

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

26 November 2024

Task Group and Rapid Scrutiny Update

Purpose

To provide an update on any recent work from task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises linked to the Children's Select Committee (CSC), as well as information on any upcoming overview and scrutiny (OS) activities for the committee.

UPDATES FROM ACTIVE TASK GROUPS

1. Adoption West Joint Scrutiny Panel

Supporting officer: Julie Bielby

Membership

Cllr Jon Hubbard (chair)

Cllr Carol King (Wiltshire representative)

+ one elected member from each of the other Local Authorities supporting Adoption West (Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, Gloucestershire Council, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council)

Recent activity

The Joint Scrutiny Panel met on 16 October 2024 and scrutinised the findings of the Ofsted report of Adoption West which were overall 'good'. There was, nonetheless, learning to take forward and safeguarding policies and procedures have since been revised.

The panel approved the introduction of working groups to develop knowledge of the region and increase insight of subjects under scrutiny. The pilot working group is focusing on post adoption support.

2. Mental Health Support for children and young people task group

Membership:

Cllr Caroline Corbin

Cllr Jo Trigg

Cllr Carol King

Cllr Gordon King

Cllr Jon Hubbard

Terms of Reference

- a) Review the needs assessments, outcomes and analysis that has been undertaken for children and young people in Wiltshire.
- b) Consider what is being done elsewhere, e.g. regional and/or national examples of good practice as well as what third sector is doing in Wiltshire
- c) Review proposals for future service(s) with a focus on the outcomes sought (and how these would be measured and monitored).

Members of the task group agreed that the remit of the rapid scrutiny to consider service specifications for mental health support services (resolution, Children's Select Committee, Sept. 2024), could be incorporated into the work of this task group under category 'c'.

Recent activity

Members met on 14 November to scope out the work of the task group which is anticipated will take place over three further meetings.

UPDATES FROM UPCOMING RAPID SCRUTINY EXERCISES

3. Homelessness and Young People

Volunteers:

Cllr Trevor Carbin

Cllr Iain Wallis

Vacancies: **1 or 2**

the group will consider:

- How the council is meeting its duties regarding housing young people
- The measures in place and/or planned in response to Ofsted recommendations for supported housing

Provisional date set for 23 January 2025.

4. Out of County Education – Rapid Scrutiny

Volunteers:

- Cllr Liz Alstrom

Vacancies: **2** minimum.

This Rapid Scrutiny aims to consider the potential impact on young people having to attend education outside of county (i.e. where the school they are in catchment for is outside of the county).

To do so, members will explore a number of topics such as communication with and consultation of young people who live in Wiltshire but do not attend school in Wiltshire, the recording of NEET (not in employment, education, or training), transition between primary

school (likely to have been in Wiltshire) and secondary school (outside of county), support and activities available to young people before and after school, as well as holiday provision.

Pencilled in date: Tuesday 3 December, 1-3pm

5. Education Performance Outcomes – Rapid Scrutiny

Volunteers:

- Cllr Caroline Corbin (NB not sure Cllr Corbin will actually be available due to work conflict and also putting herself forward for the Children and Young People's Mental Health Services and Development task group)
- Cllr Martin Smith

Vacancies: **1 or 2.**

This Rapid Scrutiny aims to understand in more depth the performance figures for primary school outcomes, as well as identifying trends and outliers.

This is expected to be a single meeting in November / December and to inform how the Children Select Committee will consider education performance outcomes going forward.

Proposals

- 1. To note the update on task group and rapid scrutiny activities provided.**
- 2. To seek members for the vacancies on the following rapid scrutiny activities**
 - **Homelessness and Young People**
 - **Out of County Education**
 - **Education Performance Outcomes**

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