

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families on Wednesday, 26 June 2024

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

A1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Councillor M Lovell (substituted by Cllr H Hobhouse), Cllr S Carswell and J Simons (co-opted member).
A2	Declarations of Interest	No additional interests, new or updated declarations of interest were made at the meeting.
A3	Minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2024	Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Childrens and Families held on Wednesday 15 May 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 and outcome tracker and Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions in the coming months including Executive meetings.
A6	Children’s Services Transformation Plan (deep dive)	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the Children’s Transformation Programme, providing an update / summary on progress, overarching finance summary, MTFP tracker and on the work of the priority workstreams:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Local mainstream school is the right choice for most children · Developing an excellent workforce for children · Families can access support early

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sufficient homes for children in care and school places for children with additional needs in Somerset <p>During the discussion on the roll-out of Transform Family View on Azure platform, which is enabling more data sharing and insight, it was agreed that data sharing and ‘how it works’, be added to the work plan.</p> <p>The Committee thanked officers for the excellent and informative update.</p>
A7	Education, Health & Care Plan process and annual reviews	<p>Further to the meeting in December 2023, the Committee received a presentation which provided an update on the Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) process and annual reviews.</p> <p>The Committee noted the update.</p>
A8	Children's Services - Budget Monitoring	<p>The Committee received a presentation which provided an update on the budget position, covering (a) the provisional 2023/24 outturn position for Children, Families & Education Services (£12.4m adverse overspend - the overspend predominantly relates to external placements, fieldwork (support for children at home), and SEND transport); and (b) the 2024/25 emerging issues.</p> <p>Agreed that the Transformation Board ‘deep dive’ report, investigating the reasons</p>

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		<p>behind the increase in the (small) number of children looked after, will be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged the hard work and noted the update; expressed frustration and stressed the importance & need to see greater detail and information about the current years’ budget position.</p>
A9	Items for Information - Standing Item	<p>The Committee noted the following item for information:</p> <p>(a) The SENDIAS Annual Report – circulated on 11 June 2024</p> <p>The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 5 August 2024 at 1.30 pm.</p>