

# Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Monday 4 October 2021

10.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,  
Taunton



To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families  
Committee

Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr B Revans,  
Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace and Cllr J Williams  
The Revd T Osmond, R Hobbs and E Tipper – co-opted members

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and  
Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk and Monitoring Officer -  
24 September 2021

For further information about the meeting, please contact Jamie Jackson on 01823 357628 or  
07790 577336 or [jajackson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jajackson@somerset.gov.uk) or Fiona Abbott on 01823 357337 or  
[fabbott@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:fabbott@somerset.gov.uk)

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution  
under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to  
Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to  
the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different  
languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on  
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**RNID typetalk**

## AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Monday 4 October 2021

### **\*\* Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe \*\***

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

to receive Members' apologies

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils can be viewed on the Council Website at [County Councillors membership of Town, City, Parish or District Councils](#) and this will be displayed in the meeting room (Where relevant).

The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via request to the Democratic Service Team.

#### **3 Minutes from the previous meeting held on Thursday 9 September 2021** (Pages 9 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

#### **4 Public Question Time**

The Chair will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chair's discretion.**

#### **5 Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Work Programme** (Pages 13 - 26)

To receive an update from the Governance Manager, Scrutiny and discuss any items for the forthcoming work programme. To assist the discussion, attached are:

- a) The Committee's work programme
- b) The Committee's Outcome Tracker

Please use the following link to view the latest Cabinet Forward Plan of planned key decisions that have been published on the Council's website [Cabinet Forward Plan of Key Decisions](#)

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Monday 4 October 2021

6 **Changes to education governance arrangements**

To consider presentation from Amelia Walker, Assistant Director Education, Partnerships and Skills

*Note: The Chair will be allowing 1 hour for this agenda item to allow for discussion.*

7 **Education, Health and Care - Assessments and Plans**

To consider presentation from C Merchant-Jones, Strategic Manager, SEND.

Dr Hart, Assistant Director, Inclusion will give an update on the WSoA by way of introduction to the item and the focus on EHCPs.

*Note: The Chair will be allowing 1 hour for this agenda item to allow for discussion.*

8 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chair may raise any items of urgent business.

Meetings of the Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year are as follows: -

- Monday 8 November 2021 @ 10 am
- Wednesday 1 December 2021 @ 2 pm
- Tuesday 25 January 2022 @ 10 am
- Monday 28 February 2022 @ 10 am
- Monday 4 April 2022 @ 10 am

Meetings will be held in The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton.

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## Guidance notes for the meeting

### 1. Council Public Meetings

The former regulations that enabled virtual committee meetings ended on 7 May 2021. Since then, all committee meetings need to return to face-to-face meetings. The requirement is for members of the committee and key supporting officers to attend in person, along with some provision for any public speakers. However due to the current COVID restrictions and social distancing measures only a small number of people can attend as meeting room capacities are limited. Provision will be made wherever possible for those who do not need to attend in person including the public and press who wish to view the meeting to be able to do so virtually.

Anybody attending the meeting in person will be asked to adhere to the current Government guidance and Council procedures in place to safely work during COVID 19. These include limiting numbers in a venue, maintaining social distancing, using hand sanitisers, wiping down areas that you have used, wearing face coverings when not sitting at a table (unless exempt from doing so) and following one-way signs in the venue/building. You will also be asked to sign in via the NHS Test and Trace app or to sign an attendance record and will be asked relevant questions before admittance to the meeting. Everyone attending the meeting will be asked to undertake a lateral flow test up to 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Please contact the Committee Administrator or Democratic Services on 01823 357628 or email [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk) if you have any questions or concerns.

### 2. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Democratic Services at [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk) or telephone 01823 357628.

They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers).

Printed agendas can also be viewed in reception at the Council offices at County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY.

### 3. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be

viewed at: [Code of Conduct](#)

4. **Minutes of the Meeting**

Details of the issues discussed, and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

5. **Public Question Time**

If you wish to speak, please contact Democratic Services by 5pm 3 clear working days before the meeting. Email [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk) or telephone 01823 357628.

Members of public wishing to speak or ask a question will need to attend in person or if unable can submit their question or statement in writing for an officer to read out.

In order to keep everyone safe, we respectfully request that all visitors to the building follow all aspects of the Covid-Secure guidance. Failure to do so may result in you being asked to leave the building for safety reasons.

After entering the Council building you may be taken to a waiting room before being taken to the meeting for the relevant agenda item to ask your question. After the agenda item has finished you will be asked to leave the meeting for other members of the public to attend to speak on other items.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been agreed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

At the Chair's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total (20 minutes for meetings other than County Council meetings).

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with many people wishing to attend the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, to three minutes only.

In line with the council's procedural rules, if any member of the public interrupts a meeting the Chair will warn them accordingly.

If that person continues to interrupt or disrupt proceedings the Chair can ask the Democratic Services Officer to remove them as a participant from the meeting.

Provision will be made for anybody who wishes to listen in on the meeting only to follow the meeting online.

## 6. **Meeting Etiquette for participants**

- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- Switch off video if you are not speaking.
- Speak clearly (if you are not using video then please state your name)
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.
- Switch off your video and microphone after you have spoken.
- There is a facility in Microsoft Teams under the ellipsis button called turn on live captions which provides subtitles on the screen.

## 7. **Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Democratic Services Officer will, at the appropriate time, ask Participants to leave the meeting when any exempt or confidential information is about to be discussed.

## 8. **Recording of meetings**

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the

public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol is available from the Committee Administrator for the meeting.



## **SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Thursday 9 September 2021 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr B Revans, Cllr L Vijeh and Cllr W Wallace  
The Revd T Osmond – co-opted member

**Other Members present:** Cllr C Paul, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr H Davies, Cllr A Govier and Cllr A Kendall (all attended virtually)

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr James Hunt and Cllr J Williams, Mrs R Hobbs and Mrs E Tipper – co-opted members

1     **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2     **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 July 2021** - Agenda Item 3

3     **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

4     **Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Work Programme** - Agenda Item 5

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 to March 2022.

The following items were added to the work programme: –

- Roll out of Pantry Project etc and support to children & families
- Changes to education governance arrangements - October 2021 mtg provisionally
- Thematic Report – SSCP – November mtg provisionally

The Committee noted the meeting dates for the remainder of 2021, as follows:

- Monday 4 October 2021 @ 10am
- Monday 8 November @ 10 am
- Wednesday 1 December – now beginning @ 2 pm

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.

## 5 **SCC Response to the Afghan Refugee Position** - Agenda Item 6

The Committee received a verbal update from the Council's Corporate Affairs Director, Simon Clifford and from the Council's Health Promotion Manager (Resettlement) and the Council's Health Promotion Manager, Brittney Strange on the County Council's response to the Afghan Refugee position.

SCC is the lead authority for co-ordinating the countywide response, with the district councils and voluntary sectors working alongside to support. There is a resettlement webpage with up-to-date information about the current plans, what the accommodation needs are, and what people can do to volunteer or donate: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement/>

Following the presentation, the Committee asked detailed questions and made comments, which were responded to by officers, as follows: -

- Questions on unaccompanied children; support to non-English speaking family members; placement close to places of worship; trauma – these will be responded to outside the meeting and shared with the Committee. The Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) is specifically for families and households scheme / pathway and one of the reasons for bringing this update to the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee
- Noted the overwhelming response from the community and donations to support people - people are asked to donate to charities that help refugees in the UK and abroad through organisations such as British Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNICEF, World Food Programme, Refugee Action
- Role of locally elected members – will keep the website pages and Councillors informed throughout
- Housing and questions on tenancies etc – there will be varied housing tenures in place
- Noted that the Government funding is in place for 12 months
- Learning from previous programmes and from other LA areas too – has been learning from the Syrian Refugee programme for example, to help shape future provision
- Consideration should be given for additional capacity in the short term to the Resettlement Team.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the officers for the detailed update and work being done by the County Council and partners to support refugees.

## 6 **Social Care - The Experience of Younger Children in Care** - Agenda Item 7

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Strategic Manager CLA and Leaving Care, Jayne Shelbourne-Barrow on the experience of younger children in care.

The presentation covered the following areas: -

- what we are trying to achieve in Somerset – best outcomes for all children and keeping children in families where it is safe do so; for those children who do come into our care, achieving permanence at the earliest opportunity; as a Corporate Parent, we should always consider with partner agencies how we promote and enable children to achieve their full potential in life and 'is this good enough for my child?;
- what we know about younger children in our care and for the purposes of the presentation, looking at those under 8 years of age;
- what we want to know more about / to better understand – including placement moves; blocks around Special Guardianship Orders for example;
- what young children say about being looked after in Somerset - role of the new Participation and Development Officer; social work practice evaluations & assessment work to bring the child's voice through

The Committee asked detailed questions and made comments, which were responded to by officers, as follows: -

- would be useful to see similar data on children under 8 years from our statistical neighbours – happy to make contact with statistical neighbours / other good authorities for this information
- delays in Court process mentioned – the Council's Deputy Director Children's Services, Claire Winter said that it is a complicated picture and reflects the continuing impact of the pandemic on the volume of cases and pressures in Public law and also Private law; the number of Judges available; the volume of work for a limited pool of expert witnesses and the availability of court time. Officers, lawyers, CAFCASS and private practice lawyers meet regularly with the Designated Family Judge for Somerset and all are working hard to reduce delays but the volume of work in the system makes this difficult.

The Chair mentioned that the issue of tribunals and appeals relating to education had been raised by Councillor Munt at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27 January 2021 and had been asked to provide more information.

It would be useful to see response provided by the Council's Assistant Director and this be added to the work plan if necessary.

In conclusion the Chair thanked officers for the detailed presentation and made the plea that the Council is still looking for more foster carers and adoptive parents.

Agreed that the presentation be welcomed and noted.

7 **Task and Finish Group - update** - Agenda Item 8

The Chair provided a verbal update to the Committee on the work of the Task and Finish Group, on the 'Continuity of Children's Services through Local Government Reorganisation. The work of the Task and Finish Group has re started, following the Secretary of State's decision in July 2021 that a single unitary council for the whole of the existing administrative county of Somerset be created on 1 April 2023.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the update.

8 **Information Items circulated to the Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting** - Agenda Item 9

The Committee noted the following item which had been circulated for information since the last meeting: -

- (a) Youth Offending Service – update on HMIP Inspection and actions from the meeting held on 12 November 2020 – briefing paper from Lise Bird, Strategic Manager Prevention Services and Helen MacDonald, Service Manager, Operational Management.

9 **Any other urgent items of business** - Agenda Item 10

There were no other items of business.

**(The meeting ended at 11.51 am)**

**CHAIR**

## Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme 2021 – 2022

Committee meeting dates & agenda items	Lead Officer/Item lead
<b>Monday 4 October 2021 @ 10 am</b>	
Changes to education governance arrangements	Amelia Walker
EHCP – deep dive	Claire Merchant-Jones & Dr Rob Hart
Adults & Health Scrutiny Cttee - Workshop on 'Neighbourhoods and Communities' – moved to 6 October 2021 @ 10 am – would be useful for Members of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee to attend. Prior booking is essential - contact F Abbott in first instance.	
<b>Monday 8 November 2021 @ 10 am</b>	
Children & Young People's Plan	Fi Phur / Caroline Dowson
Family Safeguarding	Louise Palmer
Thematic Report – SSCP - provisional	Caroline Dowson
Items for information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Scrutiny review update</li> <li>(b) School Meals provision – Report</li> <li>(c) Progress on Actions Joint Workshop in October 2020 – Transition arrangements preparing for adulthood - Report to note. (Report will be an agenda item &amp; considered by Adults &amp; Health Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2021).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jamie Jackson</li> <li>Ian Rowswell</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 1 December 2021 @ 2 pm</b>	
Analysis to support development of an Education Strategy for Somerset	Amelia Walker
Trauma Informed Approach - provisional	Vikki Hearn
Items for information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) CAMHS service delivery update – report will be considered by the HWB at its meeting on 22 November 2021</li> </ul>	
<b>Tuesday 25 January 2022 @ 10 am</b>	
Homes for Children	Helen Price
School Exclusions	Dr Rob Hart

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

# Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme 2021 – 2022

## **Suggested agenda items / for joint workshop with Adults & Health Scrutiny Committee**

- Immunisations
- Adoption Medicals
- The impact on Children and Families of the next stage of migration/roll out of Universal Credit.

## **Proposed meeting dates for 2022**

**10 am start – to be held in The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton**

- **Tuesday 25 January**
- **Monday 28 February**
- **Monday 4 April**
- **Monday 6 June**
- **Monday 4 July**
- **Monday 5 September**
- **Monday 3 October**
- **Monday 7 November**
- **Monday 12 December**

**Note:** Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Democratic Services (01823) 359500 & [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk) who will assist you in submitting your item.

**Version as at 22 September 2021**

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items	owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
<b>24 January 2020</b>			
Family Safeguarding	Louise Palmer	<p>It was suggested and agreed that an update would be provided in 6 months.</p> <p><b>Update November 2020</b>  <i>Due to the impact of Covid, the roll out of Family Safeguarding was postponed until October 2020. The impact of this model on social work practice and evidencing the improvements in children's lives will start to be seen in the first 9 to 12 months from implementation</i></p> <p><b>Update April 2021</b>  <i>Update provided to the Cabinet meeting on 21 April 2021 circulated to the Scrutiny Cttee.</i></p>	<p><b>Pending</b>                      York Consulting report –  <b>November mtg</b></p>
<b>9 July 2020</b>			
Unitary update	Julian Wooster	<p>DCS and team to prepare an issues paper around preparing for transition.</p> <p><b>Update December 2020</b> – <i>terms of reference being developed, to be taken forward via Task and Finish group.</i></p> <p><b>Update January 2021</b> – <i>proposed terms of reference discussed</i></p> <p><b>Update 3 March 2021</b> – <i>membership confirmed at meeting</i></p> <p><b>Update 7 July 2021</b> – <i>update report received at meeting. Update to be on agenda for September meeting</i></p> <p><b>Update 9 September 2021</b> – <i>update on re boot of the task &amp; Finish Group</i></p>	<p><b>Task and Finish</b>                      Group work - on going</p>

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

<b>7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – joint workshop with Adults</b>			
Transition arrangements – preparing for adulthood	Mel Lock / Julian Wooster	Joint Adults & Health / Children & Families scrutiny workshop welcomed and from each of the workshops any actions arising would be articulated and tracked and feedback to the relevant Scrutiny Committee and added to future workplans.	<b>Progress on actions to be circulated – November (provisional)</b> Cttee to be recommended to attend Adults & Health Cttee when report considered
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>			
Youth Offending Service – to consider the HMIP Day 1 presentation	Claire Winter / Kat Brooklyn	Presentation about the work of the YOS and about the forthcoming HMIP Inspection which is due to take place in 2021. Agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with officers to prepare a briefing note for future cttee meeting, on the following – speech and language service, County Lines (prevention), education attendance and outcomes.	<b>Completed</b> Information item - September 2021 mtg
Scrutiny review	Jamie Jackson	Detailed update provided about the background to the review, recommendations agreed, and actions taken. Focused on Recommendations 5, 7, 10 and that target is to ensure that all recommendations have been fully embedded by March 2021. Update noted.	<b>Update now to November 2021 mtg – to include update / progress on actions specific to this Cttee.</b>



## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020			
WSoA	Julian Wooster	<p>The Director provided a detailed report which provided a further update about the Written Statement of Action (WSoA) which priorities the areas' work on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in the forthcoming 18 – 24 months. A copy of the signed-off WSoA had also been provided to the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the best way to add value and what it should focus its efforts on. Agreed: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note that following the focused work on School Exclusions, a report on the timeliness and quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) will be considered at the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 January 2021.</li> <li>2. That, in view of the significant challenges in Somerset, the SEND Improvement Board be encouraged to closely monitor the work joint working improvements needed between partners to support children with Autism and other associated neuro-development conditions.</li> <li>3. That the following areas within the WSoA will be explored in more detail by the Scrutiny Committee: -               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leadership (Improvement Priority 2)</li> <li>➤ ASD (Improvement Priority 5) (see recommendation 2 above)</li> <li>➤ Inclusive Schools (Improvement Priority 6)</li> <li>➤ Performance Monitoring</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. The Chair and Vice Chair will meet to discuss the scheduling of the areas of work and expectations in terms of reports for example.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Pending</b></p> <p>Scheduling to be determined</p> <p><b>Update January 2021 - EHCP deep dive to be moved to future agenda – October 2021 mtg</b></p> <p><b>Update July 2021 –</b> presentation at informal meeting on educational performance data, outlined areas of focus, to be picked up in next 6 – 12 months</p>

(Our focus is - What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

<b>27 January 2021</b>			
Work programme		Agreed that a follow up to the <b>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)</b> workshop held on 22 January 2021, looking at key areas of development in Somerset ACE be added to the Forward Plan for later in the year. Possibly joint with Adults & Health Scrutiny Cttee.	<b>Pending -</b> Trauma informed approach – to be scheduled
		Items for further review before adding to work plan: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the LA working with tribunals and appeals relating to education and what lessons learning in relation to improving children’s access to app education (deep dive)</li> </ul>	<b>Pending</b> Sept 2021 update - Response to be circulated to cttee
	Jayne Shelbourne-Barrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of younger children in care</li> </ul>	<b>Completed -</b> September 2021 mtg
	Ian Rowswell	School Meals provision – referencing the Somerset climate emergency policies – raised Cllr Dimery	<b>Pending.</b> Paper for information to be provided – 8 November mtg

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Children's Services Data Overview	Claire Winter	<p>The Committee received a presentation from the Council's Deputy Director, Children Services Claire Winter, on Children's Services data trends. The purpose of the presentation was for the Committee to consider children services data and partnership qualitative information to identify areas of possible concern and success in these strategic leadership of the Somerset Children's Partnership; to explore potential hypothesis from the information provided about the effectiveness of specific aspects of that leadership in improving children's lives; and to prioritise the hypothesis the committee would like to test through work integrated into the Forward Plan.</p> <p>The presentation was divided into 4 sections- Early help, Children in need of help and protection, Children looked after and Care leavers, with each section broken down into the following- background, data, what the data indicates and potential hypotheses, for further scrutiny by the Committee as part of its forward plan.</p>	<b>Completed</b>
		<p>AGREED: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the presentation be noted and welcomed in helping to inform the future work of the Committee.</li> <li>2. That further work is needed to consider what the data implies and to frame and articulate this future work.</li> <li>3. That the Chair and Vice Chair will meet to discuss this further.</li> </ol>	<b>Pending</b>
Impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing	Multi agency session	Briefing paper to be provided about Mental Health Support Teams (inc Education Mental Health Practitioners) in early <b>summer 2021</b>	<b>Pending</b>
<b>3 March 2021</b>			
Overview of prevention work	Louise Palmer	<p>Ms Palmer was asked to share details of the Early Help Board meetings, so those members who are interested can dip into them, as observers. The Cttee noted that early help is delivered by many partners and it can happen at any time</p> <p>Ms Palmer to provide a briefing note on early help, to be shared with all members, to include an explanation about how early help relates to prevention particularly in the sense of being reactive rather than proactive (context).</p>	<b>Will form part of Family Safeguarding item – 8 November 2021 meeting</b>

(Our focus is - what impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

9 June 2021 – informal			
Homes for children in Somerset	Helen Price	<p>Focus of this item was to discuss and comment and to feed into the decision-making process, ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 21 June 2021, that will see Somerset get back into the delivery of its own children’s homes. The new proposed service will offer the right intervention at the right time and tailored to meet the needs of this high need cohort of young people. The service would combine the resources of <u>children’s homes</u>, <u>high needs foster carers</u>, and a <u>therapeutic education service</u>. It will deliver a new blended care model and services that address the full range of needs of children and young people with complex multiple needs. These young people would be at risk or currently using high cost, sometimes distant placements.</p> <p>The Chair summed up the discussion as follows – views to be forwarded to Cabinet ahead of its meeting on 21 June: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including young people as much as possible is important, in both the commissioning and the operation</li> <li>• Positive comments were received about the learning / revising to develop our offer</li> <li>• Working with providers, in a partnership arrangement and along with joint commissioning with our main stakeholders - blending the provision to include – NHS, Police, CAMHS, for example, to make sure we have a good offer</li> <li>• Taking good practice from other authorities and developing it to fit Somerset, will help our young people</li> <li>• Asked for clarity around the number of young people we will be supporting in this</li> <li>• Consider if in future, if consider building homes so we can build the provision specifically from there</li> <li>• Supportive of the proposals, with the need to ensure clear targets and KPIs are set and importantly monitored to provide social benefit and value and to ensure establishing relationships to fit alongside these</li> <li>• That a more reflective name be agreed.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b>

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

		Request feedback report in 6 months	<b>Pending</b> January 2022
Education Performance Data	Amelia Walker / Tony Johnson	<p>Detailed presentation on education and performance trends -to help inform future work of the Committee and how scrutiny can 'add value'.</p> <p>Interesting data on educational outcomes in parts if county to be looked at.</p> <p>The presentation was a great learning opportunity and need to find a way to offer up an opportunity to present the findings from the data and to find a way to hold to account for any achievements / benefits / improvements can make from that.</p>	<p><b>Pending</b> Item for October mtg – changes to education governance</p> <p>Item for December mtg - Analysis to support development of an Education Strategy for Somerset</p>
<b>7 July 2021</b>			
Work programme		<p>Scrutiny Manager to clarify responsibilities between the Adults and Health Committee and the Children &amp; Families Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>For further review: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the extent of the impact of COVID on children &amp; young people's education in Somerset – raised at meeting on 7 July 2021</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pending</b></p> <p><b>Pending</b></p>
		CAMHS service delivery update – this request will be considered as an item for information at the earliest opportunity (for possible feedback at another time).	<p><b>Pending.</b> HWB considering on 22 November 2021 - paper for information - Cttee meeting on 1 December</p>

(Our focus is - What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

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<p>6 months on - learning from the voice of children &amp; young people in the later stages of the pandemic</p>	<p>Fi Phur</p>	<p>Received presentation and update on development of the CYPP 2022 – 2025 and to hear what young people have said directly about their experiences. This followed item on agenda of 12 November 2020 meeting.</p> <p>The Chair summed up the discussion as follows: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• noted the safeguarding animation and training to help the LA Designated Officer (LADO) and GP's.</li> <li>• asked for some case studies to be provided which could be shared widely (<i>you said, we did</i> etc.).</li> <li>• asked that further information on the 'Big Tent' and <i>Kooth</i> be circulated to the Committee.</li> <li>• asked that a briefing note about summer activities and eligibility, be circulated to all members.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>New CYPP to be considered at Cttee mtg in November 2021</p>
<p>School Exclusions</p>	<p>Dr Rob Hart</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the way forward – WSoA – there has been improved performance re completing EHC needs assessments; and referenced the inclusive schools strands, including - the school-led inclusion enquiry; area-based partnership working; strengthening SEND in schools; focussed review of Early Help offer</li> <li>• the way forward – will be a focus on - 'engagement' rather than 'exclusion'; vulnerable learners – extending the role of virtual school; locality inclusion partnerships, with joined up approach to identifying and supporting vulnerable learners; accountability for funding &amp; graduated response; working together creatively to find better solutions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed.</b></p>

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		The Committee asked for more information on the local first panel model and for an update in 6 months on progress actions taken on the recommendations from the Committee's Task and Finish Group and the future work outlined in the presentation	<b>Pending -</b> January 2022
SCC Business Plan 2021 - 2023	Simon Clifford	The Scrutiny Committee noted the 2021-23 Draft Business Plan, set out in Appendix A to the submitted report.	<b>Completed</b>
Information Items		<b>Children's oral health</b> – briefing paper from the Council's Health Promotion Manager, E Hutt. This outlined how SCC are meeting their statutory responsibilities around oral health including the oral health improvement service, commissioned by SCC Public Health.	<b>Completed</b>
<b>9 September 2021</b>			
Work programme		To add to work plan: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll out of Pantry Project etc and support to children &amp; families</li> <li>• Changes to education governance arrangements – October 2021 mtg provisionally</li> <li>• Thematic Report – SSCP – November mtg provisionally</li> </ul>	<b>Pending</b>

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<p>SCC response to Afghan Refugee Position</p>	<p>Simon Clifford Brittney Strange</p>	<p>SCC is the lead authority for co-ordinating the countywide response, with the district councils and voluntary sectors working alongside to support. There is a resettlement webpage with up-to-date information about the current plans, what the accommodation needs are, and what people can do to volunteer or donate: <a href="https://www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement/">https://www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement/</a></p> <p>The Committee asked detailed questions and made comments, which were responded to by officers, as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Questions on unaccompanied children; support to non-English speaking family members; placement close to places of worship; trauma – these will be responded to outside the meeting and shared with the Committee. ARAP work is specifically for families and households scheme / pathway and one of the reasons for bringing this update to the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>- Role of locally elected members – will keep the website pages and councillors informed throughout</li> <li>- Housing and questions on tenancies etc – there will be varied housing tenures in place</li> <li>- Noted that the Government funding is in place for 12 months</li> <li>- Learning from previous programmes and from other LA areas too – has been learning from the Syrian Refugee programme for example, to help shape future provision</li> <li>- Consideration should be given for additional capacity in the short term to the Resettlement Team.</li> </ul> <p>On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the officers for the detailed update and work being done by the County Council and partners to support refugees.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p>
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Social Care – The Experience of younger children in care	Jayne Shelbourne-Barrow	<p>The Committee received a presentation from the Council’s Strategic Manager CLA and Leaving Care on the experience of younger children in care. The presentation covered the following areas: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what we are trying to achieve in Somerset – best outcomes for all children and keeping children in families where it is safe do so; for those children who do come into our care, achieving permanence at the earliest opportunity; as a Corporate Parent, we should always consider with partner agencies how we promote and enable children to achieve their full potential in life and ‘is this good enough for my child?;</li> <li>- what we know about younger children in our care and for the purposes of the presentation, looking at those under 8 years of age;</li> <li>- what we want to know more about / to better understand – including placement moves; blocks around Special Guardianship Orders for example;</li> <li>- what young children say about being looked after in Somerset - role of the new Participation and Development Officer; social work practice evaluations &amp; assessment work to bring the child’s voice through.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b>
		<p>The Committee asked detailed questions and made comments, which were responded to by officers, as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- would be useful to see similar data on children under 8 years from our statistical neighbours – happy to make contact with statistical neighbours / other good authorities for this information</li> <li>- delays in Court process mentioned – the Council’s Deputy Director Children’s Services, Claire Winter said that it is a complicated picture and reflects the continuing impact of the pandemic on the volume of cases and pressures in Public law and also Private law; the number of Judges available; the volume of work for a limited pool of expert witnesses and the availability of court time. Officers, lawyers, CAFCASS and private practice lawyers meet regularly with the Designated Family Judge for Somerset and all are working hard to reduce delays but the volume of work in the system makes this difficult.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>The Chair mentioned that the issue of tribunals and appeals relating to education had been raised by Councillor Munt at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27 January 2021 and had been asked to provide more information. It would be useful to see response provided by the Council's Assistant Director and this be added to the work plan if necessary.</p> <p>In conclusion the Chair thanked officers for the detailed presentation and made the plea that the Council is still looking for more foster carers and adoptive parents.</p> <p>Agreed that the presentation be welcomed and noted.</p>	
Information Items	<b>Youth Offending Service</b> - Update on HMIP Inspection - briefing paper from Lise Bird, Strategic Manager Prevention Services and Helen MacDonald, Service Manager, Operational Management.	<b>Completed.</b>

The CYPP 2019-2022 had been produced following a multi-agency process, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust.

The CYPP had 4 priorities: **Supported Families; Healthy Lives; A Great Education; Positive Outcomes.**

**2021 - 22 Municipal Year**

**Version as at 22.09.21**

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting and retained on Master Tracker document.
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.

(Our focus is - What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)