



Notice of Meeting of

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Wednesday, 15 November 2023 at 10.00 am**

**Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King  
Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR**

To: The members of the Scrutiny Committee - Children 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 T Osmond – co-opted member	Eileen Tipper – co-opted member
Joanne Simons – 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](mailto: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: [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Thursday, 9 November 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, 7 November 2023

# **AGENDA**

**Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families - 10.00 am Wednesday, 15  
November 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 of the Meeting held on 13 September 2023 (Pages 13 - 22)**

To approve the Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2023.

## **4 Minutes of the Joint Meeting held on 25 October 2023 (Pages 23 - 30)**

To approve the Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee – Children and Families and the Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health on Wednesday 25 October 2023.

## **5 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'.

## **6 Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme (Pages 31 - 44)**

To receive an update from the Service Manager, Governance Scrutiny. 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 links to view the latest Somerset Council Forward Plans and Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions that have been published on the Council's website:

[Somerset Council Forward Plans](#)

[Somerset Council Executive Forward Plan](#)

### **7.1 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring (pages 45 - 51)**

The 2023/24 budget monitoring slides in the PowerPoint presentation will be led by the Council's Strategic Manager, Finance Business Partnering, Sian Kenny.

**7.2 Update on Children's Transformation Programme / Business Plan (Pages 52 - 58)**

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

The item will be led by the Council's Executive Director – Children, Families and Education, Claire Winter and the Service Manager, Caroline Barnes.

*Note – the Chair will allow 50 minutes for agenda item 7.*

**8 Education Finance - consultation (Pages 59 - 78)**

To receive presentation.

The presentation provides a summary of the Education Finance consultation (which runs until 10 November), including responses as at 6 November. The link to the consultation has been shared previously – see

[How should we meet education funding challenges in Somerset? Have your say - Somerset Council - Citizen Space](#)

The item will be led by the Council's Executive Director – Children, Families and Education, Claire Winter.

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

**9 Standing Panel for Education Standards - update from Panel Chair (Pages 79 - 80)**

To receive briefing note and update from the Chair of Panel, Cllr Evie Potts-Jones.

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

## 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 the Committee's policy areas.

- (a) SSCP Learning Bulletin - September 2023 – circulated on 20 September 2023
- (b) Children & Young People LGA bulletin – September 2023 – circulated in 28 September 2023
- (c) Link to the consultation on 'creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping', which runs to 6 December - [Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views - Department of Health and Social Care \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](#) – circulated on 30 October 2023
- (d) Link to [NHS dental statistics for England 2022-23, Annual Report](#) - circulated on 30 October 2023
- (e) Information on the Education Finance consultation – circulated on 1 November 2023
- (f) LA maintained schools core offer – update – circulated on 6 November 2023

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