

Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families Outcome Tracker 2023 - 24

Agenda items	Lead / Owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
3 October 2022			
Home to School Transport	Phil Curd John Perrett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) noted the update and current position and proposed next steps and development (b) agreed to add school transport to the Committee's work plan for refreshed Council policy (to reflect statutory guidance and possible discretionary changes (c) agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss further a possible Task and Finish Group for SEND transport, to include provision for pre and post school club attendance, for example 	<p>To be scheduled</p> <p>To be resumed after external review T&F agreed @ November '22 mtg</p>
16 January 2023			
Scrutiny update on Ofsted Action Plan	Paul Shallcross	<p>PowerPoint presentation on the Ofsted Action Plan and progress made.</p> <p>Covered the two named areas for improvement, which are – placement sufficiency (which is also a national issue) and which is being considered by the Committee's Task and Finish Group; the take-up of return to home interviews and which is also being considered as a separate agenda item at the meeting; and other key areas of focus, such as the early help demand management work and strategy discussions and audit work. AGREED that the Life Story Work, which is taking place for the majority of children looked after, and data around that, will be an agenda item at a future meeting.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Update to June / July '23 mtg Information item</p>
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) - Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation	Vikki Hearn	<p>Workshop item</p> <p>Trauma Informed Charter being developed – to be shared.</p> <p>Coordinator position being recruited to pull together training resources and training plan for the next two years and to be linked with the development and progression of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan</p> <p>Progress update in 6 months'</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Update to July '23 mtg Will form part of children's mental health & wellbeing item</p>

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6 March 2023			
Joint Local Area SEND Inspection Outcomes and update on SEND Green Paper	Claire Merchant-Jones	<p>Received a report and PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Head of SEND, Claire Merchant-Jones on the recent Joint Local Area SEND Inspection outcomes. The revisit inspection took place between 28 November and 1 December 2022 and the Committee received a copy of the revisit inspection report; also received update on the response to the SEND Green Paper, published on 2 March 2023. This sets out plans to change the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the Committee receive an update on the new Inspection Framework and the APP in 4 months. The Committee has previously agreed that the SEND Strategy will be come to Scrutiny.</p> <p>The Committee additionally commented that a flow chart would be helpful, showing the reporting mechanism for the Children & Families Board, its terms of reference and membership and how the views of children and young people are represented on the Integrated Care Board.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Update to May '23 mtg</p> <p>Item for information at May '23 mtg</p>
Education for Life Strategy	Amelia Walker	<p>Received a presentation from the Council's Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker on an Education for Life Strategy for Somerset 2023 – 2028.</p> <p>Asked to see proposed terms of reference of the Task Group on education standards. Asked for details of the launch event on 21 March 2023.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Update to May '23 mtg</p>
Core Offer - update	Amelia Walker	<p>Received presentation, outlining background to the proposals and changes made following extensive reflection and feedback.</p> <p>The Committee requested that this revised offer goes back to the Executive at the first opportunity to allow them to review the changes.</p> <p>The Committee further recognises the value of the Core Offer for schools and endorses the goals and intended outcomes of implementing the Core Offer whilst recognising the dilemma that has been caused by funding reductions to local authority budgets and inflationary pressures. The Committee highlights its ongoing concerns about how the transition will be funded, for both sides, and the potential funding gap.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a response comes back to the next meeting in May 2023.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Update to May '23 mtg</p>

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Sufficiency of external placements	Lead Member / Claire Winter	<p>Response from Executive to the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, which were agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on 6 March 2023</p> <p>Cllr Munt, lead member thanked the Task and Finish Group for its work and report and advised that the Executive has seen the report and will have a deeper look / spend more time on this and some other matters which relate to education, children and families, in a specific meeting.</p> <p>Ms Winter provided an update on the recommendations - the Homes and Horizons project, part of which is to create both residential and foster homes for children with complex needs; recruitment of foster carers for the complex needs fostering scheme – that scheme is to take up to 20 young people with complex needs who believe could be moved from residential care to fostering; working to develop sufficiency of fostering and residential care for children in Somerset through own provision; still work with independent sector / local providers; placements in unregistered provision & complex needs – highest priority children to move into the Homes and Horizons residential homes as soon as they are open; block contract places issues – being considered and use where appropriate; agree should refer to ‘placement that children are in’; national issues highlighted; workforce issues.</p> <p>Very happy to provide updates to Committee on progress on Homes and Horizons and provision.</p> <p>The formal response from Executive will be received and considered by the Task and Finish Group and a review of the Task & Finish Group outcomes by the Committee should be agreed accordingly by the Committee and the Executive/Lead Member.</p>	Pending
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