

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 15 May 2024

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

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| A1 | Apologies for Absence | Apologies were received from Councillor A Hadley (substituted by Cllr S Osborne). |
| A2 | Declarations of Interest | |
| A3 | Minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 | Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record. |
| A4 | Public Question Time | There were no questions asked, statements made or petitions presented. |
| A5 | Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Programme | The Committee received and noted the Committee's current work programme, outcome tracker, meetings overview from 2023/24, draft work programme for 2024/25 and the Executive Forward Plan of planed key decisions in the coming months including Executive meetings. |
| A6 | Update on short break provision / action plan | <p>Further to the meeting held on 10 January 2024, the Committee received a presentation which provided a progress update on short break provision. It was noted that the action plan had been shared with the Committee. The Committee discussed the proposals / model for new homes, budget, timescales and next steps.</p> <p>The Committee was very supportive of the proposals and direction of travel and looks forward to seeing the project as it moves forward.</p> |

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| A7 | Education for Life - Progress on Years 2-5 | The Committee received a presentation which provided an update on progress on the Education for Life Strategy and the actions and focus for years 2 – 5. |
| A8 | Update on DBS checks for Councillors | The Committee noted the update from the Scrutiny Manager, Jamie Jackosn on the position with regard to DBS checks for Councillors. |
| A9 | Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic | The Committee received a presentation on the care experience as a Protected Characteristic. The Council in May 2023 agreed to 8 recommendations to implement care experience as a Protected Characteristic and the Committee noted the actions arising. In March 2020 the Council signed the national Care Leaver’s Covenant and Committee to meeting its five core outcomes. Noted the Somerset definition of ‘care leavers and care experienced’ and the proposed next steps / considerations for implementation. |
| A10 | Items for Information - Standing Item | <p>1. The Committee noted the following items for information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) LGA virtual event – Improving support for care leavers (b) Update on Academisation Programme – link to website – Academisation Pipeline Page Support Services for Education <p>2. Noted the proposed meeting dates for 2024/2025:-</p> <p>The meetings will be held in Deane House, JMR, Taunton except where indicated:-</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |