

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Monday 6 March 2023

**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, Monitoring Officer and Head of Governance and Democratic Services - 24 February 2023

For further information about the meeting, please contact Neil Milne on 01823 357628 or neil.milne@somerset.gov.uk or Fiona Abbott on 01823 357628 or fiona.abbott@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 6 March 2023

**** Information on the Committee ****

**** 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.

3 Minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 January 2023 (Pages 11 - 16)

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 17 - 30)

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 Joint Local Area SEND Inspection Outcomes and update on SEND Green Paper
(Pages 31 - 42)

To consider Report and receive a presentation. This item will be led by the Council's Head of SEND, Claire Merchant-Jones.

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 1.00 pm Monday 6 March 2023

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

7 **'Education for Life' Strategy**

To receive presentation. This item will be led by the Council's Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker.

Note – the Chair will allow 35 minutes for this agenda item.

8 **LA Maintained Schools - Core Offer - update**

To consider Report. This item will be led by the Council's Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker.

Note – the Chair will allow 35 minutes for this agenda item.

9 **Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Groups - update** (Pages 43 - 52)

To receive an update on the Committee's Task and Finish Groups: -

- (a) Sufficiency of external placements – draft report (attached);
- (b) Home to School Transport

10 **Items for Information - Standing Item**

This is a standing agenda item and will provide details of information sent to Committee members in between meetings, that cover Children & Families Scrutiny policy areas.

- (a) Email sent regarding '[Government unveils reforms in children's social care](#)' – on 3 February 2023
- (b) Overview of Ofsted annual conversation - slides circulated on 9 February 2023
- (c) Academisation – update - information circulated

If Committee members have any questions or comments on the information, please contact fiona.abbott@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.