
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Held on 7 July 2021
(Published on 14 July 2021)

Item No.	Title
3	Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021
	The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021 were approved as a correct record.
4	Minutes from the special meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021
	The minutes of the special meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 were approved as a correct record.
6	Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Work Programme
	<p>The Committee considered and noted the Committee's current work programme and outcome tracker (which uses a traffic light system) and the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months including Cabinet meetings up to 15 December 2021.</p> <p>The work programme and outcome tracker will be updated, as discussed at the meeting.</p>
7	6 months on - learning from the voice of children & young people in the later stages of the pandemic
	<p>The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Participation & Partnership Manager, Fi Phur on learning from the voice of children and young people in the later stages of the pandemic and followed the presentation given at the meeting on 12 November 2020 on how the pandemic impacted on the delivery of the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP).</p> <p>The purpose of the presentation at this meeting was to update on the development of the CYPP and to hear what young people have said directly about their experiences. Since the merger of the Childrens Trust and the</p>

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	<p>Somerset Safeguarding Children Board to form the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) the 4 priorities of the CYPP have moved to be part of the 8 priorities of the SSCP and the CYPP is reported quarterly through their governance. It is also accountable to the Independent Scrutineer.</p> <p>As an overview and background, Ms Phur advised that at the beginning of the of pandemic most young people were able to access engagement opportunities digitally much more readily. Forums that met physically once a month all day needed to change to more manageable bite size engagement and the outcome of that was much more frequent engagement with young people. Now, young people are wanting a more blended approach (so face to face and Zoom). There is anxiety around 'capacity' as the young people at exam periods felt huge catch up pressure. Some with SEND and some children looked after did not welcome digital meetings as much as other forums due to anxiety and lack of social contact. She explained that there have been 4 forums running during the pandemic with an 'ad hoc' offer as well.</p> <p>The 4 priorities of the CYPP are - supported families; healthy lives; great education; positive activities and Ms Phur detailed the key issues highlighted and outlined the involvement of young people.</p> <p>In conclusion, Ms Phur highlighted the following next steps - will be promoting the results of 'Make Your Mark' survey (themes are – concern about exploitation, county lines, homelessness, domestic abuse), using them in the consultation for the next CYPP 2022 – 2025; the summer sessions of Youth Forum will be focussed on themes of transport and bullying; training - summer festival is being planned with partners and agencies on upskilling SEND young people on their ability to participate; Somerset Children and Young People Survey (SCYPS) by Public Health launch March–May 2021 – the evaluation and data will provide strong evidence to the Written Statement of Action (WSoA) and the new CYPP.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the Committee watched a short film made by the Care Councils (Sicc and SLCC) - <i>children in care and care leavers asks of the council as corporate parents</i>.</p> <p>A number of questions and comments were made following the presentation. In conclusion, the Chair thanked Fi Phur for the detailed presentation and thanked members for their comments and summed up the discussion as follows: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heard about the development of the next CYPP and how it is being shaped and ensure lessons learnt and that young people are instrumental in this. • good to hear about the health and wellbeing intern and about the work they are doing and asked if they could come to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting to update members about this work. • noted the safeguarding animation and training to help the LA Designated

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	<p>Officer (LADO) and GP's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asked for some case studies to be provided which could be shared widely (<i>you said, we did</i> etc.). • asked that further information on the 'Big Tent' and <i>Kooth</i> be circulated to the Committee. • asked that a briefing note about summer activities and eligibility, be circulated to all members. <p>AGREED that the presentation be welcomed and the information provided be noted.</p>
8	<p>School Exclusions</p>
	<p>The Committee considered a report and received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Assistant Director, Inclusion, Dr Rob Hart who provided an update and progress on actions taken on the recommendations from the Committee's Task and Finish Group, next steps, and future priorities.</p> <p>The Committee members listened to the presentation and asked several detailed questions, which were responded to by Dr Hart as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teams around school test and learn pilots, in Taunton and Cheddar – these will begin in September and will be reviewed with view to being rolled out further • SEND networks, led by Special Schools and locality-based networks – try to align them. • The focus on working together creatively to find better solutions – look at virtual school model and extend model to other children & local first panel model. • Questions on timeliness and also quality of EHCPs, noting that this is an item on the agenda for the October meeting of the Committee. • Questions about 'off rolling' and reference to the Timpson Review of School Exclusion (not yet implemented) and also training for teachers on dealing with challenging behaviour – mention also made of trauma informed practice. • The pandemic has had a significant impact and there are a number of young people in need of support - how will the work detailed in the presentation be coordinated and would like more information about the 'local first panel'. • Request that Dr Hart provide an update in 6 months-time on progress on actions taken on the recommendations from the Committee's Task and Finish Group and the future work outlined in the presentation. <p>The Chair thanked Dr Hart for the detailed presentation and thanked members for their comments.</p>

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9	Somerset County Council Business Plan - 2021-2023
	<p>The Committee considered a report and received a presentation from the Council's Corporate Affairs Director, Simon Clifford and from the Council's Corporate Planning and Performance Manager, James Hadley. The County Council Business Plan 2021 – 2023 details the strategic ambitions of the authority for the next 2 years.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee noted the 2021-23 Draft Business Plan, set out in Appendix A to the submitted report.</p>
10	Task and Finish Group - update
	<p>The Committee received and noted the update report on the work of the Task and Finish Group on the 'Continuity of Children's Services through Local Government Reorganisation'.</p>
11	Information Items circulated to the Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting
	<p>The Committee noted the following item which had been circulated for information since the last formal meeting: -</p> <p>(a) Children's oral health – briefing paper from the Council's Health Promotion Manager.</p>