

AGENDA

Meeting: CHILDRENS' SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Place: County Hall, Trowbridge
Committee Room: Council Chamber
Date: 8 November 2007
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this agenda to Karen Linaker, Scrutiny Support Officer, Corporate & Library Services Department, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 713056 or e-mail karenlinaker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Briefing Arrangements for the Chairman and Vice Chairman 8th November at 9.45am in the Scrutiny Office

Elected Members

Mr P Coleman (Vice Chairman)	Mr W Moss
Mr A Davis	Mr S Oldrieve
Mr T Deane	Mrs P Rugg
Dr J English	Mrs C Soden (Chairman)
Mrs M Groom	Mrs M White
Mrs E Hannaford-Dobson	Mr C Winchcombe
Mrs G Hill	

Non-Elected Voting Members

Ms R MacDonald:	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Mrs E Leonard:	Parent Governor Representative (Special Needs)
Ms J Miller:	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Mr W Snow:	Church of England Diocesan Representative
Dr M Thompson:	Roman Catholic Church Diocesan Representative

Non-Elected Non Voting

Mrs C Williamson:	Primary School Headteachers Representative
Mr J Colquhoun:	Secondary School Headteachers Representative
Mr J Hawkins:	School Teacher Representative
Mr C King:	Children & Young People's Representative
Vacancy:	Children Charity Sector Representative (Barnardos)
Vacancy:	Children Charity Sector Representative (National Children's Home)
Vacancy:	Children Charity Sector Representative (NSPCC)

PART I

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Chairman's Announcements**
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th September 2007 (enclosed).
4. **Members' Interests** To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.
5. **Public Participation** The County Council welcomes contributions from members of the public and has agreed to set aside 15 minutes at the beginning of meetings for questions or statements. Members of the public wishing to ask a question or make a statement should give written notice (including details of any question or statement) to the officer named above **by 12.00 noon on Monday 5th November 2007**.
6. **Member Requests** Mr Snow, Church of England Diocesan Representative on this committee, has submitted a Member Request Form, asking members to scrutinize:

“The processes by which the local authority, in collaboration with the diocese when relevant, support and nurture flexible and innovative structures to meet the needs of small schools experiencing periods of difficulty.”

An initial briefing note written by the Department for Children & Education in response to this Member Request will follow as agenda item 7, to assist members in assessing whether or not this matter warrants being added to the work programme as a formal committee item for members to consider at the next appropriate meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7. **Response to Member Request Regarding Support for Small Schools Experiencing Periods of Difficulty (report to follow)**

To consider an initial response note to the Member Request submitted by Mr Snow regarding the local authority's support (in collaboration with the diocese where relevant) for small schools experiencing periods of difficulty.

8. Key Findings from Wiltshire Schools' Ofsted Inspection Reports 2006/07 (enclosed)

To consider an annual update on findings from school inspections.

9. Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations (enclosed)

To consider a report detailing pupil performance in public tests and examinations in 2007, and Wiltshire's results in comparison with national expectations across all phases.

10. Internal Audit of Child Protection Arrangements (enclosed)

To consider an update report, which was previously written for the Final Accounts & Audit Committee regarding issues arising from the 2006/07 audit of child protection arrangements. Appendix 2 of this report is a note from the Assistant Director – Children & Families confirming the Department's response to this internal audit.

11. Academy Task Group - Final Report & Recommendations (enclosed)

To consider the Academy Task Group's final report and to endorse this for publication and communication with all partners listed as responsible for the recommendations listed in this report on pages 26 - 32. Members are also asked to consider how the committee should continue to monitor the progress of the academy project.

12. Holding the Executive to Public Account

- (i) The following items are so far listed in the Cabinet's latest rolling Forward Plan for November 2007 to February 2008 which relate to Children's Services:

In House Transfer of the Child Minding Service – To bring the child minding service together under the auspices of the local authority to comply with the Child Care Act 2006 (27th November 2007)

Annual Performance Assessment – Children's Services – To consider the annual performance assessment (18th December 2007)

Proposed Closure (to then open as an Academy) of Castledown School – To consider responses to the consultation in respect of the proposed closure of Castledown School (18th December 2007)

- (ii) The minutes of Cabinet are available on the Council's website.

(NB. These are required to be published normally within 2 working days of the meeting. This Committee, through its Chairman or 3 Members of the Committee, has the power to call in (i.e. delay implementation) of a

decision in exceptional circumstances should it have concerns. The Constitution sets out the procedure to be followed should this happen.

This Committee may also wish to review a decision of the Executive retrospectively, for example, to satisfy itself that the decision has been properly implemented or has achieved the aims that were intended.

Any Member of the Committee or any 5 Members of the Council can also request an item on the agenda of the Committee – using the appropriate form.)

Should Members wish to raise specific issues it would be helpful to have advance notice so that further information can be sought.

13. **Urgent Items**

The Committee is asked to consider any other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, would be considered to be a matter of urgency. Urgent items of a confidential nature may be considered in Part II of this agenda.

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