

Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
Outstanding items from 2022/ 2023		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Transport policy / Post-16 Travel Policy and the 'Somerset Ticket' • Children missing out on education (numbers, who, reasons) • Evaluation of the West Somerset Opportunity Area • Workshop The disadvantage gap - what we know and options to address, to include health impact of inequalities in education - Public Health, SEND, social workers, case studies, wider health organisations, FSM and pupil premium data • Possible workshop with Adults & Health Scrutiny Self-harm / mental health issues • Possible workshop with Adults & Health Scrutiny Transition arrangements – preparing for adulthood 		
Items to be scheduled 2023/24		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Support Fund / schools (added 15/05/23) (is a Key Decision 23/05/23) • Possible workshop with Adults & Health Scrutiny Children & Young People's access to Dentistry / child oral health improvement (added 04/05/23) will be discussed initially at Scrutiny Chairs mtg Oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022 published March '23 • Early Years places – how is Somerset placed to meet the need and ensure all who qualify have access (added 27/06/23) • EHCP process (added 27/06/23) • Elective home education numbers (added 27/06/23) • Pupil referral unit – provision / capacity (added 27/06/23) 		
Thursday 4 May 2023 @ 10am		
Education Partnerships & Skills	LA Maintained Schools Core Offer – update / response from last meeting and 2023/24 budgets	Amelia Walker
Education Partnerships & Skills	Terms of reference of the proposed Task Group on education standards	Amelia Walker
Inclusion	SEND Strategy and the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)	Dr Rob Hart and Deputy Director for Commissioning, NHS Somerset, Andrew Keefe
Social Care	Reforms in children's social care – draft consultation response	AD Community & Strategy, Paul Shallcross
	Task and Finish Group – sufficiency of external placements – initial response from Executive	Cllr Munt / Claire Winter

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

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	Task and Finish Group – home to school transport – verbal update	Dr Rob Hart
	Items for Information – Standing Item (a) Information on Children and Families Board (b) Feedback on the 'Education for Life' launch event	
Wednesday 12 July 2023 @ 10am		
Cross cutting	Budget outturn position 22/23 and issues 23/24 - overview <i>10-minute presentation; 10 minute Q&A</i>	Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter and Strategic Manager, Finance, Sian Kenny
Education Partnerships & Skills	Academisation / Education Finance <i>5-minute presentation; 10 minute Q&A</i>	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
Commissioning	Update on Homes & Horizons Partnership <i>10 minute presentation; 10 minute Q&A</i>	Strategic Manager, Daniel Moncrieff
Cross cutting	Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset (added 23/05/23) Including an update on Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation. <i>20 minute presentation; 20 minute Q&A</i>	Dr Tim Cockerill, Patsy Temple, Mark Conway, Patrick Worthington, Nik Harwood and Lisa Walker
	Home to School Transport Task and Finish Group – interim update <i>5-minute presentation; 5 minute Q&A</i>	Executive member / Service Director – Inclusion, Dr Rob Hart
	Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board Annual Plan (added 22/06/23) <i>10-minute presentation; 15 minute Q&A</i>	Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter, Helen MacDonald, Operations Manager and Chair of Board
	Items for Information – Standing Item	

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	(a) Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) publication – Scrutiny of Children’s Services – a short guide (b) Homes and Horizons partnership (c) Progress update on Ofsted Action Plan; ‘Life story work’ (d) Children’s Services – current structure chart	Cathy Jones, Strategic Manager
Commissioning	Communities Scrutiny Committee – 9 August 23 @ 10am Members of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee will be invited to attend this meeting for the following agenda item:- Recommissioning of 16+ housing / supported accommodation <i>(initially added to work plan on 17/05/23)</i>	Service Director Commissioning and Performance, Richard Selwyn
Wednesday 13 September 2023 @ 10am		
Education Partnerships & Skills	Education Data	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
	Update on Children’s Transformation Programme	Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter
Education Partnerships & Skills	Frome Model – next steps	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker and Strategic Manager, Phil Curd
	Evaluation of the West Somerset Opportunity Area – information item <i>Outstanding item from 22/23</i>	Julia Ridge
15 November 2023 @ 10 am		

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Education Partnerships & Skills	LA maintained schools core offer – update	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
Inclusion	Progress update on SEND Strategy / Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)	Service Director - Inclusion Dr Rob Hart and Deputy Director for Commissioning, NHS Somerset, Andrew Keefe
Education Partnerships & Skills	Education Finance paper – consultation Provisional – or at additional meeting in October	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker

Future meeting dates

- Wednesday 10 January 2024 @ 10am
- Wednesday 13 March 2024 @ 10am
- Wednesday 15 May 2024 @ 10am

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Universal Education

- Pupil place planning
- Disadvantage gap
- Academisation
- LA maintained capacity and support

SEND and Inclusion

- Attendance
- Accelerated Progress Plan (Joint Local Area SEND Inspection)
- SEND & Alternative Provision
- SEND Strategy

Social Care and Commissioning

- Family safeguarding
- Early Help
- Placement sufficiency
- Strategic partnership
- The Care Review

Cross-cutting items:

- Long-term financial planning that improves outcomes for children (MTP)
- Involving young people and the community in scrutiny
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing (with health partners)
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – Children & Families Budgets

Note: Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Democratic Services (01823) 357628 & democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk who will assist you in submitting your item.