

Review of the work of the Children's Select Committee

Purpose

1. To highlight key aspects of the work undertaken by the Select Committee during recent times and to recommend topics as legacy items to the Management Committee for possible inclusion in a new overview and scrutiny work programme after the elections.

Background

2. An opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny (OS) to look back on its activity during the outgoing council has become a standing fixture in its learning and improvement journey. This 'legacy process' complements other opportunities for reflection, such as OS Member training workshops, annual meetings with officers and executive members to discuss work priorities (as well as regular informal dialogue between the two) and the LGA Peer Review of OS undertaken in 2015.
3. The legacy process allows members to consider OS's successes and challenges during the past four years, including the key scrutiny reviews and their impact on the council's agreed priorities. With the benefit of this experience it can then submit suggestions for OS under the 2017-21 council to consider to maximise the impact of the work it will undertake.
4. OS Management Committee has agreed the following legacy process for the 2013-17 council:
 - a. **OS Legacy Workshop** (17 January 2017)
A learning and development event where executive and OS members undertook a high-level review of OS's successes and challenges this council. The outcomes from this will be reported to the Management Committee in March.
 - b. **Select Committee 'end of term' reports** (February / March)
The report below highlights successful past pieces of work by Children's Select Committee and provides the opportunity to recommend ongoing

pieces of work for possible inclusion in the OS work programme of the new council.

c. **OS Management Committee considers the OS Legacy report 2013-17** (14 March 2017)

An overarching report presenting the outcomes from the Legacy Workshop in January and each select committees' suggestions of priority topics under the next council. Management Committee will then agree a report for submission to the new council to be considered at Management Committee's first meeting (6 June 2017).

Key Activities and Achievements

5. The following is a list of some of the Children's Select Committee's key past activities and achievements which demonstrates the contribution it has made to decision-making, policy development and good governance of the Council:

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
Task Groups, Rapid Scrutiny Exercises and other ad hoc exercises			
Task Groups:			
Special Schools and Post-16 SEN Task Group	May 2011 – June 2013	Established to identify the strengths and weaknesses of current special school and post-16 SEN provision in Wiltshire and consider examples of best practice in special school and post-16 provision in Wiltshire and other authority areas.	<p>Made recommendations on how special schools and post-16 SEN provision can be developed to ensure improved outcomes for Wiltshire residents with SEN.</p> <p>Set services for children and young people with SEN/LDD as a priority for overview and scrutiny.</p>
Further Education in Salisbury Task Group	May 2012 – December 2013	The Task Group was reconvened 18 months following its initial report to undertake a detailed review of progress regarding post-16 education available in the Salisbury area.	Provided progress updates to all 12 original recommendations along with The Trafalgar School at Downton and the Local Authority's role.
Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group	May 2012 – January 2017	<p>Established in May 2012 to monitor and scrutinise implementation of the improvements to safeguarding arrangements required by Ofsted following its inspection of services.</p> <p>The Task Group was re-established to monitor the implementation of the Task Group's recommendations and to scrutinise the delivery of improvements.</p>	<p>Provided an initial final report in March 2013 produced 41 recommendations addressing: communications; children's social care workforce; locality working; and members and safeguarding.</p> <p>Monitored reports presenting the results of internal audits of child protection practice.</p> <p>Produced an interim report in July 2015 to provide recommendations to strengthen the improvement plan, and another interim report in</p>

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			<p>January 2016 to detail work undertaken and proposed work before the Task Group was disbanded.</p> <p>Submitted recommendations to increase the robustness of the safeguarding improvement plan.</p>
Schools and the Local Authority Task Group	January 2013 – January 2015	Established in response to government reforms to the education system and the changing relationship between local authorities and schools.	<p>Explored how the council can continue to promote excellence in schools as the local authority's role changes.</p> <p>Recommended a review of the services we should continue to offer to schools.</p>
Education for 16-19's Task Group	January 2014 – November 2014	Established to consider the Draft Wiltshire Education Employment and Skills Strategy, and examine the various options, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 11 November 2014.	Provided 12 recommendations in a report provided as an appendix to the draft strategy for consideration by Cabinet.
SEND Task Group	January 2014 – January 2016	Examined the best ways to prepare young people with SEND for Adulthood. Topics included: education; employment; housing options; and developing inclusive communities.	Investigated how the council can help prepare young people with SEND for adulthood and create more inclusive communities.
Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group	February 2014 – July 2016	Established to work in conjunction with a review of how the council meets its statutory duty to secure young people aged 13-19 access to sufficient positive leisure-time activities that improve their wellbeing, and sufficient facilities for such activities.	Contributed to a major review of how activities for young people will be delivered in the future.
Early Help Strategy Task Group	June 2014 – April 2015	CSC received the Early Help Strategy 2013-17 in draft, which set out the Council's proposals for Wiltshire's early help offer, including what it was doing, the desired improved outcomes for children	Investigated how CSC can efficiently and effectively monitor the delivery of the Early Help Strategy 2013-17

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		and young people and the priority objectives to achieve this. CSC established the task group in response to this.	Requested that update reports are presented to CSC at six month intervals with the ability to refer issues that required more in depth analysis to a task group or rapid scrutiny as appropriate.
Children's Centres Task Group	January 2015 – June 2015	Established to consider the re-commissioning process through which Wiltshire Council Children's Centre provision was commissioned via voluntary organisations.	Provided recommendations for both the Council and Children's Centres which aimed to help achieve maximum impact and value for money.
Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group	April 2015 – December 2016	The task group was established to focus on the Prevent strand of Wiltshire Council's Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) action plan's 'Prevent, Protect, Pursue' themes.	<p>Extra CSE training sessions for Wiltshire councillors and monitoring of the council's CSE action plan.</p> <p>The task group produced recommendations on the council's CSE action plan including ensuring that the outcomes could be measured and monitored.</p>
Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group (joint with Health Select)	June 2015 – March 2016	Undertake jointly with Health Select to explore and help develop the work already underway in Wiltshire communities to tackle obesity amongst children living in poverty and their families.	Explored the links between poverty and unhealthy eating amongst children
School Improvement Strategy Task Group	March 2016 – January 2017	CSC agreed the School Improvement Strategy as a work priority and established the task group to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Wiltshire School Improvement Strategy.	Compared Wiltshire's School Improvement Strategy with those of other local authorities and made recommendations aimed to help ensure all pupils attend an excellent school and could achieve their full potential.

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Rapid Scrutiny Exercises:			
Overnight Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People	December 2013	CSC received a report summarising the joint review between the Council and NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group on overnight short breaks for disabled Children and Young People in Wiltshire.	Considered the proposals under a joint review between the Council and NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group on overnight short breaks for disabled Children and Young People in Wiltshire.
Children's Community Health Services Retender	January 2016	Children's community health services in Wiltshire were being retendered with a single provider of children's community health services, rather than by five organisations. A decision had been made by Cabinet on 13 October 2015 regarding the preferred provider.	The rapid scrutiny exercise produced recommendations on the new performance monitoring framework resulting from the retender of Wiltshire's children's community health services.
Select Committee agenda items			
School Places Strategy 2015-20	July 2015	Received the Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2015-2020 before it became a key framework document for the Council in considering any statutory proposals for changes to school organisation including the commissioning of new schools.	Encouraged comprehensive consultation of area boards when developing the Strategy.
Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)	March 2016 onwards	As part of a commitment to closer working with young people the committee now receives update reports from their young people's representative	Created a closer working relationship between the CSC and Wiltshire's young people.
Early Help Dataset	May 2016 & January 2017	The Early Help Dataset helps us evidence the impact of Wiltshire's early help offer. CSC received copies of the dataset at the May 2016 and January 2017 meetings.	Gained assurance that the Early Help Dataset was a suitable mechanism for providing oversight and delivery of the Early Help Strategy, and that its recommendations had been acted upon.

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations	Annual	Annual reports to CSC providing an overview of pupil performance at the end of each key stage and compares attainment in Wiltshire with national, south west and statistical neighbour performance.	Largely noting the performance figures. Have requested further information and a briefing on phonics.
Adoptions West	Regular updates	Regular updates on the progress of Wiltshire's collaboration with five other local authorities and the voluntary sector toward developing a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) which is currently known as Adoption West.	Assurance of progress made in the development of the RAA.

Ongoing work

6. The following is a list of activities and reviews which the Select Committee considers important to include as ongoing pieces of work in any new overview and scrutiny work programme. Every effort has been made to bring reviews to a conclusion in time for the end of the current Council but clearly some things remain ongoing due to the significance or long-term nature of the topic.

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
Task Groups:			
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Task Group	TBC	Council and the Wiltshire CCG have recommissioned a new integrated service delivery model for primary and specialist CAMHS to meet the needs of children and young people.	Identified as a priority by CSC and WAY.
SEND Passenger Transport	TBC		Identified as a priority in discussions between chairman and executive member.
Academisation	TBC		

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
Review of the Strategy and Support Programme for Disadvantaged Learners	TBC		Recommendation came out of the School Improvement Strategy Task Group's final report.
Select Committee items			
Pre-Meeting Information Briefings	Standing item prior to meetings	Information briefings held prior to meetings where the information is of use to members but no formal resolutions are needed. Possible future topics: PAUSE Initiative Child-Carers	To provide members with useful information-only briefings, and to agree possible future topics.
Activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)	Standing Item	Regular update reports from the WAY provided by the CSC Young People's representative.	To continue closer working with Wiltshire's young people.
Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations	Annual item	Provides an annual overview of pupil performance at the end of each key stage and compares Wiltshire's attainment with national, south west and statistical neighbours.	Committee requirement to receive these reports.
Early Help Dataset – Common Assessment Framework	TBC	The Early Help Dataset was created in September 2014. The dataset has continually evolved following ongoing review from the Early Intervention Sub Group and a formal review by the Early Help Task Group.	It was noted further work was needed to assess those indicators about children and young people with CAFs.
Exclusion Zones for Fast Food Outlets	TBC	Committee received a report on possible proliferation of fast food outlets (particularly near schools) through the planning process following reference to it in recommendation 12 of the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Risk Group.	Resolution following the item considered in December 2016

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
Nursery Places – 30hours Free Entitlement for Working Parents	January 2018	Update to find out the impact of the increased childcare entitlement from September 2017.	Resolved at January 2017 meeting when considering Nursery Places report
Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel	Annual item	To continue receiving annual reports from the panel – with separate sections in the reports addressing Child Sexual Exploitation.	Committee requirement to receive these reports. Resolved at January 2017 meeting to receive separate sections on CSE.
Corporate Parenting Panel	Annual item	To continue receiving annual reports from the panel	Committee requirement to receive these reports.

7. In considering which areas to recommend for future work, the Committee is asked to be mindful that the Management Committee will need to leave space and capacity for those leading the function after the election to develop their own work programme based on issues resulting from public views expressed during the election period and following early engagement with any new Executive.

Next Steps

8. The Management Committee meets on 14 March 2017 and will receive the reports from the three select committees. It will also consider a similar report based on its activities primarily in the corporate arena. The members of the Management Committee will give their views on what should be included in a final legacy report which will be written by Scrutiny officers in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Following the elections this will then be made available to the new Management Committee, appointed by Council on 16 May 2017, at its first meeting scheduled for 6 June 2017.

Recommendations

9. To agree which topics to recommend to the Management Committee as requiring further work in the new Council, including reasons.
10. To note the next steps described in paragraph 8.

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