

## Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
<b>Outstanding items from 2022/ 2023</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Transport policy / Post-16 Travel Policy and the ‘Somerset Ticket’</li> <li>• Children missing out on education (numbers, who, reasons)</li> <li>• <del>Evaluation of the West Somerset Opportunity Area (September ‘23)</del></li> <li>• <b>Workshop The disadvantage gap</b> - what we know and options to address, to include health impact of inequalities in education - Public Health, SEND, social workers, case studies, wider health organisations, FSM and pupil premium data</li> <li>• <b>Possible workshop with Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny</b> Self-harm / mental health issues – 10 January 24 meeting?</li> <li>• <b>Possible workshop with Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny</b> Transition arrangements – preparing for adulthood – 25 October mtg?</li> </ul>	
<b>Items to be scheduled 2023/24</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Household Support Fund</a> / schools (added 15/05/23) (is a Key Decision 23/05/23)</li> <li>• <b>Possible workshop with Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny</b> Children &amp; Young People’s access to Dentistry / child oral health improvement (added 04/05/23) will be discussed initially at Scrutiny Chairs mtg – 25 October mtg?</li> <li>• <a href="#">Oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022</a> published March ‘23</li> <li>• EHCP process (added 27/06/23) – November mtg?</li> <li>• School place sufficiency – EY, Nursery places, primary, secondary and special schools (added 27/06/23) – December mtg?</li> <li>• Elective home education numbers (added 27/06/23)</li> <li>• Pupil referral unit (added 27/06/23)</li> <li>• Councillor DBS checks (added 13/07/23)</li> <li>• Provisional – joint with Adults and Health Scrutiny - Asylum Resettlement Programme following issues raised by groups working with asylum seekers in the community in Somerset (added 01.08.23)</li> <li>• Complaints (added 14.08.23)</li> </ul>	
<b>Thursday 4 May 2023 @ 10am</b>		
Education Partnerships & Skills	LA Maintained Schools Core Offer – update / response from last meeting and 2023/24 budgets	Amelia Walker
Education Partnerships & Skills	Terms of reference of the proposed Task Group on education standards	Amelia Walker
Inclusion	SEND Strategy and the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)	Dr Rob Hart and Deputy Director for Commissioning, NHS Somerset, Andrew Keefe

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

## Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
Social Care	Reforms in children's social care – draft consultation response	AD Community & Strategy, Paul Shallcross
Children & Families	Task and Finish Group – sufficiency of external placements – initial response from Executive	Cllr Munt / Claire Winter
Inclusion	Task and Finish Group – home to school transport – verbal update	Dr Rob Hart
Cross-cutting	Items for Information – Standing Item (a) Information on Children and Families Board (b) Feedback on the ' <a href="#">Education for Life</a> ' launch event	
<b>Wednesday 12 July 2023 @ 10am</b>		
Cross-cutting	Budget outturn position 22/23 and issues 23/24 - overview	Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter Strategic Manager, Finance, Sian Kenny
Education Partnerships & Skills	Academisation / Education Finance	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
Commissioning	Update on Homes & Horizons Partnership	Strategic Manager, Daniel Moncrieff
Inclusion	Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset	Dr Tim Cockerill, Patsy Temple, Mark Conway, Patrick Worthington, Nik Harwood and Lisa Walker
Inclusion	Home to School Transport Task and Finish Group – interim update	Executive member / Service Director – Inclusion, Dr Rob Hart
Children & Families	Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board Annual Plan	Jayne Shelbourne-Barrow Helen MacDonald, Operations Manager
Cross-cutting	Items for Information – Standing Item (a) Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) publication – <a href="#">Scrutiny of Children's Services – a short guide</a> (b) <a href="#">Homes and Horizons partnership</a> (c) Progress update on Ofsted Action Plan; Life Story work' (d) Children's Services – current structure chart	Cathy Jones, Strategic Manager

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

## Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
Commissioning	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Communities Scrutiny Committee – 9 August 23 @ 10am</p> <p>Members of the Children &amp; Families Scrutiny Committee invited to attend the meeting for this item:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Recommissioning of 16+ housing / supported accommodation</a> (initially added to work plan on 17/05/23)</li> </ul>	Service Director Commissioning, Richard Selwyn
<b>Wednesday 13 September 2023 @ 10 am</b> <b>The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton</b>		
Cross-cutting	2023/24 Children’s Services – Budget Monitoring	Strategic Manager, Finance, Sian Kenny
Education Partnerships & Skills	Education Modelling - Frome – next steps	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker and Strategic Manager Phil Curd presenting
	Regional Adoption Agency	Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter
	External Placements Task and Finish Group – response from Executive on recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group	Executive member / Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter
Education Partnerships & Skills	Learning from the West Somerset Opportunity Area	Strategic Manager, Julia Ridge
Cross cutting	Items for Information (a) Education Data	Amelia Walker
<b>Additional mtg - 25 October 2023 @ 10am</b>		

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

## Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
<b>Prov - Joint workshop adults and health - TBC</b> <b>JMR, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE</b>		
	Transitions – Children’s Services into Adults Services	CS and ASC
	Children’s oral health	CS and ACS
	Public health topic - TBC	
Commissioning	Update on Children’s Transformation Programme	Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Claire Winter
<b>15 November 2023 @ 10 am</b> <b>Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR</b>		
Education Partnerships & Skills	LA maintained schools core offer – update	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker
	2023/24 Children’s Services – Budget Monitoring	Strategic Manager, Finance, Sian Kenny
Inclusion	Progress update on SEND Strategy / APP	Service Director - Inclusion Dr Rob Hart and Deputy Director for Commissioning, NHS Somerset, Andrew Keefe
	Update on short break provision (respite)	Fostering Service
Education Partnerships & Skills	Education finance paper – consultation	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

## Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

Overarching themes	Committee meeting dates / proposed agenda items	Lead Officer/Item Lead
Education Partnerships & Skills	Standing Panel for Education Standards – update	Service Director - Education Partnerships and Skills Amelia Walker Chair of Panel
<b>Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health – 5 December @ 10 am</b>		
	Members of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee invited to attend the meeting for this item:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Crime &amp; Disorder (added 22.08.23)</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional meeting – Tuesday 12 December 2023 @ 10am Venue – Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil</b>		
	School place sufficiency – EY, Nursery places, primary, secondary and special schools  (added 27/06/23)	
<b>Wednesday 10 January 2024 @ 10am The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton</b>		
	Budget outturn	
	MTFP	
Inclusion	Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset Focus possibly self-harm – invite Adults & Health scrutiny cttee to meeting	Dr Tim Cockerill and colleagues
Commissioning	Housing related support and accommodation for 16 – 25 year olds – update  The new service will go live in April 2024.	Service Director Commissioning, Richard Selwyn

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

## Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

### Future meeting dates

- Wednesday 13 March 2024 @ 10am
- Wednesday 15 May 2024 @ 10am

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?

# Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families Work Plan 2023 - 2024

## Universal Education

- Pupil place planning
- Disadvantage gap
- Academisation
- LA maintained capacity and support

## SEND and Inclusion

- Attendance
- Accelerated Progress Plan (Joint Local Area SEND Inspection)
- SEND & Alternative Provision
- SEND Strategy

## Social Care and Commissioning

- Family safeguarding
- Early Help
- Placement sufficiency
- Strategic partnership
- The Care Review

## Cross-cutting items:

- Long-term financial planning that improves outcomes for children (MTP)
- Involving young people and the community in scrutiny
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing (with health partners)
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – Children & Families Budgets

**Note:** Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Democratic Services (01823) 357628 & [democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk) who will assist you in submitting your item.

The focus for the Committee is – what impact does this have on the children in Somerset?