

Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families Outcome Tracker 2024 - 25

Agenda items	Lead / Owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
Joint meeting with Adults and Health Scrutiny on 25 October 2023			
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 2023. 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

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12 December 2023			
Children's Services Transformation Priorities 2023 - 2026		<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. 	On-going
13 March 2024			
Report back from committee members on Children's Services Transformation Priorities /Areas	various	<p>Further to the meeting in December 2023, the Committee received a verbal report back from committee members on Children's Services Transformation Priorities /Areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for Life – Jo Simons • CLA Transformation - Cllr Evie Potts, Cllr Martin Lovell • SEND Strategy – Cllr Simon Carswell, Cllr Frances Nicholson • Connect Somerset - Tobie Osmond, Ruth Hobbs <p>The Chair thanked members and officers for their on-going work and the Committee noted the update.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p><i>Info from Jo Simons about the Education for Life Year 1 event circulated on 14 March '24</i></p>

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15 May 2024			
care experience as a protected characteristic	Fiona Phur	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the care experience as a Protected Characteristic. The Council in May 2023 agreed to 8 recommendations to implement care experience as a Protected Characteristic and the Committee noted the actions arising. In March 2020 the Council signed the national Care Leaver’s Covenant and Committee to meeting its five core outcomes. Noted the Somerset definition of ‘care leavers and care experienced’ and the proposed next steps / considerations for implementation.</p> <p>Discussed the ambition for children / Corporate Parent Board (CPB) role (not statutory requirement); Somerset definition now agreed by legal team; is quite wide-ranging definition; need to be clear on parameters; with definition can move forward / on journey; around influence & encouragement; do support beyond 25 if able (but not a lifelong service); role of CPB.</p> <p>Data provided and number of those who experience homelessness (slide on page 56 – slide 6) – (a) seek more information / breakdown of figures in more detail and the cttee could look at that at later date; (b) ask for update on care experience as protected characteristic at some point to a future meeting, (including views of those who are care experienced) (c) CPB is where can & do hold people to account.</p> <p>Mentioned the data dashboard produced for the CPB is interesting / information. (Big sleep out on 15 June – experience what it’s like to sleep on the street).</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>To be followed up</p> <p>To be arranged</p>
26 June 2026			
Work plan		<p>The Chair highlighted that the Regional Schools Commissioner will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss academisation and the process for school conversions – it is hoped this will be the August meeting but if this is not possible, it will be as soon as can be arranged. The Executive Director said that she will prepare a briefing note for the Committee on the decision-making process / procedure for academisation.</p>	<p>October mtg</p> <p>circulated</p>

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Children's Services Transformation Plan (deep dive)	Claire Winter	<p>Presentation on the Children's Transformation Programme – providing update o / summary on progress, overarching finance summary, MTFP tracker and on the work of the priority workstreams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local mainstream school is the right choice for most children • Developing an excellent workforce for children • Families can access support early • Sufficient homes for children in care and school places for children with additional needs in Somerset <p>Agreed that data sharing and 'how it work's' will be added to the work plan.</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>prov October mtg</p>
Children's Services Budget monitoring	Christian Evans	<p>Presentation providing an update on the budget position, covering (a) the provisional 23/24 outturn position (£12.4m adverse overspend – predominately relating to external placements, fieldwork (support for children at home), and SEND transport); and (b) the emerging 24/25 issues.</p> <p>Agreed that Transformation Board 'deep dive' report on CLA will be shared with committee.</p> <p>Stressed need to see most up to date financial details to be able fully scrutinise effectively.</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>September mtg</p>
7 August 2024			
Work Plan		<p>Agreed that Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group be discussed further at next meeting (Report from meeting on 25 July 2024 and current ToR).</p> <p>(Notes from the meeting held on 25 July had been circulated to Committee members as an item for information).</p>	<p>September mtg</p>

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Equality Due Regard requirement for Scrutiny	Tom Rutland	<p>Considered report on the responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, namely scrutiny members duty to have Due Regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of their role as Scrutiny members.</p> <p>Reconfirmed their commitment to Equality Due Regard being part of its Scrutiny function; a briefing paper for scrutiny be provided; to support training opportunities that are provided for the delivery of this commitment.</p>	Completed
School Transport Project	Phil Curd John Perrett	<p>Presentation which provided an update on the school transport project</p> <p>Noted that School Travel Cost Management Strategy work had been presented at Scrutiny in October 2022 and the member-supported Task & Finish Group was proposed. In May 2023, Edge Public Solutions published its review of home to school transport in Somerset and this work had also been shared and discussed with the Task and Finish Group and Scrutiny members.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the positive updated and noted the on-going work, successes (licensing) and innovation around procurement (reverse auction trial in Mendip).</p> <p>The work is being presented to national forums (especially around data dashboard which has huge impact on ability to target work).</p> <p>Will investigate if can pull comparative data from county council authorities to add to the data dashboard.</p>	Completed

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)

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

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