



Notice of Meeting of

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 18 September 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 Jason Baker	Councillor Simon Carswell
Councillor Peter Clayton	Councillor Andy Hadley
Councillor Pauline Ham	Councillor Alistair Hendry
Councillor John Hunt	Councillor Marcus Kravis
Councillor Martin Lovell	Councillor Frances Nicholson
Councillor Jeny Snell	Ruth Hobbs – co-opted
The Revd Tobie Osmond – co-opted	

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.

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 by **5pm on Thursday, 12 September 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, 10 September 2024

AGENDA

Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families 10.00 am Wednesday, 18 September 2024

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 5 - 6)

Information about the Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families (Pages 7 - 8)

Details on how to join the meeting online (Pages 9 - 10)

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 Wednesday 7 August 2024 (Pages 11 - 18)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7 August 2024.

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 19 - 28)

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 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring - Month 4 (Pages 29 - 38)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

Note – the Chair will allow 15 minutes for this agenda item.

7 Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Somerset - serious youth violence - action plan (To Follow)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

Notes - The Chair will allow 40 minutes for this agenda item. There will be an extraordinary meeting of the SSCP to finalise the JTAI plan and the presentation will be available to circulate on 16 September.

8 Transformation Board - deep dive - Children Looked After (Pages 39 - 52)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

9 Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group (Pages 53 - 60)

To receive and note the Report from the meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Group held on 25 July 2024 and the current Terms of Reference.

Note – the Chair will allow 10 minutes for this agenda item.

10 External placements - update on recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group (Pages 61 - 64)

To consider update.

Note – the Chair will allow 10 minutes for this agenda item.

11 Standing Panel for Education Standards - update

To receive update from the Service Director, Education and the Chair of the Panel, Councillor E Potts-Jones.

Note – the Chair will allow 5 minutes for this agenda item.

12 SWAP Audit on EHCP Improvement

Introduction from Service Director, Education – the full proposal and action plan will be brought to the October meeting of the Committee

Note - the Chair will allow 10 minutes for this agenda item.

13 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) 2023 KS4 and KS2 outcomes / performance for each MAT – circulated on 8 August 2024
- (b) [Somerset Council Engagement and Participation AR for 2023-2024](#) – circulated on 12 August 2024

If Committee members have any questions or comments on the information, please contact the Committee Administrator on democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk in the first instance and before the date of the meeting.