

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 14 October 2014
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

- **Wiltshire Education Employment & Skills Strategy 2014, and**
 - **Child Sexual Exploitation**
-

Membership:

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

Substitutes:

Cllr Chuck Berry	Cllr Peter Edge
Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Dr Helena McKeown
Cllr Terry Chivers	Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Stewart Dobson	Cllr Ian Thorn
Cllr Dennis Drewett	Cllr John Walsh

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Mr Ken Brough	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Rev Alice Kemp	Parent Governor Representative (SEN)
Mrs Lynne Swainston	Bristol Diocesan Church of England Representative
Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocesan RC Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Miss Sarah Busby	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Miss Tracy Cornelius	Primary Schools Headteacher Representative
Mrs Di Dale	Further Education Representative
Mr John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative

PART I

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

1 **Apologies**

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 10)*

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 June 2014.

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 7 October 2014**. 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 **Reducing Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2020** *(Pages 11 - 40)*

Amy Bird will be in attendance to present an update on the Wiltshire Child Poverty Strategy 2014-20.

Reducing child poverty has been a government target for many years. The Child Poverty Act, which commits this and future governments to eradicating child poverty by 2020, received Royal Assent in March 2010 tasking local areas to produce a child poverty needs assessment and strategy.

The Child Poverty Act sets targets for the government to meet by 2020 on four different measures of poverty – including relative income poverty. These targets are based on the proportion of children living in:

- relative low income (whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole) - target is less than 10%
- combined low income and material deprivation (a wider measure of people's living standards) - target is less than 5%
- absolute low income (whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms) - target is less than 5%
- persistent poverty (length of time in poverty) - target is to be set in regulations by 2015
- Data for these 4 measures are currently not available at a local level

The strategy supports both the reduction of child poverty in Wiltshire and mitigation of the effects of child poverty. It seeks to provide a view of the causes, barriers and challenges of child poverty, set a shared vision and encourage a coordinated approach to address child poverty and its impact.

7 **Final Report of the Early Help Strategy Task Group** (Pages 41 - 48)

The Chairman of the Early Help Strategy Task Group will introduce their final report to advise the Children's Select Committee on how it could monitor the implementation of the Early Help Strategy going forward, including additional recommendations to the current methods in use by the Council.

It is proposed that the Children's Select Committee endorse the recommendations of the Task Group as set out in this report and refer them to the Cabinet Member for a response.

8 **Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) and funding for 16-19 student transport - Chairman's proposal**

The Education and Skills Act 2008 means that all young people must stay in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and until at least their 18th birthday from 2015. Raising the participation age (RPA) does not mean young people must stay in school; they are able to choose one of the following options post-16:

- full-time education, such as school, college
- an apprenticeship
- part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week).

With regards to transport, the Department for Education has no plans for a national concessionary scheme. For 16-19 year olds in further education and training, local authorities have a statutory duty to make the arrangements they consider necessary to make sure that young people can attend education. Wiltshire Council runs a subsidised transport scheme for further education students aged 16 - 19 at the start of their course. Under this scheme, transport is provided to students attending, and living more than 3 miles from their designated sixth form or college. More details including the council's post 16

transport statement can be found on the council website's [transport to sixth forms and colleges](#) (link) page.

Young people in work (e.g. in an Apprenticeship, full-time work or part-time work alongside full-time study) may be able to pay for, or contribute towards their transport costs, and where need for support has been identified, the 16-19 transport duty and the financial support offered through the council's 16-19 Bursary Fund are together intended to meet the needs associated with increased participation.

The Chairman asks the Committee to endorse a proposal that, as Chairman of the Committee, he asks the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to co-sign a joint letter to the Secretary of State requesting the national concessionary transport scheme for children and young people in education should be extended to cover all young people in full time education and not just those up to the age of 16."

9 **Task Group Update** (Pages 49 - 56)

A report by the Senior Scrutiny Officer providing an update on Task Group Activity since the Committee's last meeting is attached.

10 **Update on Meetings with the Executive and Directors**

On 3 October the chairman and vice-chairman met with the three executive members and two associate directors for children's services to review the relevant existing topics on the Forward Work Programme and add new ones looking forward over the next 12 months. The objective was to achieve a comprehensive, forward looking work programme focused on outcomes aligned to the Council's Business Plan.

The report of these meetings will follow.

11 **Forward Work Programme** (Pages 57 - 58)

The Committee is asked to note the attached document showing the relevant items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

12 **Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Education** (Pages 59 - 64)

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

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 December 2014, in the Kennet Room at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

14 **Urgent Items**

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

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 3 JUNE 2014 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Pat Aves, Mr Ken Brough, Cllr Mary Champion, Miss Tracy Cornelius, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Stewart Dobson (Substitute), Cllr Sue Evans, Mr J Hawkins, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Helen Osborn, Mrs Lynne Swainston and Cllr Philip Whalley

Also Present:

Cllr Simon Killane and Cllr Laura Mayes

36 Election of Chairman

Resolved:

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

Cllr Jon Hubbard in the Chair

37 Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved:

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

38 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Sarah Busby, Cllr Mary Douglas (who was substituted by Cllr Stewart Dobson), Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Chris Hurst, Revd Alice Kemp, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Ricky Rogers and Dr Mike Thompson.

39 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2014 as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of apologies received from Miss Tracy Cornelius.

40 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

41 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

- (a) **Wiltshire's Friary Doorstep Sports Club** On 2 April 2014, the Friary Doorstep Sports Club won the accolade of 'Most Innovative Doorstep Sports Club' at the Street Games National Awards at Warwick University. The project delivered weekly sports sessions to young people aged 13-25 in the heart of the Friary Estate in Salisbury. Over the previous six months, the project had worked with 30 young people who previously could not access community based sports programmes. Sports delivered included football, touch rugby and street dance.

The project was part of a national programme to deliver 1,000 Doorstep sports clubs across the country in communities considered to be amongst the most deprived in the UK and received funding through the Street Games network. Following Wiltshire's success with the Friary project, funding had now been allocated to start up additional doorstep clubs in Chippenham and Trowbridge. Further information was available from Daniel Geeson, Sports Development Officer. Members of the Committee requested the Clerk to convey their congratulations and best wishes to Daniel Geeson.

- (b) **Meeting with Cabinet Members and Directors** The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee and the three select Committees would shortly be meeting with the appropriate executive members and directors. The purpose of these meetings would be to ensure that the O&S work programme was aligned with executive priorities and was as forward looking as possible. The Committee would be updated on the results of this meeting in due course. Members were requested to contact either the Chairman or the Senior Scrutiny Officer should they have any issues they considered the Committee or the executive should be looking at.
- (c) **Pre-meeting Information briefings** The Chairman reminded the Committee that pre-information briefings were held immediately before each Committee meeting and were open to all members of the Committee and also to substitute members. These briefing sessions were proving to

be very useful and frequently acted as an introduction to a major item on the agenda for the subsequent meeting.

42 Public Participation

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

43 Early Help Strategy 2014-17 and draft Early Help Improvement Plan

The Chairman reminded the meeting that in December 2013 the Committee received the draft Early Help Strategy 2013-17 which was at that stage out for consultation. The Strategy set out the Council's proposals for Wiltshire's early help offer, including what it currently did, the desired improved outcomes for children and young people and the priority objectives to achieve this.

Having considered the draft Strategy in December 2013, the Committee asked to receive the final Strategy and draft implementation plan at a future meeting.

The Committee was now being asked to consider the final version of the Early Help Strategy 2014-17 and the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Children's trust draft joint Early Help Improvement Plan.

It was noted that the five objectives of the Strategy had been designed to ensure a coordinated approach in meeting this vision; they were as follows:-

- (1) Getting the best start in life.
- (2) Gaining the skills required to begin school.
- (3) Being ready for adult life.
- (4) Developing a family-based approach to early help.
- (5) Developing effective structures and processes to access early help – including developing an Early Help Offer.

It was explained that an Early Help Improvement Plan had been drafted and, for each objective, key priorities for action had been identified. In addition, a draft Early Help Dataset had been developed which would be the key tool for monitoring effectiveness and impact of the Early Help activities. These drafts were currently under review by the Wiltshire Early Intervention Sub-group.

The Committee thereupon examined the five objectives and made the following points:-

- Objective 1: Ensuring the best start in life – 15 hours free childcare for disadvantaged 2 year olds should be promoted with appropriate provision across the County. Members asked if the number of eligible children had been calculated and were informed that 40% of the September 2013 cohort was eligible.

- There was a need for regular updated statistics to be provided which would demonstrate the level of improvement in the services provided.
- It was noted that about 1,100 additional children were likely to be arriving in Wiltshire in the next three to four years as part of the increased military presence in Wiltshire and that the Leader of the Council was seeking additional financial support to cope with these increasing numbers of children. However, it was pointed out that not all of these children would require early years help.

After further discussion,

Resolved:

- (1) To note the contents of the Early Help Strategy 2014-17 and the draft Early Help Improvement Plan.**
- (2) To recommend to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee that a Task Group be set up to look at how the Committee could effectively monitor delivery of the Strategy and, subject to that Committee's agreement:**
 - (a) To agree that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in consultation with the Senior Scrutiny Officer, draw up the terms of reference of the Task Group.**
 - (b) To invite all backbench Members of the Council to indicate if they were willing to serve on this Task Group.**

44 Executive Response to the Final Report of the Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group

The Committee received a report by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services setting out her response to the Final Report of the Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group.

The task group's final report was endorsed with one amendment by the Committee on 29 April. It was then referred to Cabinet, who took the final decision on this matter at an extraordinary meeting on 15 May 2014, when it resolved to:

- "i) Adopt the key principles for a new operating model as set out in the report;
- ii) Authorise implementation of the community-led model for youth activities to increase the opportunities for young people's involvement and engagement;

iii) Approve that the community-led operating model for youth activities maximises the amount of funding available to community area boards and local coordination;

iv) Delegate authority to Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and senior officers to develop and implement the new operating model, taking account of i)-iii) above and the recommendations of the scrutiny task group."

Having noted the decision of Cabinet and the Cabinet Member's response to the task group's final report, the following points were raised:-

- The Committee was delighted that so many young people had shown an interest in this matter and had put forward their views. The Committee also noted with pleasure the valuable contribution made by Kaylum House, the children & young people's representative on the Committee, at meetings of the task group.
- The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the wording of the response regarding the costing that the task group put forward because the numbers used were provided and validated by Officers. It was considered that the response that the costing figures were 'unrealistic' undermined the work of the task group.

Cllr Laura Mayes responded and apologised for the negative connotations which were not intended and agreed to amend the wording to reflect this. She also explained that the response did not indicate that the costing was incorrect but rather that the role of the new posts of Community Youth Officer was more complex than the current posts of Youth Worker and required a higher salary.

- Members suggested that Area Boards should have the option of employing youth workers that were about to be made redundant or to have the option of providing the funding for a youth worker to remain centrally employed for their area. It was pointed out that this would not be possible as the new policy adopted by Cabinet did not allow for the employment of youth workers centrally. The redundancy process had already commenced with staff leaving at the end of September 2014.

The transition arrangements were being finalised and would be available shortly.

Resolved:

- (1) **To note the Cabinet Member's response to the Final Report of the Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group.**

- (2) To request that the Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group examine the proposed communication to the Area Boards prior to it being circulated.**
- (3) To request the Chairman and Vice-Chairman consider the inclusion of youth work into the terms of reference of the Early Help Task Group when they set that Task Group's terms of reference.**

45 Task Group Update

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

- Education for 16-19s Task Group
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group
- Schools and the Local Authority Task Group
- SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Task Group

Resolved:

- (1) To note the update on Task Group activity provided.**
- (2) To agree that the Education for 16-19s Task Group would pause activity until September 2014, when the situation would be reassessed.**
- (3) To note that Cllr Sheila Parker and Cllr Horace Prickett had taken up portfolio holder positions and were therefore no longer members of the Schools and the Local Authority Task Group.**
- (4) To appoint Cllr Gordon King as a member of the Schools and the Local Authority Task Group.**

46 Coalition Changes - Update from Department for Education

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

- The Children and families Act 2014, which would take forward the Coalition Government's commitment to improve services for vulnerable

children and support strong families, had just received royal assent. The Act reinforced wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people could succeed, no matter what their background. **(A summary of the 2013 Bill that informed the Act is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.)**

- Reformed GCSE and A level content
- Safeguarding guidance for schools and colleges
- Careers guidance – Cllr Simon Jacobs informed the Committee about a pilot scheme on mentoring and work experience which had been working well in Devizes in association with Devizes School. A pre-meeting information briefing on how the scheme worked could be arranged and members warmly commended this initiative.
- School funding
- School accountability
- Headteacher standards review
- Priority school building programme (PSBP)
- Academies update

Resolved:

- (1) To note the update provided.**
- (2) To agree that a pre-meeting information briefing on the Children and Families Act 2014 be held at 9.30am, immediately before the next meeting of the Committee.**

47 Forward Work Programme

The Committee received a document showing the relevant items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

Resolved:

- (1) To note the contents of the Forward Work Programme for this Committee.**

- (2) To encourage members of the Committee to inform the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Senior Scrutiny Officer of any additional items they might consider should be included in the Forward Work Programme.**

48 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was due to be held on Tuesday 5 August 2014 in the Kennet Room at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

However, it was pointed out that the following members and officers would not be able to attend a meeting on that date due to holiday and other commitments:-

Cllr Laura Mayes; Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director; Mr John Hawkins; Mrs Lynne Swainston and Miss Tracy Cornelius.

In these circumstances,

Resolved:

To request the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to consider the position and determine when the next meeting should be held.

49 Urgent Items

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713035, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

Children and Families Bill 2013

The Children and Families Bill takes forward the Coalition Government's commitments to improve services for vulnerable children and support strong families. It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Bill will reform the systems for **adoption, looked after children, family justice** and **special educational needs**. It will encourage growth in the **childcare** sector, introduce a new system of **shared parental leave** and ensure children in England have a strong advocate for their rights.

This is a joint Bill, presented by the Secretary of State for Education and on behalf of the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills and Work and Pensions and the Ministry of Justice. The Bill's provisions have been developed following several independent reviews and extensive consultation. Many clauses have undergone pre-legislative scrutiny.

Main Provisions

Adoption and Virtual School Head (VSH)

The Government wants to see **more children being adopted by loving families with less delay**. Children wait an average of almost two years between entering care and moving in with an adoptive family. The Bill supports the reforms set out in *An Action Plan for Adoption: Tackling Delay* by:

- promoting '**fostering for adoption**' so that children are placed sooner with the families that are likely to adopt them;
- ensuring that search for a **perfect or partial ethnic match does not become a barrier** to finding a child a parent;
- **improving support for adoptive families**;
- creating a new power for Ministers to **drive an increase in adopter recruitment** by requiring outsourcing if necessary.

We are grateful to the Select Committee on Adoption Legislation which carried out pre-legislative scrutiny of the provisions relating to 'fostering for adoption' and ethnicity.

The Government is committed to **improving life chances for all looked after children**. Their educational attainment, while improving, is not doing so fast enough. We know that a 'virtual school head' (VSH) can have a positive impact on the educational progress of looked after children and so the Bill will require every local authority to have a '**virtual school head**' to **champion the education of children in the authority's care**, as if they all attended the same school.

Family Justice System

The Government is **reforming the family justice system to help deliver better outcomes for children and families** who go to court after family separation or where children may be taken into care. The reform programme is tackling delays and ensuring that children's best interests are at the heart of decision making. The Bill will implement commitments the Government made in response to the Family Justice Review by:

- introducing a **time limit of 26 weeks** when courts are considering whether a child should be taken into care ensuring that they **focus on the essentials and don't get caught up in unnecessary evidence or bureaucratic delay**;
- sending a **clear message to separated parents that courts will start from the presumption that both should be involved in their children's lives** where that is safe and consistent with the child's welfare;
- introducing new 'child arrangement orders' which **will focus parents on the child's needs rather than their own 'rights'** and making sure more families have the **opportunity to try mediation** before applying to court.

We are grateful to the Justice Select Committee for its pre-legislative scrutiny of this part of the Bill.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The Government is **transforming the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes** for them. The Bill will extend the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. It takes forward the reform programme set out in *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps* by:

- replacing statements and learning difficulty assessments with a **new birth- to-25 Education, Health and Care Plan**, extending rights and protections to young people in further education and training and offering families **personal budgets** so that they have more control over the support they need;
- improving **cooperation between all the services that support children and their families** and particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together;
- requiring local authorities to **involve children, young people and parents** in reviewing and developing provision for those with special educational needs and to publish a **'local offer' of support**.

We are grateful to the Education Select Committee for its pre-legislative scrutiny of these clauses.

Childcare

The Government is **reforming childcare to ensure the whole system focuses on providing safe, high-quality care and early education** for children. The enabling measures in the Bill support wider reforms to substantially increase the supply of high quality, affordable and available childcare and include:

- introducing **childminder agencies** to help more childminders into the market and offer greater support and quality assurance;
- removing bureaucracy so that it is easier for schools to offer **'wrap-around' care**.

On 29 January 2013, the Government published *More great childcare* which sets out a plan of action for how this Government will achieve its vision of a dynamic childcare market, delivering high quality early education and childcare. The childcare commission will report shortly.

Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)

The Government wants to make sure that the **Children's Commissioner can act as a strong advocate for children**, helping to embed a culture where children's rights and interests are duly recognised. The Bill will help improve the Children's Commissioner's effectiveness, taking forward recommendations in John Dunford's *Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner* including:

- giving the Commissioner a **statutory remit to 'promote and protect children's rights'**;
- introducing changes to make the Commissioner **more independent from Government**.

We are grateful to the Joint Committee on Human Rights for its pre-legislative scrutiny of these clauses.

Shared Parental Leave and Flexible Working

The Government is committed to encouraging the full involvement of both parents from the earliest stages of pregnancy, including by **promoting a system of shared parental leave**, and to **extending the right to request flexible working to all employees**. These reforms will help create a truly family friendly society and support economic growth by making working arrangements work better for modern life. The Bill will implement the commitments in the Government's response (November 2012) to the *Modern Workplaces* consultation by:

- enabling working **mothers and fathers to share parental leave** when a baby is born;
- allowing **prospective parents to take more time off to attend antenatal appointments**;
- bringing the **leave and pay entitlements for adopters** more closely into line with what is available to birth parents.

For more information see *Children and Families Bill 2013: Contextual Information and Responses to Pre-Legislative Scrutiny* at: www.education.gov.uk/childrenandfamiliesbill

Wiltshire Council

Childrens Select Committee

Date of meeting: 14th October 2014

Subject: Reducing Child Poverty Strategy 2014 – 2020

Background

1. The purpose of this item is to present an update on the Wiltshire Child Poverty Strategy 2014-20.
2. Reducing child poverty has been a government target for many years. The [Child Poverty Act](#), which commits this and future governments to eradicating child poverty by 2020, received Royal Assent in March 2010 tasking local areas to produce a child poverty needs assessment and strategy. This strategy document fulfils that requirement.
3. This strategy has been developed by the multi-disciplinary Child Poverty Group which reports to the Wiltshire Children & Young People's Trust Executive. The strategy was made available for wide consultation with the public including children and young people, the public and private sector, businesses and voluntary sector organisations. All responses were considered and inform the final strategy.
4. A child poverty needs assessment sits alongside this strategy and a summary of its main findings is included in the strategy. A copy of the full needs assessment is available as an appendix to this report.
5. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the number of children in Wiltshire living in poverty in addition to mitigating the impacts of poverty on children's health and wellbeing.
6. Children are said to be living in relative income poverty if their household's income is less than 60 per cent of the median national income.
7. Today in the UK 17% of children, 2.3 million, live in poverty. This is one of the highest rates in the industrialised world. Growing up in poverty is known to have a profound impact on children's physical and mental health, on educational attainment, aspirations, well-being, and long term economic productivity.

8. Certain lifestyle and situational factors can increase the risk that a child will live in poverty, and should be considered at a local level where possible in any strategy to tackle child poverty¹:

- Lone parents
- Large families
- Children with disabilities
- Children with disabled parents
- Children who are carers
- Children who have teenage parents
- Children growing up in social housing
- Black and minority ethnic children
- Asylum seekers
- Traveller and gypsy children
- Children with a parent in prison
- Children leaving care

Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2014

9. Whilst Wiltshire is considered to be a generally prosperous area, there are pockets of deprivation that are often hidden in official statistics.

10. An analysis by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) demonstrated that in 2011 Wiltshire had 11,610 children living in poverty, which represents 11.4% of all children in Wiltshire.

11. Worklessness and low paid work are key factors in child poverty. The percentage of children living in workless households in Wiltshire in 2012 was 8%, this compares well to the national average of 14.9%, and the South West regional average of 11.2%. However, this figure varies significantly by community area, from the lowest percentage in Malmesbury where 6% of households with dependent children have no adult in employment to Westbury where 12.8% of households with dependent children have no adult in employment.

12. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to leave school without qualifications. Local authorities measure the attainment gap to enable comparison with other areas. The first key measure of attainment is at the Foundation Stage Profile which measures achievements of children aged 5 against assessment scales (32% gap). There are subsequent measures at Key Stage 2 (23% gap) and GCSE level (36% gap) for children who are eligible for free school meals compared with children who are not eligible. Across all three measures there is a percentage difference or "gap" and this gap is increasing (note, however, that changes to testing took place during 2012 meaning year to year comparisons should be made with caution).

¹ Children at Greatest Risk of Poverty available at <http://www.childpovertytoolkit.org.uk/At-Greatest-Risk-of-Child-Poverty>

13. Getting to work, school or college and accessing services is all dependent on transport. Poor public transport can mean that low income families face reduced choice or difficulties accessing services, employment and support - or are forced into car ownership (reducing the money they have available to spend on other things). 44% of rural households have access to an hourly or better weekday daytime bus service, 89% to a daily or better weekday service.
14. National data suggests that children of teenage mothers have a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty, compared to babies born to mothers in their twenties. Analyses by deprivation show that there are significantly more conceptions in the most deprived quintile and the correlation is even more pronounced when looking just at births. Figures for 2011 and 2012 show that 35.7% of conceptions occurred in the most deprived fifth of Wiltshire's population.
15. In the UK, as is the case in most other high income countries, obesity is more prevalent in the lowest income quintile. Whilst the overall NCMP results for Wiltshire are encouraging there are clear deprivation gradients across all years and measures of weight within Wiltshire. In reception year for example 24.3% of children in the most deprived quintile were overweight or obese compared to 18.4% in the least deprived quintile.
16. A copy of the full needs assessment is embedded within Appendix 1 of this report.

Reducing Child Poverty Strategy 2014 – 2020

17. Child poverty features as a priority in key top-level Wiltshire documents. It is in the Wiltshire Assembly's "People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026" which was adopted in April 2011. It is included in Wiltshire Council's 2013-2017 Business Plan through priorities to protect those who are most vulnerable, boost the local economy and bring communities together to enable and support them to do more for themselves. In addition, the Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust (comprised of representatives from key children's services in Wiltshire) specifically states in its vision a commitment to "reduce, prevent and mitigate the effects of child poverty" – and this is reflected in its Children & Young People's Plan 2012-2015 and in the various commissioning strategies which sit underneath it.
18. This strategy supports both the reduction of child poverty in Wiltshire and mitigation of the effects of child poverty. It seeks to provide a view of the causes, barriers and challenges of child poverty, set a shared vision and encourage a coordinated approach to address child poverty and its impact.
19. Child poverty is a complex issue and benefits from an integrated approach. Specific groups of people will be more vulnerable and will gain from a targeted action. The following key priorities are identified to improve the delivery of services and the lives of some of the more vulnerable families in Wiltshire.

Objective 1 – Provide effective support to vulnerable families with 0-5 year olds

Evidence suggests that children's lives are significantly shaped during their first 5 years of life so it is vital to support the optimum physical, psychological, emotional, social and educational development of children. As stated earlier in this report, activities will be coordinated with the Early Intervention sub group to ensure work is fully collaborative and informed – with no duplication of efforts.

Objective 2 – Narrowing the Educational Attainment Gap

A child's education is key to ensuring that they have appropriate knowledge and skills for the future and that they are prepared for working life. A culture for learning is key together with early identification of vulnerable children and targeted support both within school and from other agencies. In Wiltshire there is continued focus on the attainment of vulnerable groups of children and young people at various stages of their development. The Vulnerable Learners Action Group is in place to set out the strategy and specific initiatives to close these gaps.

Objective 3 – Develop an inclusive economy that will enable equality of economic opportunity for all

Worklessness is a major cause of children living in poverty. The Education, Employment and Skills Strategy for Wiltshire is currently being finalised.

Objective 4 – Provide locally-focused support based on a thorough understanding of needs

Due to the dispersed nature of child poverty in Wiltshire and the broad ways in which poverty manifests itself there is a need for a comprehensive assessment to understand the needs in areas where child poverty is identified as a key priority within the Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This enables a holistic view and helps to identify opportunities to more effectively target and coordinate multi-agency support.

Objective 5 – Promote engagement with the Child Poverty Strategy and related implementation plan

It is important to promote and progress the aims of this strategy and maintain engagement from partner agencies, including the private and voluntary sectors. It is also important practitioners are aware of child poverty and recognise the signs when assessing a child and family's needs.

Child Poverty Strategy Implementation Plan and Monitoring Arrangements

20. Reducing child poverty requires a truly collaborative approach and therefore implementing this strategy will involve actions from a number of agencies including the voluntary and private sectors. The complexity of the cause and effects of child poverty mean that it is often difficult to directly attribute specific actions to specific impact.
21. The Child Poverty Group are currently developing the implementation plan to support the delivery of the objectives the strategy. This Plan will bring together work from across the council and partner agencies to tackle this issue.
22. The Child Poverty Group have been asked to compile a range of indicators in a 'scorecard' which will be regularly reported to the Children & Young People's Trust (either in its own right or amalgamating with the Trust's own scorecard).

Appendix 1

Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2014:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultation-wilts-child-poverty-needs-assessment.pdf>

Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director

Maggie Rae, Corporate Director

Report Author: Amy Bird, Public Health Consultant, Public Health

Kate Blackburn, Public Health Specialty Registrar, Public Health

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Children & Young People's Trust

To improve outcomes for children & young people in Wiltshire

and to promote and support resilient individuals, families and communities.



Reducing Child Poverty Strategy

2014 – 2020
Version 1.0

Strategy prepared by:

Tamsin Stone, Lead Commissioner, Wiltshire Council

Kate Blackburn, Public Health Specialty Registrar

Amy Bird, Consultant in Public Health, Wiltshire Council

Document History

Issue No	Date	Status	Reviewed by
Pre-draft	26/02/2014	Notes	Multi-agency workshop
Version 1.0	07/03/2014	Draft	K Blackburn & Amy Bird
Version 1.1	17/03/2014	Draft	Child Poverty Task Group
Version 2.0	03/04/2014	Draft	Children's Trust Executive
Version 1.0	03/04/2014	Consultation Draft	Children's Trust Executive
Version 1.0	05/08/201	Final	

Contents

Introduction	3
Links to other strategies	3
The aim	4
What is child poverty?	4
Children at greatest risk of poverty	6
Local Needs Assessment	6
Geographical assessment	7
Thematic Assessment	10
What works?	12
Independent Reviews – the case for early intervention	13
The building blocks to combat child poverty	14
Education, health and family	14
Housing, neighbourhoods and communities	14
Adult skills and employment	15
Financial support	15
What's happening to tackle child poverty in Wiltshire?	16
Key priorities for Wiltshire	18
Objective 1 – Provide effective support to vulnerable families with 0-5 year olds	18
Objective 2 – Narrowing the Educational Attainment Gap	18
Objective 3 – Develop an inclusive economy that will enable equality of economic opportunity for all	19
Objective 4 – Provide locally-focused support based on a thorough understanding of needs	20
Objective 5 – Promote engagement with the Child Poverty Strategy and related implementation plan	20
Monitoring Arrangements	22
Equality and Diversity	22
Risk Assessment	23
Appendix 1 – Multi-layered assessment	24

Introduction

1. Reducing child poverty has been a government target for many years. The [Child Poverty Act](#), which commits this and future governments to eradicating child poverty by 2020, received Royal Assent in March 2010 tasking local areas to produce a child poverty needs assessment and strategy. This strategy document fulfils that requirement.
2. It is acknowledged that the huge changes resulting from the national cost pressures which are impacting at the time of writing, both on public services and people's lives, are creating some uncertainty and shifting baselines. Future strategies and action plans will need to build on this document in light of these changes.
3. This strategy has been developed by the multi-disciplinary Child Poverty Group which reports to the Wiltshire Children & Young People's Trust Executive. This consultation draft will be available for wide consultation with the public including children and young people, the public and private sector, businesses and voluntary sector organisations. All responses will be considered and will inform the final strategy prior to sign-off.
4. A child poverty needs assessment sits alongside this strategy and a summary of its main findings is included in this document.

Links to other strategies

5. Child Poverty features as a priority in key top-level Wiltshire documents. It is in the Wiltshire Assembly's "People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026" which was adopted in April 2011. It is woven through the Wiltshire Council's 2013-2017 Business Plan through its priorities to protect those who are most vulnerable, boost the local economy and bring communities together to enable and support them to do more for themselves. In addition the Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust (comprised of representatives from key children's services in Wiltshire) specifically states in its vision to "reduce, prevent and mitigate the effects of child poverty" – and this is reflected in its Children & Young People's Plan 2012-2015 and in the various commissioning strategies which sit underneath it.
6. Early intervention has become a strong theme underpinning national policy and guidance over recent years (such as the Allen and Munro reports, revised Ofsted Inspection Framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People). A growing evidence base showing how providing help as soon as it's needed can greatly improve outcomes for children and young people is supporting this agenda. In Wiltshire the Children and Young People's Trust and the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (through their joint Early Intervention sub group) have recently approved their joint Early Help Strategy and an Early Help Improvement Plan is currently being prepared. Through cross-membership of the Early Intervention sub group and the Child Poverty Task Group the two strands of work will be coordinated to ensure consistency and reduced opportunity for duplication.
7. In late February 2014 a Child Poverty Strategy consultation was launched by the government setting out the action to be taken from 2014-17. Although the final strategy will not be available for some months there are key principles which are echoed within Wiltshire's draft

strategy. The government's consultation document focuses on tackling child poverty through:

- Supporting families into work and increasing their earnings
- Improving living standards
- Preventing poor children becoming poor adults through raising their educational attainment.

The aim

8. The goal of the Child Poverty Act is to end child poverty by 2020. The Child Poverty Act sets targets for the government to meet by 2020 on four different measures of poverty – including relative income poverty. These targets are based on the proportion of children living in:
 - relative low income (whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole) - target is less than 10%
 - combined low income and material deprivation (a wider measure of people's living standards) - target is less than 5%
 - absolute low income (whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms) - target is less than 5%
 - persistent poverty (length of time in poverty) - target is to be set in regulations by 2015
 - Data for these 4 measures are currently not available at a local level
9. This strategy supports both the reduction of child poverty in Wiltshire and mitigation of the effects of child poverty. It seeks to provide a view of the causes, barriers and challenges of child poverty, set a shared vision and encourage a coordinated approach to address child poverty and its impact.
10. The Wiltshire Children and Young People's Trust partnership will be asked to sign up to this strategy and are tasked with driving change at a local level to improve outcomes for children and young people.

What is child poverty?

11. Children are said to be living in relative income poverty if their household's income is less than 60 per cent of the median national income. Essentially, this looks at whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. It should be noted that a change to the way in which poverty is measured has been proposed and is currently under discussion by central government. Some of the suggested possible dimensions for inclusion in this new measure are income and material deprivation; worklessness; unmanageable debt; poor housing; parental skill level; access to quality education; family stability, and; parental health. For the purposes of this Strategy the existing measure is used and if a subsequent change is made the Child Poverty Group will refresh reported data.
12. Today in the UK 17% of children, 2.3 million, live in poverty. This is one of the highest rates in the industrialised world.

13. Living in poverty means more than just having a low income. Extensive research and data show that children who grow up in poverty face a greater risk of having poor health, being exposed to crime and failing to reach their full potential. This in turn can limit their potential to earn the money needed to support their own families in later life, and so a cycle of poverty is created. Therefore in order to ensure today's poor children are not tomorrow's poor adults child poverty must be tackled.

14. The central government Child Poverty Unit has collated an extensive library of research and data. Particularly relevant to Wiltshire is the research report on the cost of living in rural communities. "Country Life: tougher to make ends meet"¹ says that people living in rural communities need to spend 10-20% more than those in urban areas to reach a minimum acceptable living standard. This is due to things such as the need to run a car, higher energy bills and the location of rural services. This is further exacerbated as pay levels for many rural workers are often lower than those working in urban areas.

¹ Country Life: tougher to make ends meet – Nov 2010 Joseph Rowntree Foundation/Commission for Rural Communities

Children at greatest risk of poverty²

15. Some groups of children living in particular circumstances are known to be at a greater risk of living in poverty:

- **Lone parents** - before housing costs over a third, 35%, (50% after housing costs) of children living in lone parent families are poor, compared with 18%, of children in couple families.
- **Large families** - 40%, of children in families with four or more children are poor, compared with 19% of children in one-child families.
- **Children with disabilities and children with disabled parents** - a result of lower incomes as either the parents/carers need to look after disabled children and so cannot work) or disabled parents being less likely to be in paid work. Additional disability-related costs also impact on family budgets.
- **Children who are carers** - young carers, those living with a disabled parent or in households with drug/alcohol misuse or domestic violence all have experiences or responsibilities that can make it difficult for them to focus on their education and achieve good outcomes.
- **Children who have teenage parents** – babies of teenage mothers have a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty compared to babies born to mothers in their twenties.
- **Children growing up in social housing** - 49% of children in local authority accommodation are poor before housing costs (rising to 58% after housing costs).
- **Black and minority ethnic children** - children living in households headed by someone from an ethnic minority are more likely to be living in a poor household. This is particularly the case for households headed by someone of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin, where well over half the children are living in poverty.
- **Asylum seekers** - there is no robust quantitative data on asylum seekers. Parents in this group are prohibited from working and are only entitled to safety net support at a lower level than the usual income support/Jobseekers Allowance.
- **Traveller and gypsy children** - there is a severe lack of robust quantitative data, including poverty, for this group. However, both practice knowledge and other studies show that some have few financial resources.
- **Children with a parent in prison** – it is recognised that these children are more likely to be living in poverty.
- **Children in care** - young people leaving care are likely to be at increased risk of living in poverty. Attainment levels of children in care are not equal to their peer group and more children who have been looked after become NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) than those who have not been looked after.
- **Children offending or at risk of offending** – being involved in criminal activity whilst young has been shown to have a negative impact on later life chances. Furthermore, the children of young offenders are more likely to live in poverty themselves, reinforcing the ‘cycle of poverty’.

Local Needs Assessment

16. Whilst Wiltshire is considered to be a generally prosperous area, there are pockets of deprivation that are often hidden in official statistics. Wiltshire is a large, predominantly rural

² Children at Greatest Risk of Poverty available at www.childpovertytoolkit.org.uk/At-Greatest-Risk-of-Child-Poverty

county with a population of 474,300, of which 19.2% (91,066) are aged 15 years and under. Almost half of the population resides in towns and villages with less than 5,000 people³.

17. An analysis by HMRC demonstrated that in August 2011 Wiltshire had 11,610 children (0-19yrs) living in poverty, which represents 11.4% of children. This is an increase of 400 children (0.4%) in Wiltshire since 2008, which compares well with other local authority areas in the South West of England. However, as detailed within the report, there is high variability in Wiltshire with pockets of high deprivation found in particular localities and significant deprivation across some vulnerable groups.
18. Through the work of our Joint Strategic Assessment, we are familiar with areas of poverty and deprivation in Wiltshire. There are challenges in rural areas when using measures of deprivation, as deprivation is less obvious and can be 'hidden' when factors such as economies of scale and the distances involved are not taken into consideration.
19. Deprivation data is usually reported against defined geographical areas known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). There are 285 LSOAs in Wiltshire. These are defined nationally for the release of statistical information at a small geographical area. For planning purposes the County is split into 20 community areas. These community areas generally include a market town and its surrounding villages. Where possible the data within this strategy will be presented by LSOA or community area.
20. Wiltshire as a whole is characterised by its rurality and is notable for the scale of its military presence. Currently 1 in 50 residents in Wiltshire are Army personnel – that's around 12,000 (30,000 including their families) and 27% of this population are veterans. This is set to rise to around 16,000 (est. 38,000 including families) by 2020 making Wiltshire the largest military county in the UK. Approximately 1,000 young people in Wiltshire are Army Cadets and 12% go on to have careers within the Army⁴.
21. This strategy is supported by a comprehensive needs assessment which gives detailed evidence of both national and local child poverty gained through analysis of data and direct input from stakeholders and families.

Geographical assessment

22. Of the 285 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Wiltshire, 14 have numbers of children living in poverty which are more than 2 standard deviations⁵ above the Wiltshire average of 11.4%. This means that in certain LSOAs the percentage of children living in poverty ranges from 26.9% to 46.1%. These areas are detailed in table 2 below. Ten LSOAs have over 30% of children living in poverty, an increase of one extra LSOA in Wiltshire with this high percentage of children living in poverty when compared to 2008.

³ Office for National Statistics. 2011 Mid year estimate

⁴ Wiltshire Assembly Conference "Wiltshire – a military county", 2nd December 2013.

⁵ Standard Deviation is a measure of the spread or [dispersion](#) of a set of data. The more widely the values are spread out, the larger the standard deviation. In data which is normally distributed it is very likely that 95% of the data points will lie within 2 standard deviations of the mean. Therefore any that lie outside of this range would be considered significant.

Table 2 LSOAs with a percentage of children in low income families two or more standard deviations above the Wiltshire average (Source: DWP)

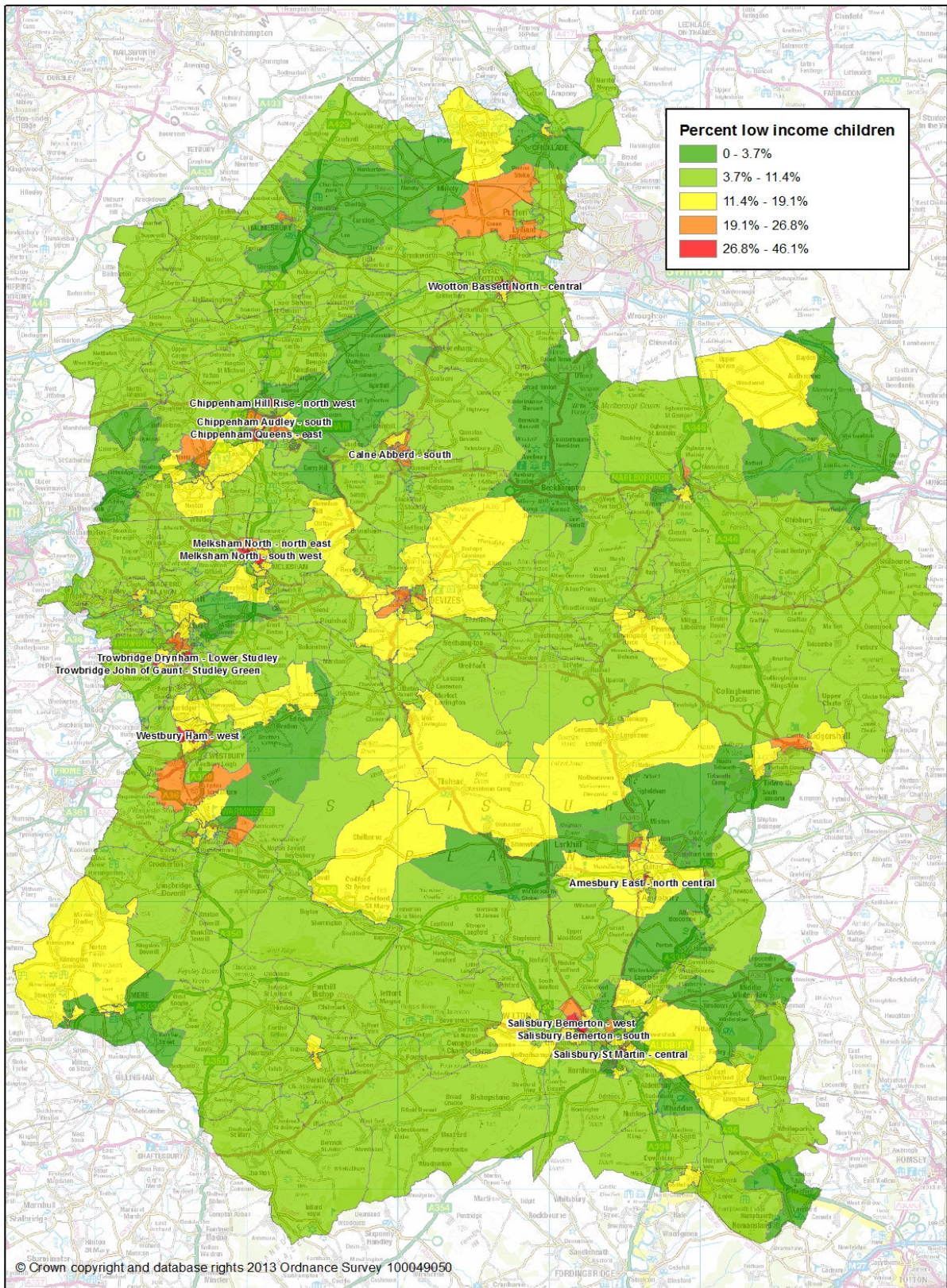
Lower Super Output Area name	Community Area	Children in Child Benefit families	Children in families in receipt of CTC (<60% median income) or IS/JSA	% of children in low-income families	Number standard deviations above average
Trowbridge John of Gaunt - Studley Green	Trowbridge	555	255	46.1%	4
Melksham North - north east	Melksham	380	135	35.5%	3
Calne Abberd - south	Calne	255	90	35.4%	3
Amesbury East - north central	Amesbury	275	90	32.8%	2
Chippenham Queens - east	Chippenham	325	105	32.7%	2
Salisbury St Martin - central	Salisbury	355	115	32.0%	2
Trowbridge Drynham - Lower Studley	Trowbridge	590	180	30.9%	2
Chippenham Audley - south	Chippenham	360	110	30.7%	2
Melksham North - south west	Melksham	340	105	30.7%	2
Chippenham Hill Rise - north west	Chippenham	465	140	30.4%	2
Salisbury Bemerton - south	Salisbury	520	150	29.2%	2
Wootton Bassett North - central	R.WB & Cricklade	410	115	28.5%	2
Salisbury Bemerton - west	Salisbury	480	130	27.1%	2
Westbury Ham - west	Westbury	470	125	26.9%	2

23. The percentage of children living in low income families in each LSOA has not remained constant between 2008 and the latest figures of 2011. Some LSOAs in Wiltshire have shown a decrease in the percentage of children in low income families since 2008. The largest decrease in percentage was seen in Salisbury Bishopdown – central, the rate decreased here from 17.1% in 2008 to 7.5% in 2011. The 12 LSOAs in Wiltshire with the largest decrease (5% or more) in children living in low income families are detailed in table 3 below.

Table 3 LSOAs where the percentage of children in low income families decreased by five percentage points or more between 2008 and 2011 (Source DWP)

LSOA name	Community Area	2008	2011	Change in % points
Salisbury Bishopdown - central	Salisbury	17.1%	7.5%	-9.6%
Melksham North - north east	Melksham	42.7%	35.5%	-7.2%
Trowbridge Drynham - central	Trowbridge	25.1%	17.9%	-7.2%
Pewsey south	Pewsey	22.0%	14.8%	-7.2%
Cricklade central	Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade	26.0%	19.0%	-7.0%
Ludgershall east & Faberstown	Tidworth	24.6%	17.9%	-6.7%
Salisbury St Martin - central	Salisbury	38.0%	32.0%	-6.0%
Dilton Marsh & Upton Scudamore	Part Warminster; Part Westbury	25.8%	19.8%	-6.0%
Staverton & Hilperton (part)	Part Bradford on Avon; Part Trowbridge	22.7%	17.3%	-5.4%
Trowbridge John of Gaunt - Wingfield Rd	Trowbridge	18.2%	12.9%	-5.3%
Salisbury St Edmund - east (Milford north)	Salisbury	15.8%	10.7%	-5.1%
Trowbridge Adcroft - Seymour	Trowbridge	29.8%	24.7%	-5.1%

Figure 2 Map of percentage of children living in poverty by LSOA, 2011



24. Of the ten areas with over 30% of all children living in 'poverty' seven are located in one of three towns (Trowbridge, Melksham and Chippenham) and the remaining three are in the towns of Salisbury, Calne and Amesbury.

Thematic Assessment

Jobs and the Economy

25. Worklessness and low paid work are the key factors in child poverty. The term worklessness includes:
- Those that are economically active but unemployed i.e. those claiming Jobseekers Allowance;
 - Those that are economically inactive but who would want to work. There is evidence to suggest that a significant proportion of the economically inactive population would like to work if they had the right opportunity, incentive or path back to employment. This could include lone parents and/or people claiming incapacity or other health/income related benefits.
26. Historically worklessness has been a major cause of children living in poverty. However, the underlying causes as to why adults are out of work are complicated and issues differ for those long term unemployed versus those who have recently lost their job. The level of worklessness has increased in recent years with approximately 9.3% of the working age population in Wiltshire being on one or more out of work benefits in February 2013. The proportion of workless households in Wiltshire has risen from 12.5% in 2008 to 16.1% in 2012.
27. The percentage of children living in workless households in Wiltshire in 2012 was 8%, this compares well to the national average of 14.9%, and the South West regional average of 11.2%.
28. However, this figure varies significantly by community area, from the lowest percentage in Malmesbury where 6% of households with dependent children have no adult in employment to Westbury where 12.8% of households with dependent children have no adult in employment. To improve young people's outcomes and outlook on life, it is vital that the cycle of dependency on benefits is broken and young people aspire to a career or work life.
29. Wiltshire continues to have a high economic activity rate for residents aged 16-64 (80.1%) compared to other areas; Wiltshire claimant count levels are consistently below those found in the South West and England. Since the start of 2014 the national Job Seekers Allowance claimant rate has been maintained at 3.0%. The latest rate for Wiltshire at 1.5% is half the national rate. The proportion of 18-24 year old JSA claimants in Wiltshire currently stands at 3.6% (nationally 5.2%). Youth unemployment continues to account for a disproportionate share of unemployment in Wiltshire (29.5%). The adjusted NEET (not in employment, education or training) figure for Wiltshire, based on the period November 2012 to January 2013 was 6.0% and equates to 493 of 12,803 young people aged 16-18. This is higher than the comparable figures for England and the South West but not appreciably so.
30. Residents' pay rates in Wiltshire are 7% lower than the national average and in-work poverty is becoming a real issue. Similarly, workplace pay rates are below the national average, with those working in Wiltshire only earning 89% of the average across England. Overall, total pay has declined by £7.50 per week in Wiltshire whilst in England it has risen by £16 per week. Data on pay levels and commuting flows indicates that the outward commuting of higher skilled workers from Wiltshire has long been a feature of the economy.

31. Future increases in part-time and principally female employment are anticipated. Forecasts show that between 2010 and 2020 female employment is expected to rise by 11.4%. This partly reflects the rise in part-time work which is expected to grow at almost twice the rate (13.4%) of full time work (7.5%). The availability of part time work in the local economy may be enabling more young people than average to combine work with learning.
32. Overall, employment is forecast to increase in Wiltshire by 19,300 (or 9.1%) over the period 2010-2020. Note that these employment projections exclude the potential outcomes of the military/civilian integration programme. The programme represents an opportunity to change the skills and business profile of the county.
33. The occupational profile is predicted to continue to shift towards higher-order occupations, with the greatest levels of growth being amongst Managers, Professionals and Associate Professionals.
34. The key priorities for Wiltshire Council and partners is to create new jobs and businesses, to seize the opportunities generated by the military/civilian integration programme, and to develop the skills of its residents, ensuring many more young people are working in Wiltshire.

Education

35. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to leave school without qualifications. Local authorities measure the attainment gap to enable comparison with other areas.
36. In Wiltshire there is continued focus on the attainment of vulnerable groups of children and young people at various stages of their development. The first key measure is at the Foundation Stage Profile which measures achievements of children aged 5 against assessment scales. There are subsequent measures at Key Stage 2 and GCSE level for children who are eligible for free school meals compared with children who are not eligible.

	2010 %	2011 %	2012 %		2013 %
Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest					
Wiltshire	29	29	27	<i>(Testing changes)</i>	32
Statistical neighbours	30	29	28		32
England	33	31	30		37
Attainment Gap FSM/non FSM Key Stage 2 inc English & Maths (Read, Write & Maths from 2013)				<i>(Testing changes)</i>	
Wiltshire	27	24	20	24	23
Statistical neighbours	26	26	23	26	24
England	21	20	17	19	19
Attainment Gap FSM/non FSM GCSE inc Eng & Maths					
Wiltshire	36	32	31		36
Stats Neighbours	33	33	33		32
England	28	28	26		27

37. For Wiltshire across all three measures there is a percentage difference or “gap” and this gap is increasing as seen in the preceding table (note, however, that changes to testing took place during 2012 meaning year to year comparisons should be made with caution). The Vulnerable Learners Action Group is in place to set out the strategy and specific initiatives to close these gaps.
38. Adult attainment is also key to ensure the resident working population in Wiltshire have the skills and knowledge to improve their employability and/or sustain employment. Adult attainment measures are taken at ‘Level 2’ which broadly means the literacy or numeracy required to meet the standards of a key skills qualification at Level 2 (or, very roughly, the underlying literacy/numeracy required to achieve GCSE grades A*-C).
39. Between 2009 and 2012 Wiltshire’s performance on adult attainment has continued to improve:
- The Level 2 attainment rate has increased by a further 3.2% to 77.7%. Wiltshire continues to outperform the regional rate of 75.2% and the national rate of 71.8%.
 - Those without at least a Level 2 qualification (generally considered to be the minimum for employability) has decreased from 25.5% to 22.3%. Wiltshire continues to outperform the regional rate of 24.8% and the national rate of 28.2%.
 - Those without any qualifications at all has reduced from 7.0% to 5.9% (16,400 people compared to 19,600). Wiltshire continues to outperform the regional rate of 7.0% and the national rate of 9.7%.

Transport

40. Getting to work, school or college and accessing services is all dependent on transport. Poor public transport can mean that low income families face reduced choice or difficulties accessing services, employment and support - or are forced into car ownership (reducing the money they have available to spend on other things).
41. Wiltshire Council spends £5 million on supported bus services and community transport, which doubles the level of public transport that would otherwise be available. 44% of rural households have access to an hourly or better weekday daytime bus service, 89% to a daily or better weekday service. However, due to the growing pressures on public spending, budgets have been reduced in recent years and an ongoing programme of reviews is underway focusing in particular on services that are relatively poorly used or expensive to provide in relation to the number of passengers using them. A thorough assessment of local transport needs for those areas with the highest number of families living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty (whether in-work or not) must be undertaken to inform the development of a socially-inclusive transport policy for Wiltshire.

What works?

42. The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People’s Services⁶ has reviewed a variety of child poverty publications, toolkits and guides to produce the key

⁶ C4EO Research Summary 1 Child Poverty January 2010

components of a child poverty strategy:

- effective multi-agency partnerships which draw on the experience, resources and expertise across the whole area
- sufficient and sustained resources
- active participation of children, young people, families and communities
- differentiated approaches to address the needs of different groups or areas in the community
- monitoring and evaluation focused on outcomes rather than outputs.

The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes also concludes priority outcomes are:

- maximising of family income – a mixed economy of provision is required, which can help the jobless into work, help those in work to progress, and financially support those unable to work
- narrowing outcome gaps for children and young people living in poverty, particularly in education and health.

Independent Reviews – the case for early intervention

43. Government sponsored reports from Professor Eileen Munro and MPs Frank Field and Graham Allen have all stressed the importance of intervening earlier. Professor Eileen Munro in her review of child protection writes of the need to develop an “all-encompassing and pervasive early intervention culture” and notes “Preventative services can do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services. Many services and professions help children and families so coordinating their work is important to reduce inefficiencies and omissions.”
44. Providing early help can narrow the gap for children who are at risk of poorer outcomes (Waldman, 2008, Karoly, Kilburn, & Cannon, 2005; Statham and Biehal, 2005). It can also improve practice and outcomes by attending to risk and protective factors at an early stage, focusing on causes of problems not symptoms. The 2010 Marmot Review, ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’ was clear that “later interventions are considerably less effective if children have not had good foundations”
45. Frank Field’s “The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults”⁷ found that “... children’s life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life. It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development in those crucial years that together matter more to children than money, in determining whether their potential is realised in adult life. The things that matter most are a healthy pregnancy; good maternal mental health; secure bonding with the child; love and responsiveness of parents along with clear boundaries, as well as opportunities for a child’s cognitive, language and social and emotional development. Good services matter too: health services, Children’s Centres and high quality childcare.” The report notes that differences in skill levels are impacted by 22 months of age. It acknowledges that later interventions can be effective but stresses that the most effective and cost effective way to help is in the earliest years of a child’s life. It also stresses the importance of breaking

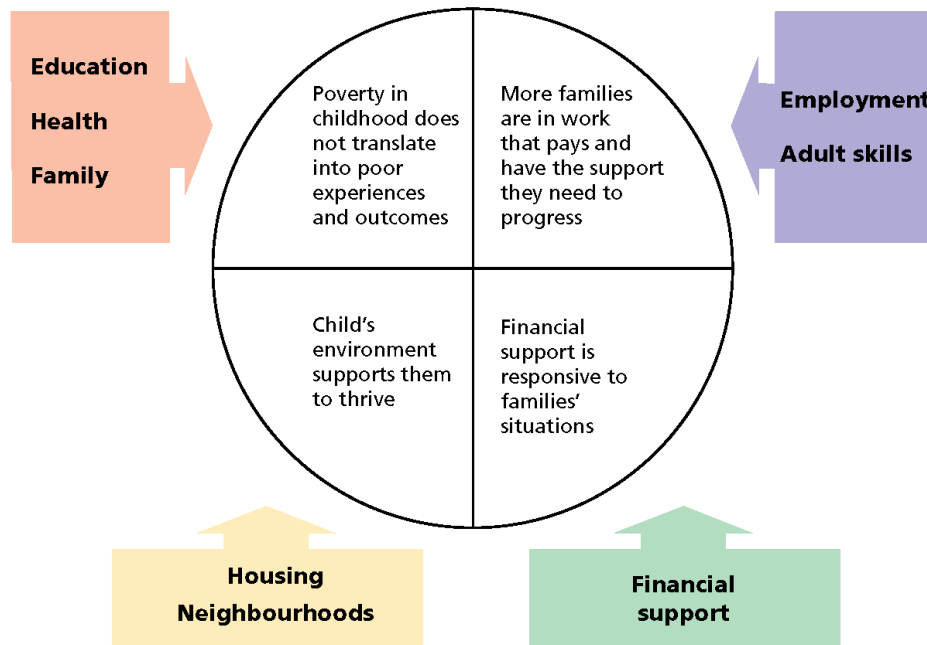
⁷ “The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults:” Frank Field December 2010. The report of the Independent review on Poverty and Life Chances.

intergenerational cycles of poverty and raising parental aspiration.

46. In response to growing support and a growing evidence base for early intervention the Early Intervention Foundation was launched April 2013 with cross-party support. Chaired by Graham Allen, the EIF is offering assessment of what works, advice to commissioners and providers and advocacy to assist with gaining support for early intervention locally. Wiltshire was successful in its application to the EIF to become one of the pioneering “Early Intervention Places” and a Statement of Intent was agreed in February 2014 outlining work which will be done together in 2014/15. There is a need to ensure the early intervention work focuses on those factors which are likely to result in a child or young person living in poverty.

The building blocks to combat child poverty

47. Nationally, it has been suggested that there are 4 key building blocks which work together to prevent, reduce and mitigate the effects of poverty⁸.



Education, health and family

- ensuring access to quality education for all children and young people and narrowing the gap in attainment of different groups
- improving physical and mental health outcomes for all children and parents, reducing health inequalities and improving support for those with disabilities and poorer health
- reducing pressures on families and strengthening their capabilities by providing as much support as possible.

Housing, neighbourhoods and communities

- ensuring all children grow up in decent homes that support their health and education

⁸ “Ending Child Poverty: Making it happen”, HM Government Child Poverty Unit, 2009

- taking action on neighbourhoods, play and green spaces, transport and crime to ensure all children can thrive in safe and cohesive communities, with equal access to work, cultural and leisure opportunities.

Adult skills and employment

- building on successes in education to ensure all adults have the skills necessary to enter, stay and progress in work
- ensuring more parents can enter, stay and progress in work (including childcare), to help parents balance work and family life and ensure those in work can escape poverty.

Financial support

- ensuring financial and material support remain an important public service; provided through a modern welfare system that recognises the additional barriers families face, while maintaining incentives to work.

48. In addition, promoting resilience in children and young people is key to them being able to cope with adversity and helps to minimise the impact of poverty. Factors known to promote resilience in children and young people⁹ are:

- Strong social support networks.
- The presence of at least one unconditionally supportive parent or parent substitute.
- A committed mentor or other person from outside the family.
- Positive school experiences.
- A sense of mastery and a belief that one's own efforts can make a difference.
- Participation in a range of extra-curricular activities.
- The capacity to re-frame adversities so that the beneficial as well as the damaging effects are recognised.
- The ability - or opportunity - to "make a difference" by helping others or through part time work.
- Not to be excessively sheltered from challenging situations which provide opportunities to develop coping skills.

⁹ "Promoting Resilience: a review of effective strategies for child care services", Tony Newman 2002, prepared for the Centre for Evidence-Based Social Services, University of Exeter.

What's happening to tackle child poverty in Wiltshire?

49. As child poverty manifests itself in a multitude of ways and can have many causes, any attempt to describe the wide array of plans, interventions and activities being undertaken by services in Wiltshire is unlikely to be fully comprehensive. The following provides a flavour of some of the initiatives in Wiltshire; a fuller account of what is happening in Wiltshire is available in the accompanying Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (section 7).

Area	Provision and/or initiatives (indicative, not exhaustive)
Early years education, childcare, parenting & carers support and early intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Entitlement to 15 hours childcare per week for 3-4 year olds and free education and childcare to 2 year olds from the most vulnerable families. • Children's Centres offering a wide variety of support to parents of 0-11 year olds • Monitoring of childcare sufficiency with action plans to develop provision in areas/communities in need • Educational programmes in schools with targeted intensive support • Parent Support Advisers providing parenting programmes and 1:1 parenting support working with both the child and the family in and out of school • Teenage Pregnancy and Young Parents support – reducing teenage conceptions, raising aspirations and supporting teenage parents into education, employment and training • Family Learning and Partners in Literacy - accreditation of settings as Investors in Families and supporting literacy in the home • Young Carers support service offered through Spurgeons and Youth Action Wiltshire • High-need intensive family support offered through Wiltshire Families First (Action for Children) and Wiltshire Family Support Teams (part of Children's Social Care services) • Healthy Child Programme and Family Nurse Partnership programme • A breadth of Voluntary sector support to Children and Families
Encouraging economic development, including training skills and opportunities for parents and young people	<p>Formation of a new Wiltshire Education, Employment & Skills Board (amalgamating some existing groups) began in January 2014 and has a direct relationship with the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The new Board enables full integration of the Education, Employment & Skills agenda and work has commenced on developing a new multi-agency Education, Employment & Skills Strategy for Wiltshire accompanied by an Increasing Participation & Employment Plan and Apprenticeship Action Plan. The new Board has 5 sub groups focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sustained engagement in education, training or work ○ increasing apprenticeships and maximising their up-take ○ developing workplace skills ○ equal economic opportunity ○ realising the potential of those in low-wage work ○ economic development and planning <p>A major area of focus has recently been supporting the Swindon &</p>

	<p>Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to develop its Strategic Economic Plan and identify priorities for its Growth Deal, City Deal and European Structural Investment Funds submissions.</p> <p>Examples of initiatives currently underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Skills 4 Success – supporting educational transition to further education/employment/training (focusing on 9 &10 yr olds, 14 &15 year olds and 16-24 year olds.) • Your Choices - The Your Choices Theatre Tour is now in its 4th year of touring and this engaging production portrays the full range of options available to young people. • Project IMPRESS – Provision of in-work support services to new employees/labour market returners aged 16+ to help them sustain their employment and develop/advance their careers. • Action for Wiltshire: Flexible Support Fund – Personal development mentoring, job coaching support and assistance with overcoming personal and employment barriers for those JSA and ESA customers who are not currently supported through other initiatives. • Wiltshire Money supports a number of projects to promote financial inclusion
Targeted housing support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising the reduction in the number of children and young people who experience statutory homelessness. • Prevent children and young people from going into unsuitable temporary accommodation and prevent families becoming homeless. • Ensuring that families have access to good quality and affordable homes • Increasing the supply of family-sized accommodation • Supporting families to keep their own homes during the recession • Retain housing-related support for young 16 – 17 year olds • Improving homes with low energy efficiency for households on income based benefits
Targeted transport support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 16 education transport policy - guarantees transport to the nearest sixth form or FE college • For under 16 pupils, the Education & Inspection Act introduced free transport to a ‘preferred’ school for children from low income families • Reduced-rate travel pass is available for students from low income families • Investment to provide bus services and community transport, which doubles the level of public transport that would otherwise be available • Retain levels of public transport service that meet demand within available resources and meet accessibility needs for those without private transport

Key priorities for Wiltshire

50. Child poverty is a complex issue and benefits from an integrated approach. Specific groups of people will be more vulnerable and will gain from a targeted action. The following key priorities are identified to improve the delivery of services and the lives of some of the more vulnerable families in Wiltshire.

Objective 1 – Provide effective support to vulnerable families with 0-5 year olds

51. Evidence suggests that children's lives are significantly shaped during their first 5 years of life so it is vital to support the optimum physical, psychological, emotional, social and educational development of children. As stated earlier in this report, activities will be coordinated with the Early Intervention sub group to ensure work is fully collaborative and informed – with no duplication of efforts.

What do we need to do?

52. Develop an evidenced-based early help offer (in line with the Early Help Improvement Plan) which promotes prevention, early intervention, parental engagement strategies and effective family support – with a targeted focus on vulnerable families with children aged 0-5.
53. Further develop the role of the children's centres and other early year settings (including voluntary sector services) and continue to strengthen their links with community health services. Children's Centres need a continued focus on the most vulnerable families and to provide strong outreach services. They need to provide targeted support to ensure good health, appropriate development and successful early education of young children. This will include working with the Family and Parenting Commissioning Group to develop the family support role, including supporting the benefits of paid employment.
54. Deliver the Healthy Child Programme, which focuses on both physical and mental health, to all children 0-19 years within available resources and specifically target families with 0-5 year olds.
55. Develop early years parenting programmes for teenage parents-to-be and vulnerable families which promotes the importance of the early years in a child's development.
56. Recognise the inter-generational factors which can cause child poverty and develop an approach to break the cycle.

Objective 2 – Narrowing the Educational Attainment Gap

57. A child's education is key to ensuring that they have appropriate knowledge and skills for the future and that they are prepared for working life. A culture for learning is key together with early identification of vulnerable children and targeted support both within school and from other agencies.

What do we need to do?

58. Support and encourage the take-up of free childcare places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to support early educational development and give children the best start in life and prepare them for beginning school. Develop a targeted programme for hard-to-reach and hard-to-engage families.
59. Working with the Vulnerable Learners Action Group, develop measures which track the ongoing attainment of those vulnerable groups of young people identified in this strategy and align programmes to target and support their educational needs and aspirations (to include regular review of the use of Pupil Premium funding to remove barriers to learning for children and young people in receipt of free school meals).

Objective 3 – Develop an inclusive economy that will enable equality of economic opportunity for all

60. Worklessness is a major cause of children living in poverty. Barriers to employment for parents include:
 - not being able to manage family finances
 - partnership breakdown
 - debt
 - fear of leaving the benefit system
 - English for speakers of other languages
 - housing issues
 - not being able to access affordable, trusted childcare
 - training and employment services inaccessible for parents
 - lack of skills, confidence, motivation and aspiration
 - chaotic lives
 - health problems which could be the result of any of the above

What do we need to do?

61. Encourage and actively support jobs growth for the vulnerable young people and families identified in this strategy through the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan.
62. Through the Wiltshire Education, Employment & Skills Board, identify and understand the causes of **barriers** to employment, education and training for families and young people living in (or at risk of living in) poverty and develop a plan of action for removing them or reducing their impact. Engage with relevant services to ensure a multi-agency approach is taken (e.g. housing, benefits, family support, disability teams, etc).
63. Through the Wiltshire Education, Employment & Skills Board, identify and understand the causes of barriers to the stability of employment, education and training for families living in or at risk of living in poverty and develop a plan of action that supports sustainability. Engage with relevant services to ensure a multi-agency approach is taken (e.g. housing, benefits, family

support, disability teams, etc).

Objective 4 – Provide locally-focused support based on a thorough understanding of needs

64. Due to the dispersed nature of child poverty in Wiltshire and the broad ways in which poverty manifests itself there is a need for a comprehensive assessment to understand the needs in areas where child poverty is identified as a key priority within the Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This enables a holistic view and helps to identify opportunities to more effectively target and coordinate multi-agency support.

What do we need to do?

65. Using the Community Area Needs Assessments and the poverty indicators used in this strategy, produce a thorough multi-layered assessment of poverty for localities where child poverty is key issue. From this, assess the provision of services and support in place and engage with community area boards to discuss, develop and agree a local response. An example of multi-layered assessment can be found in appendix 1 – other indicators may prove more useful and the Child Poverty Task Group will refine this as required.
66. Using needs assessment data and local intelligence build a mechanism for forecasting future needs and ensure these are appropriately reflected in future planning.

Objective 5 – Promote engagement with the Child Poverty Strategy and related implementation plan

67. It is important to promote and progress the aims of this strategy and maintain engagement from partner agencies, including the private and voluntary sectors. It is also important practitioners are aware of child poverty and recognise the signs when assessing a child and family's needs.

What do we need to do?

68. Continue the multi-agency child poverty task group, accountable to the Children and Young People's Trust Commissioning Executive, to develop and oversee a top level implementation plan.
69. Develop a Child Poverty 'scorecard' to monitor emerging areas of need and impact of interventions and activities (see the next section on monitoring arrangements).
70. The Children and Young People's Trust Commissioning Executive and the Public Services Board to receive regular updates regarding progress and to challenge other strategies and plans to ensure the needs of those living in poverty are addressed.
71. Engage relevant services, organisations and groups in the delivery of the Strategy's implementation plan – thinking beyond those traditionally engaged with this work - and

encourage these groups to identify Reducing Child Poverty actions in their plans.

72. Develop and disseminate 'signs of poverty' to help practitioners to identify children living in (or at risk of) poverty, understand the causes in each case and take appropriate evidence-based action.

Monitoring Arrangements

73. Reducing child poverty requires a truly collaborative approach and therefore implementing this strategy will involve actions from a number of agencies including the voluntary and private sectors. The complexity of the cause and effects of child poverty mean that it is often difficult to directly attribute specific actions to specific impact.
74. Since the last Wiltshire Child Poverty Strategy was published in 2011, National Indicators have been abolished (central government have re-considered data collection and performance indicators, greatly reducing the number of indicators local authorities have to record and measure – there is now a Single Data List of all the data that local authorities are required to submit to central government departments in a given year) and the public health outcomes framework (PHOF) was published in 2013. Given the still vast array of indicators the first action of the Child Poverty Task Group is to assess which indicators provide useful markers for:
- a. aiding the identification of areas of need (existing and emerging)
 - b. provide evidence of good outcomes

For example, the Fuel Poverty indicator from the PHOF can show over time whether there is a growing need to increase support for this issue and, likewise, indicator 009-00 from the government's single data list (statutory homelessness statistics and information on homelessness prevention and relief) can evidence the impact of activities.

75. The Task Group will be responsible for compiling the indicators in a 'scorecard' which will be regularly reported to the Children & Young People's Trust (either in its own right or amalgamating with the Trust's own scorecard).

Equality and Diversity

76. The whole aim of this strategy is to improve equalities. Any adverse or positive impacts from an equalities perspective have been incorporated within the identified issues in the strategy and delivery plan. For example, it is recognised in the section "Children at greatest risk of poverty" that some groups of people are more likely to be impacted by poverty and therefore there needs to be awareness of the potential risks.
77. The implementation plan will be a live working document and hence there will be an opportunity to review progress from an equalities perspective. This demonstrates best practice as the equalities issues are embedded and addressed within these documents. Lower level action plans will also be reflecting and addressing equalities issues.

Risk Assessment

78. At the time of writing the UK is emerging from recession and the government is implementing a major spending reform, reducing budgets in many public services and making many changes. It is difficult to know how these changes will impact this strategy. Unemployment of the working-age population has risen in recent years and studies¹⁰ have also show that the proportion of children living in poverty in working families has also risen due to employers avoiding redundancies through reduction in hours/pay rates.
79. The new Welfare Reform programme will replace the current benefit structure with a universal credit which began rollout during 2013. This is intended to make transition between different types of benefits and employment easier. The Government has also made changes to the way Housing Benefit is calculated from April 2011. These changes should have a positive effect on poverty however, it will be some time before baselines and impact can be properly measured.
80. Locally, provision of services is being reviewed by all partner agencies in light of budget and policy changes. There is a risk that some of the activities outlined in this strategy will reduce and/or be delivered differently in future. The needs assessment, strategy and delivery plan will need to monitor this change, its impact and any unforeseen consequences that may arise as a result of any changes.
81. As specific risks arise, they will be considered and escalated through the Child Poverty Task Group, Children and Young People's Trust Board and Public Services Board as appropriate.

¹⁰ In-work poverty in the recession, Institute for Public Policy Research September 2010

Appendix 1 – Multi-layered assessment

Community Area	Poverty measures					Associated issues							NCMP
	DWP 2011	Census	Wilts data	Census	Census	Wilts data	Wilts data	DWP 2011	Indices of Deprivation 2010		Teenage conceptions		
	% Children in receipt of CTC (<60% median income) or IS/JSA	% of households with dependent children in which there is no adult in employment	Children entitled to FSM per 1,000 5 to 15 year olds	% Lone parents with dependent children who are unemployed	% Lone parents with dependent children who are long-term sick	PA per 1,000 5 to 15 year olds	CiN per 1,000 5 to 15 year olds	% low income children in large families (4 or more children)	Number of income deprived children living more than 1km from a primary school	Attainment gap KS2 (2012) **	Attainment gap KS4 (2012) **		Overweight and Obesity reception year 2012/13
Amesbury	9.0%	7%	66	6.4%	3.3%	50	23	20%	310	1.6	31.8		
Bradford on Avon	9.6%	8%	69	7.2%	4.2%	32	15	14%	190	-6.9	34.9		
Calne	13.7%	11%	87	8.1%	4.7%	40	18	16%	120	24.7	20.1		
Chippenham	11.1%	9%	70	7.3%	3.6%	34	19	22%	140	15.5	28.2		
Corsham	10.9%	9%	87	6.9%	4.1%	33	18	14%	330	16.1	32.9		
Devizes	13.5%	10%	89	6.0%	4.6%	44	27	21%	430	27.0	33.3		
Malmesbury	7.5%	6%	39	7.7%	3.6%	26	10	11%	230	-1.3			
Marlborough	8.3%	7%	40	8.3%	3.6%	30	13	18%	140	15.5	62.7		
Melksham	13.6%	11%	111	7.1%	4.0%	40	28	22%	390	19.8	25.9		
Mere	10.5%	8%	41	2.5%	3.0%	11	17	28%	60				
Pewsey	6.9%	6%	52	4.8%	3.0%	38	15	16%	110	4.9	12.5		
Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade	9.2%	7%	61	6.5%	5.0%	37	15	13%	250	1.4	27.8		
Salisbury	12.7%	11%	88	6.2%	6.4%	47	27	15%	220	45.7	41.3		
Southern Wiltshire	7.9%	7%	42	4.9%	3.6%	32	9	18%	260	52.7	75.3		
Tidworth	9.9%	9%	46	5.8%	4.3%	25	13	21%	140	11.0	54.3		
Tisbury	8.8%	9%	28	7.6%	2.5%	11	4	24%	100	-3.7			
Trowbridge	15.2%	12%	120	9.3%	5.1%	39	34	17%	330	17.7	21.6		
Warminster	11.2%	8%	73	5.4%	4.6%	36	22	13%	100	34.3	17.6		
Westbury	15.9%	13%	134	7.3%	5.2%	57	37	23%	210	43.3	30.6		
Wilton	9.3%	9%	54	5.6%	5.4%	22	17	7%	130		62.7		

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

14 October 2014

Final Report of the Early Help Strategy Task Group

Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Children's Select Committee on how it could monitor the implementation of the Early Help Strategy going forward, including additional recommendations to the current methods in use by the Council.

Background

2. The Children's Select Committee received the Early Help Strategy 2013-17 in draft, which sets out the Council's proposals for Wiltshire's early help offer, including what it currently does, the desired improved outcomes for children and young people and the priority objectives to achieve this.
3. The five objectives of the Strategy have been designed to ensure a coordinated approach in meeting this vision:
 - (1) Getting the best start in life.
 - (2) Gaining the skills required to begin school.
 - (3) Being ready for adult life.
 - (4) Developing a family-based approach to early help.
 - (5) Developing effective structures and processes to access early help – including developing an Early Help Offer.
4. To accompany the Strategy an Early Help Improvement Plan has been drafted and, for each objective, key priorities for action have been identified. In addition, a draft Early Help Dataset has been developed which will be the key tool for monitoring effectiveness and impact of the Early Help activities.
5. On 3 June Children's Select Committee established the Early Help Strategy Task Group to look at how the committee will monitor delivery of the Early Help Strategy 2013-17.

The terms of reference for the Task Group were agreed as follows:

1. To investigate how the Children's Select Committee can efficiently and effectively monitor the delivery of the Early Help Strategy 2013-17, focusing on the Strategy's five core objectives for children and young people in Wiltshire.

2. To make recommendations on the following:
 - How often should the Committee receive updates on the delivery of the Strategy?
 - What should these Strategy updates include?
 - Which key activities and data sets should the Committee place more emphasis on?
3. To aim to bring its final report to the Committee on 14 October 2014.
6. The Committee has also considered the final version of the Early Help Strategy 2014-17 and the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Children's trust draft joint Early Help Improvement Plan.
7. At its meeting on 5 September, the Task Group discussed further their role and confirmed the following additions:
 - Scoping how the Children's Select Committee will conduct the ongoing scrutiny of the Strategy, including the format and frequency of updates to be received;
 - Identify which elements of the data set should be given more emphasis, key indicators and areas of focus;
 - Evaluate how outcomes are to be measured and how to identify weaker areas;
 - Establish how the Committee will refer elements that require more attention or expertise to the appropriate forum i.e. a Task Group;
 - Define the data set that the Committee should look at on a regular basis and the measures in these areas.

Key areas as identified by the Task Group

8. The Task Group discussed a series of key areas that should be considered by the Committee, these included:
 - Transitions: throughout childhood, extending into adolescence and adult life; with particular reference to those who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and looked after children;
 - Catering for the impact of the military rebasing programme and its impacts on the Strategy;
 - Indicators in education i.e. attainment, exclusions (permanent and internal), number and impact of children registering for free school meals and referrals by in-school counselling services (where they exist or working with partners that provide such services externally);
 - Establish how to prevent children coming into care by identifying trends from the data collected;

- Draw focus on the well-being of young people in terms of what engages them, levels of social skills, whether they are getting adequate exercise and nutrition.

Areas of concern

Measures

9. The Task Group highlighted a number of concerns in terms of how we can measure outcomes, success and added value. One concern was raised with regard to ensuring that issues can be identified further on life effectively and how we measure that in comparison with identification in early years. Another issue came in the form of ensuring that terminology is correctly understood, with particular reference to what the definition of 'early help' is; where early help ends and becomes resolution; and the definition of 'the best possible start in life'.
10. It was also raised that there may be a need to separate measures geographically so that particular areas of need may be identified, including comparisons between towns and urban versus rural areas. This comparison may also include identifying differences in the methods of access to early help services as well as rates of access, referrals and changes in service take up over time.

Approach

11. The Task Group raised concern about a potential lack of a child-centred approach and the number of inter-dependent strategies operating in silos and not engaging in joined-up thinking. It was also raised that it needs to be identified how early help services are being accessed and how easy it is to do so, including the numbers of referrals and the success of these referrals in terms of going to the right service at the right time; in order to highlight areas where a more proactive approach is required.

School Environment

12. In discussing the key areas that the Committee should monitor in terms of the impact of the Strategy, the task group identified a number of concerns and questions that will need to be addressed in order for the Committee to undertake effective scrutiny of the Strategy and for the outcomes of the Strategy to be delivered.
13. One of the key concerns was how the Committee is to measure the impact of the Strategy and how it can be satisfied, that what the Committee receives is suitable for the purpose of monitoring the success of the Strategy. It was also raised that the outcomes are difficult to identify and therefore measure, particularly in terms of adding value.

14. The Task Group identified a number of concerns with regards to the school environment and how they link in with the implementation of the Strategy. One concern was whether data may be collected and used to highlight problems early, because often the indicators of a young person or child requiring additional support will manifest itself in the school environment and that it is one of the only places where data may be collected and measured. Such indicators include: changes in behaviour or overall behavioural issues manifested in reduced attendance, attainment or other performance indicators; non-engagement in social or extra-curricular activities and attendance to in-school counselling or well-being services. With regard to this, it was highlighted that many children may not engage in activities within school or do not like the dynamic of belonging to a club or activity and therefore, how can a personal preference be distinguished from an indication of early help being required.
15. The issue of narrowing the attainment gap was also raised in terms of being aware of nurturing the talents of those with high attainment whilst also improving that of those with lower attainment. It was also noted that not only consistent levels of attainment should be considered but perhaps changes in levels of attainment are more indicative. Furthermore, that attainment is not the only measure to indicate potential issues and should include performance in sport, music and other enriching activities.
16. Another issue that manifests itself in the school environment is bullying and how this can be measured in terms of its impact on the requirement of early help services. This was raised in relation to the concerns of the Task Group with regard to the wellbeing of young people.
17. A key issue in identifying and measuring all of the concerns outlined above is in the communication that takes place between schools and early help services. It is also noted that there is a challenge in schools being autonomous, particularly when it comes to receiving data as much of this is done on a voluntary basis only.

Recommendations

18. The Task Group was asked to look at how the Children's Select Committee could measure the effectiveness of the Early Help Strategy and whether it is achieving its objectives; this is addressed by the first set of recommendations. The second set of recommendations includes additional issues that were discussed in the process of establishing these measurements.
 - 1 **A)** That the dataset indicates whether a high or low number is good for each statistic;
B) The use of RAG ratings would be useful as a quick reference for the Committee; as a method of flagging up problems quickly and easily, including a lack of red items or where an item shows as amber too often, that it may therefore be required to be escalated to a red;
 - 2 **A)** Working with schools is key to recording behaviour, particularly changes in behaviour, in the school environment, including attendance;

- B) To measure how many referrals made by schools to early help services there are and how many of these are escalated, this may be in terms of a percentage;
 - C) Measure how many schools provide early help tools such as listening or counselling services and the age brackets for the provision;
 - D) Measure how effective we are as a Council at challenging schools on their use of pupil premium funding, particularly for the provision of counselling services;
 - E) Compare the levels of referrals into the Strategy for the 76% of 3-4 year olds who attend pre-school and those who do not;
 - F) Measure the number of referrals in the first year of secondary school as a way of indicating whether there were issues at the transition stage between primary and secondary school;
- 3
- A) Compare attainment at Key Stage 2 for those in receipt of free school meals and those who do not as an indicator of the impact of the transition from primary to secondary school;
 - B) Measure whether there is a marked decline in the number of children being registered as eligible for the receipt of free school meals as a result of the universal offer of free school meals in the infant years as well as the subsequent take up once the universal offer ceases;
 - C) That the receipt of free school meals may be an indicator of eligibility for other early help and therefore should be assessed in terms of its merit as an indicator;
- 4
- A) Use the data collected on NEETs as an indicator of the early help offer not being as effective as it could be;
 - B) Examine the effectiveness of the Early Help Strategy with regard to looked after children by measuring any decrease in the number of children coming into care;
- 5
- A) In order to measure the number of referrals and take up from military families, CAF s should incorporate an indication of whether the child is from a military family;
 - B) Measure the impact of military rebasing including the impacts on resources and the percentage of referrals coming from the military and whether there are additional people that would be receiving early help if not for similar military based services;
 - C) Identify and measure the difference in behaviour in military families i.e. occurrences of domestic violence and mental health issues;
- 6
- A) Measure the uptake of positive activities for young people (507B) through Area Boards;
 - B) Compare referral levels for those who participate in enriching activities and of those who do not;
- 7
- As the Committee has active Task Groups looking at issues surrounding SEND, the associated improvement plan for SEND services; for looked after children and schools with particular regard to the impact of 6th form

provision and careers advices; it is deemed most appropriate that these Task Groups retain any overlapping elements with the Early Help Strategy within their remit to apply their expertise and more in-depth analysis. This may also be employed in relation to other subtopics within the Early Help Strategy where a more in-depth investigation is deemed necessary.

Additional Recommendations:

- 8** That additional non child specific measures may need to be identified by the appropriate officers to measure the impact of issues such as: poverty, being a military family or family issues such as alcohol and substance abuse on the child;
- 9** There needs to be a method for raising a concern more easily, particularly for partner organisations, such as community youth clubs and how Community Youth Officers may be approached as the go to person. A more simplistic approach is required to raise concerns as a method of prevention to include the communication between partners and Community Youth Officers;
- 10** Support for Town and Parish Councils to signpost issues to communities on their websites is required to enable more effective communications;
- 11** Clarity for partner organisations should be established as to what the package of support could be if information is received to trigger the offer of early help. Partners need to be clear of what referral into the Strategy offers and the benefits of such action in order to tackle reluctance in referring children and young people.

Conclusion

19. The Task Group wish to highlight that, while there are both qualitative and quantitative measures, emphasis and reliance should not be placed on qualitative measures as this can lead to conclusions being subjective. The Task Group concluded that in holding the Executive to account, scrutiny have an important role to play. It was highlighted that as a function, scrutiny has authority to ask for additional measurements to be used that are above and beyond those required by the Department for Education.
20. It is proposed that the Children's Select Committee endorse the recommendations of the Task Group as set out in this report and refer them to the Cabinet Member for a response.

Early Help Strategy Task Group

Report author: Emma Dove – Senior Scrutiny Officer
01225 718071, emma.dove@wiltshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

14 October 2014

Task Group update

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Educational for 16-19s Task Group

Membership:

Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
George Jeans
Gordon King
Jacqui Lay
Mike Thompson

Terms of reference:

To review the quality, range and equity of access to further education in Wiltshire. The Task Group have also agreed the following outcomes for this review:

- a) Young people are aware of the full range of 16-19 opportunities available to them
- b) Young people feel supported to make informed choices from their local 16-19 offer
- c) The local 16-19 offer reflects what young people want
- d) Young people can access their local 16-19 offer
- e) The local 16-19 offer reflects the skill-sets that local employers want.

Recent activity:

In March 2013 the task group agreed to undertake a piece of wide-ranging 'learner voice' work, surveying Wiltshire young people about their experiences of 16-19 education and then conducting analysis of the provision on offer. Following further scoping it was decided that the time was not right to begin this review. In June 2014 it was put on hold.

On 9 September 2014 the O&S Management Committee agreed that this task group should now be asked to review the draft Wiltshire Education,

Employment & Skills Strategy 2014 prior to its approval by Cabinet on 11 November 2014. Task group meetings for this are now being arranged.

2. Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

Membership:

Ken Brough
Andrew Davis
Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Alice Kemp
Bill Moss
Bridget Wayman

Terms of reference:

- a) To monitor the implementation of any recommendations made by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group that are endorsed by the Children's Select Committee and accepted by the executive.
- b) To scrutinise Wiltshire Council's delivery of improvements to safeguarding children and young people as set out in the Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Plan.
- c) To receive a twice-annual report from the Council's Lead Member for Safeguarding Children and Young People providing details of their safeguarding activity.
- d) To continue/conduct ongoing scrutiny of services for Looked After Children (LAC).
- e) To work in collaboration with the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel to clarify future joint-working arrangements.

Recent activity:

The task group met on 12 September 2014 and considered the most recent Safeguarding Improvement Data Set. The following was discussed:

- Several indicators suggested a rise in child protection activity since the previous quarter. The task group were concerned at the number of indicators RAG-rated as 'red' due to missed targets and exceeding statistical neighbours, including the following:
 - Number of Strategy discussions started
 - Number of Section 47 enquiries started
 - Rate per 10,000 of initial Child Protection Conferences (CPC) taken place
 - Rate per 10,000 children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

- Members were concerned that the above-target activity could reflect cases being in the child protection system unnecessarily. It was reported that the opening of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has made initiating Strategy discussions easier, contributing the rise in their numbers. One week's worth of Strategy Discussions would be audited to investigate the reasons behind their increase. The task group have requested reports describing the findings of these audits and presenting reasons for the for the number of Strategy 47 enquiries being commenced.
- The task group also received a report introducing the new proposed model for social care audits. The new audit tool and guidance is based on those currently operational in Essex which have been commented on positively by OFSTED. The model is more holistic and allows the opportunity to consult a wider range of stake holders. However, the it will also require more time from auditors for completion. It will be piloted during the mock OFSTED inspection due at the end of September and any further amendments to the model and/or tools will then be made. It is anticipated that the tool and guidance will be in use on a monthly basis by the end of 2014.
- The task group will now focus on a) implementing a consistent protocol for how child protection and LAC indicators should be RAG-rated, and b) agreeing a reporting and monitoring mechanism for the increasingly qualitative auditing framework. Members feel it is important that qualitative audits lead to evidence that conclusions can be drawn from.

Forward work programme summary:

The task group will next meet on 14 November 2014. The forward work programme includes:

1. Multi Agency Forums (MAFs) – current operation and sustainability of MAFs across the county.
2. WSCB Business Plan 2014/15 and Annual Report 2013/14
3. Out of County Placements

3. Schools and the Local Authority Task Group

Members:

Ken Brough
 John Hawkins
 Jon Hubbard
 Gordon King
 Phillip Whalley (Chairman)

Terms of reference:

- a) To explore how the Council promotes excellence and fulfils its statutory duties to children and young people in Wiltshire's schools.
- b) To explore whether the services offered by the Council meet the needs of schools and students, and if not, how they could be developed to help improve outcomes.

Recent activity:

The task group met on 7 August, 5 September and 12 September 2014. The meetings have focused on drawing out key themes from the task group's meetings with head teachers, and on designing an online survey to be sent to all Wiltshire schools. The survey is scheduled to be launched in October and will be asking head teachers and business managers about their perceptions of the schools services they currently receive from the council and their schools' intentions regarding the future take-up of those services.

Several members of the task group will be attending the LGiU training event in Norwich on the 3 November: Strengthening the role of Councils and Councillors in the Local School System.

Forward work programme summary:

- Designing and implementing a survey of Wiltshire schools (October)
- Attending LGiU training event (November)
- Analysing results of the survey of Wiltshire schools (November)

4. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Task Group**Membership:**

Ken Brough
Trevor Carbin
Mary Champion
Sue Evans
Simon Jacobs
Alice Kemp (Chairman)
John Walsh

Terms of reference:

To explore how we can best prepare young people with SEND for Adulthood, including:

1. local education and training options, including managing transitions
2. planning for employment and supporting local employers to employ young people with SEND

3. providing housing options to support young people with SEND to live in their communities
4. developing communities that are inclusive, welcoming and supportive of young people with SEND.

Recent activity:

The task group met on 4 July, 10 September and 3 October. The meetings have covered the following:

Housing

- Members received a briefing on the Homes4Wiltshire process, the particular challenges that people with SEND may face in finding accommodation and the support provided by the council. Housing staff receive some training to understand the needs of vulnerable adults and an easy-read version of the Homes4Wiltshire application form is available. Members are considering whether an easy-read guide to the applications process, designed around people with SEND, may also be helpful to avoid confusion and disappointment during the bidding process.
- An alternative to single occupancy flats is several 'bedsits' located together with space for one stay-over carer. This is an efficient way of providing supported living to several people with SEND and mitigates the risk of tenants becoming isolated in the community. Members were concerned that there may be not sufficient suitable properties available or being built. On 22 October the task group will meet with the executive members for housing and relevant officers from the New Homes team to discuss this.

Employment

- Members received a briefing on the Supported Internships Programme: Eight young people from Wiltshire are being supported under this pilot project specifically designed for young people with complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The young people attend a three day study programme, before commencing two consecutive twelve week work experience placements within the council or one of its contractors. The internships are designed to equip young people with the skills needed for work. At the end of the internship placements the aim will be for the young people to move directly into sustainable paid employment. Members are interested in how this scheme can be expanded and made sustainable in future years, including encouraging other organisations to take part and offer employment opportunities to young people with SEND.
- Members received a briefing on the council's Wiltshire Employment Support Team (WEST), which assists young people into finding and sustaining paid employment with local employers. WEST provides a person centred service, working with the young person to enable them

to reach stability when in paid employment with the planned aspiration for them to do this independently.

Community Inclusion

- Members received a briefing on the work of the council's Voice & Influence Team. Wiltshire is considered a national exemplar of hearing the voice of young people with SEND and has been mentioned in a recent government white paper. New legislation means that young people's views will increasingly take precedence over those of their parents; this heightens the need to ensure the council is consulting effectively with all young people regardless of their disability. Members are interested in to what extent young people's voices have a genuine impact on the policy or service being consulted on.
- Members also received a briefing on the council's Community Connecting team. The team's assists people 14 to 25 years of age with SEND to find out more about their local community and how they can access some of the following:
 - Finding voluntary work
 - Socialising
 - Joining a club
 - Further Education; including College courses and other training opportunities
 - Using their community facilities to do things that they enjoy
 - Meeting friends
 - Traineeships
 - Travel training

Education

- Members visited Fairfield Community College – an Independent Specialist Provider and charity for 18-25 students with learning disabilities. The college site is a 26 acre farm in the village of Dilton Marsh in Wiltshire. In September 2011 the College opened a new café and improved farm shop where students can learn 'real work skills' to prepare them for work experience and post college employment. Residential students live in college houses in the village. The College offers a thirty eight week year to first year students and a forty week year to second and third year students.
- Members are interested the merits of residential provision versus day provision and to what extent the whole cost and impact on outcomes are considered when making placement decisions. They are also interested in how to ensure that all parents and young people have an equal opportunity to secure the placement they would like.

Forward work programme summary:

8 Oct Education: visit to Wiltshire College – Trowbridge campus

15 Oct	Education: visit to Wiltshire College – Salisbury campus
22 Oct	Task Group meeting: Housing: Meeting with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Housing officers
12 Nov	Task Group meeting To discuss the draft final report
25 Nov	Meeting with parents who are members of SW Mencap

Proposals

1. To note the update on task group activity provided.
2. To note that O&S Management Committee have asked the Education for 16-19s Task Group to consider the draft Wiltshire Education, Employment & Skills Strategy 2014, with conclusions and recommendations referred to Cabinet for consideration on 11 November 2014.

Report author: Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer,

01225 718052, henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee	Review / Task Group	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Scrutiny Officer	STATUS (incl. date)
		Cabinet 16nd Sep	Cabinet 7th Oct	Cabinet 11th Nov	Cabinet 16th Dec	Cabinet 20th Jan	Council 3rd Feb	Cabinet 17th Mar	Cabinet 21st Apr	Cabinet 19th May		
			Council 21st Oct				Council 24th Feb			Council 12th May		
CHILDREN'S Page 57	Reducing Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2020		14 October Children's Select								HP	
	Update on meetings with the executive and directors		14 October Children's Select								HP	Meetings scheduled for 3 October
	Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group	Review in progress									HP	Next meeting 14 November: 1. MAFs; 2. WSCB Business Plan 2014/15 and Annual Report 2013/14
	Education for 16-19s Task Group				9 December Children's Select						HP	Update following recommendations to November Cabinet on the Draft Economic Wiltshire Education, Employment & Skills Strategy.
	SEND Task Group				9 December Children's Select						HP	Next meeting 3 October
	Executive response to the Early Help Strategy Task Group				9 December Children's Select						HP	To look at how to the CSC should monitor delivery of the Early Help Strategy.
	Schools and the Local Authority Task Group						27 Jan Children's Select				HP	Final report to Committee likely in January 2015

This page is intentionally left blank

Coalition Changes – Update May to Sept 2014

New early years pupil premium

1. The DFE have consulted on a new early years pupil premium. Three and four year olds from low income families are to benefit from a new £50 million fund helping to prevent them falling behind before they have even started school. The new early years pupil premium, worth over £300 per pupil, is designed to narrow the attainment gap between young children from low-income families and their peers.
2. The early years pupil premium aims to help early years settings raise the quality of their provision and the [consultation](#)¹ will look at how best to make it work when it is introduced from April 2015.

Mental health and behaviour in schools

3. The DFE published [guidance](#)² for schools which includes:
 - how and when to refer to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
 - practical advice to support children with emotional and behavioural difficulties
 - strengthening pupil resilience
 - tools to identify pupils for likely to need extra support
 - where/how to access community support
4. The guidance outlines to schools that they could use pupil questionnaires, teacher training toolkits and mental health factsheets to help identify potential issues.

Promoting British values in school

5. The Department for Education has launched a consultation on strengthening powers to intervene in schools which are failing to actively promote British values. Values include:
 - democracy
 - the rule of law
 - individual liberty

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-50m-fund-to-help-most-disadvantaged-3-and-4-year-olds>

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

New school food standards

6. A [new set of standards](#)³ for all food served in schools was launched by the DFE. They will be mandatory in all maintained schools, and new academies and free schools. The new standards include:
- 1 or more portions of vegetables or salad as an accompaniment every day
 - at least 3 different fruits, and 3 different vegetables each week
 - an emphasis on wholegrain foods in place of refined carbohydrates
 - an emphasis on making water the drink of choice:
 - limiting fruit juice portions to 150mls
 - restricting the amount of added sugars or honey in other drinks to 5%
 - no more than 2 portions a week of food that has been deep fried, batter coated, or breadcrumb coated
 - no more than 2 portions of food which include pastry each week
7. The standards will become a legal requirement for schools from January 2015.

Key Information for parents on schools' performance

8. The DFE have consulted on the information that should be provided to parents to get a clear picture on how their school is performing. Under the [proposals](#)⁴:
- primary schools will show:
 - pupils' progress from age 4 to 11 (compared to others with similar starting points in reception)
 - what proportion reach the new standard at age 11
 - how well pupils do on average at age 11
 - what proportion of their pupils are rated 'high achieving'
 - secondary schools will show:
 - pupils' progress from age 11 to 16 (compared to others with the same results at age 11)
 - what their pupils' average grade is across [8 subjects](#)⁵
 - what proportion of their pupils achieve at least a C in English and maths
 - what proportion of their pupils achieve the EBacc
 - colleges and school sixth forms will show:

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-school-food-standards>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-to-be-given-key-information-on-schools-performance>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure>

- students' progress in academic subjects or Tech Levels (the new gold-standard technical qualifications that finally place vocational education on a par with A levels)
- what students' average grade is in each category
- the progress made by students who joined them without a C in English and/or maths
- what proportion of their students drop out
- what proportion of their students go on to further study, a job or training at the end of their courses (when the data is robust enough)

Fairer school funding

9. In July, central government announced the results of its fairer funding consultation and signalled that it would be allocating extra money to the least fairly funded local councils from 2015. Wiltshire will benefit from this though the exact amount will not be known until later this year.

Education Services Grant

10. In July, central government published the results of its consultation regarding the reduction of the education services grant that Local Authorities receive. ESG is paid to local authorities and academies on a per pupil basis as an un-ringfenced grant. Local authorities receive additional funding for the obligations that they have to fulfil to both academies and maintained schools (known as "retained duties"). Wiltshire expects a reduction of up to £1 million as a result of the reduction in 2015-16.

SEND

11. A range of guidance documents were published by the DFE at the end of August and beginning of September to help professionals to implement the new arrangements from the 1 September.
 - [SEND: managing changes to legislation from September 2014 \(28 August for all professionals\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014)⁶
 - [SEND: guide for social care professionals \(1 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-social-care-professionals)⁷
 - [SEND: guide for schools and alternative provision settings \(1 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings)⁸
 - [SEND: guide for further education providers \(1 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-further-education-providers)⁹
 - [SEND: guide for early years settings \(5 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-early-years-settings)¹⁰

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-social-care-professionals>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-further-education-providers>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-early-years-settings>

- [SEND: guide for health professionals \(9 September\)](#)¹¹

New freedoms to help local areas support vulnerable children

12. Under new regulations, local authorities will be able to delegate social care functions to mutuals, community interest companies and other not-for-profit organisations to deliver children's social care. The details are outlined in the [government's response](#)¹² to the consultation on powers to delegate social care functions. The new regulations are to be introduced in autumn 2014 and only bodies working on a not-for-profit basis will be able to take on the functions.

New rules for adoption

13. In July [new rules](#)¹³ came into force around adoption. They include:

- removing barriers by ensuring ethnicity is not prioritised over other factors
- introducing new rules requiring councils to actively consider fostering for adoption places where appropriate - allowing children to move in with their adoptive family much earlier
- placing a mandatory requirement on all councils to tell prospective adopters about their entitlements

14. The government has also introduced the adoption passport, which sets out the rights and entitlements of adoptive parents, and the new online adoption maps, which allow potential adopters to find out more information about services in their area.

Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children

15. [Statutory guidance](#)¹⁴ has been published which sets out the steps local authorities should take to plan for the provision of support for looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children and child victims of trafficking.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-health-professionals>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-freedoms-to-help-local-areas-support-vulnerable-children>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/adoption-getting-it-right-making-it-work>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

Child poverty strategy 2014 to 2017

16. The government remains committed to the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020 by breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Actions set out in the [strategy](#)¹⁵ include:

- Supporting families into work
- Reducing costs to support people's living standards
- Raising educational attainment

Academies Update

17. Number in Wiltshire as at beginning of September 2014:

Sponsored academies	13
Non-sponsored converter academies	40

18. New Academies in September:

St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School, Wootton Bassett
Queen's Crescent Primary School, Chippenham
St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Chippenham
Castle Mead Primary Academy, Trowbridge (new school)
Wellington Primary Academy (new school)

19. Salisbury Sixth Form College (Free School) opened in September 2014.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

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

Largely taken from the DFE website content 20 May to 26 September 2014.

26/09/14

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/child-poverty-strategy-launched>

This page is intentionally left blank