
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

4 October 2021
(Published on 14 October 2021)

Item No.	Title
3	Minutes from the previous meeting held on Thursday 9 September 2021
	The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 September 2021 were approved as a correct record.
5	Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Work Programme
	<p>The Committee considered and noted the Committee’s current work programme and outcome tracker and the Council’s Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months including Cabinet meetings.</p> <p>The Committee noted the meeting dates for the remainder of 2021, as follows: - Monday 8 November @ 10 am - Wednesday 1 December – now beginning @ 2 pm</p> <p>The meetings will be held in The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton. The work programme and outcome tracker will be updated, as discussed at the meeting.</p>
6	Changes to education governance arrangements
	<p>The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council’s Assistant Director Education, Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker who provided an outline of changes to the education governance arrangements in Somerset.</p> <p>In the presentation, Ms Walker highlighted the background to the changes, the new Education Strategy Board and building on early help system. Ms Walker also outlined the proposed changes to the Schools Forum, including the new Constitution and membership, the relationship to other groups and that the new Schools Forum will meet formally in November 2021. The Constitution of the new Schools Forum will be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted the intention to come to the December meeting of the</p>

Item No.	Title
	<p>Committee to outline the analysis to support the development of an education Strategy for Somerset.</p> <p>On behalf of the Committee, the Vice Chair thanked Ms Walker for the detailed presentation.</p>
7	Education, Health and Care - Assessments and Plans
	<p>The Committee welcomed the Council’s Assistant Director, Inclusion Dr Rob Hart and the Council’s Strategic Manager, SEND, Ms Claire Merchant-Jones to the meeting. Dr Hart provided an update on the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) by way of introduction to the item and the focus on Education, Health and Care – Assessments and Plans, which was presented by Ms Merchant-Jones by way of a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>In the presentation Ms Merchant-Jones referred to the findings from Tribunal Review and that this will be available through the SEND Improvement Board. She had also circulated some detailed information to the Committee on this, and following discussion, the Committee asked that the issue of Tribunals – working of the Appeals process be discussed as a possible item at a future meeting of the Committee. Following discussion, Ms Merchant-Jones also said that she would be happy to provide further information on the figures, for example totals and percentages in number of EHC plans of school age children.</p> <p>Dr Hart was asked to bring an update report on the WSoA to the December meeting of the Committee (provisionally).</p> <p>In conclusion the Vice Chair thanked the officers for the detailed presentation.</p>