



Notice of Meeting of

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDRENS AND FAMILIES**

**Thursday, 4 May 2023 at 10.00 am**

**Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY**

To: The members of the Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families

Chair:	Councillor Leigh Redman	
Vice-Chair:	Councillor Oliver Patrick	
Councillor Suria Aujla	Councillor Jason Baker	Councillor Simon Carswell
Councillor Peter Clayton	Councillor Andy Hadley	Councillor John Hunt
Councillor Jenny Kenton	Councillor Martin Lovell	Councillor Frances Nicholson
Councillor Evie Potts- Jones	Councillor Jeny Snell	Ruth Hobbs Co-opted member
The Revd Tobie Osmond	Eileen Tipper	
Co-opted member	Co-opted member	

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For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services on (01823) 357628 or email: [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk).

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Thursday, 27 April 2023**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 25 April 2023

# **AGENDA**

**Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families - 10.00 am Thursday, 4 May 2023**

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<b><a href="#">Click here to join the online meeting</a></b>	11 - 12

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

## **2 Declarations of Interest (Pages 13 - 14)**

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

## **3 Minutes of former SCC Scrutiny for Policies, Children & Families Committee held on 6 March 2023 (Pages 15 - 22)**

To approve the minutes of the former SCC Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held on 6 March 2023.

#### **4 Public Question Time**

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting'.

#### **5 Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme (Pages 23 - 34)**

To receive an update from the Service Manager. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached:-

- (a) The Committee's work programme
- (b) The Committee's outcome tracker
- (c) Summary meeting overview of the former SCC Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families (2022/2023)

Please use the following link to view the latest Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions that have been published on the Council's website - [Executive Forward Plan](#)

#### **6 LA Maintained Schools Core Offer - update / response from last meeting and 2023/24 budgets (Pages 35 - 66)**

To consider briefing on Core Offer (a copy of the Core Offer booklet is attached).

This item will be led by the Council's Service Director – Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker.

Note – the Chair will allow 25 minutes for this agenda item.

**7 Proposed Steering Group (Task Group) on education standards (Pages 67 - 70)**

To consider and to discuss the proposal and draft Terms of Reference.

This item will be led by the Council's Service Director – Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker.

For background on this item, refer to discussions at the last meeting of the Committee – Education for Life Strategy ([see agenda item 7](#))

Note – the Chair will allow 25 minutes for this agenda item.

**8 SEND Strategy and the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) (Pages 71 - 114)**

To consider Report.

This item will be led by the Council's Service Director Inclusion, Dr Rob Hart and Deputy Director Commissioning, NHS Somerset, Andrew Keefe.

Note – the Chair will allow 30 minutes for this agenda item.

**9 Reforms in children's social care - draft consultation response (To Follow)**

To consider Report.

This item will be led by the Council's Assistant Director – Community and Strategy, Paul Shallcross.

Note – the Chair will allow 25 minutes for this agenda item.

**10 Task and Finish Group - sufficiency of external placements - initial response from Executive (To Follow)**

To consider the initial response from the Executive.

The Committee considered and agreed the report of the External Placements Task and Finish Group at the meeting held on 6 March 2023.

Click on this link to view the report considered and agreed at the meeting on 6 March 2023 - [External Placements Task and Finish Group](#)

**11 Task and Finish Group - home to school transport**

To receive verbal update.

**12 Items for Information - Standing Item**

This is a standing agenda item and will provide details of information sent to Committee members in between meetings, that cover the Committee's policy areas.

(a) Information on Children and Families Board

(b) Information on the 'Education for Life' event – circulated on 28 March 2023: - To find out more about Somerset Education for Life Strategy, visit the Council's website on this link - [Education for Life Strategy \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-for-life)

If Committee members have any questions or comments on the information, please contact the Committee Administrator on [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk) in the first instance and before the date of the meeting.