in academies.
3. **Appendix 2** shows the percentage of Wiltshire's academies that are purchasing Local Authority (LA) services. All academies buy back some services from the LA with high proportions of buyback in many areas. 81% of academies buy back support for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT), 77% buy back support for Governors, Wiltshire/Swindon Learning Resources (W/SLR for primary academies only) and the QES system which checks risk assessments for residential and day visits. 69% buy back support for finance (Accounting and Budget Support A&BS) and payroll, 65% buy back support for Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) and Health and Safety and 62% buy back the Free School Meal administration service and HR Advisory. School improvement buyback on the chart has been separated to show the School Improvement Advisers although this service also offers: Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs 81%), Governor Services (77%) and data for self evaluation (75%). When this is examined in its entirety school improvement buy back is 68%. Some academies are buying in our School Improvement Advisers directly without coming through the LA. This is therefore not shown on the chart in Appendix 2.
4. The School Ofsted Framework is changing for September 2012. Schools will no longer be deemed to be adequate/satisfactory when inspected. New categories for schools causing concern will be in place. Special Measures will continue to exist

for schools that do not have the capacity to improve without considerable support. The Serious Weaknesses label returns to replace schools deemed to require a Notice to Improve and a new category of Requires Improvement will be introduced to replace adequate/satisfactory schools. With this change we anticipate more schools receiving an Ofsted category of concern and potentially more schools facing formal intervention by the DfE if underperforming. The DfE appear to consider schools to be underperforming where they have been below floor standards in both attainment and progress for 1+ years. The DfE are discussing these schools with the LA and the schools themselves and the prospect of conversion to an academy with a sponsor is considered.

5. Free schools are described at the end of **Appendix 1**. The first 24 of them opened in September 2011. These are expanding at a phenomenal rate nationally. **Appendix 3** shows the 85 new free schools opening in 2013 and **Appendix 4** maps the location of these free schools. It appears that there is little strategic planning as to where these schools are opening. This is causing surplus places in schools. For example, in Bristol there are in excess of 300 surplus places in schools within a few miles of each other and more free schools are opening.

### **Environmental Impact**

6. The change of status of a school, for example from Community Maintained to Academy, in itself does not have any environmental impact. However if parents decide to move their children to academies or free schools this increased diversity of school provision may well increase the 'school run' traffic on our roads. However in terms of the Steiner Free School using the former Corsley Primary Church of England Voluntary Aided building, the school has agreed to transport children by small minibus rather than increase the cars on the narrow roads on route to Corsley.

### **Equalities Impact**

7. The Authority does not discriminate in the way that it provides services to academies and it does all it can to promote equality and good relations between different groups and schools.

### **Risk Assessment**

8. The risks associated with the self-governing, practitioner-led schools' system where all schools are moved towards academy status are mainly financial and these are explained below.

### **Financial Implications**

9. As schools convert to academy status an adjustment is made to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and to the Formula Grant received by the authority to reflect the cost of services that the LA provides to maintained schools free of charge. Currently this is known as the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG). Adjustments to the DSG are made in year as each school converts whilst adjustments to the LA formula grant are made on an annual basis. In both cases the reduction in funding is based on the proportion of pupils in academies

compared with maintained schools. As explained in paragraph 1 we currently have 27.4% of our pupils educated in academies.

10. With the implementation of school funding reforms in 2013-14 the methodology for funding academies and maintained schools for central services will change. Within the proposals for 2013-14 there is a presumption that many of the budgets currently funded from centrally retained DSG will be delegated to all schools. As part of the implementation of the funding reforms Wiltshire will therefore need to develop a formula to delegate centrally funded services to schools. Academies will receive this funding as part of the funding formula and this will replace the LACSEG adjustment. For maintained schools it is possible that Schools Forum, following consultation with schools, could agree to de-delegate this funding and therefore continue to retain the funding centrally. It will not be possible to de-delegate for academies or for special schools. A separate briefing has previously been provided to Members on the proposed school funding reforms.
11. As part of the consultation with all schools in Wiltshire on the proposed new funding formula, schools will be asked to consider those services which have to be delegated for 2013-14 but which could be subject to de-delegation for maintained schools. Total funding for services in this category is approximately £3.2 million including central support charges and the proposals for consultation were considered as a Part II report to Schools Forum on 13th July. Implications for individual services will not become clear until after the consultation with schools but for some services there may be a need for staffing reductions if budgets are not de-delegated. Whilst it is possible that some services may continue to be provided on a traded basis this would need to reflect the full cost of those services and an assessment would need to be carried out as to whether the LA could compete with other providers.
12. The DfE and DCLG have also indicated that they will consult on changes to the way in which central Education functions within LA budgets will be funded from 2013-14. There are proposals to fund these services through specific grant in future with the grant divided between the LA and academies pro-rata to pupil numbers. Again, this could have implications for funding levels for services in 2013-14 that will need to be addressed in the budget setting process.

### **Legal Implications**

13. Each time a school converts to an academy a member of the LA's legal department oversees the process of establishing the Funding Agreement with each Academy Trust.

### **Conclusions**

14. The LA, in its support for schools continues to go from strength to strength. Early indications of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2 performance results in English and mathematics for 2012 are looking good. As schools convert to academies the LA is facing budget reductions as a result of changes to the DSG and the grant received in the LA. This may mean reduced central support for schools to raise standards and narrow attainment gaps. However, as schools receive increased DSG funding and Pupil Premium, it is inherent that they rise to the challenge and

offer the very best opportunities to the children and young people of Wiltshire. This is in line with the Government's desire to see all schools convert to academies and become self-governing and practitioner-led.

**Name and title of Director: Carolyn Godfrey**

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Report Author: Stephanie Denovan, Service Director Schools and Learning, Tel: 01225 713838

Date of report: 16 July 2012

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendices**

List any appendices referred to in your report.

**Appendix 1: Academy Types and Governance Models**

**Appendix 2: Academy Purchases % of Schools**

**Appendix 3: National Free Schools opening in 2013**

**Appendix 4: Map of Free Schools opening in 2013**

## Academy Types and Governance Models

1. **What is an academy?** An academy is a public funded independent school (not maintained by a LA) and accountable to the Department for Education (DfE). Academies were originally intended to raise educational standards and aspirations in deprived areas, often replacing schools with a long history of under-performance. From May 2010 the academies programme was opened up to all schools. Academies have freedoms to set their own pay and conditions of service for staff, they are free to deliver the curriculum as they see fit and they can vary the length of school terms and the length of the school day. Academies must follow the same admissions, exclusions and processes for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and the same arrangements for Freedom of Information as for all other schools. Academies are inspected by Ofsted.
2. Academies fall into a number of different types, both **traditional** and **converter** with four main governance models emerging nationally and locally: Single Academy Trust (SAT), Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) chains, Umbrella Trust (UT) and Schools Working in Partnership Together (SWiPT).
3. **Traditional** academies with an independent sponsor were originally a feature of the previous Government and originally sponsors had to provide a £2million sponsorship fund. These academies were established in areas of the highest deprivation where standards of achievement were traditionally hard to improve. Money was provided through the previous national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to rebuild these schools. Wiltshire has 2 of these traditional academies: The Wellington Academy, Tidworth and Sarum Academy, Bemerton Heath, Salisbury. In the case of the latter Wiltshire Council is a part sponsor with Salisbury Diocese (main sponsor), Bryanston School and Bath Spa University. Wiltshire Council received a grant to fund fully the building of Wellington Academy and is receiving a partial grant to re-build Sarum Academy. However, new academy sponsors are developing (see later section on new academy sponsors for converter academies).
4. **Converter** academies are a feature of the Coalition Government. At first schools with an Outstanding Ofsted judgement were the first to convert, followed by those with a good Ofsted judgement. Currently all schools can convert to an academy within the following four governance models, although not all four governance models are open to all schools. This could be for two reasons. Firstly the DfE does not consider that some schools will be successful converting to an academy on their own without support and secondly it considers that SWiPT is too loose an arrangement for schools requiring a great deal of support. The definition of requiring support in the main appears to be based on the standards achieved and Ofsted judgements.

## Four Academy Governance Models

### Four main types of academies are emerging:

5. **Single Academy Trust (SAT)** One school in a single academy trust governed by a funding agreement between the academy and the secretary of state
6. **Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)** There is one legal entity accountable for all schools within the chain. (These schools keep their DfE numbers but the chain is responsible for outcomes and standards)
7. **Umbrella Trust (UT)** Each academy continues to exist as a separate legal entity which sits beneath an umbrella trust e.g. Diocese
8. **Schools Work in Partnership Together (SWiPT).** Each school is an academy with its own funding agreement. There are no shared governance arrangements between schools in this partnership but they may have written agreements to collaborate on particular matters.
9. The DfE expects all schools to eventually convert to academy status although the timescale for this is not prescribed. As at 1 May 2012, 6.5% (1807) of schools nationally are academies or free schools although this is unevenly based across the country and within the phases of education. Forty-five percent of all secondary schools nationally are academies. There are 28,000 schools nationally and of the 1807 national academy/free schools, there are 357 open sponsored academies. The chart below shows how these have grown over the last few years with an average of 70 sponsored academies opening each year over the last four years.

## Open Sponsored Academies

Academic Year	Number Opened	Total
2002/3	3	3
2003/4	9	12
2004/5	5	17
2005/6	10	27
2006/7	20	47
2007/8	36	83
2008/9	50	133
2009/10	70	203
2010/11	71	274
2011/12	83	<b>357</b>

10. The DfE website shows the Open Academies and the Sponsored Academies in Development. These lists are updated monthly. The list of Sponsored Academies shows the agreed sponsor, the planned opening date and the stage the project has reached. Of the 224 Sponsored Academies in Development, 153 have Ministerial Approval, 64 have had their Expression of Interest approved and 7 have had their Funding Agreement approved. None of these 224 on the published list is from Wiltshire although there are some schools in negotiation with the DfE. Of these 224 Sponsored Academies in Development, 76 are secondary, 141 are primary and 7 are all-through schools.

11. As at 1 May 2012, Wiltshire has 25 academies in total: 17 secondary academies, 7 primary academies and 1 special school academy. Primary schools are much slower than secondaries to convert to academies probably due to the lack of capacity to convert and a sense of feeling that they may lose more than they might gain. From current studies, such as: The Future of Local Authorities in School Improvement - Jonathan Crossley-Holland, it is anticipated that over the next four years about 20% of primary schools will convert to academies. Currently we have 7 primary schools over the last two years that have converted to academies and 20% of primary schools in Wiltshire would be approximately 40 primaries. This would still leave the large majority of 158 primary schools as maintained LA schools.

**12. Sequential Stages in the process of Converting to an Academy**

The Statement of Intent (SOI) is the approval in principle to move forward with a sponsor. The Expression of Interest (EOI) is the business case with the vision and numbers involved and the Funding Agreement (FA) is the legally binding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State, established by the sponsor, which sets out the details including the opening date and the school to be replaced. The DfE has published a Project Management and Educational Services (PMES) Framework to support schools converting to an academy. It is a Framework of suppliers to support academies and free schools in the pre-opening stages although schools do not have to use it. The Project Management services are a list of 6 approved suppliers who can provide legal, financial and TUPE support and the Educational Services is another list of 6 approved suppliers who help to develop the academy's policies and procedures and can provide curriculum and staff appointment advice. The DfE Project Lead runs a mini tender round, there are 10 days to submit bids from these 12 suppliers and contracts are evaluated then awarded.

13. The Local Authority (LA) has been assigned a DfE adviser to discuss the schools where performance has been below floor standards on all three threshold measures for some time. This was announced in Michael Gove's speech in July 2011. This measure has been applied retrospectively over the last five years although the progress measures have not been in place for that length of time. Our DfE adviser has been changed within a matter of months to divide the patch of South West authorities so we are about to meet our second adviser on Monday 28 May 2012. Currently there are no secondary schools below floor standards and a handful of primary schools that have been below for three years.

14. When schools become subject to Ofsted categories, as part of the LA's Statement of Action, we have to consider structural solutions to restoring them to health. These structural solutions include exploring whether converting to academy status with a sponsor is a good way forward. Currently we have one primary and one secondary school in Special Measures and four other primary schools with a Notice to Improve category. At least four of these schools are exploring converting to academy status with a sponsor. In addition, two other primary schools that are not in an Ofsted category but where standards are difficult to raise are exploring this same route.

**15. Academy Sponsors and Funding Academies.** Sponsors can be successful schools, businesses, universities, charities or faith bodies. Sponsors should have a vision and leadership, which is vital to the academy. Academies receive the same

level of per pupil funding as they would receive from a LA with additions to cover the services no longer provided for them by the LA. If academies choose to buy these services they pay a subscription through the Wiltshire Learning Trust/Right Choice Brochure. Funding for academies goes directly from the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Academies are expected to have at least two parent governors on their governing bodies.

16. **New academy sponsors for converter academies.** The Local Authority is meeting with a number of academy sponsors to support schools who want to convert to academy with a sponsor. So far we have had contacts or meetings with:

**Active Learning Trust (ALT)** - this is a group of ex National Strategies colleagues  
**Edison – Collaborative Academies Trust (CAT)** – a not for profit organisation of ex LA colleagues from Essex

**Academies Enterprise Trust (AET)** – set up in 2008 David Triggs, Richard Bassett

**The Education Fellowship**

17. **What is proposed for ‘failing’ academies?** Mixed messages and confusion abound. For example, Jon Coles the former Director General of Standards at the DfE who is now chief executive of the ULT (speaking at the academies show May 2012) is suggesting that academies should be accountable to councils and not central government. However, this assumes that there are no longer any community schools and the LA is no longer a provider of educational services. This would be similar to what is happening in most cases in housing where the LA is no longer a provider but has a clear role for sufficiency and quality and holds housing associations to account against performance indicators. Michael Gove when providing evidence for a Commons Select Committee in April 2012 said he felt that failing academies should be returned to local authorities. Michael Gove was asked to establish triggers for monitoring and intervening in under-performing autonomous schools, such as checking on high exclusions, poor SEN provision and inclusion and withdrawing from partnership working. The future is not easy to predict in relation to schools becoming academies. The Commons Select Committee is monitoring the impact of academies and academy sponsors and as it stated as early as January 2011: ‘The Department has struggled to administer and monitor the academies to date and must now cope with a rapid expansion across many more schools.’

18. **What is a free school?** A free school is an all ability state funded school set up in response to what local people say they want and need to improve education in their community. Free schools are non profit making independent schools. Local teachers, charities, independent schools, faith groups and parents can all request to open schools in their area to meet demand. The first 24 of these nationally opened in September 2011. A free school has the freedoms of an academy; however, teachers in free schools do not necessarily need to have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS.) Free schools are funded on a comparable basis to other state funded schools and are inspected by Ofsted. Free schools cannot be academically selective. They have to take part in locally co-ordinated admissions so applications follow the same process.

19. Free schools are not defined by size or location; they can be primary, secondary or all-through schools as there is not a one size fits all approach. Free schools can be

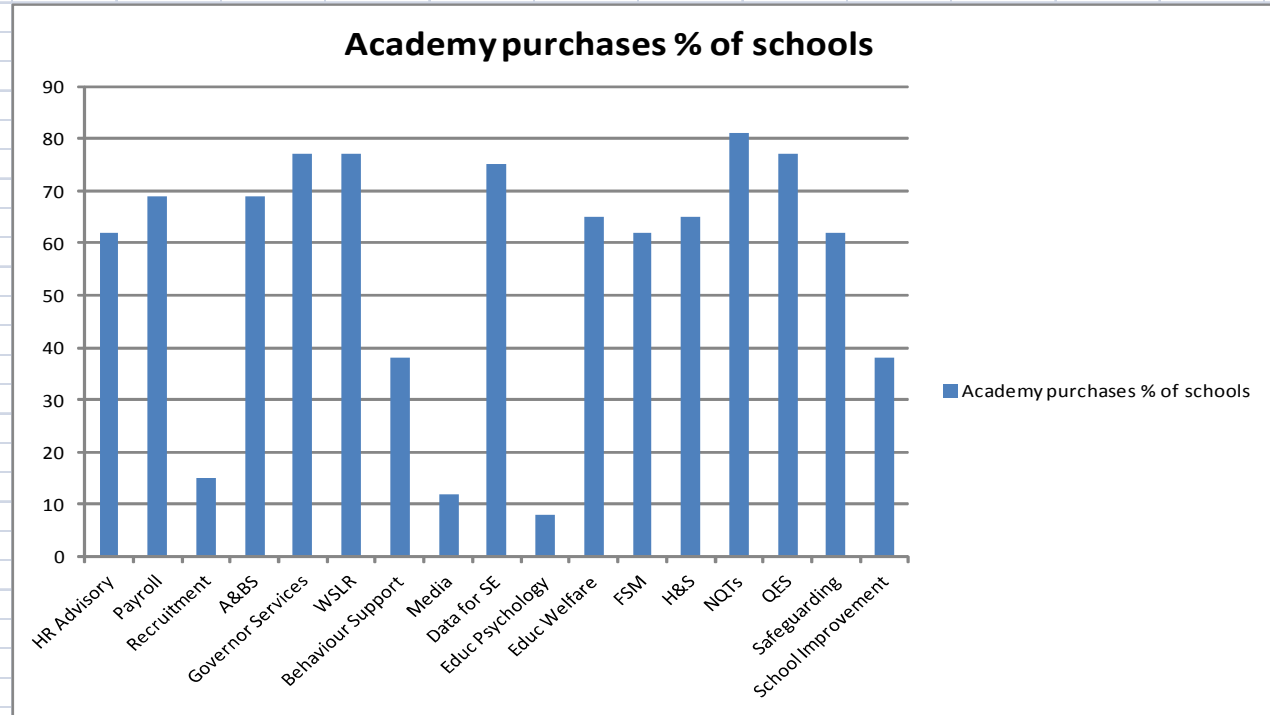


located in traditional school buildings, offices or for example, church halls. Each proposal for a free school is looked at on its merits, staff have to undertake CRB vetting and projects are rejected if they run counter to the UK's democratic values. Free schools are similar to the Charter Schools in America established in areas of high deprivation. The most successful chain of Charter Schools in America is the KIPP Knowledge is Power Programme where 85% of students go to College despite 80% of them from low-income families. A faith based independent school in the Salisbury area is exploring becoming a Free School. In addition, a Steiner-based Free School being established in Frome will use the former Corsley Primary School building from September for its infants as the building in Frome is not yet available. Only 1 or 2 children from Wiltshire have been registered so far

20. In the fast changing self-governing, practitioner-led school system we will work to support our schools to follow the best structural solutions to meet their needs.

Stephanie Denovan    Service Director Schools and Learning    May 2012

Academy purchases Service	% of schools
HR Advisory	62
Payroll	69
Recruitment	15
A&BS	69
Governor Services	77
WSLR	77
Behaviour Support	38
Media	12
Data for SE	75
Educ Psychology	8
Educ Welfare	65
FSM	62
H&S	65
NQTs	81
QES	77
Safeguarding	62
School Improvement	38



### National Free Schools Opening in 2013

Abacus Belsize Primary School	Camden
Anand Primary School	Wolverhampton
ARK Enfield Academy	Enfield
Balham Free Primary School	Wandsworth
Barnfield Fernwood Free School	Central Bedfordshire
Boston Free School	Lincolnshire
Bradford Girls' Grammar School	Bradford
Cambourne Village College	Cambridgeshire
Cathedral Primary School	Bristol
Chichester Free School	West Sussex
Collective Spirit	Oldham
Durham Free School Ltd	Durham
East London Science School	Tower Hamlets
East Sussex Free School	East Sussex
Exemplar – Newark Business Academy	Nottinghamshire
Fulham Boys School	Hammersmith and Fulham
Hackney New School	Hackney
Hadlow Rural Community School	Kent
Harris Free School Tottenham	Haringey
Hatcham Temple Grove Free School	Lewisham
Heron Hall Academy	Enfield
Hewens Primary School	Hillingdon
Heyford Park Free School	Oxfordshire
Holyport Free School	Windsor and Maidenhead
Hope Community School	Bexley
International Academy of Greenwich	Greenwich
Isaac Newton Primary Academy	Redbridge
Judith Kerr Primary School	Southwark
Khalsa Science Academy	Leeds
Khalsa Secondary School	Slough
Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College	Bedford
King's School, Hove	Brighton and Hove
Langdale Free School	Blackpool
Leeds Jewish Free School	Leeds
Longsight Community Primary	Manchester
Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy	Slough
Marine Academy Primary	Plymouth
Nanaksar Primary School	Hillingdon
New Islington Free School	Manchester
Nishkam School West London	Hounslow
Oasis Community School Waterloo	Lambeth
Peaslake Free School	Surrey
Plymouth School of Creative Arts	Plymouth
Rainbow Schools	Nottingham
River Bank Primary School	Luton
Riverside Co-operative Free School	Barking and Dagenham
Robert Owen School	Herefordshire
Route 39 Free School	Devon
Sevenoaks Christian School	Kent
Sir Isaac Newton Free School	Norfolk
Sir Thomas Fremantle Free School	Buckinghamshire
South London Jewish Primary School	Wandsworth
Sparkwell All Saints Primary School	Devon

St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School  
St Anthony's School  
St Martin's Academy  
St Mary's CE Primary School  
St Mary's Hampton Church of England Primary School  
Steiner Academy Exeter  
STEM Academy  
Stockport Technical School  
The Archer Academy  
The Bristol Primary School  
The Connell Sixth Form College  
The Free School Leeds  
The Leeds Retail and Financial Services Academy  
The London Riverside School  
The Maltings Free College  
The New Jewish Primary School  
The Northern Lights Primary School  
The Olive School, Blackburn  
The Olive School, Hackney  
The Olive Tree Primary School  
The Reach Free School  
The SASH School  
The University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form  
The Wells Free School  
Thomson House School  
Tooting Primary School  
Tyndale Community School  
University Cathedral Free School  
Warrington Montessori School  
West London Free School Primary  
West Newcastle Academy  
Wye Free School

Enfield  
Gloucestershire  
Cheshire West and Chester  
Herefordshire  
Richmond upon Thames  
Devon  
Hackney  
Stockport  
Barnet  
Bristol  
Manchester  
Leeds  
Leeds  
Barking and Dagenham  
Calderdale  
Barnet  
Calderdale  
Blackburn with Darwen  
Hackney  
Bolton  
Hertfordshire  
Slough  
Birmingham  
Kent  
Richmond upon Thames  
Wandsworth  
Oxfordshire  
Cheshire West and Chester  
Cheshire West and Chester  
Hammersmith and Fulham  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Kent

## Map of Free Schools opening in 2013



map of free schools  
opening in 2013 and b

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**Wiltshire Council  
Children's Select Committee**

**26 July 2012**

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## **Coalition Changes – Update May to July 2012**

### **Two-year-olds pre-school education offer**

1. At the moment, all three and four year olds are eligible for 15 hours of free early education per week. A limited amount of two-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are also supported with a larger number due to start receiving free pre-school education from 2013. The Deputy Prime Minister wants to see the programme rolling out early from this September. He has announced a series of new changes to childcare, including:
  - Early rollout of free pre-school education for two-year-olds in ten areas - these areas will trial the entitlement, with just under 1000 two-year-olds set to benefit from this September.
  - Greater flexibility for parents – the hours in which parents can bring in their children for their free place will be extended by two hours. Currently, parents are restricted by having to drop their children off no earlier than 8am and picking them up no later than 6pm. This will be extended to 7am - 7pm.
  - Giving parents the option to spread their free nursery place over two days rather than three. Under the current rules, hours have to be divided over a minimum of three days. This doesn't offer enough flexibility for parents who work part time, for example. Currently, many working parents are unable to take up all of the hours available to them because of this.
  - Revised statutory guidance making absolutely clear parents do not have to pay to access their child's free early education place - this follows concerns that some free nursery places are being made conditional on parents being able to make additional payments.
2. Sarah Teather, Minister for Children and Families, has launched a [consultation](#) which closes on 15 October calling for views on which two year olds should benefit. This is for the second phase of the roll out of free early education to around 40 per cent of two-year-old children to help prepare them for school and give them the best possible start in life which starts in September 2014.

## Primary Curriculum

3. The draft [Programmes of Study](#) have been published which will be subject to an informal consultation so they can be widely discussed. The Department for Education will consider the public debate and re-draft the programmes before re-publishing them later in the year for formal consultation. The final programmes will be introduced in primary schools from September 2014.

## School Funding Reform

4. The Secretary of State has announced the [final details](#) of the reform of the school revenue funding system. This confirms the arrangements to simplify the local funding system for 2013-14 and the new approach to high needs funding that will help to improve transparency, quality and choice for young people and their families. These new arrangements are intended to help to secure greater consistency and equivalence in how funding is distributed to schools.
5. A full review of Wiltshire's funding formula for schools has been carried out in order to be compliant with the new arrangements. Schools Forum considers the proposed formula on 13<sup>th</sup> July and schools will then be consulted during September. The consultation will incorporate an impact statement to show each school the likely impact of the revised formula on its funding. Roadshows have been arranged during September to provide further detail to head teachers and governing bodies on the proposed funding arrangements and the implications.

## Priority School Building Programme

6. On 24 May 2012 the Secretary of State announced which schools will have their condition needs addressed through the Priority School Building Programme. Wiltshire has been successful with projects agreed for:
  - St Mary's C of E Infant School (joint application with St Peter's C of E Junior School)
  - St Peter's C of E Junior School (joint application with St Mary's C of E Infant School)
  - Wyvern College
7. Full details of how the programme is to be funded are yet to be provided to local authorities.

## Academies Update

			Date opened
	Sponsored academies:		
1	The Wellington Academy	Salisbury	September 2009
2	Sarum Academy	Salisbury	September 2010



	Non-sponsored academies:		
3	Hardenhuish	Chippenham	September 2010
4	Lavington	Lavington	January 2011
5	South Wilts	Salisbury	January 2011
6	Bishop Wordsworth's	Salisbury	March 2011
7	Corsham Primary School	Corsham	April 2011
8	The Corsham School	Corsham	April 2011
9	Sheldon School	Chippenham	April 2011
10	Pewsey Vale	Pewsey	July 2011
11	Wootton Bassett	Wootton Bassett	July 2011
12	Kingdown School	Warminster	August 2011
13	St Laurence	Bradford on Avon	August 2011
14	Malmesbury	Malmesbury	August 2011
15	The Holy Trinity School	Great Cheverell	September 2011
16	Saint Edmund's Catholic Academy	Calne	September 2011
17	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Devizes	September 2011
18	St Augustine's Catholic School	Trowbridge	September 2011
19	Springfields School	Calne	September 2011
20	The John Bentley	Calne	November 2011
21	St Edmunds CE Girls School	Salisbury	February 2012
22	The John of Gaunt School	Trowbridge	April 2012
23	The Mead Academy Trust	Trowbridge	May 2012
24	Holy Trinity School,	Calne	May 2012
25	By Brook Valley Primary	Nr Chippenham	May 2012
26	Woodford Valley	Nr Salisbury	June 2012

### Child performance regulations

8. The requirements for licensing under-16s to take part safely in public performances – including television, radio, films or stage – have not been

reformed since 1968. The [key proposals](#) published for consultation today will:

- Make clear when a licence is required for a child to take part in a professional performance:

The following activities will require local authority licences. In addition, television and radio producers must abide by the Ofcom's robust Broadcasting Code, which covers all under-18s appearing in television and radio broadcasts:

- performing to a paying audience;
- performing in premises licensed to sell alcohol;
- public broadcast material – when children are placed in artificial situations, which have been contrived for artistic, editorial or dramatic effect. Programmes which may be billed or presented as 'observational' or 'factual' but where the experience of the child is contrived for dramatic effect will require licensing. The final decision will rest with the local authority;
- paid modelling, including advertising and stills photography; and
- aged under-13 and paid to compete and perform in recognised sports – over and above reasonable expenses. Individual sports governing bodies will be in charge of overseeing over-13s in line with the national Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport, jointly funded by Sport England and the NSPCC.

The following will be exempt:

- where the performance is arranged by a school or Academy, including those outside the school premises accompanied by a teacher;
- where participation in the activity poses no greater risks, than the risks they face in ordinary course of their life and the child is not being paid;
- where it involves the creation of content generated by a child or their parent, where there is no plan to upload or share it for profit;
- where a child is aged 13 or over, is not paid, and the specific performance has been granted a local authority Body of Persons approval;
- where a producer holds a current amateur performance registration and the child is not being paid to participate; and
- unplanned performances, for example unpaid auditions, where it would not be practicable for a licence to be obtained in advance. "Auditions" which are recorded and broadcast would required be licensed.

## **Munro: Child protection reforms update**

9. Professor Munro has published [The Progress Report: moving towards a child centred system](#) outlining her view of progress since her report on changes needed to Child Protection.
10. She notes that a “culture change” is underway in the child protection system but outlined an urgent need to now accelerate reforms to create a more child-centred system. She said reforms had reached a “watershed moment” but, while progress is moving in the right direction, it now needs to move faster with more prescription and bureaucracy stripped away so social workers are able to focus on giving children and young people the help they need. The report calls for faster progress in the following areas:
  - A reduction in statutory guidance so that there is more scope for professional and local autonomy. There has been a delay in implementing these changes, due to the need for proper public consultation. Once this has been removed services should be better placed to work together to offer improved early help.
  - The Government needs to encourage better understanding between services as reforms take place in health and policing.
  - The importance of implementing all the proposed reforms together in full. Implementing these reforms as a whole will give professionals the scope and skills they require to better protect children.

## **Child Protection**

11. The Government published its [plans](#) to overhaul the child protection system reducing hundreds of pages of instruction manuals with shorter guidance and checklists listing roles and responsibilities.
12. Ministers want to create a culture that places trust in health professionals, teachers, early year’s professionals, youth workers, police and social workers, so they can get on with their work, without being hampered by unnecessary rules and targets. The consultation closes on 4 September and is calling for views on the following:
  - Radically reduced guidance that clearly states the law so all organisations know what they and others must do to protect children. It does not tell professionals how to do their job, but provides a checklist setting out their duties.
  - New guidance on undertaking assessments of children in need. The guidance proposes to replace nationally prescribed timescales for assessments with a more flexible approach focused on the needs of each child.
  - New guidance on Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) to help all services properly learn the lessons from them. The guidance proposes changes so SCRs get to the heart of what happened in a particular case and

why, and set out what improvements need to be made to help prevent recurrence.

13. The government has also published its [children's safeguarding performance information framework](#) that describes the local and national information that should be used by local agencies as well as Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Health and Wellbeing Boards. It includes key nationally collected data and the questions that should be asked at a local level to understand the impact and effectiveness of safeguarding children.

### **Sexual exploitation**

14. Urgent reforms to protect children in residential care homes from sexual exploitation and to overhaul the wider system have been announced by Children's Minister Tim Loughton. The measures include more robust checks before children are placed in homes outside their home boroughs; overhauling the quality and transparency of data so there is a clear picture of children who go missing from care; and reviewing all aspects of the quality and effectiveness of children's homes – including their management, ownership and staffing.
15. The Government has also published a [progress report](#) on the national Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan published in November 2011 and 'step-by-step' guidance for frontline staff – which sets out ongoing work with the courts, police and social services to prosecute and jail abusers; protect young people at risk; and help victims of these appalling crimes get their lives back on track.
16. This action comes after a report published today by the Deputy Children's Commissioner Sue Berelowitz on emerging findings from her ongoing Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups inquiry, including recommendations on specific risks facing looked-after children living in care homes. Her report finds growing evidence that children in care are particularly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation – with a disproportionate number being groomed or sexually exploited, although the majority of known victims are outside the care system. Her interim report with fuller findings will be published in September and her final report in autumn 2013.

### **Support for families**

17. The Prime Minister outlined that the [support](#) being offered to parents will include:
  - a. a brand new digital service for parents-to-be and new parents, providing regular emails and texts with timely information as their

- pregnancy develops and their child grows. Parents will be invited to sign up to this new service at booking appointments with midwives.
- b. free parenting classes to all parents of children aged five years and under in three trial areas. Middlesbrough, High Peak in Derbyshire and Camden in London.
  - c. expert organisations to deliver relationship support for first time parents in four trial areas of the country from this summer. A trial starting in July will offer subsidised relationship support sessions for all expectant mothers and fathers and those with children up to the age of two in the trial areas - York and Leeds, North Essex, Hackney and City of London, Islington and Westminster.

## **Adoption**

18. The Prime Minister has announced plans to reduce radically the time it takes for a baby to move in with their permanent family. The policy paper, **'Proposals for placing babies with permanent carers earlier'**, details how the Government intends to give local authorities a duty to consider placing a child with foster carers who are likely to become their permanent carers.
19. At present, when a local authority has decided that adoption is the best option for a child, many of them wait for a placement order to be granted by the courts before they place the child with adoptive parents, meaning that it takes an average of 21 months from entering care to moving in with a new family. While the court is considering the application the local authority can place the child with foster parents, who will also be considered as potential adoptive parents. This will mean that if the placement order is made, the child will not need to move to new carers. It does not pre-empt a court's decision about whether adoption is the right decision for the child.

CAROLYN GODFREY  
Corporate Director

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Report author: Lynda Cox, Head of Performance and Information Management, Children's Services.

Largely taken from the DFE website content 16 May – 6 July 2012

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Forward Work Programme – Children’s Select Committee

Item and Meeting Date	Purpose of Report	Consultation	Supporting Documents	Responsible Cabinet Member	Officer Contact	Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2011-15 reference
<b>27 September 2012</b>						
<b>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</b>	A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.			Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Lynda Cox <a href="mailto:lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk">lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Tel: 07500 605299	Summary of Legislative Change  (Page 11)
<b>Executive response to the Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group</b>	To receive the response of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services to the Task Group report endorsed on 26 July.			Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Mark Brotherton	
<b>Systems thinking review of services for disabled children</b>  <b>TBC</b>	This is listed as a priority within the Business Plan 2011-15			Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Carolyn Godfrey  Sue Redmond	Systems Thinking Reviews
<b>Transformation of the Passenger Assistant Service</b>  <b>TBC</b>	To update on the transformation of the Passenger Assistant service.  The Committee last received an item on this matter in July 2011.			Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport  <a href="mailto:richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk">richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Jason Salter, Principal Officer	

Forward Work Programme – Children’s Select Committee

Item and Meeting Date	Purpose of Report	Consultation	Supporting Documents	Responsible Cabinet Member	Officer Contact	Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2011-15 reference
<b>29 November 2012</b>						
<b>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</b>	A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.			Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Lynda Cox <a href="mailto:lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk">lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Tel: 07500 605299	Summary of Legislative Change  (Page 11)
<b>Update report on the PTI project in Wiltshire, plus the DfE’s light-touch review (YPSS review)</b>	Requested 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	-		Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Mark Brotherton	
<b>31 January 2013</b>						
<b>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</b>	A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.	-	-	Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Lynda Cox <a href="mailto:lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk">lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Tel: 07500 605299	Summary of Legislative Change  (Page 11)
<b>Pupil Performance</b>	Annual report on the Early Years to KS5 attainment of Wiltshire’s children and young people	-	-	Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Julie Cathcart	
<b>28 March 2013</b>						



Forward Work Programme – Children’s Select Committee

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<b>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</b>	A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.	-	-	Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Lynda Cox <a href="mailto:lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk">lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Tel: 07500 605299	Summary of Legislative Change  (Page 11)
<b>Report of the Safeguarding Children &amp; Young People Task Group</b>  <b>TBC</b>	To present the conclusions and recommendations of this Task Group 12 months after its formation.	-	-	Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Fiona Fitzpatrick	Vulnerable Children
<b>May 2013</b>						
<b>Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Children and Education</b>	A standing item detailing recent changes made by the Coalition Government.	-	-	Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	Lynda Cox <a href="mailto:lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk">lynda.cox@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>  Tel: 07500 605299	Summary of Legislative Change  (Page 11)
<b>Update on progress – Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group</b>	The final report of this Task Group was endorsed in May 2012. It was agreed that the Task Group would be reconvened 12 months hence to consider progress. This item is to report back to the Committee the results of this exercise.	-	-	Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE <a href="mailto:lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk">lionel.grundy@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>		

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