



Notice of Meeting of

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wednesday, 7 August 2024 at 9.30 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 Jason Baker	Councillor Simon Carswell
Councillor Peter Clayton	Councillor Andy Hadley
Councillor Pauline Ham	Councillor Alistair Hendry
Councillor John Hunt	Councillor Marcus Kravis
Councillor Martin Lovell	Councillor Frances Nicholson
Councillor Jeny Snell	Ruth Hobbs – co-opted member
Revd Tobie Osmond – 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: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Thursday, 1 August 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, 30 July 2024

AGENDA

Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families 9.30 am Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 5 - 6)

Information about the Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families (Pages 7 - 8)

Details on how to join the meeting online (Pages 9 - 10)

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 26 June 2024 (Pages 11 - 16)

To approve the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 26 June 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 17 - 24)

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 Services - Budget Monitoring - Month 3 (Pages 25 - 32)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

7 Equality Due Regard requirement for Scrutiny (Pages 33 - 34)

To consider Report.

Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

1. Reconfirm their commitment to equality Due Regard being part of their Scrutiny function.
2. Support further training opportunities that are provided for the delivery of this commitment.

Note – the Chair will allow 15 minutes for this agenda item.

8 Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Somerset - serious youth violence - Report and Action Plan (Pages 35 - 40)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

The overview presentation will be given by Claire Winter, the Council's Executive Director, Children, Families and Education and senior representatives from partner agencies will be joining the meeting for this agenda item.

The report from the inspection, in the form of an ungraded letter has been published and is available here - <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50252825>

Note – the Chair will allow 45 minutes for this agenda item.

9 School Transport Project (Pages 41 - 56)

To consider PowerPoint presentation.

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

10 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) [Suicide Prevention Strategy for Somerset Consultation](#) - circulated on 25 July 2024
- (b) 2024 KS2 headline data – circulated on 25 July 2024
- (c) Briefing note on academisation / decision making process and procedure – circulated on 30 July 2024
- (d) Information about the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 July which considered the [Adopt South West Annual Report 2023/24](#) – circulated on 30 July 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.