

**Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 7 August 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
----------------	-------	----------

**Part A – Items considered in public**

A1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Cllr J Snell and R Hobbs (co-opted member). Cllr J Hunt and Cllr A Hadley joined the meeting remotely.
A2	Declarations of Interest	<p>The following additional declaration of interest was made:</p> <p>(a) Cllr E Potts-Jones – advised that is now working for a Member of Parliament - personal interest.</p>
A3	Minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 26 June 2024	Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families held on Wednesday 26 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.
A4	Public Question Time	There were no questions asked, statements made or petitions presented.
A5	Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme	The Committee received and noted the Committee’s current work programme, outcome tracker and the Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions in the coming months including Executive meetings.
A6	Children's Services - Budget Monitoring - Month 3	<p>The Committee received a <a href="#">presentation</a> which provided an update on the budget position for Children’s Services - Month 3 (2024/25), with a £5.4m forecast overspend (3.8% of budget). The overspend predominantly relates to external placements (residential, unregistered), education cost pressures, DSG High Needs Block.</p> <p>The Committee noted the update position.</p>
A7	Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Somerset - serious youth	The Committee received a <a href="#">presentation</a> which provided details of the outcome from the recent Somerset Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) – serious youth violence.

**Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 7 August 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
	violence - Report and Action Plan	<p>In May, the Care Quality Commission, His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, Ofsted and His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation jointly inspected the Somerset area’s multi-agency response to children over 10, who are at risk of, or affected by, serious youth violence in the county. The report from the inspection, in the form of an ungraded letter was published on 18 July 2024 – <a href="#">JTAI of Somerset</a>.</p> <p>The Committee noted the headline findings, covering governance and multi-agency safeguarding practice.</p> <p>The Safer Somerset Partnership and the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership are already collating action plans from all relevant organisations and strategically on behalf of each Partnership to improve partnership working in reducing serious youth violence and criminal exploitation in Somerset. These plans will be submitted to Ofsted by the Chair of the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, on behalf of the 3 Lead Safeguarding Partners by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024. (This is the date set by the Inspectorates) .</p> <p>Noted that the multi- agency action plan will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The multi-agency plans will also be overseen and tested for effectiveness via the Integrated Care System Children and Families’ Board, which meets every 2 months.</p>
<b>A8</b>	Equality Due Regard requirement for Scrutiny	The Committee considered a <a href="#">report</a> on the responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, namely scrutiny members duty to have Due Regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of their role as Scrutiny members.

**Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 7 August 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>The Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconfirmed their commitment to equality Due Regard being part of its Scrutiny function.</li> <li>2. A briefing paper for scrutiny be provided and to support further training opportunities that are provided for the delivery of this commitment.</li> </ol>
<b>A9</b>	School Transport Project	<p>The Committee received a <a href="#">presentation</a> which provided an update on the school transport project.</p> <p>Noted that School Travel Cost Management Strategy work had been presented at Scrutiny in <a href="#">October 2022</a> and the member-supported Task &amp; Finish Group was proposed. In May 2023, Edge Public Solutions published its review of home to school transport in Somerset and this work had also been shared and discussed with the Task and Finish Group and Scrutiny members.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed and noted the on-going work, successes (licensing) and innovation around procurement.</p>
<b>A10</b>	Items for Information - Standing Item	<p>The Committee noted the following items for information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <a href="#">Suicide Prevention Strategy for Somerset Consultation</a> - circulated on 25 July 2024.</li> <li>(b) 2024 KS2 headline data – circulated on 25 July 2024.</li> <li>(c) Briefing note on academisation / decision making process and procedure – circulated on 31 July 2024.</li> </ol>

**Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 7 August 2024**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>(d) Information about the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group meeting held on 25 July which considered the <a href="#">Adopt South West Annual Report 2023/24</a> – circulated on 30 July 2024.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 10am and will be held in the Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater.</p>