

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 16 June 2017

11.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,
Taunton



To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Cllr L Redman (Chairman), Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr J Lock, Cllr M Pullin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Williams, Richard Berry, Helen Fenn, Ruth Hobbs and Eillean Tipper

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 8 June 2017

For further information about the meeting, please contact Neil Milne on 01823 359045 or ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



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AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 11.00 am Friday 16 June 2017

**** Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe ****

1 **Apologies for Absence**

to receive Members' apologies

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils will be displayed in the meeting room. The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via the Community Governance team.

3 **Minutes from the previous meeting** (Pages 7 - 10)

The signed minutes of the previous meeting are provided for information.

4 **Public Question Time**

The Chairman will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chairman's discretion.**

5 **Scrutiny Work Programme** (Pages 11 - 28)

To discuss any items for the forthcoming work programme. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached:

- a) – The Cabinet's latest published forward plan;
- b) – Current Work Programme for the Committee;
- c) – Outcome Tracker.

6 **Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19** (Pages 29 - 58)

To consider this report.

7 **SEND Peer Review** (Pages 59 - 70)

To consider this report.

8 **Progress Report on the Implementation of the 30 hours per week Early Years Entitlement** (Pages 71 - 78)

To consider this report.

9 **Fostering Recruitment Update report** (Pages 79 - 84)

To consider this report.

10 **Any other urgent items of business**

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 11.00 am Friday 16 June 2017

The Chairman may raise any items of urgent business.

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Guidance notes for the meeting

1. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting – Neil Milne on 01823 359045 or email: ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk
They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers

2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

3. Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the Minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

4. Public Question Time

If you wish to speak, please tell the Committee's Administrator by 12 noon the (working) day before the meeting.

At the Chairman's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chairman. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chairman will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, normally to two minutes only.

5. Exclusion of Press & Public

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

6. Committee Rooms & Council Chamber and hearing aid users

To assist hearing aid users the following Committee meeting rooms have infra-red audio transmission systems (Luttrell room, Wyndham room, Hobhouse room). To use this facility we need to provide a small personal receiver that will work with a hearing aid set to the T position. Please request a personal receiver from the Committee's Administrator and return it at the end of the meeting.

7. Recording of meetings

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chairman can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

The Council will be undertaking audio recording of some of its meetings in County Hall as part of its investigation into a business case for the recording and potential webcasting of meetings in the future.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting in advance.

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Friday 7 April 2017 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr L Redman (Chairman), Cllr M Adkins, Cllr A Dimmick, Cllr J Dyke, Cllr D Hill, Cllr James Hunt, Eileen Tipper, Cllr D Ruddle and Cllr S Coles

Other Members present:

Apologies for absence: Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr J Lock and Richard Berry

175 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2

Cllr Coles, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Redman, and Cllr Yeomans, all declared a personal interest as a District and/or City/Town, Parish Councillor.

Eileen Tipper declared a personal interest as a lay member of the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and as a trustee of CHYPPS.

176 Minutes from the previous meeting held on - Agenda Item 3

The Committee agreed the minutes of the last meeting were accurate, and the Chairman signed them.

177 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

There were no members of the public present.

178 Scrutiny Work Programme - Agenda Item 5

The Committee considered and agreed its own work programme and the future agenda items listed.

The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months including Cabinet meetings up to 19 June 2017.

It was suggested that the Family Based Care (fostering) Peninsula Framework be reviewed by the new Committee after the elections in May.

The Committee also accepted the updated outcome tracker.

179 Child Sexual Exploitation prevention update - Agenda Item 6

The Committee considered this presentation that provided details of the Council's on-going work to prevent child sexual exploitation. It was explained that there was a great deal that was unknown about the perpetrators, this was because relevant agencies did not seem to record data on those responsible and frequently victims did not know their abusers.

It had been estimated by the Children's Commissioner that 16,500 children in the UK were at risk of exploitation. However given that it largely remained a hidden form of abuse and due to inconsistent record keeping it was thought that the true figure of those at risk or victims was probably higher.

It was noted that the Council was working closely with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary and other agencies including Barnardo's and the NHS, in order to help create an environment where vulnerable children can report abuse and feel safe. This would then hopefully result in a more joined up and less fragmented approach so all victims were known to all services in Somerset rather than none or some and there would be adequate services in place to be able to respond.

There was a discussion about issues involving confidentiality and data protection between various agencies and the work being undertaken to ensure protocols were observed whilst also ensuring important information was shared appropriately. It was also noted that the increase in the number of victims may be as a result of a higher profile the issue of sexual exploitation had in recent times and this had raised overall awareness of the subject.

The report was accepted.

180 Pathways to Independence (P*"*i) update - Agenda Item 7

The Committee considered a report that explained the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to homeless 16 to 17 year olds and Care Leavers up to the age of 25 and how some of the duties were met through an integrated commissioned service called Pathways to Independence Service (P2i).

It was reported that the Pathways to Independence Service (P2i) allowed young people with housing related support needs to access person-centred support, until they were able to sustain independent living without the need for support. A newly commissioned P2i service delivery model had started on 1 January 2017 and an update was provided on progress since that time.

Members heard that the transition of all young people from the two former providers of the service was managed by a comprehensive transition plan being in place for all young people so that they were moved on to suitable accommodation or independent living as appropriate to their needs. From 1 January 42 young people within South Somerset and 46 young people within Taunton Deane had successfully transitioned.

There was a brief discussion about the unsuccessful attempt to recruit a permanent P2i co-ordinator and it was noted the current co-ordinator, a secondee from Sedgemoor District Housing, was an expert in young people's housing rights and the duties of respective organisations. A further 6 months secondment had been successfully negotiated to allow her to remain in post and this had been an invaluable source of expertise and appropriate challenge when needed and it had the benefit of further improving relationships with District Council colleagues.

It was also stated that P2i Hubs were now operational in four areas in Somerset; Bridgwater, Taunton, Shepton Mallet and Yeovil with each Hub hosting a full time worker provided from the Council as well as a full time P2i Homelessness Prevention Officer provided by District Councils. The Hubs were the first point of contact for young people when faced with housing issues and they provide advice guidance and support. Hub workers also carry out assessments of need (using the Early Help Assessment) to understand in more depth the support required and also complete a risk assessment for any service provision.

There was a brief discussion about the challenges of providing suitable accommodation for a small number of very high needs young people including those with undiagnosed and diagnosed mental health issues as well as offending/re-offending behaviour. It was explained that the P2i Commissioner is working with the Police, Leaving Care, Adult Social Care, and Public Health amongst others to try to address some of these issues and find alternative solutions.

Members also welcomed the news that training for all P2i Hub staff would be developed to make sure that all staff shared the same knowledge and skills in areas such as Emotion Coaching, Housing Advice, Signposting and Assessments. The report was accepted.

181 Data Handling update - Agenda Item 8

The Committee received a presentation designed to give Members an understanding of what services were available and how the new Professional Choices website functioned.

There was a brief discussion about the new tool and how well it appeared to be operating and used by those for whom it had been designed for. There was a question about if the software had been licensed and if so could the Council look to selling it to other Council's, and in response it was stated that this was being considered.

The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting.

182 Young Carers Task and Finish Group Final Report - Agenda Item 9

The Committee considered this final report that provided an overview of the Task and Finish Group's review in to the services for Young Carers. The Group had met with a variety of service users, including young carers and young adults who had been young carers as well as professionals involved in delivering the service.

The Chairman introduced the report and he thanked all those who had contributed to the review and he stressed the importance of recognising the hidden savings those young carers contribute to the authority and colleagues in health services.

The Group had identified that the number of Young Carers the Council is aware of is only a fraction of the total; however the amount of money the known Young Carers save the Council and other services is huge. The support offered by Young Carer in Somerset helps the Council to keep care costs down and in return the Council can support and enhance the Young Carers service by building on the work already started.

It was suggested that the Council should work with all stakeholders (including but not exclusively - GP's, Schools, Colleges) to try and find a way to improve identification and subsequent support of Young Carers as early as possible and ensure details are passed to relevant Officers for initial contact and evaluation with a timetable for follow up if appropriate. Currently too often a lack of awareness and understanding is leading to poor or no support packages for young carers (and those they care for) and this impacts negatively on their educational outcomes

The Committee agreed the suggested recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families/Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

183 Committee's End of Quadrennium report - Agenda Item 10

The Committee considered and agreed its report before it would be presented to the 26 April 2017 Full Council meeting.

184 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 11

The Chairman, after ascertaining there were no other matters arising, thanked all those present for attending this meeting and the other meetings since the Committee's inception in May 2015 and he also thanked Officers for their support during that time.

(The meeting ended at 12.08 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Committee meetings	Link to CYPP	Lead Member & Officer
16 June 2017		
Progress Report on the Implementation of the 30 hours per week Early Years Entitlement		Dave Farrow + Charlotte Wilson
Fostering Recruitment Update report		Becky Hopkins
SEND update and EHCP Plans		Julia Ridge
CYPP – Q4 Update 2016/17		Philippa Granthier
28 July 2017		
Children’s Social Care Statutory Customer Feedback report		Simon Clifford
West Somerset Opportunity Area		Claire Winter
15 September 2017		
Data Handling		Darren Cole + Emma Wood
20 October 2017		
17 November 2017		
Young Carers Update report		
8 December 2017		
Update on Family Based Care (fostering) Peninsula Framework		Louise Palmer
2018		
School Performance		Claire Winter

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 Jamie Jackson, Governance Manager Scrutiny, who will assist you in submitting your item. jajackson@somerset.gov.uk 01823 359040.

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

Somerset County Council Forward Plan of proposed Key Decisions

The County Council is required to set out details of planned key decisions at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken. This forward plan sets out key decisions to be taken at Cabinet meetings as well as individual key decisions to be taken by either the Leader, a Cabinet Member or an Officer. The very latest details can always be found on our website at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>

Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

The Council has decided that the relevant threshold at or above which the decision is significant will be £500,000 for capital / revenue expenditure or savings. Money delegated to schools as part of the Scheme of Financial Management of Schools exercise is exempt from these thresholds once it is delegated to the school.

Cabinet meetings are held in public at County Hall unless Cabinet resolve for all or part of the meeting to be held in private in order to consider exempt information/confidential business. The Forward Plan will show where this is intended. Agendas and reports for Cabinet meetings are also published on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the meeting date.

Individual key decisions that are shown in the plan as being proposed to be taken "not before" a date will be taken within a month of that date, with the requirement that a report setting out the proposed decision will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the date of decision. Any representations received will be considered by the decision maker at the decision meeting.

In addition to key decisions, the forward plan shown below lists other business that is scheduled to be considered at a Cabinet meeting during the period of the Plan, which will also include reports for information. The monthly printed plan is updated on an ad hoc basis during each month. *Where possible the County Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is quite likely, however, that some items will need to be rescheduled and new items added as new circumstances come to light.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date plan.

For general enquiries about the Forward Plan:

- You can view it on the County Council web site at <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>
- You can arrange to inspect it at County Hall (in Taunton).
- Alternatively, copies can be obtained from Scott Wooldridge or Julia Jones in the Community Governance Team by telephoning (01823) 359027 or 357628.

To view the Forward Plan on the website you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available free from www.adobe.com
Please note that it could take up to 2 minutes to download this PDF document depending on your Internet connection speed.

To make representations about proposed decisions:

Please contact the officer identified against the relevant decision in the Forward Plan to find out more information or about how your representations can be made and considered by the decision maker.

The Agenda and Papers for Cabinet meetings can be found on the County Council's website at:
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP 16/10/04A First published: 15 May 2017	Not before 5th Jun 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset Superfast Extension Programme Phase 2 award of contract and funding agreement with Department for Culture Media and Sport Decision:	Contract award Lot 1 and BDUK funding		Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873
FP/17/04/09 First published: 24 April 2017	Not before 5th Jun 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Heathfield School, Taunton - Proposed Art and Science Blocks Decision: Awarding of Contract for Construction of Proposed Art and Science Blocks		Part exempt	Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/17/04/10 First published: 28 April 2017	Not before 5th Jun 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Creation of two New Academies in Somerset Decision: The Secretary of State for Education has directed via an Academy Order, the conversion to Academy Status for the following two schools.	Academies Act 2010		Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
FP/17/05/01 First published: 4 May 2017	7 Jun 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Hamp Academy, Bridgwater - Proposed Modular Classroom and Specialist Practical Unit Decision: Appointment of main contractor and placing of main order for manufacture of the modular classroom unit	Delivery of Hamp Academy		Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/04/08 First published: 24 April 2017	Not before 9th Jun 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director	Issue: Approval to accept Highways England Growth & Housing Fund award toward the M5 J25 improvement scheme. Decision: To accept the funding awarded by Highways England & sign the funding agreement	Copy of the funding agreement to be signed.		Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
FP/17/05/03 First published: 15 May 2017	Not before 12th Jun 2017 Cabinet Member for Business Investment & Policy	Issue: Contract to supply books to Library Service Decision: To award the contract to the preferred supplier(s) as an outcome of the ESPO led procurement for the supply of books.	ESPO Framework 376F_14	Part exempt	Tabitha Witherick, Service Manager: Development Tel: 01823357480
FP/17/05/05 First published: 15 May 2017	Not before 12th Jun 2017 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Issue: Commissioning of Mental Health Services in Somerset: Community outcomes based preventative and enablement support services Decision: Agreement to approve the Award of contracts for the provision of Mental Health Services in Somerset (as above) following a comprehensive EU compliant tender process	Tender Evaluation Report Impact Assessment Non-key decision to commence a procurement process for contracts for the provision of Mental Health Services in Somerset (as above)	Part exempt	Stephen Barker, Adults and Health - Senior Commissioning Officer
FP/17/04/04 First published: 19 April 2017	14 Jun 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Council Performance Monitoring Report Q4 2016-17 Decision: To consider the report			Emma Plummer, Strategic Manager Performance Tel: 01823 359251

Weekly version of plan published on 5 June 2017

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<p>FP/16/11/10 First published: 27 September 2016</p>	<p>14 Jun 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Children's Services Improvement - Somerset's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 progress Decision: To consider the report and agree necessary actions.</p>	<p>Report to Cabinet 29 April</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director Childrens Services Tel: 01823 359054</p>
<p>FP/17/03/12 First published: 29 March 2017</p>	<p>14 Jun 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Somerset Prevention Charter Decision: To consider the report and agree necessary actions. Somerset Prevention Charter</p>			<p>Trudi Grant, Public Health Director Tel: 01823 359015</p>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/03/09 First published: 13 March 2017</p>	<p>14 Jun 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Framework Agreement for Travel Demand Management Decision: To appoint Suppliers to a Framework Contract in particular for delivery of an integrated Travel Behaviour Change and Road Safety Training and Awareness Programme in connection with the Hinkley Point C development</p>	<p>Key Decision on 25 March 2013 regarding the contributions to Somerset County Council within the Hinkley Point C Site Preparation Works and Development Consent Order Section 106 Agreements Non-Key Decision Report by Strategic Manager – Major Programmes on 3 August 2016 - Authority to commence procurement for services in connection with a Travel Behaviour Change and Road Safety Training and Awareness Programme associated with the Hinkley Point C development Non-Key Decision on 2 December 2016 by the Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure Hinkley Point C – Authority to appoint a supplier for assurance services in connection with a Travel Behaviour Change and Road Safety Training and Awareness Programme Non-Key Decision on 6 March 2017 by the Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure Hinkley Point C</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Andy Coupe, Acting Strategic Manager - Major Programmes Tel: 01823 355145</p>

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FP/17/04/05 First published: 19 April 2017	14 Jun 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Capital Budget Monitoring Report Q4 2016-17 Decision: To consider the report			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/17/04/06 First published: 19 April 2017	14 Jun 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Q4 2016-17 Decision: To consider the report			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/17/03/07 First published: 13 March 2017	Not before 19th Jun 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Somerset Energy Innovation Centre - Approving Growth Deal Funding and Appointing a Construction Company Decision: Approves the acceptance of the offer of Growth Deal Funding , delegate the the authority to certify SCC's Growth Deal payment claims and authorise the appointment of the construction company for phase 2 & 3 and advance design work for Phase 3	Impact Study Cabinet Member Decision 09.02.17 Officer Non-Key Decision 27.04.15	Part exempt	Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766
FP/17/03/01 First published: 6 March 2017	Not before 19th Jun 2017 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Issue: Provision of Healthwatch Somerset Decision: Agree to the award of a contract for the provision of Healthwatch Somerset following a competitive procurement exercise	Tender evaluation report	Part exempt	Catherine Logan, Procurement Officer Tel: 01823 359293

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<p>FP/17/05/07 First published: 18 May 2017</p>	<p>Not before 19th Jun 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan for Somerset 2017 Decision: Approve the publication of The School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan for Somerset by the 30th June 2017</p>	<p>Cabinet 18 March 2015: The Policies and Principles of Early Years and School Place Planning Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee 13 May 2016: Early Years and School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan Cabinet 8 June 2016: Early Years and School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan School Population Forecasts 2016 School Organisation Plan 2017</p>		<p>Helen Waring, Commissioning Officer - Schools</p>
<p>FP/17/04/03 First published: 12 April 2017</p>	<p>Not before 3rd Jul 2017 Public Health Director</p>	<p>Issue: Extension of Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract Decision: To approve a 12 month extension to the current contract</p>	<p>Safer Somerset Partnership Domestic Abuse Annual Report 2015-16</p>		<p>Lucy Macready, Public Health Specialist- Community Safety Tel: 01823 359146</p>
<p>Fp/17/05/08 First published: 1 June 2017</p>	<p>10 Jul 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports End of May 2017/18 Decision: To consider the financial position for the 2017/18 Capital and Revenue Budgets as at the end of May 2017/18</p>			<p>Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573</p>

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Fp/17/05/09 First published: 1 June 2017	10 Jul 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Development of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 Decision: To consider the proposed approach and the timescale for the MTFP 2018/19			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/17/05/10 First published: 1 June 2017	10 Jul 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Proposal for the development of joint commissioning for Health and Social Care Decision: To consider the proposals			Trudi Grant, Public Health Director Tel: 01823 359015
Fp/17/03/11 First published: 29 March 2017	10 Jul 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Review of the Asset Management Plan and the 2017/18 potential disposals programme Decision: Review of the Asset Management Plan and approval to the 2017/18 potential disposals programme			Claire Lovett, Head of Property Tel: 07977412583
FP/17/04/07 First published: 24 April 2017	10 Jul 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Treasury Management End of Year Report 2016-17 Decision: That the Cabinet endorses the Treasury Management End of Year Report for 2016-17 and recommends its approval by Full Council on 19th July 2017.	TMSS 2016-17 TMSS App A 2016-17 TMSS App B 2016-17 TMSS App C 2016-17 TMPs V5 May 2016		Alan Sanford, Principal Investment Officer Tel: 01823 359585

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FP/17/04/01 First published: 3 April 2017	10 Jul 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Council Performance Report end of May 17/18 Decision: To consider the report			Emma Plummer, Strategic Manager Performance Tel: 01823 359251
FP/16/05/02 First published: 9 January 2017	10 Jul 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Road Safety Strategy Update Decision: To agree to adopt the updated Road Safety Strategy			Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
FP/17/02/01 First published: 14 February 2017	Not before 17th Jul 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Award of Contract for the provision of a 3 Classroom Block at Court Fields School, Wellington Decision: To approve the awarding of the contract to the successful contractor	Confidential Financial Report Capital Programme Paper	Part exempt	Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/17/05/02 First published: 12 May 2017	17 Jul 2017 Cabinet Member for Business Investment & Policy, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Revision of Section 106 contributions formula for Early Years Provision Decision: To increase the Section 106 contributions formula for Early Years Provision from 3.5 places per 100 houses to 5 funded places from 1st September 2017	Early education and childcare; Statutory guidance for local authorities (2017) Early Years and School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan (2016) - www.somerset.gov.uk/Education/IGP		Charlotte Wilson, Service Manager Early Years Commissioning Tel: 01823 357386

Weekly version of plan published on 5 June 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/05/06 First published: 18 May 2017</p>	<p>Not before 7th Aug 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Somerset Energy Innovation Centre Building 2 acceptance of funding Decision: The acceptance of the offer of ERDF funding (£869,090), subject to legal acceptability of the final funding agreement, for the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre, Phase 2</p>			<p>Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766</p>

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Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items	Link to Former Imp Plan	Action owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
13 May 2016	Link to CYPP			
Focus on the education of vulnerable children (To include Children Looked After, Special Educational Needs and Free School Meal recipients)	All	Sue Rogers	The update was accepted and it was suggested that to help improve information available for and communications with all service users a decision tree (visual aid in the form of a diagram/flow chart) for the benefit of service users be considered.	Pending
17 June 2016				
Any Business of Urgency	All	Chairman	The Chairman suggested that 7 Members of the Committee each take a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes and focus their attention and consideration of each report of how progress was being made against their particular improvement programme. The DCS replied that he thought this was a good suggestion and offered to provide Officer support for any Member of the Committee.	By the end of the quadrennium 5 Members of the Committee had volunteered.
22 July 2016				
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)			Committee received and accepted an update and requested a further update at a future meeting.	Pending.
9 September 2016				
DBS checks	All		Officers to ensure all Members of the Committee, as well as those on the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board have completed a DBS check	Members will be required to complete DBS checks.
11 November 2016				
Work Programme	All	Leigh Redman	Chairman to liaise with the Chairman of Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee to discuss the possibility of a joint meeting.	Incomplete
9 December 2016				

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Early Years Capital Bid to EFA	All	Dave Farrow	The update was accepted and it was agreed to request a further update report in 6 months.	Pending
Data Handling Update	All		The Committee accepted the report and given the number of actions and improvements that had been recently undertaken they requested a further update report for the March 2017 meeting.	Completed
27 January 2017				
Children and Young Peoples Plan 20162-19	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In respect of Improvement Plan 1 an update report was requested a future meeting on the West Somerset Social Mobility project; In respect of Improvement Programme 3 an update report was requested a future meeting regarding the vacant posts in the Children Looked After Team, including the Psychologist posts. 	Pending
Impact of proposed financial changes to Schools	All		The Committee encouraged Officers to continue to lobby for these proposed changes to be made so the higher funding materialised.	Pending
Young Carers Task and Finish Group	All		The Committee agreed to proceed with the Task and Finish Group and the Chairman and Eileen Tipper volunteered to sit on the Group with a view to producing a final report for the 7 April meeting.	Completed
Team Around the School School Performance 2016			It was agreed to defer consideration these 2 reports for the next meeting.	Completed
10 March 2017				
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families			The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting in 12 months.	Pending
Youth Offending Team update			Youth Offending update report, which was an information report was accepted.	Completed
Data Handling update			The Data Handling Update would be considered at the next meeting.	Completed
School Performance 2016			The report was accepted with an update requested in 12 months.	Pending

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Team Around the School			The Committee a report on the development of the Team Around the School (TAS) model that is an early help approach that supports the targets set out in the County Plan relating to Childrens Services in particular those improving the Ofsted rating and improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children. The report was accepted	Completed
Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 – improvement programme 6 update			The Committee considered this report that provided an update on achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service. There was a brief discussion of various aspects of the programme and the update was accepted.	Completed
7 April 2017				
Child Sexual Exploitation			The Committee considered this presentation that provided details of the Council's on-going work to prevent child sexual exploitation. It was explained that there was a great deal that was unknown about the perpetrators, this was because relevant agencies did not seem to record data on those responsible and frequently victims did not know their abusers. The update was accepted.	Completed
Pathways to Independence (P2i) Update			The Committee considered a report that explained the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to homeless 16 to 17 year olds and Care Leavers up to the age of 25 and how some of the duties were met through an integrated commissioned service called Pathways to Independence Service (P2i).. The report was accepted.	Completed
Data Handling update			The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting.	Pending
Young Carers Task and Finish Final report			The Committee agreed the suggested recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families/Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and requested a follow-up/update report in 6 months.	Pending
Committee Annual report to Council			The Committee considered and agreed its report before it would be presented to the 26 April 2017 Full Council meeting.	Completed

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

The CYPP has been produced following a multi-agency process, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust. Seven improvement programmes have been identified – our work is focused on ensuring progress and achievement within these 7 programmes:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce

Key:

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.

Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19

Lead Officer: Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance

Author: Fiona Phur, Partnership Business Manager – Children's Commissioning

Contact Details: FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk; 01823 355259

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson, Lead Member for Children and Families

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

1.1. Somerset County Council has developed a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) commencing April 2016 setting out the actions we and our partners are taking to continue and sustain improvements in children's services. The plan follows a multi-agency approach, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust. Seven improvement programmes, managed by the relevant Board for each improvement area are in place, as follows:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Embedding a 'Think Family' approach
4. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
5. Building skills for life
6. Providing help early and effectively
7. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service.

1.2. Children and families are a key theme within the County Plan 2016-20, recognising the importance of providing the information and advice families need to help themselves and of focusing our help early and effectively when needed. The key priorities are to improve children's safeguarding services; to improve exam results, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils; and to improve children's health and wellbeing.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

2.1. The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 is the strategic plan for Somerset Children's Trust, providing the focus for partners' actions and investment and the means by which the Department for Education will measure our improvement. The plan is reported upon on a quarterly basis and we are now reporting upon Quarter 4 and end of Year 1. Additional promotion of the plan takes place between quarterly reporting through practitioner engagement meetings, newsletters, the SCC website, social media networks and individual requests from services to be educated and informed of the plan's vision that Somerset children and young people are safe, healthy, and happy, are ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

This meeting therefore provides an opportunity for members to comment on the progress at the end of the first year and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan into its second year.

We are asking this meeting to focus on the Quarter 4 Executive Summary (attached) and also to give scrutiny to the first year achievements identified in the Annual Report (attached).

3. Background

- 3.1.** On 6 November 2015 Somerset County Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education requiring us to develop and implement by 1 April 2016 a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which the Department for Education judge likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's social care functions. This plan is now implemented and reporting upon Quarter 4 progress.
- 3.2.** The focus of our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) is vulnerable children and young people and it has informed the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP
- 3.3.** This is the fourth quarter of reporting against the CYPP and covers the period January to March 2017. During this period there has been continued promotion of the plan that originally commenced in Summer 2016 via the launch roadshows. This includes social networking, newsletters and inclusion on agendas and in team meetings. The Children's Stakeholder Forum, established with the voluntary, community and private sector with the aim to increase collaboration across all sectors to improve outcomes for Somerset children and young people in line with the CYPP, held a residential providers workshop in January 2017 to look at the gap in provision and market developments. This positive engagement resulted in a better understanding of our market and the opportunities to work more closely in the future.
- 3.4.** The seven improvement programme action plans are now actively used and monitored within the nominated delivery groups. The Partnership Business team supports the delivery groups and the SCT Executive and Board by attending meetings, developing task and finish functions for areas of concern and supporting data collection and report writing across all 7 programmes to ensure the impact of the CYPP is realised. The positive cross-cutting thinking across programmes to support specific actions, where more than one delivery programme may be contributing towards an outcome, has continued at the end of Quarter 4 to inform year 2 actions. At the end of this reporting period we can demonstrate a positive message as new services embed, more information and training is delivered across our workforce and partners, new partnerships form and systems and processes improve. Many of the new services surround good emotional health and well-being and we will be monitoring services delivered in schools, in health and in communities, as well as newly designed on-line support in Year 2.

Other consistent emerging themes from our Improvement Programmes centres around resources – especially staffing, capacity and funding. At the end of year one overall the Improvement Programmes are rating themselves as Amber with an upward positive trend except for two programmes rated as Green : Programme 1 – Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient where good parenting programmes, training in schools and effective public health campaigns have made good progress and Programme 5 – Providing Help Early and Effectively where ambitious plans to integrate early help agencies into hubs is making great progress supporting by effective and robust

case management systems.

- 3.5.** Other key activities include the start of the West Somerset Social mobility project; however, we are still awaiting clarity from the Department of Education to steer this project and will report to Scrutiny in more detail at a future date., Better PHSE (personal, health, social and emotional) lessons are being delivered in schools, a new CSA (child sexual abuse) project has been launched, of our 42 schools inspected in Quarter 4 92.2% were rated good or better and there has been significant progress in recruiting social work staff.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** In drawing up the new CYPP, all those covered by the duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004 must be consulted, as well as children, young people and their parents and carers and other key partners.
- 4.2.** Consultation undertaken includes:

- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
- The Unstoppables (SEND)
- CAMHS Participation Group
- Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
- Young Healthwatch
- Young Carers
- Somerset Parent Carer Forum

The voice of children, young people and their families is being regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback. Further work is underway in Year 2 to widen the scope and to bring the voice into our quarterly reporting.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** Financial: The CYPP has been implemented in a climate of continuing financial austerity for the public sector. The priorities outlined in the plan are to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of SCC and its partners, taking into account anticipated reductions over the next three years.
- 5.2.** Equality & Diversity: Somerset Children's Trust seeks to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people. This incorporates the need to tackle inequalities and narrow gaps, paying suitable regard to the 2010 Equality Act's General Duty.
- 5.3.** Legal: Local Children's Trust arrangements are underpinned by the 'duty to cooperate' (Section 10, Children Act 2004) and there are no plans to repeal this duty. The Children's Trust holds its individual members to account for delivering their agreed contributions to the shared plan, and has agreed to review progress against the Plan on a six monthly basis.

The Direction Notice referred to in para 3.1 above was issued under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996.

6. Background papers

6.1. [Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19](#)

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

Outcome Indicator			Comparators		
Outcome Indicator	Previous = Target / Baseline	Most Recent	National Average	Statistical Neighbour Group	Progress
Smoking status at time of delivery	14.1% 2014/15	13.5% 2015/16	10.60%	Not available	Improving year on year but still below National Average
Breastfeeding initiation	82.60%	80.8% 2014/15	74.30%	Not available	Improvement in sustained breastfeeding rates but small reduction in initiation rates
Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	49.4% 2014/15 [old methodology]	46.40%	43.20%	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – Hepatitis B (1 year olds)	Not currently measured	Not currently measured	Not currently measured	Not currently measured	Currently on target
Population vaccination coverage – Hepatitis B (2 year olds)	Not currently measured	Not currently measured	Not currently measured	Not currently measured	
Population vaccination coverage – Dtap/IPV/ Hib (1 year old)	94.7% 2014/15	94.9% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – Dtap/IPV/Hib (2 years old)	97.2% 2014/15	96.4% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – MenC	93.5% 2014/15	96.8% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – PCV	95.3% 2014/15	95.3% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – Hib/MenC booster (2 years old)	93.6% 2014/15	94.1% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – Hib/MenC booster (5 years old)	92.0% 2014/15	95.7% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – MMR for one dose (5 years old)	96.6% 2014/15	96.2% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – MMR for two doses (5 years old)	92.1% 2014/15	90.8% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage (HPV)	91.5% 2014/15	85.8% 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Population vaccination coverage – adolescent booster DTP	Not set	Not available	Not available	Not available	
Vaccination coverage – prenatal pertussis vaccine (delivered at more than 28 weeks gestation)	Not set	58.9% 2014/15 Q2	Not available	Not available	
Seasonal flu vaccine for pregnant women	38.4% (Dec 2015)	42.5% (Sept - Jan) 2015/16	Not available	Not available	
Reception children measured as obese (4-5 years)	9% 2014/15	8.4% 2015/16	9.30%	Not available	Improving performance seen
Year 6 children measured as obese (10-11 years)	17% 2014/15	15.3% 2015/16	19.80%	Not available	
Hospital admissions for injuries (0-14 years)_	124.4 Rate per 10,000 2012/13 - 2014/15	120.6 Rate per 10,000 2015/16	104.2	Not available	Some improvement seen but still below National Average
Hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions (0-17 years)	46.9 rate per 10,000	51.5 rate per 10,000 2014/15	36.6	Not available	
Hospital admissions due to substance (drug) misuse (15- 24 years)	118.5 rate per 10,000 2014/15	122.6 rate per 10,000 2013/14 - 2015/16	95.4	Not available	
Hospital admissions for self-harm (10-24 years)	605.8 rate per 10,000 2012/13 - 2014/15	726.3 rate per 10,000 2015/16	430.5	Not available	
Percentage of five year old children free from dental decay	no previous comparison data available	76.9% 2014/15	75.20%	Not available	Rate higher than national average, no previous comparison data available

Self-esteem and resilience of secondary school pupils (14-15 years)		49% of boys reported a good level of self-esteem 2014		Not available	Girls showing considerably lower levels of self-esteem than boys
		22% of Girls reported a good level of Self-Esteem 2014			
Primary school persistent absence rate	7.6% 2015/16	4.8% March 17	4%	4%	Rates broadly in line with National Average
Secondary school persistent absence rate	13.1% 2015/16	7.4% March 17	5.30%	5.40%	Rates broadly in line with National Average
Disadvantaged learners achieving Expected Level in reading writing and maths at KS2 (<i>disadvantaged learners include children who are eligible for FSMs, in PRUs or have alternative provision, are CLA or have been adopted</i>)	64% 2014/15 [level 4]	36% 2015/16 [expected level]	39%	not yet available	Significant attainment gap still remains in place. Attendance within vulnerable groups lower than for the wider cohort.
Disadvantaged learners achieving A*-C GCSEs in eng and maths (<i>disadvantaged learners include children who are eligible for FSMs, in PRUs or have alternative provision, are CLA or have been adopted</i>)	36% 2015 (5 A* - C inc Eng and Maths)	39.4% 2016	44.2%	39.70%	
Rates of young people participating in education, training and apprenticeships (17 - 19)	81.4% Aug 16	91.4% 20th Mar 17	92.70%	Not available	Rate for all young people has improved however rate for care leavers has reduced slightly
Rates of care leavers participating in education, training and apprenticeships (17 to 21)	59% Aug 16	57.5% Mar 17	48%	44.80%	
Inadequate Early Years Settings	0 out of 567 (0%) Mar 16	4 out of 553 (0.7%) Mar 17	1%	0.9%	Generally an improving picture
Good and Outstanding Early years settings	493 out of 567 (86.9%) Mar 16	524 out of 553 (94.8%) Mar 17	93%	94.4%	
Inadequate and requiring improvement Primary Schools	7.60%	5.3% Mar 2017	9.90%	10.03%	
Good and Outstanding Primary Schools	88.5% (23/26) Aug 2016	94.7% (195/206) Mar 17	90.20%	89.97%	
Inadequate and requiring improvement Secondary Schools	10.8% Aug 16	10.8% March 2017	22%	20.07%	
Good and Outstanding Secondary Schools	71.4% (5/7) Aug 16	86.5% (32/37)Mar 2017	78.00%	79.93%	
Children looked After achieving Expected Level in reading writing and maths at KS2	33% [at Level 4]	23.3% [at expected level]	26%	not yet available	Performance broadly inline with National Average; however, higher level of fixed term
Children looked After achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs inc eng and maths	14.3% 2013/14	9%	12.10%	not yet available	

Persistent absence rate for Children Looked After	10.7% 2015	13%	9%	10.60%	and permanent exclusions compared to last year
% of Children Looked After with at least one fixed term exclusion	13% 2015	53 out of 325 [16.3%] current year to date 2015	10.40%	11.20%	
Teenage conceptions (0-17 years)	17.2 rate per 100,000 2014	17.1 rate per 100,000 2015	22.8	17.1 (South west region)	Rate reducing
Children are School Ready: Children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception	66.6% 2014/15	68.7% 2015/16	69.30%	70.36%	School readiness levels improving,
Number of Early Help Assessments undertaken (Started?) across partners	25 (August 16)	238 starts (Mar 17)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Numbers increasing
Demand on statutory services - contacts to CSC	32,266 (R12M) August 2016	30,152 (R12M) Mar 17	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Demand on statutory services- re-referrals to CSC	23% August 16	20.8% Mar 17	24%	22.10%	
First Time entrants into the criminal justice system (10 - 17 years)	361 rate per 100,000 March 2016	318 rate per 100,000 oct 15 to sept 16	334 rate per 100,000	Not applicable	Generally improving picture
Rate of proven re-offending (10-17)	32.3% Sept 14	31.7% april 14 to march 15	37.70%	Not applicable	
Placement stability for children looked after	61.3% August 16	56.6% Mar 17	68	68.8	Continues to be a cause for concern
Average time between a child entering care and being placed with its adoptive family	185 July 16	383 YTD Mar 17	593	490	Average number of days have increased, this can be influenced by the low numbers involved
Children Looked After	48.5 Rate per 10,000 August 16	43.8 Rate per 10,000 Mar 17	60.0	53	Rates generally lower than statistical neighbours
Children in Need	166.3 Rate per 10,000 August 16	155 Rate per 10,000 Mar 17	337.3	328.57	
Children subject to a child protection plan	34.7 Rate per 10,000 August 16	37.9 Rate per 10,000 mar 17	43.1	43.1	
The turnover rate for permanent social work staff	17.7% July 16	19.4% Mar 17	14	Not applicable	Turnover up from 2016
Percent of Social work staff who are permanent	61.2% July 16	59.8% Jan 17	87	Not applicable	Improving
Somerset will be ranked in the top quartile nationally in the education indicators	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	School OFSTED rankings above average, GCSE results improving. CSC rated
Somerset will be ranked in the top quartile nationally in the social care indicators	See RAG narrative	Page 35 See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	

Somerset will be ranked in the top quartile nationally in health performance indicators	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	See RAG narrative	CSC rated inadequate at most recent inspection but monitoring visit feedback generally positive. Health measures to be determined.
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Cabinet Report 7th June 2017

Somerset County Council

Cabinet – 7th June 2017

Children & Young People’s Plan 2016 – 2019 - Report on progress of year 1 (1 April 2016 to 31st March 2017)

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Frances Nicholson – Cabinet Member for Children and Families Division and Local Member(s): All

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster, Director of Children’s Services

Author: Fiona Phur, Partnership Business Manager, Children’s Services Commissioning

Contact Details: fzphur@somerset.gov.uk

	Seen by:	Name	Date
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	
	Monitoring Officer	Julian Gale	
	Corporate Finance	Kevin Nacey	
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	
	Property / Procurement / ICT	Richard Williams	
	Senior Manager	Julian Wooster	
	Local Member(s)	N/A	
	Cabinet Member	Cllr F Nicholson	
	Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr J Clayton	
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Leigh Redman	
Forward Plan Reference:	FP/16/11/10		
Summary:	<p>The Children & Young People’s Plan 2016 – 2019 (CYPP) was approved by Cabinet in March 2016, and was further endorsed by Full Council in May 2016. This is a multi-agency plan that reflects the commitment of strategic partners and the Leader of Somerset County Council for children’s services to be ‘good’ or ‘better’ in three years. This report provides a progress update on the first year of the CYPP against each of the 7 Improvement Programmes designed to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.</p>		
Recommendations:	<p>That Cabinet acknowledge the significant work that has been undertaken to date and endorse the improvements and achievements in delivering the seven improvement programmes.</p>		
Reasons for Recommendations:	<p>The CYPP sets the vision and priorities for partners and this progress report for year 1 of the plan evidences the improvements in delivery of Somerset Children’s Services’ particularly the functions of Children’s Social Care.</p>		
Links to Priorities and Impact on Service Plans:	<p>The Children’s Services Improvement journey has been a key priority for the local authority since the Ofsted inspection in 2015, focusing on improving practice and quality of services throughout 2016/17 and into 2017/18.</p>		

Consultations undertaken:	All due consultations were undertaken, during the development of the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP), prior to its approval by Cabinet in May 2016. There is continuing involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the CYPP by the Cabinet Member, Opposition Spokesperson, Children's Scrutiny and Children's Trust Executive and Board members.					
Financial Implications:	Financial implications have been discussed at previous Cabinet meetings and will remain under regular review.					
Legal Implications:	N/A					
HR Implications:	Workforce is the main theme of Improvement Programme 7 and the HR/OD Director has submitted his findings as part of the quarterly reporting arrangements.					
Risk Implications:	<p>The principal risk lies in the failure to secure improvement which would not deliver the Council's ambitions in relation to improved outcomes for children and young people in Somerset. This could also result in further intervention by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>There is a Corporate Risk for Safeguarding Children (ORG0009) and its current score is 20. There are a number of management actions and mitigations for managing this risk. SLT and the Cabinet Member regularly monitor the management of this risk.</p>					
	Likelihood	4	Impact	5	Risk Score	20
Other Implications (including due regard implications):	N/A – these implications have been considered on an ongoing basis as part of the delivery of the 7 Improvement Programmes.					
Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):	Not applicable.					

1. Background

1.1. The overall aim of the Children & Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 is to build the ambition and confidence across the partnership, showing partners' joint intentions and the framework by which we will improve. The plan is supported by more detailed strategies and actions through its 7 Improvement Programmes over the lifetime of the plan. The key features of our partnership plans are:

Prevention - and addressing issues early and effectively

Child and family centred – keeping children, young people and their families at the heart of everything we do

Collaboration - working with others to effectively use our resources in commissioning and delivery of services

Integration - providing joined up care and support that is not hindered by organisational, service or professional boundaries.

1.2 The 7 Improvement Programmes are:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life

3. Improving emotional health and well-being
4. Building Skills for Life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
7. Embedding a 'Think Family' approach across the workforce.

The CYPP has completed the first year of the plan (2016-17); focusing on seven Improvement Programmes, with delivery boards across the partners of the Somerset Children's Trust having the responsibility for delivering against these programmes. Each delivery group has a chair, a SCT Lead Sponsor and member support to progress against their annual action plans. Quarterly reporting to the Children's Trust Executive in the form of Highlight Reports evidences where progress is being made and where barriers to success have been identified and overcome.

This report highlights the activity and impact against each of the 7 improvement programmes at the end of the first year and the progress toward achieving the intended outcomes outlined in the CYPP. There are positive messages as new services embed, more information and training is delivered across our workforce and partners, new partnerships form and systems and processes improve.

There remains much to do and the forward focus will be the delivery of the CYPP over the remaining two years. This takes the Authority beyond compliance and towards delivering improved quality, resulting in sustained improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in Somerset.

2. Progress and Impact in Year 1

2.1 In addition to measures being used to assess the delivery of the seven Improvement Programmes the CYPP also includes a set of overarching measures designed to assess "How we will know we made a difference". Progress against these measures is set out in Appendix XX. These are a range of outcome type measures which, by their nature can take a longer timeframe before a show improvement resulting from the activity within the Improvement Programmes. Current performance shows the majority of these measures are currently ranked either Green or Amber with 3 measures currently Red. Work plans for 2017/18 and beyond will continue to influence the achievement of these measures.

2.2 The table below shows the main improvements over 2016/17.

	<p>Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 7 Improvement Programmes</p> <p>What has been the Impact?</p>
<p>Programme 1 Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of service resources and promoting them on Somerset Choices and other relevant websites • West Somerset Opportunity Area has been identified with the DfE to address low social mobility; £6m over the next 3 years has been secured to support the action plan from 17/18 • Mapping of parenting programmes across Somerset in Year 1 is completed with 5 major initiatives identified which will be rolled out across venues and partners in Year 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More positive relationships built with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) and their commitment to continue to provide services during a period of higher acuity of need, reduced capacity and fewer funding opportunities. In our communities there is a generally improving picture around rates of re-offending, anti-social behaviour, repeat domestic abuse and worklessness in young people and adults, as evidenced by the data collected for the annual dashboard.
<p>Programme 2 Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A successful childhood immunisation programme • Reduction in childhood obesity in Reception and year 6 • Reduction in teenage conceptions • Support for parents has included public health campaigns, training and self-help resources, including the prevention of sudden infant deaths • An infant feeding strategy has been drafted, there has been a small improvement in sustained breastfeeding but a small reduction in initiation rates and next year's activities include further roll out of breastfeeding friendly venues, champion lay supporters and more training. • The proportion of Somerset mothers reported to be smoking at the time of delivery reports improvement year on year; however, Somerset remains above the national average. • There is a very small improvement in hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injuries in children aged 0 -14 years, but rates remain significantly higher than nationally • Our percentage of 5 year olds with one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth is in line with the national average at 23.1% but has reduced since previous years. The targeted fluoride varnishing and tooth brushing programmes that has been in place in 2016/17 should evidence future improvements.
<p>Programme 3 Improving emotional health and well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year has seen the full launch of elements of the new Children & Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS) services – Single Point of Access, Enhanced Outreach and Community Eating Disorder Service. The implementation of the new Improving Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being in Schools service is also now underway. • The Emotional Health and Well Being Team has recruited a Team Manager and social workers. There has also been the recruitment of one part time Psychologist via SOMPAR. An agreement for a further Psychology post to be amended to try and attract more applicants is agreed. The JD and process for this is in progress with SOMPAR. An interim support via the Educational Psychologist team has been identified. • There is a need to separate and understand the data set cited on the CYPP Dashboard regarding an increase in the admissions to hospital for Self Harm 10-24 years. A deeper dive into this Data to ensure that the age range and coding at A+E are consistent and clear is required to enable a clear understanding of trends and needs. • CAMHS has worked with the Acute Hospitals to launch a Deliberate Self Harm Pathway for under 18 year olds and has

	<p>placed CAMHS specific Psychiatric Liaison Nurses in the hospitals. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of this pathway and posts to be detailed in the Reviewed CYP Plan.</p>
<p>Programme 4 Building Skills for Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Ofsted judgements on early years and schools settings; school readiness levels are improving and GCSE results are improving but there remains a mixed picture around school absence. • The Team Around the School model which is a multi-agency approach to early help has been highly successful with majority secondary schools now engaged. • The rates of young people participating in education, training and apprenticeships is improving; however, the rate for care leavers has reduced slightly and this improvement will be addressed through Programme 6's 2017/18 work plan in conjunction with the Corporate Parenting Board's work plan.
<p>Programme 5 Providing help early and effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more robust Early Help process is now in place, evidenced by increased use and improving quality of Early Help Assessments and the embedding of the Effective Support for children and families document which outlines the thresholds of care for early help, targeted and specialist support • Much of 2016/17 has been about improving systems and tools to enable practitioners to be more effective in their roles. This has included the rollout of Professional Choices, which incorporates a multi-agency who's who directory of staff and Virtual Meeting Rooms which allows staff to share documents and collaborate on discussions / meetings. • The Early Help Case Management system was launched at the end of March 2017 within the getset service which will enable staff to deal more efficiently with case recording and therefore spend more time with families
<p>Programme 6 Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted quarterly monitoring visits have concluded adequate progress is being made and DfE intervention has confirmed a "significant improvement" in Somerset's Children's Services, including more manageable case-loads, a more stable workforce and better partnership working as reported by the Minister in December 2016. However more work is required to secure consistently good services and address remaining weaknesses. • The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) service is progressing well under the leadership of the police alongside the procurement of a new Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) service by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) • The number of children who are adopted without unnecessary delay has increased although the measurement

	<p>for this is based on low numbers of prospective adopters against higher numbers of children needing placements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates of children in need, child protection and children looked after are generally lower than our statistical neighbours but not yet in line with good performing authorities. • The Corporate Parenting Board has been strengthened over this year with the development and implementation of a new Corporate Parenting Strategy with supporting action plans. A performance dashboard has been established which allows members to scrutinise the performance of partners. Helping members to understand their role in relation to corporate parenting has been developed to include presentations at district councils, the production of a guide for local councillors, and establishing an ongoing training programme. • A new pathways to independence service (p2i) providing accommodation support for care leavers and vulnerable young people was commissioned in 2016 with our district councils, building on the previous service; the new service specification has been recognised as good practice by a leading national housing expert. • Finally, the outcome for a reduced demand on statutory services can be measured as reduced numbers of referrals to Childrens Social Care
<p>Programme 7 Embedding a 'Think Family' approach across the workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a reduction in the use of agency social work staff and a more permanent social care work force; however, retention remains a concern • Caseloads of social workers remain at around 14 (end of Qtr 4 – 14.7 cases); the lowest number reported was in Quarter 2 which was 12 cases per social worker on average.

The Children's Trust Executive are pleased with the progress over this year. Action plans for 2017/18 have been drawn up with a focus on a stepped improvement over this second year to ensure year 3 achieves the outcomes of the CYPP in 2019.

3. Governance

- 3.1 As the CYPP is a partnership plan the partnership commitment is overseen by the Somerset Children's Trust Board which is Somerset's lead body in relation to the 'duty to co-operate' statutory responsibilities. The safeguarding aspects of the plan will be monitored by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board. Each programme reports to a relevant multi-agency board and reports quarterly to the Children's Trust Executive and Children & Families Scrutiny Committee.

See Appendix: Board Diagram.

4. Background papers

- 4.1 [Somerset Children's Trust Children and Young People's Plan 2016 - 2019](#)

5. Appendices

5.1 Children and Young People's Plan Annual Dashboard



FINAL CYPP
Dashboard 16.17.xls

5.2 Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 Year 1 Quarter 4 Executive Summary



FINAL CYPP
Executive Summary r

5.3 Somerset Children's Trust Governance Diagram



SCT Structure
Diagram A3 Governar

FINAL

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Somerset Children's Trust – Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) Executive Summary

Progress as at: end March 2017

Overall

At the end of Quarter 4 (January to March 2017) the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) received reports from its 7 Improvement Programmes that reflect achievements at the end of the first year and the progress toward its outcomes, especially areas where actions will feature in next year's activity. There are positive messages as new services embed, more information and training is delivered across our workforce and partners, new partnerships form and systems and processes improve.

Ongoing challenges across the Improvement Programmes centre around resources – especially staffing, capacity and funding.

Whilst each programme's issues will be addressed individually later in this summary, the Trust should note the progress as follows:

PROGRESS DURING Q4:

- The full launch of new services within the Children & Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS) services – Single Point of Access, Enhanced Outreach and Community Eating Disorder Service
- Implementation of the new Improving Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being in Schools service
- Commencement of the development of the Early Help Integrated hubs in each district
- Somerset County Council (SCC) recruitment processes are working well and attracting quality candidates into Children's Social Care
- More customer usage of Somerset Choices, the online portal providing information and advice for families and professionals
- Evidence of stronger partnerships in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), as evidenced in the Somerset State of the Sector survey.
- Further recruitment and training around the Infant Nutrition programme
- New Tuning into Kids training roll-out
- Further promotion of the Parenting Offer alongside a number of unfunded community groups being established to support parenting projects i.e. Taunton Solo Parents Group.
- Procurement of the new Phoenix Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) service
- Schools continue to receive good or better judgements, both in comparison to the south west and nationally
- Closer working with the Regional Schools Commissioner which may result in additional funding
- The development of a new project to decrease the number of school exclusions; especially for more vulnerable children

- A successful Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) careers fair in Yeovil - "Choices for Life" - attended by over 350 young people
- Additional funding obtained from Education Funding Agency(EFA) for post 16 students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)
- Quality assuring the Team around the School model
- Strengthening the relationships between local district Early Help (EH) Boards and the strategic EH Commissioning Board
- Improved EH Assessments (EHA) and the implementation of the EH Case Management System.

Identified slippage, issues and risks for the SCT Executive to consider fall under the following themes :

RESOURCES:

- Parenting resources are not yet launched via the Healthy Somerset website;
- Continued inability to recruit psychologists to Children Looked After Emotional Health and Wellbeing team; the Education Psychology Service is providing an interim service
- The low volume of conversions of SEND statements to EHCPs due to staff priorities and sickness
- 78% of Somerset VCSE report risks of sustainability due to funding cuts
- The Health and Well Being sub group highlighted the incapacity of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), G.P.s, education and midwifery to engage with Improvement Programme 2; also the postponement of the STP work for maternity and child health due to an immediate issue of getting into financial balance.
- There is a gap in provision of services for overweight children with co-morbid or multi co-morbid conditions which affects 125 children
- The membership of the Workforce Board is being reviewed in order to fully align to the CYPP

PROCESS:

- The final phased roll out of digital Universal Credit in South Somerset did not complete in March 2017 although is due to complete in April 2017
- The implementation of the electronic Early Help Assessment has been re-scheduled to start work in September 2017

NEW PROJECTS:

- The launch of the Infant Feeding Strategy is delayed in order to link to the launch of an e-learning module
- A peri-natal mental health service is delayed until the next round of funding applications open

-

INFORMATION:

- There is still no available data around families being able to manage debt and access benefit advice; neither Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) or Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) have been able to provide data. This means therefore the SCT cannot assess the impact of activity and evidence the outcome in the CYPP that families can manage their debts and access benefits. At the Somerset Financial Inclusion Board December meeting a key priority was identified as being financial literacy and budgeting for young people, particularly the most vulnerable groups of young people. There have been issues of Care Leavers falling into debt due to lack of support around the processes of accessing Universal Credit. CABs around the county have now worked with around 3000 children and young people on financial literacy in schools and colleges, youth and community groups and trained over 60 front line staff. This has exposed the lack of knowledge our young people have. As one young person stated, "the population of Britain could get into so much debt that our quality of life as a country would be lower and our status as an advanced country would deteriorate".
- Our Information Sharing protocols may not support a true Think Family culture.

Emerging work for next quarter:

- Nominations being received for the Somerset Star celebrations as part of National Volunteer week in June
- Somerset Choices – discussions with partners to review requirements for providing information, advice and guidance to families and practitioners
- Public health are compiling an annual calendar of campaigns to use in newsletters and share with partners
- The Infant Feeding Strategy will be published following the May elections
- The National Child Measurement Programme is now underway with 100% of eligible schools engaged
- To appoint clinical staff to the Children Looked After Emotional Health and Wellbeing posts
- Consultation on an integrated perinatal mental health care pathway has been drafted by the Perinatal and Infant Mental Health (PIMH) Steering Group and will be circulated to stakeholders
- Gloucestershire County Council will be carrying out a Peer Review of services supporting children and young people with SEND using the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission framework
- Focus on work around analysing exclusion, home education and reduced timetable data
- Review of the Combined Budgets of the Dedicated Schools Grant and beyond.
- Continue to prioritise work in relation to SEND provision and funding

- To commence a review of Pupil Referral Unit provision
- Decisions around vision and service model of integrated Early Help hubs will be taken post-election.
- Develop Adolescent Strategy
- Development of Somerset's Personalisation approach
- SSCB to commission a bespoke multi agency audit to test out consistency of application of thresholds at point of MASH referral
- Somerset Family Outcomes Framework to be approved by Early Help Board at June 2017 meeting
- Establishment of a multi-agency Think Family task and finish group to develop and agree a protocol.
- Further work on establishing membership of the Workforce Development Board, ensuring membership reflects the multi-agency Think Family Protocol.

Decisions Required:

- ***That the SCT Executive approves the progress for all 7 programmes at the end of year 1***

Governance Arrangements

This is the final quarter of reporting against the first year of the plan and covers the period January to March 2017. The seven improvement programme action plans are now actively used and monitored within the nominated delivery groups. The Partnership Business Manager and her team supports the groups and the SCT Executive and Board in monitoring activity across all 7 programmes to ensure the impact of the CYPP is realised by attending Boards and other relevant meetings; meeting individuals in our partnerships to discuss specific or general actions required to move the work forward and to ensure the quality and timeliness of reporting.


The first annual report of the progress and impact of year 1 of the CYPP will be published during June 2017. The Children's Trust Board has met twice in 2016/17 with health and parenting as its meeting themes.

Action plans for 2017/18 have also now been developed with partners and each delivery group.


The Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Children and Families receive quarterly reports on the 7 improvement programmes and a monthly update specifically on programme 6 *Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service*. Five member champions work alongside the chairs of the delivery groups in support of the 7

improvement programmes which strengthen the impact of the programmes and provide advocacy for each of the groups at point of scrutiny.


1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient

Current Status:	Green	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Good progress with most areas turning green in Quarter 4. Most notable achievements are in the areas of well publicised public health campaigns, more personal, social, health and economic training in schools, better promotion of parenting programmes, good collaboration between partners and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and the emerging work in the West Somerset Opportunity Area. Due to a redesign of Somerset Choices, there was a slight decrease in new visits to the site; however, repeat visits have increased. At the end of the year we were not able to gain data around numbers of families accessing benefit advice and debt management support.		


2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life

Current Status:	Amber	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Good progress has been demonstrated many of the actions within the CYPP plan are either in progress or have been completed. More progress can be demonstrated when recruitment of schools in health and wellbeing initiatives including ASSIST commence, schools are signed up to the PSHE accredited course beginning in November 17, initiatives are embedded within the infant feeding and nutrition strategy and comparable data is available e.g. immunisations.		


3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing

Current Status:	Amber	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<p>The majority of actions and targets have been achieved by April 2017. Notable achievements include new services in specialist Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) that have now been launched (Single Point of Access, Community Eating Disorder Service and Enhanced Outreach Service). The new Improving Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in Schools service has been procured and is in the implementation phase. In addition a service to support children who have experienced sexual abuse is now being implemented; this service is called the Somerset Phoenix Project, working alongside professionals and supporting children, young people and families affected by sexual abuse. We have not yet recruited two psychologist posts to the CLA emotional health and wellbeing team, however, interviews are underway in April 2017.</p>		


4. Building skills for life

Current Status:	Amber	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<p>Good progress at the end of Quarter 4 with some actions still rated at amber going over in to Year 2. Most significant achievements are 42 schools inspected in this quarter result in the county having 92.2% of schools rated good or better which compares favourably to the national average of 88% and the south west average of 90.1%. The transition work is progressing robustly for students coming up to post 16 , especially vulnerable learners, in order to decrease our Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) figures in Somerset , and provide a positive and aspirational pathway for our school leavers.</p>		


5. Providing help early and effectively

Current Status:	Green	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<p>Good progress has been made in Quarter 4 and there is now a real focus on developing the model of integrated early help hubs for year 2. There will be an additional focus on partnership access to Professional Choices which host a number of “Tools To Do The Job” including the Who’s Who guide, Virtual Meeting Rooms and Early Help Assessment’s. Other notable achievements are the launch of the Early Help Case Management System in getset at the end March which is a significant collaborative project that will really support getset staff in more effective case management and freeing up more time to work with families.</p>		

6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children’s social work service

Current Status:	Amber	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<p>Good progress at the end of Quarter 4 with some actions still rated as amber going over in to Year 2. There has been significant progress in appointing permanent staff in Bridgwater office and First Response teams, who will both be over 70% permanent staffed by June 2017. However, there remain challenges in recruiting permanent staff to South Somerset and Taunton safeguarding teams in particular. There has been an increased number of contacts from partner agencies which has increased the number of referrals to Children’s Social Care, thus increasing workloads temporarily. The Edge of care work is progressing more slowly than anticipated due to difficulty in recruiting staff and the need to integrate this work into a wider Adolescent strategy. Placement stability remains a concern for children who have been looked after for more than 2 and half years. An in depth review of placement stability is being undertaken to identify how best to support longer term placements. The inability to appoint to the Assistant Director Quality Assurance continues to impact on senior management capacity across the partnership. We have not yet recruited psychologist posts to the CLA emotional health and wellbeing team, however, interviews are underway.</p>		

7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce

Current Status:	Amber	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	The workforce dashboard has been completed and signed off but still requires embedding. This will be monitored more closely in 2017/18. Work is underway to revise and realign the Think Family approach via the establishment of a multi-agency Task and Finish group. Recruitment processes are working well and attracting quality candidates.		

Somerset's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019

Seven Improvement Programmes Key Risks for 2016/17

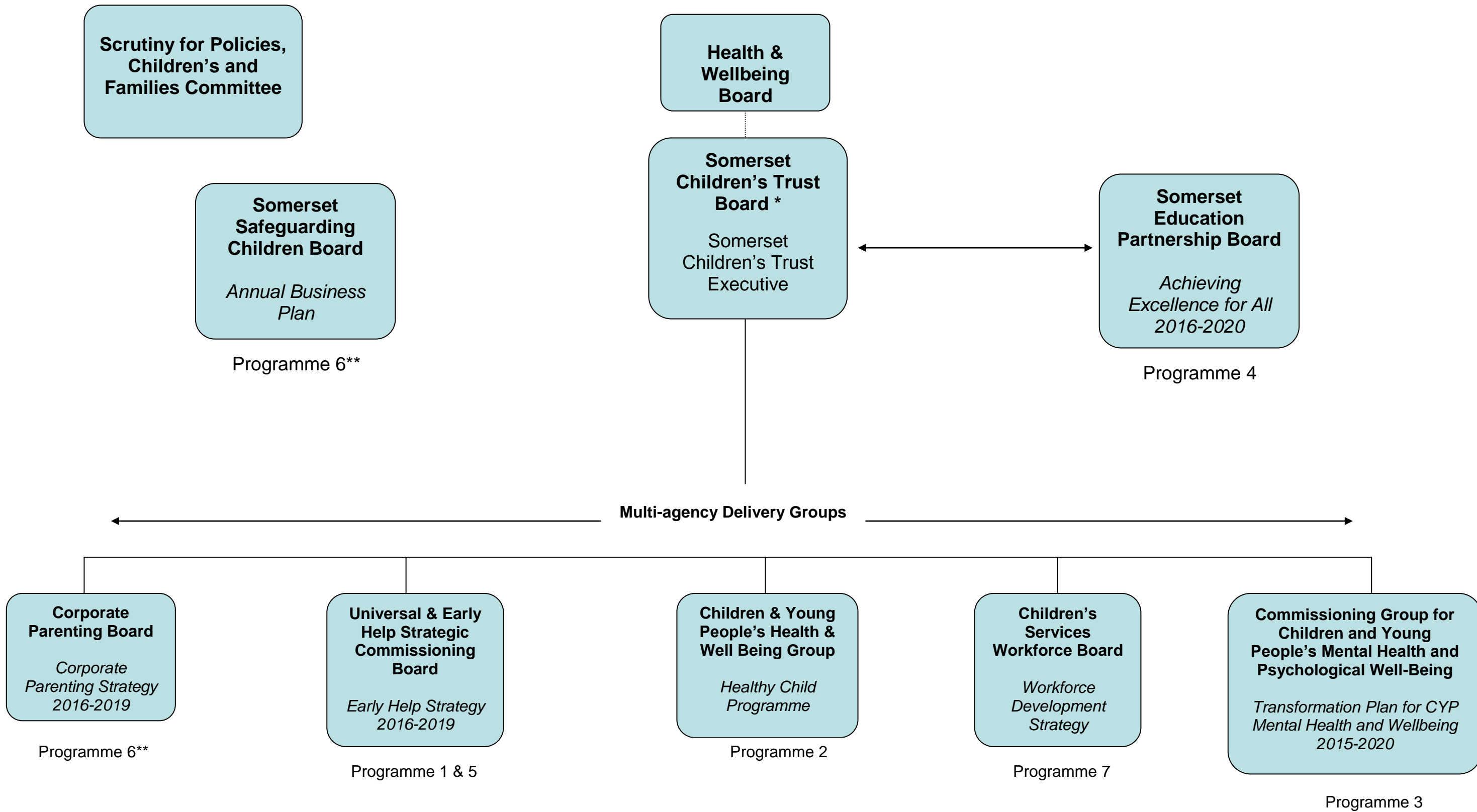
CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient	Risk that the Somerset partners will not be able to keep pace with the improvement activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding Police capacity to manage workflow and respond to joint enquiries in a timely manner • Refer-on culture deeply embedded amongst Somerset services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Senior Leaders providing leadership (& support) across the partnership and driving the agenda. • Increased culture of multi-agency collaboration and critical friend challenge at Strategic levels • Progress is reported through the Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust.
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life	Pressures in the NHS could lead to a lack of capacity / focus to improve the outcomes for vulnerable children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of CCG to Commission Children's Services • Health capacity for children looked after and their carers • Reduced capacity within prevention and early intervention programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYPP engagement events in hospitals to engage critical parts of the health community being led by health. • Senior Health lead appointments have been made and commenced in January 2017 • Concerns and progress are being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board • Exploring increased specialist medical capacity through the Regional Adoption Agency initiative
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing	Risk that the 'CAMHS transformation plan' does not deliver sufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in recruiting to key NHS posts • Limited NHS partnership with Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Board taking leadership in monitoring progress • Senior leaders engaging with CCG Commissioners and providers to progress

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>transformation to ensure early help and preventative activities are prioritised for all vulnerable groups in particular children looked after</p>		<p>developments and monitor performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns and progress are being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board • LA match resourcing support to develop a specialist team for children looked after. • Multi Agency Complex Cases Protocol • Implementation of new support to schools by Somerset Partnership commissioned by CCG
<p>4. Building skills for life</p>	<p>Risk that Schools do not improve the outcomes for vulnerable groups – children look after, special educational needs and children in receipt of pupil premium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools achieving well overall in outcomes / inspection judgements despite overall poor outcomes for vulnerable pupils • Excellent local practice by some schools not shared by others because of weak partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA leading the education strategic vision is giving priority to schools to focus on school improvement & pupil outcomes and not structural redesign • Investment by the LA in Somerset Education Partnerships to provide ‘critical friend’ support to all head teachers • Challenging school providers in relation to pupil outcomes • Strengthening the role and capacity of the Virtual School Head • Roll out of the Team around the School model to encourage multi-agency support to schools where they are best placed to meet child’s needs, in particular vulnerable groups • West Somerset Opportunity Area
<p>5. Providing help early and</p>	<p>Risk that the Somerset</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer-on culture deeply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Senior Leaders providing leadership

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
effectively	partners will not be able to keep pace with the improvement activities	embedded amongst Somerset services	(& support) across the partnership and driving the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased culture of multi-agency collaboration and critical friend challenge at Strategic levels • Progress is reported through the Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust • Development of multi-agency tools which aid collaboration and joint working including a collaboration platform to enable better quality sharing of information in a secure way, and the simplification of Early Help processes to aid engagement and ownership
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service	Risk that improvements will not be sustained and consistency of social work practice will remain a cause for concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent increase in demand and difficulties of recruitment led to dip in morale • Inconsistent practice amongst staff • Permanent staff not always clear about 'good' practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers taking action to control work • QPRM monthly meetings • Case Audits • Briefing events led by senior leaders on the journey travelled • Showcasing good practice
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce (year one focus is on developing the permanent social care	Risk that permanent social work vacancies are not filled at fast enough pace and an over reliance on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of locums in some teams is too high • Seasonal difficulties in recruiting experienced locums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan in place to achieve 75% permanent staffing • ASYE support by designated Consultant Social Work posts • Focused recruitment activity for

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
workforce)	recruitment of ASYEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbouring LA responding to their own difficulties with higher social work salaries 	<p>Experienced Social Workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasingly mature response by managers in terms of balancing pressures and maintaining quality • Clarity provided to multi-agency workforce of desired values and behaviours necessary to deliver the plan • Using the IR35 changes as an opportunity to convert locums to permanent staff • Looking after our own events focussed on resilience of the workforce

Governance Arrangements for the Somerset Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019



* Plus partners' own Statutory Requirements e.g. Somerset County Council, NHS Commissioners & providers, Avon and Somerset Police, Voluntary & Community Sector

** Safeguarding and social care activity is monitored by a number of different Boards and internally by Somerset County Council Children's Services own performance management arrangements.

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Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee
16 June 2017

SEND 0-25 - Peer Review Outcome

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services

Author: Rowina Clift-Shanley, Senior Programme Manager

Contact Details: 07585 983353

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member:

1. Summary

- 1.1.** In May 2017 Gloucestershire Council carried out a peer review of Somerset County Council, and partners, as part of the preparation for a Local Area Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disability 0-25 (SEND 0-25) by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The resulting report (appendix one) acknowledged some good practice and initiatives throughout the service but a local area inspection is likely to find 'significant weaknesses' in practice, based on progress to date in the implementation of SEND reforms and a lack of evidence to display the positive impact made in relation to outcomes for children across Somerset to date.

- 1.2.** Linking to better Education and prospects for our Children in the County Plan.
We will aim to have better school results for all children across all key stages and in particular at GCSE and A-Level with a particular focus on disadvantaged children.

- 1.3** Priority areas for improvement are strongly linked to the Children and Young People Plan 2016-19 (CYPP):
 - Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
 - Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
 - Improving emotional health and wellbeing
 - Building skills for life
 - Providing help early and effectively
 - Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people
 - Embedding a Think Family approach across the workforce

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** A system wide response to the peer review findings is required and this will need to include input from partners from Clinical Commissioning Group, Health, Education, Adults & Health, Social Care and the voluntary sector as SEND 0-25 is everyone's business.

- 2.2.** The logistical arrangements for an inspection require a response from corporate support services within Somerset County Council, including Business Intelligence, Communications and Business Support.

- 2.3. The framework for holding this intervention will need to be supported by Business Change resource as a rapid response needs to be mobilised.

Priority areas and strategic leads have been identified:

1. **Joint Commissioning** - Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance
2. **Health Engagement** - Lydia Woodward, Service development and Clinical Engagement Manager (Clinical Commissioning Group)
3. **Transitions** - Mel Lock, Operations Director Adults and Health
4. **Participation** - Ruth Hobbs, Chair Somerset Parent Carer Forum
5. **Early Help for SEND 0-25** - Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance
6. **Statutory Assessment** - Len Brazier, Interim Head of SEND
7. **Complex cases** - Julian Wooster, Director of Children’s Services and Sandra Corry, Director of Quality and Patient Safety (Clinical Commissioning Group)
8. **School Improvement** - Neal Chislett, Strategic Manager Educational Effectiveness
9. **Intervention arrangements and Inspection readiness** – Rowina Clift-Shanley, Senior Programme Manager

Priority area groups will meet fortnightly focussing on addressing the findings of the Gloucestershire peer review and will report to a newly established multi-agency SEND 0-25 Intervention group.

Governance

Strategic leads from the Clinical Commissioning Group, Education, Adult Social Care, Public Health and Children’s Social Care will form the SEND 0-25 Intervention delivery group. This group will meet monthly to:

- Ensure alignment with the Children and Young People Plan 2016-19.
- Act as leads and champions for SEND 0-25 demonstrating co-operation in Somerset.
- Monitor priority delivery; escalate issues and risks where appropriate for collective unblocking of system wide problems.
- Assign resource to priorities as part of the intervention such as task and finish groups or other existing multi-agency mechanisms (sub-groups, operational groups).

Outcomes and progress will be reported to the Somerset Children’s Trust and Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Background

- 3.1.** The biggest education reform for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) became law on 1st September 2014. The act offered simpler, improved and more consistent help for children and young people with SEND and extended provision from birth to 25 years of age. The act extends rights and protection to young people by introducing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) which identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.
- 3.2.** Subsequently the Minister of State for Children and Families tasked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission with jointly inspecting all local areas (by 2020) to see how well they fulfil their responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 3.3** An Interim Head of SEND is now in post to bring capacity and subject matter expertise in the response to the Gloucestershire peer review findings.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** None required in relation to this report.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** Any changes recommended as a result of the priority intervention areas should improve the educational outcomes for people with SEND.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** Somerset Peer Review report (appendix one)
- 6.2.** [Local area SEND inspection framework](#)
[Children and Young People Plan](#)
[SEND Strategy](#)

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

SOMERSET PEER REVIEW LOCAL AREA SEND

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) was asked to undertake a peer review of Somerset County Council (SCC), and partners, as part of their preparation for a Local Area Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disability.

The review team consisted of Gloucestershire staff across education, social care and health services and the independent consultant who had supported GCC on preparing for the SEND reforms and for their own Local Area SEND inspection. This report details their findings.

Additional support was provided to SCC in relation to the systems and logistics surrounding an inspection process and feedback from this work will be provided separately.

1. STRUCTURE

In line with the Ofsted/CQC framework, three primary questions were identified for review:

- A. How effectively does the Local Area **identify** children and young people (CYP) who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND)?
- B. How effectively does the Local Area **assess and meet the needs** of children and young people (CYP) who have SEND?
- C. How effectively does the Local Area **improve outcomes** for children and young people (CYP) who have SEND?

It was agreed that these questions would be investigated via ten key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) proposed by Somerset County Council:

- 1) How effectively do CYP with SEND achieve in Somerset?
- 2) Do parents and carers of CYP with SEND have confidence in the local area's leaders and services?
- 3) Is there timely and accurate assessment of, and planning for, their children's needs? How engaged are parents in the process?
- 4) How effective is the local offer?
- 5) How effective are the local area's information management systems? How do they enable more effective and efficient provision?
- 6) How effective is the provision at post 16 and post 19?
- 7) Have the absence and exclusion rates for CYP with SEND been recognised by the local area as a priority for action?
- 8) What is the provision in terms of DMO plus and how effective is it?

- 9) How effective is CAMHS in supporting the SEND agenda?
- 10) What is the experience for CYP across the county in terms of health and therapeutic provision?

2. METHODOLOGY

There were two phases to the review.

2.1 Preparatory phase (January to May 2017)

Each KLOE was allocated to the most relevant officer who was tasked with gathering information and evidence to form an initial hypothesis and identify areas for further investigation during the on site review. The Chair of Gloucestershire's parent carer forum made contact with their Somerset counterpart to undertake preparatory work on the parents experience of the local area.

Specific focused work was carried out with SCC on KLOEs 4 and 5 in this phase, so these were not specifically considered in any more depth during the on site visit. Whilst the key findings are summarised within this report, more detailed feedback on these KLOEs were provided separately at the time.

There were substantial difficulties in gaining requested information from Somerset colleagues during this phase which significantly constrained the level of preparatory work that was possible. As such preparatory work to inform the on-site activity could only be completed on KLOEs 1, 2 and 7. The remaining KLOEs relied solely upon information presented during the on-site review.

2.2 On-site review (10th & 11th May 2017)

Two days of meetings at SCC were held for the review team to meet relevant staff and gather evidence to make a judgement against the primary questions. These sessions were arranged by SCC to mirror, as far as possible, the expected timetable associated with local area inspections.

Documentation shared during the two days of review was appreciated, and helpful, but unfortunately there was not sufficient time to take full account of these alongside the other information which had been gathered during the on-site review.

It must be emphasised that the content of this report is solely based upon evidence presented directly to the review team. There has been no verification or triangulation as would be the case during an inspection.

3. SUMMARY STATEMENT

It is likely that a local area inspection would find significant weaknesses in the local area's practice based upon progress to date and the lack of evidence forthcoming to display the impact made on children across Somerset to date.

Senior leaders acknowledge that there was a delay in responding to the SEND reform agenda – which is reflected by the reactive nature of the SEND work since 2015. This means that the local area has not made the level of progress that would be expected by the reforms in terms of showing improved outcomes for children and young people. There has been a slow pace of change and it is unclear why certain areas have been

prioritised over others when looking purely at the measurable impact these have made for CYP with SEND.

Partnership working seems to be in its infancy, especially with health, and there was little evidence of a collective understanding of the local areas response to the SEND agenda. However, it is recognised that key posts have now been filled and there are some positive ideas for moving forward; especially around joint commissioning. The DMO role has recently been filled for 2 days a week and this may benefit from being increased, alongside identification of SEND champions/leads in the other health trusts, to more fully embed integrated working.

Good progress is evident in establishing the 'hearts and minds' agenda with schools, parents and young people – underpinning successful co-production and joint ownership in recent developments. This is impressive within the applicable timescale and will be a significant achievement if embedded across the whole local area.

There are many good initiatives and innovations in progress which were presented by committed and enthusiastic people understanding the need to work closely together to improve services to children and young people with SEND. However, the connection was not evident between these initiatives and the strategic priorities of the local area. There are a number of strategies in place but these do not seem to be easily aligned or provide a clear direction for all partners. This is not helped by lack of a specific action plan for SEND upon which the partnership agenda could be based. The overall strategic leadership for SEND in the local area was unclear.

Whilst the joint strategic needs analysis informs strategic plans there was no evidence of routinely monitoring impact and therefore progress made by the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND could not be established.

4. FEEDBACK AGAINST PRIMARY QUESTIONS

4.1 A: How effectively does the Local Area **identify** children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND)?

- The LA has undertaken a thorough self evaluation across services with key data gathered and presented. The self evaluation framework demonstrates good understanding of the issues at management level but some progress may be overstated considering the level of evidence presented. It is however an 'education heavy' document which would benefit from more obvious input from partners.
- There was limited reference to the graduated pathway so it is unclear how well this is known and implemented by schools, health and social care. Early identification and the implementation of the graduated pathway does not appear to be embedded across community health services.
- Processes in Early Years appear to be well established with effective multi agency partnerships and panels to identify and map provision. The DMO is working on producing a health referral form for this panel.
- The development and implementation of co-produced Core Standards is reported to be making a significant difference to schools and parents with regard to identification of SEND. However, these are education core standards with no obvious multi-agency input.

- There is developing involvement of health and social care professionals in statutory assessment. Support services report that they are taking a more significant role in statutory assessment processes and where CYP are placed in independent provision.
- There is a greater focus on statutory EHC assessment for CYP with complex SEND and parents report increased confidence in processes.
- Parent forum representatives are positive about progress with the assessment process and provision of support.
- The Team around the School (TAS) approach provides multi-agency input into identification of CYP who may have SEND and be unknown to services.
- It is unclear how many CYP with SEND have health needs in the local area. The DMO is starting to address this and has implemented an improved pathway for obtaining the analysis of assessment information from the Hospital Trusts.
- The role of the Health Visitor has been re-assessed and there is more of a focus on early identification & joined up working for children with SEND.
- There is an ASD assessment monthly panel that is well attended by professionals from health, education and social care to identify these CYP and see how their needs can be better met.
- Health partners are working on setting up a single point of access for CAMHS and Paediatric services.

4.2 B: How effectively does the Local Area **assess and meet the needs** of children and young people who have SEND?

- The shift from the historic position of making a large proportion of SEND provision without statements has presented some major challenges in relation to the SEND reforms. Coupled with the delay in responding to this agenda, basic processes are still not meeting the expected standards, although they are improving e.g. statutory timescales in issuing or transforming EHCPs.
- Currently there appears to be very limited strategic use of data to underpin ongoing improvement and review. Data gathering is adhoc and analysis is very limited. Links between education, health and social care to collect, share and use information and data do not yet appear to be in place.
- Somerset's Local Offer has all required fields and has an effective search function. However, some of the information provided, especially by external partners, lacks detail of what children and young people with SEND and their families can reasonably expect from services. An action plan has been drafted to develop the LO.
- The parent carer forum, with support from SCC, has worked closely with schools to improve their school information reports and accessibility. The current audit is half-way through progress but suggests that 84% of schools are now compliant (compared to 7% 18 months ago).
- Despite a high level of maintained special school provision, a higher than average proportion of children are placed in independent provision in and out of county (25% travel out of area). This has been highlighted as an area for action by SCC.
- A joint commissioning strategy is being developed to incorporate children with additional needs as well as those children with the most complex SEND. The historic practice of providing educational funding to support CYP with SEND

without a statement (or EHCP) has meant that a multi-agency approach has not been taken in these cases.

- There are multi agency panels in place for those CYP at risk of care, complex care, permanence and legal gateway. These consider the CYP's needs and legal status and plans resources to best respond to this.
- There are well established processes and provision in place to assess and meet the needs of early years children and to support their transition to school. This is enhanced through the use of a designated teacher role to set outcomes and support transition for children in care (CIC).
- There is an increased focus on outreach services from special schools and PRUs to support schools in building capacity but some schools have a relatively limited capacity to assess and meet the needs of CYP with SEND.
- There appears to be a significant gap for pupils with behavioural needs. PRUs provide outreach support but this has not impacted on the high levels of exclusion which continue to rise. Some perverse incentives, e.g. SCC funding provision for students at risk of exclusion, are apparently still in place for schools despite funding reforms.
- CAMHS do not support CYP with SEMH needs. The emotional wellbeing and positive behaviour strategy group have provided toolkits for use however there are no measurable outcomes yet available from this work. There is work planned to recruit clinical psychologists to further develop this work and link with CAMHS, developing improved use of SDQs and supporting placement stability.
- Health partners (Paediatricians, Therapists & CAMHS) contribute to EHCPs. However, there is currently no health representative on the EHCP panel nor formal agreement for signing off plans and health are not consistently involved in plans for all relevant CYP.
- The request for information forms are currently very education focused and are in the process of being updated to capture CYPs health needs in school.
- The DMO has responsibility for mediation but it is not clear how this is aligned to the local authority mediation service and processes to ease access for CYP and their families.
- There has been no planning with health partners about how they can meet the needs of CYP whose statements are being transformed to EHCP's and how the future demand capacity will be managed when the large number of CYP with extra funding will be assessed for an EHCP instead of their current funding plan.
- There is positive work evident with the Virtual School. The number of CIC with PEPs has been increased (currently 96%) to improve their educational outcomes and weekly tracking meetings are in place to monitor progress.
- There are improved outcomes for CIC having their health needs met through work undertaken with YP regarding their health assessments which has now reached 98%.
- Parent carers and officers report increased short break provision to YP with early health assessments and an increased range of community provision. Data was available on the volume of activity but not on the outcomes achieved as a result of the support provided.
- There appear to be initiatives in place which are showing initial signs of supporting young people to make an effective transition into adulthood. There

are no evidenced outcomes yet for many of these initiatives but data does show the improved retention of YP in college following the TAS meetings (currently at 94%).

- There was clear multi agency recognition of the need to prepare for adulthood early on and plans included this. It was reported that the level of all YP who are NEET was reducing and that destination data showed improved outcomes for YP with SEND using Project Search (Supported Internships) with 75 % of YP achieving employment.
- Development of the transition service has been co-produced. This includes multi-agency transition panels, Life Choice events and a clear strategic drive towards independence. There are a number of initiatives underway with multi-agency engagement, particularly with adult social care and supported employment services but outcomes are not yet evident for this work.
- The short break offer has been extended with more scope for families to choose options which help to develop independence skills for CYP.
- Outcomes are being assessed using numbers of CYP accessing short breaks, broken down into disability groups, and by using case studies. However, there was no evidence provided on the long term measures of impact on preparing for adulthood outcomes for YP with SEND.
- Health partners are currently working on a transition pathway to adult services for YP but this needs to be joined up across all health organisations.
- The LA recognises there is limited planning and an insufficiency of local provision to meet needs post 19 (and for some CYP post 16) and is seeking to address this.

4.3 C: How effectively does the Local Area **improve outcomes** for children and young people (CYP) who have SEND?

- No clear evidence of improving outcomes for CYP with SEND was available and as such all relevant outcome indicators are of concern.
- Information on the levels of progress made and outcomes achieved by CYP with statements or EHCPs is not yet consistently gathered or used.
- There is an over reliance on recent actions and initiatives since most of the key leaders across services are relatively recent appointments. This has impacted upon progress in implementing the 2014 reforms and ongoing SEND development, including on outcomes for CYP, which would have been expected to be more advanced.
- Professionals across the local area appear to be committed and knowledgeable at strategic and operational levels respectively, but linkage is as yet unclear.
- There is a range of interesting initiatives in early stages of development but their strategic coherence in terms of impact is not clear and it is difficult to identify within the documentation a 'golden thread' of joint strategic priorities across education, health and social care that would underline the focus on improved outcomes.
- Systems to check quality and impact of work are not yet well developed and embedded.
- There is an overall sense that partnership working to improve outcomes for CYP with SEND is still at a relatively early stage of development and not yet

well established or embedded in all aspects.

- Health partners reported a need to improve their skills in writing outcome focused plans. No initial training was given to facilitate this change under the SEND reforms.
- No improved outcomes for CYP with a personal health budget were evidenced as outcomes measures have not been identified and implemented.
- The need for improved partnership working for CYP with complex needs has been recognised but processes are not yet developed or embedded - although a complex needs multi-agency panel has now been established.
- There is a mismatch between the good and improving performance of individual schools, the overall attainments of learners in Somerset which generally at least meets statistical expectations, and the relatively poor attainment of learners with SEND which is not improving.
- Attendance and exclusions of CYP with SEND is relatively poor and deteriorating with recent initiatives not yet having a positive impact.
- There is a strong parent carer forum. Membership has increased significantly over the last two years and is increasingly becoming representative of the wider community of families who have CYP with SEND. The forum is well organised and fully supports representatives to have the skills and knowledge required to fully participate in meaningful co-production and service development. This is a real strength in the area.
- Preparing for adulthood outcomes are now being included in EHCP processes to enable planning to be considered by families and all partners from an early age. Data indicated that 80 YP previously supported with LDAs are now supported with EHCPs.
- A focused multi-agency transitions team now supports pupils from mainstream schools moving into post 16 education. Plans are in place to extend this to special schools in the near future. A positive impact was reported on a general reduction in NEETS and improved retention in FE colleges but there was no specific data for YP with SEND within these measures.
- There was evidence of strong engagement and participation with YP to shape careers guidance and opportunities through 'Choices for Life'.

5. POINTS TO CONSIDER

- 5.1 Develop clear key messages which demonstrate the local areas response to the SEND reforms and the outcomes expected to be achieved. Priorities were explained as diminishing the difference (the meaning of which is unclear), reducing travel times and partnership working but there was no clarity on the outcomes this would achieve for CYP with SEND across partners.
- 5.2 Create multi-agency forums to build on the local SEND strategy and ensure consistent and cohesive messages are embedded across the local area, and at all levels.
- 5.3 Create a communication strategy to present and embed key messages across and within services across the whole local area.
- 5.4 Develop a more comprehensive scene setting approach to provide clarity on the local areas response to the reform and rationale for priorities made and actions taken.
- 5.5 Develop an overarching SEND action plan to enable strategic priorities to be

taken forward consistently across partners and at all levels within services.

- 5.6 Partnership working across health agencies needs to be further developed in order to gain buy in from all areas of health provision.
- 5.7 Expand Core Standards across agencies.
- 5.8 Address information management systems to underpin development, inform strategy and track outcomes achieved.

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Progress Report on the Implementation of the 30 hrs Early Years Entitlement

Lead Officer: Dave Farrow, Head of Outcomes and Sufficiency

Author: Charlotte Wilson, Service Manager Early Years Commissioning

Contact Details: 01823 357386

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: All members

1. Summary

- 1.1. At the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 9th December 2016 where the Committee considered a paper on the capital bids that had been made to the EFSA to support the implementation of the 30 hpw entitlement it was agreed that given the requirement to deliver 30 hpw funded places for 3 and 4 year olds from the 1 September 2017 was a statutory requirement it would be appropriate for the Committee to receive an update on the progress being made to meet the Council's statutory responsibility.

This report provides the requested updates on the capital projects that were approved by the EFSA to support sufficiency of places for the 30 hours agenda. This report also aims to inform members of the progress of the early years commissioning team's 30 hours strategy.

- 1.2. Capital funding and support strategies to the early years sector aims to help create sufficient childcare places for the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in Somerset and supports the Somerset's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 (CYPP) seven improvement programmes including "Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life".

The CYPP links to the Education target in the County Plan 2016 -2020. Sufficiency of early year's places for 3 and 4 year olds is also a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 and 2016.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Scrutiny committee are asked to note the progress being made in of preparing for the introduction of the new extended entitlement (30 hours) which comes into effect from 1st September 2017, to note the risks of not being able to meet our statutory responsibilities in this area and the mitigation being put in place to manage them.
- 2.2. Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress being made to deliver the capital projects that have been approved by the Education Funding and Skills Agency (EFSA) to contribute to the extended entitlement (30 hours) for three and four year olds in Somerset from September 2017.

3. Background

- 3.1. **30 Hour Places for 3 and 4 year olds**

The Childcare Act 2016 discharged a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient places for the extended entitlement of 30 hours childcare for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. The government has recognised that capital funding will be required to support the delivery of this offer through the creation of additional capacity in the sector and new processes required to ensure that parents applying for funded places were eligible.

3.2. 30 hours strategy implementation

The Childcare Service is now live and parents across the country can now apply for their 30 hours entitlement. This is not via the LA, but direct to the government via www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. The statistics for Somerset of successful applications received weekly from the DFE are confidential, but indicate a high success rate for parents in the county.

A 30 hours strategy has been created for the implementation of 30 hours. This covers:

Communications: the SCC website has its own page for 30 hours for both parents and providers. The Parents page for Somerset available at www.somerset.gov.uk/eye30. The Providers page for Somerset available at www.somerset.gov.uk/eye30provider

Purdah has restricted a national campaign from national government. Somerset County Council will be launching a simultaneous social media and leaflet campaign by the end of June 2017 to target the general public.

Sufficiency: A county sufficiency report will be released by September 2017 and includes supply and demand estimates for 30 hours for the county.

As of 31st May 2017, 280 providers out of 496 that accept the entitlement have registered as offering the 30 hours spaces (56%). This is approximately 3902 spaces. Offering spaces is not mandatory and providers voluntarily register online at www.somerset.gov.uk/eye30provider with the Local Authority as offering the extended entitlement, so there may be more providers that will be offering spaces. Proactive exercises to establish this are being carried out in June and July 2017.

It is not mandatory for providers to offer the 30 hours spaces, therefore the Local Authority must use supportive strategies with the sector to achieve sufficiency. The early year's team has a positive relationship with its providers in terms of communications, and there has been positive feedback from the sector about how all staff has kept them up to date with important information and events.

ICT and claiming the entitlement: Somerset County Council early years were also successful in their bid for Digital accelerate funding from the EFSA, and have received £20,689.30 towards implementing IT solutions for ECS checking for the 30 hours free childcare entitlement.

These funds have been used to add functionality to the Somerset Choices website, to purchase a Capita One module that enables providers to check 30 hours codes online, and to support migration to an online claiming portal for the county.

SEND; early years provider evenings have promoted the Local Offer as well as briefing providers about the introduction of the Disability Access Fund for early years.

Business support for early year’s providers; SSE improvement team were commissioned to deliver business support workshops to early years providers. As of 31st of May 2017, 271 providers have attended these with a positive response from evaluations.

Early Years communications and provider evenings have focused on clear messages about the 30 hours, and what business planning is needed to prepare.

Action for Children is also hosting an event on the 13th of June 2017 to promote partnership working between childminders and schools.

3.3. Capital Bids

Expressions of interest were sought from the early year’s sector; these were advertised through various communication channels and through Schools Forum. Applications were scored against the EFA criteria set out in the application guidance. The six projects put forward scored the highest scores at shortlisting and are most likely to meet the tight timeframe to be ready to deliver 30 hour spaces in September 2017. The final six projects are a combination of both Local Authority led bids and private providers

Somerset submitted six projects for consideration by the Education Funding Agency on 31 August 2016 using a standard application form designed by the EFA. These were all approved in December 2016, and the total capital funding awarded to Somerset was £1,515,027.31.

4. Progress of Capital Projects

4.1. 1. Rockets, Rockwell Green Primary School, Wellington

Relocation of Modular building from Brock House; 20 new places

LA/ PRIVATE	Original project cost submitted	Current estimated cost	Difference
LA	226,143	274,000	+ 47,857

Status: Completed

The Brock House Modular unit was moved on the 22nd of March 2017. IT and telephone, and panels on the decking waiting. DFE monitoring was submitted for the project, and a developing and extending grant has been approved by early years commissioning for resources and marketing for the nursery.

4.2. 2. Brockvale, Pen Elm, Taunton - now Penvale Lodge children's day nursery

Refurbish unit on garden centre site to create nursery; 40 new places

LA/ PRIVATE	Original project cost submitted	Current estimated cost
Private	374,699	374,699

Status: Opening date moved to January 2018

The project lead, Go Commando has parted with their partner who was to deliver the early years on site. They are now actively looking for a new partner with support from the early years team. Due to this, a scope change was submitted and accepted by the EFSA to move the completion date to January 2018.

The completion of the conversion of the building is not facing any issues and the charity is working with the owner to secure the required planning for the site access.

4.3. 3. Paddocks day nursery, Wiveliscombe

Internal remodelling of Children's Centre to expand early years; 40 new places

LA/ PRIVATE	Original project cost submitted	Current estimated cost	Difference
LA	247,703	343,000	+95,297

Status: On target for September 2017

Works will need to be carried out in phased approach as setting must stay open. More structural work that in feasibility now needs to take place, and this is reflected in increased cost

DFE monitoring submitted for the project; there is no additional funding from the EFSA and additional costs have been covered by the early years capital investment programme.

Meeting with local youth group about use of the building has taken place and draft user agreement being produced.

4.4. 4. Chuggers day nursery, Taunton

Convert first and second storey from domestic to nursery use; 34 new places

LA/ PRIVATE	Original project cost submitted	Current estimated cost
PRIVATE	551,372	551,372

Status: On target for September 2017

Grant agreement revised and signed by provider, RAEF LTD. First payment issued to provider for works completed, and being monitored by Debbie Tarry, project officer for early years commissioning. DFE monitoring has been submitted for this project.

4.5. Salmon Parade, Bridgwater

Convert former wing of former hospital at Salmon Parade to nursery- new provision; 32 new places

This is a second provision for the private provider and their current site will remain open as well.

LA/ PRIVATE	Original project cost submitted	Current estimated cost
PRIVATE	365,755	365,755

Status: Opening date moved to January 2018

The DFE have approved a change of scope for the project so that it can open in January 2018. This is due to a delay in obtaining full planning permission for the change of use, and with recruitment to secure suitable candidates for the leadership roles at the second site.

4.6. 6. Neroche Primary School, Broadway, Neroche

New nursery provision in a modular building at front of school site, and retaining provision at village hall premises; 30 new places

LA/ PRIVATE	Original project cost submitted	Current estimated cost	Difference
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LA	362,123	457,000	+94,877
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Status: On target for September 2017

Kier appointed to be contractor for the project. DFE monitoring submitted for the project; there is no additional funding from the EFSA and additional costs have been covered by the early years capital investment programme.

The school have issued a consultation to lower the age range of the school as part of establishing early years on site.

5. Implications

5.1. Financial:

The capital projects commitment from the local authority has increased by £238,031 in total, from an initial £398,843 to £585,800. This had been covered by the early year’s capital investment budget as the EFSA were clear in the terms and conditions that any additional costs were the LA’s responsibility.

Legal costs have also been incurred to the Local Authority due to the need for contracts and grant agreements to be created for private providers.

Commissioned workshops, publications and promotions have also required resources from the early year’s revenue budget. This has been mitigated by the section 33 grant for ICT implementation from the EFSA.

5.2. Statutory duty:

It is not mandatory for providers to offer the 30 hours spaces, therefore the Local Authority must use supportive strategies with the sector to achieve sufficiency. There is then, a risk that there will not be sufficient places for families to access 30 hours as providers voluntarily register with the Local Authority as offering the extended entitlement.

As the application service is now live and parents begin to book places, their demand may influence providers’ decision making on offering spaces. As more applications are registered, a clearer picture of demand will be known.

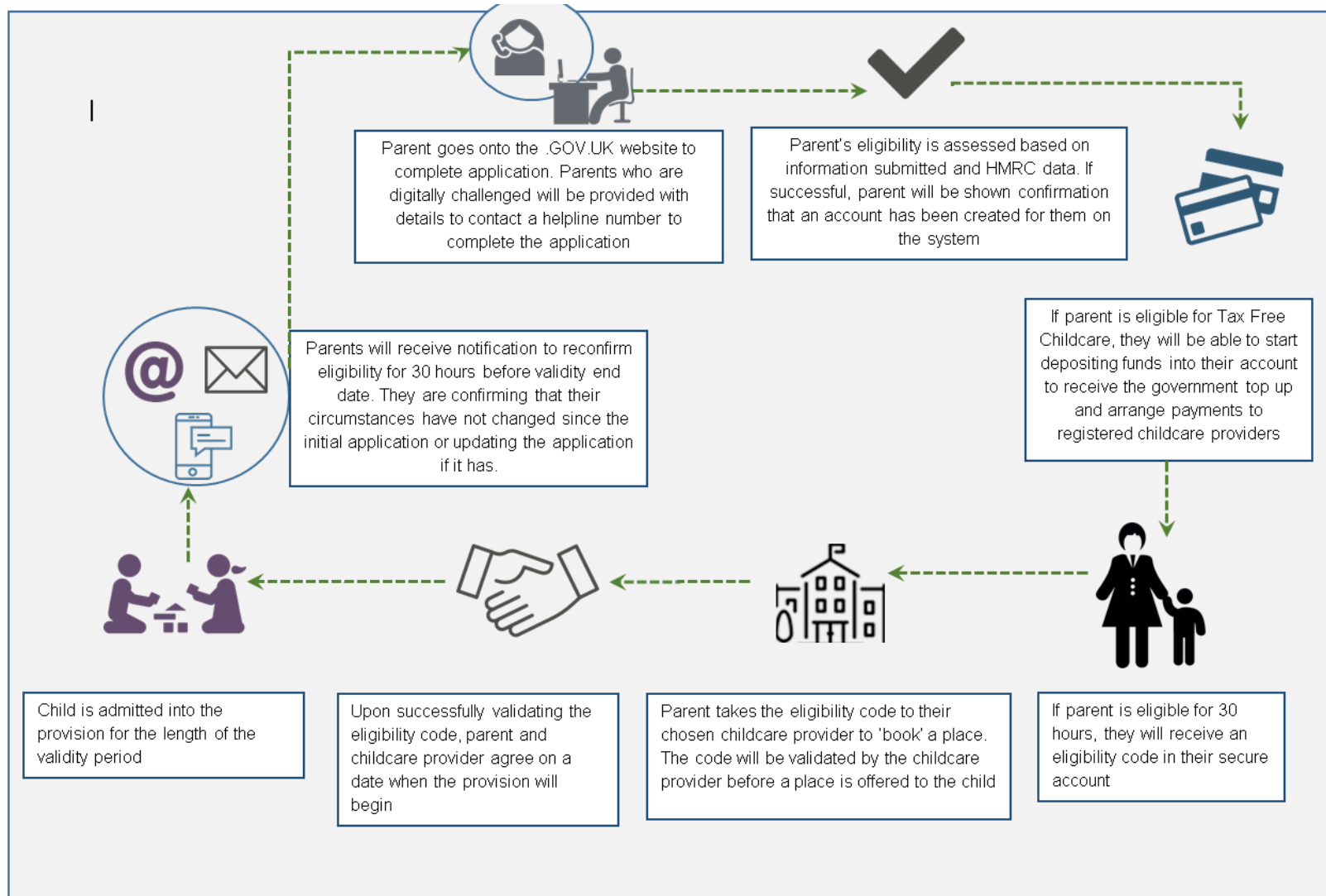
6. Background papers

- 6.1.** Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee – 09 December 2016 ‘Early Years Bid for Capital Funding to the EFA for projects to secure 30 hours funded places for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds’
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s2353/2016%20Dec%209%20-%20Item%207%20-EFA%20report.pdf>

6.2. Somerset Early Years 30 hours strategy 2016-17. Contact Charlotte Wilson, Service Manager Early Years Commissioning cwilson@somerset.gov.uk 01823 357386.

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

Appendix A- Parent Journey for 30 hours extended entitlement



**Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families
Committee – 16 June 2017**

Fostering Recruitment Update

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster (DCS)

Author: Becky Hopkins (Strategic Manager - Placements and Resources)

Contact Details: 01823 357146

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on fostering recruitment activity. A full report was provided to Scrutiny Committee in December 2016. Refer to Section 6 below.
- 1.2. Increasing local care placements remains a key service priority in the Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 linking directly to Somerset's Sufficiency Action Plan.
- 1.3. The rolling programme of pro-active recruitment activity continues with the support of the Communications Team.
- 1.4. The recruitment of sufficient numbers of foster carers for children in care is a rising challenge both locally and nationally. This is alongside a national rise in the number of children in care although Somerset has been able to hold this number steady at approximately 475 children for a period of 12 months. This is due to increased scrutiny in relation to care planning and support provided to families to enable them to continue to care for children at home.
- 1.5. The lack of sufficient numbers of foster placements is a significant pressure within the service and it affects the delivery of appropriate plans for children. It remains the case that local authorities across the country are at times forced to place children, particularly older children, in placements which may not meet their assessed need, for example, children may be placed in residential provision or in placements out of county due to insufficient fostering provision particularly for those children with more complex needs.
- 1.6. Performance information for 2016/17 evidences a continued increased use of in-house fostering provision despite an overall net loss of foster carers. The main reasons for foster carers leaving the service is due to permanence being achieved for children via alternative legal routes, retirement, ill health and family commitments.

2. Issues for consideration/ recommendations

- 2.1. As per the December 2016 Report to Scrutiny, a review of recruitment activity has been undertaken and is being implemented. Details of ongoing recruitment activity can be found via the service's website www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk or via Facebook (Fostering in Somerset) and Twitter (@fostersomerset).

- 2.2. The service has been consulting with foster carers on the support offer available to them to ensure that this is competitive and good enough to attract and retain foster carers with the right skills and experience. This work has included a comparison exercise with other local authorities and a review of the Foster Carer's Progression Scheme and the fees and allowances available to foster carers. The work has taken into account the changing economic climate, the need to attract younger families who can offer longevity in addition to families who may be in a more secure position and are able to be more flexible as their own families have left home. This piece of work will be completed by the end of June 2017 and presented to cabinet thereafter.

3. Background

3.1. Recruitment Activity

- 3.2. The priority areas for recruitment activity continue to be:

- People who can foster children aged 10 and over;
- People who can care for children with disabilities;
- People who can foster sibling groups to keep them together;
- People with the skills to support young people with complex needs who need additional support to make positive steps in their lives.

- 3.3. Recruitment activity is now more 'broad brush' aimed at prospective carers who may be able to care for children of all ages due to the shortage of carers for all ages.

- 3.4. Innovative and energetic recruitment campaigns continue to run alongside national events such as Fostering Fortnight. The service maintains a high profile in the local media and on social media such as Facebook and Twitter, using interactive communications which have included foster carers in blogs and tweets and live web chats.

- 3.5. Recent recruitment activity has included a flash mob choir in Taunton town centre in March 2017 and the 'Five Peaks Challenge'. Fostering Fortnight in May 2017 included the following:

- **'Fostering Firsts'** themed event in Taunton town centre:

- Visual campaign surrounding 'fostering firsts' - images and real stories about the childhood milestones that some children do not get to experience without the dedication and love of a foster carer e.g. baking biscuits together, going to the seaside, birthday parties etc.
- Stall with heart-shaped biscuits. Leafleting and chatting to public about fostering.

- Banner displayed in Taunton town centre, outside the Tourist Information Office.
- **‘Fostering Firsts’** intensive social media campaign including a blog from a ‘grown up’ foster child about his experiences. 7,858 views, 287 link clicks, 111 likes and shares.
- **‘Fostering Firsts Video’** 13,392 reach 7,200 views, 217 reactions, likes and shares. After posting, average monthly web traffic to www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk spiked by 166% on average sessions.
- **‘Five Peaks Challenge’ event** – Hike in Somerset raising awareness of the need for Foster Carers in Somerset and money for the Somerset Foster Carer Association. Positive reaction to social media coverage. Several posts on Facebook – highest post reach per post 3857, 90 likes and shares. Tweets gained 2020 impressions and 130 engagements.
- Tweet endorsed by celebrity racehorse trainer Paul Nichols – 10,041 impressions 163 engagements.
- Fostering Friday on Twitter 19th May – 12 Tweets, 12,009 impressions, 101 engagements.
- Coverage of SCC launching FCF2017 and dates of upcoming Fostering and Adoption Information Events in Local Reach Magazine, Street.
- Additional fostering information event in Street 16th May – Wessex Hotel 10 people attended.
- Fostering stall at Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury Tesco 19th and 20th May.
- Articles in Our Somerset

Fostering Fortnight as a national event became a far more low profile event than in previous years due to the general election.

- 3.6. The Recruitment Team continues to run successful monthly information sessions for both prospective foster carers and adopters supported by Costa Coffee. In recent months these have been targeted at areas such as Shepton Mallet where foster carer numbers are lower than would be expected.
- 3.7. Recruitment and Retention Performance
- 3.8. The number of enquiries received for fostering in 2016/17 was the lowest for 6 years (351). The number of approvals in 2016/17 was also lower than in

previous years (24). This is also the experience of neighbouring local authorities.

- 3.9. In the year to date 7 new fostering households have been approved with 29 assessments of prospective carers ongoing at various stages.
- 3.10. Currently the service has 253 approved households in total. Of this cohort approximately 160 households have an approval range which would include 10 years olds but may only go up to age 11 or 12. There are 17 households approved as connected persons with a further 11 approved temporarily and being assessed for either full approval or a Special Guardianship Order.
- 3.11. During 2016 - 17, 62 households including 26 connected persons ceased fostering. This is compared to 71 in 2015 - 16. The majority of connected persons arrangements transfer to Special Guardianship Orders and therefore this is a positive outcome for children as they cease to become looked after and are cared for within their extended family.
- 3.12. De-registration numbers remain high and represent a net loss of fostering households. The reasons for deregistration remain various (See Appendix 1). For a number of carers this is because permanence has been secured for the children placed with them. For example, connected persons who go on to make alternative legal arrangements to secure the child placed with them or foster carers who become special guardians or adopt the children in their care. The other main reason is due to changes in the foster carer's family circumstances. Only 4 carers gave dissatisfaction with the service as a reason for deregistration and no carers have left the service to transfer to another fostering agency.
- 3.13. Despite a net loss of in-house carers in 2016/17 the service has been able to not only maintain but increase the number of in-house placements made since 1st April 2016 and more children from our target group have been placed in-house (see Appendices 2 and 3). This demonstrates that despite a high number of de-registrations, foster carers with the most to offer have been recruited, supported and retained from our target groups. The service works hard to deliver quality and quantity and maintain a focus on the risks this can present in the face of the sufficiency challenge.
- 3.14. The service continues to provide a good offer of support to foster carers which includes regular contact with their Supervising Social Worker, a varied training programme which enables foster carers to train alongside social workers and other professionals, a mentoring scheme and a fee based progression scheme which was introduced in 2014. The introduction of Placement Support Meetings has been a positive development which is embedded and 75% of fragile placements have been supported to continue via these meetings.

4. Consultations undertaken

None

5. Implications

5.1. The implications of not having sufficient in house foster placements are:

- Children may be placed at a distance from their families and communities making contact and any plans to return children to their families successfully more challenging;
- Children may have to change education provision at critical times in their education provision;
- Older children may be placed in a children's home when this is not their assessed need;
- Placement stability is more difficult to monitor and support can be more difficult to facilitate;
- Increased financial cost to the local authority.

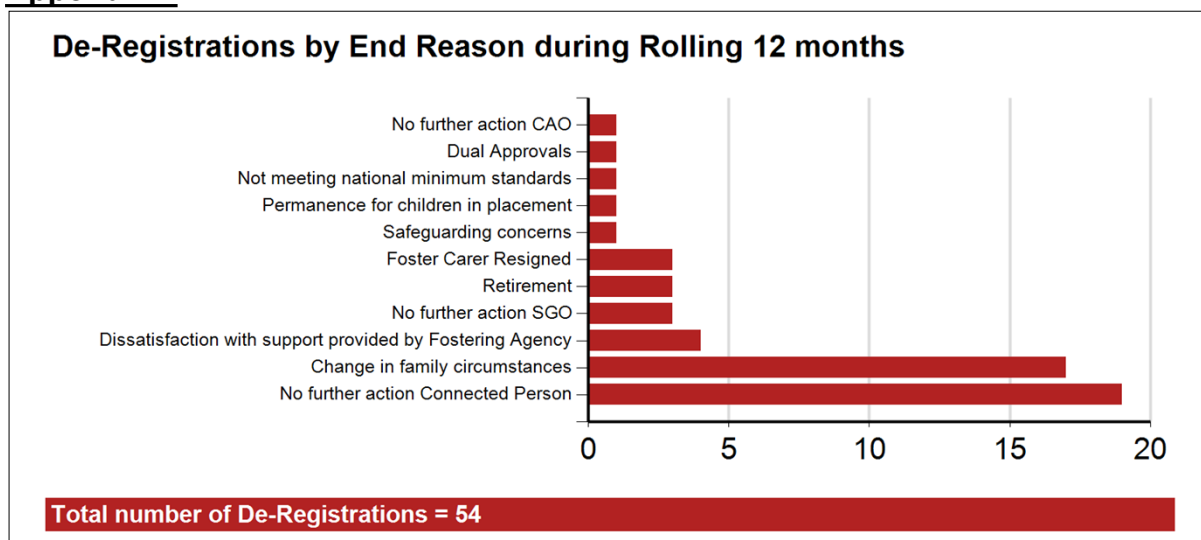
6. Background papers



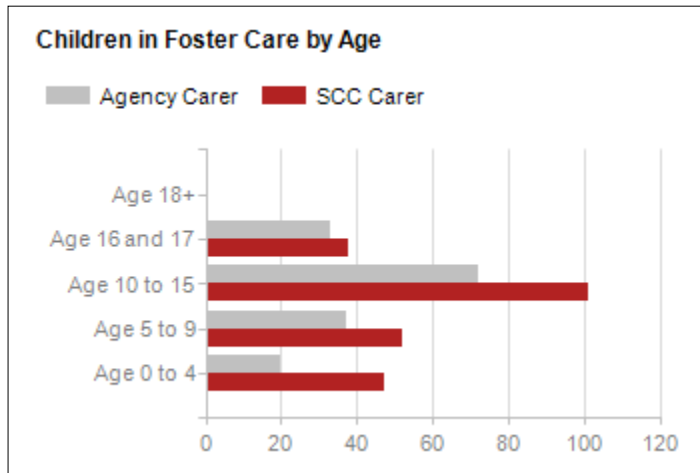
Fostering
Recruitment Report t

Appendices

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Total number in SCC placements = 215

Total number in agency placements = 156

Appendix 3

Agency Foster Placements			
Percentage 2014/15	Percentage 2015/16	Percentage 2016/17	Average of CIPFA Authorities
42.42%	40.13%	36.12%	29%

In House Foster Placements			
Percentage 2014/15	Percentage 2015/16	Percentage 2016/17	Average of CIPFA Authorities
57.58%	59.87%	63.88%	71%