



Notice of Meeting of

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 10.00 am**

**Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR**

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

Chair: Councillor Leigh Redman  
Vice-chair: Councillor Evie Potts-Jones

Councillor Suria Aujla	Councillor Jason Baker
Councillor Simon Carswell	Councillor Peter Clayton
Councillor Andy Hadley	Councillor Pauline Ham
Councillor John Hunt	Councillor Marcus Kravis
Councillor Martin Lovell	Councillor Frances Nicholson
Councillor Jeny Snell	Ruth Hobbs – co-opted member
The Revd Tobie Osmond – co-opted	Eileen Tipper – co-opted member
Jo Simons – 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: [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Thursday, 4 January 2024.**

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, 2 January 2024

# **AGENDA**

## **Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families**

**10.00 am Wednesday, 10 January 2024**

**Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 7 - 8)**

**Information about the Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families (Pages 9 - 10)**

**Details on how to join the meeting online (Pages 11 - 12)**

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

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

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#) )

### **3 Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 (Pages 13 - 20)**

To approve the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 12 December 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 21 - 34)**

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

- (a) The Committee's work programme
- (b) The Committee's outcome tracker

Please use the following links to view the latest Somerset Council Forward Plans and Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions that have been published on the Council's website:

[Somerset Council Forward Plans](#)

[Somerset Council Executive Forward Plan](#)

#### **6 Sufficiency Strategy for children looked after and care leavers - 2023-28 (Pages 35 - 92)**

The Sufficiency Strategy is attached and to consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

**7 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring (Pages 93 - 102)**

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

**8 Update on short break provision (respite) (Pages 103 - 118)**

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

**9 Education Place Planning (Pages 119 - 140)**

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

*Note – The Chair will allow 40 minutes for this agenda item.*

**10 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) Housing related support and accommodation for 16 – 25-year-olds – update –

[Key Decision](#)

(The new service will go live in April 2024)

(b) C&YP December Bulletin – circulated on 19 December 2023

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.