



Notice of Meeting of

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 15 May 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, 9 May 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, 7 May 2024

AGENDA

Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families

10.00 am Wednesday, 15 May 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)

Children, Families and Education - at the start of the meeting the Executive Director will briefly update the Committee on some changes in responsibilities in Children, Families & Education.

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 13 March 2024 (Pages 13 - 20)

To approve the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 13 March 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 under 'click here to join online meeting'.

5 Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme (Pages 21 - 42)

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 2023/2024 (pages 21 – 30).
- (b) The Committee's outcome tracker (pages 31 – 38).
- (c) Summary meetings overview 2023/2024 (pages 39 – 40).
- (d) Draft Committee work plan 2024/2025 (pages 41 – 42) - *to note the items planned for the next meeting on 26 June 2024. Committee members are invited to identify items for consideration at the next few meetings.*

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 Update on short break provision / action plan (Pages 43 - 50)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

7 Education for Life - Progress on Years 2-5 (to follow)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

8 Update on DBS checks for Councillors

To receive a verbal update from the Scrutiny Manager on the position with regard to DBS checks for Councillors. A short PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the meeting.

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

9 Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic (Pages 51 - 70)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

10 Items for Information - Standing Item

1. 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) LGA virtual event - Improving support for care leavers – circulated on 15 April 2024

(b) Update on Academisation Programme – link to website - [Academisation Pipeline Page | Support Services for Education](#)- circulated on 25 April 2024

(c) Note about Education Standards Standing Panel – to be circulated

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.

2. The Committee is asked to note the proposed meeting dates for 2024/2025 - the meetings will be held in Deane House, JMR, Taunton except where indicated:-

- Wednesday 26 June @ 10am.
- Monday 5 August @ 1.30 pm.
- Wednesday 18 September @ 10am (Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater).
- Tuesday 29 October @ 10am.
- Monday 9 December @ 1.30pm.
- Wednesday 22 January @ 10.30am.
- Monday 10 March @ 1.30pm.
- Wednesday 23 April @ 10.30am.