

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Committee Rooms A - C, Monkton Park, Chippenham
Date: Thursday 27 September 2012
Time: 10.30 am

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

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

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

Membership:

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

Substitutes:

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

Non-Elected Voting Members:

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

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

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

PART I

Items to be considered 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 26 July 2012.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests or dispensations granted by the 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 20 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 **Disabled Children and Adults (DCA) Pathfinder** *(Pages 13 - 18)*

A report from Carolyn Godfrey and Sue Redmond, Corporate Directors, providing an update on the Green Paper, 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability', and Wiltshire's approach to this as a pathfinder.

In 2011 work started on the disabled children and adults review aimed at giving more choice and control to children and families, ensuring the Council worked efficiently and improving the transition process from children to adult services. This review of the services for disabled children and adults was listed as a priority in the Business Plan 2011-15.

At the same time, the government published a [Green Paper](#) proposing radical reforms to systems for identifying, assessing and supporting children and young people with disabilities or special educational needs. In September 2011 confirmation was received that Wiltshire was one of 20 local authorities selected to be a pathfinder for this Green Paper work. As the work of the DCA review and the requirements of the green paper are aligned, the two pieces of work were brought together and are now managed as the Disabled Children and Adults (DCA) Pathfinder.

The Committee is asked to note the information provided and agree arrangements for further scrutiny as appropriate.

7 **Coalition Changes - July to September 2012** *(Pages 19 - 22)*

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

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

8 **Executive response to the Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group** *(Pages 23 - 32)*

A report from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services presenting the executive response to the report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group, which was endorsed by the Committee in July. The report also contains responses from Wiltshire NHS to recommendations number 2, 3 and 10, which relate to services commissioned by the PCT.

When the Committee endorsed the report, it was resolved:

1. To endorse the final report and recommendations of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group, subject to an amendment in paragraph 49 so that it reads, "the Task Group is aware from recent reports in the local media that Wiltshire College's funding from Central Government has been reduced".
2. To request a response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and other parties where appropriate to be received at the Committee's next meeting.
3. That following the receipt of the responses, the Task Group reconvenes to undertake further work, to include:

- a visit to Wiltshire College's provision for post-16 learners with SEN;
- consideration of the identification of Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BSED) in primary school aged children;
- an investigation to identify out of County resources being used by Wiltshire;
- an examination of mainstream schools to identify the level of SEN provision they make.

Members are asked to note the response of the Cabinet Member and agree arrangements for further Task Group activity in addition or amendment to the bullet points listed above as appropriate.

9 **Report of the FE in the Salisbury Area Task Group: Concerns raised by Sarum Academy regarding the Task Group's final report** *(Pages 33 - 48)*

A report from the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group, having considered the concerns raised by Sarum Academy regarding the Task Group's final report.

At its July meeting, the Children's Select Committee received the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the Task Group's final report. At this meeting, Ruth Johnson, Principal of Sarum Academy, raised a number of concerns about the report's circulation and its accuracy in regards to Sarum Academy. The Children's Select Committee asked the Task Group to reconvene to consider the points raised and report back to the Committee at a later date. The Task Group met on 24 August and were joined by Ruth Johnson, Principal of Sarum Academy.

The Committee is asked to note the Task Group's conclusions and bring them to the attention of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

10 **Task Group Update** *(Pages 49 - 50)*

Members are asked to note the updates on the following task group activity attached:

- Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group
- Major Contracts Task Group

11 **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 51 - 52)*

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

12 **Urgent Items**

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

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 29 November 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

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2012 AT COMMITTEE ROOMS A - C, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM.

Present:

Mrs Di Dale, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Cllr Russell Hawker, Mr J Hawkins, Cllr Jon Hubbard, KaylumHouse, Rev. A Kemp, Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Cllr Sheila Parker and Dr M Thompson

Also Present:

Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE, Cllr Graham Payne and Cllr Anthony Trotman

20 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Peggy Dow, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Bill Moss, Mrs Rosheen Ryan and Cllr Carole Soden.

21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 May 2012.

22 Declarations of Interest

Revd Alice Kemp declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was Vice-Chairman of the Governors of St Nicholas School, Chippenham, which would form part of the discussion in Agenda Item No. 8 – Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group (See Minute No 27 below)

23 Chairman's Announcements

Members were informed that Cllr Carole Soden, the Chairman of this Select Committee, had sent her apologies because she was undergoing hospital treatment. Members expressed their best wishes for a full recovery.

24 **Public Participation**

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

25 **Executive response to the Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group**

The Select Committee received a report which set out 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 which was endorsed by this Committee at its last meeting on 31 May 2012. The Committee was invited to note the Cabinet Member's response and decide any further action that needed to be taken.

Ms Di Dale, Principal of Wiltshire College, stated that she generally welcomed the findings of the report but did have concerns regarding the following two recommendations which were directed towards Wiltshire College:-

Recommendation 9 (see paragraphs 4.2.49 for further info)

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.

Di Dale stated that Wiltshire College had looked at, in detail, creating its own transport infrastructure. Detailed work had been completed; looking at where students travelled from, what would be the best routes to maximise pick up and what size buses would be most appropriate. However, as noted in the recommendation, the economic climate for Colleges and the public sector as a whole played a significant role with an anticipated budget reduction of 13% over the next two years. One full-size coach would cost the College c£35K and a small minibus c£20K – this price only included one collection in the morning and one return at the end of the day. Therefore, the cost was prohibitive. She also informed the Committee that some of their competitors were subsidising their transport for one final year and would be reducing services due to cost.

However, she confirmed that the College would welcome any consideration that the Council could give to putting in place a universal bus-pass scheme, such as that operated by Somerset County Council.

Recommendation 13 (see paragraphs 4.2.82 for further info)

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.

Di Dale stated that the College was currently funded to provide 480 hours of learning per student, per annum for full-time 16-18 year olds over a 35 week academic year. Whilst the coalition government had given a commitment to ensure parity of funding between school sixth-forms and colleges, Wiltshire College had maximised on its resources to create what Ofsted had recognised to be an exemplary Community Campus (enrichment) programme. Furthermore, the College made clear to all students, specifically those studying for A-level or vocationally equivalent qualifications, that a significant amount of independent study outside of formal classes was expected.

Finally, Di Dale explained that as a further education college, students operated in an adult environment, where they were treated as such. Through this approach, the College was continually committed to prepare students for the working world and/or higher level study, which was underpinned by a 'good' with 'outstanding features' academic support and engagement system.

Ms Ruth Johnson, Principal of Sarum Academy expressed her concern about the Task Group's findings regarding the Academy and also that the School had not yet received a hard copy of the Task Group's Report and had therefore been unable to make any representations to this Committee when it considered the recommendations on 31 May 2012.

Firstly, Sarum Academy was anxious to correct the misrepresentation of the ability levels of its students. The Academy had found it disappointing that the report suggested that their curriculum was designed only to suit those with lower academic attainment. Sarum Academy offered a very broad programme of courses and qualifications to suit young people of all abilities as outlined in the vision and ethos document that Wiltshire Council itself had been involved in drawing up. The historic lower than average attainment at GCSE was being rapidly addressed and already 81% of Year 11 pupils had achieved 5+ A*-C this year, a figure significantly higher than that achieved by certain other schools in the area last year and the Academy was expecting to see a significant rise in their 5+ figure including English and Maths. Current predictions for Year 13 expected outcomes were above national post 16 indicators that set targets that would place a subject in the top 25% in the country. Sarum Academy's predicted average total point score for this year was also above the national average with pupils expected to achieve an average of AAB grades. A higher number of students from the Academy were going on to higher education this year than ever before. It was important to note that Sarum Academy was not just for lower attaining pupils and it wished the report to be amended to reflect this.

The second area of concern related to the collaborative development of the post-16 provision. The Report, suggesting that there was no sixth form provision in central Salisbury meeting the needs of those who wished to study AS/A2 course, was inaccurate as Sarum Academy offered a wide range of both academic and vocational courses. The recommendations of the report for the

three institutions of the Laverstock site and the college to work together not only ignored the provision Sarum Academy had on offer which was designed to meet local needs but also ignored the vision of the Academy to work in partnership to avoid duplication of courses and enhance provision. Sarum Academy wished to be an active partner in any collaborative venture.

Finally, Ms Johnson challenged the comments made about recruitment into post-16 provision. She reminded the Committee that the report stated, "it seems unlikely that this school will be successful in attracting significant numbers from outside of its KS4 cohort in the near future" but this was not borne out by evidence as Academy applications had increased by 160% from last year with almost 100 applications for Year 12, most citing the Academy as their first choice establishment and drawing from across Salisbury. Sarum Academy was confident that it would play a key role in post-16 provision within Salisbury, given that it offered specialisms in Maths and the Arts, two identified curriculum areas which learners left Salisbury to study in Hampshire. Sarum Academy was an emerging centre of excellence in BTEC provision (verified by all of the Academy's moderators' reports) which complemented existing AS/A2 courses, with a new fit for purpose sixth form centre which would be operational for up to 300 learners next September.

The Committee was informed that these concerns had been raised in a letter dated 21 June 2012 sent by the three sponsors of Sarum Academy (other than Wiltshire Council) to Carolyn Godfrey and had been responded to by Dr Mike Thompson as Chairman of the Task Group.

Dr Mike Thompson, as Chairman of the Task Group, expressed regret that the School felt its provision had not been reflected correctly and also that a copy of the Task Group's Final Report had not been sent to the Principal of the Academy. It had certainly not been the wish of the Task Group to undermine the excellent work undertaken by Sarum Academy but the Task Group had been somewhat handicapped in that it had not been provided with a vision ethos for the Academy as had been provided in respect of other schools. He promised to arrange for a hard copy of the Final Report to be sent to the Principal as soon as possible. He also welcomed the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services which he regarded as being very positive.

Cllr Lionel Grundy, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, introduced his report and explained that officers had acted swiftly and had already held two meetings with the Headteachers of the schools on the Laverstock campus regarding future strategic planning of the site. He assured the Committee that the officers would continue to work for a satisfactory conclusion to the various issues that had been raised as far as the responsibilities of Wiltshire Council permitted.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:-

- Some concern was raised at the large amount of migration out of the County for the pursuit of sixth form studies and it was noted that there were insufficient places available in the south of the County to meet the demand for places.
- With regard to the provision of transport for sixth form students, it was noted that there was no funding available.

After further discussion,

Resolved:

- (1) **To note the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the Task Group's recommendations.**
- (2) **To note the response of Wiltshire College to recommendations 9 and 13 in the Task Group's final report and to thank the College for providing this information.**
- (3) **To request the Task Group to reconvene to consider the concerns raised by the Principal and three sponsors of Sarum Academy and report back to this Committee.**
- (4) **To circulate the letter from three of the Sarum Academy sponsors detailing their concerns about the Task Group's final report and the reply from the Chairman of the Task Group to members of the Committee.**
- (5) **To request clarification of the funding arrangements in place for transport for post-16 learners in Wiltshire.**

26 Executive response to the Final Report of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise

The Select Committee received a report which set out the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the final report of the Family Information Service rapid scrutiny exercise which was held on 11 May 2012 and was endorsed by this Committee at its last meeting on 31 May 2012.

Members were reminded that the Children's Services Select Committee established a rapid scrutiny exercise on 29 March 2012 following receipt of a report on 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 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 would be provided in future.

The Committee was invited to note the Cabinet Member's response and decide any further action that needed to be taken.

A written question had been submitted by the Ask Board of Trustees which was read out by Ms Liz Garrett, Chair of Ask. A response had been prepared by the Service Director, Commissioning & Performance which was read out and circulated to Ms Garrett and members of the Committee. (*Appendix 1 to these minutes*)

After some discussion,

Resolved:

- (1) To note the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the rapid scrutiny group's recommendations.**
- (2) To request the outcomes of the review of the Family Information Service scheduled to be undertaken between January and April 2013.**

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

The Committee received the final report of the Special Schools and Post-16 Task Group.

Members were reminded that the Task Group had been established by the Children's Services Select Committee in September 2010 with the following terms of reference:-

- a) To establish the strengths and weaknesses of current special school and post-16 SEN provision in Wiltshire, taking into account the views of service users, parents and other stakeholder groups;
- b) To consider examples of best practice in special school and post-16 provision in Wiltshire and other authority areas;
- c) To make recommendations with respect to how special schools and post-16 SEN provision can be developed to ensure improved outcomes for Wiltshire residents with SEN.

Cllr Graham Payne, as Chairman of the Task Group, introduced the report and explained that the Task Group had concluded early on in its work that its terms of reference were very broad and could potentially encompass a huge area of work. It had agreed that it would be more productive to focus on particular

areas of concern or interest as they arose through the Task Group's evidence gathering, starting with the physical condition and capacities of the six special schools.

The Task Group had visited each of these six special schools in Wiltshire and also Studley Green Special Learning Centre for Complex Needs and Speech & Language, this resource centre being attached to Studley Green Primary School, Trowbridge. During these visits further issues were highlighted which subsequently became part of the Task Group's review and recommendations, as set out on pages 15-17 of the Task Group's report.

During the following discussion the following points were made:-

- Concern was expressed that disabled access, in particular wheelchair access, was not available in some areas of certain special schools. It was suggested that discussions take place with Wiltshire College regarding this provision.
- Cllr Tony Trotman, a member of the Task Group, stated that during the visits made the dedication of the staff had been very noticeable as had been the support and help given to them by parents and families.
- Ms Di Dale, Principal of Wiltshire College, reported that the College had not yet been visited by the Task Group and extended an invitation to the Task Group members to examine the quality of its SEN provision. She pointed out that the report's reference in para. 49 to financial difficulties encountered by the College was incorrect. She explained that Central Government had reduced the College's funding but this had not led to financial difficulties.
- Some concern was expressed about the level and funding of healthcare provision in Wiltshire's special schools, particularly at the three Severe Learning Disability schools at Exeter House in Salisbury, Larkrise School in Trowbridge and St Nicholas School in Chippenham. Concern was also expressed about the weight of responsibility this placed upon school staff and the potential risk it could pose to children's health and safety.
- Evidence had been received by the Task Group that some local authorities had a funding matrix whereby local health bodies contributed some funding for in-school nursing provision and the question was raised as to why there was not a similar agreement in Wiltshire. In response, the Service Director, Commissioning & Performance stated that certainly in Bristol this funding arrangement related to a very small number of children.

After further discussion,

Resolved:

- (1) To endorse the final report and recommendations of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group, subject to an amendment in paragraph 49 so that it reads, “the Task Group is aware from recent reports in the local media that Wiltshire College’s funding from Central Government has been reduced”.
- (2) To request a response from the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and other parties where appropriate to be received at the Committee’s next meeting.
- (3) That following the receipt of the responses, the Task Group reconvenes to undertake further work, to include:-
 - a visit to Wiltshire College’s provision for post-16 learners with SEN.
 - consideration of the identification of Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BSED) in primary school aged children.
 - an investigation to identify out of County resources being used by Wiltshire.
 - an examination of mainstream schools to identify the level of SEN provision they make.

28 Interim report of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group

Consideration was given to a report which updated the Committee on the work of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group since it was established on 29 March 2012.

Cllr Jon Hubbard, Chairman of the Task Group, reported on the activity to date undertaken and informed Members that a detailed presentation had been received from the Community Safeguarding Head of Service on progress that had been made with implementing improvements to the Council’s Referral and Assessment processes.

Cllr Hubbard also advised that the Task Group was kept informed of progress with the implementation of all the improvements required by Ofsted by receiving updates on the Safeguarding Improvement Plan. Weekly bulletins were also received that were now sent to all Wiltshire Council social care staff. It was also noted that Cllr Hubbard had spoken to staff and had explained the roll of the Task Group.

Resolved:

To note the update on the work of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group.

29 **The Role of Wiltshire Council in Informal Education**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Director, Schools & Learning, which presented the outcome of the consultation on adult education in Wiltshire which had now been completed. The Committee was invited to consider the results which would be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 10 September 2012 and the options for future delivery of informal adult education from the following three 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.

After some discussion,

Resolved:

- (1) To recommend that Cabinet adopt options 2 & 3:**
 - (i) To facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level.**
 - (ii) To coordinate and promote informal adult learning opportunities offered across the County.**
- (2) To extend the Committee's thanks and appreciation to the Principal and staff at Urchfont Manor for their outstanding contribution to adult education.**

30 **Update on the Academy Schools Programme**

The Committee received a report by the Service Director, Schools & Learning, which provided an update on the Academies Programme in Wiltshire. Appended to the report was a briefing paper 'Academy Types and Governance Models', which outlined the background to academies and free schools both nationally and locally and which had been sent to all Members of the Council on 25 May 2012 following a request from this Committee.

Resolved:

To receive and note the contents of the report.

31 **Coalition Changes update - May to July 2012**

The 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 It was noted that Secretary of State had announced final details of the school revenue funding system which was aimed to simplify the local funding system for 2013-14 and help to secure greater consistency and equivalence in how funding was distributed to schools.

A full review of Wiltshire's funding formula for schools had been carried out in order to be compliant with the new arrangements. The Schools Forum considered the proposed formula at its meeting on 13 July 2012 and schools would be consulted during September which would include an impact statement showing each school the likely impact of the revised formula on its funding. Roadshows would be held during September to provide further details to headteachers and governing bodies on the proposed funding arrangements and the implications.

It was pointed out that the new proposals appeared to be based on an urban model and consequently rural authorities such as Wiltshire were faced with greater changes to their funding formulas. Members were informed that the Leader of the Council was writing to the Minister about this.

32 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received the Forward Work Programme for consideration and comment, it being noted that this would be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee for endorsement.

Resolved:

To approve the Committee's Forward Work Programme and commend it to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee to be endorsed.

33 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items of business.

34 **Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved:

To note that the next meeting of this Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday 27 September 2012, starting at 10.30am, at the Council's Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.50 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

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee
27 September 2012

Disabled Children and Adults (DCA) Pathfinder

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update members on the green paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' and Wiltshire's approach to this as a pathfinder.

Background

2. Last year work started on the disabled children and adults review. The main objective of the review was simple: to change the way we work to ensure that disabled children, adults and their families in Wiltshire could lead 'normal' and fulfilling lives.
3. The review had three main aims which included making things better for the people who used services, giving more choice and control to children and families, and to ensure the council worked efficiently. The review also aimed to improve the transition process from children to adult services that was often described by families as 'falling off a cliff edge'.
4. During the same time, the government published a [green paper](#), 'SEND green paper - Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability'. They set out proposals that would radically reform current systems for identifying, assessing and supporting children and young people who have disabilities or have a special educational need, and their families.
5. In the green paper the government made commitments that by 2014 they would:-
 - Implement a single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan. In Wiltshire we are currently calling this the Single Assessment Framework and Plan (SAFP).
 - Introduce an offer of a personal budget for families with a Education, Health and Care plan .

In addition to this the green paper calls for :-

- Earlier intervention and prevention
- Giving control to parents
- Preparing young people for adulthood
- Services to work together for families

- Provide better support to vulnerable children
 - Development of a 'local offer' that describes what support is available and by whom
6. In August 2011 a bid was submitted to DfE to become a pathfinder for the green paper work. Wiltshire NHS, Wiltshire Community Services, voluntary sector representative for the Wiltshire Children & Families Voluntary Sector Forum and Wiltshire Parent Carer Council supported and signed the application. In Sept 2011 confirmation was received that we were one of 20 pathfinders selected. The pathfinder is due to run until April 2013 although DfE have suggested this may be extended to inform legislation changes.
 7. As the work of the DCA review and the requirements of the green paper are aligned the two pieces of work were brought together and are now managed as the DCA Pathfinder.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. Whilst we are still at the pathfinder stage, the government has clearly indicated through the recent Queen's Speech that it intends to take forward legislation in the Children's and Families Bill to require the implementation of a single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan.

Current timeframe for legislation changes include:

- Draft clauses to be published in early September 2012
- Pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS) to run over autumn and winter 2012
- PLS likely to be led by Education Select Committee and will involve evidence leading to a final report to the government
- Revised Bill will then be introduced in Parliament in spring 2013 to begin legislative scrutiny.
- Royal assent and implementation Spring 2014 onwards.

The reforms are about strengthening protections, not taking them away.

9. The legislation will include provision to ensure that services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs are planned and commissioned jointly and that there are clear duties on all of the agencies involved.
10. The legislation changes will provide statutory protections comparable to those currently associated with a statement of SEN to up to 25yrs old in further education – instead of it being cut off at 16.
11. An Education Bill received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. The act enables pathfinders to test direct payments for SEN education services. This enables us as a pathfinder to test personal budgets, that include giving money as a direct payment for SEN education services. Lessons learnt by pathfinders will be drawn upon and will inform legislation. There is currently ongoing discussion about the application

of the legislation.

12. In addition to all of this, the recently published [draft Care and Support Bill](#) includes provision to give local authorities powers to assess children for adult services. It also provides a new protection to ensure that children's services continue until the assessments and planning required for adult services have been completed, and support is ready to meet their needs. This will ensure that there is no gap in care.
13. The [Children's and Families Bill draft legislation](#) published early September 2012 gives a clear indication that government is taking forward the proposals in the green paper. In Wiltshire we are committed to developing and implementing these through a proof of concept¹ team.
14. Whilst we understand that improvements will be made to children/young people and their families by introducing the changes stated within the green paper, we also believe that the way we structure (to remove interfaces and barriers to coordinated working) and the philosophy we follow, will facilitate better outcomes for children, young people and their families.
15. We have agreement from the project sponsors (Carolyn Godfrey and Sue Redmond) to design and develop a 0-25yr (stability²) Special Educational and Disability (SEND) service. A design team of 48 people across SEN, health, social care in children and adults, voluntary and community sector and parent carers have developed a service purpose and key operating principles it will work within. A conceptual model containing detail about the SEND service can be found on DCA [pathfinder e-forum](#) .
16. Starting in Sept, a proof of concept team will be testing the single assessment framework and plan, the single assessment process and a new role supporting this process (the SEND lead worker). Approximately 40 families will be approached to be involved in testing this exciting and creative assessment process.
17. We are looking to test the viability of the single assessment and plan replacing the SEN statementing process, social care learning disability assessments in children and adult services, a community care assessment at 18, section 139a assessment, carers assessments , separate transition plan, health action plan and continuing health care assessment processes.
18. We are testing an integrated approach and team as the DCA work concluded that this is the way forward. So whilst we are the proof of concept stage , it is clear that new ways of working together with new structures will be required to support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

¹ The purpose of a proof of concept is to evidence that a model or idea is feasible.

² Supports until the young person is relatively stable, knowing where they would like to live and employment that would like etc.

19. During the proof of concept families will be supported and encouraged to step outside of the current process to test the single assessment framework. During the proof of concept the statutory legislation remains in place so at any point families can choose to opt out and return to the relevant current process, including statutory processes, where eligible.
20. Early indications are that parents and carers with children and young people have welcomed this new approach as highlighted in the quote below from a parent.

'I would like to add that I have found this new way of going about the assessments much easier and a more personal approach to assessing my sons needs. I have found in the past I have had to repeat my sons needs to so many different people at different times, and often things are misunderstood via transit to other people i.e. mum to social worker to SEN to school etc, it all becomes very long winded. I think by doing it this way, and having all the appropriate people together in one room also means ideas and understanding for the child's needs are shared and understood more clearly by all'.

21. Admission to a special school is currently via a statement. During the proof of concept, special schools will be encouraged to accept the new single assessment paperwork in addition to the statement which is currently a requirement.
22. Some families in the proof of concept may choose to have a personal budget. A personal budget is a way of enabling families to choose how their support is delivered and this may be partly through a direct payment. Families will be advised how much of an indicative budget they have allocated to meet their outcomes.
23. Personal budgets in the proof of concept will be based on an indicative amount based on a reasonable amount to achieve outcomes. Case law is emerging in adult care stating that a Resource Allocation System (RAS) is a useful starting point, however this must be supported by more individual costings to ensure that the indicative amount is sufficient for needs to be met.
24. Key information from the assessments and plan will inform commissioning intelligence at both a local and strategic level. Strategically this will inform Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health and Wellbeing board and joint commissioning groups, including the Children's Partnership.
25. The green paper proposes that all local authorities publish a local offer which states what support is available for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and who provides it. We are in the early stages of thinking about Wiltshire's local offer. We expect that it will include support available across the local authority, schools and health and a clear indication of eligibility criteria. As the ethos of the 0-25 SEND service is that wherever possible children and young people are supported in the universal mainstream settings, a clear and accessible local offer is critical.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

26. As a pathfinder we have been given authority to step outside of current statutory processes to 'pathfind' a new way of working. We are designing a new approach and testing a hypothesis. We are not testing an approach already fully designed. Currently legislation conflicts with the work pathfinders have been asked to develop. However, throughout our proof of concept stage we need to remember the legislation remains and families can choose to opt out and return to the statutory processes at any point.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

27. A key purpose of the SEND service is to ensure that the single assessment process is transparent and fair. The local offer will clearly describe the support available. All of the design work has been completed by a wide range of stakeholders to ensure all views are heard and involved in the design of a new way of working.

28. Initial conversations have taken place with the Equalities Impact Assessment team and further discussions will take place.

Risk Assessment

29. A full risk register has been in place since the start of the DCA Review. The following risks are representative of some of those identified on the register:-

Resources

- Working in an early intervention and holistic approach across all age ranges may identify previously unmet needs that require resources.

Engagement

- Families will need to be fully supported during the proof of concept and the benefits of the single assessment process are clearly described to them. Otherwise a limited representation of families could choose to opt into the proof of concept.
- Schools will need to be fully engaged to understand the impact of the single assessment process and their role within this.

Financial Implications

30. As a pathfinder we receive £150k a year from DfE to facilitate engagement and to design and test new ways of working. The majority of this money has been allocated to support families who choose to take up personal budgets, as we may need to double fund for the proof of concept.

31. The DCA pathfinder does not have set financial savings set against it. However, by changing the way we work, resources could overtime be redirected from supporting families at crisis point to supporting families

requiring lower level support .Currently, services tend to spend budgets on high cost individuals and supporting them once they require intensive support. By working in a preventative way, resources will be diverted to support children with lower support needs , potentially reducing a crisis at a later date and preventing high cost services.

Legal Implications

32. The Business Lead is working closely with DfE to develop regulations to support the draft legislation and will watch closely for emerging legal issues.

Conclusions

33. This report has been presented for information and further information will be brought to the Children's Select Committee as required.

Carolyn Godfrey and Sue Redmond (Corporate Directors)

Report Author: Susan Tanner, Head of Commissioning and Joint Planning and Business Lead for DCA Pathfinder. Tel: 01225 713563

Date of report 17 September 2012

Background Papers

None

Appendices

None

**Wiltshire Council
Children's Services Select Committee
27 September 2012**

Coalition Changes – Update July to September 2012

Literacy catch-up programme for disadvantaged pupils

1. Children from poorer backgrounds who are behind in reading and writing at the end of primary school will have the chance to get extra catch-up lessons. This comes as part of the Government's drive to narrow the attainment gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.
2. As part of a [£10 million programme](#), projects will be set up across England to help disadvantaged pupils who fail to reach the expected level of English by the end of primary school (level 4 at Key Stage 2). Some projects will be fast-tracked through the bidding process to start from this September, while other projects will start in 2013.
3. The programme will be run by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). It will help disadvantaged children make the difficult transition from primary to secondary school effectively. The EEF will run a competitive bidding process to fund innovative projects that build on either robust evidence or a strong and practical theory. It is expected that schools themselves, along with charities, local authorities and universities, will bid for the programme.
4. Projects could start at the end of Year 6, in the summer between Year 6 and Year 7, and in Year 7 itself. The Foundation will also consider some projects which include mathematics. Bids will be welcomed from schools, charities, local authorities, or universities and other organisations with expertise in working with disadvantaged pupils.

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
27	Easton Royal Primary	Nr Pewsey	September 2012
28	Devizes School	Devizes	September 2012
29	St John's School Marlborough	Marlborough	September 2012
30	The Manor Primary	Melksham	September 2012

Project to re-engage NEET young people

5. Funding worth up to £126 million is being made available to organisations across England, who will be paid by results to get 16- and 17-year-olds back into education or training. [The programme](#), part of the Governments Youth Contract, is the first to use payment by results to help get NEETs re-engaged. Organisations involved have had to compete for contracts by showing they are able to get young people back on track. In return for proving they are experts in the field, they will be given freedom to tailor and provide support for disadvantaged young people in the way they know best.
6. Organisations will receive an initial payment for taking young people on, but will only receive subsequent payments when they show progress, such as getting young people to engage with training programmes or undertake apprenticeships. The contracts on offer are worth up to £2,200 for every young person helped, with the full amount payable only if a young person is still in full-time education, training or work with training six months after re-engaging. The South West regional provider is Prospects Training Services (Gloucester) Ltd.

National action plan to tackle child abuse linked to faith or belief.

7. An action plan to cut through the “wall of silence” around ritual child abuse and neglect in the name of witchcraft, spirit possession, the supernatural and faith has been published. The [National action plan to tackle child abuse linked to faith or belief](#) aims to raise awareness of these appalling crimes and sets out urgent practical steps to build intelligence on the ground to identify children at risk and act to protect them.
8. Drawn up with faith leaders, charities, the Metropolitan Police, and statutory partners, it says that there needs to be closer engagement with local communities and churches to prevent abuse. It proposes stronger training and

information for social workers, police and other frontline practitioners working with children; and better access to psychological and therapeutic support for victims. It sets out work to secure prosecutions by improving support for victims to give evidence in court cases and better awareness of how faith-based abuse links to related crimes, including trafficking, missing children and sexual exploitation or grooming.

Children in Care and adoption

9. The Government has published [two discussion papers](#) seeking views on sensitive and important aspects of the care and adoption systems. Views were requested by 31 August and will influence governments thinking on what may need to change.
10. One of the papers is about contact between children in care or who have been adopted and their birth parents. It reviews law and practice about contact arrangements and looks at the available evidence about the impact on children and their outcomes. Amongst other things, it sets out the case for changes to the law to help ensure that contact arrangements serve the best interests of children by contributing to the plan for their permanent care.
11. The other paper is about the placement of sibling groups for adoption. The paper argues that while it is often best for siblings to be adopted by the same adopter or adopters, there can be disadvantages as well as advantages to this approach. It contends that decisions about whether to place siblings together should be made on the basis of the best interests of each individual child and taking full account of the advantages and disadvantages.

Cabinet Reshuffle

12. Michael Gove remains as Education Secretary. Tim Loughton has stepped down as children's minister at the Department for Education (DfE) and Nick Gibb is no longer schools minister. David Laws has been appointed minister at the Department for Education replacing Sarah Teather. He will hold a dual ministerial brief - also working at the Cabinet Office.
13. Elizabeth Truss has been appointed junior minister for early years and Edward Timpson, has been appointed junior minister for adoption and care, alongside Matthew Hancock now joint junior minister for education and business in the DfE and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, replacing John Hayes.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

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

Largely taken from the DfE website content 6 July – 13 September 2012

13/09/12

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Wiltshire Council

**Children's Select Committee
27 September 2012**

Executive Response to the Final Report of the Special Schools Post-16 SEN Scrutiny Task Group

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the Executive's response to the final report of the Special Schools Post-16 SEN Task Group (August 2012).

Action Required of the Committee

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

Background

3. The Task Group was established by Children's Services Select Committee in September 2010 with the following terms of reference:
 - 1) To establish the strengths and weaknesses of current special school and post-16 SEN provision in Wiltshire, taking into account the views of service users, parents and other stakeholder groups;
 - 2) To consider examples of best practice in special school and post-16 provision in Wiltshire and other authority areas;
 - 3) To make recommendations with respect to how special schools and post-16 SEN provision can be developed to ensure improved outcomes for Wiltshire residents with SEN.

Task Group Recommendations and Executive Responses

Predicting and meeting future demand for SEN provision

Task Group recommendation:

1. The Task Group believes it is of the utmost importance that Wiltshire plans and develops now for the future needs of those with SEN. This is of particular importance because of the capacity issues being faced by Larkrise School and St Nicholas School. The Task Group understands that no overall increase in demand for places in special schools is expected. Given the population growth projected in Wiltshire and academic evidence suggesting that the numbers of children with ASDs and SLDs are increasing nationally, the Task Group is concerned that demand for special school places may in fact increase in the future.

The Group therefore recommends that the following work is undertaken and brought back to Committee:

- an analysis projecting future demand for SEN in Wiltshire based on the Core Strategy
- a strategic plan detailing how the projected need will be met (including post-16 education)

Executive response:

A review of Special Educational Needs was conducted in 2010 which included a data analysis over a five year period showing that there was no significant increase in the numbers of children with SLD/PMLD in Wiltshire. The predicted numbers from this analysis show that the situation is relatively stable. If there is growth in the population in some areas of Wiltshire there maybe a corresponding slight increase in the numbers of children with special educational needs but it is difficult to predict future trends in population growth. The academic evidence referred to by the Task Group recognised that “consistency in definitions of need make longer term service planning and development difficult”. This academic evidence was designed to provide teachers and parents with “educational resources to enable practioners to formulate an effective teaching and learning package for children and young people with complex needs in the classroom”.

The figures for Wiltshire school population 2011 are:-

Table 1. Wiltshire school population for 2011 extracted from the Wiltshire Population 2011 booklet

Type of school	Number of schools	Pre-school settings	NOR<5 in the school	5-10	11-15	Post 16	Total
Primary	199	312	5,155	29,048	10		34,525
Secondary	29			5	25,087	4,696	29,788
Special	6		12	88	353	52	504
YPSS	1				74	1	75
All	235	312	5,167	29,141	25,524	4,749	64,892

The latest population data for Wiltshire:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2021	2026
Total population	461,480	464,310	466,950	469,820	472,780	475,870	492,630	510,300

The latest young people (0-18) population increase:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2021	2026
No. of young people	101,510	101,340	101,020	101,030	100,710	100,440	100,810	101,240

There are around 20,000 more houses that have to be built throughout Wiltshire and this will bring approximately 6,200 primary aged children and 4,400 more secondary aged children by 2026.

Therefore there could be 111,840 young people in Wiltshire aged 0 – 18 in 2026. Not all of the young people are in Wiltshire schools i.e. those in colleges or employment post 16 and the 0-4 year olds in pre-schools.

Approximately 64% of 0 – 18 year olds are in Wiltshire schools. Therefore the school aged population could be 71,577 by 2026.

If the proportion of students is the same for each cohort and therefore the total population then there could be 558 young people to be expected in our special schools. This is an increase in the present population of 54 young people by 2026. The Special Educational Needs Team and School Strategic Planning team will have to plan for this increase if the assessment and allocation of out of county placements are to stay the same

Discussions with the Army suggest that the population is at about 12,000 troops at the present in Wiltshire. This figure will increase over the next few years but with the army downsizing the final figure will remain at about the figure it is today – about 12,000.

To help predict numbers of learners with SEN moving out of special schools and help Wiltshire meet future demands a Transitions Development Group has been established that will co-ordinate and meet three times this year. The group is well attended by the Special Schools, College (both mainstream and specialist) and associated partners (Integrated Youth Service colleagues, and representatives from examination boards). By bringing these groups together we are ensuring that future SEN demands are met and that a co-ordinated approach to curriculum mapping for transitions between schools and college for Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD) is achieved.

To meet further the future demand of our post 16 LLDD young people we have co-ordinated and supported financially further development of link provision between all our special schools and Wiltshire College. This ensures that the College is ready to meet each individual's learning and support needs before they make their transition from Special School to College.

Recent financial developments announced by the Department for Education for 2013 to 2014 include new formula funding methods for all maintained schools including special schools. These arrangements are currently subject to consultation with Schools Forum and all schools in Wiltshire and it is too early to report on the final decisions. On 3 September the Government issued draft legislation on the reform of provision for children and young people with SEN. This legislation and the new funding arrangements include duties related to a new

commissioning arrangement with special schools; it will no longer be possible to secure a fixed number of places for Wiltshire pupils in any maintained or academy special school located in Wiltshire. Any potential investment and joint strategic planning will have to be considered in the context of this new legislation.

In addition, Wiltshire Local Authority has pathfinder status trialling the Department for Education's new approach to assessment and financial arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs. This will have implications for the admission and placement of children in our Special Schools. The trial is currently underway.

Once the above implications and consultations have concluded a review will be undertaken and shared with service providers and the Task Group.

Healthcare in Wiltshire's special schools

Task Group recommendation:

2. That the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and, if appropriate, Wiltshire PCT bring a report to the Committee responding to the concerns raised by Wiltshire's special schools in relation to joint agency provision for pupils who have a specific health care need. This report should set out how the concerns raised by the school will be addressed.

Executive response:

Over the last year, the local authority's SEN Team and Wiltshire Community Health Services have worked together, in consultation with special schools, to update the document on 'Including children and young people with complex health needs in early years settings and schools'. This document was signed off by the Disability/SEN Strategy Group (a sub group of Wiltshire's Children's Trust) in May. There will be an update to the Group on how the protocol is working in practice later this year.

Following on from this work, it has now been agreed that the PCT's Children's Commissioning Lead, Julia Cramp, and children's health providers, will be invited three times a year to the regular meetings that the local authority's SEN Team hold with the Headteachers of special schools. This will provide a forum for concerns to be discussed and resolved at a strategic level.

Wiltshire is one of 20 Pathfinders for the 2011 SEN/Disability Green Paper proposing the use of a single assessment process and plan for health, education and social care and a new integrated team will start working together this month to test new paperwork and processes for improving support for children and families. It is proposed that a report is brought to the Committee once the team has completed its first three months of operation.

Task Group recommendation:

3. That the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Wiltshire PCT enter a dialogue with respect to the provision of nursing care in special schools and a report is brought to the Committee setting out the funding agreements currently in place for its provision and how they compare with equivalent funding agreements in Wiltshire's statistical neighbours.

Executive response:

The Service Director for Children's Commissioning and Performance is also the PCT's children's commissioning lead. It is recognised that special schools are now dealing with an

increasing number of children and young people with complex health needs and that special schools need effective health support in managing these children and young people. There is no data available to specifically compare funding for health care in special schools as health support for special schools is provided by a combination of Children's Community Nurses and Public Health School Nurses who only undertake a proportion of their work in special schools.

It is proposed that the Service Director for Children's Commissioning and Performance uses the children's commissioners' network across the South West to look at nursing support for special schools and brings a report to a future meeting of the Committee.

Larkrise School, Trowbridge

Task Group recommendation:

4. That in planning the buildings and grounds for the new care home on the former Paddocks site, a feasibility study is undertaken with respect to the following proposals, which would benefit the education and welfare of pupils at Larkrise Special School:

- 1) additional land is allocated to Larkrise school to increase its current outside space;
- 2) following consultation with the school, provision of a new access route to Larkrise school running from the Hilperton Road (A361) is incorporated, which would:
 - ease the severe traffic congestion experienced in the residential area during pick-up and drop-off times at Larkrise School and Paxcroft Primary School;
 - decrease the potential danger of accidents resulting from congestion currently experienced within the school's car park;
 - free-up space at the front of the school (the existing access route) for possible development and expansion of the school.

Executive response:

The School Strategic Planning Team has had some initial discussions with Larkrise School Headteacher and the Service Director for Adult Social Care and Housing Strategy. The discussions centred on the possibility of additional land being acquired from the adjacent proposed adult care home in order that the footprint of Larkrise School could be increased. Any additional land could increase the outdoor area for the school or allow further building development of the school, dependent on suitable planning permission. The school has a number of temporary buildings that could be considered not fit for purpose. The School Strategic Planning Team has identified a sum of money from 2012/13 New Deal for Schools (NDS) to conduct a feasibility study into the proposed suggestions. This work could start immediately.

St Nicholas School, Chippenham

Task Group recommendation:

5. That the Cabinet of Wiltshire Council gives consideration to allocating capital funding to the purchase of a suitable property to accommodate St Nicholas School's post-16 provision, which would both allow its continuance and development and free-up space within the main school buildings.

Executive response:

The majority of learners in Wiltshire's special schools are likely to progress to Wiltshire College at either 16 or 18 years of age. Wiltshire learners that are educated at an Independent Specialist College (ISC) are also likely to attend Wiltshire College to complete their education. Where Wiltshire College is an appropriate transition we can facilitate partnership working between schools, Independent Specialist Colleges and Mainstream College to ensure high levels of expertise and support for young people that can include areas of Independent Living that could not be offered by Mainstream College alone. 5-day LLDD provision at local college, aimed at young people leaving Wiltshire's special schools, has worked very well as an alternative to Independent Specialist College (ISC). This is offered at the Salisbury and Trowbridge campus sites of Wiltshire College. From Sept 2012 this programme will also run at the Chippenham Campus, making it more accessible to young people.

St Nicholas School are currently through to the finals of a national competition to win a house worth £250,000. The vote finishes on 20 September. Members are asked to support this initiative by voting via this website www.40.persimmonhomes.com/vote?charities=S-Z

In addition there could be capital funds allocated in 2012/13 to increasing the size of St Nicholas School to support their ambition of allocating additional space for post-16 provision. These plans could free-up space within the main school buildings. There needs to be a full needs assessment and feasibility study to secure what is needed and for what purpose. Officers are currently meeting with the Head Teacher to understand the building needs so that feasibility studies can be conducted.

Rowdeford School, Rowde

Task Group recommendation:

6. That the Cabinet Member for Children's Services notes the Task Group's concerns with respect to disabled access at Rowdeford School and provides the Committee with a response.

Executive response:

The concerns have been noted. Under the Disability Discrimination Act (2005) all schools are asked to make reasonable adjustments to their accommodation and provision for children and young people with disabilities. The school will be asked to consider creative solutions to the use of their buildings to accommodate any children and young people that have a physical disability. Placement of all children and young people placed at the school is undertaken with the school and with regard to the particular needs of the young person.

Task Group recommendation:

7. That the Cabinet of Wiltshire Council gives consideration to allocating capital funding to the development of Rowdeford School's proposed Eco-Learning Centre for the provision of post-16 education for those with SEN.

Executive response:

Wiltshire College has offered programmes for learners with LLDD for many years, working

with local schools as well as ISCs. Programmes are offered at Trowbridge, Salisbury and Chippenham campus and include 5-day per week provision. Rowdeford School has worked with Wiltshire College for many years on pre-16 link provision to support the transition of learners at 16.

There are no plans to support this development from the School Strategic Planning team as this is considered a school development not a capacity, basic need or condition issue.

Downland School and Springfield Academy

Task Group recommendation:

8. That the Council should ensure Wiltshire's current BSD special school provision is correctly configured and that, if it is not, creative solutions be found.

Executive response:

The Task Group may be aware that Springfields School has achieved Academy status, an outstanding school and is effectively not under the direct management of the local authority. Downland School is a local authority maintained school and has recently been the subject of an OfSTED inspection and was judged as good with some outstanding features. The local authority through its Special Educational Needs (SEN) officers continues to work with both schools to ensure that provision for children and young people with BESD is good. Through the work of the SEN officers discussions will be extended to both Governing bodies to explore opportunities for more collaborative approaches to enhance the existing good provision for children and young people with BESD

Residential provision for children and young people with SLD

Task Group recommendation:

9. That the Committee receives figures showing the Council's total expenditure on out-of-county residential placements for children and young people with SLD in recent years, plus estimates of the comparative costs of developing and running an equivalent in-county facility

Executive response:

The Council has already begun work analysing the costs of out-of-county provision. Further analysis will be produced including the relative contributions received from the health authority and social care within the local authority. This information will be available to the Task Group and further discussions held to enable a comparison to be made of the costs of in-county provision and out-of-county provision.

Task Group recommendation:

10. That a report is brought to the Committee detailing the usage of and waiting times for Canon's House and Hillcote respite facilities. The Task Group notes that a Council review of short breaks is currently underway and requests that details of this be included in the response.

Executive response:

A joint review of overnight short breaks started earlier this year, led by the Service Director for Children's Commissioning and Performance (a post jointly funded by the PCT). The review is due to report to the Children's Trust Commissioning Executive and to the PCT's Clinical Commissioning Committee in October. This review has looked at short breaks provision at the two residential units in the County - Canon's House (run by the local authority) and Hillcote (run by Wiltshire Community Health services), and also at the Council's Family Link Scheme (short break fostering). The review has considered the numbers of children using overnight short break provision, the number of nights' support provided and costs of provision. Officers have also worked with Wiltshire Parent Carers Council to seek parents' views on how well existing provision meets their needs. There is no waiting list for Canon's House and Hillcote and access is based on need assessed by the local authority's Children's Disabilities Team.

A report can be provided to the Committee at its November meeting

Resource Bases (SLCs)

Task Group recommendation

11. That a report detailing what programmes are in place for the identification of Speech and Language problems in school aged children, how the Council measures its performance in this area and how it compares with other local authorities

Executive response:

The Speech and Language Service is jointly commissioned by the LA and NHS, performance is regularly monitored and outcomes are part of the specification agreed at the time of the original tender two years ago. The Trust Board receives regular updates on performance.

Conclusion

6. **Members are asked to:**

1. **Note the above Executive's response to the final report of the Special Schools Post-16 SEN 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 Special Schools Post-16 SEN Scrutiny Task Group.

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Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

27 September 2012

Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group:

Concerns raised by Sarum Academy regarding the Task Group's final report

Purpose

1. To report back to the Committee on the conclusions reached by of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group having considered the concerns raised by Sarum Academy regarding the Task Group's final report.

Background

2. On 26 July 2012, the Children's Select Committee received the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group. At this meeting, Ruth Johnson, Principal of Sarum Academy, raised a number of concerns regarding the Task Group's report, summarised as follows:
 - i. The school did not receive a hard copy of the report when it was first published and therefore did not have an opportunity to make representations to the Committee when it considered the report on 31 May. It was reported that copies of the report were also not received once this mistake had been identified and assurances had been given that copies would be provided.
 - ii. Concerns around the accuracy of the content of the report with regards to Sarum Academy.
3. A fuller description of the concerns raised can be found in the minutes of the Committee meeting of 26 July, which are included in this agenda pack. The concerns had also been raised in a letter sent by three of the school's four sponsors (Salisbury Diocese, Bath Spa University and Bryanston School) to Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on 21 June 2012 (letter attached at Appendix A). Mike Thompson, Chairman of the Task Group, replied to this letter on behalf of the Task Group on 11 July (letter attached at Appendix B).

4. Following the verbal representations made by Ruth Johnson at the Children's Select Committee, the Committee asked the Task Group to reconvene to consider the points raised and report back to the Committee at a later date. The Task Group met on 24 August and were joined by Ruth Johnson, Principal of Sarum Academy, who was invited to discuss her concerns with the Task Group. Members wish to express their gratitude to the Principal for giving her time to engaging in the overview and scrutiny process.

Summary of the Task Group's evidence gathering

5. During the evidence gathering that led up to its final report, the Task Group attended Sarum Academy on two occasions: 3 November and 10 November 2011. On the first occasion, the Task Group met with 14 pupils from Year 11 and discussed their perspectives on the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area and their plans for their own further education. The Task Group also met with the Principal, but this was cut short due to the Group's discussions with pupils having overrun. For this reason, the Task Group returned to the school on 10 November and had fuller discussions with the Principal about the school's sixth form provision.

Circulation of the Task Group's report

6. The letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy to Carolyn Godfrey raised concerns that the Task Group's final report had not been made available to the school when it was published on 18 May. As a consequence the school was not in a position to make representations to the Committee during its consideration of the report on 31 May. Following investigations, it was found that an administrative error led to the school being missed from the original circulation list. The Chairman of the Task Group apologised for this in his letter of reply and the Task Group wishes to reiterate that apology here. It is unacceptable that an organisation that engaged fully with the overview and scrutiny process and featured significantly in the resultant report did not receive a copy on publication.
7. At the Committee's meeting on 26 July, the Principal of Sarum Academy reported that she had still not received a hard copy of the report. Officers investigated this and found that arrangements had been made for a hard copy to be despatched. However, the Council does not keep detailed records of every postal despatch so this cannot be fully verified. An electronic copy was sent on 11 June of which there a record does exist.
8. At the Task Group meeting on 24 August, the Principal of Sarum Academy reported that she had still not received a hard copy of the report. Subsequent investigations showed that the four copies sent to the school by recorded

delivery on 31 July were signed for at the school on 1 August. This has been communicated to the school.

Concerns around the content of the report

Task Group recommendations

9. Excerpt from the letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy:

“We recognise that following limited discussion with the academy during the report’s research process, paragraphs 4.2.31 and 4.2.32 accurately reflect the challenges and the progress made by the academy. In contrast, however, we are concerned as sponsors by the manner in which these paragraphs are not adequately reflected in the subsequent recommendations. We call into question the objectivity of the process that has led to recommendations which omit Sarum’s role in post 16 education.”
10. During the Task Group meeting, the Principal of Sarum Academy added that the report identified a gap in provision that Sarum Academy had helped to fill by realigning its post-16 curriculum. As such the school was part of the solution. The lack of a recommendation mentioning Sarum Academy meant that readers of the report would be unaware of their post-16 offer and this was not supportive of the school’s provision. Omitting one school from the recommendations suggests a bias towards the others.
11. The Task Group concludes that its recommendations were designed solely to address those areas where, in the Task Group’s view, post-16 education in the Salisbury area needed development as set out in the objectives set by the Children’s Services Select Committee, namely 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.

12. At the time of the review, Sarum Academy's post-16 curriculum was being redesigned and the school was awaiting the development of a new sixth form centre. Members concluded that the school was moving in the right direction and there was no need to recommend a change to its existing strategy. As is stated throughout the report, the Task Group were and are fully supportive of Sarum Academy's post-16 offer and commend the energy and effort being put in to developing it. However, the Task Group stand by its decision to make recommendations only where it felt action was required and to express its support for Sarum Academy within the body of the report.

Objectivity of the Task Group's process

13. The Task Group refutes the suggestion that the process followed during its review was not objective. The Group included two members from the north of the county to ensure a 'non-Salisbury' perspective and considered a very broad range of evidence in reaching its conclusions and recommendations, including:
- Meetings with students from Sarum Academy and, at a later meeting, with the Principal
 - Meetings with students, head teachers and principals, and governors of all five 11-16 secondary schools in the Salisbury area and Avon Valley College
 - Meetings with the principal and chair of the board of Wiltshire College, and with the principals of three Hampshire providers
 - School prospectuses, including the draft Sarum Academy Sixth Form Prospectus for September 2012
 - A parental questionnaire
 - Extensive data provided by Connexions and the Young Peoples Learning Agency
 - Vision Documents provided by the Laverstock Schools and Avon Valley College/Stonehenge School
 - Versions of the Expressions of Interest to establish sponsored academies through Salisbury High School (i.e. the successful Sarum Academy bid) and the Laverstock schools (i.e. the stalled "Laverstock Academy" proposal)
14. Thus, in relation to all the providers involved the report and recommendations were drawn from a number of sources and did not rely solely on individual meetings. In this respect, the Task Group does not consider that the report and recommendations lacked objectivity.

Post-16 curriculum

15. Excerpt from the letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy:

“The report states that **“Sarum Academy’s sixth form curriculum is designed to suit those with lower academic attainment who wish to focus on learning vocational and technical skills as well as pursuing academic studies”**. Whilst the academy has worked hard to extend and develop their vocational offer from September 2012 the curriculum continues to be a broad offer of L2 and L3 courses. When the study was carried out the academy offer was predominantly ‘A’ level provision.

“Section 4.2.15 states **“The Group concludes that at present there is no sixth form provision in central Salisbury meeting the needs of young people who wish to study primarily AS/A2 Levels rather than primarily Level 1 and 2 vocational courses offered by Sarum Academy’s sixth form centre”** Sarum Academy has always had and continues to have pupils studying primarily at this level. As a sponsor of Sarum Academy we find it unacceptable that Wiltshire Council has condoned and published this inaccurate statement, when they should be actively promoting the academy offer.”

16. When the Task Group met with the Principal of Sarum Academy in November 2011 it understood that the school’s post-16 provision would be moving away from being primarily A-level (Level 3) courses towards being primarily vocational Level 1/2 courses. The Task Group’s final report reflected this proposed shift. However, at its meeting on 24 August 2012, the Task Group learned that the school had retained a large number of its A-level courses and this and its vocational provision were therefore roughly equal. The Task Group therefore concludes that its final report describes a projected post-16 curriculum at the Academy that did not come to fruition. Based on Sarum Academy’s actual post-16 curriculum (which includes a broad mixture of A-levels and vocational courses) the Task Group concludes that Sarum Academy’s **can** meet the needs of some young people wishing to study primarily A-levels in the Salisbury area. However, the Task Group reiterates that as around 750 students – enough for more than two large sixth forms – leave the Salisbury area to study at post-16 in Hampshire every day, Sarum Academy’s proposed sixth form, even when fully developed and populated, will not meet this demand . A major gap will still exist.
17. The Task Group concludes that the sentence quoted in the report would more accurately read, “The Group concludes that at present there is, and will continue to be, a major gap in the sixth form provision in central Salisbury to meet the needs of young people who...”

- wish to study primarily AS/A2-Levels (Level 3);
- either wish or *need* to remain in school environment (as opposed to transitioning to Wiltshire College), because they require the greater level of guidance and pastoral care generally provided in school sixth forms; and
- do not have the very high GCSE grades required to enter the grammar schools' sixth form, or do not feel suited to that institution's academically fast paced environment.

Attracting post-16 learners from other cohorts

18. Excerpt from the letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy:
- “At Sarum Academy the development of the sixth form provision is an acknowledgement of the need for additional post 16 places across the city. As such the curriculum is being designed to meet these local needs. The excerpt which states that **“it seems unlikely that this school will be successful in attracting significant numbers of 6th form students from outside of its Key Stage 4 cohort in the near future”** is not helpful in promoting this local provision and one would question on what premise this statement has been made. Since the study the academy has received a significant increase in sixth form applications for September 2012 both from Sarum Academy pupils and pupils from other schools.”
19. The Task Group notes that the sentence quoted above is actually an excerpt from the Laverstock Schools' Vision statement, which was quoted in italics within the Task Group's final report (paragraph 4.2.14). However, the report does go on to say that it “seems unlikely that Sarum Academy and [Wiltshire] College will be able to attract enough students to significantly reduce out-of-county migration in the near future.”
20. The letter from the three sponsors questions the premise on which this statement was made. The Task Group concludes that it was informed by members' meetings with around 70 pupils from all of the secondary schools it visited in the Salisbury area, which were undertaken as part of the Task Group's evidence gathering. None of the Key Stage 4 students interviewed from the other secondary schools visited expressed an intention to transfer to Sarum Academy, even when this option was raised by members of the Task Group. Of the fourteen Key Stage 4 students interviewed when the Task Group visited Sarum Academy, only three expressed an intention to stay on at the school for post-sixteen education and training. This was reinforced by the Connexions data demonstrating that no students had transferred from the

other Salisbury secondary schools to Sarum Academy in 2011, and that of 98 Key Stage 4 students at Sarum Academy only 35 were recorded as remaining there for post-16 education. The Task Group were reluctant to report this data in the first instance because it was aware and supportive of the strenuous efforts being made by Sarum Academy to overcome the situation.

21. The Task Group wish to point out that the report is also optimistic about the school's ability to tackle this issue, stating that, "the Group is hopeful that the refocusing of [Sarum Academy's] post-16 curriculum and the development of a new-build sixth form centre scheduled for completion in September 2013, will gradually change this situation". The Task Group wishes to congratulate the school on the significant increase in sixth form applications it has received for the 2012/13 academic year.

Reputational issues

22. Excerpt from the letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy:

"The report makes much of historic reputations and the Academy is deeply aware of the legacy it has from the predecessor school. It is regrettable that such references within the report talks of the historic reputation of Sarum Academy rather than that of the predecessor school, Salisbury High School, thus failing to make any distinction between the two institutions."

23. The Task Group acknowledges that within its final report the reputational issues faced by Sarum Academy are not in all cases explicitly linked to Salisbury High School. Nor does the report state that the two schools are separate legal entities. However, the Task Group reiterates that its interviews with Salisbury secondary school students showed that many of them did not distinguish between the Academy and the schools that came before it and therefore the former still carried some of the reputational legacy of the latter. The report recognises the energy being directed towards overcoming this and acknowledges that the students interviewed were influenced by the experiences of previous generations and that subsequent cohorts were more likely to develop a positive view of Sarum Academy, especially with the development of a new-build sixth form centre.

Key Stage 4 attainment

24. Excerpt from the letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy:

"Sarum Academy exists to be a properly comprehensive school, and yet the comment **"This curriculum is designed to suit the school's Key Stage 4 cohort,**

which has lower average attainment at GCSE.” implies otherwise and can only serve to continue to damage the reputation of this institution.”

25. Reading this sentence within the context of the full report highlights that a comparison was being made between Sarum Academy and the Salisbury grammar schools (see paragraphs 4.2.5 to 4.2.6 and also 4.2.14). However, the Task Group acknowledges that the sentence could have been worded better and does not convey the spirit of what was intended. It is recognised that Sarum Academy aims to be fully comprehensive and that its cohort includes pupils who show very high academic attainment. The sentence would more accurately read, “[Sarum Academy’s] curriculum is designed to suit the school’s Key Stage 4 cohort, which shows a broader range of attainment at GCSE than the cohorts of the Salisbury grammar schools.”

Supporting and promoting the school

26. The letter of 21 June sent by three sponsors of Sarum Academy expresses concern that, in publishing the Task Group’s report, the Council is not supporting, promoting or helping to develop Sarum Academy’s post-16 offer. The Task Group believes that its report is fully supportive of the Academy and recognises that the school has a key role in improving post-16 education in the Salisbury area. The report supports all of the post-16 developments reported by the school, including the repositioning of its curriculum and the development of a new sixth form facility. Where the report identifies challenges, such as the reputational legacy issues, it supports the approach being taken to overcome them and is optimistic for success.
27. The Task Group recognises that, as one of Sarum Academy’s four sponsors, Wiltshire Council has particular responsibilities in terms of helping to promote the school’s offer. However, the Task Group believes that overview and scrutiny has a duty to take an independent, evidence-based view of issues and to report its findings honestly to the Cabinet so that appropriate action can be taken. The Task Group’s final report represents the views of its members at the time of publication based on all of the evidenced considered during the review. It is important that the Council’s role as a sponsor of Sarum Academy is properly separated from the role of overview and scrutiny and, given this, some of the school’s concerns may be dealt with more appropriately by the Cabinet Member and officers.

Conclusions

28. Having considered the concerns raised by the Principal of Sarum Academy and three of the school's sponsors regarding the Task Group's final report, the Task Group concludes that:
1. No amendment is required to the recommendations that were included in the Task Group's final report, which were endorsed by the Committee on 31 May 2012.
 2. The process followed by the Task Group was thorough and objective and a broad evidence base was used to draw conclusions and make recommendations. The report represents a snapshot in time based on the evidence received over the course of the review. It should be read and absorbed as a whole rather than taking selected phrases out of context as doing so inevitably loses the spirit and intention of the text.
 3. The Task Group acknowledges that Sarum Academy's post-16 curriculum actually includes a broad mix of academic and vocational courses. However, the Task Group reiterates that as around 750 students – enough for more than two large sixth forms – leave the Salisbury area to study at post-16 in Hampshire every day, Sarum Academy's proposed sixth form will not meet this demand. Paragraph 4.2.15 of the report should therefore read, "The Group concludes that at present there is a major gap in the sixth form provision in central Salisbury [meeting] the needs of young people who wish to study primarily AS/A2 Levels".
 4. The comment in the final report that "[it] seems unlikely that Sarum Academy and [Wiltshire] College will be able to attract enough students to significantly reduce out-of-county migration in the near future" was based on the evidence received during review. However, the Task Group congratulates Sarum Academy on the significant increase in the number of sixth form applications it has received for the 2012/13 academic year.
 5. The final report reflects the reputational issues faced by Sarum Academy at the time of the Task Group's review, which were based on the evidence received.
 6. The sentence in paragraph 4.2.6 of the final report, "[Sarum Academy's post-16] curriculum is designed to suit the school's Key Stage 4 cohort, which has lower average attainment at GCSE", did not capture the Task Group's intentions and should read, "[Sarum Academy's post-16] curriculum is designed to suit the school's Key Stage 4 cohort, which shows a broader range of attainment at GCSE than the grammar schools."

7. The Task Group wish to reiterate its full support for Sarum Academy and welcomes the Principal's concluding comments at the meeting on August 24 recognising that there is a shortfall in provision for post-16 education and training in the Salisbury area and that Sarum Academy is committed to helping solve this problem.

Proposals

That the Committee:

1. **Notes the conclusions of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group and brings them to the attention of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.**
2. **Thanks Ruth Johnson, Principal of Sarum Academy, for attending the Task Group meeting on 24 August and for her engagement with the scrutiny process.**

Dr Mike Thompson – Chairman of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Report author: Henry Powell – Senior Scrutiny Officer

01225 718052 henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

- A. Letter sent by Salisbury Diocese, Bath Spa University and Bryanston School to Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director – 21 June
- B. Letter of reply sent by Mike Thompson, Task Group chairman – 11 July

Background documents

Final Report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group – May 2012

Diocesan Director of Education Chris Shepperd

Diocesan Education Centre
Devizes Road, Salisbury
Wiltshire, SP2 9LY

www.salisbury.anglican.org

Dear Carolyn,

Re: Sarum Academy response to the Final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group issued May 2012

The report has been forwarded to academy sponsors by Sarum Academy.

It is with dismay that we note, despite being a sponsor of the academy, Wiltshire Council has only made the report available to Sarum Academy following the request of the Principal; neither has the report been made available to partner sponsors. The report has been published and was distributed last month to other schools. Given that the report:

1. used Sarum Academy as a part of the evidence base and
2. makes crucial judgements with the potential to affect the long term provision of education on the Sarum Academy site

we consider this lack of communication unacceptable.

Further, Sarum Academy and partner sponsors did not receive a copy of this report prior to the meeting of the Children's Select Committee on 31st May 2012 and therefore had no opportunity to make any representation.

We recognise that following limited discussion with the academy during the report's research process, paragraphs 4.2.31 and 4.2.32 accurately reflect the challenges and the progress made by the academy. In contrast, however, we are concerned as sponsors by the manner in which these paragraphs are not adequately reflected in the subsequent recommendations. We call into question the objectivity of the process that has led to recommendations which omit Sarum's role in post 16 education. This concern is heightened given, that as a partner sponsor, Wiltshire Council has a commitment to the development of the curriculum offer at Sarum Academy – both the wide ranging vocational programme and 'A' level provision.



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Sarum Academy and partner sponsors have read the findings with concern and wish to note the following:

The report states that **“Sarum Academy’s sixth form curriculum is designed to suit those with lower academic attainment who wish to focus on learning vocational and technical skills as well as pursuing academic studies”**. Whilst the academy has worked hard to extend and develop their vocational offer from September 2012 the curriculum continues to be a broad offer of L2 and L3 courses. When the study was carried out the academy offer was predominantly ‘A’ level provision.

Section 4.2.15 states **“The Group concludes that at present there is no sixth form provision in central Salisbury meeting the needs of young people who wish to study primarily AS/A2 Levels rather than primarily Level 1 and 2 vocational courses offered by Sarum Academy’s sixth form centre”** Sarum Academy has always had and continues to have pupils studying primarily at this level. As a sponsor of Sarum Academy we find it unacceptable that Wiltshire Council has condoned and published this inaccurate statement, when they should be actively promoting the academy offer.

At Sarum Academy the development of the sixth form provision is an acknowledgement of the need for additional post 16 places across the city. As such the curriculum is being designed to meet these local needs. The excerpt which states that **“it seems unlikely that this school will be successful in attracting significant numbers of 6th form students from outside of its Key Stage 4 cohort in the near future”** is not helpful in promoting this local provision and one would question on what premise this statement has been made. Since the study the academy has received a significant increase in sixth form applications for September 2012 both from Sarum Academy pupils and pupils from other schools.

The report makes much of historic reputations and the Academy is deeply aware of the legacy it has from the predecessor school. It is regrettable that such references within the report talks of the historic reputation of Sarum Academy rather than that of the predecessor school, Salisbury High School, thus failing to make any distinction between the two institutions. Sarum Academy exists to be a properly comprehensive school, and yet the comment **“This curriculum is designed to suit the school’s Key Stage 4 cohort, which has lower average attainment at GCSE.”** implies otherwise and can only serve to continue to damage the reputation of this institution.

As the Task Group notes there will soon be a new sixth form centre within the Academy and sponsors, Leadership Team and Governors consider that this development should be actively supported in such reports by Wiltshire Council as its sponsor as it offers local provision for all learners in Salisbury.



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As Sarum Academy sponsors we expect that the inaccuracies within the report are corrected and published. We further expect that the recommendations should properly reflect the research base undertaken and the need to secure collaborative solutions across Salisbury.

The Sponsors recognise that the report is very important and has some compelling evidence. It is a scathing indictment of long standing failure to address the issue of further education in the city of Salisbury, through which so many young people are being disadvantaged by serious inequalities of access and opportunity. Rich post 16 educational provision across the city is the right of the community; the role of the collaboration of schools and the academy in achieving this should not be over looked.

As sponsors we are committed to work constructively with Wiltshire Council and others to create positive and sustainable solutions.

We look forward to hearing from you and understanding how Wiltshire Council will address our concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Shepperd
Director of Education
Salisbury Diocese



Professor Stephen Ward
Dean of the School of Education
Bath Spa University



Sarah Thomas
Headteacher
Bryanston School

cc. Carole Soden
Jane Scott



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11th July 2012

The Church of England Diocese of Salisbury
Diocesan Education Centre
Devizes Road
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP2 9LY

c/o: Democratic Services
Legal and Governance
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Dear Mr Shepperd, Professor Ward and Mrs Thomas,

Re: Sarum Academy response to the Final report of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group issued May 2012

Your recent letter to Mrs Carolyn Godfrey (Corporate Director, Wiltshire Council), raising concerns in respect to aspects of the above mentioned report, has been forwarded for consideration by the task group. Having received the views of the members of the task group, I am now in a position to respond to your letter.

In the first instance, it is a matter of regret that Sarum Academy did not receive a copy of the report in a timely fashion, the more so as the Academy was on the primary circulation list. It was the task group's expressed wish and stated recommendation that the report be widely circulated and I have taken action to expedite this.

In respect to the specific issues raised in your letter, I can only ask that the report is read and absorbed as a whole rather than taking selected phrases out of context as this inevitably loses the spirit and intention of the task group's recommendations. The report, and the presentation made to the Select Committee on 31st May 2012, was and is fully supportive of Sarum Academy, recognising that it has a key role in improving post-16 education and training in the Salisbury area.

The task group drew its conclusions from a wide range of sources including:

- Meetings with students from Sarum Academy and, at a later meeting, with the principal
- Meetings with students, head teachers and principals, and governors of all five 11-16 secondary schools in the Salisbury area and Avon Valley College
- Meetings with the principal and chair of the board of Wiltshire College, and with the principals of three Hampshire providers
- School prospectuses, including the draft Sarum Academy Sixth Form Prospectus for September 2012
- A parental questionnaire
- Extensive data provided by Connexions and the Young Peoples Learning Agency

- Vision Documents provided by the Laverstock Schools and Avon Valley College/Stonehenge School
- Versions of the Expressions of Interest to establish sponsored academies through Salisbury High School (i.e. the successful Sarum Academy bid) and the Laverstock schools (i.e. the stalled “Laverstock Academy” proposal)

Thus, in relation to all the providers involved, including Sarum Academy, the report and recommendations were drawn from a number of sources and did not rely solely on individual meetings. In this respect, the task group does not consider that the report and recommendations lack objectivity.

The task group also wishes to point out that, in identifying a gap in sixth form provision in central Salisbury beyond that being developed at Sarum Academy, the task group noted that the Expressions of Interest for sponsored academies were developed simultaneously for Sarum High School (Sarum Academy) and the Laverstock schools (“Laverstock Academy”) – the latter outlining provision of a large sixth form in Laverstock with Salisbury Diocese and Wiltshire Council as key sponsors. Whilst the Laverstock Academy proposal did not reach submission stage, it is the view of the task group that the need for sixth form provision envisaged in the draft Laverstock Academy Expression of Interest has not changed.

Finally, I note that Mrs Godfrey and Mr Powell have explained the process by which the task group report has been endorsed by the Children’s Services Select Committee and a formal response is now anticipated from the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services. This response will be received at the Select Committee’s next meeting on 26th July and you will have an opportunity to raise substantive points at this meeting. You will note that I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Member and other concerned parties ahead of the meeting on 26th July in order that the position of the task group is understood.

Yours sincerely,

M H Thompson
Chairman of the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

c/o Henry Powell
Senior Scrutiny Officer
Wiltshire Council
Direct line: 01225 718052
Email: henrypowell@wiltshire.gov.uk

CC:

All those copied into the email from Sarah McNicol on 21st June
Cllr R Britton, Task Group member
Cllr J Hubbard, Task Group member
Cllr J Lay, Task Group member
Cllr B Moss, Task Group member

**Wiltshire Council
Children's Select Committee
27 September 2012**

Task Group update

1. Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group

Membership:

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

The Task Group has appointed Tom Narducci, Senior Consultant from the NSPCC, as their expert advisor. Tom will:

- provide specialised safeguarding training for members
- provide independent expert advice on how the scrutiny review should be conducted;
- attend Task Group meetings and guide members on potential lines of questioning; and
- quality assure the Task Group's draft final report and recommendations.

Cllr Patricia Arculus from West Sussex County Council will act as the Task Group's elected member advisor. Cllr Arculus' role has been arranged through the LGA's Peer Member Scheme. She has extensive experience of safeguarding matters, including as a former Cabinet Member for Children's Services at West Sussex.

Since the Committee's July meeting, the Task Group has met formally on one occasion and conducted several evidence gathering meetings with Council officers, including Youth Workers, Referral and Assessment staff, Independent Reviewing Officers and Child Protection Chairs. Meetings are also scheduled with the Assistant Team Managers and Head of Service from the Referral and Assessment team.

On 14 October the Task Group will visit the Safeguarding team of Swindon Borough Council and visits to Dorset County Council and Devon County Council are also being arranged.

Recognising that the Task Group cannot cover all areas, members have elected to focus on the following four areas:

1. **Communications** – between partner agencies and within the Council
2. **Workloads** – including the use of agency staff
3. **Locality working in safeguarding** – including hot-desking, countywide vs. patch-based R&A teams, and matching up community areas, school clusters, youth work clusters and children’s centre clusters.
4. **Future scrutiny of safeguarding** – the role of elected members in monitoring and scrutinising safeguarding arrangements.

The Task Group plans to bring its final report to the Children’s Select Committee on 28 March 2013.

2. **Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group**

Membership: Cllr Carole Soden
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Graham Payne (Chairman)
Cllr Anthony Trotman

The Cabinet Member will provide his response to the Task Group’s report under a separate item. It was agreed in July that this Task Group would continue its work.

3. **Major Contracts Task Group**

Membership: Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss (Chairman)
Cllr Carole Soden

This Task Group’s meeting is now being arranged for October, when members will conduct their annual review of the Council’s contract with the White Horse Education Partnership (WHEP) for the provision of fully serviced secondary school accommodation at Chippenham (Abbeyfield), Malmesbury and Royal Wootton Bassett.

**CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Subject	Select Committee	Date when proposed	Approved by Management Committee	Scrutiny Role (scrutiny/overview)	When to be considered	Review Date	Background	Rationale for inclusion	Cabinet Member/Portfolio Holder/key officer	Scrutiny/ DSO
YPSS review Update on the PTI project in Wiltshire, plus the DfE's light-touch review	Children's	Legacy 06/09/12	06/09/12	Scrutiny	Nov-12		Cabinet resolved to close the YPSS in November 2011. The Children's Select Committee received a report at this time plus an update report in March 2012.	Children's attainment is listed as a priority within the Business Plan 2011-15.	Cllr Lionel Grundy Stephanie Denovan	
Children's attainment	Children's	Legacy 12/09/12	17/07/12	Scrutiny	Jan-13		The Committee receives annual pupil performance reports showing children's attainment in Wiltshire (early years to Key Stage 5). The Committee is also monitoring the devolvement of responsibility for excluded children from the LA to schools (September).	Listed as a priority within the Business Plan 2011-15. The Committee's concerns around pupil performance have tended to focus on the attainment gaps between all pupils and those with SEN and those on FSM.	Cllr Lionel Grundy Carolyn Godfrey Stephanie Denovan	HP/RB
Family Information Service - Update	Children's	31/07/12	Mar-12	Scrutiny	Mar-13		A review of the Council's Family Information Service in early 2012 concluded that there was significant duplication around provision of information for parents and carers. A new service model was proposed. A rapid scrutiny exercise undertaken in May 2012 identified concerns regarding the effect of the proposals on delivery. Following receipt of the executive response, the Committee elected to receive the outcomes of the review of the Family Information Service scheduled to be undertaken between January and April 2013.	The Family Information Service (FIS) provides information for parents and carers, child care information and information/advocacy for families with a disabled child or a significant special educational need. Vulnerable Children is listed as a priority within the Business Plan 2011-15	Cllr Lionel Grundy Julia Cramp	HP/RB
Further Education in the Salisbury Area	Children's	Legacy 12/09/12	17/07/12	Overview - policy development (Overview task group)	May-13	May-13	Task Group formed in September 2010 following concerns about the number of young people leaving the county for further education in Hampshire.	Established following reports of significant numbers of students from the Salisbury area travelling large distances, often outside of Wiltshire, to access further education, with potential impacts on attainment, quality of life, the environment, numbers of NEETs and the economic vitality of the local area	Cllr Lionel Grundy Stephanie Denovan	
Special Schools and Post-16 SEN	Children's	Legacy 12/09/12	17/07/12	Overview - policy development	On-going	The Committee will decide future work following consideration of the Exec response.	The Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group's recommendations focus on: - Healthcare in special schools - Special school buildings - Post-16 education for those with SEN - Readiness for future demand The Committee has also been monitoring the review of passenger assistants for those with SEN.	Vulnerable Children is listed as a priority within the Business Plan 2011-15. Significant attainment gaps between 'all children' and those with SEN.	Cllr Lionel Grundy Stephanie Denovan	HP
Major Contracts	Children's	12/07/12	17/07/12	Scrutiny and policy development - Task Group	Standing		The Major Contracts Task Group reviews the performance of Wiltshire's children's centres annually. It also reviewed contracts with Quarriers (contract now terminated) and the PFI schools.	Children centres focus on early intervention with Vulnerable children and families, which is a priority within the Business Plan.	Cllr Lionel Grundy Julia Cramp	HP/RB

Subject	Select Committee	Date when proposed	Approved by Management Committee	Scrutiny Role (scrutiny/overview)	When to be considered	Review Date	Background	Rationale for inclusion	Cabinet Member/Portfolio Holder/key officer	Scrutiny/ DSO
Safeguarding children	Children's	Legacy 12/09/12	17/07/12	Scrutiny and policy development (Task Group)	March 2013 (final report)		The Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group replaced the Placements for LAC Task Group and its remit includes both safeguarding and all matters relating to Looked After Children (LAC).	In March 2012, Wiltshire received an Ofsted grading of 'Inadequate' for its safeguarding services. The Task Group is working closely with the high-level Safeguarding Improvement Board to ensure improvements are made.	Cllr Lionel Grundy Carolyn Godfrey Fiona Fitzpatrick	HP
Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) / Youth unemployment	Children's	Legacy 12/09/12	17/07/12	Overview - policy development	various		The Committee has received a recent update	Youth unemployment is listed as a priority within the Business Plan 2011-15. Preparing for the Raising of the Participation Age (i.e. ensuring there is appropriate provision for meeting it) is a significant project and will have an impact on youth unemployment	Cllr Lionel Grundy Carolyn Godfrey Stephanie Denovan Alistair Cunningham	HP/RB