

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>	Incorporated in Ofsted inspection report
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>	Update to March 2023 mtg
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>completed</p> <p>AD Inclusion</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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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	Item for Information at 7 Nov 2022 mtg
Update on budgetary pressures in Children's Services	Claire Winter	Item DEFERRED	5 September 2022
Information Item		Children & Young Peoples Plan – public facing document	
5 September 2022			
Work Plan		A ' glossary of terms ' has recently been published on the Council's website. Agreed that Home to School Transport presentation would come to next meeting	Oct 22 mtg
2022 Key Stage assessment results for Somerset	Amelia Walker	PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Assistant Director, Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker, who provided a data and standards update, including the early indications from the 2022 Key Stage assessment results for Somerset and the areas of focus. Testing generates vast quantities of data and therefore accurate and reliable results to pupil level will not be in the public domain until January 2023. The national data is released in October and the Committee would like to see that when can (possibly November mtg). Ms Walker said that she would circulate the presentation given to the informal meeting last year which provided an introduction to education data and performance. The Committee had a broad discussion on the issues raised in the presentation. On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked Ms Walker for the informative presentation.	Nov 22 mtg Clerk - completed

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Academisation - moving towards 2030	Amelia Walker	PowerPoint presentation on issues from the Council's Assistant Director, Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker.	Progress update in Feb / March 2023
Update on budgetary pressures in Children's Services	Claire Winter	<p>PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Deputy Director of Children's Services, Claire Winter, who provided an update on the budgetary pressures in Children's Services.</p> <p>The key areas of pressure are external placements for children in care and secondly education transport – home to school and SEND transport and Ms Winter outlined the key performance cost drivers and actions / activity to address pressures. It was confirmed that the education transport strategy will be considered at the Place Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2022 and will be brought to this Committee in October 2022.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following will be circulated (a) 'Staying Put' policy; (b) numbers in residential care data for 21/22 and how we sit with statistical neighbours.</p> <p>The Committee also congratulated the department for winning the 2022 LGC award for the fostering campaign. It was agreed that Children's Services budget monitoring will be discussed at the next meeting. The Chair also highlighted that at some point the Committee may consider setting up a task and finish group looking at external care placements, in conjunction with Corporate Parenting Board.</p>	On going work by Committee
Homes for children in Somerset – progress update	Daniel Moncrieff	PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Strategic Manager, Daniel Moncrieff who provided a detailed update on the strategic partnership between SCC and 'The Shaw Trust' to deliver homes for complex children and young people including homes for children, high needs fostering and therapeutic education.	Completed
Information Items		<p>Noted the following:</p> <p>(a) Task & Finish Group Report on School Exclusions – report to Cabinet 23 September 2020</p> <p>(b) Elective home education – report to Committee 3 March 2021</p>	Completed

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3 October 2022			
Work Plan		(a) progress on Ofsted inspection Children's Social Care Services action plan – will be detailed report and debate at the November meeting (b) detailed 2022 Key Stage assessment results for Somerset – add to January 2023 meeting	deferred
Budget Monitoring	Rob Hart	(a) Noted the proposed actions to address the budget trajectory, including the Children's Transformation Programme, which focuses effort on key areas of demand / pressures (b) Noted that the Executive has asked the Committee to review the 2022/23 budget monitoring position for its services and agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair will discuss further establishing a Task & Finish Group to look at the 'top spends', transport and external placements.	completed Agreed November mtg
Home to School Transport	Phil Curd John Perrett	(a) noted the update and current position and proposed next steps and development (b) agreed to add school transport to the Committee's work plan for refreshed Council policy (to reflect statutory guidance and possible discretionary changes (c) agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss further a possible Task and Finish Group for SEND transport, to include provision for pre and post school club attendance, for example	Pending – to be resumed after external review T&F agreed @ November mtg

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SEND Draft Strategy & Development	Rob Hart Vikki Hearn Ruth Hobbs	<p>(a) Noted the following emerging SEND Strategy Themes which will be underpinned by a number of mission statements, outlining how these will be delivered, for consultation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen, Hear and Respond - Children and young people with SEND and their families will be heard and feel they have choice and control about their lives. Not for me, with me. 2. Working Together and Coordinated - We are working together as a co-ordinated system and at the case level, around the family. 3. Getting Help as Early as Possible - Children, young people and their families are able to access the right support at the right time. 4. Access to the right information, support and provision - Children, young people and their families telling us: "I understand the support and provision that is available to me, and I can access it, if I need it." 5. Preparing for the future - Children and young people have the right skills and options, according to their individual needs, to take control of their future and achieve the ambitions important to them. <p>(b) Asked to see the final report from the Annual Survey when it is available.</p> <p>(c) Asked that the consultation draft of the SEND Strategy be shared with the Committee</p> <p>(d) Agreed that the SEND Strategy be brought back to the Committee after the consultation and engagement has concluded.</p>	completed
7 November 2022			
Work plan		Agreed to establish 2 task & Finish Groups (a) Sufficiency of external placements; (b) Home to school transport	Completed update to January 2023 mtg
Progress on Ofsted action plan	Paul Shallcross	<p>PowerPoint presentation received and shared with Committee.</p> <p>Draft plan to be shared with Committee</p> <p>Committee to see Improvement Plan in 6 months</p> <p>Noted role of Corporate Parent Board</p>	<p>Completed Clerk – done</p> <p>ACTION Add to work plan</p>

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LA Maintained Schools – core offer / traded offer – overview	Amelia Walker	<p>Presentation on overview of proposed changes to the LA maintained schools core offer</p> <p>AGREED That the report which will be considered at the Executive mtg on 14 December 2022 be shared with the Committee and this to include details of the EIA undertaken.</p> <p>Will be substantive agenda item at Committee's next meeting.</p>	Full Business Case to December mtg
2022 Key Stage assessment results – national data	Amelia Walker	<p>PowerPoint presentation given on the 2022 education outcomes.</p> <p>In view of the seriousness of the information presented, it was AGREED that the Committee would write to the Leader of the Council expressing alarm and concern and requesting the Executive, as a matter of urgency, task Officers to undertake a review to identify the underlying issues leading to this continued under performance. This review is of critical importance as improvements must be made in Somerset Schools to enable all pupils to achieve better outcomes. The Committee will be closely monitoring progress and will seek reassurance from the Executive and Officers that improvements are being made.</p>	Completed – March 2023 mtg
Scrutiny at Somerset Council – to inform the recommendations going to Full Council in February 2023	Jamie Jackson	AGREED that members would be contacted separately, asking for expressions of interest. The Committee NOTED the time commitment involved between mid-November and mid-January 2023.	Completed
Information Items		<p>Noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Briefing on Wyvern Nurseries – Implementation Update – circulated on 27 October 2022 b) SEND, Data and Commissioning FAQ's - key points from SEND, data and Commissioning workshop on 28 September 2022 – circulated on 11 October 2022 Consultation on SEND Strategy 2023/26 (closes 23 Dec 22) c) Member Development Panel information – circulated on 31 October 2022 d) Education and Inclusion Services redesign / restructure - follow up update – circulated on 28 October 2022 	Completed

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12 December 2022			
LA maintained schools core offer business case	Amelia Walker	<p>Pre Executive item</p> <p>Considered proposals for changing the current support offer, ahead of consideration by the Executive (on 14 December).</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the presentation and were generally supportive of the proposed direction of travel and proposals for enhancing the Councils relationship with Somerset Schools.</p> <p>The Committee accepted the proposals and endorsed their presentation to the Executive at its meeting on 14 December 2022 by the Lead Member noting the contingency fund for schools is increased from £7k to £17.5k and requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee were generally supportive of the adoption of option 3; and • That the proposals be monitored with regular reports to ensure mitigation where necessary and to limit any negative, detrimental impact to Children, Schools and Schools Staff and that an update report be provided 6 months after implementation (October 2023). 	Update to October 2023

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Somerset Connect and links to Frome LCN development	Richard Selwyn / Patsy Temple	<p>Report and presentation on of the Somerset Connect pilot, (a community based model) and links to the Frome LCN development. Somerset Connect is an emerging jointly-commissioned (children, adults, and health) community-based model which seeks to better connect, and add value to the work already taking place in communities across the County.</p> <p>The Committee made a number of comments including – supportive of work, but don't reinvent wheel and learn from other areas; reconsider reconsider what called as 'Somerset Connect' sounds similar to 'Somerset Direct'; connections between people are important; need to include local members (good resource); careful that don't end up with a digital by default offer; how will hubs be staffed; how ensure appropriate signposting happens; learn from the warm-hubs and full county wide roll out</p> <p>There will be an evaluation of the pilot in the new year (tender).</p> <p>On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked Mr Selwyn, Ms Temple for the report and presentation and Mr Wide for attending.</p>	Completed
Update on Task & Finish Groups		<p>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: -</p> <p><u>Sufficiency of External Placements</u> - membership of the Task and Finish Group - Cllr Leigh Redman (Chair), Cllr Simon Carswell, Cllr Susannah Hart, Cllr Martin Lovell and Ruth Hobbs; initial meeting held on 6 December 2022 to discuss numbers of external placements / data. Will meet again on 20 December and then 18 January 2023; Will provide further report to next meeting (January 2023)</p> <p><u>Home to School Transport</u> - membership of the Task and Finish Group – Cllr John Hunt, Cllr Evie Potts-Jones, Cllr A Hadley and Rev'd Tobie Osmond; will provide further details to next meeting (January 2023)</p> <p>The <u>Scrutiny at Somerset Council</u> Task and Finish Group is due to hold its first meeting on 14 December 2022.</p>	Completed

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Information Items		<p>Noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2022 key Stage assessment results – correspondence sent to the Leader Somerset County Council on 14 November and Response received on 15 November 2022 (b) Somerset Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021 – 22 - circulated on 15 November 2022 (c) Peninsula Fostering Framework Agreement - Decision taken on 16 November 2022 – circulated on 21 November 2022 	Completed
16 January 2023			
Update on Task & Finish Groups		<p>Verbal update</p> <p><u>Sufficiency of External Placements</u> - 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. NOTED.</p> <p><u>Home to School Transport</u> - 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.</p>	Update at March 2023 mtg
Scrutiny update on Ofsted Action Plan	Paul Shallcross	<p>PowerPoint presentation on the Ofsted Action Plan and progress made.</p> <p>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 at the meeting; and other key areas of focus, such as the early help demand management work and strategy discussions and audit work. 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.</p>	Completed

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Return Home Interview Process	Lise Bird	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Completed
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) - Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation	Vikki Hearn	<p>Workshop item</p> <p>Trauma Informed Charter being developed – to be shared.</p> <p>Coordinator position 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</p> <p>Progress update in 6 months'</p>	Completed

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)

[Somerset Children & Young People's Plan – SSCP \(safeguardingsomerset.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting
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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