



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Held on Wednesday, 15 May 2024

at 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

Further to the meeting held on 15 May 2024, please now find enclosed the PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting for this agenda item: -

Agenda Item 8 Update on DBS checks for Councillors – see Pages 3 – 6.

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DBS Update

15 May 2024

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Somerset
Council

Agenda Item 8

Councillor DBS Principles

The advice from the Council's DBS Team is that DBS checks for councillors should be conducted on the following basis:

1. Councillors not on any specific children's or adult's committees or panels, not visiting schools but may be visiting adults care or residential homes – **Basic DBS**
2. Councillors involved with Children's services on a specific Childrens, Education or Family committee's or panels and/or visit schools infrequently (more than once) with opportunity for unsupervised contact with children – **Enhanced DBS with child workforce**. If they are visiting school frequently (which is defined as more than 3 times per month) without reasonable supervision we should also do a **Children's Barred List check**, but we would think is unlikely as the visits are not ' for the purpose of the establishment'.
3. Councillors involved in Adults Services – on an Adult Social Care or Health committee/panel, regardless of visits to adult care of residential home etc – **Enhanced DBS with Adult Workforce**.
4. All Executive Lead Members – **Enhanced DBS**
5. Associate Lead Members for Children's and Adult's Services – **Enhanced DBS**

DBS Completion Update

- Considerable but very necessary administrative exercise.
- 110 Councillors – 101 have had a completed and cleared DBS check – approximately 92%. None have been rejected. Remaining 9 councillor checks are on-going.
- The 101 completed and cleared includes all the Executive Lead Members. Currently 1 member from each of the Children and Families and Adults and Health Scrutiny Committees that remain outstanding.
- The 3 co-opted members on this committee also have on-going applications and expect those to be cleared by the next Committee meeting.

Questions