



Notice of Meeting of

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 10.00 am

John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton TA1 1HE

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 Andy Hadley	Councillor Pauline Ham
Councillor John Hunt	Councillor Marcus Kravis
Councillor Martin Lovell	Councillor Frances Nicholson
Councillor Jeny Snell	Ruth Hobbs – co-opted member
The Revd Tobie Osmond – co-opted member	Jo 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

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 by **5pm on Thursday, 7 March 2024.**

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 March 2024

AGENDA

Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families

10.00 am Wednesday, 13 March 2024

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

Information about the Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families (Pages 9 - 10)

Details on how to join the meeting online (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 Meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2024 (Pages 13 - 20)

To approve the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

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 on how to join the meeting online' document.

5 Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme (Pages 21 - 36)

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](#)

6 Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset (Pages 37 - 54)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

The focus of the item is on the Somerset system wide support for children and young people who self-injure and follows on from the item considered by the Committee at the meeting in [July 2023](#). The item will be led by the Council's Strategic Manager, Public Health, Patsy Temple, together with colleagues from CAMHS, ICB, Nik Harwood (Young Somerset) and front line practitioner representation from jigsaw project (Targeted Youth Support) and hospital psychiatric liaison team.

Notes:

Members of the Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health are welcome to attend the meeting for this agenda item.

The Chair will allow 45 minutes for this agenda item.

7 2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring (Pages 55 - 64)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

As background the Committee will find it helpful to refer to the following, considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 March 2023 - [Children, Families & Education Services – month 10 position](#)

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

8 DSG Deficit Management Plan (DMP) (To Follow)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

Notes:

The Chair will allow 40 minutes for this agenda item.

As background to the item and to assist the Committee, some further information about the DMP was circulated on 5 March 2024.

9 Understanding Elective Home Education (Pages 65 - 72)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

10 Update from Education Standards Standing Panel

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

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

11 Report back from committee members on Children's Services Transformation Priorities /Areas (Pages 73 - 74)

To receive report back from members of the Committee on the strands in the Children's Services Transformation Priorities / Areas:

- Education for Life – Jo Simons
- CLA Transformation - Cllr Evie Potts, Cllr Martin Lovell
- SEND Strategy – Cllr Simon Carswell, Cllr Frances Nicholson
- Connect Somerset - Tobie Osmond, Ruth Hobbs

Note – the Chair will allow 20 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) Delivering Better Value – Newton Report – circulated on 3 January 2024

(b) Short break provision – action plan – circulated on 21 February 2024

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