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To: The Chair and Members of the Children's Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 7 March 2025

Contact: charlie.fisher@devon.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 17th March, 2025

A meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am at Committee Suite, County Hall, Exeter to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies

2 Announcements

The Chair welcomes Mr I Hipkin to the meeting, attending in his capacity as a Co-opted Member of the Council's Standards Committee to observe and monitor compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework.

3 Declarations of Interest

Members of the Council will declare any interests they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

The other registrable interests of Councillors of Devon County Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [A list of county councillors who are also district, borough, city, parish or town councillors.](#)

4 Minutes

Minutes of the two meetings held on 28 January 2025 (previously circulated).

5 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

6 Public Participation

Members of the public may make representations/presentations on any substantive matter listed in the published agenda for this meeting, as set out hereunder, relating to a specific matter or an examination of services or facilities provided or to be provided.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR REVIEW

7 Responses of the Cabinet to Reports of the Committee

Verbal reports of the Cabinet Members.

8 Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

In accordance with previous practice, Scrutiny Committees are requested to review the list of forthcoming business and determine which items are to be included in the [Work Programme](#).

The Committee may also wish to review the content of the [Cabinet Forward Plan](#) and the Children's Services [Risk Register](#) to see if there are any specific items therein it might wish to explore further.

9 Ofsted Inspection Update

Verbal report.

10 Children's Services Improvements and Social Care Performance Measures (Pages 1 - 36)

Report of the Interim Director of Children and Young People's Futures (CS/25/11), attached.

11 Corporate Parenting Strategic Board (Pages 37 - 50)

Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures (CS/25/12), attached.

12 Children's Scrutiny Social Care Visits - Progress on Recommendations

Report to follow.

- 13 Fostering Task Group - Progress on Recommendations (Pages 51 - 62)
Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures (CS/25/13), attached.
- 14 Scrutiny Champion Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse
Verbal update from the Committee's representative.
- 15 Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group (Pages 63 - 68)
Report of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group (LDS/25/10), attached.
- 16 Children's Scrutiny Committee End of Year Report (Pages 69 - 74)
Scrutiny End of Year report, attached.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

17 Information Previously Circulated

Below is a list of information previously circulated for Members, since the last meeting, relating to topical developments which have been or are currently being considered by this Scrutiny Committee.

- Improvement Partnership Board Agenda and Reports for the meeting held on 4th February 2025 (5th February 2025)
- Facilitating Access to Mainstream Activities for Disabled Children's Services - further information (5th February 2025)
- Internal Provision of Children's Homes (7th February 2025)
- SEND Capital Funding Investment information (10th February 2025)
- Kindred School Readiness Survey 2025 (10th February 2025)
- Fostering Annual Report 2023/24 (18th February 2025)
- F40 written evidence to the Education Select Committee on SEND (4th March 2025)
- Committee Risk Register (4th March 2025)

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None

MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS

Getting to County Hall and Notes for Visitors

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[Further information about how to get to County Hall](#) gives information on visitor parking at County Hall and bus routes.

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The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street), St David's and St Thomas. All have regular bus services to the High Street.

Visitors to County Hall are asked to report to Main Reception on arrival. If visitors have any specific requirements, please contact reception on 01392 382504 beforehand.

Membership of a Committee

For full details of the Membership of a Committee, please visit the [Committee pages](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee you wish to see.

Committee Terms of Reference

For the terms of reference for any Committee, please [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee. Under purpose of Committee, the terms of reference will be listed. Terms of reference for all Committees are also detailed within Section 3b of [the Council's Constitution](#).

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or background papers relating to an item on the agenda should contact the Clerk of the Meeting. To find this, [visit the Committee page](#) on the website and find the Committee. Under contact information (at the bottom of the page) the Clerk's contact details will be present. All [agenda, reports and minutes of any Committee are published on the Website](#).

Public Participation

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In relation to Highways and Traffic Orders Committees, any member of the District Council or a Town or Parish Councillor for the area covered by the HATOC who is not a member of the Committee, may attend and speak to any item on the Agenda with the consent of the Committee, having given 24 hours' notice.

Webcasting, Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings

The proceedings of any meeting may be recorded and / or broadcasted live, apart from any confidential items which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. For more information [go to our webcasting pages](#).

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair. Filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible without additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of others present who may not wish to be filmed. Anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance.

Members of the public may also use social media to report on proceedings.

Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item. A reminder will be on every Committee agenda.

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Induction Loop available

