

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 16 November 2018

10.00 am Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library



To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr G Frascini, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr J Lock, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr J Williams, Elliot, Ms Helen Fenn, Ruth Hobbs and Mrs Eileen Tipper

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 8 November 2018

For further information about the meeting, please contact Neil Milne on 01823 359045 or ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



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AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Friday 16
November 2018

1 **Scrutiny Work Programme** (Pages 3 - 8)

To discuss any items for the forthcoming work programme. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached:

- a) – The Cabinet's latest published forward plan;
- b) – Current Work Programme for the Committee;
- c) – Outcome Tracker.

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items & Meeting date	Link to CYPP	Action owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
13 May 2016				
Focus on the education of vulnerable children (To include Children Looked After, Special Educational Needs and Free School Meal recipients)	All	Julian Wooster	The update was accepted and it was suggested that to help improve information available for and communications with all service users a decision tree (visual aid in the form of a diagram/flow chart) for the benefit of service users be considered.	Pending – response req Nov '18
27 January 2017				
Impact of proposed financial changes to Schools	All	Julian Wooster	The Committee encouraged Officers to continue to lobby for these proposed changes to be made so the higher funding materialised.	Pending/On-going
10 March 2017				
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		Amanda Payne	The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting in 12 months.	Pending Nov 2018
26 January 2018				
Overview of Family Based Care (Fostering) -		Louise Palmer	The Chair asked if consideration had been given to producing a flow-chart or a form of easy to follow guide to show the overall process and the Director of Children's Services noted that this had been raised by others and was being progressed. The update was accepted and it was agreed to request an update in a further 6 months.	Pending – update req for Jan '19
18 May 2018				
Progress on Recommendations arising from the Ofsted Inspection Report, January 2018		Claire Winter	The Committee asked if the Chair could be invited to QPRM meetings, as this practice of him being able to attend as an observer seemed to have lapsed. It was suggested, in addition to the regular CYPP reports, that a specific Ofsted update report be provided in 6 months so progress against the Ofsted recommendations could be reviewed.	Pending Pending
Elective Home Education – Government call for		Dave Farrow	It was agreed that the Council's draft response would be circulated at the beginning of June for any comments.	Pending

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

evidence			It was requested that the link to the website was circulated to the Committee and the lead officer encouraged any Member to contact him with any questions.	Completed
20 July 2018				
Scrutiny Work Programme		Dr Orla Dunn Fiona Phur	It was agreed that the following items would be included on the work programme: 19 October – Update on Syrian Families in Somerset; 19 October – Planning for the 2019/2020 CYPP	Completed Completed
		Dave Farrow	16 November – Pre-validation exam performance in Somerset	March '19
Family Support Services (FSS) Update		Philippa Granthier	The Committee requested that a further a FSS update report be provided for the December meeting that will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of service provision (following changes) and take up/usage of service; • Identifying and retaining vulnerable families to ensure they were not 'lost', particularly regarding changes in location and public transport; • Technology strategy – for staff and accessibility for clients; • Property – staff bases and service delivery. 	Completed as part of PIMS update
14 September 2018				
Changes to the PIMS team		Annette Perrington	The Committee considered this report that provided an update on the implementation of changes to the PIMs team, plans for further engagement on future service delivery and the impact on children and families. Members were informed that when engagement was concluded there would be a further update about this to the committee.	Pending Dec

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Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2016-2019		Fiona Phur & Member Champions	The Committee received an update regarding the development of the three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which started in April 2016 setting out the actions the council and its partners were taking to continue and sustain improvements in children's services. Members nominated as programme champions and officers involved in the programmes were reminded of the need to engage for updates and progress prior to committee meetings. The Committee accepted the update.	Completed
Children's Social Care Statutory Customer Feedback Report 2017-2018-		Simon Clifford	The Committee considered this item which reports on the operation of the complaints procedure containing an executive summary followed by 3 separate detailed sections for Children's Services, Adult Services, and Economy and Community Infrastructure (ECI). An update report was requested in 12 months.	Pending Sept 19
8 October 2018				
Extraordinary Call-In meeting to consider Savings Proposal CAF 14a		Julian Wooster	<p>The Committee reviewed the decision taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September 2018 regarding CAF 14a - proposals for the alteration and/or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families – 'getset'. The Committee heard questions & received statements from 26 members of the public. All submissions would generate a written response to be published on the Council's website. In summary and reflecting on the responses to a number of questions raised in the call-in review including, data, demand for services, caseloads for workers and reductions in staff the Committee did not feel that the additional supporting evidence, which it noted had not been considered by the Cabinet, had provided assurance about the decision taken by the Cabinet in respect of CAF14a.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to uphold the call-in and in light of clarification provided by officers during its call-in review of proposal CAF14a, to request that the Cabinet: Receive a report from the Director of Children's Services at its next meeting,</p>	Completed, follow up report to 19 October meeting, after Cabinet meeting.

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			based on Appendix A of the call-in report, and review the decision for CAF 14a that was taken on 12 September with the aim of deferring the implementation, pending the completion of the consultation on CAF 14b with staff, partners and service users in order to allow for a comprehensive proposal to come back to Cabinet for decision in February 2019.	
19 October 2018				
Consultation on Early Help – proposal (CAF 14b)		Julie Breeze	It was requested that a report be provided at a future meeting and officers also recommended that officers reconsider the length of the proposed consultation period as the 8 weeks included the two weeks of the Christmas holidays.	Pending Nov meeting
Young Carers Update – plus proposal (CAF 20)		Pip Cannons	The Committee requested that an update report be provided at the December meeting.	Pending Dec meeting
Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme Update 2018		Dr Orla Dunn	The Chair and Committee thanked the officer for the clear report and the very worthwhile on-going work in this area. A further report was requested in 12 months.	Pending Oct 2019
West Somerset Opportunity Area		Julia Ridge	The Chair and Committee thanked the officer for the clear report and requested a further report in 12 months.	Pending Oct 2019

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The CYPP has been produced following a multi-agency process, overseen by Somerset Children’s Trust. Seven improvement programmes have been identified – our work is focused on ensuring progress and achievement within these 7 programmes:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce

Key:

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting.
Pending	Action on-going or plans in place to address.
Incomplete	No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.

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