

Public Questions for Friday 19 October Children & Families Scrutiny Committee meeting

Agenda item 6 – Committee Call-in – Revenue Budget report

Robin Head - Earlier this year the leader of the council trumpeted the announcement of a loan deal struck with the DfE involving Somerset receiving £116,000,000 for capital build for required new schools or school extensions to cope with new intake of students emanating from new housing linked with developments at Hinckley.

We now understand that this money cannot be taken up for at least 18 months as there will be no way of paying it back. Could we know how the County is going to support sufficient places for educating an increase in students numbers in Somerset? "Alternative sources" have been mentioned but not expanded upon.

Agenda item 7 – Consultation on Early Help – CAF 14b

No questions

Agenda item 8 – West Somerset Opportunity Area

No questions

Agenda item 9 – Young Carers Update

ASKED AT CABINET - Family Voices Somerset - The young carers service has a case load of 178, in the Getset strategy it states there is an estimated on the 2011 census for 1750 young carers. Please could we have a more recent statistic for this report?

Will the revisions to young carers also alter the service level of agreement in relation to the report earlier this year?

Please could the report also include how the service currently and proposes to cover mental health with young carers that is described as a level 2 target intervention. The Future in mind government report. (Attached) Could this committee see a report on children's and mental health provisions, and how Somerset can challenge the mental health and safeguarding with the loss of all youth clubs (that many young carers and children with some needs attended).

ASKED AT CABINET - Somerset Parent Carer Forum - Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the good work the young carers service is delivering and the hard work of the team.

The report lists what the service has delivered. Please can you clarify which parts of this has been delivered through funding by Somerset County Council and what was funded by the Young Carers charity or other grants.

Please can you confirm that there are clear published criteria for accessing the service and a published carers strategy that included Young Carers.

A recent government call for evidence highlighted that more needs to be done to support young carers. Current or past young carers (67% of respondents) responded that they have not received any support as young carers. With the government green paper on carers due to be published shortly, how confident is the council in its proposal to make cuts to the young carers service?