
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

20 April 2018
(Published on 20 April 2018)

Item No.	Title
2	Declarations of Interest
	Eileen Tipper declared her membership of the Community Council for Somerset and Ruth Hobbs noted she was a member of the Committee due to her position as a School Governor.
3	Minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 March 2018
	The minutes of the last meeting held on 16 March 2018 were accepted as being accurate and signed by the Chair.
5	Scrutiny Work Programme
	<p>The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months.</p> <p>The Committee considered and agreed its own work programme and the future agenda items listed.</p> <p>The Committee noted the outcome.</p>
4	Public Question Time
	<p>18 members of the public had registered to speak about agenda item 6 Changes to the Physical Impairment and Medical Support (PIMS) Team, and the majority of those attended the meeting along with a number of other people interested in this item.</p> <p>All those who had submitted questions were advised they would receive a written response.</p> <p>A verbal response was provided by the Director of Children's Services. He began by apologising for the way in which the process had been dealt with so far and undertook to improve the Council's contact and communications with those children and families that would be effected by any changes and also all members of staff.</p> <p>He further noted that during the summer term the Council would hold meetings with all those children and their families to ascertain their views and what they felt they required from the PIMS team in future.</p> <p>He welcomed the recommendations made in a report submitted by the Somerset Parent Carer Forum and repeated his commitment to ensuring all children remained in a mainstream setting and for the Council to obtain the views of the children and families that used the PIMS service.</p>

Item No.	Title
6	Changes to the Physical Impairment and Medical Support Team (PIMS)
	<p>The Committee began by considering the report requested at its last meeting to provide an overview of the PIMS team and the proposed changes that had been prompted by a change in which central government funding would be allocated. The Committee held a thorough discussion, asking a number of questions that the Corporate Director answered when he stated his commitment to hold meetings with staff and children and families during the summer term to properly ascertain the direction of travel for proposed changes.</p> <p>The Committee agreed a number of recommendations following the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the importance of individual needs of every child and that the Council works closely with children, parents and schools to ensure individual needs are met; 2. The key priority must be to keep children in mainstream schools and improve outcomes; 3. If there is an identified skills gap, we need to ensure that staff are appropriately upskilled to meet need; 4. Provide the very best service with the resources available; 5. Progress is reported to the Committee in September.
8	Pathways to Independence (P2i)
	<p>The Committee considered a report, received a presentation and heard from a young person who had experienced Pathways to Independence (P2i). The Committee found the testimony of the young person very interesting and informative and her contribution was greeted with a round of applause. There was a discussion of the report with answers to questions and further information being provided by other service providers.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to accept the report and it was suggested and agreed that further report be provided at a future meeting to report progress on the Improvement Plan.</p>
7	SEND Peer Review update
	The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item to the May meeting.
9	Any other urgent items of business
	There were no other items of business and the Chair thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 13:03.