
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

4 March 2020

Minutes from the previous meeting - Agenda item 3	Action
The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record.	
Public Question Time - Agenda item 4	Action
There were no questions asked, statements made or petitions presented.	
Scrutiny Work Programme - Agenda item 5	Action
<p>The Chair directed attention to the Committee’s own work programme and invited suggestions for possible future agenda items. The Transition plans for LD service users (18-25) moving into adult services will be considered when agreeing the agenda for the forthcoming joint meeting with the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The Vice Chair informed the Committee that the on-going Task and Finish Group considering School Exclusions hope that their final report will be ready for consideration at 1st April meeting.</p>	
Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) service - Agenda item 6	Action
<p>The Committee received a report regarding Special Educational Needs and/or Disability information, advice and support (SENDIAS) service. The Committee supported the 3 areas detailed within the report.</p> <p>The areas of success within the service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved partnership working- building relationships with families, schools and health and social care colleagues in order to offer a cohesive and effective approach. • Better support and tools to do the job – a newly designed website, up-to date promotional material, an improved Local Offer and the Effective Support for Children and Young People with SEND and their families in Somerset document. 	Fiona Phur

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully implementing National Standards which will attract future national investment into Somerset. <p>The areas of challenge within the service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in mediations/tribunals. • Increase in request for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments. • Higher caseloads. <p>The future plans for the service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in service through Children’s Service Transformation – this investment creates new SENDIAS Support Worker posts in each area of the county and will provide Early Help to families by getting the right support from schools to deliver high quality and appropriate education to their children. The workers will also identify where the child’s needs require more intervention than the school alone can give – and these children will be supported through the process to gain support from an EHCP by SENDIAS Area Co-ordinators. Additionally, the funding will create a new Area Co-Ordinator post to work in the areas of highest demand. • A more strategic management approach. • Hearing the voice of the SEND child and young person more strongly. <p>The Committee noted the report and would like SENDIAS to be scheduled in the work programme for 6months time.</p>	
<p>Safe routes to school - Agenda item 7</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>The Committee received a presentation about the Safe Routes to School. The presentation covered policy, assessment criteria, impact and current numbers, conclusion of previous work, summary of remaining challenges and climate emergency and de-carbonation.</p> <p>The Committee Members considered the presentation and asked questions on areas such as, road safety and footway provisions in the rural areas and if highways record near misses.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report and update.</p>	

School Exclusions - Update from the Task and Finish Group - Agenda item 8	Action
<p>The Committee received a short report update on the School Exclusions task and finish group, acknowledging that only the Head teacher can decide to exclude a pupil permanently and the reasons for that exclusion will be individual and specific to each child and setting. During our review we have been interested to hear from Head teachers at different settings to help inform our review. We want to understand what inclusive best practice looks like and enable that to be shared across Somerset. The task and finish group have held an intensive enquiry period to gather and examine relevant local evidence and what is going to happen next. They have completed evidence gathering through a series of meetings with representatives from primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, FE Colleges and parents.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>	
Any other urgent items of business - Agenda item 9	Action
<p>The Chair stated there were no other items of business and he closed the meeting at 14.38pm.</p>	