

## **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 Monday 8 November 2021 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair - attended virtually), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr B Revans, Cllr L Vijeh (attended virtually) and Cllr W Wallace

The Revd T Osmond, R Hobbs (attended virtually) and E Tipper – co-opted members

**Other Members present:** Cllr F Nicholson

**Other Members attending virtually:** Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr C Paul, Cllr H Davies, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr J Lock and Cllr T Munt

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr J Williams

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

Eileen Tipper (co-opted member) declared an interest as a Governor of Chiltern Trinity College, Taunton and Sky Academy, Taunton.

### **2 Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021 - Agenda Item 3**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021 were approved as a correct record.

### **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.

It was agreed that the work programme be amended as follows: -

- The item for information on eco schools / school meal provision will now be considered as an agenda item at the next Committee meeting on 1 December.

- issues around delivery of PHSE programme in schools, the benefits & challenges posed – to be looked at.

The work programme and outcome tracker will be updated, as discussed at the meeting.

## 5 **Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews** - Agenda Item 6

The Committee considered a report and received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Business Manager, Ms Caroline Dowson, on the process for rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews and the learning from the two local child safeguarding practice reviews published in August 2021.

Ms Dowson highlighted that the SSCP has been committed to implementing the learning relating to more effective identification of risks to children in the pre-birth period, better support to fathers / male carers and improved communication across agencies. Ms Dowson referred to the forum weeks, held twice per year for all Somerset safeguarding partners, which have raised awareness of the learning. The Forum week at the beginning of December will focus on support for fathers / male carers (details will be shared with the Committee).

The Chair asked that the issue of how members can be notified about rapid reviews be looked at further and that the report mentioned will be added to the work programme.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Ms Dowson for the report and detailed presentation.

## 6 **West Somerset Opportunity Area** - Agenda Item 7

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Strategic Manager, West Somerset Opportunity Area Lead, Ms Julia Ridge, highlighting the progress and 'the difference made' 2017 – 2021. The programme covers 4 key areas – early years, excellence in the classroom, transition to adulthood, business and enterprise.

The Committee noted the successes and challenges still faced and how the learning can be shared / be beneficial for other Somerset communities. The Chair also asked that the outcomes / summary report from the work be shared with the Scrutiny Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Ms Ridge for the detailed presentation and for the hard work of the team.

7 **Items for Information** - Agenda Item 8

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

- (a) Tribunal summary report – this was the paper previously circulated to members of the Committee on 30 September and prior to the last meeting of the Committee held on 4 October, and recirculated on 29 October 2021.

8 **Trauma Informed Approach - workshop item** - Agenda Item 9

The Committee welcomed the following people to the meeting for the workshop item: -

- Ms Vikki Hearn, Joint Strategic Commissioner Children's and Health
- Dr Kate McCann, Clinical Service Lead for Community Child Health
- Mr Tim Cockerill, Asst Principal Educational Psychologist
- Ms Joanne Leek, Health Promotion Manager, Public Health
- Ms Donna King, Commissioning and Policy, Avon and Somerset OPCC

The workshop covered what the elements of a 'trauma informed Somerset' might look like, the emerging themes and the possible steps which may need to take, based on feedback from a professionals workshop which was held on 1 November.

The Committee welcomed and supported the work around the 'trauma informed Somerset'. Information on the film 'resilience' will also be shared following the meeting.

The Chair thanked Ms Hearn and colleagues for the workshop and information provided in the PowerPoint presentation. The Committee agreed that a progress update be provided in 3 months.

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

There were no other items of business.

**(The meeting ended at 1.07 pm)**

**CHAIR**