

Task Group update

1. Safeguarding Children & Young People Task Group

Membership:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Special School and Post-16 SEN Task Group

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

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

3. Major Contracts Task Group

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

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