



Notice of Meeting of

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDRENS AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 10.00 am

Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY

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

Chair:	Councillor Leigh Redman
Vice-chair:	Councillor Evie Potts-Jones
Councillor Suria Aujla	Councillor Jason Baker
Councillor Simon Carswell	Councillor Peter Clayton
Councillor Caroline Ellis	Councillor Andy Hadley
Councillor John Hunt	Councillor Jenny Kenton
Councillor Martin Lovell	Councillor Frances Nicholson
Councillor Jeny Snell	Ruth Hobbs – co-opted member
The Revd Tobie Osmond – co-opted member	Eileen Tipper – co-opted member

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services on (01823) 357628 or email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Thursday, 6 July 2023**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 4 July 2023

AGENDA

**Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families
10.00 am Wednesday, 12 July 2023**

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 7 - 8)

Information on the Committee (Pages 9 - 10)

Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 11 - 12)

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes - [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters – Somerset Councillors 2023](#))

3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting held on 4 May 2023 (Pages 13 - 18)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

4 Public Question Time

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three-minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting'.

5 Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme (Pages 19 - 30)

To receive an update from the Service 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](#)

6 22/23 Budget outturn position and 23/24 Emerging issues (Pages 31 - 38)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

This item will be led by the Council's Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter and Strategic Manager, Finance, Sian Kenny.

Note – the Chair will allow 20 minutes for this agenda item.

7 Academisation Finance Policy and Procedure (Pages 39 - 50)

To consider Report.

This item will be led by the Council's Service Director, Education, Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker.

Note – the Chair will allow 15 minutes for this agenda item.

8 Update on Homes & Horizons Partnership (Pages 51 - 64)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

This item will be led by the Council's Strategic Manager, Daniel Moncrieff.

Note – the Chair will allow 20 minutes for this agenda item.

For information – [link to article on national award for groundbreaking children's home partnership](#)

9 Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset (To Follow)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

The item will be led by the Council's Strategic Manager Principal Educational Psychologist, Dr Tim Cockerill together with colleagues from Public Health, Children's Services and the NHS.

The presentation will include an update on the Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation.

Note – the Chair will allow 40 minutes for this agenda item.

10 Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board Plan 2023 - 2024 (To Follow)

To consider Report.

The item will be led by the Council's Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter and the Operations Manager, Somerset Youth Justice Team / Prevention Services, Helen MacDonald.

Note – the Chair will allow 25 minutes for this agenda item.

11 Home to School Transport Task and Finish Group - interim update (Verbal Report)

To receive interim update.

Note – the Chair will allow 10 minutes for this agenda item.

12 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 the Committee's policy areas.

- (a) Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) publication – [Scrutiny of Children's Services – a short guide](#)
- (b) [Homes and Horizons partnership](#)
- (c) Progress update on Ofsted Action Plan; 'Life story work'
- (d) Children's Services – current structure chart

If Committee members have any questions or comments on the information, please contact the Committee Administrator on democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk in the first instance and before the date of the meeting.