

Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families Outcome Tracker 2023 - 24

| Agenda items | Lead / Owner | Agreed Outcome | RAG Status |
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| 12 July 2023 | | | |
| Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset | Dr Tim Cockerill and colleagues | <p>Detailed Presentation received, which included an update on the Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation.</p> <p>Details on Regional Summit in autumn to be shared with Committee. Noted position re recruitment of coordinator and the system wide trauma informed training offer.</p> | <p>progress update in 6 months' time</p> <p>January '24 – changed to March 24</p> |
| Joint meeting with Adults and Health Scrutiny on 25 October 2023 | | | |
| Dentistry and children and young people's access to dentistry and child oral health improvement | NHS Somerset / ICB and Public Health | <p>The Committee received a presentation from NHS Somerset on the provision of NHS Dental Services in Somerset, and a position statement on child oral health improvement, provided by Public Health.</p> <p>The Chair requested (a) a briefing be provided to cover the questions raised during discussions, around early years, sign-posting, primary care recovery plan, route for queries to be funneled; noted that service is creating a webinar (across the SW region); (b) an update to the Committee on issues raised in 4 – 6 months.</p> <p>Link to NHS dental statistical data information</p> <p>The Committee welcomed and noted the update.</p> | <p>Update to a Joint mtg or Adults & Health cttee</p> |

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

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| Somerset approach to reducing smoking and youth vaping | Kate Anderson Rachel Handley | <p>The Committee received a presentation from Public Health Team and engaged in discussions and debate of the points raised. The presentation raised several important and informative points.</p> <p>The Committee agreed a recommendation that they wished to present to The Executive and unanimously agreed would write to the Executive in relation to electronic cigarettes, as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee asked that the current government consultation (link to the consultation Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views - Department of Health and Social Care (dhsc.gov.uk)) be shared with all members who are encouraged to complete and promote locally in their divisions. The consultation runs to 6 December. 2. The Committee asked that Licensing committee be asked to review and action stronger enforcement of the sale of these devices in line with the current legal position. 3. The Committee asked that the 'Quit tool not cool tool' slogan, as highlighted by the presentation be supported and promoted in the council. 4. The Committee requested that Council take a position with regard to seeking government to work at increasing legislation around electronic cigarettes, that included but not conclusive:- a ban of the use of single use devices with exception of use to support stopping smoking, a ban on child targeting (advertising and packaging), an introduction of plain packaging that would include a health warning, an introduction of an increasing age ban on sales of these devices in line with the change made to cigarette sales. | On going |
| 15 November 2023 | | | |
| 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring | Sian Kenny | <p>The Committee received a presentation on the 23/24 Children's Services budget and a verbal update on the month 6 position, which is showing a slight increase in forecast overspend (£11.8m to £12.4m).</p> <p>A key area of deficit is the DSG, High Needs Block and will include more detail on this and the 2 areas overspending in the next update to the Committee.</p> | On going |
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| 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring | Christian Evans | <p>The Committee received a presentation on 2023/24 Children's Services budget monitoring, the forecast outturn as at end September (month 6) and verbally updated on the latest position, which is showing the position is worsening, mainly due to situation around external placements.</p> <p>The presentation focussed on home to school transport (mainstream and SEN), DSG and in particular the High Needs forecast deficit position and the statutory override situation.</p> <p>Noted that the Council is refreshing the DSG Deficit Management Plan and this will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee early next year. Reference made to the DBV / SEND programme work - the Newton report has been previously shared with the Committee and this will be recirculated for reference.</p> | <p>On-going</p> <p>To March mtg</p> <p>Newton Report - circulated</p> |
| Education, Health and Care Assessment and Plan 2022-2023 - Progress update | Dr Rob Hart | <p>The Committee considered a report and received a presentation providing a progress update on Special education needs & disabilities (SEND) – improvement activity and Education, health and care plans (EHCP), providing a summary of the data, improvements, impact and ongoing challenges in relation to how the local area has continued to respond to delivering EHCP's across Somerset since the reinspection of SEND services in November 2022. The Accelerated Progress Plan was signed off by the DfE in May 2023, there are monthly progress reports to the SEND Partnership Board, six-month reviews with DfE and NHSE.</p> | <p>progress update in 6 months' time</p> <p>(June '24)</p> |
| | | <p>The key headline is increase in numbers of plans and the number of annual reviews – there has been a decrease in number of tribunals registered (slide 5). Highlighted the situation re funding and placements and that following the recent funding consultation (presented to Scrutiny meeting in November '23) are developing proposals to allocate more high needs funding to schools without need for an EHCP and to make banding more equal between mainstream and special school (slide 6).</p> | |
| | | <p>Highlighted position re SEND in Somerset schools (slide 7) and since 2018 there has been 2.6% increase in total pupil numbers and 78% increase in pupils in specialist settings.</p> | <p>Response to questions from Cllr Nicholson to be circulated</p> |

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| | <p>Highlighted position re Annual Reviews / timeliness (slide 8) and referenced the LGCSO decision (slide 9). Performance against annual review timeliness will continue to challenge the LA as the number of EHC plans it needs to maintain continues to grow. The link to the Ombudsman report will be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the update on EHCPs and the ongoing challenges for teams across the Council and wider partners. 2. To note the activities underway to support improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Planning Meetings offered (and monitored) to every school across Somerset to identify children requiring support from specialist LA teams. • Clarify expectations with schools to ensure that appropriate advice and support in advance of meeting. • Notes the additional staff in place to process Annual Review reports in a timely way. • The scrutiny committee to receive an update in 6 months on impact / uptake / number of reviews completed and so on (KPIs & training). | |
| <p>Children's Services Transformation Priorities 2023 - 2026</p> | <p>The Chair referred to the discussions at the last meeting of the Committee on the Children's transformation priorities and invited volunteers to focus on particular strands of the transformation priorities, to allow individual meetings with officers to gain a better understanding / learn more about one of the areas, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for life • CLA Transformation • SEND Strategy • Connect Somerset <p>The following Committee members expressed an interest in the areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for Life – Jo Simons; • CLA Transformation – Cllr E Potts-Jones, Cllr M Lovell; • SEND Strategy – Cllr S Carswell, Cllr F Nicholson; • Connect Somerset – Tobie Osmond, Ruth Hobbs. | <p>On-going</p> |
| <p>10 January 2024</p> | | |
| <p>Membership changes</p> | <p>Noted changes to membership and that Mrs Tipper, co-opted member is standing down.</p> | |

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| Sufficiency Strategy for children looked after and care leavers – 2023-28 | Richard Selwyn | The Committee received a presentation on the Sufficiency Strategy for children looked after and care leavers (2023-28) - outlined the Sufficiency Strategy for Somerset, the vision, priorities, challenges and the programme to improve outcomes and sufficiency / actions to be taken. Agreed that will provide foster carers data to the Committee. The Vice Chair thanked officers for the presentation and the Committee noted the update. | Completed |
| 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring | Christian Evans | The Committee received a presentation on 2023/24 Children's Services budget monitoring position - month 7, focussing on – external placements monitoring & forecasting, CLA key cost drivers and the 23/24 DSG budget monitoring (High Needs, home to school transport and SEND transport). Noted that the council is refreshing the DSG Deficit Management Plan (DMP) and will bring this to scrutiny in March so the committee can see what is being proposed. | On going |
| Update on short break provision (respite) | Louise Palmer | The Committee received a presentation on short break provision, which is holiday activities, daycare, fostering, residential and outlined the statutory guidance, gaps / opportunities, vision and plans for the future. Agreed that the Action Plan is shared with Scrutiny and officers were invited to update the Committee at the meeting in May. | Progress update to May meeting Action plan shared |
| Education Place Planning | Phil Curd | The Committee received a presentation on education place planning, providing an overview of statutory duties, the Somerset context, projection modelling, education growth and challenges, local first approach, developer contributions, extended / expanded childcare offer and expansion of wrap around provision. The Vice Chair thanked the officer for the excellent presentation. | Completed |
| Scrutiny Committee – Corporate & Resources – 2 February 2024 | | | |
| Scrutiny of budget proposals for 2024/25 | | | |
| Education & Inclusion | | Recommend that Scrutiny Children & Families receive quarterly reports regarding the Deficit Action Plan for High Needs Block and Dedicated Schools Grant and the continuation of the statutory override Reason - To maintain sufficient oversight on delivery of this plan and its mitigation of significant risks to the Council | DSG Deficit Management Plan on agenda March mtg |
| | | <u>Decision of Executive – 7 February 2024</u> For Scrutiny Committee – Children and Families to receive quarterly reports regarding the Deficit Action Plan for High Needs Block and Dedicated Schools Grant and the continuation of the statutory override | |

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| <p>Significant and high risk savings proposals</p> | | <p>Scrutiny Committee Children & Families to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of savings proposals CFE 003, CFE 004, CFE 005, CFE 009, CFE 011, CFE 012, CFE 013 and CFE 014, together with scrutinising any adverse impacts on young people, partners and providers</p> <p>Reason - To be assured on the delivery of the proposed savings and scrutinise any adverse impacts on young people</p> <p><u>Decision of Executive – 7 February 2024</u> For Scrutiny Committee – Children and Families to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of savings proposals CFE003, CFE004, CFE005, CFE009, CFE011, CFE012, CFE013, and CFE014 and scrutinise any adverse impacts on young people, partners, and providers.</p> | |
| <p>Service delivery and Ofsted rating of service for vulnerable children</p> | | <p>Seek assurance from the Executive that the proposed savings proposals will not adversely affect outcomes for vulnerable children and the Ofsted rating that the Council has invested significant staff and financial resources to achieve</p> <p><u>Decision of Executive – 7 February 2024</u> For assurance from Executive that the proposed savings proposals will not adversely affect outcomes for vulnerable children and the Ofsted rating that the Council has invested significant staff and financial resources to achieve.</p> | |

The CYPP 2022 - 2025 had been produced following a multi-agency process. The CYPP had three priorities: keeping children and young people safe (priority 1); supporting physical and emotional health and resilience (priority 2); enabling young people to learn and thrive (priority 3)

[Somerset Children & Young People's Plan – SSCP \(safeguardingsomerset.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)

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| <p>Completed</p> | <p>Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting</p> |
| <p>Pending</p> | <p>Action on-going or plans in place to address.</p> |
| <p>Incomplete</p> | <p>No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.</p> |

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