

## 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 – now 13 March ‘24 mtg</li> <li>• <del>Possible workshop with Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny</del> Transition arrangements – preparing for adulthood – 25 October mtg</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Items to be scheduled 2023/24</b></p> <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>• <del>Possible workshop with Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny</del> Children &amp; Young People’s access to Dentistry / child oral health improvement (added 04/05/23) – 25 October mtg</li> <li>• <del>Oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022</del> published March ‘23</li> <li>• EHCP process (added 27/06/23) – December mtg</li> <li>• <del>Complaints to ombudsman (added 14.08.23) – be part of above item going to Dec mtg</del></li> <li>• School place sufficiency – EY, Nursery places, primary, secondary and special schools (added 27/06/23) – <del>December mtg</del> – now Jan mtg</li> <li>• Elective home education numbers (added 27/06/23) – March mtg</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>• <del>Connect Somerset (added 15.11.23) – December mtg</del></li> <li>• What are the implications of the current financial situation on Somerset children services? (added 20.11.23) – to be item early in new year</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

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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 Andrew Keefe, Deputy Director for Commissioning, NHS Somerset
Social Care	Reforms in children's social care – draft consultation response	Paul Shallcross, AD Community & Strategy
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	Claire Winter, Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Sian Kenny, Strategic Manager, Finance
Education Partnerships & Skills	Academisation / Education Finance	Amelia Walker, Service Director Education Partnerships and Skills
Commissioning	Update on Homes & Horizons Partnership	Daniel Moncrieff, Strategic Manager
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	

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	(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
Commissioning	<b>Communities Scrutiny Committee – 9 August 23 @ 10am</b>  Members of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee invited to attend the meeting for this item:- <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>	Richard Selwyn, Service Director Children’s Commissioning
<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	Sian Kenny, Strategic Manager, Finance
Education Partnerships & Skills	Education Modelling - Frome – next steps	Amelia Walker, Service Director Education Partnerships and Skills  Phil Curd, Strategic Manager presenting
	Regional Adoption Agency Report	Claire Winter, Executive Director of Children, Families and Education
	External Placements Task and Finish Group – response from Executive on recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group	Executive member / Claire Winter, Executive Director of Children, Families and Education
Education Partnerships & Skills	Learning from the West Somerset Opportunity Area	Julia Ridge, Strategic Manager

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Cross cutting	Items for Information  (a) Education Data	Amelia Walker, Service Director Education Partnerships and Skills – to be circulated
<b>Additional mtg - 25 October 2023 @ 10am – Joint with Adults &amp; Health Committee JMR, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE</b>		
Cross cutting	<b>NHS Dentistry and Children &amp; Young people’s access to Dentistry / child oral health improvement</b>	Sukeina Kassam, Deputy Director Primary Care and Matthew Mills, Head of Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry  Rachel Handley, Consultant in Public Health
Cross cutting	<b>Approach to reducing youth vaping</b>	Kate Anderson, Service Manager, Public Health  Rachel Handley, Consultant in Public Health
Cross cutting	<b>Transitions arrangements – preparing for adulthood</b>	Emily Fulbrook, Acting Deputy Director, Adults & Health Operations and Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow, Service Director for Children and Families
<b>15 November 2023 @ 10 am Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR</b>		
Cross cutting	2023/24 Children’s Services – Budget Monitoring	Sian Kenny, Strategic Manager, Finance
Commissioning	Update on Children’s Transformation Programme / Business Plan	Claire Winter, Executive Director of Children, Families and Education Caroline Barnes, Service Manager

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Education Partnerships & Skills	Education finance – consultation	Amelia Walker, Service Director Education Partnerships and Skills
Education Partnerships & Skills	Standing Panel for Education Standards – update from Chair of Panel	Cllr Evie Potts-Jones
	<p>Items for information – Standing Item:</p> <p>(a) SSCP Learning Bulletin - September 2023 – circulated on 20 September 2023</p> <p>(b) Children &amp; Young People LGA bulletin – September 2023 – circulated in 28 September 2023</p> <p>(c) Link to the consultation on ‘creating a smoke free generation and tackling youth vaping’, which runs to 6 December - <a href="#">Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views - Department of Health and Social Care (dhsc.gov.uk)</a> – circulated on 30 October 2023</p> <p>(d) Link to <a href="#">NHS dental statistics for England 2022-23, Annual Report</a> - circulated on 30 October 2023</p> <p>(e) Information on the Education Finance consultation – circulated on 1 November 2023</p> <p>(f) LA maintained schools core offer – update – circulated on 6 November 2023</p>	
<b>Scrutiny Committee – Adults and Health – 7 December @ 10 am</b>		
	<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>• Overview of Crime &amp; Disorder (added 22.08.23)</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional meeting – Tuesday 12 December 2023 @ 10am</b> <b>Venue – Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil</b>		
Cross cutting	2023/24 Children’s Services – Budget Monitoring	Sian Kenny, Strategic Manager, Finance

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Inclusion	Progress update on SEND Strategy / APP  To include 'SEND system' update and an update on EHCP process and timeliness and information on 'bandings'	Dr Rob Hart ,Service Director - Inclusion
Cross-cutting	Connect Somerset	Richard Selwyn Service Director Children's Commissioning
<b>Wednesday 10 January 2024 @ 10am</b> <b>Venue - Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR</b>		
Commissioning	CLA Sufficiency Strategy	Richard Selwyn Service Director Children's Commissioning Julie Breeze, Strategic Commissioner
Cross cutting	2023/24 Children's Services – Budget Monitoring	Christian Evans, Head of Business Partnering
Children & Families	Update on short break provision (respite)	Jayne Shelbourn-Barrow, Service Director Children & Families Louise Palmer, Strategic Commissioner, Jo Manning, Head of Service, CLA Leaving Care
Education Partnerships & Skills	Education Place Planning	Phil Curd, Head of Education Places
	Information Items: (a) Housing related support and accommodation for 16 – 25 year olds – update – <a href="#">Key Decision</a> The new service will go live in April 2024	Richard Selwyn, Service Director Children's Commissioning

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	(b) C&YP December Bulletin – circulated on 19 December 2023	
<i>To note that <b>MTFP</b> will be on the agenda for the Scrutiny Committee - Corporate and Resources meeting scheduled for 1 February 2024 and all scrutiny members will be invited to attend the meeting. Implications / issues for this committee can be brought to following meeting.</i>		
<b>Wednesday 13 March 2024 @ 10am</b> <b>JMR, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE</b>		
Inclusion	Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset Focus self-harm - members of the Adults & Health Committee be invited to attend meeting	Dr Tim Cockerill, Patsy Temple and NHS colleagues
Cross cutting	DSG Deficit Management Plan (DMP)	
Inclusion	Elective Home Education	Dr Rob Hart, Service Director Inclusion

### Future meeting dates

- Wednesday 15 May 2024 @ 10am

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## 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.

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