

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

27 January 2015

Task Group update

Purpose

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

1. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task Group

This task group was established by the committee on 14 October following a request from the executive to undertake a piece of scrutiny work on this topic.

On 22 January the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee will meet with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding and Associate Director for Children and Families to discuss where this task group can add most value. A verbal update on this will be provided.

2. 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:

On 11 November 2014 this task group submitted a report to Cabinet on the draft Wiltshire Education, Employment & Skills Strategy 2014. It is now in abeyance and it is proposed that it is now disbanded.

3. Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group (joint with Health Select Committee) – to be confirmed

On 13 January Health Select Committee discussed a possible Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group, with the intention of this being a joint exercise with the Children's Select Committee. A briefing note from Frances Chinemana, Public Health Consultant, was considered and is attached here at Appendix 1.

Further discussions will now take place to agree terms of reference and an approach for the task group, prior to its formal establishment and membership being sought. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

4. 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:

On 10 December the task group met and considered reports on:

Multi Agency Forums (MAFs)

- It was reported that the council does provide encouragement and support to MAFs, but does not 'own' them. They come under the auspices of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB).
- Members asked for clarity on what the role of MAFs is, given that they are an important part of the council's Early Help and safeguarding work and that they do not all operate in the same way.
- It was agreed that there is valuable social capital in MAF attendees from different agencies coming together and building relationships.

It was resolved that:

1. The MAFs' current terms of reference would be circulated to task group members.
2. Statistics on social worker attendance at MAFs would be circulated to task group members.
3. Members would attend a selection of MAFs around the county in order to better understand the different ways in which they operate.
4. With this evidence, the task group will revisit MAFs at its March meeting.

Common Assessment Framework (CAFs)

CAFs were recently rebranded and became Early Help CAFs. The new version includes a broad scoring system where the severity of the case can be rated. CAFs form an important element of the council's early help work.

The task group considered information on

- a. The number of active Early Help CAFs broken down by referring agency
- b. The process for stepping up/down to Social Care
- c. The number of Early Help CAFs that have been open more than 1 year/2 years

A key factor in the success of a CAF is setting smart objectives rather than non-specific vague objectives. Work is underway to improve the writing of CAFs.

Annual Report 2013/14 and Business Plan 2014/15 of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

These documents were considered by the task group and can be viewed here:

WSCB Annual Report 2013/14:

http://www.wiltshirelscb.org/images/stories/pdfs/WSCB.Annual.Report.2013-2014_FINAL.09072014.pdf

WSCB Business Plan 2014/15:

<http://www.wiltshirelscb.org/images/stories/pdfs/WSCB.Business.Plan.2014-15.FINAL.pdf>

The task group resolved that:

1. Officers would provide an update on the development of the council's Social Networking Policy.
2. As agreed in its July 2013 report, the task group would compare the minutes of WSCB meetings with its Business Plan to ensure that the agreed objectives are being addressed.
3. To recommend that the format of future WSCB Annual Reports and Business Plans is more reader-friendly by including an executive summary of the key points covered.

Forward work programme summary:

- 28 January 2015 – child protection and LAC data scrutiny
- 31 March 2015 – 'deep dive' meeting looking at MAFs
- 27 May 2015 – child protection and LAC data scrutiny
- 9 September – 'deep dive' meeting

Topics for 'deep dive' meetings:

1. Quality assurance of the 'Safeguarding considerations' sections in committee reports
2. Consideration of the Corporate Parenting Panel's Care Leavers Working Group report on care leavers
3. Out-of-county placements

5. Schools and the Local Authority Task Group

The task group's final report is included elsewhere on this agenda.

6. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Task Group

The task group's final report is included elsewhere on this agenda.

Proposals

1. To note the update on task group activity provided.
2. To disband the Education for 16-19s Task Group.
3. To note that discussions are underway regarding a joint Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group with the Health Select Committee and an update will be brought to the next meeting.

4. To note that the Safeguarding Children and Young People's Task Group has considered the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) Annual Report 2013/14 and Business Plan 2014/15.
 5. To endorse the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group's recommendation that the format of future WSCB Annual Reports and Business Plans be amended to be more reader-friendly by including an executive summary of the key points covered.
-

Report author: Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer,

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

Appendices

Appendix 1 Briefing note on obesity and child poverty