

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: The Kennet Room - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 13 June 2017
Time: 2.30 pm

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 **NOT** be a briefing session before this meeting.

Membership:

Cllr Mary Champion
Cllr Anna Cuthbert
Cllr Andrew Davis
Cllr Christopher Devine
Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Sue Evans
Cllr David Halik

Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Chris Hurst
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Leo Randall
Cllr Hayley Spencer
Cllr Roy While

Substitutes:

Cllr Pat Aves
Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Trevor Carbin
Cllr Ernie Clark
Cllr Stewart Dobson

Cllr Nick Fogg MBE
Cllr Peter Fuller
Cllr Deborah Halik
Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Jim Lynch

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Ms Jill Hughes
Dr Mike Thompson

Primary Parent Governor Representative
Clifton Diocesan RC Representative

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Miss Tracy Cornelius

Miss Sarah Busby

Mr John Hawkins

Miss Cathy Shahrokni

James Wilkins

Primary Head Teacher Representative

Secondary Head Teacher Representative

School Teacher Representative

Further Education Representative

Children & Young People's Representative

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

AGENDA

PART I

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

1 **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3 **Apologies**

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 14*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th March 2017.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

7 **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 on the front of the agenda 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 on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on **Tuesday 6th June** in order to be guaranteed of a written response. In order to receive a verbal response questions must be submitted no later than 5pm on **Thursday 8th June**. Please contact the officer named on the front 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.

8 The Work of Overview and Scrutiny in the Previous Council *(Pages 15 - 20)*

Children's Select Committee will receive a report detailing on ongoing work recommended by the former Management Committee as part of the development of a work programme for the function in the new Council.

The [Review of the work of Overview and Scrutiny - 2013-2017](#) will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 06 June, confirming the endorsement of any ongoing work recommended in the report.

The committee is asked to consider the scheduled activity agreed outlined in the attached report by the OS Management Committee.

9 Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report *(Pages 21 - 46)*

As part of the Children's Select Committee's work it receives the draft of the Corporate Parenting Panel's Annual Report, prior to it being received by Full Council

This draft report will form the annual update to Council from the Corporate Parenting Panel in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who are looked after.

The committee is asked to provide comments on the draft annual report. Also included as an appendix is the Children in Care Council's Annual Report.

10 DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education *(Pages 47 - 52)*

A report by Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, is attached presenting an update on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education.

11 Forward Work Programme *(Pages 53 - 56)*

The Committee is asked to note the attached document showing the relevant

items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme plus relevant items on the current Cabinet work programme.

12 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 5th September at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

13 **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

CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2017 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman), Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Atiqul Hoque, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Philip Whalley, Rev Alice Kemp, Dr M Thompson, Miss Tracy Cornelius, Mr J Hawkins and James Wilkins

Also Present:

Cllr Richard Gamble and Cllr Laura Mayes

16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chris Hurst, Miss Sarah Busby and Miss Cathy Shahrokni (who was substituted by Ms Jen Jones).

17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2017.

Arising therefrom:

Minute No 5 – Public Participation – Duke of Edinburgh Scheme In answer to a question from Cllr Jacqui Lay, Terence Herbert, Associate Director, Operational Children's services, reported that a written response to the questions posed at the last meeting about the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme would be circulated very shortly.

Minute No 12 – DfE Changes – Update from Department for Education – School Funding In answer to a question from Cllr Mary Douglas about school funding arrangements from April 2019, Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, reported that Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, had written to the Prime Minister setting out this Council's objections to the Government's proposals that schools would be directly funded from the department for Education from April 2019. Further details about these initial proposals would be considered by the Schools Forum when received.

However, it was noted that funding for high needs children and early years children would continue to be distributed via the Local Authority.

18 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

19 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

a) Children's Select Committee Parent Governor Representative Nominations

The current term of office for the Parent Governor Representatives (Ken Brough and Rev. Alice Kemp) was due to cease on 30 April 2017, which made this their last meeting. Calls for nomination had been sent out to eligible parent governors and the new representatives would be in office from 30 April 2017 – 30 April 2021.

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank the representatives for their hard work as members of this Committee.

b) Cabinet items

On 23 May 2017 Cabinet would consider the following item:

- Adoption West Implementation Decision Report

c) Last meeting of the Committee

The Chairman reported that along with the Parent Governor Representatives this was the last meeting of this Committee's membership prior to the May elections. He thanked Members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the last four year term of this Committee. He also thanked officers for their support and co-operation.

20 **Public Participation**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting or Councillors' questions.

21 **Activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)**

The Committee received an update on the activities of the WAY which was presented by James Wilkins, Children's & Young People's representative. He reported that WAY members had met on two occasions since the last report, one of which was at the Wiltshire Youth Summit on 8 February 2017. The January meeting had been held at County Hall, Trowbridge. In addition, members of the UK Youth Parliament had attended a Regional Convention in Bristol in December at which they considered the campaign priority for the coming year, which was Votes at 16.

James Wilkins went on to explain that WAY was seeking to organise its activities in relation to its Agenda for Action which had the following five priorities:-

- (1) Improve emotional being and mental health support for young people.
- (2) Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
- (3) Bullying
- (4) Public Transport
- (5) Environment

WAY members, Freya Piggott and Rebecca Richards had run a workshop on youth voice at the Wiltshire Youth Summit. The workshop had provided the chance to discuss and evaluate the value and meaningfulness of participation activities they had been involved in. These included opportunities to interview staff, taking part in community meetings, achieving outcomes such as free gym memberships for young people and campaigning for more after school clubs.

The Chairman considered that the Wiltshire Youth Summit was outstanding and included some excellent workshops.

Members referred to the Public Transport issues and recognised the problems faced by many young people living in a rural county, many parts of which did not have good transport links particularly during the evenings. James Wilkins explained that this issue had been addressed and a transport officer from Wiltshire Council had been invited to attend a WAY meeting to discuss the issues involved. Unfortunately, it transpired that there was little the Council could do to help at this time, particularly in view of tight budgets.

Resolved:

To thank James Wilkins for his excellent report and presentation which was noted with much interest.

22 **Children's Services Integration Project**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Council's Children's Services Leadership Team on 10 January 2017 had agreed some initial proposals to establish a new service model to achieve the Children's Services vision of:-

"One joined up approach to making a positive difference to outcomes for Wiltshire's children and young people, ensuring they are safe and have high aspirations."

The Chairman noted that a report had been provided which gave an oversight of these proposals.

It was reported that the proposal would impact on all Operational Children's Services teams including Early Help, MASH and Safeguarding & Assessment Services in Phase 1 of the proposal and Children in Care, Youth Offending Team, CSE and SEND in Phase 2. The existing statutory functions would continue to be delivered as well as some non-statutory work. The key change would be the way in which services would be delivered to children and families. The project would be phased to allow a focus on, in the first instance, what could realistically be achieved in the short term (i.e. in Phase 1).

During discussion Members were informed that it was expected that Phase 1 of the proposal would be completed by October 2017 but that Phase 2 was likely to be split into different phases and would take longer to bring into operation.

Resolved:

- (1) To note the report and fully endorse the direction of travel being scoped by the Children's Services Integration Project Phase 2, including the desire to work with partners in a more joined up and integrated way to deliver improved outcomes for children and families.**
- (2) To request the Chairman to write to the Director of Children's Services in support of these proposals, to be included with the bid for financial assistance to progress the Project.**

23 **Obesity and Child Poverty Update**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Final Report of the Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group was endorsed by the Health Select Committee on 8 March 2016 and by this Committee on 22 March 2016. An Executive Response was subsequently presented to this Committee on 31 May 2016 and the Health Select Committee on 21 June 2016.

A six month update was being provided on the implementation of Wiltshire's Reducing Child Poverty Strategy following the outcomes, recommendations and executive response of the Obesity and Child Poverty Task Group.

Attention was drawn, in particular, to the most recent data from the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) which showed that across Wiltshire excess weight (overweight and obese combined) among reception year children (4-5 years) had increased slightly by 0.1% and decreased slightly by 0.1% for children in year 6 (10-11 years).

Wiltshire remained below the 2015-16 South West average of excess weight among reception aged children (21.9%) and year 6 children (30.3%). Nationally, during the same period, there had been an increase in the percentage of reception year children with excess weight from 21.9% to 22.1% and in year 6 children from 33.2% to 34.2%. It was encouraging to note that Wiltshire's prevalence of excess weight was positive in relation to rising national and regional prevalence.

Members noted that Wiltshire's Obesity Strategy included a priority to reduce the variation in excess weight in children between the least and most deprived areas by 2% by 2020.

Data had been shared as part of the Community Joint Strategic Assessment (CJSA) events to enable local areas to identify priorities and actions around childhood obesity and child poverty. Several area boards had voted to prioritise the reduction of childhood obesity and a few so far had prioritised a reduction in child poverty, which was very encouraging.

During discussion, Members recognised that the lifestyle of children and their families was a major factor to be taken into account with the eating of fast and convenient foods.

Resolved:

- (1) To note the update provided on the implementation of Wiltshire's Reducing Child Poverty Strategy.**
- (2) To request a progress report in 12 months' time.**
- (3) To draw the attention of all Members to the Obesity Summit planned to be held on 21 July 2017.**

24 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the School Improvement Strategy**

Consideration was given to a report setting out the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the final report of the Improvement Strategy Task Group. It was noted that the report had been presented to this Committee at its previous meeting and had been endorsed.

During discussion, Cllr Philip Whalley, Chairman of the Task Group, stated that he was very pleased to see the positive executive responses to the recommendations. He stressed the need to offer School Improvement Services as a traded service as soon as possible, especially because of the move to direct funding of all schools. It was most important that the Council had a comprehensive and attractive offer on traded services available as soon as possible. The Associate Director, Commissioning, Performance & School Effectiveness confirmed that the timing of this was regarded as being of a high priority and every effort was being made to ensure that the traded service would be fully implemented by the time that direct funding of all schools was implemented, anticipated to be in September 2018.

Cllr Whalley also stressed the importance of continuing the programme which enabled advisors to make three half-day visits each year to their allotted schools in order that the Council was able to provide timely interventions and appropriate levels of support.

After discussion, during which members supported the views expressed by Cllr Whalley,

Resolved:

To note the executive response to the School Improvement Strategy Task Group's final report.

25 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group**

The Committee considered a report setting out the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the final report of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group. It was noted that the report had been presented to this Committee at its previous meeting and had been endorsed.

The Associate Director, Operational Children's Services drew attention to the recommendation regarding the adding of dedicated "practice weeks" to the Council's social care learning and improvement framework. He referred to the current programme of auditing, learning and development which allowed for a more dynamic analysis to lead directly to practice improvement. Consideration had been given to the introduction of "practice weeks" but it was not viewed at present to be an improvement on the current programme. However, this would be kept under review.

The Committee noted that there were a number of social work models currently implemented across the sector, many of which were subject to innovation research and analysis. Wiltshire was developing its intervention on the Relationship Based practice model and its integration into the new Children's Services Integration (CSI) model, which it was hoped would lead to a Good rating.

Resolved:

To note the executive response to the Task Group's final report.

26 **Task Group Update**

The Committee received updates on the activities of the following Task Groups/Boards:-

- SEND Task Group - The Revd. Alice Kemp, Chairman of the Task Group, reported that this was the conclusion of a long and complex piece of work and drew particular attention to the housing needs of young people which was a priority.
- Education Transformation Board
- Design and Task Board

Resolved:

- (1) To note the update on task group/board activity provided.
- (2) To request the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to consider the recommendations of the SEND Task Group, as set out in the report, regarding additional data to support more effective planning for future SEND housing needs.
- (3) To thank the Revd. Alice Kemp for all her work, particularly as Chairman of the SEND Task Group, noting that she would cease to be a parent governor representative (SEN) on this Committee.

27 **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education -**

The Committee received an update from Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director, on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education from January to February 2017 as follows:-

- Study of early education and development (SEED)
- Staffing and employment: advice for schools
- Academies update
- Academy conversion grant for local authorities
- Lenehan review into care of children with learning disabilities
- SEND: 19 - 25 year olds entitlement to EHCPs
- Statutory definition of child sexual exploitation
- Tackling child sexual exploitation: progress report
- Special guardianship: statutory guidance update
- Adoption Support Fund 2017/18
- Youth justice reforms

Resolved:

To note the update provided.

28 **Review of the Work of the Children's Select Committee**

The Committee considered a report which highlighted key aspects of the work undertaken by the Select Committee during the 2013-17 Council. The report also provided topics recommended as legacy items for consideration to be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee for possible inclusion in a new overview and scrutiny work programme after the imminent elections.

After some discussion,

Resolved:

- (1) To note the report and send it to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee for approval.

(2) To recommend that the following items be included in a new overview and scrutiny work programme:-

- DfE “Vision for Change” Report
- Adoptions West
- Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Reports
- School Improvement Strategy – Disadvantaged Learners
- Children’s Services Integration Project
- Children’s Community Centre Services
- Education and Employment
- SEND Partnership Working Update
- Regular Updates on Topical Issues
- Apprenticeships offered by Wiltshire Council and subsequent opportunities for employment
- Housing

29 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received a document showing the relevant items from the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

Resolved:

To note the Forward Work Programme for this Committee.

30 **Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved:

To note that the next scheduled meeting of this Committee was due to be held on Tuesday 13 June 2017 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 2.30pm, with an information briefing at 1.30pm.

31 **Urgent Items**

There were no items of urgent business.

(Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 4.20 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

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

13 June 2017

Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Purpose

1. To report relevant topics on the single overview and scrutiny (OS) forward work programme as agreed by the OS Management Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2017. (The OS Management Committee co-ordinates the overview and scrutiny forward work programme).
2. To report the task group activity of the previous Children's Select Committee and re-establish those task groups and appoint memberships as appropriate.
3. To report the next steps for developing this Committee's section of the single OS forward work programme.

Background

4. On 14 March 2017, the Children's Select Committee considered the key pieces of work it had undertaken during the 2013-2017 Council. These demonstrated the contribution it had made to decision-making, policy development and the good governance of the council.
5. The Committee also considered the topics within its remit remaining on the OS forward work programme, including forthcoming agenda items and ongoing or planned task groups. From this it agreed a list of topics that it recommended for inclusion on the OS forward work programme in the new council.
6. The Committee's recommendations, and those from the other select committees, were then considered by the OS Management Committee on 28 March 2017. From these, a legacy report was agreed and referred on to the Management Committee to consider in the new council. Management Committee will consider this report on 6 June and the topics relevant to this Committee are listed below (a verbal update on Management Committee's decisions will be provided at the meeting). Pending Management Committee's approval, Committee is asked to consider whether to take the work areas listed forward and any additional topics it wishes to explore:

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
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.
Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel Annual Report	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 Report	Annual item	To continue receiving annual reports from the panel	Committee requirement to receive these reports.
Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report	Annual Item	To continue receiving annual reports from the panel	Committee requirement to receive these reports.
Post 16 Area Wide Review (Joint lead by Economy & Planning and Education)	5 September 2017	Report to Cabinet presenting the findings of the Post-16 area review of education in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Swindon.	For CSC to comment and feed into the report prior to Cabinet.
Children's Service Integration Project	Autumn 2017	Update following the committee's endorsement of the direction of travel being scoped by the Children's services Integration Project Phase 2.	Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC
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

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
Obesity and Child Poverty Update	March 2018	12-month update on the progress with the Wiltshire's Reducing Child Poverty Strategy following the outcomes, recommendations, and executive response of the Obesity and Child Poverty task group.	Update following scrutiny activity.
Adoptions West	Ongoing updates.	Updates leading up to the scheduled implementation from April 2018.	CSC has been regularly updated on the progress of this work.
SEND Update	TBC	Update on the strategy and identified issues. To provide a summary of the current position and the future vision.	Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC
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
Children's Community Centre Services	TBC	Report on the progress made in this area.	Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC
Wiltshire Council Apprenticeships	TBC	Report on what opportunities there are within the council, and the delivery of them.	Identified as possible legacy topic by CSC
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Task Group	TBC	(To be agreed - identified as a priority by CSC and WAY)	N/A
SEND Passenger Transport	TBC	(To be agreed - to hold a scrutiny exercise on the provision of SEND transport when the results of the national study were available)	N/A
Academisation	TBC	(To be agreed - to leave as a priority to be considered dependant on the outcome of local authority MAT's)	N/A
Review of the Strategy and Support	TBC	(To be agreed - recommendation endorsed by CSC from the School	N/A

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
Programme for Disadvantaged Learners		Improvement Strategy Task Group's final report)	

7. On 24 May 2017 an OS councillor induction event was held and attendees were asked what key issues were raised by constituents during the election period. The list of issues put forward will be considered by Management Committee on 6 June 2017, including whether OS might add value, and updates will then be provided at the other select committees' first meetings where appropriate.

Appointments to Task Groups and Rapid Scrutiny Exercises

8. The Committee may wish to appoint or re-appoint members to those activities it decides should continue or commence. As a number of vacancies have arisen following the elections, the Committee may wish to simply re-appoint those members who remain on the Council subject to their wish to continue and authorise the chairman and vice-chairman to fill any vacancies following expressions of interest. Current memberships are listed below.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Task Group
[Vacancies]

SEND Passenger Transport Task Group
[Vacancies]

Academisation Task Group
[Vacancies]

Review of the Strategy and Support Programme for Disadvantaged Learners Task Group
[Vacancies]

OS representation on boards

9. In addition to task groups, OS does from time-to-time receive an invitation to appoint a representative to specific activities or projects. The Committee may therefore take the opportunity to re-appoint a representative to each. Those that are the direct responsibility of the Children's Select Committee are listed below, together with the OS representative under the previous council:

Board	Current OS rep
Education Transformation Board	[Vacancy]

Next steps

10. In order to use OS's resources most effectively, the OS work programme should primarily be aligned to the council's agreed strategic priorities. It is therefore

timely that a new council Business Plan is being developed and will be presented to the Management Committee for input at an extraordinary meeting on 21 June. The final version will then be presented for approval by Cabinet on 3 July and adoption by Full Council on 11 July.

11. The new Business Plan will set out the council's priorities for the next ten years and should therefore be influential in developing an OS work programme that delivers maximum value for the people of Wiltshire. To facilitate this further, Management Committee has supported discussions between the select committee chairmen and vice-chairmen with the Executive and directors to gain a more informed understanding about priorities and plans. These will take place following Full Council's agreement of the new Business Plan and outcomes the meetings will be reported back to the Committee for discussion. The Committee may then want to agree further opportunities for discussing its work priorities.
12. The OS work programme should be viewed as a live document that is constantly reviewed and updated. It will be reported to every meeting of the Management Committee and relevant parts to the respective select committees. The Committee will need to be mindful of the capacity of councillor and officer resource when determining its work programme.

Proposal

13. To consider the scheduled Committee activity agreed by the OS Management Committee (see paragraph 6), formally re-establishing task groups where appropriate;
14. To appoint the memberships of the relevant task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises and authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to name members to fill any vacancies following expressions of interest;
15. To note that a new council Business Plan will be brought to Full Council on 11 July, which will be influential in shaping the new OS forward work programme;
16. To support early discussion between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and directors (following adoption of the new council Business Plan) to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities, with outcomes reported back to Committee.

Report author: Adam Brown, Senior Scrutiny Officer,
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Wiltshire Council

Annual Council

18 July 2017

Draft Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel
June 2016 to May 2017

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report forms the annual update to Council from the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

2. Background

- 2.1 The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel is to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who are looked after. All Councillors are reminded that they have responsibilities as a "corporate parent" for children and young people who are looked after in Wiltshire.
- 2.2 Councillors Pat Aves, Andrew Davis (Vice Chairman), Jon Hubbard, Jacqui Lay, Howard Marshall, Laura Mayes (Chairman), Pip Ridout, and Phil Whalley formed the membership of the Panel during the period May 2016 to May 2017. The Independent group chose not to take a place on the Panel; the Conservative Group therefore nominated an additional member. The Lead Officer was Martin Davis (Head of Service – Care, Placements and EDS).
- 2.3 The meetings were regularly attended by the following officers/representatives:

Martin Davis (Head of Care, Placements and EDS), Leanne Field (Senior Commissioning Officer), Carolyn Godfrey (Corporate Director), Chelsea Goozee (Children in Care Council representative), Jo Harris (Children in Care Council representative), Terence Herbert (Associate Director), Blair Keltie (CSE Manager), Janice Lightowler (Manager – Conference and Reviewing Service), Lena Pheby (Designated Nurse for Looked After Children), Karen Reid (Virtual School Headteacher), Sally Smith (Foster Carer and Chair of Wilts Fostering Association), Karen Stokes (Missing Children Co-Ordinator) and Matthew Turner (Service Manager – Placement Services). Other Officers attended as required to present particular reports.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel has discussed a broad range of topics in depth taking into consideration the young people's views. Children in Care

Council (CiCC) representatives have been invited to attend each Panel meeting. The Panel have received the following reports and information:

Performance Data

- National and Local Performance Indicators for Children in Care data
- Looked After Children Missing data and commentary
- MOTIV8 (Substance Misuse Service) data

Annual Reports

- Health of Looked After Children - 2015/16
- Wiltshire's Independent Visitor Scheme - 2015/16
- Conference and Reviewing Service - 2015/16
- Private Fostering - 2015/16

Updates

- Looked After Children, Young People and Care Leaver's Improvement Group
- Work of the Children in Care Council
- Looked After Children who have Special Educational Needs
- Disruption Meetings
- Children's Placement Budget Management Project
- Position of the Virtual School Headteacher

Challenge from Scrutiny

- What Provisions should the Council make for our Care Leavers?

Strategic Priority Focus

- Strategic Priority 7 – *Ensure that Looked After Children and Care Leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services* – Presentation from Wiltshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Wiltshire Council's Lead Commissioner

Reviews

- Review of CiCC's Introduction to the Corporate Parenting Strategy

3.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel continued to monitor closely work that is underway across the Council and partner agencies to improve outcomes for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers. While the Ofsted inspection in June 2015 identified our services as requiring improvement, it also noted many areas of good practice. Outcomes for children looked after continue to improve, children benefit from consistency of worker, the adoption service offers a sensitive and effective service and children leaving care receive an improving level of support in their transition into adulthood. A clear set of

strategic priorities have been agreed targeting the key areas in which improvements are required; these include ambitious targets to recruit additional foster carers and return children to Wiltshire placements, achieving legal permanence more quickly for children in long-term care and ensuring our Care Leavers have better access to appropriate housing, education and employment opportunities.

3.3 Data relating to educational outcomes for Looked after Children (statistical neighbours' data is not yet available):

- In Wiltshire there are 305 school aged children and 215 care leavers.
- The number of children in care attending good or better schools has increased to 268 from 211 in 2015.
- Attendance at remains strong at 94% and unauthorised absences remain low.
- Virtual School Officers are now working with the Fostering Service to further reduce the number of authorised absences and will continue to monitor attendance through Personal Education Plan meetings.
- There have been no permanent exclusions of children in care since 2008.
- There are currently 8 young people in AEP, a reduction of 2 in the last 12 months.

Key Stage 2

- The cohort sitting Key Stage 2 SAT's in 2016 was small (19 children) and a significant number (13 had an ECHP), 5 of the SAT cohort were disapplied due to their learning needs. The number of children reaching expected standard was:

Reaching expected standard

READING	%	WRITING	%	SPAG	%	MATHS	%	R/W/M	%
2	10.5	4	21.0	4	21.0	2	10.5	1	5.3

Performance at Key Stage 2 was poorer than statistical neighbours, Corporate Parenting Panel have received updates from the Virtual School on the action now being taken to monitor and support this group of children so that they are able to make educational progress.

Key Stage 4

- In Wiltshire there are 32 children in KS 4 who have been in care for 12 months continuously. Nine achieved 5 A*-C including E&M (30% of the total cohort). This performance is strong and compares very well with regional and national data.

- In addition to this four children who failed to achieve 5 A*-C made significant progress (Progress 8 measure) during KS4.
 - For the remaining LAC across KS4 progress is stronger for Eng and Maths than that for other disadvantaged groups including FSM but attainment remains lower for both Eng and Maths, suggesting that they start from a lower base. These issues will be further explored and reported to Corporate Parenting Panel in the forthcoming annual report from the Virtual School Head.
- 3.5 Aspire House continues to provide an increasing range of activities and support for Looked After and Adopted children and young people, including English, Maths and Science tutoring as well as independent living skills for Care Leavers.
- 3.6 During the year two apprentices, employed by Wiltshire Council, have worked within the Virtual School and have now successfully completed their apprenticeship. These Care Leavers have followed Customer Services and Youth Work apprenticeships. One apprentice has since moved to work for a supported housing provider and the second is has more recently secured permanent employment.
- 3.7 The Council is responsible for Canon's House which is an 8 bedded home in Devizes that provides short-term residential breaks for young people (age 5-17 years) with a severe learning disability who are assessed by Wiltshire Council's Children's Disability Teams as being in need of that service. Monthly unannounced inspection visits are carried out by a senior Council officer and members of the CPP are invited to attend with the officer to carry out the visit. Between June 2016 and May 2017, 7 Councillors have attended as part of the unannounced inspections. As a regulated setting Canon's House is subject to inspections by Ofsted. The most recent inspection judged the home as 'requiring improvement', in addition to our contribution to the monthly monitoring visits, Corporate Parenting Panel have asked for sight of the service improvement plan and to receive regular updates on progress made.

4. Children in Care Council

- 4.1 The Children in Care Council are a key stake holder group in the Corporate Parenting agenda. A representative from CiCC attends both agenda setting and wash-up sessions following meetings of the Panel. There is a mature relationship between CiCC and as a result young people have helped to shape the way in which we undertake our work.
- 4.2 Historically following each meeting of the Panel there was a 'Shared Guardian' session where young people and Councillors met to discuss key themes. While these sessions have largely been successful as evidenced by the 'You Said, We Did' audit, following feedback from the young people we are changing the format of these meetings. In the year ahead the number of

meetings will reduce, as will the number of Cllr's attending; this will enabled more focused and consistent discussions to take place.

- 4.3 An induction event for CiCC was held in for late March 2016 and since then we have seen membership increase. Currently there are 5 young people regularly attending CiCC, recruitment activity is ongoing and we would hope to see the number of young people attending the group grow throughout the year.

5. Our Performance

- 5.1 The Corporate Parenting Terms of Reference were reviewed and a two year Corporate Parenting Strategy was approved by the Panel in January 2016 (which was then ratified by Council on 10 May 2016 for inclusion in the Council's Constitution). The fundamental aims of this new strategy are to ensure that Councillors:

- Understand their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents
- Scrutinise and challenge how the Council performs in delivering its services as a Corporate Parent
- Engage effectively, with energy, consistency, and confidence with children and young people so that their voice is heard and has influence
- Support and enable children and young people to challenge where services need to improve.
- Maintain a comprehensive overview of the progress of children who are looked after and for care leavers, scrutinising the quality, effectiveness and performance of the services that support them.

- 5.2 Within this Strategy, seven Strategic Priorities were drawn up. To ensure that strategic oversight and critical challenge is effective, it was agreed that each member of the Panel will have a lead role in relation to delivery of a strategic priority. At each Panel meeting the Lead Member is asked to provide an update on the following:

- Research carried out
- Meetings/discussions held
- Findings
- Actions identified
- Actions progressed
- Proposals for further work.

- 5.3 Panel Members have provided the following annual summaries of their work between the period January 2016 to February 2017.

Strategic Priorities

1. ***Strengthen the Corporate Parenting Role and Corporate Parenting function across Wiltshire Council as a whole. (Cllr Laura Mayes)***

My overall aim has been to raise the profile within the Council of our Looked After Children, their Carer's and Care Leavers. I have done this through a number of measures including Chairing the CPP, driving improvements through the LAC Improvement Board and ensuring all Councillors receive notes from the CPP meetings.

I invited a Foster Carer, to address Members at Full Council on 10 May 2016. She talked about her experience looking after Wiltshire's children and this helped Members to understand the importance of our foster carers.

Wiltshire Councillors were invited to donate money towards the cost of our annual LAC Christmas party. The party was a huge success and was a great opportunity to meet both the children and their carers in a fun and informal way. The carers gave me excellent feedback on the service, both at this party and the Virtual School Celebration in the summer.

I have set up a Leaving Care working group to see what more we can do for young people leaving the system. We have had an initial meeting but I am aware there is much more to do in this area.

Proposals and Actions for moving my Strategic Priority Forward

I want to ensure the Councillor Induction programme in May 2017 includes a full briefing on LAC so that all Councillors are aware of their role and responsibilities.

I will suggest that when the new Panel is formed after May and the Strategic Priority leads are appointed that they populate an action plan for their priority and then progress can be tracked at subsequent meetings.

2. ***Continue to improve timeliness of permanency for looked after children across the range of permanency options. (Cllr Andrew Davis and Sally Smith, Foster Carer and Chair of Wiltshire Fostering Association)***

We have met with the Service Manager for Placement Services on a number of occasions, in order to understand current practice and scrutiny of permanence within Children's Services, and discussed better ways to engage with the young people to achieve permanency and keep placements stable.

The Wiltshire Fostering Association have looked at the Mockingbird Family Model which is a method of delivering foster care with the potential to improve placement stability, safety and permanency for children and young people in care and to improve support for, and retention of, foster carers. It is based on the idea of an "extended family" or network of foster carers. It uses the concept of a 'constellation' which is where six to 10 'satellite' families of foster and kinship carers live in close proximity to a dedicated hub home of specially recruited and trained carers offering respite care. The hub empowers families

to support each other and overcome problems before they escalate, and offers children a more positive experience of care.

Officers are going to work with the Wiltshire Fostering Association to develop a pilot of the model, the results of which will be reported to a future Panel meeting.

We felt that some of the staff within Children's Services Teams appeared to be stretched and there was quite a high turnover of Social Workers. We were reassured by the Associate Director that the turnover rate of Social Workers had dropped from 25% to 10% in the last two years and that retention was now good.

We understand that there is increased scrutiny given to planning for permanence, mainly through panel arrangements in the local authority. There is a monthly Permanence Panel that considers the progress of children following their second review in care (4 months), ensuring that planning is robust and that there is a clear plan for permanence, a requirement at this stage. Cases are tracked by a panel of managers and social workers are required to account for any delay or drift. This panel also has responsibility to scrutinise and, where appropriate, endorse long term matches for children with IFA carers where there will be long term costs incurred. If given, this endorsement is then carried forward to Foster Panel where the needs of the child are considered against the skills and abilities of the foster carer and a match is recommended. This is then given to the Agency Decision Maker for the final decision. This process has produced some very robust matches over the last year where children are now placed in long term, secure placements allowing good progress to continue. Matches with Wiltshire approved foster carers are presented to Foster panel only. Again, a high number of matches have been made this year.

Adoption is a route to permanence and performance is improving in terms of timeliness of adoptive placements for children and the progress to Adoption Order.

Where long term placements of any sort end in an unplanned way, a Disruption Meeting is held, chaired by the Service Manager, in order to understand what happened and what learning is available to try and ensure that other placements do not end in an unplanned way. The outcome of these meetings are reported to the CPP.

In Wiltshire, there was a case load promise of 18 for new starters and for some this is slightly higher due to their experience. In the summer of 2016, Cabinet received a report which updated on the Social Worker recruitment and retention programme which had been a success.

In the summer of 2016 there were a small number of Social Worker vacancies, but these were due to promotion or retirement, not to employees moving to other employment. The Management Teams had been confident that they would fill the vacancies as there has been a good response to the

application process and there would be a foster carer involved on the interview panel.

We have been concerned about the permanency of some of Wiltshire's Foster Carers as following informal conversations with some foster carers, they had hinted that they were considering moving across to join an Independent Fostering Association. However, information from the Fostering Service indicates that no foster carers have resigned in the past year with the stated intention of moving to an Agency. We understand that the majority of de-registrations were related to specific children who had been fostered by family members and where the placements had naturally ended. A small number of carers had resigned due to changes in lifestyle or personal reasons. Of these, few were active foster carers at the point of resignation. A small number of carers have been deregistered due to concerns about their practice.

It is recognised that Wiltshire foster carers have access to a very good training pathway, they receive regular supervision and support and there is access to therapeutic support – all of which compares well to IFA arrangements. We feel that further work needs to be done to ensure the quality of support in order to retain our Foster Carers so that they can provide for our looked after children.

Proposals and Actions for moving our Strategic Priority Forward

- Develop and agree the pilot for the Fostering Family Group Model – possible implementation Autumn 2017. Action: WFA and Service Manager, Placement Services
 - Continue to ensure effectiveness of relevant Panel arrangements – ongoing – Head of Service
 - In order to retain and develop foster carers, ensure that practice within the Fostering Service is robust through the use of Key performance Indicators (KPIs). April 2017. Team Manager/Service Manager/Head of Service
 - Consider observing Panels as described above in order to be assured about effectiveness.
3. ***Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children within Wiltshire which meets the needs of those children. Prioritise placement within Wiltshire. (Cllr Pat Aves and Sally Smith)***

We have met with the Service Manager for Placement Services on a number of occasions who informed us that new Foster Carers were applying to join Wiltshire and help us to provide accommodation to meet the needs of our Looked After Children.

Fostering approvals can be regularly changed as fostering family circumstances change, which can mean that more beds become available. It is important to understand the difference between “fostering vacancies” – approved vacancies that are available now for children – and “empty beds” – those approved vacancies that are unavailable due to circumstances such as ill health, carers on hold, unavailability of the bedroom and so on. We understand that the Fostering service is working hard to develop clear

information and better understand this and this should be monitored regularly. We could meet regularly with managers from the service to discuss this and consider data, reporting back to the CPP.

Younger children are often easier to place, and are most often placed in-house. Teenagers can be less easy to place which can lead to the IFAs being used. It may be that carers who leave the IFAs do so in order to foster the younger ones again, and to get more regular placements. But it is also important to make the correct placement in the first place, so that there is a good chance of long term stability and good quality home life; young children stay with their carers and become teenagers in the same home and then become subject to a Staying Put arrangement, potentially, over time, leading to a reduction in the number of harder to place older children and the dependence on IFAs. To realise this, there needs to be an increase in placement choice within Wiltshire approved foster carers.

Fostering recruitment continues with indications of positive progress. The number of children living with Wiltshire carers is still too low and the Team is working hard to recruit, train and assess new carers to increase the numbers of placements available. About 20 new households have been approved this year and although the target was 30, this is still good progress when compared to other years. The process to assess carers has been regularly reviewed and all assessments are currently completed and presented to panel in four months. There is a recruitment strategy in place which shows the range of advertising and information giving activity that goes on.

The Fostering Team has changed the way that Duty is managed. This part of the team receives all request for placements and works to identify placements for the children referred. Carers are being encouraged to look as widely as possible at the sort of children and numbers they can care for in order to try and maximise in house placements. The working relationship with Children's Services Buyers (who identify IFA placements) is being developed in order to add scrutiny and effectiveness to placement finding. There are plans to use social work time to "home find" for children who are placed in residential settings or IFA placements and now need to return to long term Wiltshire placements.

I am concerned about IFA carers who change to Wiltshire without, in my view, proper assessment. This is an observation from my recent Fostering Panel experience. These carers are recommended for Wiltshire approval on the understanding that they are already trained and have a proven track record and experience. However, the training and preparation that carers receive with IFAs can be different and, from what I am told, may not be as thorough as that received by those recruited by Wiltshire. However, there is scrutiny of the fostering assessment, which will have been added to or amended by a Wiltshire assessing social worker, by the Foster Panel and any recommendation for approval is considered by the Decision Maker. Therefore, I am satisfied that only suitable foster carers are approved and go on to foster for the local authority.

We need to keep placements stable – this is where support in difficult times becomes important, and why I would like feedback from the social worker who attended the conference on the Mockingbird System last year in Birmingham. My understanding is that this is being run with success in Oxford, Plymouth and Birmingham already, having begun in the USA, hence the name, and has led to improvements in stability of placements. It is anticipated that an adaptation of the model will be piloted in Wiltshire and the impact will need to be carefully considered. It will not replace all the usual activity that takes place to support foster placements and bring about stability.

From my experience on the Fostering Panel I have noticed how important the instantly available support of friends and close family can be in an emergency or as a stress reliever – when occasionally the friend or carer is also a foster carer the benefits become obvious – someone who is DBS checked and has had all the training, the experience, and who the child knows through normal family life and friendship associations, who lives nearby and can be there within a very short time. It can mean that calling EDS becomes unnecessary, and in the calm of the morning a call to allocated supervising social worker to update is all that is needed. Less intrusive follow up can happen later.

I am concerned about staffing in the fostering Service. I understand that there are vacancies, long term sickness, maternity leave and performance issues within the team. Whilst, this is no different from what other teams experience, it must be impacting on the workload of the others. That said, I understand that caseloads are well managed and broadly in line with the equivalent volume in other social work teams. This is reassuring. The Mockingbird System would help relieve the pressure on both the EDS and the social workers significantly. It would in no way replace social workers and professionals, but support them too. As indicated, we could adapt it to suit our own needs and call it something else, but a support network amongst carers can do no harm and could do a lot of good. This already exists unofficially amongst a few of them. Parents have always done it as part of family life, but amongst foster parents such an arrangement would no doubt need official sanctions in order to comply with law. Foster carers using Delegated Authority also helps provide children they care for with a more “natural” experience as the foster carers can make many of the day to day decisions.

Proposals and Actions for moving our Strategic Priority Forward

In addition to tasks identified above:

- On a six monthly basis, review the monthly Fostering Recruitment updates which is provided to the LAC Improvement Board to assure that the direction of travel is positive – Action: PA/SS
- Spend time with the Duty Team and Children Services Buyers to better understand duty work and placement finding – Action: PA/SS
- On a six monthly basis, meet with the Service manager to review Children’s Services performance information relating to Fostering Recruitment, placements, stability and so on. Action: PA/SS and Service Manager

4. ***Improve care leavers journey by ensuring an enhanced offer to care leavers across all areas: education, employment and training, independent living, housing options and health. (Cllrs Jacqui Lay and Pip Ridout)***

We have suggested that it might be possible to work with some young people to help them with their budget management. We are aware that some care leavers who are working are not earning enough to manage all of their bills. It was suggested that we could meet with some Personal Advisors to see what the issues are for the young people.

When we first looked at the Council's Housing Strategy we noted that it still did not contain any clarity or priority for care leavers. We had a meeting with the Head of Care, Placements and EDS and the Associate Director for Adult Social Care and Housing James where we expressed concern about the lack of reference to looked after children/care leavers in the Housing Strategy. We were also made aware of 2 x 3 bedroom houses in the South which were to be offered to care leavers as a pilot scheme.

We were informed of the meeting between the Head of Care, Placements and EDS and the Housing Heads of Service when it was confirmed the new Housing Strategy was in development and there was opportunity to review status and access that care leavers have to housing options.

It is recognised that as a Council we are a corporate parent to our care leavers and Housing are keen to work with partners to assist in the development of options to ensure they have the choice of affordable accommodation as well as receiving appropriate support. Housing reviewed the Allocations Policy and considered placing Care Leavers into our highest priority band.

This was consulted on towards the end of 2016 for adoption from 1st April 2017. Housing have also included care leavers as a priority in the new Housing Strategy which is shortly due to go out to formal consultation. Care Leavers will be considered as part of our Housing related Support Review which is due to be completed mid-2017.

We would find it useful to have details (mapped) of our young people who are approaching 15 to see where they are in the County and what the housing availability is too.

Children's Services have confirmed that the care leaver needs analysis completed in the Spring of 2016 grouped care leavers into three bands; high support (31%), medium support (45%) and low support (24%).

Vulnerability, Employment and Training, and Accommodation are the three domains where greatest need have been identified, these three areas are interlinked. While the number of care leavers who are employed or in education compare favourably with national averages, PA's commit significant time to

support care leavers to remain in education and employment placements. In 25% of cases the location of housing is a significant factor; the lack of a sufficient range of housing options means that care leavers are placed outside their community or in inappropriate housing and therefore easily become socially isolated. Almost one third of care leavers in the high or medium band have significant attachment problems or complex emotional/mental health needs. When combined these factors can lead to acute crisis and PA's will spend a disproportionate amount of their time responding to these.

We attended the Wiltshire Assembly on 10 November 2016. There was a Call to Action from the Assembly for the Council which was to "Recognise that all young people will need a home of their own hence encourage registering onto housing list if they are going to want social housing early and band them according to the capabilities of being able to rent, need to rent, where to rent. i.e. if in employment they should be able to move into their own home at some point 18 – 24?! Run workshops/PHSE on home ownership and rentals to understand the responsibilities of living in our own home, costs and behaviour towards neighbours."

We have had informal discussions with a Care Leaver and an Officer on ways forward with Employment and Education. Suggested the possibility of Mentors to support young people to show what they did, what happened and their successes. We have explored the potential to set up mock interviews with recruitment agency and help with CV's.

We have suggested if there was potential for our Care Leavers to be placed within older people's environments where there are opportunities for the generations to learn and support each other. In Holland there is a scheme being run where young people move into care facilities, where they then have accommodation to live in whilst at college etc. and support also the older people.

Proposals and Actions for moving our Strategic Priority Forward

1. Housing Strategy currently in draft – CPP to follow through to conclusion.
2. Housing Support Review 2017 – CPP to follow through to conclusion.
3. Engagement with social landlords to smooth access to market place for care leavers (rent guarantee scheme etc.)

5. ***Improve the educational outcomes for looked after children; closing the gap between looked after children and other children in the county. (Cllr Phil Whalley)***

Improving the education outcomes for children in care is both a national and local government priority. The evidence is clear, whatever else goes wrong in children's lives their life chances are significantly improved when they achieve decent education outcomes. At present however the national picture is grim with below 13-14% of LAC, for example, achieving 5 GCSE's including

English and Maths at KS4 compared to a national average of about 58-60% for all children.

Throughout the year I have regularly met with Karen Reid the Virtual School Head to discuss the present system of support for our LAC and also met twice with her whole team of the Virtual School Officers at staff meetings.

Evident at these meetings was the commitment of the Virtual School Staff and their detailed knowledge of each of the LAC in their care. Apart from the routine work with the LAC and schools they also provide additional holiday activities and GCSE revision sessions.

It is difficult to assess the separate impact of the revision courses from that of other factors however there was another excellent set of GCSE results in 2016 with 30% of our LAC gaining 5 GCSE's including Maths and English compared to around 13-14% nationally. On the basis of this evidence further revision courses are being arranged for this year. More importantly there has been a steady improvement in GCSE results in recent years. The KS1 and KS2 results for 2016 were less spectacular but broadly in line with those of our statistical neighbours. We need however to be cautious when using results data because of the relatively small cohorts involved. This year for example the KS2 results were for just 19 children and of these 73% had identified learning difficulties.

Another important factor noted both nationally and locally is the importance of placement stability especially at exam times. Our VSH and VSO's appreciate this and are working with social workers to try and ensure educational stability at critical times such as in Year's 10-11.

The target to send a letter to all foster carers in September 2016 reminding them of how they can support the educational achievement of LAC such as through reading with young children, ensuring good school attendance and the completion of homework, the attendance at school parent evenings and placement stability has not been achieved. It was decided that it would be more effective if these messages were shaped by the foster carers themselves during their training days and then included in a brochure that all Foster carers will receive.

Unfortunately, the VSH resigned in December 2016. The VS presently has two further staff shortages one of which is affecting our ability to work with post-16 LAC attending College. It is important that these posts are filled as soon as possible. Also the roles of the Aspire House and the VSH are presently under review.

Proposals and Actions for moving my Strategic Priority Forward

- To liaise with Martin Davis and the Review process to ensure that the improvement of educational outcomes for LAC remains the principal guiding determinant during the review into roles of Aspire House and the VSH.
- To arrange an early meeting with the newly appointed VSH.

- To monitor the Virtual School staffing levels.
- To attend VS team meetings twice a year.
- To continue the analysis of KS2 and GCSE results in order to identify priority area of work.
- To assess the impact of the GCSE revision courses and placement disruption on GCSE results so that resources can be effectively targeted.
- To identify actions that will enable KS1 and KS2 results to match the recent improvement in GCSE results.
- To press for the completion of the advice brochure being sent out to all foster carers reminding them of the key points of how they can support the educational achievement of our LAC.

6. ***Ensure that looked after children are protected from the risk of child sexual exploitation and reduce the frequency with which some looked after children and care leavers currently go missing. (Cllr Howard Marshall)***

The Council held a CSE awareness day on 18 March 2016 as part of the Council's CSE Action Plan, monitored by Cabinet, to raise community awareness of CSE.

I have met with the CSE Manager to look at the Missing Children and Young People data to separate out and look at the differences between those who are children in care and those not. I receive the monthly update reports on the Missing Children and Young People and we have looked at an action plan to make improvements overall and specifically for LAC placed out of county where improvements have been made with return interview completions increasing over the last 12 months from 8% to 65%. The improvement is due to the impact of action plans with increasing awareness and contractual requirements with placements providers to report missing episodes direct to our Missing Children Coordinators.

It seems from the data that there has been some improvement in the numbers of "Missing" children and this is to be congratulated. Particularly as the majority would appear to be single episodes. It is disappointing to see that relatively few return interviews offered are actually completed. I am aware that information is gathered informally where formal return interviews are not completed. I wonder if there is a better way of reporting this statistic so as to better reflect the actual situation and reasons for going missing. I would like to explore this idea further over the coming months.

Proposals and Actions for moving my Strategic Priority Forward

Continue to review the work that is being done to reduce frequency of missing incidents of looked after children.

Monitor completion rates of return interviews for LAC reported missing to ensure we build upon recent success and continue to see an increase in the number of interviews completed

7. ***Ensure that looked after children and care leavers have timely and easy access to mental health services (Cllr Jon Hubbard)***

I attended a conference in mental health and wellbeing.

I met with Sam Shrubsole from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and we agreed that it would be good if someone from CAMHS could come to a Panel meeting to talk about their role and the work that was being undertaken. Sam had suggested that James Fortune (Lead Commissioner) also be invited.

At my meeting with Sam, I found out that there was a lot of good stuff going on in schools to raise mental health awareness but the entry level thresholds for CAHMS were high (i.e. things had to be pretty bad for a young person) before a referral would be made. CAHMS was not an early help service and I would like to explore what other routes there were for early help for children and young people with problems.

Chelsea (CiCC rep) was able to report that she had found that Wiltshire IAPT Service (The Association for Psychological Therapies) would see you to help you if you were on the CAHMS waiting list.

Chelsea also thought that it would be a good idea for there to be a post 18 support group so that young people could talk to someone their own age and with someone who had been through some of the same things that they had – peer support.

It was reported that BANES offer interactive counselling and that we could look at inviting them to come to a meeting to talk about what they offer so that we might be able to fill the hole with the early help aspect of mental health.

Carolyn Godfrey reported that the CCG have transformation funding available for projects and Leanne Field was asked to look at how the Council might be able to facilitate a peer support group.

At the September 2016 meeting of the Panel, James Fortune (Lead Commissioner, Children's Services) and a Roger Duncan, (Family Therapist/CSE and LAC Therapist, Oxford Health NHS Foundation) attended and highlighted the following:

- CAMHS along with other similar organisations have recognised the need to transform their services and make dramatic improvements in the services they provide.
- The Government have identified key aspirations they would like to see in place by 2020 and a significant financial investment has been made to help transform services and improve outcomes.
- A young person friendly transformation plan has been developed to support young people's wellbeing and mental health in Wiltshire.

- In light of the national vision a new integrated CAMH Service is due to be re-commissioned, to go live on 1 April 2018.

In Roger Duncan's role which is co-located role with Operational Children's Services he undertakes the following activities:

- Monthly CAMHS Consultations to the social workers and LAC nurses.
- Joint visits to LAC reviews and CSE home visits
- Systemic Therapy for LAC children who might not reach the CAMHS threshold
- Support for CAMHS referrals process and signposting
- Mental Health input to complex LAC reviews and strategy discussions
- Systemic thinking, training and case studies with both the CSE and LAC Health Teams.

Jon confirmed that the Counselling service at Canberra in Melksham was up and running and it was hoped that from the New Year 2017 they might be in a position to dedicate some ring-fenced time for LAC to see a Counsellor at the Canberra Centre, just down the road from Aspire House.

Proposals and Actions for moving my Strategic Priority Forward

To be added.

- 5.4 The additional reporting measures previously agreed have been carried forward. The Panel now report its work through the Wiltshire Council Children's Select Committee. Following each meeting the Chairperson of the Panel sends a copy of the Panel minutes to the Chairman of Children's Select Committee. On a six monthly basis the Panel Chairperson prepares a report for Chairman of the Children's Select Committee, addressing progress against each of the seven strategic priorities. In addition to this the Chairperson of the Corporate Parenting Panel presents an annual report to Full Council which will be shared with the Children's Select Committee prior to submission.
- 5.5 The new strategy and reporting mechanism will enable Corporate Parenting Panel to more effectively scrutinise and hold to account the services that work with and support our children in care

6. In conclusion:

- 6.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel has struggled in recent years to fully evidence its impact, this was reported in the 2015-16 CPP annual report. The introduction of a new Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2016-17, with new strategic priorities and an enhanced reporting system has helped to ensure

greater impact by panel as evidence in the updates from strategic leads within this report.

7. Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

- 7.1 The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel (SCYPP) which was established in February 2014 has continued to meet in September and December 2016 and March 2017.
- 7.2 The role of the SCYPP is to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes to ensure that all Wiltshire children and young people are safe.
- 7.3 Councillors Pat Aves (Vice Chairman), Richard Clewer, Mary Douglas, Jon Hubbard, Laura Mayes (Chairman), Helen Osborn, Sheila Parker and Melody Thompson formed the membership of the Panel during the period July 2016 to May 2017. The Lead Officer is Lucy Townsend (Head of Service – Safeguarding and Assessment).
- 7.4 In the last year, the SCYPP has continued to receive briefings on a variety of subjects to enhance member's knowledge and understanding of Operational Children's Services responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people.
- 7.5 This has included; overviews of the core data which explains how the data is captured and monitored and used to compare Wiltshire with neighbouring councils and agencies, the safeguarding process and the role of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), information about pre-proceedings, an update on the plan to create a maximum caseload of 18 children promise and attract new social workers to Wiltshire, Emergency Protection Orders and details of the Children's Services Integration Project.

8. Main Considerations for the Council

- 8.1 The Council is asked to note the work of the CPP to date and the success within year to strengthen its functions and impact of its work.

9. Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 Within their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors monitor closely the safeguarding of children and young people looked after by Wiltshire Council and in doing so identify issues such as children missing from placement and children at risk of sexual exploitation. These safeguarding functions continue into the future and will be enhanced.

10. Public Health Implications

- 10.1 Looked After Children are at particular risk of experiencing inequalities in health outcomes due to their difficult start in life. Within their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors monitor the health and wellbeing support received by our

looked after children to ensure they receive regular holistic assessments of their needs supported by appropriate and accessible service provision. This may include access to a wide range of services including immunisations, emotional wellbeing support or substance misuse services.

11. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

11.1 Not applicable.

12. Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12.1 The proposals seek to bring Councillors and Officers to work together to ensure that our Looked After Children and Young People have a voice within the Council in order to influence the improvement of services for them.

13. Risk Assessment

13.1 Panel Members are required to have an enhanced DBS check undertaken and Risk Assessments will be drawn up for when visits are made to vulnerable children and when Councillors attend Officer Team Meetings, etc.

14. Financial Implications

14.1 Expenses for young people participating in the CPP will be paid for from the Children in Care budget.

15. Legal Implications

15.1 Ian Gibbons (Solicitor to the Council) has confirmed that the Panel is an Advisory panel and not a Committee of the Council; it can therefore make recommendations but not decisions. Carolyn Godfrey, the Corporate Director for Children's Services is the lead decision maker.

16. Proposal

16.1 To receive and note the Annual Report and ratify the improvements required to strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.

Carolyn Godfrey (Corporate Director)

Report Author: Martin Davis (Head of Care, Placements and EDS)

Date of report: 5 June 2017

Background Papers

None

Appendices

1 Annual Report of the Children in Care Council April 2016 – March 2017

Wiltshire's Children in Care Council Annual Report
April 2016 – March 2017

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Introduction

Wiltshire's Children in Care Council (CiCC) is coordinated by the Voice and Influence Team, based within Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness. The Voice and Influence Team help fulfil the Council's aim that no policy, or service related to children and young people is developed without first seeking their views; and that participation and involvement becomes 'the businesses of every service and organisation that works with children and young people.'

CiCC currently covers the age range 12 – 25. With young people aged 12-18 known as Care Ambassadors; and those aged 19-25 as Care Leaver Ambassadors. We currently have ten CiCC members – an increase of four from when the last report was written. Please see appendix 1 for a profile of current CiCC membership.

The work of the Children in Care Council in Wiltshire over the past year has influenced a range of decisions and working practice within the local authority. This report provides a summary of CiCC activities over the last twelve months, highlights key messages and outlines priorities for future development.

Messages from CiCC members

What CiCC have said	What we're doing
We would like less, but more interactive meetings.	CiCC agreed on a new model/way of working for their meetings. The agreed model is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 formal meetings a year with just CiCC members ➤ 1 joint themed meeting with the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) and Healthwatch Young Listeners ➤ 2 activity sessions per annum – to which the corporate parents would be invited ➤ 2 shared guardian sessions per annum
We would like CiCC lanyards so that we can easily be identified as members of CiCC from professionals and other young people.	This is currently being looked into and costed up.
We need more members.	During 2017/18 we will continue to advertise the Children in Care Council to increase membership. There are several ways that we will look to do this, which include (but not limited to):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Word of mouth from current participants ➤ Article in the newsletter for foster carers ➤ All Independent Reviewing Officers being asked to promote the service ➤ Social workers and Personal Advisers being asked to promote the service ➤ Recruitment information sent out in the regular children's services bulletins ➤ Notifications to be sent to all Independent Fostering Agencies, Residential providers and Leaving Care Providers
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Activities during the last 12 months

- Provided training at the induction for new staff within Children's Services.
- Joined numerous job interview panels for children's services staff.
- Represented Looked After Children at the Wiltshire Youth Summit - one member of CiCC has since been invited to sit on a CAMHS participation group, and another has been asked to sit on a Police Youth Advisory Board.
- Met with the new advocacy provider, and helped to design a child/young person friendly leaflet about the service.
- Helped to run an activity day at Braeside in Devizes, which resulted in two new members being recruited to CiCC.
- Helped to launch the anti-bullying charter in November of 2016
- One member of CiCC travelled to the Treasury, to carry out work experience with the Permanent Secretary, Tom Scholar.

Priorities for future development

Although there are now more members of CiCC than there were when the 2015/16 report was written; we still need to look at recruiting new members, to ensure we are more representative of the wider group of looked after children and young people in Wiltshire.

During 2017/18 the team will be trialling a new open forum model within local community areas. The aim of this trial is to engage more children and young people across the county from all different peer groups. This will include (but not limited to):

- Children in Care Council members
- Wiltshire Assembly of Youth members
- LGBT members
- Healthwatch Young Listener members
- School Councils

Please see appendix 2 for more information on the open forums. Please note that standard CiCC meetings will continue to run alongside this open forum.

Appendix 1 – Profile of CiCC members

As at 1 February 2017 there were 457 children and young people in the care of Wiltshire Council (59 more than when the 2015-2016 report was written). CiCC is currently made up of 10 active participants (an increase of 4 young people from when last year's report was written) who have regularly engaged in forums and events during 2016/2017. The youngest member is 12 years old and the oldest is 19. The average age is 16.6years (which is lower than last year when average age was 17.6yrs) There are five females and five males.

Nine members of CiCC are White British, whilst one member is Black African and is an unaccompanied asylum seeker. Other ethnicities are not represented.

Outlined below is how the demographic of CiCC compares against the wider looked after population in Wiltshire:

Age of CiCC cohort compared to overall LAC population

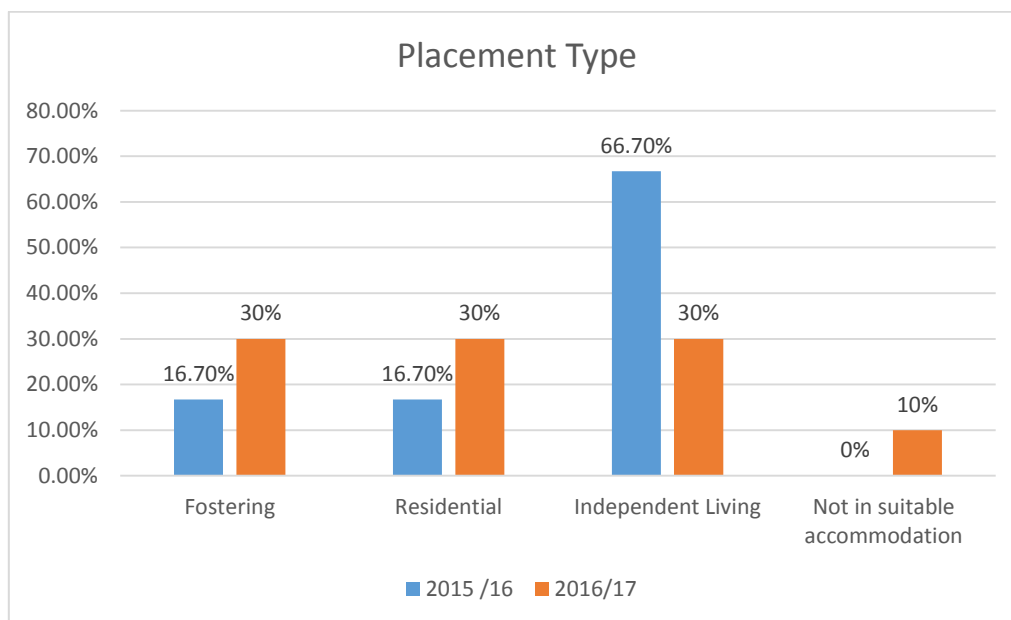
Age	Wiltshire wide	CiCC
Primary age (0-11)	194 CYP 42.5%	0%
Secondary age (12-16)	210 YP 46.0%	3 YP 30%
Post 16	53 YP 11.6%	7 YP 70%

Positively, we now have a representation of 30% in age bracket 12-16, compared to 16.7% when the 2015/16 annual report was completed. We also now have 70% representation in the 16+ age bracket a reduction on the 83.3% the following year. This shows we have a much wider representation in CiCC now than in previous years.

The table below shows the type of provision that the members of CiCC are placed in:

Fostering provision	Residential provision	Leaving Care provision	Care	Not in suitable accommodation
3 (30%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)		1 (10%)

The graph below shows how this compares to the 2015/16 cohort of young people.



The group does not have representatives in the following types of placements:

- Kinship care
- Foster care through an independent fostering agency
- Host family

There are two members in the current cohort in CiCC who are placed out of county (one in as residential provision and the other in a leaving care provision); the remaining 8 are placed within the geographical boundaries of Wiltshire Council.

No members of CiCC have a disability.

During 2016/17, as well as the standard CiCC meetings; members have also been involved in a high ropes activity day at Braeside, joint meetings with the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (including the launch of the anti-bullying charter), Wiltshire’s Youth Summit, and have restarted the Shared Guardian Sessions.

Appendix 2 – Open forum meeting dates

	What	Date	Where	Who	Comment
1	Constituency meetings	28.03.17 04.04.17 06.04.17	County Hall Monkton Park Bourne Hill	Open access (Invitation to young people from constituency – WAY, CiCC, CAMHS participation group, school councils, LYNs, Barnardo’s ...)	Led by Member Youth Parliament Publicity/promotion by MYPs, Area Boards/LYNs
2	Whole WAY	21.06.17	County Hall	Open access	All welcome
3	Online meeting	20.07.17	Online	Open access	All welcome
4	Constituency meetings	27.09.17 28.09.17 03.10.17	County Hall Monkton Park Bourne Hill	Open access (Invitation to young people from constituency – WAY, CiCC, CAMHS participation group, school councils, LYNs, Barnardo’s ...)	Led by Member Youth Parliament Publicity/promotion by MYPs, Area Boards/LYNs
5	Online meeting	17.10.17	Online	Open access	All welcome
6	Anti-bullying week ‘Big Conversation’	15.11.17	County Hall	Open access	All welcome

DfE Changes – Update March 2017 to May 2017

General Election

1. Following the announcement of the general election and subsequent vote in the House of Commons, the Cabinet Officer has advised that the civil service will enter a period of pre-election silence from midnight on Friday 21 April.

Spring Budget 2017

2. The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave his Spring Budget to Parliament on 8 March 2017. The full budget can be found [here](#)¹. Key to children's services:
 - Investment in technical education for 16 to 19 year olds rising to over £500 million - New T-levels for 16 to 19 year old technical students will be introduced from autumn 2019. Students will be able to choose from 15 different routes such as construction, digital or agriculture. The number of hours of training for these students will increase by over 50%. As part of the course, all students will take part in an industry work placement. The government will also provide maintenance loans for students doing higher-level technical courses at National Colleges and Institutes of Technology – like those available to university students.
 - £536 million for new free schools and to maintain existing schools - £320 million will be invested to fund 140 more free schools and £216 million will be invested in school maintenance.
 - Free transport for children from poorer families who go to selective schools - Children aged 11 to 16 who get free school meals or whose parents are on the Maximum Working Tax Credit will get free transport to their closest selective school, if it is between two and 15 miles away from their home. Children aged 8 to 16 are already entitled to free transport to their closest suitable school, if they live more than three miles away.
 - Tax-Free Childcare will soon be available to working parents - Tax-Free Childcare will provide up to £2,000 a year in childcare support for each child under 12. Parents will be able to receive up to £4,000 for disabled children up to the age of 17. Parents of younger children will be able to apply for the scheme first, with all eligible parents able to access the scheme by the end of the year. Working parents in England will also be able to apply for an additional 15 hours of free childcare for three and four year olds, bringing the total to 30 hours a week.

Early Years Model Agreement and Statutory Guidance

3. The government has published the early years model agreement and the revised local authority statutory guidance which support delivery of the 30 hours free early entitlement offer, which comes into effect from 1st September 2017.
4. The [model agreement](#)² sets out the Department for Education's expectations for what should be included in agreements set up between

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-budget-2017-documents>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-early-years-provision-and-childcare-model-agreement>

local authorities and providers to deliver the free education entitlement. The document sets out responsibilities from local authorities, including ensuring sufficiency of childcare for eligible children in their area, and being clear about their role in meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities. It also sets out responsibilities for providers in delivery of the free entitlement, including submitting regular data to local authorities, maintaining records and charging.

5. The [statutory guidance](#)³ sets out in detail what local authorities must adhere to in delivering the free entitlement (both 15 hours and 30 hours). It covers childminder agencies; local authorities' duties to secure early education for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds; the provision of information for parents; and responsibilities to ensure the promotion of British values.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

6. The new [EYFS](#)⁴ has now been released, bringing together changes in legislation published since the 2014 framework. The new EYFS became mandatory on Monday 3 April 2017. From this date, all providers in England will be inspected against the updated framework.

Early Years Workforce Strategy

7. The DfE has published an [early years workforce strategy](#)⁵ for England. The strategy aims to support the early years sector to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing the early years workforce by:
 - Raising the status of early years specialist teachers
 - Supporting the growth of the graduate workforce in disadvantaged areas
 - Establishing a panel of professionals to help develop clear early years career routes
 - Raising the profile of early years careers among young people
 - Developing a qualification in special educational needs and disabilities
 - Helping attract more men to the profession
 - Supporting professional development
 - Investing in quality improvement.
8. The government's response to the consultation on level 3 qualification requirement is available [here](#)⁶.

Relaunch of the Childcare Business Grant Scheme

9. The DfE has re-launched the Childcare Business Grant Scheme. It helps new childminders and childminder agencies (CMAs) enter the childcare market by awarding one-off start-up grants of either £500 or £1000. The grants are to help with the set up costs of new childminding businesses involved in the delivery of the new 30-hours entitlement. To be eligible, businesses must start within three months of the registration date on their Ofsted/CMA certificate, or be due to start within the next six months. Full details can be found [here](#)⁷.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-workforce-strategy>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/level-3-early-years-educator-numeracy-and-literacy-requirements>

⁷ <https://www.childcarebusinessgrants.com/>

Primary school accountability

10. The technical guidance on primary accountability and school-level progress measures has been updated to include proposed changes to methodology in 2017 for including pupils below the standard of the test in the progress measures. It also confirms that the thresholds for floor standards and coasting definition for 2017 will be published in the autumn. The updated guidance can be found [here](#)⁸.

Primary assessment in England

11. The DfE has launched a public consultation exercise about the future of the primary assessment system in England. The consultation sets out wide-ranging proposals for improving the primary assessment system. These include consideration of the best starting point from which to measure pupils' progress, how to ensure the assessment system is proportionate, and how to improve statutory end of key stage teacher assessments. The consultation can be found [here](#)⁹.
12. A parallel consultation is asking for views on the recommendations of the independent Rochford Review. The recommendations focus on the future of statutory assessment arrangements for pupils working below the standard of national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2. This consultation can be found [here](#)¹⁰.
13. Both consultations are open until 22 June 2017.

School exclusion guidance: proposed revisions

14. The government are seeking views on revisions being proposed to the statutory guidance on the exclusion of pupils. In December 2014 the Department published a revised version of the statutory exclusion guidance which was subsequently withdrawn, so the 2012 guidance has been in force for some time.
15. The consultation seeks views on revisions being proposed to the statutory exclusion guidance for 2017. The revisions make changes in a small number of areas to provide greater clarity to head teachers, independent review panels and governing bodies on their responsibilities when considering exclusion decisions. The consultation seeks feedback on whether the clarifications proposed for the guidance are sufficient and clear to understand. The revisions should correct factual inaccuracies and clarify areas that are causing confusion in the system.
16. The consultation ran from 14 March to 25 April and can be found [here](#)¹¹. The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published in summer 2017. The revised guidance will come into effect on 1 September 2017.

Capital allocations and planning for pupils with SEND

17. Details of £215 million of capital funding allocated to local authorities to help create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/primary-school-accountability>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/primary-assessment-in-england>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/primary-school-pupil-assessment-rochford-review-recommendations>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-exclusion-guidance-proposed-revisions>

young people with special educational needs and disabilities have been released and can be found [here](#)¹².

18. Local authorities can use the funding to improve special provision in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25. Local Authorities will be expected to consult with local parents, carers, schools, and others on how their funding should be used, and will be required to publish a short plan showing how they will spend the funding. Wiltshire has been allocated a total of £800,933 from 2018 to 2020.

Academies Update

19. Number in Wiltshire at the end of May 2017:

Sponsored academies	19
Non-sponsored converter academies	65

20. New academies in this period:

Southbroom Infants' School
Heytesbury Church of England Primary School
Shrewton CofE Primary School
Wyvern College
The Trafalgar School at Downton

Children and Social Work Bill receives Royal Assent

21. The Children and Social Work Bill has now received Royal Assent. It includes measures to establish a new social work regulator, new powers for the education secretary to set 'improvement standards' for social workers, and introduce assessments for practitioners. The act places Sex and Relationships Education on a statutory footing, will change multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and permit the use of secure placements in Scotland. The legislation will also require councils to provide personal advisers to care leavers up to the age of 25.
22. The full Act can be found [here](#)¹³.
23. A policy statement to explain the government amendment to the Children and Social Work Bill to introduce statutory relationships education in primary schools, relationships and sex education in secondary schools, and PSHE in all schools, can be found [here](#)¹⁴.

Consultation on revised UASC/Trafficked children Statutory Guidance

24. The statutory guidance on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children was originally published in 2014. Recent legislative changes such as the Modern Slavery Act 2015, policy developments such as the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and events around the recent migration crisis have meant that it is necessary to update the guidance so that it is of best use to local authorities.

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-provision-capital-funding-for-pupils-with-ehc-plans>

¹³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-rse-and-pshe>

25. The consultation seeks views as to whether the revised guidance provides sufficient advice to local authorities in England looking after unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery. Full detail of the consultation and the revised statutory guidance can be found [here](#)¹⁵.
26. The consultation ran from 03 to 17 March, with the government plan to publish the revised statutory guidance by Spring 2017.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

Report author: Nicola McCann, EY Information and Co-ordination Manager,
Children's Services. 30/05/2017

Largely taken from the DfE website content 01 March 2017 to 30 May 2017.

¹⁵ <https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children/>

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Children's Select Committee Forward Work Programme

Last updated 1 MAY 2017

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 1 MAY 2017		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / Purpose of Report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
13 Jun 2017	Election of Chairman	To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.			
13 Jun 2017	Election of Vice-Chairman	To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.			
13 Jun 2017	The Work of Overview and Scrutiny in the Previous Council	<p>To report to the new Children's Select Committee on ongoing work recommended by the former Management Committee as part of the development of a work programme for the function in the new Council.</p> <p>The Review of the work of Overview and Scrutiny - 2013-2017 will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 06 June, confirming the endorsement of any ongoing work recommended in the report.</p>			Adam Brown
13 Jun 2017	Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report	To consider the report before it is received by Council.	Terence Herbert	Cllr Laura Mayes	Martin Davis

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 1 MAY 2017		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
5 Sep 2017	Post 16 Area Wide Review (Joint lead by Economy & Planning and Education)	<p><i>“To present the findings of the post 16 area review of education in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Swindon.”</i></p> <p>Cabinet (4th April).</p> <p>Contacts: Ariane Crampton, James Fortune, Helen Clift</p>		Cllr Laura Mayes	

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