
SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

16 January 2023

(Published on 24 January 2023)

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 12 December 2022 - Agenda item 3

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.
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Public Question Time - Agenda item 4

There were no questions asked, statements made or petitions presented.
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Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Work Programme - Agenda item 5
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The Committee considered and noted the Committee's current work programme and outcome tracker and the Executive's Forward Plan of planned key decisions in the coming months.

The Committee noted that it is proposed that the draft ICS Strategy will now be considered by the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on 26 January 2023. The Chair said that he would attend the meeting to ensure the views of young people are included in the discussions.
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It was agreed that the work plan and outcome tracker be updated.
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Verbal Updates on Task and Finish Groups - (a) external placements; (b) home to school transport - Agenda item 8

The Chair provided a verbal update on the Committee's Task and Finish Groups and also advised that the original timeline has been amended due to the SEND Inspection: -

(a) Sufficiency of External Placements
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The Task and Finish Group has held further meetings and looked at the external placements budget information. The Group will be meeting again this week to consider their draft report and findings and recommendations to Executive.

The membership of the Task and Finish Group is - Cllr Leigh Redman (Chair), Cllr Simon Carswell, Cllr Susannah Hart, Cllr Martin Lovell and Ruth Hobbs.

(b) Home to School Transport

The Committee AGREED that the Task and Finish Group on Home to School Transport will be paused. This was agreed as an external review has been commissioned by the service to consider home to school transport provision. It is envisaged currently that this external review will be concluded by the end of March 2023 and by pausing the Task and Finish Group, will avoid duplicating work.

The membership of the Task and Finish Group is - is Tobie Osmond, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr Evie Potts-Jones, Cllr A Hadley.

The Committee NOTED the updates.

Scrutiny update on the Ofsted Action Plan - Agenda item 6

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Acting Director Community and Strategy, Paul Shallcross on the Ofsted action plan and progress made. The Inspection of Children's Social Care services in July 2022 rated the service Good across the board and the inspection report was published on 21 September 2022.

The presentation covered the two named areas for improvement, which are – placement sufficiency (which is also a national issue) and which is being considered by the Committee's Task and Finish Group; the take-up of return to home interviews and which is also being considered as a separate agenda item later at the meeting; and other key areas of focus, such as the early help demand management work and strategy discussions and audit work.

It was agreed that the Life Story Work, which is taking place for the majority of children looked after, and data around that, will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Mr Shallcross for the update and presentation.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) - Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation - Agenda item 9

The Chair welcomed the following to the meeting for this item:

- Vikki Hearn, Joint Commissioner, Children's and Health
- Patsy Temple, Consultant in Public Health
- Tim Cockerill, Principal Educational Psychologist
- Tamsin Coles, Consultant Clinical Psychologist

The Committee received a detailed PowerPoint presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) - Trauma Informed Somerset / model and implementation across Somerset. A short film was shown at the start of the presentation and the presentation provided details on the terms used (ACE and trauma informed); 'Sam's story; impact of

childhood trauma; trauma recovery model, layers of intervention and underlying need; consistency, predictability, reliability; creating emotional safety; the five principles of trauma informed care (safety, choice, collaboration, trustworthiness, empowerment); the importance of trauma informed practice and an improved model for Somerset.

Mr Cockerill outlined some examples of trauma informed education: relational behaviour policy and practice and referred to the 'pathfinder' schools who act as 'champions' in the local area, providing support. The role of governors was mentioned as well and training for them.

Ms Hearn highlighted the journey to developing a trauma informed model and the Trauma Informed Charter. The Charter will be released for consultation at the trauma informed network launch event on the 24 January to ensure system approval before being released and Members are most welcome to attend - [Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : News \(cypsomersethealth.org\)](https://www.cypsomersethealth.org) The Charter will also ask organisations which sign up to it to nominate a trauma informed champion to join the network, laying the initial groundwork. A copy of the Charter will be shared with the Committee.

Ms Hearn advised that a coordinator is also being recruited to pull together training resources and training plan for the next two years and to be linked with the development and progression of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan.

Ms Hearn also highlighted the range and number of organisations included in those who have helped to develop the model and proposals.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the presenters for the excellent presentation and information and asked for an update on progress in 6 months' time.

Return Home Interviews process and progress - Agenda item 7

This item was introduced by the Council's Head of Service Prevention, Lise Bird who outlined the work being done in response to the Ofsted findings on the take up of return home interviews, with improved use of data to inform individual and service planning.

Ms Bird provided an overview of the numbers of missing reports / episodes and the increase in demand, managing risk and the main actions taken including rolling out of the [Philomena Protocol](#) and training and the review and reworking of the return home interview form to ensure capture of all information gathered allowing effective data reporting. Missing Return Interviews are completed by the small sub team within the Family Intervention Service. Ms Bird also highlighted the actions still required and in progress and shared some case examples.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Ms Bird for the update.

Any other urgent items of business - Agenda item 11
There were no other items of business.