

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 18 September 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Items considered in public

A2	Declarations of Interest	<p>The following declaration of interest was made at the meeting:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Cllr P Clayton – non-pecuniary – agenda item 9 refers – is a Consultant independent Panel member Adopt South West</p>
A3	Minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 7 August 2024	Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families held on Wednesday 7 August 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.
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 4	<p>The Committee received a presentation which provided an update on the budget position for Children’s Services – Month 4 (2024/25).</p> <p>The Council is asking for views on proposals which aim to ensure provision for children with additional needs – the consultation runs to 18 October 2024 and will be discussed at the October meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The DSG Deficit Management Plan will be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted the update position.</p>
A7	Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Somerset - serious youth violence - action plan	<p>Further to the meeting held on 7 August 2024, the Committee received an update presentation on the Somerset Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in Somerset.</p> <p>The Executive Director advised the multi-agency action plan needs to be signed off by Ofsted before it can be brought into the public domain.</p>

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		<p>Noted that once the action plan is formally published, the SSCP has responsibility for its implementation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, will contact the ICB with regard to concerns about the implementation time for single system; and the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, regarding the action re police intelligence and sharing of information, for her views / plans to improve the system.</p> <p>The Committee will receive an update in 3 months (February 2025).</p> <p>Agreed will present the work on 'Transform' in Somerset to a future meeting of the Committee.</p>
A8	Transformation Board - deep dive - Children Looked After	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the deep dive undertaken on Children Looked After and areas being explored and further areas to explore.</p> <p>Agreed that the Executive Director will write to the President of the Family Division formally and ask support in trying to reduce the length of time Court proceedings are taking, as there are judicial areas, including Taunton which are taking longer than other areas.</p>
A9	Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group	<p>The Committee received and noted the report from the meeting of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group, held on 25 July 2024 and the Groups' current Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr Nicolson and the Executive Director will meet to review the terms of reference, with a view to formulating a response which will then be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that there will need to be further discussion by the Scrutiny Group about the terms</p>

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		of reference and its review by the Strategic Board before the Scrutiny Group can sign it off.
A10	External placements - update on recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group	Further to the meeting held on 13 September 2023 , the Committee received and noted the update on the recommendations made by the External Placements Task and Finish Group.
A11	Standing Panel for Education Standards - update	<p>The Committee received and noted the update from Cllr E Potts-Jones on recent work undertaken by the Standing Panel for Education Standards.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Panel will be on 13 November 2024 and all committee members are welcome to attend. The notes from the meetings will now be shared with committee members.</p>
A12	SWAP Audit on EHCP Improvement	<p>The Committee received and noted the presentation which outlined details of the audit requested by the Director of Children’s Services. This audit had been initiated because of complaints made by parents about delays in the Education Health and Care Plan payments process.</p> <p>It was agreed that the action plan will be shared, and the audit report will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 21 October 2024.</p>
A13	Items for Information - Standing Item	<p>The Committee noted the following items for information:</p> <p>(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</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on is on Monday 21 October 2024 at 10am and will be held in the JMR, Deane House, Taunton.</p>