

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber - Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, SN15 1ER
Date: Tuesday 1 October 2013
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

Pre-meeting information briefing

There will be a briefing session starting at 9.30am, immediately before the meeting. Its focus will be on **Schools and the Local Authority** and will cover:

- What role the LA now has in schools
 - What degree of influence the LA can exert and how it does so
 - What services the LA provides for schools
 - The governance arrangements of different school designations
 - The role of school governors and how they are supported to undertake it
-

Membership:

Cllr Pat Aves	Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mary Champion	Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Sue Evans	Cllr Sheila Parker
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)	Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Chris Hurst	Cllr Philip Whalley
Cllr Simon Jacobs	

Substitutes:

Cllr Desna Allen	Cllr Dennis Drewett
Cllr Chuck Berry	Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Nick Blakemore	Cllr David Jenkins
Cllr Terry Chivers	Cllr Dr Helena McKeown
Cllr Christine Crisp	Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr John Walsh
Cllr Stewart Dobson	

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Rev Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocesan RC Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Sarah Busby	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Di Dale	Further Education 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 Meetings** *(Pages 1 - 16)*

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 6 June and 5 July 2013. (copies attached)

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable 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 Tuesday 24 September 2013**. 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 **Developing the Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 17 - 24)*

A report from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman is attached reporting on outcomes of the meeting with the relevant Executive members and directors held on 15 August. This was to discuss the Council's priorities for children's services and the potential future work priorities of this Committee.

The report proposes some key Committee work priorities for this Council for discussion, prior to referral to the O&S Management Committee for endorsement. It also suggests some new ways of working in regards to Committee meetings.

Members are asked to consider the proposals within the report and make further suggestions as appropriate, including how each topic might be approached. Members are also asked to support further discussions between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors to develop the forward work programme further, with a report coming to the Committee's next meeting.

7 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group - Part 2** *(Pages 25 - 28)*

A report from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services presenting the Executive response to the final report of the Special Schools Post-16 SEN Task Group – part 2 is attached.

The Task Group was established by Children's Services Select Committee in September 2010. The Committee received the Task Group's initial final report in July 2012 and the executive response was received in September 2012. The Committee then asked the Task Group to reconvene to undertake further work, consider the executive responses in detail, and to receive the various pieces of further information that had been offered. The Task Group's Final Report – part 2 was endorsed by the Select Committee on 6 June 2013 and referred to the executive for response.

8 **Review of Short Break Provision for Children and Young People with SEN/LLDD** *(Pages 29 - 48)*

A report is attached summarising the joint review between the Council and NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group on overnight short breaks for disabled Children and Young People in Wiltshire.

Following the review, the proposal is to change the service model including the closure of Hillcote (the NHS-run unit) from April 2014 and reinvest the money saved in more family based care and early intervention support services for families of disabled children. This proposal is out for consultation until 23 October and the final decision on the potential closure of Hillcote will be taken at the NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body meeting in November.

In June the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group made the following recommendations relating to Short Break Provision for Children and Young People in its Final Report – part 2 and the Executive responses to these recommendations are included in the attached report:

2. If there were to be any reconfiguration of short break provision in Wiltshire, any savings identified should be retained for services for children and young people with SEN/LLDD and

their families;

3. If a reconfiguration of Wiltshire's short break provision was proposed, the Committee receives data showing the proposed capacity of the new model, demonstrating that it could meet the demand for short breaks across Wiltshire and not equate to a reduction in the current provision;
4. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services provides a response to the figures included under paragraph 16 showing that a large proportion of the overnight short break days available in Wiltshire are used by a small number of service users;

The Joint Director for Commissioning and Performance will attend to answer members' questions.

The Committee is asked to provide feedback on the proposal to change the model of delivery of short breaks in Wiltshire.

9 **Support for Gifted and Talented Pupils** (Pages 49 - 58)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, is attached providing an overview of the support provided by the Council and by schools for pupils identified as gifted and talented. Several members highlighted this topic as a potential work priority for the Committee.

Clive Angus, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, will attend to answer members' questions.

10 **Update on the Provision of Education for Excluded Pupils** (Pages 59 - 66)

A report from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, providing an update on the Power To Innovate (PTI) project in Wiltshire is attached, as requested by the Children's Select Committee in November 2012. The Committee also requested figures showing the improved pupil attendance at Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) provision.

The Committee received a report proposing the closure of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS) in November 2011. The service had been placed in Special Measures in May 2011 and was subsequently closed in August 2011. In its place, Wiltshire used the Department for Education's (DfE) Power to Innovate (PTI) to delegate the responsibility for educating permanently excluded students to secondary schools, who receive the devolved funding.

Christine Whitfield, EOTAS Co-ordinator, will attend to answer Members' questions.

11 **Task Group update** (Pages 67 - 68)

A report from the Senior Scrutiny officer is attached providing an update on Task Group activity since the Committee's last meeting.

12 **Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Education** (Pages 69 - 74)

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.

13 **Urgent Items**

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

14 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Select Committee is due to be held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at the Council's Offices at Monkton Park, Chippenham, starting at 10.30am.

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

CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2013 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER.

Present:

Cllr Pat Aves, Ken, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Sue Evans, Mr J Hawkins, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Kaylum House, Rev. Alice Kemp, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Helena McKeown, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Ricky Rogers and Cllr Philip Whalley

Also Present:

Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Graham Payne and Cllr Anthony Trotman

73 Election of Chairman

Resolved:

To elect Cllr Jon Hubbard as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Cllr Jon Hubbard in the Chair

74 Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved:

To elect Cllr Jacqui Lay as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

75 Membership of the Select Committee

Resolved:

To note that at its Annual Meeting on 14 May 2013, the Council appointed the following councillors to serve on this Committee for the ensuing year:-

<u>Conservative (7)</u>	<u>Lib. Dem. (4)</u>	<u>Labour (1)</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Cllr M Champion	Cllr P Aves	Cllr R Rogers	Cllr H Osborn
Cllr M Douglas	Cllr J Hubbard		
Cllr S Evans	Cllr C Hurst		
Cllr S Jacobs	Cllr H Mckeown		
Cllr J Lay			
Cllr B Moss			
Cllr P Whalley			

<u>Substitutes</u>			
Cllr A Davis	Cllr D Allen	Cllr J Walsh	Cllr T Chivers
Cllr C Crisp	Cllr N Blakemore		Cllr D Drewitt
Cllr S Parker	Cllr D Jenkins		Cllr R Hawker
	Cllr L Packard		Cllr J Osborn

Council also appointed the following non-elected members to the Children's Select Committee:-

Non-Elected Voting Members
Vacancy

Dr M Thompson

Vacancy

Mrs A Kemp

Mr K Brough

Representing
Church of England

Clifton Diocese RC Church

Parent Governor (Secondary)

Parent Governor (Special Educational Needs)

Parent Governor (Primary)

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members
(Up to Five)

Mrs D Dale

Vacancy

Vacancy

Mr J Hawkins

Mr K House

School, Children and Young People representatives

Further Education Representative

Secondary Schools Headteachers' Representative

Primary School Headteachers' Representative

School Teacher Representative

Children & Young People's Representative

76 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Mike Thompson.

77 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 March 2013 as a correct record.

Matters arising:

Min. No. 63: Chairman's Announcements – Teacher Representatives on the Committee

The Vice-Chairman referred to discussions that had taken place at the previous meeting concerning the availability of representatives of Primary School and Secondary School Headteachers to attend meetings of this Select Committee and enquired as to how this matter was being progressed.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that he had written to the Chairmen of the primary and secondary headteachers' associations but to date nothing had been agreed.

After some discussion, during which the input of both primary and secondary headteachers was considered to be very important,

Resolved:

- 1. To ask the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet with the primary and secondary headteacher associations and discuss how schools can contribute to the Committee's work when considering relevant issues.**
- 2. To note that the senior scrutiny officer will investigate filling the Church of England representative vacancy on the Committee.**
- 3. To note that in the coming months a process will be run to appoint a new secondary parent governor representative.**

78 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of disclosable interest or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

79 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

80 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present or councillors' questions.

81 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group**

The Select Committee received a report which set out the response of the Lead Member for Children's Services to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group which was endorsed by the Committee at its last meeting on 28 March 2013.

It was reported that the Task Group's final report along with an update on the implementation of improvements had been added to the Cabinet Forward Work Programme which would be considered by Cabinet on 18 June 2013.

The report had been presented to the April meeting of the Safeguarding and Adoption Improvement Board, whose independent chairman and also the Department for Education representative had commented favourably on the Task Group's work and recommendations.

Action on the 41 recommendations of the Task Group were set out in Appendix 1 to the report from which it was noted that five of the recommendations had been completed and a further 19 were being progressed with action taken. It was noted that:-

(1) Action on the following 3 recommendations would happen in the future as requested by the Task Group:

- R6 Reports on the Safeguarding and Adoption Plan to highlight milestones which are slipping ie: red or amber
- R7 "SMART" approach to all reports to the Improvement Board
- R28 Safeguarding training for the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

(2) The following 4 recommendations were being considered before a decision was made:

- R8 Creating a new, permanent 'Safeguarding Peer Liaison' post
- R9 Attendance at MAFs by Safeguarding Peer Liaison' post or a social worker – links to R8
- R20 Review and optimise the alignment of the various geographical clusters
- R41 "Safeguarding considerations" section in all committee and Cabinet reports

- (3) The following 6 recommendations would be subject of future scrutiny:
- R10 Quality assurance of MAFs
 - R12 Social care workforce strategy and key workforce performance indicators
 - R19 Referral and assessment.
 - R29 Mid-term progress and annual report from WSCB
 - R30 WSCB business plan implementation through analysis of minutes of meetings.
 - R34 Rapid Scrutiny exercises will take place

It is also noted that:

- Scrutiny Members would visit teams and services (R31)
- The Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group would be re-established (R32)
- The Task Group would continue its work for at least 18 months after the Safeguarding Improvement Board had been disbanded and that the group would receive an update on the work of the Safeguarding Improvement Board (SIB), or from the WSCB upon the SIB's demise, at each meeting (R33)

After discussion,

Resolved:

- 1. To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group.**
- 2. To urge the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Cabinet as a whole, to respond positively to Recommendation 41 in the Task Group's Final Report: "All reports to Wiltshire Council committees, including Cabinet, should include a dedicated 'Safeguarding considerations' section", with a trial of this system being considered as a possible option.**
- 3. To request that the executive response document be amended to include details of timescales for implementing the recommendations and that it be circulated to members of the Committee.**
- 4. To note that Recommendation 6, "Any groups scrutinising the delivery of the Safeguarding and Adoption Improvement Plan should be provided with a 'RAG-rated' exception report highlighting which milestones are slipping (i.e. red or amber milestones)", has now been implemented.**

82 **Final Report of the Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group - part 2**

The Select Committee received the final report of the Special Schools & Post-16 SEN Task Group-part 2 for endorsement. It was recalled that this Task Group had brought an initial final report with recommendations to the Select Committee in July 2012 but further work had been requested.

Cllr Graham Payne, Chairman of the Task Group, introduced the report and thanked all members of the Task Group for the work they had undertaken and also Henry Powell for his excellent work in supporting the Task Group. He explained that it had met further on three occasions and had undertaken a number of other evidence gathering activities, the outcomes of which were set out in the report. However, the Task Group had not had the capacity to investigate the following new topics as requested by the Select Committee in addition to its existing work programme:-

- 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.

Cllr Payne reported that the Task Group had attended meetings of the Special Schools Head's Forum, which was a sub-group of WASSH, and had visited Wiltshire College's Trowbridge campus to experience the provision for post-16 learners with SEN and LDD (Learning Difficulties and Disabilities) as requested by the Select Committee.

Progress had been made with a number of the Task Group's original recommendations and in particular those regarding Larkrise School, Trowbridge and St Nicholas School, Chippenham, details of which were included in the report.

Members also fully supported the Task Group's recommendations regarding services for children with SEN or LDD and their families as a priority within the work programme.

Resolved:

- 1. To endorse the Final Report part 2 of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group and refer the recommendations to the appropriate executive bodies for response.**
- 2. To note that a process of developing the Committee's forward work programme would be discussed under a later item, and that these**

discussions were likely to include a consideration of issues relating to children and young people with SEN/LDD and their families.

83 Information Services Review

Consideration was given to a report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, which provided an update on the implementation and impact of the changes made to information services for families in Wiltshire from July 2012.

It was noted that the update was requested following a rapid scrutiny exercise in 2012 which had been established to consider the nature of any duplication in the Family Information Service. Following on from this the following changes had taken effect from 1 July 2012:-

- Family Information Service (FIS) focused on information and signposting for general services via a helpline and website. (Cost £120,000 per annum)
- The Early Years Team within Wiltshire Council launched the Childcare Information Service (CIS) and became the single point of contact in relation to childcare. (Cost £40,000 per annum)
- Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) became the single hub of information on services relating to Disabled Children. The Special Educational Needs / Disability Information Service (SENDIS) costs £35,000 per annum.
- The Revenue and Benefits Team within Wiltshire Council became the single point of call for queries relating to family finances. The additional work has been absorbed without additional cost.

It was noted that the current contract with Ask was due to terminate on 31 March 2014 and consequently commissioning intentions were currently being developed for service requirements from April 2014.

After some discussion

Resolved:

- 1. To note the update report on the implementation to changes made to information services for families in Wiltshire from July 2012**
- 2. To note that the current contract with Ask for providing the Family Information Service (FIS) was due to end on 31 March 2014.**
- 3. To agree that future discussions regarding the Committee's forward work programme should include consideration of establishing a task group to help shape commissioning intentions for the future provision of this service.**

84 Coalition Changes - Update March to May 2013

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

It was noted that the Government had announced a new package of support, totalling £750,000, to help local authorities attract and retain more foster carers from a wider range of backgrounds. Carolyn Godfrey explained that Wiltshire would be competing for a proportion of this funding.

Resolved:

To note the update on the latest changes from the Coalition Government relevant to children's services.

85 Forward Work Programme

Consideration was given to a report by the Senior Scrutiny Officer which provided background information on the topics currently on the Overview & Scrutiny forward work programme relating to children and education and on which the Select Committee was being invited to make a number of decisions regarding future activity.

After discussion,

Resolved:

- 1. To establish the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group with the terms of reference proposed and the membership listed as follows (subject to those members' final agreement):**

**Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Andrew Davis
Rev Alice Kemp
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Bridget Wayman**

- 2. To reconvene the Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group for one meeting only in order to review progress with its recommendations, and to ask the Task Group to report back at the Committee's next meeting. The Task Group will have the following members subject to their final agreement:**

**Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay**

**Cllr Bill Moss
Dr Mike Thompson**

- 3. To note that the O&S Management Committee has asked scrutiny officers to contact all non-executive members regarding their areas of interest in participating in overview and scrutiny task groups.**
- 4. To authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to name members to fill any vacancies on the Committee's task groups as necessary.**
- 5. To support early discussion between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities with a report on findings coming to the Committee's next meeting.**
- 6. That the rapid scrutiny exercise to look at the Wiltshire Adoptions service, which was recommended by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group, is discussed with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors prior to further consideration at the Committee's next meeting.**
- 7. That the continuance of the Major Contracts Task Group is discussed with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors prior to further consideration at the Committee's next meeting.**
- 8. To approve the agenda items currently scheduled on the Committee's forward work programme (listed in Table 2 of the report).**
- 9. (a)To note that Cabinet will receive a report on the Review of the Council's Business Plan on 23 July 2013 with a view to recommending to Full Council.**

(b)To recommend that the O&S Management Committee asks each of the select committees to establish a rapid scrutiny exercise to consider the relevant parts of the new Business Plan, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 23 July 2013.

86 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

87 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved:

To note that the next meeting of the Select Committee would be held on Thursday 1 August 2013 at the Council's Offices at Monkton Park, Chippenham, starting at 10.30am.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 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

CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2013 AT THE PRATCHETT ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Pat Aves, Ken, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr David Jenkins (Substitute), KaylumHouse, Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman), Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Dr M Thompson and Cllr Philip Whalley

Also Present:

Lynda Cox, Carolyn Godfrey, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Laura Mayes and Henry Powell

88 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Douglas, Rvd Kemp, Cllr McKeown, Cllr Moss and Cllr Rogers.

Cllr McKeown substituted for Cllr Jenkins.

89 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

90 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

91 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

92 Review of Business Plan Priorities

The Chairman reminded those present of the purpose of the meeting and the process to be followed:

At the O&S Management Committee on 25 June 2013, it had been agreed that each of the overview and scrutiny committees would hold extraordinary meetings to consider the relevant areas of the Draft Business Plan 2013-17. The comments of all four committees would then be considered by the chairman and vice-chairman on Monday 8 July, before being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

At this stage the Committee had been asked to provide a broad and strategic overview focusing on the 12 key deliverables already outlined by Cabinet and included within the agenda. Opportunities for more detailed scrutiny would come once the services plans were available, potentially prior to the Business Plan coming to Full Council should the O&S Management Committee consider this to be the appropriate approach.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services highlighted the following points:

- The draft Business Plan contained a number of priorities that did not appear to link directly with children's services. However, she would ensure that the impact on children would be considered when addressing all of them.
- Local authorities' role in education had changed significantly due to the academies programme. She suggested this might be a fruitful area for overview and scrutiny to focus on in the future.
- Although the attainment of children in Wiltshire was higher than the national average, the Cabinet Member felt that it could still improve.
- In keeping with Wiltshire's DCA Pathfinder project, in future, the Council would be looking at the 'whole life' needs of people with SEN and LDD.
- The Council's children's services teams may have been isolated from the transformations of ways of working implemented in recent years and this would need to change and would involve making services child- and family-centred.

The Committee worked through the draft Business Plan 2013-17 and made the following comments (the headings within the draft Business Plan are included in **bold** for ease of reference):

"People and Places"

- It should be clarified that the Business Plan is for everyone i.e. people across the age ranges.
- It was suggested that a Young Person's version of the Business Plan be produced.

- There was a need to focus more on the implications of the Academies Programme – the biggest change to the schools system for a generation. How does the Council need to change approach to ensure better engagement with/from schools?
- There was a need to increase young people’s engagement with their communities and democracy.

“People in Wiltshire work together to solve problems locally and participate in decisions that affect them”

- There was a suggestion to add an aspiration to increase young people’s engagement with local decision making (see above).
- Mention the need to attract more higher education provision into Wiltshire.
- The Committee endorsed the aspiration to support “all to achieve their aspirations”, suggested something be added extra regarding helping people caught in an ‘aspiration trap’.
- More could be done to help our gifted and talented young people.
- More focus should be put on encouraging and enabling children and young people to live active, healthy lives by becoming involved in healthy activities – both organised and non-organised. This should include a focus on providing sporting facilities and also addressing the reduction in participation in sporting activities after leaving school.

“Protecting from avoidable harm”

- All Council decisions should include a consideration of the impact on avoidable harm to children and young people.

2. Principles:

- Page 13, point 2: Mention looking at the explicit and hidden financial costs that can prevent young people from engaging with support services (e.g. counselling) and activities.
- Page 13, point 3: The hidden impact on young people should always be assessed when the Council makes decisions.
- Page 13, point 5: Mention the need to ensure children’s voices are heard when decisions are made, particularly through the Youth Area Groups (YAGs).

- Page 13, point 7: Include a mention of also encouraging and developing the leaders of the future (i.e. young people).
- Page 13, point 8: Staff adopting a 'can-do' approach must include them thinking about improving accessibility to young people.

“Making it happen”

- Include a mention of developing the Youth Advisory Groups (as well as the Area Boards).

Wiltshire has inclusive communities where everyone can achieve their potential (p. 17)

- Include a mention of assessing the potential impact on young people whenever decisions are made.
- Include a specific mention of supporting young carers.

“People have healthy, active and high quality lives”

- Reducing the cost of participation in sports for young people (e.g. reducing the cost of gym membership) (see above)
- Supporting schools to provide sporting activities in and outside of schools hours
- A mention of promoting sexual health (under Public Health)

Developing Leaders and Managers

- Include aspiration to develop our young community leaders at an early age.

“Working with partners”

- Include school bodies like Wiltshire Association of Secondary School Headteachers (WASSH) and Primary Heads Forum (PHF) on the colour wheel of the Council’s major partnerships.

“Measuring success “

- Include a key performance indicator (KPI) on developing effective YAGs within the first row of the table
- Include a KPI on widening the number of young people engaged with local decision making

- KPIs need to reflect the 'value added' in terms of attainment (each child's academic improvement year-on-year).

“Key Deliverables”

3. This could include a specific mention of young people i.e. YAGs
4. This needs to be more ambitious and better worded.
8. There is a need here to think about the impact of this on young people.

Resolutions:

- 1. To submit the Committee's comments on the draft Business Plan 2013-17 to the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the overview and scrutiny committees to be discussed at their meeting on 8 July 2013.**
- 2. To note that the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the four overview and scrutiny committees will agree a final report containing the committees' comments on the draft Business Plan and will submit this to Cabinet for consideration prior to it receiving the final version on 23 July 2013.**

(Duration of meeting: 12.30 - 2.25 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Henry Powell, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718052, e-mail henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

1 October 2013

Developing the Forward Work Programme

Purpose

1. To report outcomes of the meeting between the Chairman, Vice-chairman and relevant Executive members held on 15 August. This was to discuss the Council's priorities for children's services and the potential future work priorities of this Committee.
2. To propose some Committee work priorities for discussion, prior to referral to the O&S Management Committee for endorsement.
3. To propose new ways of working with regards to Committee meetings.

Background

4. On 6 June the Committee received a report presenting its existing forward work programme plus suggestions for work priorities that were put forward by its predecessor committee. The Committee made a number of decisions regarding which agenda items and task groups it wished to retain and how it would approach developing its forward work programme further:
5. The Committee agreed that it would retain the following task groups:
 - Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group
 - Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group (to be reconvened for one meeting only to conduct a 12-month review of progress with implementing the Task Group's recommendations.).
6. The Committee agreed that it would retain the following scheduled agenda items:
 - Education for excluded pupils (October)
 - School Organisation Plan and school governance arrangements (December)
 - Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations (January)

7. To develop its forward work programme further, the Committee supported early discussion between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with the relevant Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities. This meeting was held on 15 August. Attendees also discussed the topics suggested by members of the Committee by email following its meeting in June. It had been hoped that a second meeting could be arranged to discuss work priorities with the Executive further, but diaries have not permitted this before this Committee meeting.

Proposed work priorities

8. Having considered the priorities of the Executive and the topics suggested by Committee members, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would like to propose the work areas detailed below as Committee priorities during this council. Further work is needed to refine the topic scopes and decide how they will be approached. This list is intended as a 'starter for ten' to aid discussion in committee and develop the new forward work programme.
9. The Chairman and Vice-chairman have been mindful that overview and scrutiny has a finite capacity. Experience shows that greater value can be added by focusing on a few key areas than by attempting to cover everything. They have also referred to the criteria listed below when selecting the suggested topics:
 - Is the topic considered a priority by the Executive? Is it included within the Council's Business Plan 2013-17?
 - Is the topic a major area of Council spend?
 - Can the Council have a real impact on this issue? (i.e. is it a national issue or decision that is largely beyond the Council's control)?
 - Does the topic effect a large number of people, or a smaller number of people very significantly?
10. A degree of flex needs to be retained within the forward work programme so other issues can be considered as they arise. Work priorities may also change in line with changes to national legislation. Therefore the Committee will review its forward work programme at each meeting.

1. Safeguarding Children and Young People

This will be covered in depth by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group, which the Committee has already decided to retain. The Committee will perform its oversight role by receiving regular update reports

and considering any Task Group recommendations prior to referral to the Executive.

The Business Plan 2013-15 includes the following Key Deliverable:

“5. [We will] Continue to improve our safeguarding services to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.”

2. Family Placements

This also comes under the terms of reference of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group.

Family Placements encompasses both adoptions and fostering. There have been significant national policy changes in this area and the Council’s focus will increasingly be on placing children quickly whilst maintaining placement permanency. The Business Plan 2013-17 includes the following aspiration:

“All children in care have stable, long-term placements and there is a good supply of well-trained and supported adopters and fewer children in care have criminal records.”

Officers will soon be exploring the advantages of greater partnership working with other authorities. This work is currently being scoped and would benefit from the involvement of overview and scrutiny.

3. Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD)

In June the Committee endorsed a recommendation from its Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group to give “services for children and young people with SEN/LLDD continued attention and consider them a priority within the new Council’s overview and scrutiny work programme”. This topic was also proposed by several members of the Committee.

Between September 2011 and May 2013, this Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group produced two reports, which focused on the following areas:

- Projecting and meeting future demand for SEN provision
- Healthcare in Wiltshire’s special schools
- The capacities and facilities of Wiltshire’s special schools
- Transitions for students with SEN/LLDD from special schools to college or employment

- Short breaks for children and young people with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)

It is proposed that the Committee now places greater focus on **SEN provision in mainstream schools**, including how special educational needs are identified early and then supported within a mainstream setting – and how this is done effectively, consistently.

The Business Plan 2013-17 includes the following aspiration:

“There is a much narrower achievement or aspiration ‘gap’ for children and young people from vulnerable groups (such as looked after children, children who receive free school meals or have disabilities, special education needs or mental health issues).”

The Committee may also wish to retain a focus on the Council’s DCA Pathfinder project, the implementation of which is included in the Business Plan 2013-17. This follows the Government’s green paper, ‘Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability’, which sets out proposals that reform current systems for identifying, assessing and supporting children with SEN or LLDD and their families.

The Business Plan 2013-17 includes the following aspiration:

“Young people with disabilities, learning difficulties or special educational needs find it easy to manage the transition into adulthood and access a wide range of supported, independent living and work opportunities.”

4. Further education in Wiltshire

Some members have expressed concern at the quality of further education currently provided in Wiltshire. It is proposed that the following specific questions are addressed:

- What impact is the academies programme having on the ability of all students to access the courses and providers they want?
- Is further education provision in Wiltshire, particularly vocational courses, of sufficient quality and, if not, how can it be improved?
- Are the further education courses available in Wiltshire meeting the needs of students and equipping them for employment?
- What is the Council doing to support and develop further education, particularly in regards to its links to employment?

The Business Plan 2013-17 contains the following aspirations:

“People in Wiltshire can access further and higher education courses through new university, college and university technical college provision.”

“More employers offer a wider range of apprenticeships and on the job training and greater numbers of people take up these opportunities. More young people are in education, employment or training. There are low levels of unemployment and worklessness and more people can live independently without benefits or state help.”

“All young people are supported to move into further and higher education, employment or training. The council works effectively with a range of education providers, including schools, colleges and academies.”

5. Educational provision for gifted and talented young people

A report on this, which was suggested by a number of members as requiring focus, is included elsewhere in the agenda.

The Business Plan 2013-17 includes the following Key Deliverable:

“4. [We will] Provide opportunities for every child and young person to improve their attainment and skills so they can achieve their full potential.”

6. Engaging young people in local decision-making and developing the leaders of the future

This was seen as a priority by some Committee members when considering the draft Business Plan 2013-17. The Business Plan now includes the following Key Deliverable:

“3. [We will] Further enhance the role of area boards and Youth Advisory Groups, developing innovative community-led approaches to designing and delivering services.”

Responsibility for engaging young people in local decision making currently sits primarily with the Council’s Voice and Influence team. Further scoping is needed to establish current Council activity in this area.

6. Early intervention

The Council’s Business Plan 2013-17 emphasises the importance of focusing on prevention and early intervention; finding ways of predicting and reducing demand for services before it happens. It includes the following aspirations:

“Together public services focus on prevention and help vulnerable people and families with complex needs to manage their problems at an early stage before these escalate and further intervention is needed.”

“Children in vulnerable families with multiple social, economic and health issues are less likely to achieve their potential. Focusing on prevention and early intervention can narrow the gaps for children at risk of poorer outcomes by encouraging public services to work together more effectively.”

“[We will] continue investment in early intervention services for parents, children and young people and commission preventative services for complex families that do not meet the threshold for children’s social care – we will work with partners to reshape and redesign multi-agency services for families with complex needs.”

This is a significant area of work and further scoping may be required to establish where the Committee might focus its activity. An Early Help Strategy is currently in draft and overview and scrutiny could contribute to its development.

Ways of working

Pre-committee information briefings

11. To help equip the Committee to undertake its important role over the next four years a programme of pre-meeting Committee briefings is proposed. These will be delivered by relevant service officers, will take place immediately before each Committee meeting and will cover key issues and services in the children and families arena.
12. In recent years there has been a huge number of legislative changes which have significantly altered local authorities’ responsibilities; for example in supporting schools or funding further education. This in turn has changed the structure and roles of teams within the Council. These briefings are intended to give the Committee a solid grounding in these matters and enhance the overview and scrutiny undertaken. The following are suggested as potentially suitable topics for such briefings:
 - Schools and the local authority (briefing held before this meeting)
 - Further education and the local authority
 - SEN provision in mainstream schools
 - Early intervention
 - Engaging young people in local decision-making and developing the leaders of the future

- Family Placements

Committee agendas

13. Past experience has demonstrated that the most productive overview and scrutiny is often done by smaller groups of members, such as task groups, rapid scrutiny exercises or fact-finding meetings. Whilst recognising the Select Committee's important role in maintaining oversight of its work programme, considering key proposals and holding the executive to public account, smaller working groups tend to enable a more extended dialogue with witnesses and can be a more effective arena for looking at evidence in detail and therefore arriving at informed conclusions and recommendations. For this reason, it is suggested that the Committee places greater emphasis on using smaller working groups to look at topics before bringing their findings back to the full Committee. These groups do not necessarily need to undertake major reviews that take many months – often only one or two meetings will be appropriate.
14. Experience has also shown that overview and scrutiny committee meetings can be most productive when their agendas contain fewer items. Shorter agendas allow members greater opportunity to ask questions on and debate each item more fully, thereby enabling more considered resolutions. This approach does require difficult decisions regarding which items *not* to consider, but greater value can usually be added by focusing on fewer key topics than by attempting to cover everything.

Proposals

1. To approve the topics proposed within the report as work priorities for the Committee and refer them to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for endorsement.
2. To support further discussions between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors to scope the agreed work priorities further, with an update coming to the Committee's next meeting.
3. To approve the programme of pre-meeting information briefings to enhance the Committee's ability to undertake effective overview and scrutiny.
4. To approve the proposed approach of making greater use of task groups, rapid scrutiny exercises and fact-finding meetings for looking at topics in detail before reporting back to the Committee.

5. To approve the proposed approach of limiting Committee agendas to a few key items whenever possible, in order to allow greater time and therefore add more value to each topic considered.

Cllr Jon Hubbard, Chairman, Children's Select Committee
Cllr Jacqui Lay, Vice-Chairman, Children's Select Committee

Report author: Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer,
01225 718052, henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

1 October 2013

Executive Response to the Final Report of the Special Schools Post-16 SEN Scrutiny Task Group – part 2

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the Executive's response to the final report of the Special Schools Post-16 SEN Task Group – part 2 (endorsed June 2013).

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.
4. Early on in the Task Group's work, members concluded that its terms of reference were very broad and could potentially encompass a huge area of work. It was agreed that it would be most productive to focus on particular areas of concern or interest.
5. The Committee received the Task Group's initial final report in July 2012 and the executive response was received in September 2012. The Committee asked the Task Group to reconvene to undertake further work, consider the executive responses in detail, and to receive the

various pieces of further information that had been offered. The Task Group's Final Report – part 2 was endorsed by the Select Committee on 6 June 2013 and referred to the executive for response.

Task Group Recommendations and Executive Responses

Future Focus for the Children's Select Committee

Task Group recommendations:

1. The Committee gives services for children and young people with SEN/LDD continued attention and considers them a priority within the new Council's overview and scrutiny work programme;

No executive response required.

Short breaks for children and young people with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)

Task Group recommendations:

2. If there were to be any reconfiguration of short break provision in Wiltshire, any savings identified should be retained for services for children and young people with SEN/LDD and their families;
3. If a reconfiguration of Wiltshire's short break provision was proposed, the Committee receives data showing the proposed capacity of the new model, demonstrating that it could meet the demand for short breaks across Wiltshire and not equate to a reduction in the current provision;
4. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services provides a response to the figures included under paragraph 16 showing that a large proportion of the overnight short break days available in Wiltshire are used by a small number of service users;

Executive response:

Please see the Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People report included elsewhere in this agenda.

Accessibility of services

5. The Council aims to locate information about all services for families with children with SEN/LDD in one location online and that the Committee focuses on this area in any future consideration of Wiltshire's Support and Aspiration Pathfinder;

Executive response:

Staff from Children's Services are currently involving in developing the 'Local Offer' information to provide clarity for parents and carers of disabled children and children with special educational needs on the support and services available across education, health and social care. Local Offer information will be available in one place. This work is being led by the Council, but will require input from health commissioners and providers and from schools. All work on the Local Offer will be undertaken in conjunction with Wiltshire Parent Carer Council to ensure that it is clear and easy for parents to understand.

Beyond school for students with SEN/LDD

Task Group recommendations:

6. Wiltshire's special schools, Wiltshire College and the Council work together to embed a single planned and structured process for the transitioning of young people with SEN/LDD from school to further education or training;
7. Wiltshire's special schools and Wiltshire College work together and share the expertise built up in the special schools, particularly in regards to provision for children and young people with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD);

Executive response:

The majority of young people 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 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, Trowbridge and Chippenham campus sites of Wiltshire College.

The Strategic Planning and Places team have recently applied via the Education Funding Agency for Demographic Growth Capital funding to support developments at the Trowbridge, Salisbury and Lackham campuses of the College for this cohort of learners. The College were awarded £1.8m with a further £414,000 awarded to

Wiltshire Council for the refurbishment of a property near the Chippenham campus for co-location of St Nicholas post-16 provision. The development will lead the way in further development of partnership working with Wiltshire's special schools and Wiltshire College.

Based upon the MOD's Army Basing announcement in March this year, the current Wiltshire Army population of about 10,800 troops is due to increase to about 14,800 by 2020 at the latest, following a significant number of units transferring to the Salisbury Plain Training Area. However, MOD will continue to review the size of its numbers during this period in light of any changes in Foreign or Fiscal policies, and further changes could occur.

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 – part 2; and
 2. Agree any further action as appropriate.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Appendices

None

Background documents

Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Scrutiny Task Group – part 2 (June 2013)

Executive Response to the Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group (September 2012)

Final Report of the Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group (July 2012)

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

1 October 2013

Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

Executive summary

This report summarises the joint review between the Council and NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group on overnight short breaks for disabled Children and Young People in Wiltshire.

Following the review, the proposal is to change the service model including the closure of Hillcote (the NHS-run unit) from April 2014 and reinvestment of money in more family based care and early intervention support services for families of disabled children.

The proposal would retain access to overnight short breaks for families of disabled children, but would also provide an opportunity for more support for disabled children and their families to address issues families have highlighted they struggle with, such as challenging behaviour and sleeping difficulties.

Care plans will be developed with the five families who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 to ensure that the needs of the children, including their health needs, continue to be met.

The proposal is cost neutral with a focus on how to make best use of public money for families with a disabled child.

Proposal

That the committee:

- a) Provides feedback on the proposal to change the model of delivery of short breaks in Wiltshire.
- b) Notes that the final decision on the potential closure of Hillcote will be taken at the NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body meeting in November following the three month consultation period.

Author:

Julia Cramp, Service Director, Commissioning & Performance (Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

Contact details:

Email: Julia.cramp@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel.: 01225 718221

Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

Purpose of report

1. This purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the joint review on overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people and invite feedback on the proposal to change the model of service delivery and close the NHS-run unit called Hillcote in Salisbury.

Background

2. In January 2013, a paper was considered by the emerging Clinical Commissioning Group's Clinical Commissioning Committee which summarised the Joint Review of Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People and recommended that further work was undertaken to move from the current position where significant resource is invested in residential short breaks services to a mixed model of residential and family-based provision.
3. The recommended option (Option 2) was to close one residential unit and "use the annual savings to invest in alternative services to support children and young people in new ways. This will include early intervention services that will increase the potential for children to access opportunities with their peers and develop independence skills. Given the geographical location and the unit cost analysis of both services the proposal would be to close Hillcote releasing £608k revenue per annum for investment."
4. The approved next steps were: "the Clinical Commissioning Group agrees to further work taking place to develop Option 2 into a firm proposal for the closure of Hillcote and the use of the funding released to re-design an increased and enhanced range of services. This work would be done in conjunction with Wiltshire Parent Carers Council (who represent a large number of parents of disabled children and young people). This option would need to be the subject of a public and stakeholder consultation prior to any final decision on closure being taken."
5. In June 2013 a further paper was considered by the Clinical Commissioning Group's Governing Body which outlined the consultation and communication plans and approval was given to proceed with the consultation.

Consultation

6. Section 242 of the NHS Act 2006 places a duty on NHS trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to make arrangements to involve and consult patients and the public in:
 - planning services they are responsible for
 - developing and considering proposals for changes in the way those services are provided

- decisions to be made which affect how those services operate
7. The Consultation Plan approved by the Clinical Commissioning Group can be summarised as follows:
- A Consultation Paper to be shared with a wide range of stakeholders July - October 2013
 - Detailed face to face meetings with families currently using the service August - October 2013
 - Workshops with families currently using the service to help develop service specifications for new services September 2013
 - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) to sit on the project Steering Group.
 - A final decision to be made taking into account the consultation in November 2013.
8. On July 24th 2013 a three month consultation period started and the consultation document (Appendix 1), a questions and answers document and an online feedback form were hosted on the WPCC website. Letters were sent to a range of stakeholders including families using Hillcote. Meetings were then arranged with the five Wiltshire families who would be directly affected by the closure of Hillcote.

Main considerations for the committee

9. The current capacity and usage of Wiltshire Children and Young People Overnight Short Breaks Services is given below:

Service	Beds	Capacity (bed nights)	Current Usage
Canon's House	8 bed unit	2880	1980
Hillcote	10 bed unit	3600*	422**
Family Link	21 households	756	700 (approx.)
	Total	7236	3102

**Theoretical capacity based on a 10 bed unit. In practice Hillcote opens as and when required due to low usage.*

***Not including children known to be leaving prior to 1/4/2014*

The current model has significant surplus residential short breaks capacity. If Hillcote closed from 1 April 2014, the first priority would be to ensure suitable provision for the five families who would have been using Hillcote. Social workers are meeting with these families during September and early October to discuss possible alternative arrangements. A range of options will be considered including Canon's House, Direct Payments, Contract Carers and other residential provision. If Hillcote is closed the first priority for the money released will be to provide suitable alternative provision for these families.

10. The proposal (as stated in the consultation document) is as follows:
- Close Hillcote from April 2014.
 - Reinvest savings in more foster care family based overnight provision, allowing a wider geographical spread of services, greater equity of provision and a more cost effective use of public money.
 - Reinvest savings in additional services for families to help with the key difficulties they have identified (e.g. sleep, incontinence, behaviour and meal times) to enable improved outcomes for children. These services would work in collaboration with family based carers, Canons House residential short breaks unit and Special Schools.
 - Develop service specifications for the new services with input from families.
 - Develop the new services so they can start in 2014.
 - Jointly manage the change through a Steering Group consisting of officers from NHS organisations, Wiltshire Council and representatives from Wiltshire Parent Carer Council.
 - Work with families using Hillcote to ensure the needs of their children and families continue to be fully met from April 2014.
 - Continue to provide overnight short breaks that deliver a break from caring for parents.
11. The consultations document explains the rationale for the above recommendations and can be summarized as follows:
- The use of Hillcote is declining and the Unit now closes at times when no families use it.
 - The increase in the use of other services, partly as a legacy of Aiming High for Disabled Children, including the Short Breaks Scheme and Learning Disability Nurses mean that fewer families of children are requesting overnight short breaks.
 - Improved outcomes for children and young people would be supported by a mixed model of service provision including more support with the issues, such as challenging behaviour and parents being deprived of sleep, that can lead to the request for overnight short breaks.
 - Greater equity of provision would be supported by an increase in locally provided family based overnight care throughout the county.
 - The money tied up in providing the service at Hillcote could be reinvested in more family based care and early intervention support services.

Safeguarding considerations

12. All referrals for overnight short breaks are made by a social worker who fully considers the safeguarding needs of the child or young person. Care plans and overnight short break services will continue to ensure all safeguarding requirements are met.

Public Health implications

13. An increase in early intervention services will improve outcomes and the wellbeing of children and young people with SEN and/or disability and their families. There is no expected impact to the public health of the wider population relating to this proposal.

Environmental impact of the proposal

14. The environmental impact of the proposal is minimal. It is anticipated that in the medium term an increase in local family based care throughout Wiltshire will contribute towards a small reduction in transport to and from overnight short breaks settings.

Equality and diversity impact of the proposal

15. An equality impact assessment has been completed (Appendix 2). Key points from the document include:
 - The proposal is consistent with national and local policy and research.
 - The proposal is subject to a public and stakeholder consultation
 - WPCCC have been fully involved in the review and consultation and sit on the steering group.
 - Children and young people with disability and their families would benefit from the proposal due to an increase in locally based provision and an increase in early intervention services to support with the issues families have identified including sleep, incontinence and behaviour and thereby improving outcomes for families.
 - Care plans will be developed with families directly affected by the potential closure of Hillcote to ensure a package of support is offered to continue to meet their needs. These will include ensuring the health needs (including complex health needs) continue to be met and a transition plan is in place.

Risk assessment

16. Prior to the start of the consultation it was identified that there was a risk that families using the service at Hillcote may be unhappy with a proposed change to their care package. It was anticipated that this could result in media interest and families contacting politicians. This could result in reputational damage for the agencies involved in the consultation. The following actions were identified to manage these risks:
 - A joint media statement was prepared between Wiltshire Council and the CCG
 - Great Western Hospitals prepared a media statement as the service provider
 - Media relations teams in all three organisations were briefed and were in contact with each other
 - A letter was sent to each Wiltshire MP and to Wiltshire Councillors

- Letters were sent to each family currently using Hillcote and these were followed up to arrange meetings with the five Wiltshire families who would be using Hillcote from April 2014.
17. Since the start of the consultation, two of the families using Hillcote have expressed that they are strongly opposed to the proposal and have been in contact with the media and politicians. A 'Save Hillcote' Facebook campaign has also been launched. Two articles have appeared in the Salisbury Journal and the media teams have responded as appropriate. Both families have been met with and the situation continues to be monitored. There is a risk that a decision to close Hillcote could continue to be met with opposition and/or continue to attract media interest.
 18. It was understood that there could be a perceived risk to disabled children with complex health needs using Hillcote changing to a different service because Hillcote is an NHS service. The actions to address this perceived risk are:
 - Clarify in the consultation documentation that Canon's House is fully able to support children complex health needs and that care plans that ensure health needs continue to be met will be developed with the families.
 - Reinforce the above message in the meetings with families.
 19. If the proposal is not implemented there will continue to be an inefficient use of public money. In addition funding will not be released to enable an increase in family based care and early intervention family support services which will hinder achieving better outcomes for families.

Financial implications

20. The cost of running the Hillcote service is £608,000. The proposal is cost neutral, any savings released as a result of the closure of Hillcote will be reinvested in services for families of Disabled Children, in particular, meeting the needs of the five children and young people who would otherwise have been using Hillcote, family based care and early intervention family support services.

Legal implications

21. Section 242 of the NHS Act 2006 requires a consultation. See paragraph 6 above.
22. Hillcote staff may be eligible for TUPE if Hillcote closes. GWH have begun a staff consultation and are exploring options for staff within health services. The HR team at GWH is engaged and the HR team at Wiltshire Council have been made aware of the potential for a TUPE consideration.

Options considered

23. The consultation document (Appendix 1) describes the other options considered. In summary:

- a) Keeping both Canon's House and Hillcote open was rejected because it would not represent an efficient use of public money and would not enable the service development to improve outcomes for children and young people with disability and their families.
- b) Closing both residential units was rejected because feedback from families was that they valued overnight residential provision and it would create a capacity issue.

Conclusion

24. The Committee is asked to approve the proposal detailed in paragraph 9 above subject to final approval by the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group after the consultation period ends. The proposal offers the best option for continuing to meet the needs of children and young people with disability and their families, improving the outcomes for these children and making best use of public money.
25. In case minor points of detail need to be agreed at a later date it is requested that delegated authority be given to Julia Cramp, Joint Service Director, in consultation with Laura Mayes, lead member for Children's Services. This will ensure implementation and transition arrangements for families are not delayed.

Background papers

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

1. Joint Project to Redesign Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children, June 2013
2. CCG Overnight Short Breaks Paper, November 2012

Appendices

1. Joint Consultation on Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children
2. Equality Impact Assessment

This page is intentionally left blank

Joint Consultation on Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

Introduction

This paper provides a summary of the recently completed joint Health/Local Authority review of overnight short breaks for disabled children and young people. The review has considered all overnight short break provision provided by or commissioned by NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council. This includes Hillcote residential unit provided by Wiltshire Community Health Services, and Canon's House residential unit and the Family Link fostering service provided by Wiltshire Council. This paper proposes to move from the current position where significant resource is invested in residential short breaks services to a mixed model of residential and family-based provision.

Review methodology

The review worked to the following principles:

- There should be equity of access across Wiltshire to overnight short breaks for families with a disabled child;
- Parents and carers should have choice between different types of overnight short break provision;
- The funding available for overnight short breaks must be used effectively, avoiding tying up resource in any provision that is not well utilised;
- Any recommendations made as a result of the review should be based on a cost neutral approach so that families with disabled children can be assured that they will continue to receive effective support.

The following tasks were undertaken:

- Analysis of the overall resource across Wiltshire for overnight short breaks;
- Analysis of current activity and use of overnight short breaks provision;
- A survey to ascertain the views of parents and carers who currently use overnight short break services;
- Analysis of similar provision in other authorities.

The review has been overseen by a Steering Group consisting of:

- the Joint Head of Commissioning for Children’s Services for NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council;
- the service lead for Canon’s House and the Council’s Children with Disabilities Teams;
- Wiltshire Council’s Lead Commissioner for children with disabilities;
- representatives of Wiltshire Parent Carers Council (a group of approximately 600 parents);
- the Head of Specialist Services with responsibility for Hillcote from Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
- representatives of the Council’s Family Link service.

Current overnight short breaks services

Hillcote is a ten-bedded unit providing residential short breaks services for children and young people aged 4 - 18 with a learning disability and complex needs. The service is provided by Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and commissioned by NHS Wiltshire. The service is available for overnight and day care throughout the year. The service is run from a Grade II listed house in Salisbury (owned by Salisbury Foundation Trust).

Canon’s House is an eight-bedded registered residential home in Devizes which offers short term breaks for children aged 5 – 18 with a disability and complex needs. The unit offers short breaks of 24 hours or more over weekends and during school holidays. Overnight breaks are provided during midweek in term time. Canon’s House has an Outstanding rating from OFSTED.

Family Link is a family-based short breaks scheme for disabled children. It is designed to give children a regular short break within a family based setting where children are cared for in a family link carer’s own home.

Activity data

Activity for the year 2011-2012 was analysed for all three services. The total number of children using these services was 111.

	Canons House	Hillcote	Family Link
Overnights	2663	756	663
Children receiving overnight breaks	65	21*	19

*As of July 2013 there are now only 8 children and young people using Hillcote and from April 2014 is anticipated that there would be only 5 children and young people using the service.

The number of children using Hillcote has reduced in the past three years and this presents a significant challenge to the provider. The unit now closes when not required.

The proportion of hours of service delivered by the Family Link service is comparatively low. In other authorities the use of family based short breaks is much higher.

Financial analysis

The total expenditure on the three overnight short break services for Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire in 2011/12 was 1.474m. These costs are direct service costs and do not include any corporate overheads or corporate management costs which are additional.

The cost for providing each service is as follows:

	Canons House (£,000)	Hillcote (£,000)	Family Link (£,000)
Total	745	608	123

The following table shows the share of cost and activity for each service:

	Canons House	Hillcote	Family Link
Cost (£)	51%	41%	8%
Activity (Nights)	66%	18%	16%

Family Link can be considered good value compared to the other services in terms of the comparison of spend to activity. (For every 1% of spend it produces 2% of the activity). This is because family based care is less costly to provide than residential provision.

Comparing the two residential units, Hillcote is a lot more expensive than Canons House in terms of unit costs. A key reason for this is that the numbers of children attending Hillcote has reduced; this has the effect of high unit costs given the high fixed cost element of running a residential unit. The continuing reduction in numbers of children and young people using Hillcote means the cost per child of delivering the service is continuing to rise.

Parents' views

Initially all families using the services were invited by letter to attend formal consultation events in 2012. However, interest was so low that together with Wiltshire Parent Carer Council it was decided to undertake an on line survey instead of the consultations. All families using services were invited to complete a short survey to give their views on provision. Each family was personally contacted and offered a range of ways of responding. Just less than 20% of families using the services responded survey and all but one of these used Canons House.

Overall comments were positive about the quality of the services they currently receive. Key points were:

- The most common reason for using the services from the family perspective was a break from caring.
- The most common benefit to the child identified by parent carers was the opportunity for their child to spend time with other young people of a similar age.
- The preferred option for those using overnight short break services was a residential home. The least preferred option was an increase in community based activities to replace overnight short breaks. (In interpreting this feedback it is important to note that all the respondents to the survey currently use residential short break services).
- There was a strong preference to be able to use services at weekends and during school holidays rather than mid week and term time.

Parents identified difficulties with sleep, behaviour, continence and meal times as key issues that lead to the need for overnight short breaks.

The national context

A review of overnight short breaks provision in other areas has found a general trend of reducing bed capacity within residential facilities and a move towards outreach provision. Some examples are outlined below.

- Peterborough reduced from 21 to 8 bed provision places by offering creative and responsive packages of support in the home. Their new outreach team in the community was linked to their residential provision which reassured families.
- Medway reviewed their services with a recommendation to close their NHS overnight short breaks centre.
- Dorset closed an NHS residential unit and now provides overnight short breaks through a mixed model.

- North Somerset put their overnight short breaks provision out to tender with contracts for sitting services, outreach day care services, an overnight carers' service and a residential unit.
- Newport City Council have employed two full time foster carers and made adaptations to their homes so that they can provide overnight breaks for a number of children.

In summary, the national picture shows a move towards greater use of family based support and a marked reduction in residential overnight short break provision.

Options considered

Based on the results of the review, three broad options were considered:

Option 1 - Keep both residential units open

Continue with Canons House offering the bulk of overnight short break activity for Wiltshire, Hillcote offering a smaller amount of activity to families in the South of the County and the Family Link service continuing as is.

Option 2 - Close one residential unit

Use the annual savings from the closure of one unit to invest in alternative services to support children and young people in new ways. This would include an early intervention services that will increase the potential for children to access opportunities with their peers and develop independence skills. Given the geographical locations, activity levels and the unit costs analysis of both services the proposal would be to close Hillcote releasing approximately £608k revenue per annum for investment.

Option 3 - Close both residential units

Use the combined annual savings from the closure of both Hillcote and Devizes to invest in community based provision.

Analysis of options

Option 1 – Keep both residential units open

Benefits

- Continuity for existing service users and staff.
- Consistency with the positive survey feedback from parent carers.

Issues and Risks

- This option does not represent an efficient use of public money because of the low numbers of children and young people using Hillcote and the higher and growing unit costs at Hillcote.
- The decreasing numbers of children using Hillcote means the service is not viable to the provider.
- The low numbers of children using the service at Hillcote means that the main benefit identified for young people in the parent carer's survey - of meeting peers - will no longer be realised.
- Funding will not be released to develop the other desired services required such as early intervention and more services in carers homes to improve outcomes for children.
- This option does not address the equity issues for families living further away from the residential units.

Option 2 – Close one residential unit (Hillcote)

Benefits

- Release funding for investment in new services to deliver improved outcomes for children.
- An opportunity developing the remaining residential unit as centre of excellence. Staff would work in a 'satellite' capacity with families and children by delivering support in areas such as behaviour, sleep and continence issues.
- Release funding to increase family based provision, increasing the geographical spread of services.
- Resolve issues relating to the financial viability of Hillcote.
- Retain ongoing residential overnight care in line with the wishes of parent carers.

Issues and Risks

- A change for families who use the service at Hillcote
- Impact to staff at Hillcote
- Managing a change programme in service provision
- Reduction in choice for residential services

Option 3 – Close both residential units (Canon’s House and Hillcote)

Benefits

- Enable a radical redesign of services
- Maximise revenue and capital available for new services
- Opportunity to provide individualised services for children and young people

Issues and Risks

- This would not be consistent with feedback from parent carers
- A highly complex change programme would be required
- Risk of gap in provision during the transition to new service models
- Lack of continuity for children and young people and their families
- Based on need it would be likely that a replacement residential unit would be required. This would need a substantial capital reinvestment. The logical place for a replacement unit would be in a central location such as Devizes, which raises the question: Why close Canon’s House in the first place?

Proposal

It is proposed that Option 2 above is implemented because it will ensure a range of services required to meet the needs of families and achieve the best outcomes for children. This option will also ensure a more efficient use of public money.

Specifically the proposal is to:

1. Close Hillcote from April 2014.
2. Reinvest savings in more family based overnight provision, allowing a wider geographical spread of services, greater equity of provision and a more cost effective use of public money.
3. Reinvest savings in additional services for families to help with the key difficulties they have identified (e.g. sleep, incontinence, behaviour and meal times) to empower families and enable improved outcomes for children. These services would work in collaboration with family based carers, Canons House and Special Schools.
4. Develop service specifications for the new services with input from families.
5. Develop the new services so they can start as soon as possible.
6. Jointly manage the change through a Steering Group consisting of officers from Health, Wiltshire Council and representatives from Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
7. Work with families who would otherwise be using Hillcote from April 2014 to ensure the needs of their children and families continue to be fully met.
8. Continue to provide overnight short breaks that deliver a break from caring for parents.

This proposal is cost neutral – any saving made will be reinvested in the services described.

Taking part in the consultation

We would appreciate you sharing your views with us on the proposed changes to overnight short breaks for disabled children. To take part in this consultation please use the following web link, on the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OvernightSB>

Alternatively you may write to Wiltshire Parent Carer Council with your comments at the following address or contact them by telephone:

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Freepost RSXC-YTUB-KTBL
Unit 3 Fordbrook Business Park
Pewsey
SN9 5NU

Tel. 01672 569300

www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council will share the consultation feedback they receive with the other agencies for the purpose of this consultation process.

The consultation period

This consultation will run for 3 months from Wednesday 24th July – Wednesday 23rd October.

Name of Service/Policy/Function to undergo Impact Analysis:

Proposal for Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People

Key contact person & others involved including Members:

Julia Cramp (Joint Service Director, Commissioning & Performance, Childrens Services & Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group)
Susan Tanner (Head of Joint Planning & Commissioning, Children’s Services)
Matthew Look (Lead Commissioner, Children’s Services)
Stuart Hall (Vicechair, Wiltshire Parent Carer Council)

Date Completed: July 2013

Review date: October 2013

Identify aims:

The purpose of the Proposal for Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People is to achieve better outcomes for disabled children and young people by:

- Ensuring equity of access across Wiltshire to overnight short breaks for families with a disabled child;
- Providing parents and carers with a choice between different types of overnight short break provision;
- Ensuring the funding available for overnight short breaks is used effectively, avoiding tying up resource in any provision that is not well utilised;
- Reinvesting any savings back into short breaks services (a cost neutral approach) so that families with disabled children can be assured that they will continue to receive effective support.
- Identifying benefits for disabled children and young people and their families.

The Proposal addresses the following key areas:

- Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People
- Support services relating to Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People
- Deployment of funding and resources

Collect and use evidence:

The Proposal has been informed by national and local policy, best practice and developments which are relevant to disabled children and young people in Wiltshire. This includes:

National Policy and Developments

- The Green Paper Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability, 2012
- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- An increase in the range and quantity of short breaks provision
- A trend of moving towards a mixed model for overnight short breaks and a reduction in specialist overnight residential provision.

Local Policy and Developments

- Children and Young People’s Plan 2012-15
- Draft Joint Commissioning Strategy Framework
- 11-19 Commissioning Strategy
- Children in Care Commissioning Strategy
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Commissioning Strategy

- Family & Parenting Support Commissioning Strategy
- Draft Review of Services for children and young people in Wiltshire with autistic spectrum disorders
- Strategic Priorities Statement
- Review of Overnight Short Breaks
- An increase in the range and quantity of short breaks provision and support services

To support development of the Proposal the following tasks were undertaken:

- Analysis of the overall resource across Wiltshire for overnight short breaks;
- Analysis of activity and use of overnight short breaks provision;
- A survey to ascertain the views of parents and carers who currently use overnight short break services;
- Analysis of similar provision in other authorities.

To further inform any decision a three month consultation will take place between July and October.

Assess the impact:

Service users covered

Service users covered by the Proposal are Children and Young People with SEN and/or Disability age 0-18 and their families, in particular those who use or may use in the future overnight short break services. The five Wiltshire children and young people and their families who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 are the most directly affected by the proposal.

Benefits to service users

Service users would benefit from the Proposal in the following ways:

- Increase the amount of locally based provision.
- Improve support services to address issues parent carers have highlighted as key reasons for needing overnight short breaks (and thereby improve outcomes for children and families)
- Improve choice for children and young people and their families in terms of overnight short breaks.

Impact to Hillcote Service Users

Families of children who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 may be concerned by the Proposal because it would mean a change in their service provision. This will be addressed in the following ways:

- Individual meetings with each family to explain the Proposal and reassure them that if the proposal is approved an alternative package of care will be offered.
- Care plans to be developed with each family to ensure the needs of the children and families continue to be met. This will include ensuring any health needs of the children continue to be met in full. Where transport is an issue this will also be considered.

Some disabled children and young people find change particularly difficult and any change in service would need to be managed with care. For the five families directly affected transition plans to any new services would be developed for each child.

Ensure fairness:

Geography

The usage of overnight short break provision in Wiltshire has been analysed and it was found that families who used the residential units (Hillcote and Canon's House) tended to live within the local area of those units. Families who did not live close to a residential unit were tending not to use overnight residential units. This indicates that a model of provision which is bias towards residential unit provision is not equitable for families who do not live near the units.

The Proposal would reinvest savings from closing one residential unit (Hillcote) into more family based care, meaning that there would be a greater provision of locally provided overnight short breaks. This would be more equitable for families throughout the county. It is possible that for some of the five families who would be using Hillcote from April 2014 that alternative provision would not be as local for them. Transport will need to be considered in the care planning for these families.

Eligibility

Overnight short breaks are currently available via social worker assessment of need. The proposal would not change this approach.

Complex Needs including Health Needs

The complexity of needs of children using both residential units has been analysed and Hillcote and Canon's House can both cater for complex needs, including complex Health needs). Under the Proposal Wiltshire would continue to be able to offer overnight short breaks to children with the most complex needs.

Developing the Proposal

The development of the Proposal has been coordinated by the Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group, which reports back to the Children's Trust Commissioning Executive and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The Steering Group consists of a range of stakeholders ensuring a balance of views:

- the Joint Head of Commissioning for Children's Services for NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council;
- Wiltshire Council's Lead Commissioner for children with disabilities;
- representatives of Wiltshire Parent Carers Council (a group of approximately 600 parents);
- the Head of Specialist Services with responsibility for Hillcote from Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
- the service lead for Canon's House and the Council's Children with Disabilities Teams;
- representatives of the Council's Family Link service.

Consultation

The consultation on the Proposal has been widely communicated to a range of stakeholders and hosted on the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council website. Feedback can be submitted by a range of methods to ensure fair access and participation, this includes online, by telephone or by letter. Individual feedback meetings will be held with each of the five families whose current use of Hillcote would be directly affected by the Proposal.

Finalise your decision:

The decision on whether to implement the Proposal will be made by the Clinical Commissioning Group following the 3 month consultation. The Clinical Commissioning Group will be provided with a report summarising the feedback received from the consultation including the views of the public and the views of the service users.

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

1st October 2013

Educational provision for gifted and talented young people

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides an information briefing in relation to gifted and talented learners. It also captures an overview of the duties, nature and range of provision for gifted and talented learners in Wiltshire.

Background

2. Currently there is no nationally agreed definition of the terms 'gifted' and 'talented' but a common understanding of the terms emerged from the work of the Department for Education (DfE) and National Education Strategies in the last decade:

"Gifted refers to pupils who achieve or have the ability to achieve at a level significantly in advance for their year group, in one or more subjects in the statutory curriculum. Talented refers to pupils who have this ability or potential in art, music, PE, sport or creative art."

3. Historically each local authority (LA), as part of their National Strategy funding allocation, received funding to appoint a LA adviser with responsibility to lead and co-ordinate provision for gifted and talented (G&T) pupils. Along with the funding for the LA there was also an allocation to each school to lead and co-ordinate school level provision. Along with the funding the DfE required all schools to keep a register of their G&T pupils in order that the provision and progress for individual children and young people could be tracked.
4. In 2010, the National Strategies ceased and as a consequence the DfE removed the specific funding to both schools and LAs, along with all the duties and requirements in relation to the designated G&T pupils. As a consequence of the loss of duty and funding the LA lost the designated post and some of the activity which specifically supported the school based staff.
5. It is therefore important to note that currently there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to track or offer support specifically for gifted and talented learners. Schools do however continue to identify, track and support children and young people who they identify to be either gifted or talented (although they are not required to keep a register) in order to ensure they secure their progression and enable them to fulfil their potential. Ofsted as part of the

school inspection process considers the progress of all children and will expect to see clear evidence that gifted pupils are being suitably challenged. As a LA we continue to monitor the outcomes of our most able students and support and celebrate their achievements.

6. In June 2013, Ofsted published a national report entitled 'The most able students'. This has drawn attention to the needs of more able pupils, particularly in the non-selective schools. The key areas the report explored included whether able pupils make sufficient progress in secondary schools and if A level students gain high enough grades to allow access to top universities.

Main Considerations for the Council

7. As part of the analysis of pupil performance data of primary age pupils the following can be concluded:
 - a) Attainment in Wiltshire for more able learners in English, exceeds national figures. This has consistently been the case over the last four years. (See appendix 1)
 - b) Attainment in Wiltshire for more able learners in mathematics, has been below national figures in the past. Provisional figures for 2013 suggest that this gap has closed. (See appendix 2)
 - c) New assessment papers (level 6) for the very highest attaining pupils were re-introduced in 2012. Outcomes for Wiltshire pupils exceed national figures in both English and mathematics. (See appendix 1 & 2)
8. Analysis of GCSE performance data of secondary schools shows:
 - a) Attainment of the highest GCSE grades (A*/A) in Wiltshire is above the national figure. For English, this is by at least 2% (appendix 3, lines 3 and 7); for mathematics, this is by 4% (appendix 3, lines 4 and 8)
 - b) Progress of pupils who leave primary school at a level 'exceeding expected' to the top grades in GCSE English is good (appendix 3, lines 1 and 5) and mathematics is very good (appendix 3, lines 2 and 6)
 - c) A recent national Ofsted report expressed concern over the proportion of primary pupils who leave with 'better than expected' attainment and yet do not make good progress in non-selective secondary schools (appendix 4, page 1). In Wiltshire, our progress figures for these pupils across all schools, is strong. In English, our progress figure exceeds the national figure by at least 2% (appendix 5, lines 1 and 5) and in mathematics by at least 5% (appendix 5, lines 2 and 6).
9. Analysis of A Level performance data of secondary schools shows:
 - a) Performance at the higher grades (A*-B) , is better than the national average. (appendix 6)
 - b) Performance at the highest grades (A*/A) in English and mathematics is strong (appendix 7), especially in mathematics
 - c) Pupils who study A levels in Wiltshire have a greater chance of going on to top universities than is nationally the case (appendix 8)

10. Whilst the local authority is not under a duty to offer specific support to children and young people who are deemed to be gifted and talented a number of services do provide a direct service or support for G&T learners. The services and the activities they offer are outlined below for information.
11. Wiltshire Music Service has a reputation for promoting inclusion and excellence. It ensures that our talented musicians perform at the highest levels and is nationally recognised for this. The service receives its funding from a number of sources including direct parental contribution and the Arts Council for England.
The service:
 - a) offers instrumental tuition to gifted and talented pupils over and above that which schools can offer;
 - b) ensures that pupils perform at the highest levels in area ensembles and county groups;
 - c) runs 'county youth' and 'county jazz' orchestras which are the pinnacle of the service's provision, allowing the opportunity to work alongside international soloists;
 - d) has a strong track record of seeing pupils progress to university study and work at national level.
12. Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) works with pupils who have 'English as an additional language', to ensure they are able to maximise their potential. In particular they:
 - a) encourage schools to group pupils by ability in a subject rather than their ability to speak English;
 - b) run activities for pupils to raise confidence and aspirations (e.g. Bilingual conference to recognise the cognitive advantage of being bilingual, school clubs that promote cultural respect);
 - c) support schools in promoting GCSEs in pupils' first language thus increasing achievement and smoothing the way to post-16 study.
13. Health Related Needs Service caters for the educational needs of pupils who cannot attend school for health reasons. A significant proportion of these pupils would be considered G&T, often presenting complex mental health issues which affect attainment. In particular, the service:
 - a) works in close partnership with schools to use data to explicitly identify potential for high achievement;
 - b) plans a personalised blended programme to meet the needs of the individual, combining input from school, on-line learning, specialism within the Health Needs team, Virtual Learning Environments (ICT);
 - c) ensures that progress can be made in specific high achieving areas by using focused online input or subject provision;
 - d) has appointed a post-16 mentor to support transition to programmes in schools or college.
14. Children looked after
 - a) Every looked after child of school age has a Personal Education Plan which is reviewed regularly. A child or young person identified as having higher than average ability, or a talent in a particular area is

- supported through a number of routes, including encouragement to participate in additional activities and individual tutoring.
- b) Pupil Premium (DfE funding for disadvantaged pupils) and the Virtual School, funds additional support, e.g. on-line language tuition; instrumental lessons; high specification camera for 'A' level photography, etc.
 - c) The Virtual School also brings young people together for trips such as university Taster Days; mentor training sessions and opportunities to establish a group of like-minded young people who share a life experience and who can motivate and encourage each other to achieve their best.
 - d) This support continues into post 16 and the Virtual School works intensely with young people from 16 to 21 and up to 25 years if the care-leaver is in Higher Education.
15. Braeside Residential and Conference Centre in Devizes has been providing G&T courses for pupils since 2002. Approximately 60 G&T courses run every year covering subjects such as archaeology, astronomy, performing arts, drama, football, poetry and story writing, maths, science, survival and thinking skills. The majority of these courses are aimed at primary pupils and are funded by parents. For some pupils schools part or fully fund a pupil's place using Pupil Premium money where appropriate. (see appendix 9 for link to brochure)
16. Education advisers keep head teachers up to date with local and national priorities via headteacher forums (Primary Heads Forum, Wiltshire Area Secondary and Special School Heads) and headteacher briefings. In particular:
- a) LA officers have highlighted the requirement for all groups of learners to make at least 'good progress';
 - b) headteacher meetings in Autumn 2013 will focus on the changes to the Ofsted School Inspection Handbook. Previous versions have drawn attention to the progress and attainment of particular groups of pupils such as those on free school meals or with special education needs. For the first time, the new Ofsted framework explicitly includes criteria concerning the progress and attainment of *the most able* pupils (appendix 10)
 - c) our guidance on the use of Pupil Premium money to secure the best outcomes, includes the expectation that G&T pupils benefit from the spending (our Pupil Premium booklet, Working Together to Eliminate Gaps, was made available to all schools and featured a section on G&T learners);
 - d) subject leader networks for English, mathematics and ICT (both primary and secondary), provide a vehicle for advisers and schools to share good practice for G&T learners.
17. Education advisers also offer professional development courses and programmes for teachers. These include:
- a) courses offered to primary teachers which focus on provision for higher attaining pupils in English and mathematics

- b) The Inspire, Create, Teach project (led by our ICT Lead Professional) supports several projects which focus on G&T provision
- c) Our English and mathematics advisers offer courses on maximising level 5 and level 6 outcomes for primary teachers
- d) In partnership with Longleat Estate one of our schools is developing resources for G&T pupils and with the support of one of the Education Advisers it is planned these will be piloted in 2013-14 academic year.

18. A number of schools also subscribe to the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) in order to access ideas and teaching resources. Five schools in Wiltshire have gained the NACE Challenge Award which recognises excellent provision for G&T learners (two primary, three secondary).

Safeguarding Considerations

19. In the case of all schools and the services outlined above appropriate safeguarding processes and procedures are in place to protect children and young people.

Public Health Implications

20. There are no specific public health implications in relation to this report.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

21. There is no specific environmental impact in relation to this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

22. All groups of learners have the right to make good progress in learning and achieve high standards. The data suggests that, as a group, our G&T learners are well provided for.

Risk Assessment

23. As part of the Council's quality assurance and risk management processes in relation to pupil and school performance regular reviews are undertaken in order to monitor outcomes and support appropriate action at a strategic and school level.

Financial Implications

24. At this stage there are no direct financial implications on the Council in relation to the additional provision for pupils deemed gifted and talented. However, significant changes in budgets, including Dedicated Schools Grant may result in loss of service.

Legal Implications

25. There are no legal implications in relation to this paper.

Conclusions

26. Children's Select Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director, Children's Services

Report Authors:

Fred Angus
Interim Manager for Learning, Teaching and Partnerships
Julie Cathcart
Head of School Improvement

20 September 2013

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1 Performance of Pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 – English

Note 2013 data is provisional and subject to change.
DfE describes level 4 as 'expected' and level 5 as 'exceeding expected'.

	English					
	% L5+			% L6+		
	Total Pupils	LA	National	Total Pupils	LA	National
2010	4744	33.8	33	4903		
2011	4794	31.5	29	4775		
2012	4635	40.1	38	4646	0.9	0
2013*	4616/4614	49/33.4	44/30	4616/4614	0.3/1.6	

2013* - from 2013 English is not reported on a single outcome; it is now split into separate Reading/Writing results.

KEYPAS: LA and National Trends & LA (Summary 2013) 11-09-13

Appendix 2 Performance of Pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 – Maths

	Maths					
	% L5+			% L6+		
	Total Pupils	LA	National	Total Pupils	LA	National
	4741	33.2	35	4904		
	4794	35.4	39	4773		
	4653	38.4	39	4647	3.9	3
	4614	39.7	40	4616	6.2	?

KEYPAS: LA and National Trends & LA (Summary 2013) 11-09-13

Appendix 3

Prior attainment of students achieving A*-A in GCSE English or Maths in the same subject at KS2

	Prior Attainment at KS2	LA % Achieving A* - A grade GCSE in the corresponding subject	National % Achieving A* - A grade GCSE in the corresponding subject
2012	1. L5 Eng	42.0	41.0
	2. L5 Maths	59.0	51.0
	3. All, inc those with no KS2 Eng	17.0	15.0
	4. All, inc those with no KS2 Maths	23.0	19.0
2011	5. L5 Eng	50.0	45.0
	6. L5 Maths	63.0	50.0
	7. All inc those with no KS2 Eng	20.0	16.0
	8. All inc those with no KS2 Maths	23.0	19.0

Appendix 4

Ofsted report summary: The most able students (June 2013)

www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/130118.

Appendix 5

Progress between KS2 and KS4 for children attaining L5 in KS2 English or Maths versus all children with KS2 results

	Prior Attainment at KS2	LA Percentage Achieving Expected Progress	National Percentage Achieving Expected Progress	LA % Achieving More Than Expected Progress	National % Achieving More Than Expected Progress
2012	1. L5 Eng	78%	76%	42%	40%
	2. L5 Maths	84%	79%	59%	50%
	3. Any Eng	67%	67%	29%	28%
	4. Any Maths	71%	68%	36%	31%
2011	5. L5 Eng	84%	80%	not available	
	6. L5 Maths	89%	79%		
	7. Any Eng	74%	71%		
	8. Any Maths	70%	64%		

Appendix 6

Top grade A level attainment: Wiltshire school verses national

2013 (provisional)	Any A* -B	3 or more A*-B
LA schools	72%	33%
National	66%	28%

Appendix 7

Percentage of students attaining A*-A at A level in English and Maths

		English Lang	English	Maths
		% attaining A*-A	% attaining A*-A	% attaining A*-A
2013	LA	16.3	14.7	46.7
	National	12.8	14.4	41.8
2012	LA	22.2	8.5	45.9
	National	12.9	15.8	42.6
2011	LA	15.8	20.9	47.1
	National	14	17	42.8

EPAS KS5 Grade Summary 12-09-13

Appendix 8

KS5 SW: Percentage of students¹, in 2009/10, who entered an A Level or other Level 3 qualification², going to, or remaining in, an education or employment destination in 2010/11

Year: 2010/11

Percentage going to a sustained education destination							
	number of students	UK Higher Education Institution	Top Third of HEIs ⁹	<i>Oxford or Cambridge</i>	<i>Russell Group (incl. Ox. And Cam.)</i>	All other HEIs	Other HE Providers ¹⁰
ENGLAND	341,200	48%	14%	1%	8%	32%	2%
Wiltshire	2,580	42%	17%	2%	10%	24%	1%

Appendix 9

Provision for Gifted and Talented pupils at Braeside:

www.braeside-education.co.uk

Appendix 10

Ofsted Inspection Handbook – reissued Sept 2013

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/school-inspection-handbook>

Page 31, point 115; pages 35/36

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

1 October 2013

Update on the provision for excluded pupils and the National Secondary Exclusion Trial (SET) following the closure of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS)

Purpose of Report

1. This report contains an update on Wiltshire's participation in the three year National Secondary Exclusion Trial (SET) and the development of provision for those pupils permanently excluded or at risk of permanent exclusion since the closure of YPSS.

Background

2. YPSS was placed in Special Measures in May 2011 by an Ofsted inspection and following a bid to the Department for Education (DfE) and acceptance to be part of SET in June 2011, a decision to seek closure of YPSS from the Secretary of State was submitted in January 2012. Agreement was reached in March 2012 and the YPSS service was partially closed from August 2012. A number of young people (26) remained the responsibility of the local authority as their permanent exclusions took place before the temporary amendment to legislation via a Power to Innovate (PTI) programme came into force. Their provision for the academic year 2012/13 was organised and managed by the Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) team through the two previous YPSS facilities, namely the Trinity Centre in Trowbridge and the John Ivie Centre in Salisbury.
3. Three teachers and seven support workers including an outdoor education specialist were retained from the YPSS service and had their redundancy deferred a year following the partial closure of YPSS in August 2012. The remaining year eleven students completed their studies in June 2013 and YPSS completely closed at the end of August 2013.
4. Following the partial closure of YPSS in August 2012 the retained EOTAS service continued to be subject to regular, four monthly Ofsted monitoring visits. At the time of the last report to the select committee in November 2012, Ofsted had made three visits where the service was judged to be making satisfactory progress. A fourth visit in December 2012 judged that the service no longer required special measures. Ofsted judged leadership and management to be good and considered that it had the capacity to

continue to improve and no further monitoring visits were required. The breadth of alternative provision outlined in the appendix attached to the previous select committee report was maintained in addition to the teaching provided by the EOTAS staff. Students continued to make positive progress and results in this summer's exams were in line with expectations. See appendix A. All the students have confirmed destinations for the coming year.

Main Considerations for the Council

5. The national exclusion trial (SET) continues until July 2014. Wiltshire is one of eleven Local Authorities participating in the trial which began in 2011. The first year involved establishing the systems; securing the Power to Innovate (PTI) and associated amendment to the parliamentary order that delegated the legal responsibility for permanently excluded pupils to schools, agreeing and securing our own Service Level Agreements (SLA) with schools and getting all the financial arrangements and devolved budgets in place.
6. In parallel with this, the Local Authority needed to develop and secure access to a wide range of alternative provision (AP) that schools could access with confidence. At the last select committee it was reported that the LA had established an accredited framework of approved providers, which contained 34 accredited private providers. Two further rounds of applications have since been completed and there are now over 40 providers accredited. The catalogue is also shared with four other neighbouring LAs and plans are being considered to merge and incorporate all APs across Wiltshire's children's services into a single provider catalogue. A third, very successful providers' 'fayre' took place in April 2012 and more events are planned.
7. After the first full academic year of the trial it remains too early to judge the impact but the initial evidence from our own monitoring and data, schools commitment and feedback and the external, national trial evaluators is very encouraging. Our own exclusion data has significantly improved. In 2011/12 there were 21 permanently excluded secondary pupils, last year 2012/13 this fell to two, both of these were residents in a neighbouring LA. Fixed term exclusions also fell by a further 15% having fallen 23% the previous year.
8. The original intention of the trial was for the DfE to consider proposing primary legislation to delegate the legal responsibility for permanently excluded pupils from LAs to schools. The National Foundation for Education Research (NfER) and the London Institute of Education have been commissioned by the DfE to independently evaluate the trial and make recommendations to government. Their final report will be published in spring 2015 and it is unlikely that primary legislation will occur before 2016/17.

9. NfER published an initial report in April 2013 on the first six months of the trial which was encouraging but it was too early to give any clear picture of success or impact. They will produce another interim report in spring 2014 before the final report in 2015. NfER are particularly keen to gather evidence and develop case studies on Wiltshire because of the unique and radical approach the LA has adopted to the trial. Wiltshire schools are fully engaged with the external evaluators and NfER researchers spent two days visiting Wiltshire schools in July, gathering evidence and data for their next interim report. Both the qualitative and quantitative data they gathered, particularly from the young people and parents they interviewed was extremely positive and encouraging.
10. With primary legislation unlikely for another three years, Wiltshire secondary schools are eager to plan for any interim arrangements beyond the end of the trial in 2014 and pending any legislation in 2016/17. In July, Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special School Headteachers (WASSH) wrote to the Director of Children's Services asking for an undertaking from the LA to continue with the existing SLA and devolved funding arrangements beyond the end of the trial in July 2014. The Director of Children's Services has given an initial undertaking to WASSH to commit to continue the model of the trial when the PTI ends and legal responsibility for excluded pupils reverts back to the LA. The LA has indicated that it is currently not considering re-establishing central provision for any permanently excluded pupils. It will work with WASSH to re-draft the SLAs, enabling the same responsibilities to continue with the LA devolving appropriate funds to schools in return for them taking responsibility for provision for at risk or excluded pupils. It is proposed the SLAs will include appropriate internal and external monitoring and evaluation. In addition the LA will commit to working with AP providers to develop the accreditation catalogue.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

11. There are no specific environmental impacts of this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12. The continuation of this project beyond the trial is likely to have a positive impact on equality by:
 - a) Improving the provision for those students permanently excluded or at risk of permanent exclusion. These students tend to come from the most disadvantaged socio-economic groups with the lowest attainment and the poorest academic progress. Enhanced provision will improve the attainment and progress of these students.
 - b) Although provision will continue to be developed by individual secondary schools or groups of schools this will be done against a renewed service specification to ensure that there are not

significant differences across the county that could lead to inequalities. The service specification will be supported by a monitoring process to ensure that quality is maintained.

- c) The catalogue of alternative providers from the private and voluntary sector will continue to be developed and cover as broad a cross section of provision as possible.

Risk Assessment

- 13. There are some potential risks with continuing with the same model following the trial and the legal duty for permanently excluded pupils reverts back to the LA.
 - a) Some schools refuse to sign a revised SLA and accept the responsibility for permanently excluded students.
 - b) Some schools fail to deliver provision of sufficient quality.
 - c) An alternative provider has major safeguarding issues.
- 14. The initial work with WASSH indicates that all schools wish to continue with the same model albeit without the PTI. The LA is not required to operate a pupil referral unit as it did previously with YPSS and if any school does not commit to a new SLA the LA will fulfil its legal duty in making provision for any permanently excluded pupils by commissioning provision from another school or an AP. Our ongoing monitoring and quality assurance checks of APs will minimise the risk of safeguarding issues.

Financial Implications

- 15. There are the following financial considerations.
 - a) Funding for the delivery of provision will continue to be devolved subject to signed SLAs to each secondary school from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) and will be based on the existing budget of £2.6 million. The funding is allocated from the High Needs Block within DSG and the formula for distribution of funding to schools is agreed by Schools Forum.

Legal Implications

- 16. The transfer of the responsibility for permanently excluded students back to the LA from schools when the PTI ends in July 2014 will be a change to the current, temporary legal position.

Options Considered

17. Continue with a model of devolved funding to individual schools and delegated responsibility for provision for permanently excluded pupils beyond the end of the Secondary Exclusion Trial (SET) using a revised SLA once the PTI expires. This is both the school's and the LA's preferred option.
18. Devolved funding for AP to groups/clusters of schools in return for AP commissioned by the cluster. This is neither the LA or schools preference. Only one cluster currently make joint AP by pooling their individual devolved budgets. This is preferable to it devolving funding to partnership which would involve complex and involved SLA and legal arrangements.
19. Re-establish a local authority PRU following the end of the trial. Schools do not wish to go back to central provision. The early signs are that with schools having responsibility and accountability the outcomes are better. The direction of travel nationally is for increased devolution/delegation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

20. The committee are asked to note the update report and approve the arrangements proposed for continuing the model of devolving funding to secondary schools beyond the end of the exclusion trial in 2014, working with WASSH to revise the SLA.

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director

Report Author: Martin Cooper, Manager for Inclusion B&A

Date of report: 16 September 2013

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A: YPSS results 2013

This page is intentionally left blank

2013 Key Stage Four Results

School: EOTAS	DfE No:
----------------------	---------

Page 65

No. of students at end of KS4 on roll	5+ A*-C (or equiv) inc. Eng and Maths at GCSE		Achieved A*- C (or equiv) in English		Achieved A*- C (or equiv) in Maths		Achieving A*- C in English and maths GCSEs		5+ A*-G (or equiv)		At least one Entry Level Qualification	
	No of Pupils attaining	% pupils	No of Pupils attaining	% pupils	No of Pupils attaining	% pupils	No of Pupils attaining	% pupils	No of Pupils attaining	% pupils	No of Pupils attaining	% pupils
26	1	3.84	1	3.84	3	11.53	1	3.84	8	30.76	25	96.15

School Contact Name : Chris Whitfield

Telephone Number: 07760178840

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

1 October 2013

Task Group update

1. Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

Membership: Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Andrew Davis
Alice Kemp
Bill Moss
Bridget Wayman

In June the Committee re-established this Task Group and agreed it should continue working for at least 18 months following the disbandment of the Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Board (the Board is still in operation). The Task Group was originally established following the Ofsted inspection in April 2012 and brought a report containing 41 recommendations to Committee in March 2013.

The Task Group met on 8 August and considered the following items:

- Annual report of WSCB 2012/13 and the draft Annual Business Plan 2013/14
- Update on the Ofsted inspection
- Annual Children's Social Care Complaints report
- Update on implementation of the task group's recommendations
- Latest Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Board report
- Children in Care performance data (as at March 2013)

The Task Group will next meet on 17 October.

2. Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Membership: Mike Thompson (Chairman)
Richard Britton (TBC)

Mary Douglas
Jon Hubbard
Jacqui Lay
Bill Moss

In June the Committee agreed that this Task Group should reconvene to undertake a review of progress with its recommendations since its final report was endorsed in May 2012. The Chairman and Senior Scrutiny Officer have recently met with the relevant service officers to discuss how this review can be most effective and will be circulating proposals to the Task Group shortly. The review meeting is likely to take place in late October or November and the Task Group will report back to the Committee on 3 December.

The Task Group was established to review the post-16 education available in the Salisbury area and compiled a detailed report and submitted 12 recommendations. The Committee resolved to reconvene the Task Group in Summer 2013 to review progress.

Report author: Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer,
01225 718052, henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

Coalition Changes – Update June to September 2013

Childcare qualifications

1. The National College of Teaching and Leadership has set out more [detail](#) on what will be expected of the new early years teachers and early years educators.
 - Early years teachers will be graduate leaders in early years settings on a par with school teachers. They will need to meet new standards which closely mirror the standards for classroom teachers, and trainees will need to take the same skills tests taken by classroom teacher trainees. These measures will raise the status of the profession and help attract high-quality graduates into early education.
 - Early years educators will hold A level equivalent qualifications and provide support to early years teachers.

More affordable childcare

2. [‘More affordable childcare’](#) sets out the government’s plans to help working parents access the childcare they need when they need it, in particular by:
 - helping schools to offer affordable after school and holiday care, either alone or working with private and voluntary providers
 - enabling nurseries to expand by reducing red tape and removing planning restrictions
 - ensuring that child minders and nurseries that are good or outstanding can automatically receive government funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds
 - supporting parents to access more informal care

Tax-Free Childcare scheme

3. A consultation giving detail on a Tax-free Childcare scheme [has been published by the government](#), who are now asking parents for their views on how one of the biggest government programmes to help working families with childcare costs should be run. The consultation sets out new detail on eligibility for the scheme, including stating that parents who are not working because they are on parental leave or because they are carers will be able to claim.
4. The document also proposes that the scheme will be aligned to the school year so that children in the same class are treated consistently. The scheme aims to start in Autumn 2015 and will be worth up to £1,200 per child per year. Once fully up and running, the scheme will be available to up to 2.5 million families and will save a typical working family with two children under 12 up to £2,400 per year.

Raising ambitions and standards for primary schools

5. A consultation setting out proposals to reform the way primary schools are held to account and raise standards for all has been published and will close on 17 October 2013. To help schools reach this ambitious goal, the biggest ever rise in the pupil premium for primary schools has been announced. It will be increased to £1,300 per disadvantaged primary school pupil in 2014/15, up from £900 per child this year. This will help to make sure that more pupils are able to achieve higher standards. The consultation document outlines proposals for:
- higher floor standards.
 - updated tests for 11-year-olds, in line with the higher expectations of the new national curriculum. The tests would be in maths; reading; and spelling, punctuation and grammar. The science test for a sample of pupils would also remain.
 - higher expectations of what pupils should achieve.
 - new school-led systems of assessing pupil performance. In line with the freedom to develop their own school curricula, and the removal of the levels system, schools will be given the freedom to design their own systems of measuring pupil performance, and reporting this to parents.
 - a new reporting method which would see each pupil compared against their peers nationally. Each pupil would be placed in 10% bands, or deciles. Pupils' positions will only be made available to parents and schools.
 - a new benchmark. A baseline assessment is needed to measure the progress that has been made by 11-year-olds.

Reforming qualifications and the curriculum to better prepare pupils for life after school

6. The DFE aim to introduce a curriculum that gives individual schools and teachers greater freedom to teach in the way they know works and that ensures that all pupils acquire a core of essential knowledge in English, mathematics and sciences. They also plan to make GCSEs and A levels more rigorous to prepare students properly for life after school. This will address the fact that employers, universities and colleges are often dissatisfied with school leavers' literacy and numeracy even though the proportion of young people achieving good grades has gone up in recent years. Results from consultation together with details about the [proposed way](#) forward were published in July. Changes are implemented from September 2014.

Reforming SEN

7. The proposals to reform provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) continue to be defined through the publication of "draft provisions". These provide for:

- new education, health and care plans which will ensure more streamlined and integrated support for children, young people and families than the current statement and learning difficulty assessment
- a new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to take joint responsibility for providing services
- a requirement on local authorities to publish a local offer of services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs
- new protections for young people aged 16-25 in further education and a stronger focus on preparing them for adulthood
- parents and young people, for the first time, to be entitled to have a personal budget, extending their choice and control over their support
- further education colleges for the first time and all academies, including free schools, to have the same duties as maintained schools to safeguard the education of children and young people with SEN

Free school lunch for every child in infant school

8. Every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools will receive a free school lunch from September 2014. The government will fund schools in England to provide every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 with a hot, nutritious meal at lunch time. The aim is to improve academic attainment and save families money – over the course of a year the average family spends £437 on school lunches per child. At the same time, the government will extend free school meals to disadvantaged students in further education and sixth form colleges. Free school meals are currently available only for eligible students at school sixth forms.

School funding

9. In June, the DFE published a [document](#) explaining how it will maintain momentum towards a national funding formula, ensuring that more money is targeted to pupils and proposing a number of changes to local funding formulae for 2014/15. Local authorities will be required to allocate a minimum of 80% of their funding on the basis of pupil led factors and there will also be a minimum amount that each pupil should receive. Wiltshire is already compliant with these requirements.
10. From April 2014, local authorities will be able to target funding for schools in sparsely populated areas. The document also sets out new flexibilities to provide different amounts of funding to cover the fixed costs of primary and secondary schools. These new flexibilities will ensure local authorities can act to take account of varying fixed costs between different types of school. Schools that merge will also be able to keep some of their funding for fixed costs for at least the first year. Wiltshire Schools Forum has considered the proposed changes and is consulting with schools on options to vary the lump sum for fixed costs between primary and secondary schools. It is not proposed to introduce the new sparsity factor in Wiltshire.
11. Local authorities will be required to target additional funding to deprived pupils in addition to the pupil premium. We are also making changes to ensure that those

pupils who are less likely to attain well at the end of the primary or secondary phase are identified and attract additional funding.

Academies Update

12. Number in Wiltshire as at the 1 September 2013:

Sponsored academies	8
Non-sponsored converter academies	33

13. Additions since last meeting:

Malmesbury Primary School	Malmesbury	June 2013
Dauntsey's Aided Primary School	West Lavington, Devizes	August 2013
Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Primary School	Nr Downton	September 2013

New 'tech levels'

14. Exam boards will need to demonstrate their qualifications' quality by getting sign-up from trusted employers or higher education institutions:

- Vocational qualifications which lead to recognised occupations (in engineering, IT, accounting or hospitality, for example) will need public support from professional bodies, or 5 employers registered with Companies House, to be included in performance tables. These 5 must represent the breadth of the relevant sector. These qualifications will be known as tech levels.
- Vocational qualifications not directly linked to an occupation but providing broader study of a vocational area will need the explicit backing of 3 universities. These will be known as applied general qualifications.

15. Only those level 3, or advanced, qualifications which have the support of businesses or universities will be included in new-look 16 to 19 performance tables from 2016, for young people taking courses from September 2014. The government also confirmed that to count in the 2016 tables, both tech level and applied general qualifications will need to be able to demonstrate what they lead to - be it a job, apprenticeship, or further study, such as university - and be of sufficient size. Applied general qualifications need to be at least the equivalent size of an AS level. Tech levels need to be at least the size of an A level. All qualifications will need to meet further quality requirements to be counted in the performance tables from 2018 onwards (for first teaching in September 2016).

New programmes for employers to take on young disabled people

16. Young people who are disabled will be given help to find sustainable paid employment through [a new Supported Internship programme and a new Traineeship programme](#).
17. The Department for Education funded Supported Internships will offer specialised employment-focused study programmes for young people aged 16 to 24 with complex learning difficulties and disabilities. Offered through further education colleges, they will help trainees learn from expert career coaches while doing real jobs for a minimum of 6 months.
18. The new mainstream Traineeships programme will give 16 to 24 year olds the workplace experience and job skills that employers require and will be open to disabled young people with less complex needs. The Traineeships programme will available from August 2013.

Improving safeguarding for looked after children

19. On 25 June 2013, the DFE opened [consultation](#) to amend the Care Planning, Placement Planning and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. Amendments are planned to ensure that where looked after children are placed out of authority in distant placements they are effectively safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. Consultation closed on 17 September.

Quality Care for vulnerable children

20. A fundamental overhaul of children's residential care to tackle system-wide failings was announced by central government. The [proposed reforms](#) will lead to a much sharper focus on transparency, a drive for higher quality in care homes and stricter measures to hold local authorities (LAs) and care homes to account for their decisions.
21. The plans are part of a package of reforms which demand much better decision making from LAs about where children are placed. The process by which LAs access reports has been clarified, so that councils are able quickly and easily to access information about the homes in their area, and have it regularly updated. The DFE are working with Ofsted to toughen up its inspection and intervention powers – removing the 'adequate' judgement and replacing it with 'requires improvement', and introducing new rules so they give an 'amber' rating if a home is inadequate. If it doesn't improve within a specified time limit, it will be given a 'red' rating and close.

New £19.3 million support fund for adoptive parents

22. Adoptive parents will benefit from new funding worth £19.3 million to access the best possible care for children. The [Adoption Support Fund](#) will pay for therapeutic services - such as cognitive therapy, play and music therapy, and intensive family support - helping children recover from their previous

experiences, bond with their adoptive families and settle into their new lives. The government will shortly begin piloting the fund with a number of local authorities. This trial phase will consider how best to design the fund, including how to ensure that the fund is accessible to adopters and how to best incentivise local authorities to invest in the fund. The Fund will be rolled out nationally in 2015.

23. The fund will represent a new approach to how adoption support is delivered. Over time, the government wants to see local authorities, adoption agencies and other organisations contributing to the fund, ensuring that long-term provision of adoption support becomes self-sustaining.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

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

Largely taken from the DFE website content 24 May – 17 September 2013

17/09/13