



Notice of Meeting of

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDRENS AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 13 September 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, 7 September 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, 5 September 2023

AGENDA

Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families 10.00 am Wednesday, 13 September 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 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 12 July 2023 (Pages 13 - 22)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Note regarding minute 4 (Public Question Time) - the responses can be found in the [addendum document here](#)

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 23 - 38)

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 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring (To Follow)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

Note - the Chair will allow 45 minutes for this agenda item.

7 Education Modelling - Frome - next steps (Pages 39 - 46)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

The item will be led by the Council's s Service Director, Education, Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker and Head of Education Places, Phil Curd.

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

8 Regional Adoption Agency (To Follow)

To consider Report.

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

9 External Placements Task and Finish Group - response from Executive on recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group (To Follow)

To consider the response from the Executive.

The Committee considered and agreed the report of the External Placements Task and Finish Group at the meeting held on 6 March 2023. Click on the following link to view the report considered and agreed at the meeting on 6 March 2023 – [External Placements Task and Finish Group](#)

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

10 Learning from the West Somerset Opportunity Area (To Follow)

To receive presentation.

This item will be led by the Council's Strategic Manager, Julia Ridge.

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

11 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) Education Data – information / briefing note will be provided by Amelia Walker, Service Director Education Partnerships and Skills

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.