

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items	owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
24 January 2020			
Family Safeguarding	Louise Palmer	<p>It was suggested and agreed that an update would be provided in 6 months.</p> <p>Update November 2020 <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>Update April 2021 <i>Update provided to the Cabinet meeting on 21 April 2021 circulated to the Scrutiny Cttee.</i></p>	<p>Pending York Consulting report – November mtg</p>
9 July 2020			
Unitary update	Julian Wooster	<p>DCS and team to prepare an issues paper around preparing for transition.</p> <p>Update December 2020 – <i>terms of reference being developed, to be taken forward via Task and Finish group.</i></p> <p>Update January 2021 – <i>proposed terms of reference discussed</i></p> <p>Update 3 March 2021 – <i>membership confirmed at meeting</i></p> <p>Update 7 July 2021 – <i>update report received at meeting. Update to be on agenda for September meeting</i></p> <p>Update 9 September 2021 – <i>update on re boot of the task & Finish Group</i></p>	<p>Task and Finish Group work - on going</p>

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7th October 2020 – joint workshop with Adults			
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.	Progress on actions to be circulated – November (provisional) Cttee to be recommended to attend Adults & Health Cttee when report considered
12th November 2020			
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.	Completed 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.	Update now to November 2021 mtg – to include update / progress on actions specific to this Cttee.

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2 nd 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"> 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. 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. 3. That the following areas within the WSoA will be explored in more detail by the Scrutiny Committee: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leadership (Improvement Priority 2) ➤ ASD (Improvement Priority 5) (see recommendation 2 above) ➤ Inclusive Schools (Improvement Priority 6) ➤ Performance Monitoring 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. 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Scheduling to be determined</p> <p>Update January 2021 - EHCP deep dive to be moved to future agenda – October 2021 mtg</p> <p>Update July 2021 – presentation at informal meeting on educational performance data, outlined areas of focus, to be picked up in next 6 – 12 months</p>

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27 January 2021			
Work programme		Agreed that a follow up to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) 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.	Pending - Trauma informed approach – to be scheduled
		Items for further review before adding to work plan: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	Pending Sept 2021 update - Response to be circulated to cttee
	Jayne Shelbourne-Barrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of younger children in care 	Completed - September 2021 mtg
	Ian Rowswell	School Meals provision – referencing the Somerset climate emergency policies – raised Cllr Dimery	Pending. Paper for information to be provided – 8 November mtg

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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>	Completed
		<p>AGREED: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the presentation be noted and welcomed in helping to inform the future work of the Committee. 2. That further work is needed to consider what the data implies and to frame and articulate this future work. 3. That the Chair and Vice Chair will meet to discuss this further. 	Pending
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 summer 2021	Pending
3 March 2021			
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>	Will form part of Family Safeguarding item – 8 November 2021 meeting

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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"> • Including young people as much as possible is important, in both the commissioning and the operation • Positive comments were received about the learning / revising to develop our offer • 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 • Taking good practice from other authorities and developing it to fit Somerset, will help our young people • Asked for clarity around the number of young people we will be supporting in this • Consider if in future, if consider building homes so we can build the provision specifically from there • 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 • That a more reflective name be agreed. 	Completed

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		Request feedback report in 6 months	Pending 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>Pending 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>
7 July 2021			
Work programme		<p>Scrutiny Manager to clarify responsibilities between the Adults and Health Committee and the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>For further review: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the extent of the impact of COVID on children & young people's education in Somerset – raised at meeting on 7 July 2021 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</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>Pending. HWB considering on 22 November 2021 - paper for information - Cttee meeting on 1 December</p>

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<p>6 months on - learning from the voice of children & 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"> • 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 Officer (LADO) and GP's. • 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>Completed</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"> • 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 • 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 & graduated response; working together creatively to find better solutions. 	<p>Completed.</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	Pending - 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.	Completed
Information Items		Children's oral health – 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.	Completed
9 September 2021			
Work programme		To add to work plan: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Pending

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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: https://www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement/</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"> - 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. - 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. <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>Completed</p>
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<p>Social Care – The Experience of younger children in care</p>	<p>Jayne Shelbourne-Barrow</p>	<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"> - 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. 	<p>Completed</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"> - 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. 	

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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	Youth Offending Service - Update on HMIP Inspection - briefing paper from Lise Bird, Strategic Manager Prevention Services and Helen MacDonald, Service Manager, Operational Management.	Completed.

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.

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