

**Somerset Council – Summary of Outcomes - Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 15 November 2023**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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**Part A – Items considered in public**

<b>A1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Clayton (no substitute) and Mrs Eileen Tipper (co-opted member).
<b>A3</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2023</b>	Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.
<b>A4</b>	<b>Minutes of the Joint Meeting held on 25 October 2023</b>	Resolved that the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee – Children & Families and the Scrutiny Committee – Adults & Health held on Wednesday 25 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.  The minutes will also need to be confirmed by the Scrutiny Committee – Adults & Health.
<b>A6</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme</b>	The Committee received and noted the current work plan and outcome tracker and Executive Forward Plan.  The Chair highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an additional meeting scheduled for Tuesday 12 December at 10 am at Brympton Way, Yeovil.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note that Committee Members will be invited to attend the Adults and Health Committee on 7 December for the following agenda item – Overview of Crime &amp; Disorder.</li> <li>• The outcome tracker on the vaping item, considered at the joint meeting on 25 October, should be ‘orange’ (rather than ‘green’) as there are still actions outstanding.</li> <li>• Add ‘Connect Somerset’ as an item on the work plan.</li> </ul>
<b>A7</b>	<b>2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring</b>	<p>The Committee received a <a href="#">presentation</a> on the 23/24 Children’s Services budget and a verbal update on the month 6 position, which is showing a slight increase in forecast overspend (£11.8m to £12.4m).</p> <p>A key area of deficit is the DSG, High Needs Block and will include more detail on this and the 2 areas overspending in the next update to the Committee.</p> <p>Also requested a briefing note explaining differences between ‘mainstream home to school transport’ and ‘SEND transport’ (statutory / non statutory elements).</p>
<b>A7</b>	<b>Update on Children's Transformation Programme / Business Plan</b>	<p>The Committee received a presentation on <a href="#">Children’s Transformation Programme / Business Plan</a>.</p> <p>The transformation priorities are – sufficiency, efficiency, managing risks (slide 8). The 4 strategies underpinning the priorities 2023 - 2026 (slide 9) are –</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education for Life</li> <li>• CLA Transformation</li> <li>• SEND Strategy</li> <li>• Connect Somerset</li> </ul> <p>The Chair asked that the committee think further on these areas and at the next meeting will ask for volunteers, to act as champions for each area.</p>
<b>A8</b>	<b>Education Finance - consultation</b>	<p>The Committee received a <a href="#">presentation</a> on the Education Finance consultation on how can meet education funding challenges in Somerset, and which concluded on 10 November 2023. There were 346 responses to the consultation survey.</p> <p>The committee discussed the areas which it is proposed will be developed further into detailed, costed options for consultation.</p> <p>The Chair asked for clarification around ‘banding’ at next meeting, referenced on slide 7).</p>
<b>A9</b>	<b>Standing Panel for Education Standards - update from Panel Chair</b>	<p>The Committee received an update from the Chair of the <a href="#">Education Standards Panel</a>, Cllr Evie Potts-Jones. The first, introductory meeting had been held on 26 October. Going forward the Panel will recommend items or certain data for the Scrutiny Committee to discuss.</p>

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		The Committee welcomed and noted the update.
<b>A10</b>	<b>Items for Information - Standing Item</b>	<p>The Committee noted the following items for information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) SSCP Learning Bulletin - September 2023 – circulated on 20 September 2023</li> <li>(b) Children &amp; Young People LGA bulletin – September 2023 – circulated in 28 September 2023</li> <li>(c) Link to the consultation on ‘creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping’, which runs to 6 December - <a href="#">Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views - Department of Health and Social Care (dhsc.gov.uk)</a> – circulated on 30 October 2023</li> <li>(d) Link to <a href="#">NHS dental statistics for England 2022-23, Annual Report</a> - circulated on 30 October 2023</li> <li>(e) Information on the Education Finance consultation – circulated on 1 November 2023</li> <li>(f) LA maintained schools core offer – update – circulated on 6 November 2023.</li> </ul>

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