

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

3 December 2013

Task Group update

1. Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

Membership: Jon Hubbard (Chairman)
Andrew Davis
Alice Kemp
Bill Moss
Bridget Wayman

The Task Group met on 17 October and 31 October and discussed the following:

Placements for Looked After Children (LAC)

This comes under the Task Group's terms of reference and members have been discussing how they wish to scrutinise services and placements for LAC effectively. It has been tentatively agreed to focus on three key themes:

- a) Placement permanency – how long placements last for and why
- b) Placement choice – does the Council meet its sufficiency duty to provide a range of placements and are children involved in decisions about their placements
- c) Education for LAC – how effectively are the special education services for LAC

Key milestones in the Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Plan

The Safeguarding and Adoptions Improvement Board (SIB) has asked the Task Group to scrutinise its selection of key milestones and their delivery. The Task Group has now advised what evidence it wishes to see in December to assess whether each milestone has been achieved.

Single Assessment Framework

In December the Task Group will receive a briefing on the new Single Assessment Framework – a significant change in the way potential safeguarding cases are assessed. Social care managers now have increased scope to extend timelines for assessment and members wish to understand how the Council will monitor whether extensions are used appropriately.

The Task Group will meet again on 6 December 2013.

2. Further Education in the Salisbury Area Task Group

Membership: Mike Thompson (Chairman)
 Richard Britton
 Mary Douglas
 Jon Hubbard
 Jacqui Lay
 Bill Moss

The Task Group's 18-month review of progress with its recommendations took place on 14 November and is reported elsewhere in this agenda.

3. Further Education Task Group

On 1 October the Committee established a Task Group to look at the quality, range and equality of access to Further Education in Wiltshire. The Chairman was given authority to seek membership and a scoping exercise was to be held to develop some proposed terms of reference.

On 5 November the O&S Management Committee endorsed this Task Group as part of the O&S forward work programme and all members have been emailed inviting interest in taking part.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

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

On 1 October the Committee established a Task Group looking at the provision for children and young people with SEND in Wiltshire. The Chairman was given authority to seek membership and a scoping exercise was to be held to develop some proposed terms of reference.

On 5 November the O&S Management Committee endorsed this Task Group as part of the O&S forward work programme and all members have been emailed inviting interest in taking part.

On 26 November the Chairman and Rev Alice Kemp (co-opted parent governor rep – SEN) will meet with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Associate Director for Quality Assurance, Commissioning, Performance, Schools and Early Years to discuss where this task group could add most value.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

5. Academies Task Group

On 1 October the Committee asked Cllr Whalley and other interested members to undertake a scoping exercise to investigate where the Committee could add value to the academies programme and report back to the Committee. On 26 November Cllr Whalley, the Chairman, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Associate Director for Quality Assurance, Commissioning, Performance, Schools and Early Years to discuss this.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

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