



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

10.00 am

**John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere
Road, Taunton TA1 1HE**

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The members of the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Agenda Item 7 Education for Life - Progress on Years 2-5 (Pages 3 - 20)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

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Education for Life Strategy

Children and Families Scrutiny Committee
15th May 2024



Somerset
Council

Best Start in Life

Understanding children

Capturing intelligence

Helping children progress

Thriving Schools

Preventing exclusion

Whole school focus

Collaborating on attendance

Community leadership

Support staff

Great Futures

Careers through ITT

NEET data

Reaching parents

SEND Strategy

SEND Funding consultation

Accelerated Progress Plan

Governance

MAT CEOs

Education System Leadership

CYPP Consultation

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We should be assessing every child using common principles

Our most disadvantaged children need us to stay alongside them 0-25

We need more high quality provision that extends the mainstream curriculum

Money is better spent when people on the ground can shape decisions

Localities need more dedicated professionals who are on the ground and supporting each other

Support needs to be simple, based on clear products and given quality time to discuss

Children and young people need friendships and positive things to do and to look forward to

Improvement is more powerful when we work across boundaries in a way that is status and organisation neutral

Ideas have come from more than one group or discussion

Education for Life: 8 Big Ideas



We should be assessing every child using common principles

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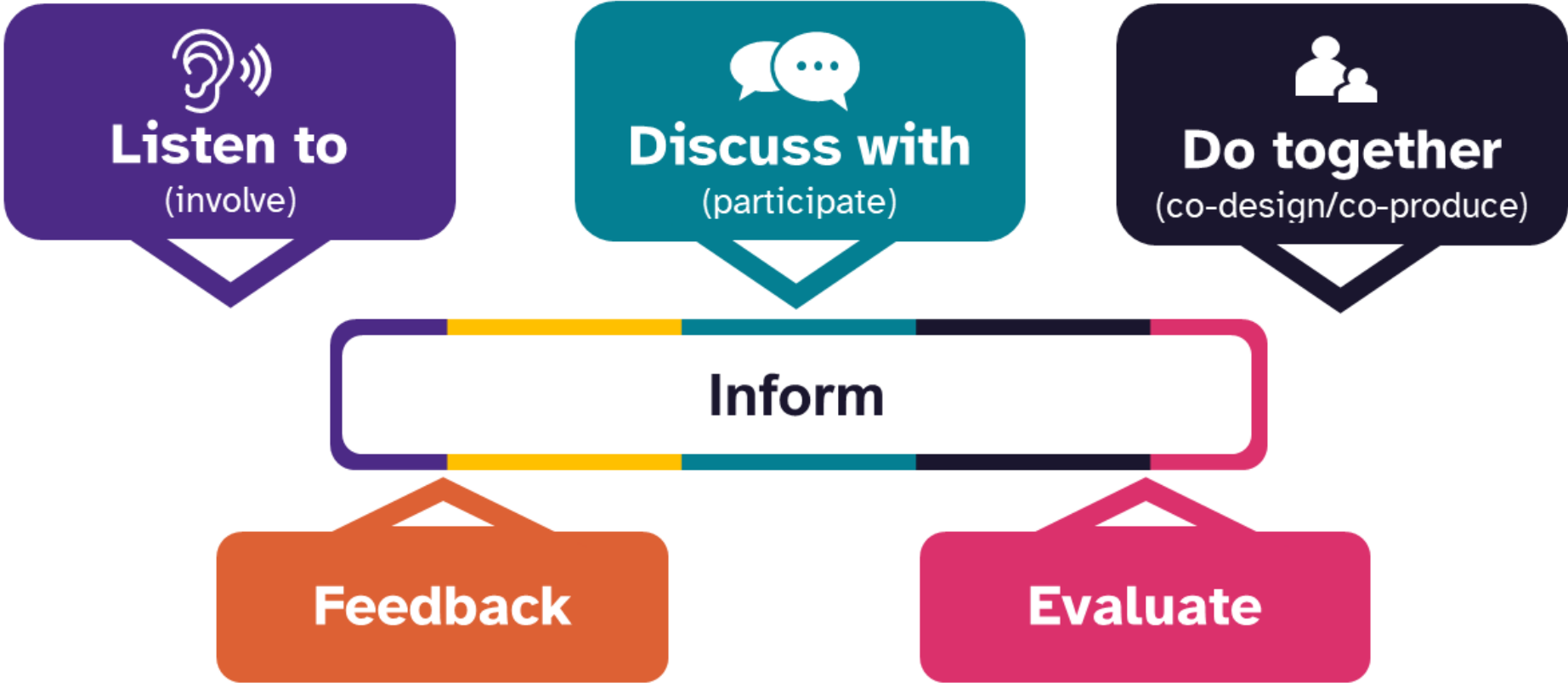
Children and young people need friendships and positive things to do and to look forward to

Support needs to be simple, based on clear products and given quality time to discuss

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Collaboration Framework

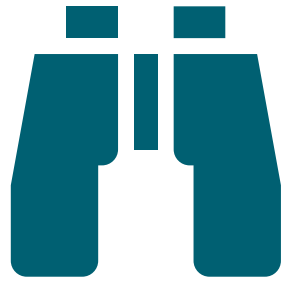
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What now?



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Analyse



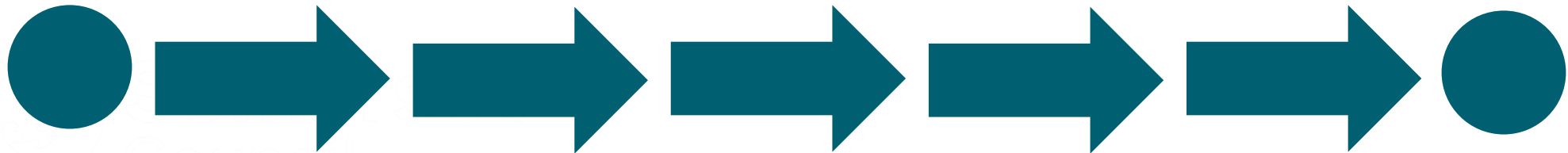
Propose



Shape



Action



Six important issues



- 1) Hard Cases
- 2) Meeting need
- 3) Working across schools
- 4) Risk around children
- 5) Preventing exclusion
- 6) Localities

1) Hard cases



Why?

- Stakeholders are telling us there are too many children ‘stuck’ in the system who need rapid solutions so they can progress in education

What?

- A virtual team of staff with diverse skills, supported by agile decision making, focusing on moving these situations on

When?

- Now

2) Meeting need



Why?

- It takes too long and is too hard to get a child's needs recognised and extra provision funded

What?

- Moving to a system where we can assess all children and fund any child without an EHCP

When?

- Consultation on banding in summer term, with option to introduce some changes from September

3) Working Across Schools



Why?

- Specialist support from the LA is valued but it can be too complicated or too expensive to access

What?

- Simplifying our approach to joint working and targeting resources and support where Localities decide it is most needed

When?

- September

4) Risk around children



Why?

- The way we share knowledge of potential risk to children is complicated and it is hard to see an overview across all children

What?

- Creating a common language of risk and a rapid method for assessing risk that is suitable for use in any situation, not just those that are most serious

When?

- September

5) Preventing Exclusion



Why?

- The resources we have to prevent children being suspended or excluded are not coordinated to have the most impact

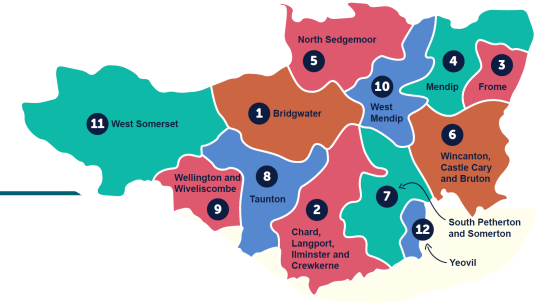
What?

- Bringing people together in Localities with a shared focus on prevention and access to the resources that could make a difference to children, families and schools

When?

- September

6) Locality working



Why?

- Staff on the ground need trusting, close relationships with the local authority and other partners who can help them help children

What?

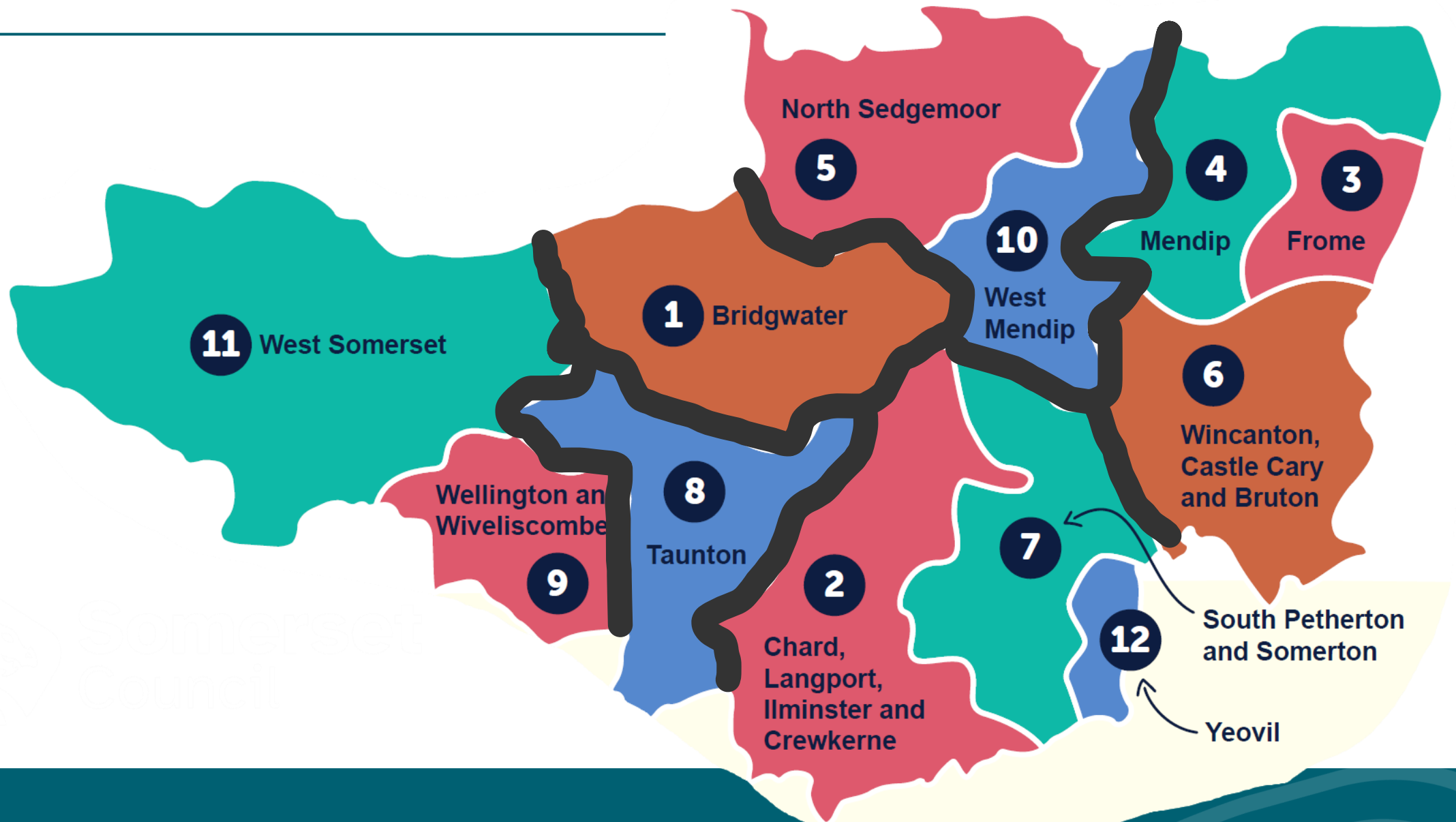
- Establishing Locality teams and approaches that shape how individual members of staff work, day by day and on the ground

When?

- January

6) Six Localities

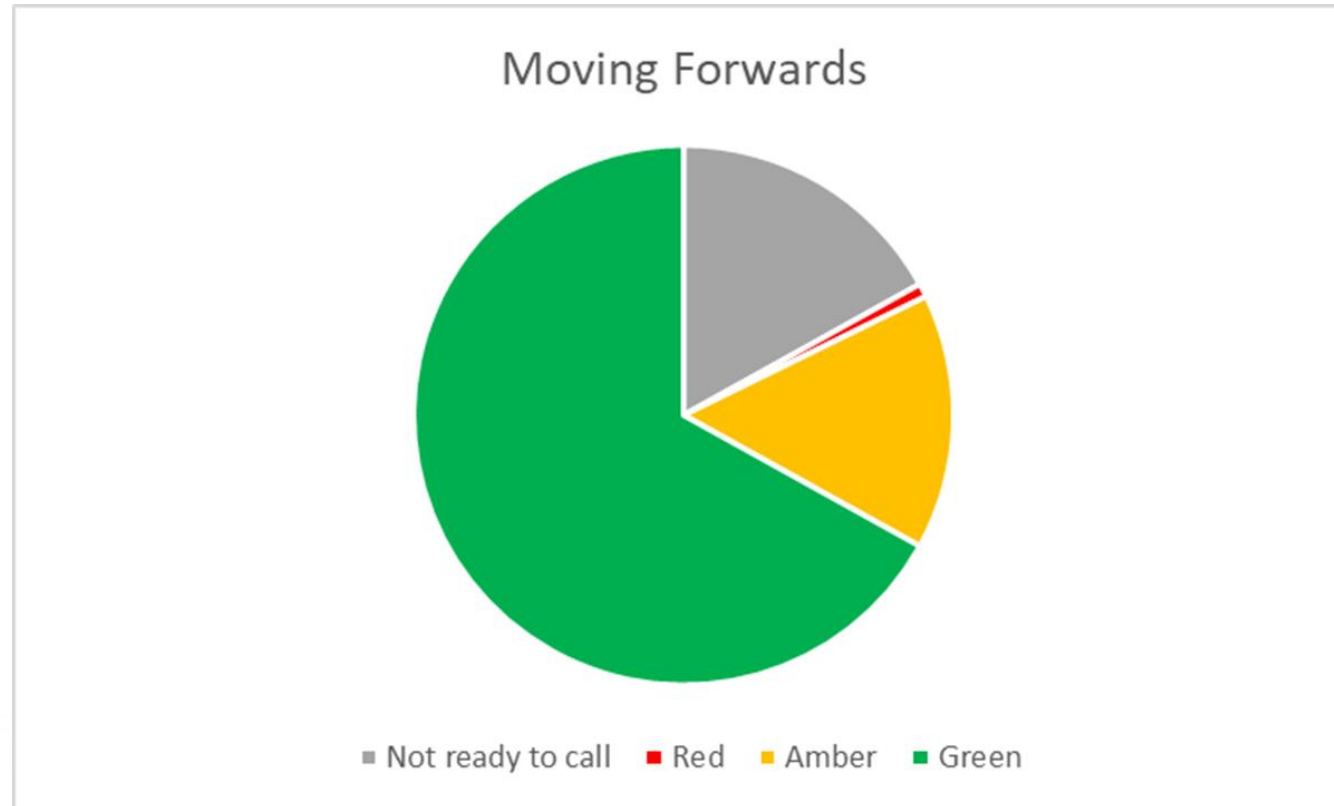
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Headteacher consultation

Feedback

Four face to face interactive sessions around the county



Will we deliver?

- 1) This work will form part of the Children's Transformation Programme
- 2) Accountability for delivery will be to the DCS, Chief Executive, Elected Members and the DfE
- 3) These changes will form the backbone of the Education for Life Strategy



When will things change?

Action	Impact felt from
Professional Practitioners in schools	Now
Staff working together on Hard Cases	Now
Team around the Child	Now
Piloting informal Locality arrangements in Wincanton and West Somerset	June
Common approach to risk	September
New Team around the School, Locality and Preventing Exclusion meetings	September
Equalised banding	September
Formal Locality arrangements	January

Any Questions



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