
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

15 June 2018
(Published on 22 June 2018)

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 18 May 2018 - Agenda item 3	Action
The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 May 2018 were agreed, subject to amendments to apologies for absence from Cllr Fraschini, Cllr Chilcot and Cllr Nicholson.	
Public Question Time - Agenda item 4	Action
Nigel Behan, UNITE Branch Secretary, submitted questions relating to PIMMS. Nigel Behan asked when the review of PIMMS is due to take place. He was advised that this item was due to come to the meeting in September.	
Scrutiny Work Programme - Agenda item 5	Action
<p>The Committee Chair explained the reports that make up the work programme agenda item and the importance the Committee should attach to planning its future work.</p> <p>The Committee then considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months. The Committee considered and agreed its own work programme and the future agenda items listed.</p> <p>The Committee Chair then explained that a Task and Finish group may be added to the work programme to look at children's services finances.</p>	
Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 - Agenda item 6	Action
<p>The Committee began by considering the report which set out the actions SCC and its partners are taking to continue and sustain improvements in children's services. The plan is reported on at a quarterly basis and the reporting looked at progress from January – March 2018. The report provided a summary of activity and progress, complimented by each of the 7 programmes highlight report.</p> <p>The following Members volunteered to be Children and Young People's Plan Committee Champions as there were several vacancies following the recent Committee changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr J Williams – Programme 1 • Cllr R Williams – Programme 7 • Cllr W Wallace – Programme 7 • Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper – Programme 3 	

<p>It was reported that overall there has been improvement in the programmes and they were showing good progress.</p>	
<p>SEND Peer Review - Agenda item 7</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>The Committee considered a report that provided an update of implementation activity and progress against Somerset SEND strategic outcomes and the recommendations of the Gloucestershire SEND peer review.</p> <p>The Committee considered the report and progress of the Somerset SEND Strategy 2016-2019. The areas for consideration were Performance; where there was a sharp increase in statutory assessment requests and move from funding only to EHCP planned to take over the next 24 months places additional capacity pressures on partner/internal advice givers and the SEND casework team. Statutory assessment requests have almost doubled since January. Current timeliness performance stands at 51% the transfer from funding only to EHCP is due for completion by April 2020 and timeliness performance is likely to remain low until that date whilst National performance is expected to steadily improve. The gap of Somerset performance against National and Statistical neighbours is therefore likely to grow.</p> <p>There are 22 Tribunals currently in action with a 2016/17 registration of 6.18 per 10,000 school population. This is higher than national average and in conjunction with the growing evidence suggesting poor inclusion indicates significant parental dissatisfaction and a loss of confidence in the SEND partners to support their children and young people. The focus of performance must also address the quality of EHCP's and reviews.</p> <p>The sharing and analysis of statistical information across key partners remains problematic and isn't routine. Data across partners is used for different purposes and is not easily matched at individual level. Joint commissioning therefore remains at an early development stage and will be addressed through the LAIN programme group.</p>	
<p>Completion Report on the Implementation of the 30 hrs Early Years Capital Projects - Agenda item 8</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>The Committee considered this item where they were presented with an update on the 6 funded capital projects that Somerset County Council had been successful in securing from the Department of education. The projects were implemented as part of securing sufficiency duties for the introduction of the extended entitlement (30 hours) funding for eligible working families in the county.</p> <p>The Committee considered and commented on the participation of early years providers to the extended entitlement (30 hours) scheme, and the number of Somerset families benefitting from the offer.</p> <p>The Committee considered and commented on each of the 5 capital projects that have been completed and are contributing to the extended</p>	

entitlement (30 hours) for three and four year olds in Somerset.	
Any other urgent items of business - Agenda item 9	Action
There were no other items of business and the Chair thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 13:15.	