Agenda items	Lead / Owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
3 October 2022	1	1	
Home to School Transport	Phil Curd John Perrett	<ul> <li>(a) noted the update and current position and proposed next steps and development</li> <li>(b) agreed to add school transport to the Committee's work plan for refreshed Council policy (to reflect statutory guidance and possible discretionary changes</li> <li>(c) agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss further a possible Task and Finish Group for SEND transport, to include provision for pre and post school club attendance, for example</li> </ul>	To be scheduled  To be resumed after external review T&F agreed @ November '22 mtg
16 January 2023			
Scrutiny update on Ofsted Action Plan	Paul Shallcross	PowerPoint presentation on the Ofsted Action Plan and progress made.  Covered the two named areas for improvement, which are – placement sufficiency (which is also a national issue) and which is being considered by the Committee's Task and Finish Group; the take-up of return to home interviews and which is also being considered as a separate agenda item at the meeting; and other key areas of focus, such as the early help demand management work and strategy discussions and audit work. AGREED that the Life Story Work, which is taking place for the majority of children looked after, and data around that, will be an agenda item at a future meeting.	Update to June / July '23 mtg Information item
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) - Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation	Vikki Hearn	Workshop item  Trauma Informed Charter being developed – to be shared.  Coordinator position being recruited to pull together training resources and training plan for the next two years and to be linked with the development and progression of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan  Progress update in 6 months'	Update to July '23 mtg as part of children's mental health & wellbeing item

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

6 March 2023			
Joint Local Area SEND Inspection Outcomes and update on SEND Green Paper	Claire Merchant- Jones	Received a report and PowerPoint presentation from the Council's Head of SEND, Claire Merchant-Jones on the recent Joint Local Area SEND Inspection outcomes. The revisit inspection took place between 28 November and 1 December 2022 and the Committee received a copy of the revisit inspection report; also received update on the response to the <a href="SEND Green Paper">SEND Green Paper</a> , published on 2 March 2023. This sets out plans to change the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England.	
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Update to May '23 mtg
		$\gamma$	Item for information at May '23 mtg
Education for Life Strategy	Amelia Walker	Received a presentation from the Council's Assistant Director Education Partnerships and Skills, Amelia Walker on an Education for Life Strategy for Somerset 2023 – 2028.	Completed
		Asked to see proposed terms of reference of the Task Group on education standards. Asked for details of the launch event on 21 March 2023.	Update to May '23 mtg
Core Offer - update	Amelia Walker	Received presentation, outlining background to the proposals and changes made following extensive reflection and feedback.  The Committee requested that this revised offer goes back to the Executive at the first opportunity to allow them to review the changes.	Completed
		The Committee further recognises the value of the Core Offer for schools and endorses the goals and intended outcomes of implementing the Core Offer whilst recognising the dilemma that has been caused by funding reductions to local authority budgets and inflationary pressures. The Committee highlights its ongoing concerns about how the transition will be funded, for both sides, and the potential funding gap.	
		The Committee requested that a response comes back to the next meeting in May 2023.	Update to May '23 mtg

Update on Task &		Sufficiency of external placements	Completed
Finish Groups		The Committee considered the report which outlined the findings of the Task and Finish Group and supported the recommendations to the Executive member for Children and Families.	
			Feedback on both to May '23 mtg
Information items		NOTED	
4 May 2023	1		
LA Maintained Schools Core Offer	Amelia Walker	and 2023/24 budgets  Went live on 1 April 2023. There is wider concern of position of school finances – have established 4 working parties, made up of school leaders, council leaders, to analyse budgets, understand wider picture / benchmarking information.  Outlined focus of work for coming term.  Discussed – governors, KPI's, next year's process, academisation, information on the four Relationship Managers, pressures on schools / budgets.  The Committee noted the update and the new core offer information booklet Agreed would receive update in 6 months.	Further update in 6 months' time (Nov '23 mtg)
Sub group on education standards	Amelia Walker	Discussed the proposed (sub group) task group on education standards  Proposal for a sub group on education standards – not public meeting, focus on performance data and to report back to this Committee, in relation to strengths, trends and areas of concern. Also proposing to create an independent, complaints panel made up of governors from across the county (Stage 3).  Membership 3 – 5 members, will be chaired by the Vice Chair – will seek volunteers and expressions of interest (will be open to all members).  Interest in this work by the Institute for Government mentioned.  The Committee supported the proposal.	Completed

SEND Strategy	Rob Hart, Andrew Keefe	Received presentation on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy and update on Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) - developed as a response to the 2 remaining areas of weakness after the 2022 Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection. These are partnership plans, jointly owned by the Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and developed in partnership with education providers and parent carers and other partners.  The new SEND Strategy has been approved by the ICB and the SEND Partnership Board – a 3-year programme for improving SEND services and outcomes. The APP is a 12-month action plan and was submitted to the Department for Education on 21 March 2023 and has now been approved.	Completed
		Noted the Autism Strategy is in development.  The Committee noted the update. Will provide 6 monthly progress updates (progress on the 29 'missions')	progress update in 6 months' time (Nov '23 mtg)
Reforms in social care	Paul Shallcross	Presentation on children's social care reforms and draft consultation response discussed. In Feb 2022, government published implementation strategy and consultation, 'Stable homes built on love', backed by £200m of additional investment. The strategy is based on six pillars of reform.  Issue around the recruitment and retention of social workers discussed.  The committee supported the proposed response, and that Somerset is involved at every level doing everything it can (Pathfinder areas), and also to highlight good work being done, including the foster care and recruitment campaign. The response will be shared with the Committee, for information.	Completed

Sufficiency of external placements	Lead Member / Claire Winter	Response from Executive to the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, which were agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on <u>6 March 2023</u>	Completed
		Cllr Munt, lead member thanked the Task and Finish Group for its work and report and advised that the Executive has seen the report and will have a deeper look / spend more time on this and some other matters which relate to education, children and families, in a specific meeting.	
		Ms Winter provided an update on the recommendations - the Homes and Horizons project, part of which is to create both residential and foster homes for children with complex needs; recruitment of foster carers for the complex needs fostering scheme – that scheme is to take up to 20 young people with complex needs who believe could be moved from residential care to fostering; working to develop sufficiency of fostering and residential care for children in Somerset through own provision; still work with independent sector / local providers; placements in unregistered provision & complex needs – highest priority children to move into the Homes and Horizons residential homes as soon as they are open; block contract places issues – being considered and use where appropriate; agree should refer to 'placement that children are in'; national issues highlighted; workforce issues.	
		Very happy to provide updates to Committee on progress on Homes and Horizons and provision.	
		The formal response from Executive will be received and considered by the Task and Finish Group and a review of the Task & Finish Group outcomes by the Committee should be agreed accordingly by the Committee and the Executive/Lead Member.	On going

Home to school	Rob Hart	Received a verbal update on Task and Finish Group	Completed
transport		Edge Public Solutions were appointed to undertake a review of the Council's home to school transport operations. This has been led by Richard Hall (Director, Edge) and as part of the review, met with members of the Scrutiny Committee task and finish group.  He has now prepared a final report and presentation which has been shared with officers for comment. A further meeting with the task and finish group will be held to hear and discuss the report and conclusions. Officers and lead members will meet to agree actions in response to the report recommendations and take any proposals back to the task and finish group in the summer.	
		Actions points – Review membership of task and Finish group; See how the initial response from the home to school transport & how links with SEND Strategy (around being able to access wrap around provision) – see also actions from 3 October 22 mtg above; Report to be shared with members at earliest opportunity; Update to next meeting.	Update to July '23 mtg
Information Items		NOTED.	
12 July 2023			
Public Question Time		Questions received from 3 members of the public.  Full responses will be circulated.	Completed
Budget outturn position 22/23 and issues 23/24 - overview	Sian Kenny	Presentation received providing an overview of the budget outturn position for 2022/23 and issues around the 2023/24 budget.  There will be budget sessions for all members from September. There will be a session on the DSG which will be useful to attend.  Concern on budget position and the future issues which were highlighted.  Detail around SEND provision and sufficiency to be shared.	

Academisation / Education Finance		Received report and presentation at meeting – highlighting why changes are being proposed. The Council is seeking to move to a more transparent methodology for planning academisation. Paper is due to be considered by the Executive on 2 August 2023.  The Committee had no negative comments on the report – do need to update the totals set out in the Table in Appendix 1 (Schools by phase and status).	Completed
Homes and Horizons - update		Presentation received on homes and horizons strategic partnership.  Congratulated all the team on the national award for the Children's home partnership. Supported officers in their discussions with the DfE to allow good work to continue. Would like to hear about outcomes for young people (i.e. impact having on their lives), noting the role of the Corporate Parenting Board.	Completed
Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset	and colleagues	Detailed Presentation received, which included an update on the Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation.  Details on Regional Summit in autumn to be shared with Committee.  Noted position re recruitment of coordinator and the system wide trauma informed training offer.	progress update in 6 months' time
Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board Annual Plan	Helen MacDonald	Received report and presentation on the Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board Plan 2023 - 2024  Format of the plan is determined by the YJB – which the Committee found somewhat confusing – this comment will be reported back.  Noted and accepted the report. The Plan was submitted to the National YJB on 30 June and needs to be signed off by Full Council (retrospectively) in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (England) Functions and Responsibilities Regulations 2000.	Completed

Home to School Transport Task and Finish Group – interim update	Executive member Received a verbal update from Cllr Munt.  The Transport Review has been completed by Edge Public Solutions, with a report provided to officers in May. Richard Hall has met with the task and finish group to discuss the report findings and recommendations. David Carter (Service Director Infrastructure and Transport) and the Service Director Inclusion are scheduled to discuss the review recommendations at the Council's Transition, Transformation and Change Board on 18 July with a view to seeking approval to establishing a transformation programme to address the review recommendations over a two-to-three-year period.  The Committee noted the update. Due to the imperative for change (delivering required savings and protection of the service from risk of failure), the Committee asked for the report to be shared with members at the earliest opportunity and for the Executive member to report back to the next meeting.	On going
Information Items	NOTED.	

The CYPP 2022 - 2025 had been produced following a multi-agency process. The CYPP had three priorities: keeping children and young people safe (priority 1); supporting physical and emotional health and resilience (priority 2); enabling young people to learn and thrive (priority 3)

Somerset Children & Young People's Plan - SSCP (safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting	
Pending	Action on-going or plans in place to address.	
Incomplete	No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.	