

Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families Outcome Tracker 2023 - 24

Agenda items	Lead / Owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
12 July 2023			
Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing in Somerset	Dr Tim Cockerill and colleagues	<p>Detailed Presentation received, which included an update on the Trauma Informed Somerset practice model and implementation.</p> <p>Details on Regional Summit in autumn to be shared with Committee.</p> <p>Noted position re recruitment of coordinator and the system wide trauma informed training offer.</p>	<p>progress update in 6 months' time</p> <p>January '24 – changed to March 24</p>
Joint meeting with Adults and Health Scrutiny on 25 October 2023			
Dentistry and children and young people's access to dentistry and child oral health improvement	NHS Somerset / ICB and Public Health	<p>The Committee received a presentation from NHS Somerset on the provision of NHS Dental Services in Somerset, and a position statement on child oral health improvement, provided by Public Health.</p> <p>The Chair requested (a) a briefing be provided to cover the questions raised during discussions, around early years, signposting, primary care recovery plan, route for queries to be funneled; noted that service is creating a webinar (across the SW region); (b) an update to the Committee on issues raised in 4 – 6 months. Link to NHS dental statistical data information</p> <p>The Committee welcomed and noted the update.</p>	<p>Update to a Joint mtg or Adults & Health cttee</p>

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Somerset approach to reducing smoking and youth vaping	Kate Anderson Rachel Handley	<p>The Committee received a presentation from Public Health Team and engaged in discussions and debate of the points raised. The presentation raised several important and informative points.</p> <p>The Committee agreed a recommendation that they wished to present to The Executive and unanimously agreed would write to the Executive in relation to electronic cigarettes, as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee asked that the current government consultation (link to the consultation Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views - Department of Health and Social Care (dhsc.gov.uk) be shared with all members who are encouraged to complete and promote locally in their divisions. The consultation runs to 6 December 2023. 2. The Committee asked that Licensing committee be asked to review and action stronger enforcement of the sale of these devices in line with the current legal position. 3. The Committee asked that the 'Quit tool not cool tool' slogan, as highlighted by the presentation be supported and promoted in the council. 4. The Committee requested that Council take a position with regard to seeking government to work at increasing legislation around electronic cigarettes, that included but not conclusive:- a ban of the use of single use devices with exception of use to support stopping smoking, a ban on child targeting (advertising and packaging), an introduction of plain packaging that would include a health warning, an introduction of an increasing age ban on sales of these devices in line with the change made to cigarette sales. 	On going
15 November 2023			
2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring	Sian Kenny	<p>The Committee received a presentation on the 23/24 Children's Services budget and a verbal update on the month 6 position, which is showing a slight increase in forecast overspend (£11.8m to £12.4m).</p> <p>A key area of deficit is the DSG, High Needs Block and will include more detail on this and the 2 areas overspending in the next update to the Committee.</p>	On going

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	<p>Highlighted position re Annual Reviews / timeliness (slide 8) and referenced the LGCSO decision (slide 9). Performance against annual review timeliness will continue to challenge the LA as the number of EHC plans it needs to maintain continues to grow. The link to the Ombudsman report will be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the update on EHCPs and the ongoing challenges for teams across the Council and wider partners. 2. To note the activities underway to support improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Planning Meetings offered (and monitored) to every school across Somerset to identify children requiring support from specialist LA teams. • Clarify expectations with schools to ensure that appropriate advice and support in advance of meeting. • Notes the additional staff in place to process Annual Review reports in a timely way. • The scrutiny committee to receive an update in 6 months on impact / uptake / number of reviews completed and so on (KPIs & training). 	
<p>Children's Services Transformation Priorities 2023 - 2026</p>	<p>The Chair referred to the discussions at the last meeting of the Committee on the Children's transformation priorities and invited volunteers to focus on particular strands of the transformation priorities, to allow individual meetings with officers to gain a better understanding / learn more about one of the areas, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for life • CLA Transformation • SEND Strategy • Connect Somerset <p>The following Committee members expressed an interest in the areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for Life – Jo Simons; • CLA Transformation – Cllr E Potts-Jones, Cllr M Lovell; • SEND Strategy – Cllr S Carswell, Cllr F Nicholson; • Connect Somerset – Tobie Osmond, Ruth Hobbs. 	<p>On-going</p>

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10 January 2024			
2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring	Christian Evans	<p>The Committee received a presentation on 2023/24 Children's Services budget monitoring position - month 7, focusing on – external placements monitoring & forecasting, CLA key cost drivers and the 23/24 DSG budget monitoring (High Needs, home to school transport and SEND transport).</p> <p>Noted that the council is refreshing the DSG Deficit Management Plan (DMP) and will bring this to scrutiny in March so the committee can see what is being proposed.</p>	On going
Update on short break provision (respite)	Louise Palmer	<p>The Committee received a presentation on short break provision, which is holiday activities, daycare, fostering, residential and outlined the statutory guidance, gaps / opportunities, vision and plans for the future.</p> <p>Agreed that the Action Plan is shared with Scrutiny and officers were invited to update the Committee at the meeting in May.</p>	<p>Progress update to May meeting</p> <p><i>Action plan shared</i></p>
Scrutiny Committee – Corporate & Resources – 2 February 2024			
Scrutiny of budget proposals for 2024/25			
Education & Inclusion		<p>Recommend that Scrutiny Children & Families receive quarterly reports regarding the Deficit Action Plan for High Needs Block and Dedicated Schools Grant and the continuation of the statutory override</p> <p>Reason - To maintain sufficient oversight on delivery of this plan and its mitigation of significant risks to the Council</p>	DSG Deficit Management Plan - March mtg
		<p><u>Decision of Executive – 7 February 2024</u></p> <p>For Scrutiny Committee – Children and Families to receive quarterly reports regarding the Deficit Action Plan for High Needs Block and Dedicated Schools Grant and the continuation of the statutory override</p>	

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Significant and high risk savings proposals		<p>Scrutiny Committee Children & Families to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of savings proposals CFE 003, CFE 004, CFE 005, CFE 009, CFE 011, CFE 012, CFE 013 and CFE 014, together with scrutinising any adverse impacts on young people, partners and providers</p> <p>Reason - To be assured on the delivery of the proposed savings and scrutinise any adverse impacts on young people</p> <p><u>Decision of Executive – 7 February 2024</u> For Scrutiny Committee – Children and Families to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of savings proposals CFE003, CFE004, CFE005, CFE009, CFE011, CFE012, CFE013, and CFE014 and scrutinise any adverse impacts on young people, partners, and providers.</p>	
Service delivery and Ofsted rating of service for vulnerable children		<p>Seek assurance from the Executive that the proposed savings proposals will not adversely affect outcomes for vulnerable children and the Ofsted rating that the Council has invested significant staff and financial resources to achieve</p> <p><u>Decision of Executive – 7 February 2024</u> For assurance from Executive that the proposed savings proposals will not adversely affect outcomes for vulnerable children and the Ofsted rating that the Council has invested significant staff and financial resources to achieve.</p>	
13 March 2024			
Work plan		<p>Chair and Vice Chair to meet to discuss the Committees' forward work plan for 2024/25.</p> <p>Children's Services Transformation Priorities /Areas to be a single agenda item at a future meeting.</p>	To be arranged
Somerset system wide support for children & young people who self-injure	Patsy Temple and colleagues	<p>The Committee received a presentation on children's mental health and wellbeing in Somerset, the focus of the item was on the Somerset system wide support for children and young people who self-injure.</p> <p>Adults & Health committee members were invited to join the meeting for this item. The Chair thanked the presenters for the excellent presentation.</p>	Completed

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2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring	Christian Evans	<p>The Committee received and noted the presentation on 2023/24 Children's Services budget monitoring position – month 10 (end January 24). This focused on – external placements, residential placements, Homes & Horizons, fieldwork spend, 23/24 DSG budget monitoring (High Needs, home to school transport and SEN transport).</p> <p>Query by Cllr Nicholson to be responded to after meeting.</p>	On-going
High Needs Block and SEND - DSG Deficit Management Plan (DMP)	Amelia Walker Jo Currie	<p>The Committee received a presentation on High Needs Block & SEND and the refreshed DSG Deficit Management Plan (DMP), outlining the actions to mitigate overspending and the DMP. The DMP has the following new elements – tackling design issues, devolving decision-making, universality, building consensus. The presentation also outlined the key risks, opportunities and next steps, including Education for Life projects which have identified priority areas for change.</p> <p>Happy to come back to the committee with information on supported internships.</p> <p>At the end of the discussion, the Service Director Education, Partnerships and Skills said she is happy to arrange a member training session on the DSG and DMP.</p> <p>The Committee noted the ongoing work and the DMP.</p>	Completed training session to be arranged
Understanding Elective Home Education – outline / information	Rob Hart Julia Ridge	<p>The Committee received a presentation on understanding Elective Home Education – the purpose of the item was to education / inform members on issues around elective home education (EHE) and covered - the legal framework, the Council approach and responsibilities, EHE data, provided information on the partnership working in the Frome area.</p> <p>Also highlighted changes in legislation and guidance in the pipeline - this includes a mandatory register of children not in school, guidance on what is a 'suitable education,' including focus on literacy and maths, guidance about support available to EHE families and guidance to support more consistent approach across LAs to school attendance orders.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed and noted the presentation.</p>	Completed

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Update from Education Standards Standing Panel	Evie Potts-Jones	<p>The Committee received an update from the Chair of the Education Standards Panel Cllr Evie Potts-Jones on the work of the Panel and the issues covered at recent meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Potts-Jones invited all members of the Committee to attend panel meetings and advised that the next meeting will be on 25 March 2024.</p>	Completed
Report back from committee members on Children's Services Transformation Priorities /Areas	Various	<p>Further to the meeting in December 2023, the Committee received a verbal report back from committee members on Children's Services Transformation Priorities /Areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education for Life – Jo Simons CLA Transformation - Cllr Evie Potts, Cllr Martin Lovell SEND Strategy – Cllr Simon Carswell, Cllr Frances Nicholson Connect Somerset - Tobie Osmond, Ruth Hobbs <p>The Chair thanked members and officers for their on-going work and the Committee noted the update.</p>	On-going <i>Info from Jo Simons about the Education for Life Year 1 event circulated on 14 March</i>

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 \(safeguardingsomerset.org.uk\)](https://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.

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