

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Monday, 21 October 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Items considered in public		
A1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Councillor John Hunt and from Rev'd Tobie Osmond and Mary Cox – co-opted members. Ruth Hobbs (co-opted member) attended the meeting remotely.
A3	Minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2024	Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families held on Monday 21 October 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	<p>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.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following items will be added to the work plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGSCO complaints directed to Somerset – December mtg • Supported internships • DoE strategically (successes) • Role of LCN’s / City / Town / Parish Councils in provision of youth support <p>Noted that all Cllr’s have received basic DBS checks – officers are looking into issue of enhanced checks.</p>
A6	Children's Services - Budget Monitoring update - Month 5	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the budget position as at the end of Month 5.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) officers will produce explanation paper on differences between residential / IMS. (b) officers will provide breakdown of placements out of county by ages for CLA.
A7	Funding and provision for children	The Committee received a presentation outlining this consultation and received an update on

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	with additional needs - feedback on consultation	<p>the responses received as at 21 October 2024</p> <p>The Executive will be considering recommendations at the meeting on 4 November 2024 which will also include proposals about monitoring.</p> <p>Agreed that the Sufficiency Strategy will be added to work plan and as an agenda item at December mtg.</p> <p>The Committee was generally supportive of the proposals and plans; has concerns about how will be implemented; need to be child focussed; like to be kept up dated – item to March '25 meeting.</p>
A8	SWAP Audit on Education Health and Care Plan Payments	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the recent audit of EHCP payments (copy of audit report).</p> <p>The audit on Inclusion financial management and control will be circulated when available, for information.</p> <p>Noted looking to change systems and highlighted timescales. The Chair will write to Executive around concerns.</p>
A9	Transform Family View	<p>The Committee received a presentation and demonstration on Transform Family View – around using data to support integrated working across the partnership.</p> <p>Noted its huge potential - and is an excellent piece of work.</p> <p>Agreed that would be useful for an all member briefing to be arranged.</p>
A10	Items for Information - Standing Item	The Committee noted the following items for information:

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		(a) Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report – circulated on 19 September 2024 (b) Funding and provision for children with additional needs - consultation – circulated on 26 September 2024 (c) Somerset Children & Young People’s Plan – circulated on 10 October 2024