

<b>Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Thursday 18 July 2024 at 10.00 am</b>	
<b>Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester</b>	
To view this meeting remotely, please visit: <a href="#">Home - Gloucestershire County Council Webcasting (public-i.tv)</a>	
<b>AGENDA</b>	

<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To note any apologies for absence.	Chair
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> (Pages 1 - 16) To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024.	Chair
<b>3</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> Members of the Committee are invited to declare any pecuniary or personal interests relating to specific matters on the agenda.  Please see note (a) at the end of agenda.	Chair
<b>4</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b> (Pages 17 - 18) To note the updated Terms of Reference for the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Chair
<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ITEMS</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION FROM COUNCIL - MOTION 939</b> (Pages 19 - 24) At the full Council meeting on 22 May 2024, the following motion was agreed:	Ann James, Tammy Wheatley

**Motion 939 – Apology for the forced adoption of children of unmarried women**

*Council notes that the report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights ‘Violation of Family Life: Adoption of Children of Unmarried Women’, published in July 2022, sets out the experiences of unmarried mothers in the period 1949 – 1976, when an estimated 185,000 children were taken from unmarried mothers and adopted due to pressure from their families and communities even though their mothers did not want to let them go. Women and girls who became pregnant outside of marriage during these decades were seen as having shamed themselves and their families.*

*Health and care professionals, voluntary agencies, societal and family pressures, and the absence of support contributed to those of children being taken from loving mothers and placed for adoption. Many of those affected, both mothers and children, have faced life-long suffering.*

*While adoption legislation and practices have been strengthened since that time, with adoption now considered only when other options have been fully explored, we acknowledge that forced adoptions in this period will have included mothers and children from Gloucestershire and Adoption West has provided support for anyone who has come forward.*

*Council therefore resolves:*

- *To call on the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee to consider how the Council can better signpost victims to the information and services available via Adoption West for those affected locally to deal with the impact of the historic forced adoptions.*
- *To call on Government to review if there are any other barriers that can be removed to help victims, such as providing specialised counselling services, reforms to the sharing of medical information and the removal of administrative barriers.*

The Committee to consider a report on the information and services available to those affected locally via Adoption West, and how the Council can better signpost victims to this support.

<b>6</b>	<p><b>KINSHIP CARING AND SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS</b> (Pages 25 - 42)</p> <p>To receive an overview report on Kinship Caring and Special Guardianship Orders, including the support available.</p>	Tammy Wheatley
<b>7</b>	<p><b>AUTISM STRATEGY</b> (Pages 43 - 48)</p> <p>To consider an update report on progress with the Autism Strategy.</p>	Benedict Leigh
<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>AMBITIONS PLAN</b> (Pages 49 - 90)</p> <p>To note the update on the Ambitions Plan.</p>	Ann James



9	<p><b>QUARTER 4 2023/24 PERFORMANCE REPORT</b> (Pages 91 - 100)</p> <p>To note the Quarter 4 2023/24 Performance Report.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to email any questions in advance by Monday 15 July 2024.</p>	Ann James
<b>WORK PLANNING</b>		
10	<p><b>WORK PLAN</b> (Pages 101 - 104)</p> <p>To review the committee work plan and suggest items for consideration at future meetings.</p> <p><b>Officers to update on potential items for consideration for the upcoming year where scrutiny could add value, including any pre-decision scrutiny items.</b></p> <p>When making suggestions, members should consider the reasons for and expected benefit of scrutiny's involvement.</p> <p>For reference, please find the link to the Cabinet forward plan below:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/forthcoming-decisions">Forthcoming Decisions (gloucestershire.gov.uk)</a></p>	Chair
11	<p><b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b></p> <p>To note the dates of future meetings:</p> <p>12 September 2024 7 November 2024 16 January 2025 6 March 2025.</p>	Chair
<p><b>Membership –</b> <i>Cllr Linda Cohen (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dr David Drew, Cllr Ben Evans, Cllr Nick Housden, Cllr Beki Hoyland, Cllr Paul McLain, Cllr Dr Andrew Miller (Chair), Cllr Emma Nelson and Cllr Pam Tracey MBE Ambassador for Vulnerable Children and Young People</i></p>		

- (a) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members requiring advice or clarification about whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Director of Policy, Performance and Governance, Rob Ayliffe ☎01452 328198 /fax: 425149/ e-mail: [rob.ayliffe@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rob.ayliffe@gloucestershire.gov.uk)) prior to the start of the meeting.
- (b) **INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL QUERIES** - If you wish to inspect minutes or reports relating to any item on this agenda or have any other general queries about the meeting, please contact: Laura Powick, Democratic Services Adviser ☎:01452 324205/e-mail: [laura.powick@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.powick@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- (c) **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note that photography, filming and audio recording of Council meetings is permitted subject to the Local Government Access to Information provisions. Please



contact Democratic Services (tel 01452 425230) to make the necessary arrangements ahead of the meeting. If you are a member of the public and do not wish to be photographed or filmed please inform the Democratic Services Officer on duty at the meeting.

**EVACUATION PROCEDURE** - in the event of the fire alarms sounding during the meeting please leave as directed in a calm and orderly manner and go to the assembly point which is **outside the main entrance to Shire Hall in Westgate Street**. Please remain there and await further instructions.

