

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 8 December 2017
10.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,
Taunton



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

Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr M Pullin (Deputy Chair), Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr J Lock, Cllr N Taylor, Cllr J Williams, Mr Richard Berry, Ruth Hobbs, Ms Helen Fenn and Mrs Eileen 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 - 30 November 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 - 10.00 am Friday 8 December 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 meeting held on 17 November 2017 (Pages 7 - 12)**

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

4 **Public Question Time**

The Chair 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 Chair's discretion.**

5 **Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 13 - 30)**

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 **SEND Peer review - update (Pages 31 - 82)**

To consider a report and receive an update.

7 **Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2016/17 (Pages 83 - 108)**

To consider this report.

8 **Family Support Services (Pages 109 - 114)**

To receive an update.

9 **Ofsted inspection feedback**

To receive an update.

10 **Any other urgent items of business**

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Friday 8
December 2017

The Chair 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 Clerk – 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 Chair'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 Chair. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair 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 Chair 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 on Friday 17 November 2017 at 10.00 in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton.

Present

Cllr L Redman (in the Chair)

Cllr N Bloomfield

Cllr A Bown

Cllr M Dimery

Cllr Hewitt-Cooper

Cllr T Munt (Substitute)

Cllr Pullin (Vice Chair)

Cllr J Taylor

Cllr J Williams

Apologies: Cllr J Lock
Mrs Helen Fenn (Church representative) and

Church representatives present:

Parent Governor representatives present: Mrs Ruth Hobbs.

CHYPPS & Schools Forum representatives present: Mrs Eileen Tipper - Somerset Education Partnership Board & Richard Berry – Schools Forum.

Cabinet Members present: Cllr A Groskop and Cllr F Nicholson.

Other Members present: Cllr S Coles.

37 Declarations of interest – agenda item 2

37.0 Cllr Bloomfield, Cllr Bown, Cllr Coles, Cllr Groskop, Cllr Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr Pullin, Cllr Redman, Cllr J Taylor and Cllr J Williams all declared a personal interest as a District and/or City/Town, Parish Councillor.

37.1 Cllr Munt declared a personal interest as a Director of a Special School.

37.2 Mrs Hobbs declared a personal interest regarding agenda item 7 as a Director Somerset Parent Carer Forum.

37.3 Mrs Tipper declared a personal interest as a trustee of CHYPPS.

38 Public question time – agenda time 3

38.0 Nigel Behan, UNITE Branch Secretary, asked some questions about agenda item 9 - Children's Services Commissioning and it was noted that those points would be addressed during consideration of that item and as the questioner could not stay to hear the responses a written reply would be sent to him and

circulated to the Committee.

Katherine See, a Children's Centre patron, spoke about the on-going consultation regarding the proposed changes to Family Support Services. In response the Assistant Director - Commissioning and Performance, thanked the questioner for their comments and noted that the consultation was on-going and that no decisions had been made. The Chair suggested that written reply be sent to the questioner and that the Officers consider arranging a meeting with the questioner to discuss the issues.

39 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2017 – agenda item 4

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

40 Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee work programme – agenda item 5

40.0 The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months.

40.1 The Committee considered and agreed its own work programme and the future agenda items listed. In addition the Chair requested:

A briefing report be prepared on Library Service Redesign to demonstrate that the impact of any proposed changes on children, young people and families had been considered.

That the Health and Well-Being Board be invited to attend the Joint meeting of 2 Scrutiny Committees to be held in January 2018.

That a report on EHCP's be prepared for the next meeting and include information about transitions from SEN statements and between different key stages and School.

40.2 The Committee noted the outcome tracker and the Scrutiny Manager provided updates.

41 Children Social Care – Annual Performance report – agenda item 6

41.0 The Committee considered this report provided Members with a summary of information contained within the Children's Social Care Annual Performance Report 2016/17 (attached as an Appendix). The report highlighted areas of potential concern identified within the Annual Report together with actions being undertaken to address those issues.

41.1 It was noted that Children's Social Care Annual Report is produced by the Children's Business Intelligence Team once a year and forms part of the wide range of performance reports available to Children's Social Care. It was explained that the report covered performance across a range of service areas and specifically compared performance in the year 2016/17 with the previous year, identifying trends and areas of improving and deteriorating performance.

41.2 In response to a question it was also confirmed the Council compared its performance with its statistical neighbour group of similar authorities as well as

against average performance across England as a whole. It was noted that there were 38 indicators included in the report and that 83% of those had shown an improvement when compared to previous performance, with only 4 indicators recording deterioration in performance.

- 41.3 Attention turned to the 4 specific indicators where performance had deteriorated when compared to the previous year and the report provided a commentary and a list of actions currently being undertaken to address and improve performance.
- 41.4 There was a discussion about the proportion of Initial Child Protection Conferences [ICPCs] completed on time fell slightly, from 97.0% (2015/16) to 94.9% (2016/17) and it was explained that this represented a small drop in timeliness, but the overall context was the steadily increasing number of CPCs throughout the period (from 280 in 2015/16 to 413 2016/17 which meant a 48% increase. It was noted that performance remained under weekly review through senior management performance meetings and when compared with statistical neighbours Somerset's performance in this area remains very positive.
- 41.4 The Committee also noted that the percentage of Review Child Protection Conferences [RCPCs] held on time had reduced marginally by half of 1 percent, to 98.5% however this compared favourable to figures for England as a whole where performance was recorded at 93.7%.
- 41.5 The other area where performance had decreased concerned children looked after and specifically that the percentage of children placed more than 20 miles from the home address had risen from 28.7% to 32.1%. It was explained that performance issues related to an on-going problem with a lack of availability of suitable placements. The positive results of the fostering recruitment campaign were noted and all Members were encouraged to promote this in their divisions.
- 41.6 Also of concern was the percentage of children looked after not having a Dental Assessment and this figure had fallen from 88.5% to 72.9%. In response to a question it was stated that improvement in this remained a priority, reflecting greater scrutiny and process requirements to be strengthened. A wider service response had been developed to encompass foster carers, social workers and IROs. In addition it was noted that the children looked after service had been tasked to review all cases where dental checks have not been recorded as complete, and take remedial action to ensure that all children looked after are receiving appropriate dental oversight.
- 41.7 The report was accepted.

42 Children and Young People's Plan – 2016-19 – agenda item 7

- 42.0 The Committee considered this report that provided the Committee with details of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) a three year plan that had started in April 2016 that set out the actions the Council and its partners were taking to continue and sustain improvements in Children's Services. The Plan

followed a multi-agency approach, and was overseen by the Somerset Children's Trust and had 7 improvement programmes, each managed by a relevant Board to ensure improvement in those areas, as follows:

- 42.1
 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.
- 42.2 The Partnership Business Manager – Children's Services, introduced the report and provided a very thorough overview of its contents, explaining the CYPP's origins after the Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education in November 2015 requiring a three year CYPP to be developed and implemented which the Department for Education could then use to judge how effective and sustainable improvements in children's social care functions had been.
- 42.3 It was explained by way of further background that the CYPP was 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 would measure improvement. An update of the plan was reported on a quarterly basis and the report provided details of the activity of the second quarter (July to September 2017) of Year 2 and a summary of activity and progress, supported by each a highlight report for each of the 7 programmes. The meeting therefore provided an opportunity to introduce Members to the CYPP and allow time for comments and questions on the progress at the end of the first year and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan into its second year.
- 42.4 Members heard an overview of the data contained in the Executive Summary and particular explanation and attention was given to the areas that were showing as red and therefore missing target. In addition it was reported that measures were also being used to assess the delivery of the 7 improvement programmes and a set of overarching measures designed to assess 'how we would know we had made a difference', as this would be a likely method that Ofsted may use to gauge how effect policy changes brought about by the CYPP had been during its on-going Inspection visit.
- 42.5 In respect of Programme 4 it was requested that future reports include information on the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions. There was a discussion about EHCP's and a report was requested for the next meeting and that it include information about transitions from SEN statements to EHCP's and also between different key stages and Schools.
- 42.6 In respect of Programme 5 it was requested that consideration be given to the way information was displayed, including the directional arrows.

- 42.7 In respect of Programme 6 it was requested that congratulations be sent to the Communications team for their work in raising the profile of recruiting in Children's Social Work service and also with regard to Adoption and Fostering.
- 42.8 In respect of Programme 7 it was requested that regarding outcome measures for vulnerable young people and families, Young Carers, and Troubled Families it was felt that the KPI's/targets were loose and it requested some additional information be included in future reports.
- 42.9 The Committee agreed to accept the report and the Chair wished to record the Committee's thanks for the hard work undertaken by numerous members of staff in various locations that have helped bring about improvements.

43 Children's Services Commissioning Report – agenda item 8

- 43.0 The Committee considered this report that updated Members on the overall purpose of children's services commissioning service and improvements made to date, reflecting on the journey so far, and the further progress the commissioning team was expected to make.
- 43.1 It was noted that the report highlighted the work of children's commissioning team across the seven improvement programmes of the Somerset Children and Young People's Plan, with particular focus on the achievements in programme 6 "Achieving effective, multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and develop and excellent children's social work service".
- 43.2 There was a question about the number of Placement spaces in Somerset and it was acknowledged this remained a significant issue, even though there were more residential beds available in the county than required, along with some capacity in the independent fostering market. Commissioners were working more closely with providers to understand the issues and sharing the detail of Somerset's needs to ensure the right provision was available and that Somerset was the preferred commissioner.
- 43.3 There was a discussion of the report and it was noted that it would be particularly important for the Council to identify the required outcomes from each contract so that contracts were properly managed and poor performance challenged. There was a discussion about co-production, including what it meant and its effectiveness. It was requested that an update report on Pathways to Independence (P2i) be considered at a future meeting.
- 43.4 The report was accepted.

44 Young Carers Update report – agenda item 9

- 44.0 The Committee considered this report that provided an overview on progress of the Young Carers Strategic Steering Group following the recommendations made by a Task and Finish Group of the former Committee in April 2017. It was explained that the initial Task and Finish Group had held meetings in February

and March and met with Young Carers, Young Carer Professionals, Young Adult Carers, and those working in Public Health and members of the Somerset Parent Carer Forum to help inform its recommendations in April 2017.

- 44.1 It was reported that 190 young carers had been identified; all have a Young Carers Assessment. 14 had an allocated Social Worker as a result of being assessed as a Child In Need (CIN) or Child Protection (CP) case and over the last 18 months, a total of 34 young carers had been in one or other of these categories on CIN or CP. In addition it was noted that 42 Young Carers had a parent with a mental health issue and had parent(s) with a substance misuse issue.
- 44.2 The report provided an update on the actions undertaken to bring about improvements in the 4 areas that the Task and Finish Group had identified could be enhanced by bringing about change and those were: Schools; Adult Services; Health, and the Council. A recurring theme was the recruitment of a Councillor to act as Young Carers Champion.
- 44.3 The Committee requested that an update report be prepared for the 16 March 2018 meeting. 2 Councillors indicated that they were interested in becoming the Member Champion for Young Carers and undertook to discuss this with Officers outside of the meeting. There was a suggestion about providing Young carers with some form of ID and Officers undertook to consider this proposal.
- 44.4 The report was accepted.
- 45 Any other business of urgency – agenda item 10**
- 45.0 The Chairman, after ascertaining there were no other matters arising, thanked all those present for attending and declared the meeting closed.

(The meeting closed at 12:40)

Cllr Leigh Redman
Chairman – Scrutiny for Polices, Children and Families Committee

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 Michael Bryant in the Democratic Services Team by telephoning (01823) 357628 or 359500.

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>

Weekly version of plan published on 1 November 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
FP/17/09/01 First published: 11 September 2017	6 Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Prescribed Alteration to Selworthy School - Implementation Decision: To implement the proposal to expand Selworthy School on to a second site in Taunton	Selworthy Prescribed Alteration Implementation Statutory Proposal - Prescribed Alteration - Expansion - Selworthy		Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165
FP/17/02/01 First published: 14 February 2017	6 Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	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 Court Fields School Wellington Award of Contract	Part exempt	Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/17/09/03 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 6th Dec 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director	Issue: iAero (Yeovil) Aerospace Centre (2,500 sq m) Acceptance of Growth Deal Funding Decision: The acceptance of the offer of Heart of the South West LEP Growth Deal funding, commence the procurement process for a management operator the the iAero (South) Centre, and commence procurement process for the construction of the iAero (South) Centre			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766

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/17/09/06 First published: 13 September 2017</p>	<p>Not before 6th Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: The transfer of Educational services within North Somerset to SCC's Support Services for Education Decision: The transfer of Educational services within North Somerset and associated staff to Support Services for Education from April 2018.</p>	<p>Transfer of North Somerset education support services to SSE Appendix 2 - Educational Excellence Everywhere; the Future for the delivery of traded education services</p>		<p>Ian Rowswell</p>
<p>FP/17/07/03 First published: 10 July 2017</p>	<p>Not before 11th Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: To agree to the purchase of the land for the construction of the M5 Junction 25 Highways Improvement Scheme. Decision: The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport agrees to: • the acquisition of land required for the construction of the M5 Junction 25 highways scheme • the continued development of the scheme.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Key Decision - M5 Junction 25 – decision to proceed with consultation, design, planning and procurement – 19 Aug 2016 Cabinet Member Key Decision - To agree to enter into a funding agreement with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) for the M5 J25 Improvement scheme – 13 Jan 2017</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763</p>
<p>FP/17/04/08 First published: 24 April 2017</p>	<p>Not before 11th Dec 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Copy of the funding agreement to be signed.</p>		<p>Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 1 November 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/17/09/13 First published: 26 September 2017</p>	<p>13 Dec 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to conclude the award of a contract for the provision of highway improvements at Colley Lane Southern Access Road Decision: Agree to let a contract for highway bridge construction and associated works at Colley Lane Southern Access Road</p>			<p>Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763</p>
<p>FP/17/11/07 First published: 22 November 2017</p>	<p>13 Dec 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Schools National Funding Formula Decision: to consider the new national funding formula for schools, the process and recommendations from Schools Forum</p>			<p>Martin Young, Finance Strategy Manager Tel: 01823 359057</p>
<p>FP/17/09/18 First published: 10 October 2017</p>	<p>Not before 13th Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: West Somerset Railway - Funding of Phase two of the level crossing upgrade at Seaward Way, Minehead Decision: That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport authorises the expenditure of £850,000 for Phase Two of the West Somerset Railway (WSR) level crossing upgrade at Seaward Way, Minehead</p>			<p>Neil Guild, Highways Asset Improvement Officer</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
FP/17/10/03 First published: 19 October 2017	Not before 14th Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Proposed ASD Base at Holway Park Primary School, Taunton Decision: To approve the appointment of a contractor			Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/17/08/01 First published: 9 August 2017	Not before 18th Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development	Issue: Disposal of Surplus Land at Castle Cary Decision: Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of surplus (former) farm land (13 acres, land only) at Castle Cary. Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of surplus (former) farm land (13 acres, land only) at Castle Cary.	Disposal of Surplus Land		Richard Williams, Commercial & Business Services Director Tel: 01823 359007
FP/17/11/05 First published: 16 November 2017	18 Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Strategy, Customers and Communities	Issue: Customer Feedback Annual Reports 2016/17 Decision: Sign off of the annual customer feedback reports for year from 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017			Rebecca Martin Tel: 01823 356257
FP/17/09/02 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 18th Dec 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Low Carbon Hub - Somerset Energy Innovation Centre - Building 2 (2,000 sq m) 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			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766

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FP/17/11/03 First published: 9 November 2017	Not before 20th Dec 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Decision to approve the appointment of a supplier to deliver the Wiveliscombe Enterprise Centre Decision: To approve the appointment of a supplier to deliver the Wiveliscombe Enterprise Centre			Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210
FP/17/11/04 First published: 9 November 2017	Not before 20th Dec 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Decision to approve the appointment of a supplier to deliver the Wells Technology Enterprise Centre Decision: To approve the appointment of a supplier to deliver the Wells Technology Enterprise Centre			Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210
FP/17/09/04 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 15th Jan 2018 Finance & Performance Director, Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: iAero (Yeovil) Aerospace Centre (2,500 sq m) Acceptance of ERDF Funding Decision: The acceptance of the offer of ERDF funding (£2.8 million), for the iAero (Yeovi) Aerospace Centre			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766
FP/17/09/05 First published: 26 September 2017	17 Jan 2018 Cabinet	Issue: South West Peninsula Framework Contact for Independent Fostering Decision: Cabinet will be asked to agree Officer recommendations on award of the contract			Louise Palmer, Strategic Commissioner

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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/17/11/07 First published: 22 November 2017	17 Jan 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Schools National Funding Formula Decision: to confirm funding allocations following confirmation from DfE			Martin Young, Finance Strategy Manager Tel: 01823 359057
FP17/09/07 First published: 13 September 2017	Not before 29th Jan 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Commercial & Business Services Director	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 - King Alfred School and Pawlett Primary School. This is a technical decision to facilitate the transfer of land and non fixed assets			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
FP/17/09/16 First published: 10 October 2017	Not before 5th Feb 2018 Commercial & Business Services Director, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Creation of a new Academy in Somerset Decision: West Buckland Community Primary School - This is a technical decision to facilitate the transfer of land and non fixed			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
FP/17/08/09 First published: 16 August 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: 2018/19 - 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Plan Decision: to consider and recommend the 2018/19 MTFP and Annual Revenue Budget proposals to February's Full Council meeting			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573

Weekly version of plan published on 1 November 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
Fp/17/08/12 First published: 6 November 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: County Vision 2017-2022 Decision: to consider the proposed County Vision to recommend to February's Full Council			Simon Clifford, Customers & Communities Director
FP/17/08/08 First published: 16 August 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Quarter 3 2017/18 Revenue and Capital budget monitoring report Decision: to consider the quarter 3 update for the 2017/18 revenue and capital budgets			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/17/08/08 First published: 16 August 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: 2017/18 Quarter 3 Performance Update Decision: to receive the quarter 3 performance update			Emma Plummer, Strategic Manager Performance Tel: 01823 359251
FP/17/09/17 First published: 10 October 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Proposed new secondary provision for Selworthy School on the former St Augustine's School site Decision: To approve the appointment of a contractor at gross maximum expenditure	Financial Report Capital Programme Paper		Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962

Weekly version of plan published on 1 November 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>FP17/08/14 First published: 29 August 2017</p>	<p>12 Feb 2018 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Retendering for insurance cover for all external policies and for South West academies. Decision: To approve the appointment of the successful tenderer following an OJEU procurement process for insurance cover. To approve the tender for an all-encompassing insurance policy for academies in the South West (to be administered by SCC but full external cover).</p>	<p>CIPFA Insurance Benchmarking Club 2017 Report Gallagher Bassett Audit for Somerset County Council May 2017</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Martin Gerrish, Strategic Manager - Financial Governance and Finance Officer for SWP Tel: 01823 355303</p>
<p>FP/17/08/13 First published: 25 August 2017</p>	<p>12 Feb 2018 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Family support services for Somerset - Final report on recommendations for the service model Decision: to consider the consultation results, business case and the proposed service model</p>			<p>Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director - Commissioning and Performance, Children's Services Commissioning Tel: 01823 359054</p>
<p>Fp/17/11/06 First published: 22 November 2017</p>	<p>12 Feb 2018 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Family support services for Somerset - Final report on recommendations for how the service will be delivered Decision: to consider the consultation results and the proposals for how the service will be delivered</p>			<p>Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director - Commissioning and Performance, Children's Services Commissioning Tel: 01823 359054</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 1 November 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
FP/17/11/01 First published: 6 November 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 Decision: Recommend the proposed Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 to Council for approval			Alan Sanford, Principal Investment Officer Tel: 01823 359585
FP/17/11/02 First published: 6 November 2017	12 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools for 2019/20 Decision: seeks authority for Cabinet to determine the Local Authority admission arrangements for all VC and community schools for 2019/20 as required by the School Admissions Code			Jane Seaman, Access and Admissions Manager Tel: 01823 355615
FP/17/08/12 First published: 17 August 2017	21 Mar 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Full Business Case for proposed Joint Strategic Commissioning Function Decision: to consider the full business case for establishing a new Joint Strategic Commissioning Function with NHS England and Somerset CCG			Trudi Grant, Public Health Director Tel: 01823 359015

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Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Committee meetings	Link to CYPP	Lead Member & Officer
8 December 2017		
SEND Peer review - update		Rowina Cliff-Shanley
Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board		Sally Halls + Helen MacDonald
Family Support Services – verbal update		Philippa Granthier
Ofsted inspection feedback – verbal update		Julian Wooster
12 January 2018 Joint meeting with Adults & Health Committee –		
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Leaving Care Services Perinatal and Infant Mental Health pathway How schools support emotional health and well-being	Mental health themed meeting	
26 January 2018		
Medium Term Financial Plan – 2018-2019		Kevin Nacey
Update on Family Based Care (fostering) Peninsula Framework		Louise Palmer
Family Support Services		Philippa Granthier & Alison Bell
Exam performance 2017		Neal Chislet
16 March 2018		
CYPP 2017/18 – Q3 Update		Philippa Granthier
School Performance		Julian Wooster
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		Amanda Payne
20 April 2018		
Pathways to Independence (P2i)		Louise Palmer
Regional Adoption Agency - update		Julian Wooster
18 May 2018		

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

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

West Somerset Opportunity Area		Julia Ridge
15 June 2018		
CYPP 2017/18 – Q4 & Year 2 Update		Philippa Granthier
20 July 2018		
14 September 2018		
CYPP 2018-19 – Q1 Update		Philippa Granthier
19 October 2018		
16 November 2018		
CYPP 2018-19 – Q2 Update		Philippa Granthier
7 December 2018		

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 & 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	Julian Wooster	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
9 September 2016				
DBS checks	All	Scrutiny Manager	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.	Joint Committee meeting, scheduled for 12 January 2018
27 January 2017				
Impact of proposed financial changes to Schools	All	Julian Wooster	The Committee encouraged Officers to continue to lobby for these proposed changes to be made so the higher funding materialised.	Pending
10 March 2017				
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		Amanda Payne	The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting in 12 months.	March 2018
School Performance 2016		Julian	The report was accepted with an update requested in 12	March 2018

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

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

		Wooster	months.	
7 April 2017				
Data Handling update		Sarah Moore	The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting.	Completed Oct '17
Young Carers Task and Finish Final report		Gemma Pickford-Waugh	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.	Completed Nov meeting
28 July 2017				
Fostering Recruitment Activity		Becky Hopkins	It was requested that the final version of the revised progression scheme of fee payments be circulated to the Committee once approved.	When available
15 September 2017				
School Exam Results		Julian Wooster	Interim results to be circulated electronically to all County Councillors	As soon as possible
School Exam Results		Julian Wooster	Final results to be reported to the Committee	Jan 2018 meeting
20 October 2017				
Family Support Services		Philippa Granthier	The committee agreed to note the update and request a further update at the 8 December meeting	Pending for December meeting
West Somerset Opportunity Area		Julia Ridge	The Committee noted the report and it was agreed that an update on this would be given in 6 months.	Pending for May '18
17 November 2017				
Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019		Julian Wooster	In respect of Programme 4 - EHCP's be prepared for the next meeting and include information about transitions from SEN statements and between different key stages and School.	December meeting
Children's Services Commissioning		Louise Palmer	It was requested that an update report on Pathways to Independence (P2i) be considered at a future meeting.	April '18 meeting
Young Carers update		T Whitworth + W Jenner	It was requested that an update report be prepared for the 16 March 2018 meeting.	March '18 meeting

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:

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

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

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.

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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 0-25

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster

Author: Rowina Clift-Shanley

Contact Details: rclift-shanley@somerset.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Division and Local Member:

1. Summary

1.1. The SEND Strategy 2016 and SEND Priority Action Plan (following a Gloucestershire led Peer Review held in May 2017), set out to address a number of key issues, including:

- An historic set of arrangements with schools which mean that the number of pupils' subject to formal SEN assessment and planning is significantly lower than other areas
- Improving the capacity of the partnership to ensure high quality Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) are in place where needed
- Supporting the capacity of Somerset Schools to support pupils with SEND to achieve improved outcomes.
- Increasing the capacity of the SEND casework team to meet the numbers of children who are assessed as needing an EHCP

These areas for development are set in the context where Somerset has a number of strengths including:

- The strategic participation of the Parent Carer Forum and the 'Unstoppables' continues to be a strength of the Somerset partnership.
- Many examples of outstanding practice from Schools and specialist services across the partnership
- Well-resourced specialist support and outreach support to schools.
- Somerset Core Standards which provide a framework for a graduated response
- A strong partnership between Schools and the LA leading the improvements outlined below.

Planning for revising the *Somerset's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 2016-19* is to begin in early 2018.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

2.1. There is a particular focus on the Choices for Life Strategy (appendix 2) which sits within Priority 3 – Transitions to Adulthood of the SEND 0-25 Intervention Programme.

3. Background

3.1. 2017/18 Quarter 3 Update

Key aspects of the Plans achieved in Q3 include:

- Health colleagues have stepped up their engagement the health aspects of the SEND strategy and priorities, with support from the Council for Disabled Children (CDC). The CDC is also assisting in improving joint commissioning between the CCG and the Council.
- A series of SEND 0-25 multi-agency practitioner conferences were delivered across Somerset during October 2017 with the aim of improving understanding of Somerset's SEND strategy, identifying barriers and strengthening partnership working in localities across Somerset.
- Improved guidance has been issued, at the request of School SENCO's, in relation to using Early Help arrangements to support children with SEND.
- The capacity of the SEND team continues to increase, with improved timeliness and the team is now on track to complete the transfer of Statements to EHCPs, in line with statutory timescales. Further work across the partnership is taking place to improve the quality of assessments and plans.
- The first phase of a new banding system for pupils with SEN Support, set out in the SEND Strategy, has been implemented across all schools in the autumn term – allowing for better identification and targeted support for those children most in need.
- The new banding system combined with improved data matching with children's social care systems has enabled improved identification of those children to be prioritised for assessment for an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).
- Plans have been agreed for investing in the sufficiency of Special School & Resource Base places to enable more children's needs to be met within the Somerset state school system.

3.2. Governance and Leadership

- The commitment and active engagement of the Council's lead for Children's Services in drawing together the SEND strategy to ensure every child and young person in Somerset have the best possible opportunities.
- The Director of Children's Services (DCS) regularly attends Headteacher meetings and since May 2017 leads the High Needs group reporting to Schools Forum and the Strategic SEND Board
- Commitment from Somerset Council to deliver the statutory SEND work. This can be demonstrated by the financial and resource commitment to improve the information management systems; increase the number and quality of case work officers; a programme of development and training for SEND.

3.3. Parents

Somerset has a strong and active Parent Carer Forum (PCF). The PCF is well organised and have the skills and knowledge required to fully participate in meaningful co-production of strategies, policies and service development. Membership has increased significantly over the last two years and is becoming representative of the wider community of families who have children and young people with SEND.

3.4. Children and Young People

The Somerset Young People's Forum "The Unstoppables" is a strength and has recently been shortlisted by the British Youth Council for a "Celebrating Diversity Award". The award is part of a national Youth Voice Star Awards. The Unstoppables forum is a group of young people aged 13-25 with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND). They, with the support of Somerset County Council, aim to increase the voice of children and young people with SEND in Somerset. They work with a range of projects to help young people develop their skills and better prepare to fully participate in the SEND agenda. This includes the multi-platform initiative "Access to Community" campaign to help people feel more confident to go out and take part in activities in their local area delivering training and support sessions or taking an active part in making important decisions about funding for groups who support children and young people with SEND.

Representatives of the young people's forum attend and take an active part in formal meetings and events. Examples include the steering group meetings for the Local offer, Somerset EHCP moderation events and regional SEND events.

3.5. SEND Strategy

Key Outcomes include:

- A clear strategy for the development of specialist placements in all four geographical areas of Somerset to ensure equity of access and clarity of pathways for SEND.
- Realignment of resources to create additional capacity to address need.
- Publication and implementation of core standards in all educational settings across all age groups 0-25 on how to support children with SEN at SEN Support.
- Increased clarity for parents on what they can expect from educational settings in relation to support for SEND.
- Review of High Needs top-up allocation to ensure fair and transparent decision making and sustainability of resources ahead of the national funding formula.

3.6. Areas we are working to improve

Over the past two years the LA has led a thematic review to develop and deliver a complete system around SEND. This included a review of the sufficiency of places in special schools and resource bases (completed); a review of provision of SEN support and High needs funding for pupils with the most complex needs

(completed); a review of SEND support services (in progress).

3.7. Emerging good practice

i. Health engagement in the SEND statutory process

- The Designated Medical Officer (DMO) and CCG Commissioner now regularly attend the SEND Panel to provide medical information and expert professional advice on health needs the impact on learning. This is a new initiative and is having an impact on the quality of panel decisions.
- The Strategic Manager SEND and parent carer forum representatives attended a Joint Health Commissioning event with the outcome that further training events were required. These have been organised for December 2017 with a focus on health contributions to EHCPs outcomes and joint commissioning of services.
- The CCG Commissioner is attending and contributing to the SEND improvement strategy and the EHCP moderation meetings.

ii. Data Management

Over the last twelve months the LA has made significant steps towards developing a comprehensive data intelligence system. The data team are working closely with partners to develop system to monitor outcomes, progress, trends and performance management. The data dashboard has been developed to enable education, and care information to be shared more efficiently. The investment in Capita One and the Data Dashboard are providing “real time” tracking information for the Statutory process and are enabling better monitoring performance against statutory timescales.

Work on the development of the Portal is progressing and will be in place early next year. This will enable schools to upload information/ request for assessment/annual reviews directly into Capita One and will facilitate improved efficiency and information sharing. The Portal will also facilitate better communication around the statutory process for parents as they will be able access information directly from the system to inform them of the progress of their case.

iii. Preparing for Adulthood

The LA recognises the need to improve outcomes for young people with SEND particularly in the preparation for adulthood and the world of work. We are co-producing strategies with young people, communities and local business leads to provide a robust offer across Somerset building on the “Choices for Life” strategy. Future developments include:

- A comprehensive referral and eligibility process for transition to Adult Social Care.
- Extended development of Supported traineeship/apprenticeship and Internship programmes with large key employers.
- Collaborative programmes including health and education for post 18 young people with behaviour that challenges to reduce out of county placements.

3.8. Education Health and Care Plans

Significant progress has been made in relation to all statutory functions related to EHCPs (see table below)

In terms of the percentage of Conversions/Transfers from Statements to EHC Plans:

- As at January (21 January) – 1,014 statements maintained. 268 Final EHC Plans or Cease letters issued. 1282 total conversion processes to complete (conversion Tracker report did not exist at this point and there were data issues) 26.2% Conversion processes completed. Source: SEN2 2017
- As at April (18 April) – 696 Statements maintained. 1149 total conversion processes to complete. 39.4% Conversion processes completed. Source: Conversion Tracker report.
- As at September (14 September) – 577 Statements maintained. 1147 total conversion processes to complete. 49.6% Conversion processes completed. Source: Conversion Tracker report.
- As at November (14 November) – 445 Statements maintained. 1134 total conversion processes to complete. 60.8% Conversion processes completed. Source: Conversion Tracker report.

In terms of the percentage of New EHC Plans completed within 20 weeks:

- As at January (Plans issued in the calendar year 2016 from 1 January to 31 December) – 52.6%. Source: SEN2 2017
- As at April (Plans issued in the academic year 2016/17 from 1 September to 30 April) – 54%. Source: SENNI103 Performance Report.
- As at end of academic year (Plans issued in the academic year 2016/17 from 1 September to 31 August) – 55%. Source: SENNI103 Performance Report.
- This academic year (Plans issued in the academic year 2017/18 from 1 September to 31 October) – 70%. Source: SENNI103 Performance Report.

We recognise that there is both a strategic and operational improvement agenda required within Somerset. In addition to the strategic plans outlined and the development of the multi-agency practice in the County there are some specific developments and improvements required within the casework team and their systems and processes.

At a high-level improvement and monitoring efforts are currently focused in the following areas:

- Conversions Action Plan

- 20 week compliance
- EHCPs that are effective in meeting outcomes
- Quality and Performance
- Placements and provision
- Ensuring up to date EHCPs

We recognise that performance although improved is still not good enough to achieve a better experience for children, young people and their families. Attendance, exclusion, attainment and progress for SEND groups needs to be addressed as part of the County's School Improvement arrangements. In addition Joint commissioning needs to be further developed to ensure a better alignment of need and resources across education, health and social care.

3.9. Somerset SEND Strategy

The co-produced Somerset SEND Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25: 2016-19 has a shared vision in place.

We want every child and young person to have the greatest possible opportunity to be the best they can be, to be happy, and have choice and control over their life.

In partnership with parent/carers, young people and partners across education, care and health we have identified five key outcomes for the three-year period.

Outcome 1 - Our families, children and young people report a positive experience of our SEND systems and support, feel empowered and confident to engage and make decisions.

Outcome 2 - Timely and accurate assessment and identification of SEND across education, health and care services.

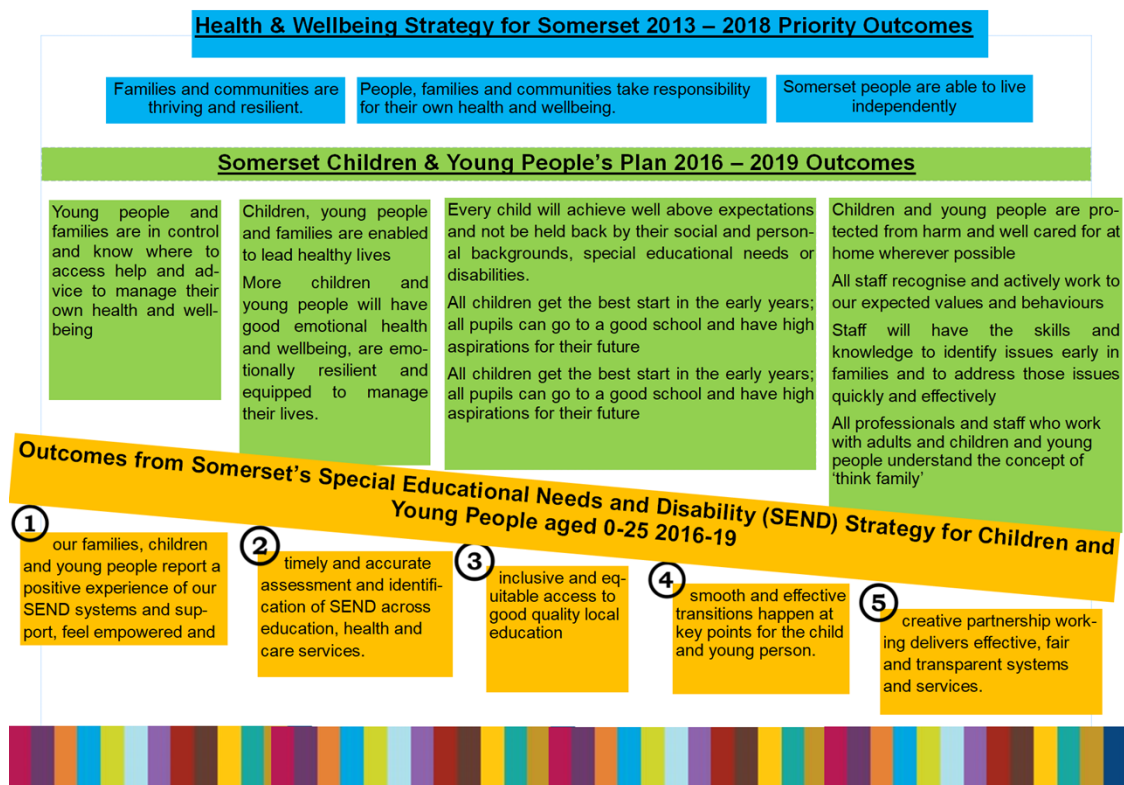
Outcome 3 - Inclusive and equitable access to good quality local education.

Outcome 4 - Smooth and effective transitions happen at key points for the child and young person.

Outcome 5 - Creative partnership working delivers effective, fair and transparent systems and services.

3.10 Alignment of Strategic Outcomes

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities aligned with the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) outcomes and SEND Strategy outcomes are shown below and provide us with an assurance that SEND is firmly embedded into a wider strategic agenda.



3.11 Priority Action Plan

We recognise the importance of being self-aware and invited a Peer Review team to Somerset to help scrutinise and reflect on our performance. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) held a Peer Review in May 2017 as part of the preparation for a Local Area Inspection of SEND. GCC's report acknowledged some good practice and initiatives but established that a Local Area Inspection is likely to find 'significant weaknesses' in practice. This is based on the implementation of SEND reforms and a lack of evidence displaying the positive impact made in relation to outcomes for children across Somerset. The full report from GCC can be seen at Appendix 1.

3.12 Our Response to Challenges Identified – 9 Priorities

Following the peer review, an intervention arrangement was agreed by Somerset County Council, the Somerset Parent Carer Forum, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Somerset Partnership. Nine priority areas and leads were agreed to address the improvements required and meet the SEND Strategy objectives. The nine priority areas and leads are as follows:

- 1) **Joint Commissioning** - To ensure effective joint arrangements are in place to commission SEND services.
- 2) **Health** - To ensure health(s) duties are clear, well communicated and that Health Professionals contribute to EHC Plans in a co-ordinated and timely way.
- 3) **Transitions (preparing for adulthood)** - To promote independence and ensure that young people are actively supported into adult life.

- 4) **Participation** - To strengthen the involvement of children and parents in the production of strategy, the design of services and the delivery of plans.
- 5) **Early Help** - To ensure that children with SEND are identified early and receive the right support to meet their needs.
- 6) **Statutory Assessment** - To ensure that all children who need one have an up-to-date EHCP, that **ALL** EHCPs are effective in meeting the needs of children who have SEND and that KPI's for Quality, Performance and Provision are embedded, monitored and audited in a timely and effective manner.
- 7) **Complex Cases** - To ensure the most vulnerable children in Somerset have an integrated and co-ordinated care plan enabling more children to remain in Somerset where possible.
- 8) **School Improvement** - To ensure that schools and settings are clear about their responsibilities in relation to supporting children and young people with SEND. Schools have access to advice and support which enables them to deliver improved outcomes for children with SEND.
- 9) **Inspection Readiness** - To support the Local Area in being prepared for its SEND inspection.

The nine priority groups report into a multi-agency SEND Intervention Board, chaired by the Director of Children Services . This group reports to the Somerset Children's Trust which reports into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3.13 Current Performance

Some comparative national and regional data is significantly affected by the proportionately lower % of pupils with statements/EHCPs in Somerset, which means that some comparisons are not statistically valid.

3.14 Need

- 15.6% of all children in schools, including free and independent schools have identified SEND, which equates to 12,000 children and young people (this is in line with regional average).
- There is a growing population of children and young people and a significant increase in the secondary school population.
- There is a lower proportion of children with EHCP/Statements than comparator authorities which historically have been caused by a different approach to the allocation of additional resources (element 3 High Needs funding) which meant that even children with complex needs did not required to go through the statutory process to have significant support.
- There are some notable difference in the SEND Need types in Somerset compared to National averages including:
 - a lower proportion of children with Moderate Learning Disability
 - a higher proportion of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs
 - a lower proportion with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

- SEND is more prevalent in boys.
- Pupils with SEND are almost three times more likely to be eligible for free school meals.
- Approximately 20% of children who are educated at home (EHE) have SEND (as at 23 November 2017 11 have a Statement or EHCP and 148 were in receipt of SEN Support at the time they became EHE).
- There are a higher number of Children Looked After with SEN Support in Somerset than Nationally, and also for Children in Need (but to lesser extent).
- There are more males than females across all age ranges (0-24) claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and claimant levels are below the south west average.
- High number of children and young people attend independent schools and colleges.

NB: some national and regional data is significantly affected by proportionately lower % of pupils with statements or EHCPs.

3.15 Health Outcomes

- Somerset children with SEND were:
 - significantly more likely to report feeling unhappy, having a lower self-esteem and being the victim of bullying
 - significantly more likely to have negative health related behaviours (in relation to healthy eating, smoking, alcohol and drugs) and lower aspirations
 - less likely to have the resilience and self determination to look after their emotional and physical health and wellbeing.

3.16 Education Outcomes

- Absence rates for Somerset's SEN pupils are higher on average than their National peers, and levels of absence are increasing.
- The proportion of Somerset children with SEN Support achieving a good level of development (GLD) at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage has been increasing, and broadly consistent with the National average.
- Key Stage 1 2016 performance for SEND pupils was in line with the National average.
- Key Stage 2 2016 performance for SEND pupils was below the National average.
- Key Stage 1 and 2 provisional data 2017 indicates that overall performance of SEN Support pupils has improved, while performance of those with an EHCP/ Statement has lowered.
- GCSE results in 2016 for SEN pupils attaining GCSE English and Mathematics at grades A*-C remained below the National average.
- Based on latest National data fixed term exclusion rates for Somerset's SEN pupils are higher than the National average, and permanent exclusions rates are broadly in line.

- There has been a significant increase in exclusions (both fixed term and permanent) in 2016/17. The largest increase is in secondary schools. SEND children with a need type of Social, Emotional and Mental Health account for the majority of exclusions.
- NEET figures for young people with SEND in Somerset are in line with latest National data, but levels have increased.

3.17 Developing the Workforce across the Partnership

A series of SEND 0-25 multi-agency practitioner conferences were delivered across Somerset during October 2017 with the aim of:

- Sharing learning around Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and the Early Help Assessment (EHA).
- Networking and getting to know other colleagues in localities.
- Sharing case studies and best practice.
- Discussing barriers to joined up/partnership working and the solutions to overcoming these challenges.
- Developing a SEND Charter to establish and embed the principles of **good** partnership working across Somerset. A total of **248** delegates attended:
 - **40%** of attendance came from Education including Early Years, SENCO, Headteachers, PFSA's (Parent and Family Support Advisors)
 - **35%** of attendance came from Care which included Childrens Social Care and getset
 - **13%** of attendance came from Health and included SOMPAR, ITS, OT, Ed Psych, Health Visitors and Nurses
 - **10%** of attendance was classed as Other and included some SCC staff, a Governor and Councillor Frances Nicholson.

3.18 A Charter

Following the conferences, a charter is in development based on the feedback from the events about how partnership working could work more effectively. The delegates reflected on the values, behaviours and outcomes they wanted to see within their multi-agency practice. This will be cascaded and will be a tool for holding one another to account mutually and allows shared expectations of practice.

3.19 Future Learning

Feedback from the conferences identified practitioners wanted more opportunities to network and learn together at a local level. In response to this, plans are being put in place to support learning around assessment and referral processes, and around developing joint outcomes. These will be multi-agency, locality based, shared- learning opportunities.

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1. None

5. Implications

5.1. [Click [here](#) and insert relevant implications paragraphs]

6. Background papers

6.1. [Click [here](#) and list background papers used when preparing the report]

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

Appendix 1 - SOMERSET PEER REVIEW MAY 2017

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 contacted 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 (10 & 11 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 of 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.

Please see the next page for: Appendix 2 – CHOICES FOR LIFE STRATEGY

Choices for Life Strategy

2017 – 2018

Definitions – who is included?

6



Developing a positive and consistent approach for young people who require support into adulthood

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Welcome to the Choices for Life Strategy!

Harry and I became involved with this strategy from the beginning. We were asked to think about what transitions meant to us and the young people we represented. We believe it is **important** for young people to **make their own decisions** and **think about the future** and be at the forefront of the decision making process.

The more opportunities we have to make decisions in our lives, the more **confident** we will become. By making our own decisions we can **accept challenges, understand risk and learn from mistakes. This is okay!**

As we become older the decisions become bigger and potentially life-changing. If the families and practitioners support us, we will become more resilient, if you have a knock-back in life, it is important for us to keep motivating ourselves to achieve and succeed. These skills will allow us to achieve a positive outlook on achievement and success. We met with young people and talked about what “transition” meant to them; this was through The Unstoppables and other groups. We used the 4 areas of Preparing for Adulthood for our discussions:

- Employment
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Wellbeing

Transitions is a complex word for many young people to understand and relate to. So Harry and I designed a concept called “Choices for Life.” The concept is all about putting all young people at the forefront of the decision making process in regards to their future. Young people told us that they wanted to explore opportunities and it was important that this happened near where they lived.

We felt that transition should challenge the people that work with us and support us so that we can understand our opportunities. This should be a partnership between us all. To help us progress to adulthood and reach our goals, we want to challenge you to think about our future lives around these five questions:

- How can I choose my next school or college?
- How can I find a job and keep a job?
- How can I live more independently?
- How can I find things to do in my spare time?
- How can I stay safe and healthy?



Harry Tavaré



K. Darham

Our Vision – Choices for Life

Becoming an adult can be a positive, exciting and challenging time. Effective support and planning will enable our young people to reach their full potential as an adult. This can only be achieved by talking about ambitions and plans for adulthood from an early age including introducing ideas about work, education and being part of a community including where they will live.

We view transition as a shared opportunity that should be driven by the needs, views and wishes of the young person and the people that care for them in partnership with the agencies surrounding them. Young people have expressed this as having “Choices for Life” and these plans should be evident throughout all reviews and provision in place for the young people supported through this strategy.

Local authorities **must** ensure that the Educational Health and Care plan review at Year 9, and every review thereafter, includes a focus on preparing for adulthood.

Planning **must** be centred around the individual and explore the child or young person’s aspirations and abilities, what they want to be able to do when they leave post-16 education or training and the support they need to achieve their ambition.

Transition planning **must** be built into the revised EHC plan and should result in clear outcomes being agreed that are ambitious and stretching and which will prepare young people for adulthood (SEN Code of Practice page 125).

The need for effective transitions feature as key elements of both the Children and Families Act (2014), and the Care Act (2014), as well as NICE guidelines (2016), and Somerset County Council acknowledges its responsibility and legal duty to prepare and support children and young people who are likely to continue to prepare for their adult-life and potentially beyond. This strategy sets out how the council intends to meet its statutory obligations and ambitions for young people.

The way that statutory services are configured and operate has meant that some young people and their families have had a negative experience of change in the types and levels of support as they grow older.

A key part of transition is about how young people and their families are included and prepared, and how services are coordinated. Provision from statutory authorities is subject to different legislation across child and adult provision, and it is not always the case that services provided for young people have an equivalent adult alternative that a person is eligible to receive.

This strategy is for those young people requiring support and guidance both **into** adult-life and **in** adult-life. Not all young people who are identified as requiring support in preparing for adult-life will require formal services from agencies in adult-life.

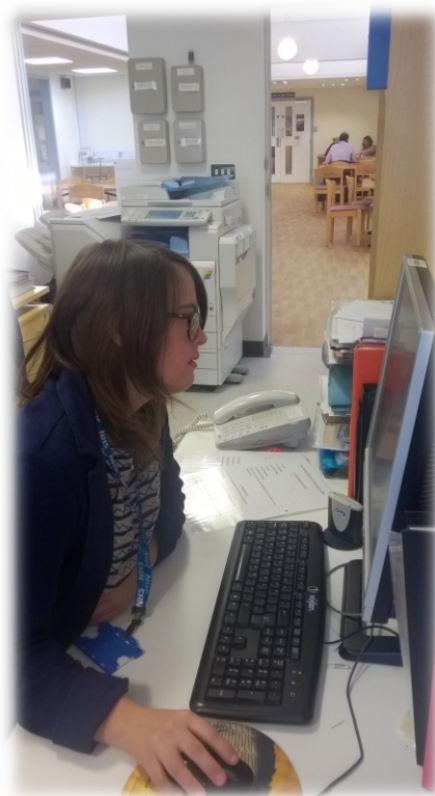
Where they do, they will be subject to transfer of care management and funding as appropriate. Where they do not, they will have clear decisions communicated with any appropriate guidance and signposting.

Effective preparation for adulthood will help manage change and promote independence, and all partners including young people and their parent/carers need to be committed to developing personalised and innovative approaches.

Our aim is to design and provide for a person's needs, aspirations and desired outcomes and to ensure that they receive timely information, advice and guidance to help them achieve this. We need to fulfil our statutory responsibilities in such a way that it makes sense to the young person and successfully enables his/her journey from childhood to adulthood, ensuring that they are able to effectively participate in their community and grow to live the life they want.

An effective transition from one service to another may hardly be noticed when it goes well and where the young person and family have been included, but where services fail or end, or where expectation is not met the person may be left increasingly vulnerable and distressed.

Preparation for Adulthood should be seamless and not create additional processes, but utilise existing plans, support, advice and information through effective intra-organisation coordination, and wider multi-agency partnership working.



Definitions – Who is included?

Within Somerset we have identified that there a number of young people who will benefit from robust planning and accountability into adult-life including those who are likely to gain significant benefit from a transition assessment as described through The Care Act (2014), we define these as the following:

Support in Adulthood:

- Children and young people identified as requiring support through statutory health and social care assessments whose needs will require continuing support from statutory adult services

Support into Adulthood:

- Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), who may be likely to require support into adult life to fulfil their ambitions

Young people who may be vulnerable as adults e.g.:

- Children and young people in care, and Care Leavers.
- Young Carers
- Those requiring ongoing support from health including those known to Child and Adolescent mental health teams

Activities undertaken over the past 12 months:

- Co-production of re-framing of transitions work resulting in renaming of Choices for Life and identification of the '5 Hows'
- Initial Choices for Life Fair developed by young people bringing together education, housing, employment, short-breaks, parent carers and other relevant support agencies in one place to support guidance and planning
- Activities with Special Schools and Further Education colleges to reinforce their relationships in order to meet the ambitions of young people and respond to the shifting approaches to education and personalisation
- Development of joint working practices across SEND/Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care including those that are Looked After and Leaving Care
- Development of Pathways to Employment group across agencies to create coherent strategy into work for our most vulnerable young people



- Focussed development of Supported Employment opportunities including liaison with employers/education providers and job coaches culminating in event for employers to hear the voice of young people both those with SEND and those Looked After and Leaving Care

Somerset County Council acknowledges its responsibility to young people in transition, and recognises that positive outcomes will only be achieved through a partnership approach to the opportunities and challenges that this time presents.

Children and young people involved in transition should be able to say:

- I am receiving the support I need, when I need them and I understand the changes that might occur as I prepare for adulthood
- Any plan written about my future will prioritise my views and all efforts will be made to make sure I can contribute to these plans.
- I understand what is planned and when things will happen, I am not surprised or worried about what is happening as I have the information I need.
- I am able to voice my views, wishes and opinions and they are listened to.
- I know who to ask for help if I am not sure of something and they respond to me quickly.
- My family/carers and I understand what will happen to my money as I prepare for adulthood.
- I understand the choices available in planning for my future, including the 5 Hows:
 - How can I choose my next school or college?**
 - How can I find a job and keep a job?**
 - How can I live more independently?**
 - How can I find things to do in my spare time?**
 - How can I stay safe and healthy?**
- I can access an advocate to support me and to make sure my views are heard and responded to.

High aspirations are crucial to success – discussions about longer term goals should start early and ideally well before year 9 (age 13-14) at school. They should focus on the child or young person’s strengths and capabilities and the outcomes they want to achieve (Code of Practice, page 120).

Work here sets out to develop a clear, integrated and effective pathway into adulthood that begins in year 9 and that offers the children, young people and their families who require it direction, information and support appropriate to their needs.

It will also provide a clear framework for multi-agency working, describing tasks and processes that best support families and fulfils the duties and responsibilities of the council.

This strategy is for those young people requiring support and guidance both **into** adult-life and **in** adult-life. Not all young people who are identified as requiring support in preparing for adult-life will require formal services from agencies in adult-life.

Where they do, they will be subject to transfer of care management and funding as appropriate. Where they do not, they will have clear decisions communicated with any appropriate guidance and signposting.

Next steps:

- Ensuring effective and accurate recording, safe sharing of data and information in support of an effective transition process.
- Updating and providing operational protocols to guide practice and ensure an effective approach in preparing for adult-life through a multi-agency approach
- Ensuring that Choices for Life area panels are attended by all appropriate services and create a culture of accountability through monitoring the performance and decision making throughout the process. They should also be used to inform services of the future needs of young people by collecting data and identifying gaps in provision
- Ensuring all reviewing processes maximise opportunities to discuss, plan for and commit provision to outcomes relating to preparing for adult-life including:
 - Employment
 - Independent Living
 - Community Inclusion
 - Health



Given that not all of the children and young people who fall in scope of this work will require support from Adult Services and that some will enter or leave the pathway at different stages, exact numbers are difficult to predict.

However, the current data indicates that we might expect 30% of young people who have Education, Health and Care plans or are funded through high needs funding to require support from Adult Social Care in their future.

As planning and monitoring improves, this should allow for improved data from which to build more accurate identification of numbers of reviews required each year, as well as identifying future levels of demand for services.

Systems and practice in commissioning and care management will need to reflect a commitment to person-centred approaches across our communities.

Next Steps:

- Work with the community and provider organisations to embed an approach which promotes independence at each stage leading to innovative and creative responses to the challenges presented through planning for adult life.
- Strengthen joint working arrangements across commissioning, contracting and procurement teams to ensure that continued post-transition placements or services are a positive choice of quality and value.
- Provide a needs and gaps analysis to ensure that Somerset is able to secure sufficient, affordable accommodation and services for the medium and long term future.
- Support the plans to provide accommodation and community services for people who display behaviour that challenges through 'transforming care' partnership working.
- Development of community approaches and personalisation within children's and adults services to reduce dependency on traditional services and provide truly individualised plans.

“Local authorities will need to consider the needs of the person, what needs they are likely to have when they (or the child they care for) turn 18, and the outcomes they want to achieve in life. They should consider what types of adult care and support might be of benefit at that point, and also consider whether other options beyond formal services might help the individual achieve their desired outcomes.” (Care Act, 2014)



Central to all developments is the maximizing of opportunities for the inclusion and participation of children, young people and their families throughout the conversations, assessment and planning. This should ensure that children and young people with even the most complex needs are included in their individual plans, wider service design and delivery. This includes ensuring that all young people and the people that care for them are able to access activities that are universally available within their local areas.

Next steps:

- Ensuring that full opportunity for inclusion in preparing for adulthood is offered to all and that there is careful coordination of planning to fully explore the promotion of independence from the earliest age across relevant agencies
- Providing support to enable children and young people to have a voice, including access to advocacy services as required
- Facilitate opportunities for eligible families to use personalised budgets and direct payments in a way which supports preparation for an adult-life which is as independent as possible
- The creation of more robust Supported Employment models across both education and adult social care to increase the number of people with SEND in work
- Reinforcing current area panels by increasing membership to include special schools to account for and discuss plans for young people as they prepare for adult-life

Somerset knows that consistent communication, guidance and early planning are key areas that require action over the next 12 months.

Our activity across the next 12 months:

- Continue to work with our partners including Young People and Parent/carers to test out this strategy, clarify the aims and recognise the achievements
- Create consistent and measurable data regarding those young people who may require support and guidance in preparing for a good adult life
- Implement Choices for Life area panels across county
- Work with our partners to ensure that different systems and processes do not inhibit creative person-centred approaches which promote independence
- Provide a supporting infrastructure by nominating both a senior executive accountable for developing and publishing this strategy, and senior managers from education, children, and adult services, to be accountable for its implementation.
- Use this strategy with our partners in health and education to continue to build on our joint approaches to identifying those requiring support in preparing for adult-hood and to work collaboratively to meet the identified outcomes
- Develop provision within post-16 education and services within Adult Social Care to expand access to a meaningful adult-life with the right support for young people including a significant development of support into work
- Deliver two “Choices for Life” events within established careers fairs
- Parent/carer forum to develop approaches with parents
- Working with employers to break down perceptions of work

Measures:

1. Number of recorded outcomes achieved using Preparing for Adulthood review framework through pilot group
2. Number of young people at year 9 identified as requiring support through transition
3. Number of young people with a positive destination through the September guarantee
4. Number of young people allocated to Adult Social Care from 16
5. Percentage of young people successfully transitioning to adult services at the appropriate time
6. Number of young people defined through this strategy accessing Supported Employment programmes inc. Traineeships, Apprenticeships and Supported Internships
7. Young people/families and carers express confidence and understanding of the transition process via participation groups

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 0-25

Strategy and Priority Action Plan - Quarter 3 Update

8 December 2017

Sharon Longden – Education

Lydia Woodward – Health

Jackie Miles – Children’s Social Care (Children With Disabilities)

Claire Merchant-Jones – Adult Social Care (Transitions)

Kiah Durham – SEND Commissioning

Rowina Clift-Shanley – Senior Programme Manager



Peer Review Findings – strengths and weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
The strategic participation of the Parent Carer Forum and 'The Unstoppables'	Historic arrangements with schools meaning the number of pupils subject to formal SEN assessment is lower than other areas
Many examples of outstanding practice from schools and specialist services	Partnership capacity to ensure high quality EHCPs are in place
Well resourced specialist support and outreach support to schools	School capacity to improve outcomes for pupils with SEND
Core Standards framework for graduated response	Capacity of the SEND Casework team to meet EHCP assessment needs
Strong partnership between schools and the LA	



SEND Strategy

The co-produced Somerset SEND Strategy for children and young people aged 0-25: 2016-19 has a shared vision in place:

We want every child and young person to have the greatest possible opportunity to be the best they can be, to be happy and have choice and control over their life

Outcome 1: Our families, children and young people report a positive experience of our SEND systems an support, feel empowered and confident to engage and make decisions

Outcome 2: Timely and accurate assessment and identification of SEND across education, health and care services

Outcome 3: Inclusive and equitable access to good quality local education

Outcome 4: Smooth and effective transitions happen at key points for the child and young person

Outcome 5: Creative partnership working delivers effective, fair and transparent systems and services



SEND is firmly embedded into a wider strategic agenda:

Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Somerset 2013 – 2018 Priority Outcomes

Families and communities are thriving and resilient.

People, families and communities take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Somerset people are able to live independently

Somerset Children & Young People’s Plan 2016 – 2019 Outcomes

Young people and families are in control and know where to access help and advice to manage their own health and wellbeing

Children, young people and families are enabled to lead healthy lives
More children and young people will have good emotional health and wellbeing, are emotionally resilient and equipped to manage their lives.

Every child will achieve well above expectations and not be held back by their social and personal backgrounds, special educational needs or disabilities.
All children get the best start in the early years; all pupils can go to a good school and have high aspirations for their future
All children get the best start in the early years; all pupils can go to a good school and have high aspirations for their future

Children and young people are protected from harm and well cared for at home wherever possible
All staff recognise and actively work to our expected values and behaviours
Staff will have the skills and knowledge to identify issues early in families and to address those issues quickly and effectively
All professionals and staff who work with adults and children and young people understand the concept of ‘think family’

Outcomes from Somerset’s Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 2016-19

1 our families, children and young people report a positive experience of our SEND systems and support, feel empowered and

2 timely and accurate assessment and identification of SEND across education, health and care services.

3 inclusive and equitable access to good quality local education

4 smooth and effective transitions happen at key points for the child and young person.

5 creative partnership working delivers effective, fair and transparent systems and services.



9 multi-agency priorities

- 1) Joint Commissioning
- 2) Health
- 3) Transitions
- 4) Participation
- 5) Early Help
- 6) Statutory Assessment
- 7) Complex Cases
- 8) School Improvement
- 9) Ofsted Preparation & Inspection Readiness

RCS



Understanding Somerset's Need

- 15.6% of children in schools schools have identified SEND, which equates to 12,000 children and young people (this is in line with regional average)
- Growing population of children and young people and a significant increase in the secondary school population
- Lower proportion of children with EHCP/Statements than comparator authorities
- Notable difference in SEND Need types in Somerset compared to National averages including:
 - a lower proportion of children with Moderate Learning Disability
 - a higher proportion of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs
 - a lower proportion with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- SEND is more prevalent in boys
- Pupils with SEND are almost three times more likely to be eligible for free school meals
- Approximately 20% of children who are educated at home (EHE) have SEND (as at 23 November 2017, 11 have a Statement or EHCP and 148 were in receipt of SEN Support at the time they became EHE)
- There are a higher number of Children Looked After with SEN Support in Somerset than Nationally, and also for Children in Need (but to lesser extent)
- There are more males than females across all age ranges (0-24) claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and claimant levels are below the south west average
- High number of children and young people attend independent schools and colleges.

NB: some national and regional data is significantly affected by proportionately lower % of pupils with statements or EHCPs.

SL



The SEND System

Leadership and Governance

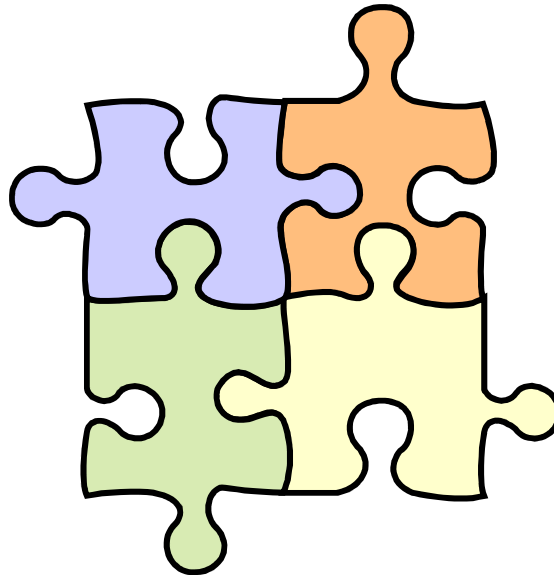
Education

Parent Carers

Health

Children and Young People

Care



Education

Key Outcomes include:

- A clear strategy for the development of specialist placements in all four geographical areas of Somerset to ensure equity of access and clarity of pathways for SEND.
- Realignment of resources to create additional capacity to address need.
- Publication and implementation of core standards in all educational settings across all age groups 0-25 on how to support children with SEN at SEN Support.
- Increased clarity for parents on what they can expect from educational settings in relation to support for SEND.
- Review of High Needs top-up allocation to ensure fair and transparent decision making and sustainability of resources ahead of the national funding formula.



Education Outcomes

- Absence rates for Somerset's SEN pupils are higher on average than their National peers, and levels of absence are increasing.
- The proportion of Somerset children with SEN Support achieving a good level of development (GLD) at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage has been increasing, and broadly consistent with the National average.
- KS1 2016 performance for SEND pupils was in line with the National average.
- KS2 2016 performance for SEND pupils was below the National average.
- Key Stage 1 and 2 provisional data 2017 indicates that overall performance of SEN Support pupils has improved, while performance of those with an EHCP/ Statement has lowered.
- GCSE results in 2016 for SEN pupils attaining GCSE English and Mathematics at grades A*-C remained below the National average.
- Fixed term exclusion rates for Somerset's SEN pupils are higher than the National average, and permanent exclusions rates are broadly in line.
- There has been a significant increase in exclusions (both fixed term and permanent) in 2016/17. The largest increase is in secondary schools. SEND children with a need type of Social, Emotional and Mental Health account for the majority of exclusions.
- NEET figures for young people with SEND in Somerset are in line with latest National data, but levels have increased.



Statutory Duties

In terms of the percentage of Conversions/Transfers from Statements to EHC Plans:

- As at January (21 January) – 1,014 statements maintained. 268 Final EHC Plans or Cease letters issued. 1282 total conversion processes to complete (conversion Tracker report did not exist at this point and there were data issues) 26.2% Conversion processes completed. Source: SEN2 2017
- As at April (18 April) – 696 Statements maintained. 1149 total conversion processes to complete. 39.4% Conversion processes completed. Source: Conversion Tracker report.
- As at September (14 September) – 577 Statements maintained. 1147 total conversion processes to complete. 49.6% Conversion processes completed. Source: Conversion Tracker report.
- As at November (14 November) – 445 Statements maintained. 1134 total conversion processes to complete. 60.8% Conversion processes completed. Source: Conversion Tracker report.



Statutory Duties

In terms of the percentage of New EHC Plans completed within 20 weeks:

- As at January (Plans issued in the calendar year 2016 from 1 January to 31 December) – 52.6%. Source: SEN2 2017
- As at April (Plans issued in the academic year 2016/17 from 1 September to 30 April) – 54%. Source: SENNI103 Performance Report.
- As at end of academic year (Plans issued in the academic year 2016/17 from 1 September to 31 August) – 55%. Source: SENNI103 Performance Report.
- This academic year (Plans issued in the academic year 2017/18 from 1 September to 31 October) – 70%. Source: SENNI103 Performance Report.



Health Developments

Health engagement in the SEND statutory process

- The Designated Medical Officer (DMO) and CCG Commissioner now regularly attend the SEND Panel to provide medical information and expert professional advice on health needs the impact on learning. This is a new initiative and is having an impact on the quality of panel decisions.
- The Strategic Manager SEND and parent carer forum representatives attended a Joint Health Commissioning event with the outcome that further training events were required. These have been organised for December 2017 with a focus on health contributions to EHCPs outcomes and joint commissioning of services.
- The CCG Commissioner is attending and contributing to the SEND improvement strategy and the EHCP moderation meetings.



Public Health Survey Outcomes

Somerset children with SEND were:

- significantly more likely to report feeling unhappy, having a lower self-esteem and being the victim of bullying
- significantly more likely to have negative health related behaviours (in relation to healthy eating, smoking, alcohol and drugs) and lower aspirations
- less likely to have the resilience and self determination to look after their emotional and physical health and wellbeing.

Current work on joint data dashboard:

- Use of NHS number
- Linkage across systems and organisations including troubled families
- A local area data set to give a holistic view



Parent Carers / Participation

Overview

- Duty in the code of practice to involve parent carers at individual and strategic level
- National recognition for strategic parental involvement
- Insight tells us there is opportunity to improve at an individual level.eg. POET survey results

Key Focus this period:

- Review of local offer content
- Design of new local offer platform
- Involvement in the nine priorities for SEND in Somerset
- Supporting preparation for inspection



Multi-Agency Working

A series of SEND 0-25 multi-agency practitioner conferences were delivered across Somerset during October 2017 with the aim of:

- Sharing learning around Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and the Early Help Assessment (EHA).
- Networking and getting to know other colleagues in localities.
- Sharing case studies and best practice.
- Discussing barriers to joined up/partnership working and the solutions to overcoming these challenges.
- Developing a SEND Charter to establish and embed the principles of **good** partnership working across Somerset. A total of **248** delegates attended:
 - **40%** of attendance came from Education including Early Years, SENCO, Headteachers, PFSA's (Parent and Family Support Advisors)
 - **35%** of attendance came from Care which included Children's Social Care and getset
 - **13%** of attendance came from Health and included SOMPAR, ITS, OT, Ed Psych, Health Visitors and Nurses
 - **10%** of attendance was classed as Other and included some SCC staff, a Governor and Councillor Frances Nicholson.



Key Aspects of the Plan achieved in Quarter 3:

- Health colleagues have stepped up their engagement with support from the Council for Disabled Children (CDC). The CDC is also assisting in improving joint commissioning between the CCG and the LA
- A series of multi-agency practitioner conferences were delivered across Somerset to improve understanding of the SEND strategy, identify barriers and strengthen partnership working
- Guidance has been improved in relation to early help arrangements
- SEND Casework team capacity is increasing and are on track to complete the transfer of Statements to EHCPs
- A new banding system for pupils with SEN support has been implemented across all schools
- The new banding system combined with improved data matching with CSC systems has improved identification of children to be prioritised for an EHCP
- Plans have been agreed for investing in the sufficiency of Special School and Resource Base places to enable more children's needs to be met within the Somerset state school system





Imagine the possibilities
if you had the opportunities



Choices for Life

Imagine the possibilities if you had the opportunities

Page 77



CMJ/KD

Kiah.....

The more opportunities we have to make decisions in our lives, the more **confident** we will become. By making our own decisions we can **accept challenges, understand risk** and **learn from mistakes. This is okay!**



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Imagine the possibilities
if you had the opportunities



Choices for Life

- How can I choose my next school or college?
- How can I find a job and keep a job?
- How can I live more independently?
- How can I find things to do in my spare time?
- How can I stay safe and healthy?

How can this be meaningful to all young people?

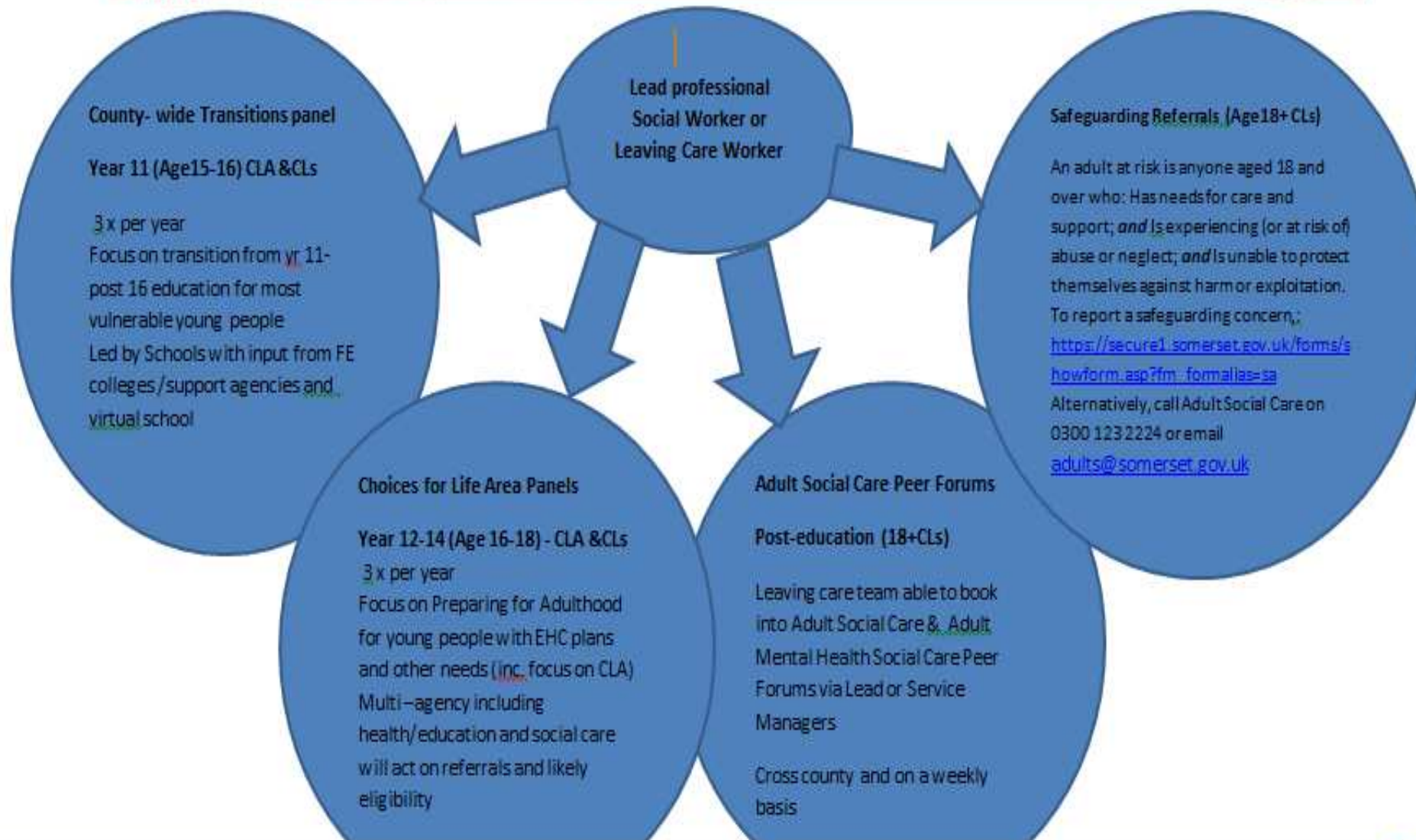
Children Looked After and Care Leaver Professional Support Route



Imagine the possibilities
if you had the opportunities

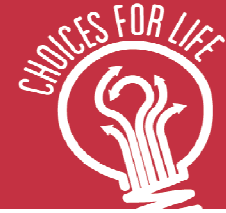


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Imagine the possibilities
if you had the opportunities



Current development plan:

- **Choices for Life area panels creating accountability**
- **post-16 curriculum developments including post-19 and focus on reduction of out-of-county solutions**
- **Transition for all young people throughout learning**
- **Introduction to Supported Employment through all work experience opportunities**
- **Pathway to Employment development within Somerset County Council with partners**
- **Use of Education Health and Care plans to plan from year 9 and inform commissioning within ASC and health services**
- **Guidance from year 9 available to young people/ parents/carers regarding Choices for Life including transition to adult services developed by parent carers**
- **Work with mainstream and universal providers to encourage inclusive approaches from as early as possible**

Questions?



Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB), Annual Report 2016/17

Lead Officer: Sally Halls – Independent Chair (SSCB)
Author: Helen MacDonald – Business Manager (SSCB)
Contact Details: hmacdonald@somerset.gov.uk and
Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson
Division and Local Member: ALL

1. Summary

- 1.1.** The SSCB Independent Chair must publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area; this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004.

The purpose of this annual report is to provide a transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services, identifying where improvements are required.

Progress against the Board's four priorities (Early Help, multi-agency safeguarding, neglect, child sexual exploitation and children missing) is detailed.

The report summarises key learning points from serious case reviews and other learning and quality assurance activity undertaken by the Board.

The report concludes that overall, the way the SSCB and its partners have worked together to keep children safe in Somerset has improved over the past year. Many children and families are receiving more effective services, often at an earlier stage than previously. The Board is better sighted on the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. However, there is still work to do to improve the quality and consistency of services, to strengthen early help arrangements, and to promote improvement in key areas such as neglect and the exploitation of children.

- 1.2.** In line with the Somerset Working Together Protocol for the Strategic Partnership Boards in Somerset, the sharing of this Annual Report by the SSCB with the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) aims to support effective joint working across the Somerset partnerships.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** That the committee is asked to consider and comment on the SSCB ambition to promote learning from reviews across agencies and the wider community.

3. Background

3.1. What the SSCB Annual Report covers

The report provides information on the governance, structure and activities of the Board and an overview of progress against the Board's business priorities for 2016/17:

- Early Help;
- Multi-agency safeguarding;
- Neglect;
- Child Sexual Exploitation/Children Missing.

The report is structured in such a way to highlight progress against the priorities and to demonstrate impact of this work. It describes:

- What was done;
- What the impact was;
- Next steps to be taken.

The report also provides an overview of statutory Board activities and functions, including:

- Management of allegations of abuse made against people who work with children;
- Communicating and raising awareness of how all parties can best safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Somerset;
- Developing and supporting the workforce through training, development of safeguarding policies, procedures and other guidance;
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of partners and local services;
- Reviewing serious cases where children have been seriously harmed.

3.2.

Key themes and lessons learnt this year

One Serious Case Review was published in 2016/17. This concerned *two* children, '**Child J and Child L**', who suffered serious harm as a result of non-accidental injury.

The annual report also:

- details the progress of two further Serious Case Reviews during 16/17: '**Child Sam**' suffered serious harm as a result of non-accidental injury; and '**Operation Fenestra**,' focuses upon a number of children who suffered serious harm as a result of being sexually exploited;
- outlines how the Board has conducted a number of **multi-agency practitioner learning events** in response serious incident notifications where clear opportunities for improving multi-agency practice were identified, particularly in cases where **hidden harm** were a key feature.

These reviews have helped the Board to highlight good practice and to identify where improvements were required, including:

- increasing workforce understanding of the vulnerability of unborn and new born babies;
- identifying and responding to risk to children in the wider family context, especially where families experience multiple vulnerabilities;
- sharing information with and across agencies more effectively to safeguard children.

In addition, the annual report outlines how learning identified from the Serious Case Review (SCR) '**Fenestra**', is beginning to assist the Board in strengthening its response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Somerset. Many of the key lessons identified will require all partners to:

- Support the workforce in their knowledge and understanding around issues of sexual consent and adolescent sexual activity;

- Help the workforce develop skills for working with parents around issues or risk 'outside' of the family;
- Develop education provision around relationships and raise awareness of CSE for both children, their families and the wider community;
- Understand the need for children who may be at risk from or experiencing CSE to have sufficient and experienced support for their emotional and mental health problems;
- Recognise that this is a complex area of work and strong multi-agency collaboration across all partners is essential.

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1. N/A

5. Implications

5.1. N/A

6. Background papers

6.1. *SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17*

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

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ANNUAL

REPORT

2016/17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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1. Foreword by the Independent Chair

I am pleased to introduce this annual report for Somerset Safeguarding Children Board, covering the year 2016-17. This is a public report which sets out the work of the Board and its view of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the county. The report aims to give everyone who lives and works in Somerset a sense of how well local services and people in the community are working together to keep children safe. The report is also intended to inform the decisions made by those responsible for leading, commissioning and funding local services.

Throughout the year, work has continued to address the shortcomings highlighted by Ofsted in early 2015, when it found that arrangements in place to evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and Board partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children were inadequate. At the same time, Somerset County Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers were also judged to be inadequate. The Council's improvement partner, Essex County Council, has provided significant support and assistance during this period, with oversight from the Department for Education. My attendance at the quarterly performance review meetings has provided additional opportunity to assess progress with improving the quality and effectiveness of the Council's social care services for children.

Throughout the year, agencies have continued to demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding children through contributing to the multi-agency work of the Board, taking part in multi-agency auditing and challenge activities, and sharing their own data and self-assessments. The Board has also worked in support of the vision of the Children's Trust, focusing attention on areas which present the greatest risk to Somerset's children - child sexual exploitation and going missing, neglect and domestic abuse – and working more closely with other multi-agency partnerships to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals and families are identified, supported and safeguarded. The Board has also worked with organisations in the voluntary, faith and sports sectors, in order to promote understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and improve the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

As in previous years, many of the organisations which contribute to the Board's work have continued to face significant financial pressures, which have entailed difficult decisions about allocation of resources. Where it was felt to be necessary, the Board has challenged decisions made by agencies at both strategic and operational levels. Despite the pressures, the Board's partners have maintained a focus on developing arrangements and services which enable a quicker, earlier response to children and families who may need additional help. The way that Somerset's schools have

embraced this agenda is particularly encouraging. This is an area that will continue to be promoted in the year to come, with the aim of supporting families more effectively at an early stage and reducing the need for statutory intervention as difficulties become more entrenched.

This work will continue during 2017-18, as will efforts to ensure that every child receives a consistently high quality response, whatever the level of need. The year will also see attention paid to putting in place future arrangements for safeguarding children in response to the changed legislative context that has been introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which gives greater flexibility locally whilst increasing accountability for NHS and police partners alongside the local authority.

The Board has published one serious case review (SCR) during the year covered by this report, which focused on significant harm to a very young infant. Previous SCRs had had a similar focus and the Board was keen to ensure that the right lessons were being identified and properly implemented by all agencies. The review brought increased focus on the need for workers to maintain 'healthy scepticism' at all times, maintaining a clear focus on the child. In addition, individual cases and groups of cases have been reviewed to identify both good practice and areas for improvement. The Board will continue to monitor the impact of the learning from these cases on the quality of local practice.

I would like to thank Board partners for their hard work and commitment in support of the Board over the past year, and their willingness to challenge and be challenged to achieve ever higher standards. In particular, the two community (lay) members have been essential in holding the Board to account from the perspective of Somerset's communities, enabling the Board to stay in touch with local realities and offering a critical friend perspective on all safeguarding issues.

Finally, as ever, there are staff and volunteers who day to day demonstrate their commitment to children and families through their work and dedication. We thank them all for everything they do to safeguard children and promote their wellbeing.

Sally Halls

2. Executive Summary

The SSCB Independent Chair must publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area; this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004.

The purpose of the annual report is to provide a transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services, identifying where improvements are required.

During the course of the year, the Board has listened to children and young people, their families, and the practitioners that work with them and provide services for them.

The report describes the work of the Board and how it has examined individual cases and reviews of practice in circumstances where children have been seriously harmed including through non accidental injury, child sexual exploitation, neglect, and sexual abuse. These reviews were significant in helping the Board to understand where improvements are required and to highlight good practice.

From examining some cases in more depth through multi-agency audits and learning reviews, the Board learnt that more work needs to be done to support practitioners in their use of escalation and resolving professional differences guidance, applying pre-birth guidance, and improving the quality and consistency of sharing information with and between agencies.

The Board received reports and updates on how effective Early Help services are in ensuring that children and their families receive timely and effective help, and has monitored how supporting guidance for multi-agency practitioners has continued to be embedded throughout the year. The report highlights positive progress with this priority and outlines the further work needed to achieve greater consistency of application and understanding by practitioners across the partnership. The Board is aware that further work needs to be done to improve its understanding of the impact of Early Help on outcomes for children, and this will be a key focus for next year.

The Board was pleased to learn that Early Help Assessments had helped practitioners to recognise domestic abuse and its impact upon children, although domestic abuse has continued to feature in reviews of cases where children suffered harm. We will therefore focus work in the coming year on helping agencies to identify and respond to the risks and vulnerabilities within families where domestic abuse is a concern.

Neglect has been the focus of development work this year, and will continue to be a priority during 2017-18, with a focus on equipping practitioners with the guidance and tools to improve their ability to identify neglect and respond to it more effectively.

Referrals to Children's Social Care have decreased over the year and the corresponding upward trend in the numbers of Early Help cases suggests that the Effective Support for Children and Families guidance is helping to improve understanding and familiarity around thresholds.

The number of children subject to a child protection (CP) plan remained stable for most of 2016/17. In addition, the SSCB saw a decrease in the number of repeat CP plans and the proportion of long-term CP plans [2 years or more] gradually reduced. The Board was pleased to learn that the timeliness of the Child Protection (CP) planning conference system including reviews continues to outperform statistical neighbours and the national average in England.

Auditing highlighted positive practice and specific areas requiring improvement. The Board learnt through learning reviews, a MAPPA review and an HMIC Police inspection report that particular attention needs to be paid to the management and assessment of risks posed by registered sex offenders to children they might have access to, sometimes within their own families.

'Think Family' continues to be a key practice approach for the Board and we will continue to work closely with the Somerset Safeguarding Adult Board (SSAB) and other partners to develop 'Think Family' practice across the workforce in 2017/18.

We have looked in depth at Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Somerset through the Serious Case Review (SCR) Operation Fenestra. Although not yet finalised for publication at the time of writing this report, the findings are already assisting the Board in developing improved multi-agency collaboration to progress this critical area of safeguarding work and to drive the CSE strategy and action plan further forward.

The Board has welcomed partners' very positive engagement with the 'Section 11' self-assessment process and plans for further section 11 peer review workshops. This has helped the Board to monitor the effectiveness of organisations in meeting their duties under Section 11 of the Children Act. The new online self-assessment tools have proved helpful to partners in undertaking their own quality assurance with regard to safeguarding and child protection arrangements and practice. Schools, in particular, found the audit tool helpful and the results from the partners' assessments have helped the Board to understand where specific improvements need to be made.

A series of peer challenge workshops will provide extra scrutiny and build upon the positive challenge and support culture developing within the partnership. We will continue to work with agencies to scrutinise their own practice so that they can improve their safeguarding services for children, through use of the Section 11 peer review workshops and building upon the constructive challenge culture that has developed over this last year.

Work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors has continued to be strengthened; strategic engagement through the Somerset Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Strategic Forum planned for 2017/18 will also help to increase engagement with the sector as we move forward.

Information about how 'Prevent' has progressed since its implementation in 2015 indicates that a good start has been made to embed 'Prevent' in Somerset with a good response from Somerset agencies, particularly schools.

The Board has examined cases of children who have died; reviews of these cases have led to clear identification of improvements which needed to be made. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which oversees these reviews shared key lessons and made recommendations around asthma deaths. Its review of a small number of sudden infant deaths led to the promotion of a safer sleeping campaign across Somerset. The panel raised concerns with organisations around the sale of nebulisers in supermarkets, and also wrote to the Coroner about post-mortem examinations.

The Board received a report about allegations of abuse made against people who work with children which demonstrated a greater awareness of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the notification procedure which has led to a substantial increase in notifications in comparison to last year. Engagement in a new multi-agency forum to risk manage adults who are identified as posing a potential risk to children has been a positive development this year aimed at enhancing the safeguarding system to keep children safe. In the coming year the Board will be interested to understand about the progress and impact of this forum.

Targeted work with schools and communications to raise awareness has led to an increase in the numbers of notifications of private fostering arrangements this year. This is welcome, and needs to be improved upon and expanded. A knowledge gap relating to private fostering was identified as part of the school's Section 175/157 self-assessments and the Board will continue to build on the work of agencies to address this and further raise awareness in Somerset.

The Board welcomed clear progress made in multi-agency training with strong participation from all agencies across the partnership and the development of a fully traded training unit. The Board will continue to improve methods that capture evidence of impact upon practice and improve assessment of the effectiveness of single agency training.

Clear progress has been made by the Board with communications; resources include an improved website, newsletters and a new learning bulletin, together with the use of social media to get important messages and learning out to both practitioners and the wider community.

Dedicated pages on the website for safeguarding leads and the implementation of a safeguarding leads consultation line in 2016 has helped to improve practitioners understanding of thresholds for intervention and the application of the Effective Support for Children and Families guidance. Practitioners have welcomed these developments, and the Board will take action in the coming year to understand and

help improve competence and confidence so that understanding around thresholds continues to increase and thresholds are consistently applied in Somerset.

We have acknowledged the enormous contribution made to the work of the Board by two community lay members who have challenged and enabled the Board to stay in touch with local realities and offering a critical friend perspective on all safeguarding issues. The two members will continue to be supported in 2017/18 and encouraged to make links with others both locally and nationally to build upon their growing expertise and good practice.

The report concludes that overall, the way the SSCB and its partners have worked together to keep children safe in Somerset has improved over the past year. Many children and families are receiving more effective services, often at an earlier stage than previously. The Board is better sighted on the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. However, there is still work to do across the partnership to improve the quality and consistency of services, to strengthen early help arrangements, and to promote improvement in key areas such as neglect and the exploitation of children.

3. About the SSCB Annual Report for 2016/17

The SSCB annual report for 2016/17 provides a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across Somerset and the Board's effectiveness in carrying out its statutory functions throughout 2016/17.

The report provides:

- information about the structures in place that support the SSCB to do its work effectively;
- a clear context for safeguarding children and young people in Somerset, highlighting progress made by the partnership over the last year and the challenges moving forward;
- an overview of the lessons that the SSCB have identified through the Learning and Improvement Framework and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity;
- a summary of the actions taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of learning and improvement and QA activity;
- an insight into the range and activity of the multi-agency safeguarding training delivered and co-ordinated by the SSCB and a brief account of the single agency training delivered by partners;
- the priorities going forward and the key messages from the Independent Chair of the SSCB to key people involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

The report this year will aim to address three specific questions:

1. What we did
2. How well we did it
3. The difference it has made

In line with statutory requirements, the SSCB annual report for 2016/17 has been sent to the following:

- Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Chair of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board
- Somerset County Council's Director of Children's Services
- The Chair of the Safer Somerset Partnership

A copy of the SSCB annual report has also been shared in advance for consultation with Board and Subgroup members.

4. Children in Somerset – The Local Context

In Somerset there are 109,200 children aged 0 to 17 years old, with a third of the population living in the main urban areas centered on the towns of Taunton, Bridgwater, Frome, Glastonbury and Yeovil (Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015; *(ONS 2015 mid-year population estimates)*).

4.1 Levels of Poverty

Somerset remains a relatively affluent county and experiences lower than national average in terms of overall levels of deprivation (Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015).

However the county has a range of contrast with areas recognised nationally as being in the 25 most highly deprived neighbourhoods (IMD 2015), this number has increased from 14 since 2010 and with 38,000 residents living in neighbourhoods categorised as being within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. In 2014 there were estimated to be 15.3% of children living in poverty in Somerset. This equates to one in every seven children aged under 16. The national average for England is 20.1% (IMD 2015).

The highest levels of deprivation are found within the county's larger urban areas (IMD 2015), with the most deprived areas of Somerset being the Lambrook and Halcon areas of Taunton and the Sydenham and Hamp areas in Sedgemoor.

West Somerset communities are the most rurally isolated in the county and rank amongst the 15% most deprived local authorities nationally. In a report published by the Social Mobility & Child Poverty Commission (January 2016), West Somerset was ranked 1 out of 324 local authorities for social mobility.

4.2 Children with Child Protection plans

There has been an increase in the number of children who have been made the subject of a child protection plan. At the end of March 2017, there were 413 (279 children in the previous year) children with child protection plans from 204 families (143 in previous year) living in the county. This is approximately 37.9 (25.6 in the previous year) per 10,000, which is lower than the 43.1 national average in England 2015/16. During 2016/17, there were 38 children (47 in previous year) with a child protection plan from 26 families (31 in previous year), who were temporarily living in Somerset during the year.

Within the reporting period, 2.0% (9/447 plans) of child protection plans lasted for two years or more, a reduction from 4.8% in the previous year and lower than the

national average in England of 3.8% for 2015/16. 22.4% (110 plans) lasted between 1 and 2 years with most lasting between six and twelve months (42%-188/447).

At the end of March 2017, in Somerset, children were subject of a child protection plan for the following reasons:

- Emotional abuse 89 plans 21.5% (31.2% in 2015/16)
- Neglect 288 plans 69.7% (57.7% in 2015/16)
- Physical abuse 7 plans 1.7% (4.7% in 2015/16)
- Sexual abuse 6 plans 1.4% (0.4% in 2015/16)
- Multiple factors 23 plans 5.6% (6.1% in 2015/16)

4.3 Children Looked after

At the end of March 2017, there were 479 children in care, compared with 503 in 2016; this equates to 43.8 per 10,000 children for 2016/17 compared to 60.3 per 10,000 in 2016.

Of Somerset's children looked after, there were 192 fostering or residential placements (involving 148 individual children) in 2016-2017, which were commissioned from providers other than the local authority (e.g. other local authorities, other public provision, private provision or voluntary/ third sector provision). Of these 192 placements, 94 were within the borders of Somerset and 98 were outside the county boundary.

During 2016/17, 34 (50, in the previous reporting year) children were secured permanence through adoption and a further 30 (13) left care as a result of Special Guardianship Orders.

The number of children looked after under the age of 18 placed in Somerset by other local authorities stood at 199 on the 31st March 2017, (179).

The number of residential providers in Somerset during 2016/17 was 41.

Of those operating during 2016/17, Ofsted rating them as follows:

- 16 'Outstanding' or 'good'
- 4 'requires improvement'
- 2 as 'inadequate'
- 2 'awaiting' outcomes at the end of March 2017

There are 16 fostering providers, Ofsted rated these as:

- 2 'Outstanding' with 14 'good'

- zero inadequate (or awaiting confirmation)

Ofsted rating for homes outside Somerset, where a Somerset child was placed during 2016/17 were as follows:

- 10 rated as 'Outstanding' or 'good'
- 1 rated 'requires improvement'
- 1 rated 'Inadequate'
- zero 'awaiting outcomes' at the end of March 2017

4.4 Somerset Safeguarding Snapshot 2016-17 figures

- 109,657 Children aged under 18 [2016 year population estimates]
- 20% of the Somerset population
- 15.3% of children living in poverty – [2014 data, latest available]
- 10.6% of primary school Somerset children are in receipt of free school meals, the national average is England: 14.1% (Based on January 2017 school census)
- 1959 open EHA assessments (as at 31/3/17)
- 1731 referrals/EHA's to the Early Help hub
- 92 TAC meetings were held in the 2016/17 academic year
- 44 children identified as being at risk of CSE (with CSE banner) as at 31/3/17
- 71 of Somerset children identified as going missing from care
- 992 incidents of children and young people missing from home
- 468 Return Home Interviews were conducted (47.1%)
- 30,120 contacts to Somerset Direct across 2016/17
- 5,001 referrals to CSC, 1,040 re-referrals [20.8%] took place
- 5,185 C&F statutory social work assessments started 2016/17
- 4,920 C&F assessments completed in 2016/17 at an average of 29 days
- 645 ICPCs completed in 2016/17
- 413 children on a CP plan as of end of March 2017 (279 in previous year)
- 1,738 CIN cases as at end of March 2017
- 10,845 in receipt of SEN Support as at 31/3/2017,
- 875 in receipt of Education Health and Care Plans [EHCP], as at 31/3/2017,
- 729 with a Statement of Special Educational Needs as at 31/3/2017,
- 479 children and young people were looked after as in 2016/17
- 612 HIGH RISK domestic abuse notifications made to the police during 2016/17
- 755 children were associated with these incidents
- 25% repeat incidents of HIGH RISK domestic abuse during 2016/17
- 478 notifications of allegations of abuse made against staff working with children
- 3 private fostering arrangements as of March 2017
- 1,108 professionals attended SSCB multi-agency training

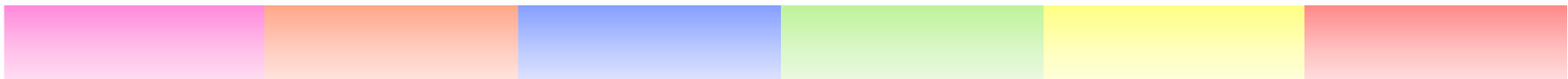
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SSCB Annual Report 2016/17



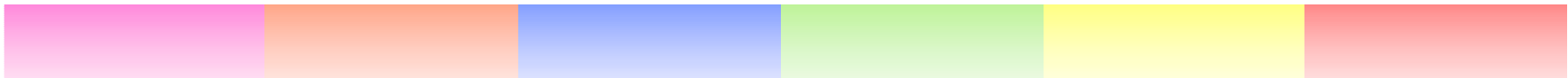
What do Safeguarding Children Boards do?

- The role of safeguarding children partnerships
- An example of the Board's role
- Learning to improve
- DVD - Fenestra



SSCB Annual Report 16/17

- The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.⁴⁷
- This is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004.
- The SSCB annual report for 2016/17 provides a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across Somerset and the Boards effectiveness of carrying out its statutory functions throughout 2016/17.



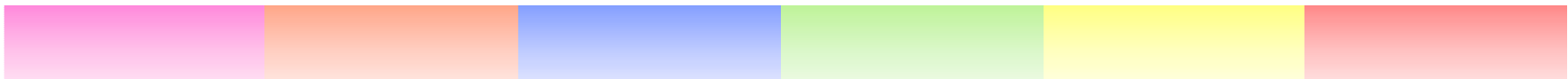
What the report covers

- Assessment of performance and effectiveness
- Information on structures
- Context
- Progress against SSCB priorities
- Lessons identified / actions taken
- QA activity / actions taken
- Insight into activities and functions
- **What?** **How well?** **Impact?**



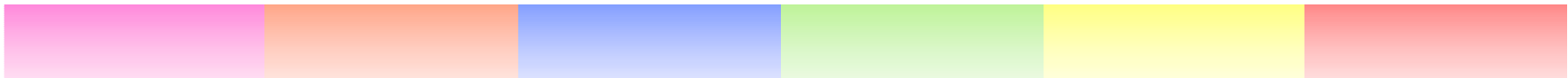
Exec summary

- Cases examined through SCR's and learning reviews
- Learning from reviews, MAPPA, HMIC - need for attention on sex offenders
- Reports on progress made with Early Help
- 'Think Family'
- CSE and 'Fenestra' findings assist SSCB
- Section 11 and 175/157
- VCS and Faith engagement



Exec Summary

- Effectiveness of the Child Protection System
- Child Protection (CP) planning conference
- Prevent progress since 2015
- Child Deaths Reviews
- LADO improvements
- Private Fostering
- Workforce
- Communications
- Support to designated safeguarding leads
- Community members



Family Support Service & Children's Centre consultation

Scrutiny – Children's and Families update

8th December 2017

Alison Bell
Public Health Consultant
Somerset County Council



WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Family Support Service & Children's Centre consultation

Headline Figures

488 responses to the consultation questionnaire

346 people were spoken to at consultation drop in sessions (6 across the County) or at targeted focus groups (such as young parents, breastfeeding, stay and play etc.)

44 emails received from individuals or groups with feedback, sometimes in addition to completing the consultation questionnaire

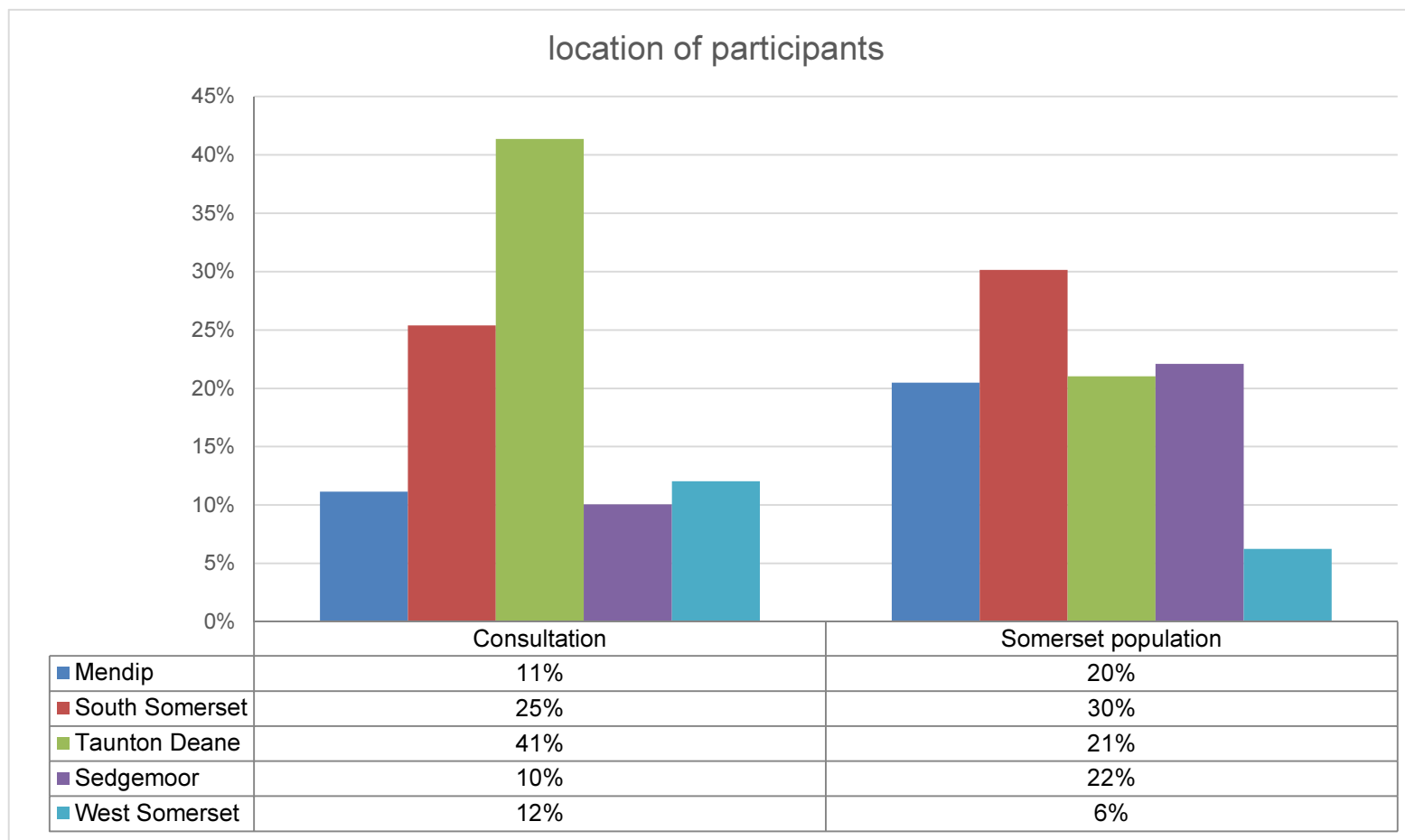
682 signatures on a petition we received called *"Save Wellington Children's Centre it plays a vital part in our community to families!"*

38 responses via Diversity Voice from Polish, Romanian and Hungarian families

Family Support Service & Children's Centre consultation

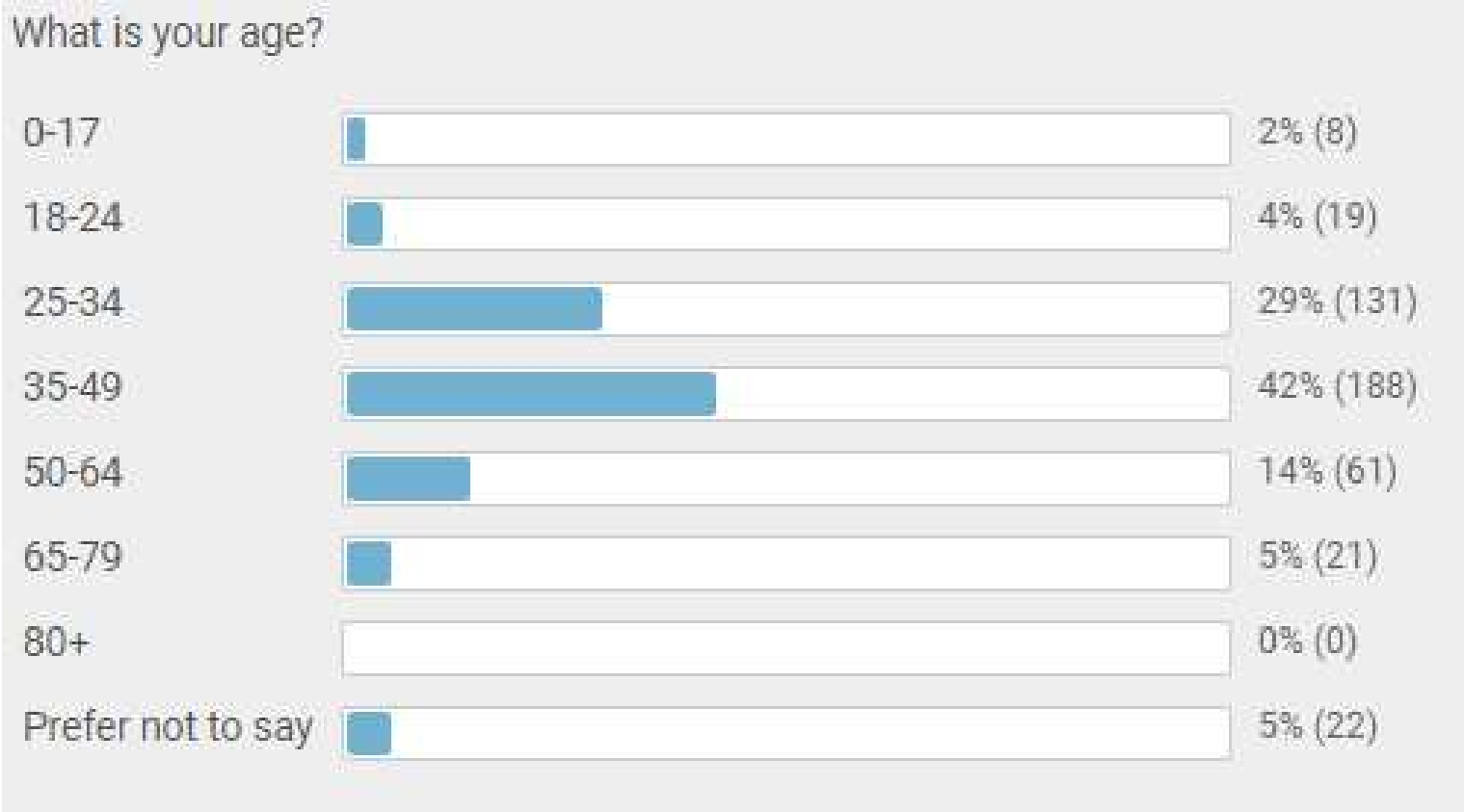
Where have the consultation questionnaire responses come from?

The graph below (on the left) shows where people stated they lived. On the right is a population breakdown from the Somerset 2011 census, so it can be seen that more responses were received from certain districts:



Family Support Service & Children's Centre consultation

What age were the people who have responded to the consultation questionnaire?



Family Support Service & Children's Centre consultation

Next Steps

Dialogue analysing all consultation feedback and drafting a summary report

- § Draft report being shared with project team on 8th December
- § Final report to be sent in by 14th December

Workshop scheduled for 11th December to look at how the consultation feedback will affect:

- § Final Proposals for main hub locations
- § Associated Impact Assessments
- § How the Family Support Service will look going forward

Timeline for decision making

2017	
SLT/CCB Meeting	12 th December 2017
Commissioning Board	13 th December 2017
Cabinet Member briefings	w/b 11 th December 2017
Cabinet/SLT	18 th December 2017
2018	
Staff Engagement	w/b 8 th January
Scrutiny Pre-Meet	11 th January
Scrutiny Publication	18 th January
Scrutiny Meeting	26 th January
Cabinet/SLT	15 th January
Cabinet pre-agenda	22 nd January
Cabinet Papers published	2 nd February
Cabinet Meeting	12 th February