

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Monday 5 September 2022

1.00 pm Luttrell Room - County Hall,
Taunton



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

Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr O Patrick (Vice-Chair), Cllr S Aujla, Cllr J Baker, Cllr S Carswell,
Cllr A Hadley, Cllr S Hart, Cllr B Height, Cllr J Hunt, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr E Potts-Jones, Cllr M Lovell,
and Cllr J Snell

R Hobbs, E Tipper and The Revd T Osmond – co-opted members

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend.

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Democratic Services - 25
August 2022

For further information about the meeting, please contact Neil Milne on 01823 357628 or
NDmilne@somerset.gov.uk or Fiona Abbott on 01823 357628 or 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

www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers

**Are you considering how your conversation today and the actions
you propose to take contribute towards making Somerset Carbon
Neutral by 2030?**



RNID typetalk

AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 1.00 pm Monday 5 September 2022

**** 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](#)

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

Any new or updated declarations of interest will be received.

3 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 25 July 2022** (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 - 18)

To receive an update from the Governance Manager. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached: -

- (a) The Committee's Work Programme
- (b) The Committee's Outcome Tracker

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

6 **2022 Key Stage assessment results for Somerset**

To provide information on the 2022 Key Stage assessment results for Somerset,

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with a recap of the 2019 results for Somerset.

The item will be led by the Council's Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker (presentation – to follow)

Note – the Chair will allow 15 minutes for this agenda item

7 **Academisation - moving towards 2030**

To provide an update on the policy and the current position in Somerset. The item will be led by the Council's Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker (presentation – to follow)

Note – the Chair will allow 30 minutes for this agenda item

8 **Update on budgetary pressures in Children's Services**

This agenda item will be led by the Council's Deputy Director Children's Services Claire Winter

For background, see [2022/23 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 3 – End of June 2022](#)

Note – the Chair will allow 30 minutes for this agenda item

9 **Homes for children in Somerset - progress update**

This item will be led by officers from the project team, the Council's Strategic Manager, Daniel Moncrieff and Service Manager, Caroline Barnes, and is the substantive agenda item for the meeting.

Note – the Chair will allow 45 minutes for this agenda item

10 **Items for Information - Standing Item**

This is a standing agenda item and provides details of information sent to the Committee in between meeting, that cover Children & Families Scrutiny policy areas.

(a) Task and Finish Group review of School Exclusions (23 September 2020):-

[Covering report](#)

[Task and Finish Group Report](#)

[Cabinet members response](#)

[Cabinet Digest](#)

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(b) [Task Group review of Elective Home Education](#) (June 2015) and [Report to Committee 3 March 2021](#)

If Committee members have any questions or comments on the information, please contact fabbott@somerset.gov.uk in the first instance and before the date of the meeting.

11 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chair may raise any items of urgent business.

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. 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.

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 democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 01823 357628.

They can also be accessed via the council's website on 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 democraticserviceteam@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.

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.

Please contact the Committee Administrator or Democratic Services on 01823 357628 or email democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk if you have any questions or concerns.

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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 25 July 2022 at 1.00 pm

Present: Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr O Patrick (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Baker, Cllr S Hart, Cllr B Height, Cllr J Hunt, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr M Lovell, Cllr S Osborne (present as substitute), Cllr E Potts-Jones, Cllr J Snell, Cllr R Woods (present as substitute) R Hobbs (attended virtually), E Tipper and The Revd T Osmond – co-opted members

Other Members present: Cllr T Munt, Cllr A Bradford, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr H Shearer and Cllr L Trimnell

Other members present virtually: Cllr A Dingwall, Cllr M Stanton, Cllr M Kravis, Cllr L Leyshon and Cllr D Johnson

Apologies for absence: Cllr S Aujla (substituted by Cllr R Woods), Cllr S Carswell and Cllr A Hadley (substituted by Cllr S Osborne)

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

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

2 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 20 June 2022** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 June 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

There were no questions asked, statements made or petitions presented.

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 the Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions in coming months, including Executive meetings.

It was agreed: -

- That the Council's Assistant Director Inclusion was asked to provide a 'briefing on a page' on the current situation regarding school exclusions
- That the Committee's recent Task and Finish Group report on School Exclusions be circulated
- That job titles as well as names, be included on the work plan

- Members were invited to email the Chair and Vice Chair if they have any further items they would like the Committee to focus on
- That the work plan be noted.

5 **Education and Inclusion Services Redesign** - Agenda Item 6

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Assistant Director, Inclusion Dr Rob Hart, who presented the proposals for the Education and Inclusion Services redesign.

Dr Hart covered the following in the presentation – context / aims of the service redesign and the need for systemic change; outlined the current structure and issues and challenges; detailed proposals within an area-based structure, with clearer accountability structure; what kind of service will become; strengthening preventative capacity; outlined the consultation process and proposed timeline with implementation from beginning of 2023.

The Committee had a broad discussion on the proposals, covering – how will know the changes lead to the outcomes wanted (what will 'success' look like); where the proposals sit in terms of national guidance and best practice; where and how early years 'fit' in the proposals; details on the Support Services for Education (SSE), management and commercial development.

The Committee requested that the final proposals be presented to the Committee, after the consultation and engagement had concluded, and prior to approval being made on the redesign by the Executive.

6 **Update on budgetary pressures in Children's Services** - Agenda Item 7

The Chair advised that unfortunately the Council's Deputy Director Children's Services was unable to attend the meeting. It was noted that the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services is currently taking place.

As a background to the item, the link to the revenue budget monitoring report had been shared with the Committee. This report had been considered at the Executive meeting on 11 July 2022 and concerns the 2022/23 revenue budget monitoring report – month 2 – end May 2022, and in particular the information relating to Children's Services.

It was noted that the Place Scrutiny Committee considers the budget monitoring reports. However, the Chair had wanted the report to come to this Committee so members could discuss the Children's Services specific sections of the paper as this highlights the issues which are important to the Committee. The Chair said that he would be happy to receive any questions from Committee members and coordinate responses.

The item was DEFERRED to a future meeting.

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

The Committee noted the following item for information: -

- (a) [Somerset Children and Young People's Plan 2022 – 2024](#) approved at the Full Council meeting held on 20 July 2022

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

There were no other items of business.

(The meeting ended at 3.00 pm)

CHAIR

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Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Plan 2022 - 2023

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
5 September 2022 @ 1 pm		
Training / briefing item	2022 Key Stage assessment results for Somerset (with recap of 2019 assessment results for Somerset)	Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
Universal Education	Academisation - moving towards 2030	Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
Cross cutting	Update on budgetary pressures in Children's Services – discussion deferred from July meeting For background, see 2022/23 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 3 – End of June 2022	Deputy Director Children's Services Claire Winter
	Homes for children in Somerset – progress update	Daniel Moncrieff Strategic Manager and Caroline Barnes Service Manager (Project Team)
Items for Information – Standing Item	Items for Information: (a) Task & Finish Group Report on School Exclusions – report to Cabinet 23 September 2020 (b) Elective home education – report to Committee 3 March 2021	
3 October 2022 @ 1 pm		
Training item	Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services – update	Deputy Director Children's Services Claire Winter
SEND & Inclusion	SEND Draft Strategy / development, including outcomes from SEND survey (comparator to previous years)	Assistant Director Inclusion Dr Rob Hart
	Education and Inclusion Services redesign / restructure - follow up	Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker, Assistant Director, Inclusion Dr R Hart
Social Care and	<i>Provisional item</i>	Assistant Director Commissioning Richard

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Plan 2022 - 2023

commissioning	Impact - Family Connexions and LCN's (governance) including an update from Frome LCN Pilot	Selwyn Public Health LGR Programme Director Alyn Jones
7 November @ 1 pm		
Training item	Progress on Ofsted Action Plan	Deputy Director Children's Services Claire Winter
Universal Education	Pre Executive scrutiny - LA Maintained schools traded core offer	Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
12 December @ 1 pm		
Universal Education	Education Strategy for Somerset – progress update	Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
	Member site visits information: - Trusts and maintained schools workshop day Follow on individual visits by members to schools in their Division	
16 January 2023 @ 1 pm		
Cross cutting	Budget items	
	Scrutiny update on Ofsted Action Plan	Deputy Director Children's Services Claire Winter
Workshops - to be scheduled		
	Member site visits ahead of the workshop (reference at November meeting)	Workshop - multi agency practitioners, schools (vision and direction)
	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) - Trauma Informed Somerset practice model	To be scheduled
Universal Education	Member site visits ahead of the workshop (reference at December meeting)	Workshop – Public Health, SEND, social workers, case studies, wider health

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Plan 2022 - 2023

	The disadvantage gap - what we know and options to address, to include health impact of inequalities in education		organisations, FSM and pupil premium data To be scheduled
Provisional - 16 March 2023 @ 1 pm			
SEND & Inclusion	Response to SEND Green Paper – and policy proposals		
	Children missing out on education (numbers, who, reasons)		

Items to be scheduled / recommendations for Scrutiny Forward Plan

Peninsula Fostering Framework Agreement - Decision due: 16 Nov 2022 – needs to be added to work programme

SEND and Inclusion

- Attendance
- Written Statement of Action

Social Care and Commissioning

- Early Help
- Placement sufficiency
- Strategic partnership
- The Care Review

Cross-cutting items:

- Long-term financial planning that improves outcomes for children (MTP)
- Involving young people and the community in scrutiny
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing (with health partners)
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – Children & Families Budgets

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Plan 2022 - 2023

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 Fiona Abbott, Democratic Services (01823) 357628 & democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk who will assist you in submitting your item.

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker 2022 - 23

Agenda items	Lead / Owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
Meeting held - 20 June 2022			
Family Safeguarding Review	Louise Palmer	<p>PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Strategic Commissioner, in Children's Services Louise Palmer and the Council's Head of Service for Assessment and Safeguarding in Children's Social Care, Paul Shawcross who provided an implementation update on Family Safeguarding in Somerset.</p> <p>Noted the successes and evaluation undertaken by York Consulting which is due in the next month, the positive interim report headlines and issues for consideration - impact of the pandemic on the implementation; the 'workbook'; increasing complexity of cases. It was agreed that the Evaluation Report be circulated to the Committee.</p>	Pending
School Place planning	Amelia Walker	<p>PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Assistant Director, Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker, the Assistant Director Inclusion, Dr Rob Hart and the Strategic Manager, Phil Curd was provided and offered an overview of school and early years places.</p> <p>The Committee would receive an overview of the new Education White Paper at a future meeting.</p>	Pending
Meeting held – 25 July 2022			
Work plan		<p>Considered and noted the Committee's current work programme and the Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions in coming months, including Executive meetings. It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request a 'briefing on a page' about the current situation regarding school exclusions • Request the former Committee's Task and Finish Group report on School Exclusions be circulated • That job titles as well as names, be included on the work plan • Members were invited to email the Chair and Vice Chair if they have any further items they would like the Committee to focus on 	<p>AD Inclusion</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker 2022 - 23

Education and Inclusion Services Redesign	Amelia Walker / Dr Rob Hart	PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Assistant Director, Inclusion Dr Rob Hart, who presented the proposals for the Education and Inclusion Services redesign. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair, relevant officers and the lead Member for Children and Families will discuss best route for the Scrutiny Committee to consider the proposals (either pre or post decision by the Executive).	
Update on budgetary pressures in Children's Services	Claire Winter	DEFERRED	
Information Item		Children & Young Peoples Plan – public facing document	

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Issues brought forward from last tracker 2017-2022 term of office

- Update from Joint informal workshop with A&H Committee to include Transition arrangements – preparing for adulthood
- Roll out of pantry project etc and support to children & families

The CYPP 2022 - 2025 had been produced following a multi-agency process. The CYPP had three priorities: keeping children and young people safe (priority 1); supporting physical and emotional health and resilience (priority 2); enabling young people to learn and thrive (priority 3)

Version as at 17.08.22

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.

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?