

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 16 March 2018

10.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,
Taunton



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

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

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

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 8 March 2018

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 16 March 2018

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

1 **Apologies for Absence**

to receive Members' apologies

2 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on (Pages 7 - 14)**

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

4 **Public Question Time**

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

5 **Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 15 - 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**

To agree that this item be deferred to the 20 April meeting, at the request of Officers.

7 **Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019 (Pages 31 - 74)**

To consider these reports.

8 **Changes to Education Travel Policy (Pages 75 - 78)**

To consider this report.

9 **School Performance 2017 - National Curriculum Test and Public Examination Results (Pages 79 - 88)**

To consider this report.

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10 **Update on Support Services for Education** (Pages 89 - 90)

To consider this report and receive a presentation.

11 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chairman may raise any items of urgent business.

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Guidance notes for the meeting

1. Inspection of Papers

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

2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

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

3. Minutes of the Meeting

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

4. Public Question Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Exclusion of Press & Public

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

6. Committee Rooms & Council Chamber and hearing aid users

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

7. Recording of meetings

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

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

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

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

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held on Friday 26 January 2018 at 10.00 in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton.

Present

Cllr L Redman (in the Chair)

Cllr A Bown

Cllr S Coles (Substitute)

Cllr Hewitt-Cooper

Cllr J Lock

Cllr Pullin (Vice Chair)

Cllr J Thorne (Substitute)

Cllr J Williams

Apologies: Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr M Dimery, and Cllr N Taylor.
Mrs Helen Fenn (Church representative) and Mr Richard Berry – Schools Forum.

Church representatives present:

Parent Governor representatives present: Mrs Ruth Hobbs.

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

Cabinet Members present: Cllr D Hall, Cllr C Lawrence and Cllr F Nicholson.

Other Members present: Cllr T Munt.

55 Declarations of interest – agenda item 2

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

55.1 Mrs Hobbs declared a personal interest as a Director of Somerset Parent Carer Forum.

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

56 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2017 – agenda item 3

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

57 Public question time – agenda time 4(taken just prior to agenda item 8)

57.0 Katherine See, a Children's Centre patron, spoke about the consultation exercise and the proposed changes to Family Support Services suggesting that

the public responses did not appear to match many of the proposed changes and asked for an explanation of why Alcombe had been preferred to Williton as a location for a Family Centre? She thought that document was misleading regarding what was suggested as being on offer from the Council, and she noted there continued to be no plans for any Council provision in Dulverton and Exmoor. In closing she requested copies of the Equalities Impact Assessment for the current proposals for Children's Centres and for the de-designation of Dulverton Children's Centre.

- 57.1 Helen Reid, a Public Health Nurse, then read aloud a statement from Mr Roughan, a UNITE trade union representative in the Somerset Partnership NHS Trust, that highlighted concerns about the proposal to take Public Health Nursing (PHN) back in house. They felt that this decision has been taken autocratically; there had been an absence of any meaningful consultation and a lack of transparency. It was stated that many believed this move was to make easier a cut of £500,000 from of the Health Visiting budget. In conclusion they advised of the creation of a group called SONATA which stood for Somerset Nurses Against Takeover, and this would coordinate raising the profile of their protest to this change and would involve amongst other activities: engaging with the media, and lobbying key stake holders.
- 57.2 Nigel Behan, UNITE Branch Secretary, acknowledged receipt of answers to the questions he'd asked at the last meeting and he asked 3 further questions about Family Support Services. Firstly he noted that following the consultation the Council believes that the proposals consulted on remain the best way to improve access, integrate support and get more from the money available, while meeting the demand for childcare and nursery places." Was this belief evidence based? The second question noted the misconception that changing the status of a children's centre building would mean a reduction in service or that families would have to travel to one of the 8 centres and he asked what factors had been taken into account when considering the "misconception"? Finally he asked about the likelihood of children centre building closures once "de-designation" (changing the status) had taken place and if this would become more likely if this happens?
- 57.3 Alan Debenham, Taunton resident and Green Party member, asked how, after the results of the comprehensive consultation process showed very significant opposition to the closing of so many Sure Start children's centres rather than the new establishment of so-called multi-professional service 'hubs, it was the latter proposals which had prevailed but without any further round of consultations to try to sell them?
The Chairman sought a response from Officers and the Director for Children's Services stated that the points raised by those members of the public would be addressed during consideration of the Family Support Services agenda item.
- 58 Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee work programme – agenda item 5**

- 58.0 The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months.
- 58.1 The Committee considered and agreed its own work programme and the future agenda items listed. In addition was requested:
That the proposed Changes to the Education Travel Policy be considered by the Committee before the Cabinet Member Decision;
An information sheet be sent to All Members to provide an update on Schools National Funding Formula when the details were available;
To receive an update on the West Somerset Opportunity Area – it was noted this was on the agenda for the May meeting.
It was also noted the work programme would be further reviewed by the Chair & Vice Chair and Officers at the next pre-meeting.
- 58.2 The Committee noted the outcome tracker and the Scrutiny Manager provided updates and it was agreed this would be reviewed at the next pre-meeting. The Chair also noted on 16 March the Committee would consider the latest update report on the Children and Young Peoples Plan (Year 2 Q3) and he asked Officers to make contact with the various Committee Champions.
- 59 Family Support Services – agenda item 6**
- 59.0 The Committee then considered the report (first on the Agenda of the 28 July meeting) which provided an update on the progress to create 'early help hubs' in local communities, agreed as a key priority in the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019. The hub service would offer multi-agency integrated services to identify and support children and families who need additional help and quick intervention, and over time help reduce the gap in outcomes for those in deprived areas.
- 59.1 The agenda item comprised 2 reports; the first of which detailed the proposed development of the Family Support Service and was described as Phase 1. It was explained that the rationale for the proposed changes was: to achieve better outcomes for families; particularly engaging hard to reach families and reducing inequalities; to ensure that residents, children and young people, were given every opportunity to improve their life chances; to provide more effective, accessible services; reducing duplication and provide more community based support and guidance; and, to protect frontline services by reducing costs associated with buildings.
- 59.2 The Committee felt that clear and concise information would need to be shared with all staff and service users. Although the evidence from Officers and contained in reports indicated that the Services offered would be improved as 'universal services' would be co-located and other services would be better targeted to service users, it seemed as if the de-designation of some Children's Centres in 2014 had left a residual mistrust and lack of confidence in the Council.
- 59.3 The Committee noted from the responses received that service users felt that changing the status of a Children's Centres would result in a reduction of

available services and that this would mean that families would have to travel further to access services. Although Officers had stressed that a reduction in the number of buildings funded and maintained would not mean any reduction in the services available this did not appear to have been accepted or understood by a significant number of service users as evidenced in the consultation feedback.

- 59.4 Some Members of the Committee felt that there appeared to be little connection between the feedback obtained from the members of the public who participated in the consultation exercise and the proposals/responses proposed by the Council. The Committee noted that amongst those that had participated in the consultation that two thirds were members of the public and a third being people who identified as being users of the Family Support Service.
- 59.5 The Committee also highlighted and identified concerns raised by those who had participated in the consultation exercise including recognising that staff who were currently employed and providing services were appropriately qualified Health professionals and the Committee sought reassurance that those same skills/qualifications would be required for those staff when the changes proposed in Family Support Services were implemented?
- 59.6 Members also noted that the increasing use of technology was referred to in the report as a means of helping to enhance the accessibility/offer of Family Support Services and concern was expressed that many residents in parts of Somerset did not have easy access to the internet and/or technology and if this would result in them being disadvantaged. It was also noted that enhanced/improved reliance on technology would also be very resource and staff intensive with information requiring maintaining and/or updating on websites etc. Reassurance was noted that the initial contact and continuing contact for service users would continue to be face to face and often in the home of the family. Also enhanced use of technology was intended to be an aid/complement to existing provisions, and it was noted for example that some Health Visitors used text messaging and Facebook was also a useful means of communicating.
- 59.7 During the discussion the Committee also reflected that the consultation exercise had been restrictive inasmuch as there was no detail or explanation of any alternative provisions/options provided and this had led to a perception that the changes were not being 'user led' and that children and families were 'being done to, rather than doing' themselves.
- 59.8 The Committee noted that following the public consultation exercise the recommendations were to proceed with the original proposals to change Family Support Services, changing the status of 16 Children's Centres, co-locating more staff and extend outreach in local communities, and this had created the perception amongst members of the public that the decisions had already been taken and were pre-determined. The Committee noted that Officers were keen to emphasise it was not about directing a one size fits all approach centrally but ensuring and encouraging local options/solutions were provided for the benefit of local communities as the Council worked with a variety of partners.

- 59.9 The Committee questioned if a cost benefit type analysis had been conducted to help gauge the cost of the existing range of provision and what type of additional costs/savings might then arise from going ahead with the proposed changes, therefore a pre and post reconfiguration cost analysis, together with gauging the opportunity cost of reorganising services and how this might effect hard to reach communities. Some Members felt this was an important consideration given that contained with the current recommendations was a 'further recommendation' to continue reviewing the provision of family centres in Minehead, Wellington, Chard and Yeovil. The Committee noted in response that Officers were content with the recommendation to de-designate buildings in those locations but to align that with a commitment to continue working with families in those areas to ensure the correct provision was available.
- 59.10 The Committee's attention then turned to what was described as Phase 2, regarding the proposed changes around Public Health Nursing Services and the new Family Support Service. We noted the outcomes of an analysis of the 2 options and this had concluded the preferred option was to bring Public Health Nursing Services into the Council to develop the new Family Support Service within the Council and the Committee accepted this recommendation, in line with the reasons identified within the report.
- 59.11 In conclusion overall the Committee felt it important that as the changes progressed for clear and concise information to be shared with all staff and service users and good communications would be vital.

60 Medium Term Financial Plan 2018-2019 – agenda item 7

- 60.0 Alan Debenham, Taunton resident and Green Party member, asked was it that the proposed Council Tax overall demand is increased by 5.99% - way above inflation - at the same time as still making yet further cuts of £2.5million in Children's services AND why were those proposed cuts described in generalisations rather than specific detail e.g. showing the number of posts/jobs to be cut? In response the Committee heard that the MTFP gap increased and decreased constantly as various factors affected the budgetary position. It was noted that the increased levels of funding received via the Improved Better Care Fund along with a stabilisation of costs in Adult Social Care and Learning Disabilities had helped to reduce forecasted pressures in those services.
- 60.1 The Committee considered this report on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, including the 2018/19 Capital Investment Programme and the Director of Finance, Legal and Governance provided an overview of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and how this might affect the budgetary position. It was noted that the application for Somerset to be one of the pilot areas for 100% Business Rates Retention had not met with success, however the Council would be a part of a Pool with the 5 Somerset District Councils, and it was envisaged this would help generate around half a million pounds.
- 60.2 Also regarding overall funding, estimates had been received from District Councils for their tax base numbers and collection funds and these were stated as being sufficiently buoyant to include an additional income of £0.550m

regarding tax base and £1m in terms of the collection fund.

- 60.3 In response to a question about the accuracy of proposed savings targets it was explained that part of the annual roll-over process of the MTFP, led Officers to review the existing and future delivery of savings agreed for the 2017/20 MTFP, and it was clear that some of those savings were no longer considered to be deliverable. Therefore in line with setting a robust budget those had been taken into account and savings values required had been re-adjusted to balance the budget. In addition, the probable pay award of a 2% increase would add approximately £2.2m to the Council's cost and this has been included in our estimates at present. These factors had resulted in the overall projected gap in 2018/19 being £13m; the current budget gap for year-end was predicted to be £7m.
- 60.4 There was a brief discussion about what alternative plans were in place if savings targets were not met and it was noted that the contingency budget provided reassurance and detailed proposals were being worked up for each area and these were providing accurate estimates.
- 60.5 It was noted that the Cabinet would be recommended to increase the basic council tax by 2.99% along with an increase to the Adult Social Care precept of 3%. These increases would help reduce the pressure to make savings and provide much needed funding to Adult Social Care and help meet service demand and the increasing Learning Disabilities costs.
- 60.6 There was a brief discussion about the various Children's Services savings proposals and it was explained that following previous changes there was now increased capacity to review processes and functions which was not possible whilst staff pressures were so high in recent years, it was noted however that the target case work ratio for social workers would remain. The main savings would therefore be targeted in: reducing the high cost of placements; making efficiencies in transport operations; reducing the levels of business support; and reviewing management levels in some areas of Children's Services.
- 60.7 Attention turned to the Capital Investment Programme and it was noted this included a number of investments relating to Children's Services budgets and for 2018/19 a significant investment in Schools. The funding of this investment would be subject to further announcements by government either in our final settlement or separately as the DfE and other government departments revealed capital allocations. The scale of the proposed Schools building and improvement programme was substantial but the level of DfE grant and other grants/contributions/income was not known so it remained unclear how much resource assistance the Council would receive towards its funding needs. It was noted that the Council was working closely with the 5 District Councils to ensure Section106 contributions and Housing Infrastructure Fund bids were secured.
- 60.8 The Director of Finance, Legal and Governance assured Members that he continued to make representations to the Department for Communities and Local Government following the consultations on the Fairer Funding Review last summer so that the Government recognised the pressures on Councils to meet

the growing demand for its services with diminishing resources. The report was accepted.

61 Overview of Family Based Care (Fostering) – agenda item 8

- 61.0 The Committee considered this report that provided an overview on the provision of fostering services in Somerset and further set out the statutory obligations, legal processes and tools used by Officers to ensure children in Somerset were looked after.
- 61.1 It was reported that the Somerset Sufficiency Statement for Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2016-19 was refreshed each year. The document analysed the sufficiency of placements available for children looked after, and highlighted actions the Council was taking to ensure there were enough placements to meet the needs of children looked after. The sufficiency statement outlined six challenges, which were addressed through an action plan which was reported to be progressing well.
- 61.2 In response to a question it was noted that almost all children put forward for an independent placement were considered for fostering first as research had demonstrated that the best place for any child to grow up was in a nurturing family environment. Members noted that for some children the 'intensity' of a family environment could be too challenging due to previous experiences, and it was better for those children to be able to experience the relative space of a residential provision for a period of time. The main aim with such children was to care for them within a fostering family, or to transition them to semi-independent provision before adulthood.
- 61.3 The Chair asked if consideration had been given to producing a flow-chart or a form of easy to follow guide to show the overall process and the Director of Children's Services noted that this had been raised by others and was being progressed.
- 61.4 It was noted that as of January 2018, the Council had 225 children looked after placed with in in-house foster carers (60%) and 147 placed with independent fostering agencies (40%) and Somerset also had 51 children looked after in residential provision. It was stated that the Fostering Service marketing strategy continued to support the recruitment of in-house foster carers to meet the demand and complex needs of children looked after and it would remain a focus of this work to increase the number of in-house foster carers.
- 61.5 There was a question about the turnover of Foster Carers and what work was undertaken to identify the reasons for carers leaving and it was agreed a written response would be provided.
- 61.6 There was a question about the complaints process and how allegations were managed, and how complaints were resolved and the timescales involved. It was agreed a written response would be provided.

61.7 An overview was explained of the Peninsula Commissioning and Procurement Partnership (PCPP), a longstanding collaboration between Cornwall Council, Devon County Council (DCC), Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Somerset. DCC led the joint procurement and monitoring of a range of services on behalf of the partnership. Members heard that since 2006 the Council had collaborated with Peninsula to create frameworks for fostering, residential and special school placements from the independent sector. The Council also collaborated on Adopt South West, the regional adoption agency.

61.8 The update was accepted and it was agreed to request an update in a further 6 months.

62 Any other business of urgency – agenda item 9

62.0 There were no other items of business and the Chair thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 12:53, noting again that at its next meeting the Committee would consider the latest update report on the Children and Young Peoples Plan (Year 2 Q3) and the asked Officers to make contact with the various Committee Champions.

(The meeting closed at 12:53)

Cllr Leigh Redman
Chair – 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 6 March 2018

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/17/12/06 First published: 28 December 2017	5 Mar 2018 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Hardware Reseller and Support Services funding for 2018-19 Decision: To consider revised funding arrangements for the hardware reseller and support services contract	Hardware Reseller and Support Services funding for 2018-19		Richard Williams, Commercial & Business Services Director Tel: 01823 359007
General Exception Notice published First published: 23 February 2018	5 Mar 2018 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Software License Reseller and support services Decision: To consider the proposed increase in contract value	Software Licence Reseller and support services GEN Software Reseller		Andy Kennell Tel: 01823359268
FP/18/01/03 First published: 5 January 2018	7 Feb 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Heathfield School, Taunton - Award of Contract for the Proposed ASD Base Decision: To seek approval to award the contract for the delivery of the propose dnew base			Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/18/01/06 First published: 22 January 2018	8 Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Early Years Funding Block - Early Years Single Funding Formula 2018/19 Decision: To agree the hourly rate for the early years entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in Somerset for 2018/19	Early Years Single Funding Formula 2018-19		Charlotte Wilson, Service Manager Early Years Commissioning Tel: 01823 357386

Weekly version of plan published on 6 March 2018

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/18/01/08 First published: 22 January 2018</p>	<p>8 Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Commercial & Business Services Director</p>	<p>Issue: Creation of four New Academies in Somerset Decision: West Buckland Community Primary School, St Vigor and St John C of E Primary School, North Curry C of E VC Primary School and Hatch Beauchamp C of E Primary School</p>	<p>West Buckland, North Curry, Hatch Beauchamp St Vigor St John</p>		<p>Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260</p>
<p>FP/18/02/04 First published: 8 February 2018</p>	<p>8 Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: Schools Basic Need, Schools Condition & Schools Access Initiative - 2018/19 Decision: That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families approves the capital allocations for 2018/19</p>	<p>CIP Schools Basic Need, Schools Condition & Schools Appendix A Impact Assessment Form</p>		<p>Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260</p>
<p>FP/17/04/08 First published: 24 April 2017</p>	<p>Not before 12th Mar 2018 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure, Director of Finance, Legal and Governance</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>
<p>FP/18/01/09 First published: 30 January 2018</p>	<p>12 Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: Policy Update - Schools Access Initiative Decision: To publish and implement the updated policy</p>			<p>Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 6 March 2018

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/18/02/03 First published: 9 February 2018	12 Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 Decision: To consider and approve the plan	Approval of Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 Youth Justice Plan		Tom Whitworth, Strategic Manager, Vulnerable Young People Tel: 01458 449108
FP/18/02/01 First published: 6 February 2018	Not before 19th Mar 2018 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure, Director of Finance, Legal and Governance	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2: decision to accept further grant funding and introduce additional funding into the contract for Lot 4 Decision: To accept additional grant funding from DCMS to invest in broadband infrastructure in Lot 4. To introduce the additional funding into the contract for Lot 4 to deliver more broadband infrastructure in that area			Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873
FP/18/01/10 First published: 1 February 2018	Not before 19th Mar 2018 Heart of the South West Joint Committee	Issue: Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy Decision: The Committee will be recommended to approve the Productivity Strategy on behalf of the constituent authorities which comprise the Joint Committee.			Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance & Risk and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01823 359047
FP/17/12/02 First published: 14 December 2017	Not before 19th Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Contract for Provision of Bus Lane Enforcement Infrastructure Decision: To award the contract for the enforcement of bus lane enforcement infrastructure		Part exempt	Bev Norman, Service Manager - Traffic Management, Traffic & Transport Development Tel: 01823358089

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/17/07/03 First published: 10 July 2017	Not before 19th Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	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.	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	Part exempt	Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
FP/17/09/04 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 20th Mar 2018 Director of Finance, Legal and Governance, Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure	Issue: iAero (Yeovil) Aerospace Centre (2,500 sq m) Acceptance of ERDF Funding Decision: The acceptance of the offer of ERDF funding (£3.5 million), for the iAero (Yeovi) Aerospace Centre			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766
fp/17/12/07 First published: 29 December 2017	21 Mar 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Somerset Rivers Authority Budget for 2018/19 and Programme of Works 2018/19 Decision: To consider the SRA's Programme of Works and approve funding for 2018/19		Part exempt	Sarah Diacono, Somerset Rivers Authority Senior Manager Tel: 01823 355194

Weekly version of plan published on 6 March 2018

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/17/01/04 First published: 11 January 2018	21 Mar 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Award of contract for the provision of Temporary Labour Decision: To approve the award of the temporary labour contract to the preferred supplier under ESPO MSTAR2 framework, as detailed in the appended confidential report		Part exempt	Paul Skuse, Service Manager, Commercial & Procurement - Business
fp/18/02/10 First published: 21 February 2018	21 Mar 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Regional Adoption Agency Decision: To consider the proposals from the Director of Childrens Services			Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services Tel: 01823 359544
FP/18/01/05 First published: 15 January 2018	Not before 26th Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Changes to the Education Travel Policy Decision: To implement the changes to the Policy as described in the report			Debbie Reed Tel: 01823 355804
NON-KEY DECISION First published: 28 December 2017	26 Mar 2018 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Strategy for the Management of the County Farms Estate Decision: To approve the publication of the strategy for the management of the County Farms Estate in accordance with existing policies, taking into account the recommendations from Scrutiny Committee Policies & Place			Claire Lovett, Head of Property Tel: 07977412583

Weekly version of plan published on 6 March 2018

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/18/02/112 First published: 1 March 2018	Not before 26th Mar 2018 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset - Completion of Phase 1 Decision: To authorise the Lead Commissioner for ECI to complete the Phase 1 contract		Part exempt	Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873
Fp/17/08/12 First published: 6 November 2017	2 May 2018 Cabinet	Issue: County Vision 2017-2021 Decision: to consider the proposed County Vision to recommend to February's Full Council			Simon Clifford, Customers & Communities Director Tel: 01823359166
FP/18/02/05 First published: 13 February 2018	2 May 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Public Transport Strategy Decision: To agree to proceed to public consultation			Lucy Bath Tel: 01823 359465
FP/18/02/06 First published: 13 February 2018	2 May 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Rail Strategy Decision: To agree to proceed to public consultation			Lucy Bath Tel: 01823 359465
FP/18/02/07 First published: 13 February 2018	2 May 2018 Cabinet	Issue: LTP Implementation Plan adoption and approval for publishing Decision: To agree to a 1 year LTP Implementation Plan to fulfil SCC's statutory obligations. The current one covers 2013-17.			Lucy Bath Tel: 01823 359465

Weekly version of plan published on 6 March 2018

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/18/02/09 First published: 13 February 2018	2 May 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Road Safety Strategy Decision: Adoption of the Road Safety Strategy			Lucy Bath Tel: 01823 359465
FP/18/02/11 First published: 26 February 2018	2 May 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Capital Investment Programme 2018/19 + Decision: To report on Government grant announcements and recommend capital approvals for 2018/19 and subsequent years to deliver key capital projects			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/18/02/08 First published: 13 February 2018	Not before 14th May 2018 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Taunton Transport Strategy Decision: To agree to adopt the joint (with TDBC) Taunton Transport Strategy			Lucy Bath Tel: 01823 359465
FP/17/08/01 First published: 9 August 2017	Not before 4th Jun 2018 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	Part exempt	Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325

Weekly version of plan published on 6 March 2018

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/17/11/05 First published: 16 November 2017</p>	<p>13 Jun 2018 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Customer Feedback Annual Reports 2017/18 Decision: Consider the annual customer feedback report and Ombudsman report for 2017/18</p>			<p>Rebecca Martin Tel: 01823 356257</p>

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Committee meetings	Link to CYPP	Lead Member & Officer
20 April 2018		
Pathways to Independence (P2i)		Louise Palmer
Regional Adoption Agency - update		Julian Wooster
SEND Peer review update		Rowina Clift-Shanley
18 May 2018		
West Somerset Opportunity Area		Julia Ridge
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		Amanda Payne
15 June 2018		
CYPP 2017/18 –Year 2 Q4 Update		Philippa Granthier
20 July 2018		
Family Based Care (Fostering) 6 monthly update		Louise Palmer
14 September 2018		
CYPP 2018-19 – Year 3 Q1 Update		Philippa Granthier
19 October 2018		
16 November 2018		
CYPP 2018-19 – Year 3 Q2 Update		Philippa Granthier
7 December 2018		

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

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

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
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/On-going
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.	Pending May 2018
20 October 2017				
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's Services Commissioning		Louise Palmer	It was requested that an update report on Pathways to Independence (P2i) be considered at a future meeting.	Pending 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
8 December 2017				
SEND Peer Review Update		Rowina Clift-Shanley	The report and presentation were accepted and the Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee for the progress made so far. It was suggested and agreed that a further update be provided in the Spring.	March '18 meeting
Family Support Services		P Granthier	To receive an update report at the January 2018 meeting	Pending

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

26 January 2018				
Family Support Services		Philippa Granthier	The Committee agreed to provide the Cabinet with its conclusions for its next meeting.	Completed
Overview of Family Based Care (Fostering) -		Louise Palmer	The Chair asked if consideration had been given to producing a flow-chart or a form of easy to follow guide to show the overall process and the Director of Children's Services noted that this had been raised by others and was being progressed. There was a question about the turnover of Foster Carers and what work was undertaken to identify the reasons for carers leaving and it was agreed a written response would be provided.	Louise Palmer
			There was a question about the complaints process and how allegations were managed, and how complaints were resolved and the timescales involved. It was agreed a written response would be provided.	Louise Palmer
			The update was accepted and it was agreed to request an update in a further 6 months.	Louise Palmer

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

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively

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

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

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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Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19

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

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

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

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

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

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

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. 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

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

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

2.1. The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 is the strategic plan for Somerset Children's Trust, providing the focus for partners' actions and investment and the means by which the Department for Education will measure our improvement. The plan is reported on a quarterly basis and we are now reporting upon the activity of the third quarter (October to December 2017) of Year 2 which provides a summary of activity and progress, supported by each of the seven programmes' Highlight Reports.

Work during this quarter was directed by the month long OFSTED single inspection of Children's Social Care and the subsequent activity to effect improvements ahead of the published report in January 2018.

This meeting provides an opportunity for members to comment on the progress at the end of the third quarter and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan through its second year. Attached are the Quarter 3 Executive Summary (appendix 1) from the Somerset Children's Trust Executive group, and the seven

Highlight Reports from each of the seven delivery groups; the exception being Programme 6 due to the OFSTED inspection (appendix 2).

- 2.2. At the February SCT Executive meeting members discussed progress of the CYPP and key areas of concern for the partnership that children are presenting with. This included discussion around the use of social media, the role of parents and helping children to have greater self-esteem, aspiration and independence. The Executive have agreed to invite scrutiny to consider this area as part of their work programme.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 6 November 2015 Somerset County Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education requiring us to develop and implement by April 2016, a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which the Department for Education judge likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's social care functions. This plan is now implemented and reporting upon second year progress.
- 3.2. The focus of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) in 2016 was vulnerable children and young people and it has informed the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP.
- 3.3. The seven improvement programme action plans are developed annually and monitored within the nominated delivery groups. The Partnership Business team supports the delivery groups and the SCT Executive and Board by attending meetings, developing task and finish functions for areas of concern and supporting data collection and report writing across all seven programmes to ensure the impact of the CYPP is realised and evidenced.

At the end of Quarter 3 six of the seven Improvement Programmes are rated green as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018. The attached appendices outline the progress made.

Each delivery group are compiling their year 3 action plans which the SCT Executive will consider in January 2018. Work will also be starting on developing the next CYPP.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1. In developing the CYPP, all those organisations and groups including under the duty to co-operate as stipulated in the Children Act 2004 were consulted, as well as children, young people and their parents and carers and other key partners.
- 4.2. Consultation undertaken includes:
- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
 - The Unstoppables (SEND)
 - CAMHS Participation Group
 - Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
 - Young Healthwatch
 - Young Carers
 - Somerset Parent Carer Forum

The voice of children, young people and their families is regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback their views. Further work is underway in Quarter 3 to widen the scope and to ensure the voice of children and young people truly influences our developments and activity by producing a Participation Toolkit for partners to use.

5. Implications

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

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

6. Background papers

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

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

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

Progress as at: end December 2017

1. Overall

This report gives an update on the period October to December 2017 (Quarter 3) of year 2 of the Children & Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 (CYPP).

There has been some good progress across all seven programmes with significant pieces of activity completed including the Family Support Services public consultation.

Activity this quarter took place in parallel with the month long OFSTED single inspection of Children's Social Care. We await the published report at the end of January 2018 which will focus activity for the last year of this Children & Young People's Plan, and beyond.

At the halfway point of the CYPP the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) Executive group are reflecting on the strength of the partnership - looking at the values and behaviours set out in the CYPP. With this in mind, the Partnership team interviewed practitioners from all disciplines about their experience of multi-agency working. Overall, the results were positive with partners from all disciplines reporting that joint work had improved – “services are more willing to share information and come together to discuss issues and solutions; young people appear to be more aware of the value of services working together” (health partner). A partner from the Libraries service felt that staff are more aware of the benefits of partnership working but cautioned, “...we don't always have the space and resources to do this. We are very keen to partner other services, but more careful planning is needed to ensure the outcome meets the need”.

Case studies are also evidencing delivery of the Improvement Programme outcomes. Programme 3's Kooth Online Counselling case study demonstrates positive outcomes surrounding improved emotional health and wellbeing in children and young people with low level mental health needs via access to therapeutic support appropriate to their level of need. Please take the time to read this case study on the Programme 3 Highlight report.

The SCT is now preparing to support the forthcoming local area Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) joint inspection which will be the first scrutiny of our SEND provision since the reforms introduced by the Children & Families Act 2014. The preparation activity included a series of conferences for practitioners held in October covering the reforms, our progress against them and the processes and tools needed to continue this improvement. Nearly 400 practitioners took part with excellent feedback. However, an issue around the Early

Help process was highlighted at these events and subsequently, the process and the tools were reviewed and clearer early help direction was communicated to practitioners.

Our communication about the progress of the CYPP is improving. We launched The Journey newsletter at the end of Year 1 and it is currently mailed to 600 staff; readership data shows the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 editions of Year 2 were opened by over 90 % of recipients. We are unable to give a total figure as recipients may well forward to their own contacts and networks. The multi-agency Practitioner Champions network meets in a district area on a quarterly basis and has a membership of 65. More recently, they have formed a Yammer group which has had over 450 interactions and usage is growing. Topics discussed at the quarter 2 meeting in Sedgemoor were electively home educated children and the Troubled Families programme.

As Improvement Leads will now be planning to complete Year 2 action plans, a partnership one day workshop is scheduled in January 2018 to include SCT Executive members and leads to produce the Year 3 plans which will be taken in draft for SCT Executive Approval in February 2018. This event will also consider forward planning of the next CYPP from 2019 onwards.

2. Achievements and Target dates were met on the following programmes:

- The consultation on the future delivery of the Family Support Service has been completed and will be used to inform decision making going forward – the report will be shared with the multi-agency Early Help Commissioning Board and Children's Scrutiny Committee in January 2018 for final decision by Somerset County Council (SCC) Cabinet in February 2018
- A Council for Disabled Children Multi-agency workshop was held in December 2017 for staff to understand how to contribute to a good Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) e.g. writing appropriate and quality outcomes.
- The Self-harm reduction task and finish group has commenced the development of an action plan.
- Programme 4 reports success in the high risk of being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) work where 91% of students remain in their chosen destination.
- The Neglect Conference in November 2017 was well attended by over 100 multi-agency delegates. The presentations, associated documents and the learning from the event are being made available on the Somerset Safeguarding Childrens Board. This will remain a high focus in Year 3 in order to monitor improvement in the recognition and response to neglect.
- Programme 6 - The focus for this quarter has been preparation toward and the Ofsted inspection.
- There remains a continued focus on increasing the establishment of permanent social workers, in particular ASYEs with a view to growing our own.

3. Slippage on Target Dates, reported Issues and Risks

- The work on redefining and improving the SEND local offer, due to complete in Sept 2017, has been delayed due to a new platform being developed with an expectation of completion in Year 3 of this CYPP.
- The work to commence a Charter Mark for Inclusive Communities has been delayed, pending the appointment of an Assistant Director for Inclusion in January 2018.
- The work to develop a plan to strengthen and promote advocacy for parents, piloting in west Somerset, is progressing but is likely to move to Year 3.
- Maintaining service delivery within getset and public health nursing, at a time of great change for all the teams is a risk.
- Funding is available for a second Psychologist post on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team
- Professional Choices reports 76 inactive Virtual Meeting Rooms of which 16 (21%) are Team Around the Child (TAC), this data requires further investigation to ascertain why a TAC would become inactive rather than closed showing an outcome
- There remains much work across partners to improve support and services for children with SEND. The self-evaluation is being reviewed to inform priority actions in 2018.
- School exclusions continue to increase, especially in primary schools and this is being closely monitored by the Somerset Education Partnership Board.
- Programme 6 -The focus for this quarter has been preparation toward and the Ofsted inspection.
- Programme 7 reports continued difficulties with engaging the appropriate level within Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
- Time taken to develop a genuine collaborative approach to Think Family.
- If recruitment and retention are not managed in a sustainable way this will negatively impact upon our workforce targets.

4. The Executive should be aware of quarter 4 planned activity that will be reported on as follows:

- Publication of the Ofsted report on the re-inspection of children's services in January 2018.
- Key Cabinet decision for West Somerset Opportunity Area (WSOA) grant spend awaited in January 2018.
- Decisions to be taken by SCC cabinet regarding the future delivery of the Family Support Service.
- To undertake planning of the Health & Well-being survey among children in years 6,8,10 and 12, this will commence in May 2018 and complete in September 2018.
- Complete Self-Harm Action Plan draft.
- Ongoing work around high needs funding band arrangements for student with SEND.

- First phase report of the Young People's Strategy to be completed January 2018 ready for co- production phase.
- Completion of Think Family Strategy including sign off from the Workforce Board.



Decisions Required:



- That the SCT Executive notes the progress for all 7 programmes at the end of quarter 3 (year 2 of the CYPP).

1. Programme 1 – Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient

Delivery Group : Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board

Delivery Group Chair : Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director, Commissioning & Performance, SCC

Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<p>The majority of actions have now completed or will complete by March 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the progress with the West Somerset Opportunity Area work underway with a published plan and a budget • Work on an improved platform is underway that will enable greater functionality for children and families using the local offer. This is likely to slip into year 3 • Ongoing development and clarity for families on the availability and use of personal budgets to support Education, Health and Care plans <p>However, the improvement to the Local Offer, the plan for improved advocacy to parents and the development of a charter mark for inclusive communities have not developed as quickly as anticipated and are likely to roll into year 3, and the ongoing development of personalised budgets.</p>		
<p>2. Programme 2 – Promoting Healthy Outcomes and giving children the best start in life</p> <p>Delivery Group : Children & Young People Health & Wellbeing Group</p> <p>Delivery Group Chair : Alison Bell, Consultant in Public Health</p>			
Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by	Status Trend:	


	March 2018		
Reason for current status:	We were green last quarter, we continue to be on track to deliver all actions and so remain green for delivery.		
3. Programme 3 – Improving Emotional Health & Wellbeing Delivery Group : Commissioning Group for Children & Young People's Mental Health, Emotional and Psychological Wellbeing Delivery Group Chair : Dorothy Mukasa – Interim Head of Joint Commissioning, CCG			
Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	All actions progressing in accordance with timescales.		
4. Programme 4 – Building Skills for Life Delivery Group : Somerset Education Partnership Board (SEPB) Delivery Group Interim Chair : Dave Farrow, Head of Outcomes and Sufficiency, SCC			
Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifteen schools inspected this quarter – 1 judged Outstanding, 10 judged as Good, 3 judged as Requiring Improvement and 1 judged as Inadequate • Team Around the School (TAS) development plan on target • Review of Education Vision priorities and targets on track • Revised approach for Schools causing Concern Group meetings in place from January • Review of Parent and Family Support Advisor (PFSA) funding and management arrangements on track for 		

implementation September 2018

5. Programme 5 – Providing help early and effectively

Delivery Group : Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board

Delivery Group Chair : Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director, Commissioning & Performance, SCC


Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend:	
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Reason for current status:	<p>The action plan is on target to complete by March 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the public consultation on proposed Family Support Services which will inform the next stage of development and decisions • Communication to partners to confirm Somerset's agreed Early Help processes • Ongoing development of the Early Help Performance Dashboard, and specific detailed reports, for partners to understand the effectiveness of our approach. 		
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6. Programme 6 - Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service

Delivery Group : Children's Social Care/Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board

Delivery Group Chair : Claire Winter, Deputy Director Children and Families / Sally Halls, Independent Chair of the Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board


Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend:	
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Reason for current status:	The focus for this quarter has been preparation toward and the Ofsted inspection.		
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7. Programme 7 - Embedding a Think Family Approach across the Workforce

Delivery Group : Workforce Board

Delivery Group Chair : Chris Squire, Director of HR, SCC

Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being Amber	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Still much work involved in keeping partners engaged in the Think Family concept. Final Task and Finish Group meeting planned for 26 th January in order to co-produce a final draft of the Think Family Strategy. This will be put to the Workforce Board for sign off early 2018. Continuous qualified social worker recruitment and retention challenges which are being monitored. Continued discussion about creativity in attracting social worker's to Somerset. Developing discussion about retention.		

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

Seven Improvement Programmes Key Risks for 2017/18

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
<p>1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient</p>	<p>Risk that the Somerset partners will not be able to keep pace with the improvement activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding Police capacity to manage workflow and respond to joint enquiries in a timely manner Refer-on culture deeply embedded amongst Somerset services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC Senior Leaders providing leadership (& support) across the partnership and driving the agenda. Increased culture of multi-agency collaboration and critical friend challenge at Strategic levels Progress is reported through the Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust.
<p>2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life</p>	<p>Pressures in the NHS could lead to a lack of capacity / focus to improve the outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of CCG to Commission Children's Services Health capacity for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness by CCG of need to focus resource on children's services Concerns and progress are being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
	for vulnerable children	looked after and their carers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced capacity within prevention and early intervention programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring increased specialist medical capacity through the Regional Adoption Agency initiative
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing	Risk that the 'CAMHS transformation plan' does not deliver sufficient transformation to ensure early help and preventative activities are prioritised for all vulnerable groups in particular children looked after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in recruiting to key NHS posts • Limited NHS partnership with Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Board taking leadership in monitoring progress • Senior leaders engaging with CCG Commissioners and providers to progress developments and monitor performance • Concerns and progress are being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board • LA match resourcing support to develop a specialist team for children looked after. • Multi-Agency Complex Cases Protocol • Implementation of new support to schools by Somerset Partnership commissioned by CCG
4. Building skills for life	Risk that Schools do not improve the outcomes for vulnerable groups – children look after, special educational needs and children in receipt of pupil premium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools achieving well overall in outcomes / inspection judgements despite overall poor outcomes for vulnerable pupils • Excellent local practice by some schools not shared by others because of weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA leading the education strategic vision is giving priority to schools to focus on school improvement & pupil outcomes and not structural redesign • Investment by the LA in Somerset Education Partnerships to provide 'critical friend' support to all head teachers • Challenging school providers in relation to pupil outcomes

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
		partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the role and capacity of the Virtual School Head • Roll out of the Team around the School model to encourage multi-agency support to schools where they are best placed to meet child's needs, in particular vulnerable groups • West Somerset Opportunity Area
5. Providing help early and effectively	Risk that the Somerset partners will not be able to keep pace with the improvement activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer-on culture deeply embedded amongst Somerset services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Senior Leaders providing leadership (& support) across the partnership and driving the agenda • Increased culture of multi-agency collaboration and critical friend challenge at Strategic levels • Progress is reported through the Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust • Development of multi-agency tools which aid collaboration and joint working including a collaboration platform to enable better quality sharing of information in a secure way, and the simplification of Early Help processes to aid engagement and ownership
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and	Risk that improvements will not be sustained and consistency of social work practice will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent increase in demand and difficulties of recruitment led to dip in morale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers taking action to control work flow • QPRM monthly meetings • Case Audits • Briefing events led by senior leaders on the

CYPP Programmes	Key Risks	Impact	Mitigation
<p>developing an excellent children's social work service</p>	<p>remain a cause for concern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent practice amongst staff • Permanent staff not always clear about 'good' practice 	<p>journey travelled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing good practice
<p>7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce (year one focus is on developing the permanent social care workforce)</p>	<p>Risk that permanent social work vacancies are not filled at fast enough pace and an over reliance on recruitment of ASYEs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of locums in some teams is too high • Seasonal difficulties in recruiting experienced locums • Neighbouring LA responding to their own difficulties with higher social work salaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan in place to achieve 75% permanent staffing • ASYE support by designated Consultant Social Work posts • Focused recruitment activity for Experienced Social Workers • Increasingly mature response by managers in terms of balancing pressures and maintaining quality • Clarity provided to multi-agency workforce of desired values and behaviours necessary to deliver the plan • Using the IR35 changes as an opportunity to convert locums to permanent staff • Looking after our own events focussed on resilience of the workforce


CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

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Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period

Programme:	1 Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient		
Delivery Group:	Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board	Year:	2017/18
Delivery Group Chair:	Philippa Granthier – Assistant Director, Commissioning & Performance	Report Date:	12/01/2018
Scrutiny Committee Champion:	Cllr. Josh Williams		

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend: <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
Reason for current status:	<p>The majority of actions have now completed or will complete by March 2018 in order to report this programme rated as green (on course to complete). However, the improvement to the Local Offer, the plan for stronger advocacy to parents and the development of a charter mark for inclusive communities have not developed as quickly as anticipated, and are likely to roll into year 3. As a result of the Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board's review of early help communications, the Director of Children's Services sent a reminder letter to all practitioners reminding them of Early Help processes and the tools to do the job. Early and effective help is the key to building resilience in our communities, matches Somerset County Council's vision for the next four years, and reflects the needs identified in our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) so this work is of the highest priority.</p> <p>Most notable Quarter 3 achievements are the reported decrease in fuel poverty, the progress with the West Somerset Opportunity Area work now with a published plan and a budget and the ongoing development of personalised budgets. Although slippage this quarter has been minimal, we still await the launch of the re-vamped Somerset Choices platform which will help children and young people, their families and communities to find information, advice and guidance and become more self-sufficient and resilient. This is now likely to happen in Year 3 of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) but in the meantime, the existing Local Offer on the existing Somerset Choices website is being refreshed and promoted.</p>		

2. Progress since last Highlight report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- The action against the West Somerset Opportunity Area has gone green as the plan has now been published by the Department for Education (DfE) with an allocation of £700k in year one. Activities to support each of the 4 priority areas have commenced including training for early years practitioners and a school holiday nutrition project.
- The work towards personalised budgets has been achieved and is therefore green. The Statement of Intent has been approved to agree that each partner continues to apply their own personal budget process against the overarching statement of intent. The health process is still in draft; however the education process has commenced and is now aligning to the Children's social care process including financial procedures. Due to legal processes it has been agreed that one single policy would not be workable and the DfE has confirmed that there is no local authority who works to one strategy. The Statement of intent was co-produced by each of the education, health and care partners and the Somerset Parent Carer Forum. It is suggested that Year 3's plan should include an action to fully embed the personalisation process which should be reflected in the numbers of families, children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) accessing personal budgets.
- Trustee Week in November gave a workshop of 34 prospective school governors which was well received and a request for future events, especially for early years.
- The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) has now reported that the proportion of Somerset households in fuel poverty has decreased for the first time in 4 years, from 12.4 % in 2014 to 11.6% in 2015 (latest reporting dates from central government). It is suggested that in year 3 of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) we continue to implement the support to low income and fuel poor households.
- Feedback on quality of health provision to children and young people with SEND is now collected in the twice annually held multi agency Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) moderation events attended by young people, professionals and parents.

Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- The work on redefining and improving the SEND local offer, due to complete in Sept 17, has been delayed due to a new platform being developed with an expectation of completion in Year 3 of this CYPP (as reported by the SEND priority 4 Participation); therefore, as the portal is now set up the target date has been moved to March 2018 and the progress is reported as amber.
- Work on the Inclusive Communities Charter mark has not yet commenced.
- Work on advocacy to parents of vulnerable children has not yet commenced.

3. Actions and outputs for the next period:

- Key Cabinet decision for West Somerset Opportunity Area (WSOA) grant spend awaited in January 2018
- Planning for Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement (VCSE) Strategic Forum Leaders Conference in May 2018 with a theme of 'Inspiring Social Action'
- Public health campaigns to tackle the new healthier snacks initiative to prevent childhood obesity.

- Awaiting guidance on what the new FLEX (Flexible Eligibility) offer for local authorities referring low income and fuel poor households to additional support from suppliers.
- Awaiting completion of new Local Offer platform; due to go live in Year 3 of the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19.

4. Most significant current risk/s:

nil return

5. Most significant current issue/s:




- The work to commence a Charter Mark for Inclusive Communities has been delayed due to a vacancy of the Assistant Director for Inclusion. Interviews are scheduled for Quarter 4. There are a number of current schemes for adults including the Avon & Somerset Constabulary 'Safe Places' and the 'Disability Confident' scheme run by Safer Somerset Partnership which may be replicable for vulnerable children and young people.
- The work to develop a plan to strengthen and promote advocacy for parents, piloting in west Somerset, is progressing but will not meet the March 2018 target.






6. Variances:




nil return

7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

That the Somerset Childrens Trust supports the progress of Programme 1 and highlights and actions required for year 3.

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel (delete as appropriate)
1. Provide information, advice, tools for families to help themselves		
Number of visits to Somerset Choices Website	42,760 (R12 months ending December 17)	39,177 (R12 months ending September 17) 
Number of providers/services listed on Somerset Choices Website	1154 Providers 118 services (December 2017)	1170 providers 106 services (September 2017) 
Infant mortality <i>Annual England average 3.9 per 1,000 (2014-2016)</i>	4 deaths per 1,000 live births (66 infants) 2014-2016	4.2 deaths per 1000 live births (70 infants) (2013-2015) 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Chlamydia detection rate <i>Annual National Target = 1,900</i>	1,815 per 100,000 (1,056 people) 2016	1,532 per 100,000 (904 people) 2015 
Teenage pregnancy rates <i>England Average = 20.8 per 1,000</i>	17.1 per 1,000 females under 18 2015	17.2 per 1000 females aged under 18 (169 conceptions) 2014 
Take up of personal budgets for children with disabilities	209 [as at month 9]	214 [as at month 6]
2. Supporting parents in their role		
Number of Parents attending and completing targeted parenting programme	Awaiting updated data	390 year to date
3. Supporting Communities in the third sector		
Increased number of employment and training opportunities for vulnerable groups e.g. leaving care.	22 young people have taken up work experience, traineeships and apprenticeships. (December 2017)	9 young people have taken up work experience, traineeships and apprenticeships. (September 2017) 
% of children in west Somerset achieving a GLD at the end of the EYFS stage	65% (2016/17)	56.9% (2015/16) 
KS 2 attainment in west Somerset compared to national average - % pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths	West Somerset 49.8% England 61% 2016/17	West Somerset 47.2% England 53% 2015/16 
KS4 attainment in west Somerset compared to national average	West Somerset 43.0% England 39.1% 2016/17 graded 5 or better at GCSE in both English and Maths (2017)	West Somerset 57.0% England 59.3% 2015/16 graded C or better at GCSE in both English and Maths

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
		
Level of participation in west Somerset 16-18 year olds	86.9% (December 2017)	90.1% (September 2017) 
Number of volunteers recruited in SCC <i>Getset = 82 Leaving Care = 10 Short Breaks = 10 Young Carers = 24</i>	Getset = 42 Leaving Care = 2 Short Breaks = 5 Young Carers = 14 SEND Unstoppables = 1 November 2017	Getset = 37 Leaving care = 2 Short breaks = 3 Young carers = 14 SEND Unstoppables = 1 September 2017 
Volunteer satisfaction rate	Survey due to be repeated in 2018	100% of volunteers said they are happy in their current role (36 volunteers responded since April 2016 to June 2017)
Number of VCS organisations engaged with VCSE forum	Around 35 different organisations represented covering County Council, CCG, District Councils, Office for Civil Society, Heart of South West LEP and voluntary sector.	Around 35 different organisations represented 90% rating forum 7 or higher out of 10 in terms of successfully improving cross-sector relationships 95% rating forum 7 of higher as an effective means for the VCSE to increase involvement in county-wide strategic issues

KEY

Shows improvement



Stayed the same



Has deteriorated



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CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

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Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period

Programme:	2 Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life		
Delivery Group:	Children & Young People Health & Wellbeing Group	Year:	2017/18
Delivery Group Chair:	Alison Bell, Consultant in Public Health, Somerset County Council	Report Date:	04/01/2018
Scrutiny Committee Champion:	Mrs Eileen Tipper		

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend: <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
Reason for current status:	We were green last quarter, we continue to be on track to deliver all actions and so remain green for delivery.		

2. Progress since last Highlight Report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- The consultation on the future delivery of the Family Support Service has been completed and will be used to inform decision making going forward – the report will be shared with the multiagency Early Help Board in and Children's Scrutiny in January 2018 and Somerset County Council (SCC) Cabinet in February 2018
- Somerset Partnership leading the skill mixing of the Health Visiting workforce
- Further training on 'Tuning into Kids' had been delivered to a further 22 staff across schools, SHARE and health visiting. Between September and October there were 893 hits on the parent / carer toolkit
- The Yeovil Hospital specialist midwife for stop smoking has now taken on the same role at Musgrove to fill the gap present last quarter.
- Quarter 3 – 'Start the conversation' events/survey around the county led by SCC promoted to primary care and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) participated.

- Council for Disabled Children Multi-agency workshop 4.12.17 for staff to understand how to contribute to a good Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) e.g. writing appropriate and quality outcomes.
- Speech and language resources for parents and professionals have been posted onto the parent toolkit.

Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- Data on Mums2B quitters in Q2 not yet available due to change of database provider delaying reporting – aim to be resolved by Q4

3. Actions and outputs for the next period:

- Engagement with partners regarding the findings of the Family Support Service (FSS) consultation and how they can be involved in the development of the offer.
- Decisions to be taken by SCC cabinet regarding the future delivery of the Family Support Service.
- Further training of volunteer breastfeeding champions.
- Mapping of Tune into Kids / Tune into Teens facilitators to be published on parenting website in April by geography, to enable planning of local courses. 103 CYP staff are trained to deliver this programme across the partnership.
- Follow up General Practitioner (GP) pilot of providing information to EHCP application process, with Taunton Deane GP Federation and Harry Yoxall, LMC.
- LW organised Council for Disabled Children multi-agency workshop on joint commissioning for SEND/children.
- To undertake the Health & Well-being survey among children in years 6,8,10 and 12.

4. Most significant current risk/s:

- Skill mixing the Health Visiting (HV) workforce has happened more rapidly than planned, which is causing some pressure on service delivery.

5. Most significant current issue/s:




- Maintaining service delivery within getset and public health nursing, at a time of great change for all the teams.



6. Variances:




Nil Return

7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

Nil Return

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
(A) Deliver The Healthy Child Programme (0-19 years) consisting of integrated pathways across maternity, health visiting, school nursing, children's centres, early years settings and schools		
Children aged 5 years with one or more decayed missing or filled teeth <i>England average = 24.8%</i>	Data will be available Q1 2018	23.1% 2014/15
New birth visits conducted by Health Visitor by day 14 <i>Target = 90%</i>	Q3 data available in January 2018 post reporting deadline	85% (Q2)
Perinatal & infant mental health: Number of mothers pre and post-natal receiving support from specialist community mental health services	Reporting timeline being established	Not previously reported
Perinatal & infant mental health: Number of mothers admitted to a specialist psychiatric unit without their baby	Reporting timeline being established	Not previously reported
Perinatal & infant mental health: Number of mothers reporting a positive experience of mental health support during maternal period	Reporting timeline being established	Not previously reported
Perinatal & infant mental health: Number of pregnant /postnatal women supported by IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) service	Reporting timeline being established	Not previously reported
(B) Improve breastfeeding uptake and develop peer support programmes in areas of deprivation		
Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks <i>England average 43.2%</i>	Q3 data available in January 2018 post reporting deadline	47% Q2 (2017/18) 
(C) Ensure all children and young people and their families have access to health promoting information and activity		
Children in reception classified as very overweight <i>England 9.3% (2015/16)</i>	8.7% (2016/17)	8.4% (2015/16) 
Children in year 6 classified as very overweight <i>England 19.8% (2015/16)</i>	16.3% (2016/17)	15.3% (2015/16) 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percentage of new mothers smoking at the time of delivery <i>England = 10.6% (2015/16)</i>	Q2 12.4%	13.2% Q1 (2017/18) 
Hospital admissions of 0-14 year olds following injury <i>England = 104.2/10,000 (2015/16)</i>	Data will be available Q1 2018	120.6 per 10,000 1078 children (2015/16)
(D) Identify and work with children and young people engaged in multiple risky behaviours and engage them in meaningful activity to boost self esteem		
Percentage of schools engaging in health and wellbeing survey	Next survey to be undertaken in 2018	
Percentage of schools undertaking an intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of their children – based on survey findings	Next survey to be undertaken in 2018	Not previously reported
Chlamydia detection rate among 15-24 year olds <i>National Target 2,300/100,000</i>	1,845 per 100,000 (Q1 to Q3 2017)	
E) Improve health and well-being outcomes for children and young people with Special Education Needs & Disabilities		
Number of young people at year 9 identified as requiring support through transition		To be developed by Choices for Life Panel and reported in due course
Number of young people allocated to Adult Social Care from 16		To be developed by Choices for Life Panel and reported in due course
Percentage of young people successfully transitioning to adult services at the appropriate time		To be developed by Choices for Life Panel and reported in due course

KEY		
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 


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Programme:	3 Improving Emotional Health and Wellbeing		
Delivery Group:	Commissioning Group for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional and Psychological Wellbeing	Year:	2017/18
Delivery Group Chair:	Dorothy Mukasa - Interim Head of Joint Commissioning (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) Somerset County Council & Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group	Report Date:	05/01/2018
Scrutiny Committee Champion:	Cllr. Ann Bown		

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	Progressing	Status Trend: <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
Reason for current status:	All actions progressing in accordance with timescales.		

2. Progress since last Highlight report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health has been published on the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) website.
- Clinical Psychologist on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team has commenced in post
- New project launched in Cheddar which provides counselling and support for young people in the local area.
- Self-harm reduction task and finish group progressing well with the development of an action plan.
- Programme 3 Case Study 'Kooth Online Counselling':



Case Study Q3.docx

Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- Funding is still available for a second Psychologist post on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team.

3. Actions and outputs for the next period:

- Continue to develop data flows across services.
- Complete Self-Harm Action Plan draft.
- Decision to be made about Psychologist post on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team.

4. Most significant current risk/s:

- Work being carried out by health, education, social care and other sectors such as the voluntary sector needs to be joined up and carried out in partnership otherwise there is a risk of duplication or gaps in overall provision which could prevent children and young people's outcomes being met.

5. Most significant current issue/s:




- Recruitment issues continue to leave some gaps in the system however these gaps have significantly reduced over the past year and are currently not reported as significantly impacting on overall service delivery.
- Quality and quantity of data being shared for children and young people mental health and emotional wellbeing services across the system need to be improved.










6. Variances:




Nil return

7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

To note progress and next period's actions.

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Number of Mental Health First Aid courses <i>Target: All secondary schools</i>	2 schools providing training- 34 staff trained	Q2: 2 schools providing training - 32 staff trained 
Increase numbers trained through Emotion Coaching	326	Q2: 300 
Increase unique hits on parent information pages on Public Health CYP website	893	Q2: 603 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Increase number of referrals into CAMHS Single Point of Access	Q1- 731 Q2- 690	
Referral to assessment times for CAMHS routine referrals <i>95% assessed within 8 weeks</i>	Q2- 86.3%	Q2: 83% 
Referral to treatment times for CAMHS routine referrals <i>95% starting treatment within 18 weeks</i>	99.4%	Q2: 99.4% 
Referral to treatment times for CAMHS emergency referrals <i>95% seen within 24 hours</i>	100%	Q2: 100% 
Referral to treatment times for CAMHS urgent referrals <i>95% seen within 7 days</i>	100%	Q2: 100% 
Number of young people registered with Kooth online counselling <i>No maximum</i>	203	Q2: 166 
Number of young people receiving online counselling through Kooth <i>100 hours of counselling to be delivered/ month (can include repeat sessions for same young person)</i>	50	Q2: 46 
Number of 'requests for support' made to Phoenix service (Child Sexual Abuse support service)	32 children being seen	82 Q1 (2017/18) 
Number of consultations provided by Phoenix service to professionals	60	6 Q1 (2017/18) 

KEY		
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 

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Programme:	4 Building Skills for Life		
Delivery Group:	Somerset Education Partnership Board (SEPB)	Year:	2017/18
Delivery Group Chair:	Interim lead: Dave Farrow, Head of Outcomes and Sufficiency, Somerset County Council	Report Date:	
Scrutiny Committee Champion:	Cllr. Martin Dimery & Cllr Mike Pullin		

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	The programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend: <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
Reason for current status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifteen schools inspected this quarter – 1 judged Outstanding, 10 judged as Good, 3 judged as Requiring Improvement and 1 judged as Inadequate • Team Around the School (TAS) development plan on target • Review of Education Vision priorities and targets on track • Revised approach for Schools causing Concern Group meetings in place from January • Review of Parent and Family Support Advisor (PFSA) funding and management arrangements on track for implementation September 2018 		

2. Progress since last Highlight report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- Transition Panels – last year 913 students at High Risk of being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) from across our mainstream schools and Pupil Referral Unit's (PRUs) were discussed and as of December 91% were still in their chosen destination. Every early leaver is being referred to the Focus Five re-engagement programme offered through 'Building Better Opportunities. Since October have also rolled out programme of including Children Looked After (CLA), Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Special Schools (for students from year 9) in Transition Panels

- Parent and Family Support Advisor (PFSA) Working Group agreed principles to underpin future delivery of service from September 2018 and reviewed formula for funding allocation
- Council for Disabled Children Audit completed in relation to SEND provision to inform action planning and support preparation for inspection
- All families home educating children who may be vulnerable (e.g. Children in Need, Troubled Families programme) contacted and where appropriate visited to assess suitability of provision being made. Action being taken where concerns identified.
- Impact of 16/17 Collaborative Improvement Bids (CIB) reported to Somerset Education Partnership Board (SEP) – KS2 Maths programme particularly effective
- Funding allocated for 17/18 Collaborative Improvement Bids (CIBs)
- Team Around the School (TAS)

Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- Service Level agreements with SSE in relation to SEN support services not finalised – review of High Needs Budget has resulted in consultation on changes in funding arrangements for some services - this has to be completed before SLAs can be finalised.

3. Actions and outputs for the next period:

- Somerset Education Partnership Board (SEP) to agree proposals for funding and management of Parent and Family Support Advisor (PFSA) function from September 2018
- Report on pilot programme
- Provisional outcome data for 17/18 to be gathered and assessed and programmes of support /intervention identified
- Work with Teaching Schools to agree linkages with Education Priorities and ensure bids are submitted for activities to support the delivery of the priorities in the vision in the next bidding round for the Regional School Improvement Fund
- Ongoing work around implementing changes for supporting pupils with SEND including implementation of revised banding arrangements for High Needs Pupils and transfer of pupils with from High Needs Funding to Education Health and Care Plans
- Development of a strategy to support schools in supporting pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs

4. Most significant current risk/s:

Whilst progress is being made in relation to SEND changes and we are aware of the areas that need to be addressed it remains likely that at an Joint Area Inspection at this stage will find significant areas of concern although we anticipate that it will also find that self-evaluation is effective and that we have clear plans in place to address them.

5. Most significant current issue/s:



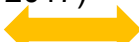




Exclusions continue to increase. Although secondary rates are in line with last year we are seeing an increase in primary school exclusions.





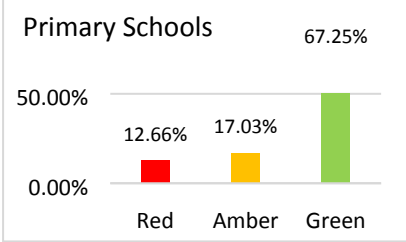
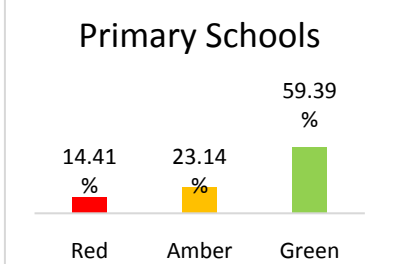




6. Variances:





nil return




7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

nil return

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Percentage of schools that are an academy/percentage of pupils that attend an academy	34.3% are academies / 51.5% of pupils are in academies (December 2017)	34.3% are academies/ 51.1% of pupils are in academies 
Percentage of Primary schools that are academies/Percentage of pupils that attend a primary academy	26.9% of primary schools are academies / 32.7% of pupils are in a primary academy (December 2017)	26.9% of primary schools are academies/ 32.3% of pupils are in a primary academy (September 2017) 
Percentage of Secondary schools that are academies/Percentage of pupils that attend a secondary academy	75% of secondary and middle schools are academies / 75.8% of pupils are in secondary academies (December 2017)	75% of secondary schools are academies/ 75.6% of pupils are in a secondary academy (September 2017) 
Percentage of early years settings (including childminders) that are judged as good or outstanding	95.5% December 2017	95.2% (September 2017) 
LA risk analysis of early year's settings, including child minders	12 setting being supported of which: 4 are red 5 are amber 3 have not yet been determined December 2017	10 settings being supported of which: 4 are red 3 are amber 3 are yellow (September 2017)
Increase number of childcare settings to offer the Early Education Entitlement for 2-4 year olds to ensure that all eligible children are able to access quality education and childcare	100% December 2017	100% September 2017 
Percent of 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from funded early education, in a good or outstanding provider 94.6% Stat neighbour average 2016/17	95% 2016/17 January census	85% 2015/16 January census 
Percent of 2 year old children benefitting from funded early education in a good or outstanding provider 96.9% Stat neighbour average 2016/17	95% 2016/17 January census	84% 2015/16 January census 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel (delete as appropriate)
Percentage of primary schools judged as good or outstanding <i>90.5% of primary schools in the South West</i>	87.38% (180/206)	90.24% September 2017 
Percentage of Secondary schools judged good or outstanding <i>80.2% of secondary schools in the South West</i>	78.38% (29/37)	78.38% September 2017 
Percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding primary schools <i>90.3% in the South West</i>	84.59% December 2017	88.44% September 2017 
Percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding secondary schools <i>84.7% in the South West</i>	82.08% December 2017	82.08% September 2017 
LA risk analysis of primary schools	 <p>Primary Schools 67.25%</p>	 <p>Primary Schools 59.39%</p>
LA risk analysis of secondary schools	Awaiting re-assessment	
LA risk analysis of special schools	Awaiting re-assessment	
Persistent Absence rates in Primary Schools <i>7.63% Stat Neighbour average 2016</i>	9.5% December 2017	10.7% September 2017 
Persistent Absence in Secondary schools <i>13.36% Stat Neighbour average 2016</i>	14.3% December 2017	12.9% September 2017 
Percentage of 16-18 year old NEETs re-engaging in education, employment or training	0 December 2017	0.1% September 2017 
Percentage of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks <i>52.07% Stat Neighbour average (excluding exceptions) 2016</i>	65% YTD December 2017	69% YTD September 2017 
Percentage of PEPS that are current	82.6% Autumn Term	93.2% Summer Term

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel (delete as appropriate)
		
Percentage of children at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at KS2 <i>51.2% Stat Neighbour 2015/16</i>	58.9% (provisional) 2017	52% 2016 
Percentage of CLA achieving at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at KS2 <i>21.5% Stat Neighbour 2015/16</i>	23% (provisional) 2017	18% 2016 
Percentage of disadvantaged learners (CLA and FSM) achieving at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in KS2 <i>34% Stat Neighbour 2015/16</i>	37% (provisional) 2017	36% 2016 
Percentage of children achieving 5 GCSEs A* to C grade including English and maths <i>58.03% Stat Neighbour 2015/16</i>	This measure is no longer available. Replaced by attainment 8 average score 45.5 (provisional) 2017	Not comparable
Percentage of CLA achieving a [standard] pass in English and maths <i>21.58% Stat Neighbour 2014/15</i>	5.9% [provisional 2017]	Not comparable, new assessment
Percentage of disadvantaged learners achieving a [standard] pass in English and Maths <i>33.68% Stat Neighbour 2014/15</i>	39.3% [provisional 2017]	Not comparable, new assessment

KEY		
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 

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CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

This highlight report updates the Somerset Children's Trust Executive (SCT) about the project's progress to date. It also provides an opportunity to raise concerns and issues with the SCT, and alert them to any changes that may affect the project.

Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period

Programme:	5 Providing help early and effectively		
Delivery Group:	Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board	Year:	2017/18
Delivery Group Chair:	Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Performance	Report Date:	12/01/2018
Scrutiny Committee Champion:	Cllr. Jane Lock		

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	This Programme is currently rated as being on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2018	Status Trend: <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
Reason for current status:	<p>The action plan is on target to complete by March 2018; however there is more work to do particularly in the areas of Family Support Services and the Young People's Strategy.</p> <p>Two Early Help Strategic Commissioners were recruited in December 2017 to commence early 2018 with the remit to strengthen the Early Help approach with partners across Somerset.</p> <p>The Early Help Board continues its focus on the mechanisms for identifying and assessing SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) children and young people. In this quarter the Board has called for more in-depth identification data from the Early Help Hub and invited practitioners with more direct experience to advise them of the process. This focus continues into Quarter 4.</p>		

2. Progress since last Highlight Report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- Positive response to the Family Support Services and Children's Centres consultation in November with nearly 850 responses. A mixed approach of open days and discussion groups to further the consultation and ensure extensive input.
- The Young People's Strategy work progressed with a series of consultation events across the

county and online survey to determine the needs of vulnerable young people.

- The Early Help Case Management System extended to include P2i (Pathways to Independence) with a successful implementation in October 2017.
- There has been an improvement in the request for SEND assessments through panel which should support improved SEND processes and a reduction in school exclusions for children and young people with SEND.
- The Early Help Area Advisory Boards have commenced work regarding specific locality needs. Sedgemoor have presented their concerns around poverty and debt to the EH Board who are progressing this with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).
- The progress to identify and support Young Carers is improved with better data, developing training and a new policy now underway. As this progress is yet to be presented to relevant Boards and further data to evidence outcomes is required, it is recommended that this action should roll onto Year 3.
- The Neglect Conference in November 2017 was well attended by over 100 multi-agency delegates. The presentations, associated documents and the learning from the event is being made available on the Somerset Safeguarding Childrens Board, however it may be worthwhile retaining this action in Year 3 in order to monitor whether recognition and response to neglect improves via Early Help processes.
- Two Early Help Strategic Commissioners were recruited in December 2017 to commence early 2018 with the remit to strengthen Early Help processes and drive the early help approach with partners across Somerset.

Slippage (give reasons and remedial actions)

- Although no target dates have slipped this quarter it should be noted that actions recently achieved need to be tracked for evidence of outcomes in Year 3.




3. Actions and outputs for the next period:






- Result of decisions made regarding the development of the Family Support Services model following SCC Cabinet February 2018.
- First phase report of the Young People's Strategy to be completed January 2018 ready for co-production phase.
- Meetings with Avon and Somerset Constabulary to agree use of Professional Choices following a new Information Sharing Agreement.

4. Most significant current risk/s:




- The most significant risk is around the Family Support Services model, if Cabinet do not approve plans it will delay the progress a key priority of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- The data suggests that practitioner's confidence is deteriorating with too much activity being pushed to social care; a number of indicators (contacts to social care and inappropriate contacts) are increasing suggesting a worsening picture. This will be investigated by the new Early Help Commissioner with remedial actions put in place to support practitioners.

5. Most significant current issue/s:
Professional Choices data has identified 76 inactive Virtual Meeting Rooms of which 16 (21%) are Team Around the Child (TAC), this data requires further investigation to ascertain why a TAC would become inactive rather than closed showing an outcome.
6. Variances:
<i>nil return</i>
7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:
That the Somerset Childrens Trust supports the progress of Programme 5 and supports actions required for year 3 and beyond.

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
1. Strengthen early help support for known vulnerable groups		
% of Early Help workforce that feels confident in the identification of need for vulnerable groups <i>(SSCB post Training Survey)</i>	73.34% of people who answered the survey, reported evidence of changing working practices (knowledge/attitudes/understanding) Sept to Dec 2017.	81% of people reported evidence of changing working practices (knowledge /attitudes/ understanding) 2016/17 Percentage of people responding to the post training survey 
% of Early Help workforce that feel confident in assessing the risk of poor outcomes and therefore meeting the needs identified for vulnerable groups (where they are best placed to do so) <i>(SSCB post Training Survey)</i>	73.34% of people who answered the survey, reported evidence of changing working practices (knowledge/attitudes/understanding) Sept to Dec 2017.	81% of people reported evidence of changing working practices (knowledge /attitudes /understanding) 2016/17 Percentage of people responding to the post training survey 
2. Improve quality and consistency of support for families		
Inappropriate contacts to social care (No Further Action Contacts)	23.4% Last 3 months ending 8 th January 2018	16% last 3 months ending 16 th October 2017 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel (delete as appropriate)
Re-referrals to social care (rate per 10,000 population)	116.18 rate per 10,000 rolling 12 months ending December 2017	104.87 rate per 10,000 rolling 12 months ending September 2017 
Calls to consultation helpline	303 last 3 months ending December 2017	177 last 3 months ending September 2017
Number of Virtual Meeting Rooms set up increases each month (from Sept 16 onwards)	218 active December 2017	189 active in the week ending 14 th August 2017 
Number of practitioners listed in the Who's Who directory	1433 as of December 2017	1426 as of September 2017
Number of Troubled Families achieving positive outcomes	543 families successfully claimed for in the Troubled Families Programme. December 2017	336 families successfully claimed for in the Troubled Families Programme with an additional 506 claims in progress September 2017 
Length of time of open cases <i>Length of Early Help Assessment episode.</i>	1-7 days = 11 2-4 weeks = 173 1-3 months = 375 4-6 months = 311 7-12 months = 278 1-2 years = 50 Open cases last 3 months ending December 2017	1-7 days = 40 2-4 weeks = 92 1-3 months = 389 4-6 months = 423 7-12 months = 316 1-2 years = 44 Open cases last 3 months ending September 2017
Percentage of re-referrals to social care <i>21.07% Stat Neighbour Average 2016</i>	22.9% rolling 12 months December 2017	22% rolling 12 months September 2017 
School attendance rates <i>96.01% Primary Stat neighbour 2016</i> <i>94.71% Secondary Stat neighbour 2016</i>	96% Primary school 94.4% Secondary school 9 th January 2018	96.7% Primary school 95.4% Secondary school 17 th October 2017 

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Overall number of EHA's received	1480 contacts to getset in the last 3 months ending December 2017	1171 contacts to getset in the last 3 months ending September 2017
Number of EHA open episodes	1198 cases open at the 31 st December 2017	1304 cases open at the 30 th September 2017
Overall number of EHAs closed	698 episodes have closed over the last 3 months ending December 2017	887 episodes have closed over the last 3 months ending September 2017

KEY		
Shows improvement 	Stayed the same 	Has deteriorated 

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CYPP - Improvement Programme Highlight Report

This highlight report updates the Somerset Children's Trust Executive (SCT) about the project's progress to date. It also provides an opportunity to raise concerns and issues with the SCT, and alert them to any changes that may affect the project.

Complete all fields where applicable and state 'nil return' where there is nothing to report in this period

Programme:	7 Embedding a Think Family Approach across the Workforce		
Delivery Group:	Workforce Board	Year:	2017/18
Delivery Group Chair:	Chris Squire, Director of HR, Somerset County Council	Report Date:	12/01/2018
Scrutiny Committee Champion:	Cllr. Nigel Taylor		

1. Overall Improvement Programme Status

Current Status:	Amber	Status Trend: <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	
Reason for current status:	<p>Still much work involved in keeping partners engaged in the Think Family concept. Final Task and Finish Group meeting planned for 26th January in order to co-produce a final draft of the Think Family Strategy. This will be put to the Workforce Board for sign off early 2018.</p> <p>Continuous qualified social worker recruitment and retention challenges which are being monitored. Continued discussion about creativity in attracting SWs to Somerset. Developing discussion about retention.</p>		

2. Progress since last Highlight Report

Include evidence of how the plan has incorporated the voice and needs of children

Achievements:

- Think Family Task and Finish Group is continuing. Draft Think Family Strategy in co-production. Continued collaboration with other agencies involved in working with vulnerable families. Formulation of a survey to establish blocks to Think Family across all partner organisations. Identification of priorities in the strategy that will be the outcomes to be adopted.
- Continued focus on increasing the establishment of permanent social workers, in particular ASYEs with a view to growing our own.
- Programme 7 Case Study 'Young Carers – Think Family'



Q3 Y2 Case Study -
P7.docx

Slippage:

- Continued difficulties with engaging the appropriate level within Avon and Somerset Constabulary. This might have been resolved. If not, we have a back-up plan involving Cllr Taylor.
- Difficulties with reaching target numbers of permanent experienced social workers due to national shortage continue.

3. Actions and outputs for the next period:

- Completion of Think Family Strategy including sign off from the Workforce Board.
- Develop Business case for Whole Family Working training for front line staff and managers by end of February 2018. To be piloted in Children's Services in the forward year.
- Aspiring Team Manager Programme available to create career pathways for internal staff and enable us to recruit up to 16 additional ASYE posts.
- Systemic Leadership and Systemic Supervision Programmes are underway and have a Think Family focus. Feedback and learning to be collated.
- Development of retention strategy to ensure we retain the skills and experience post Ofsted.

4. Most significant current risk/s:

- Time taken to develop a genuine collaborative approach to Think Family.
- Communications Plan not yet developed and will need to ensure that it is sufficiently robust to be applicable across the partnerships.
- If recruitment and retention are not managed sustained this will negatively impact the improvement journey.

5. Most significant current issue/s:







- Slow progress.
- Engagement from partners.
- Social Worker/getset recruitment and retention concerns.



6. Variances:




- Although progress is slow there is confidence that we will meet the action deadlines within the first three months of 2018.

7. Decisions required from Somerset Children's Trust:

nil return

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
Recruit 30 Assisted & Supported Year in Employments (ASYE) to Fieldwork Teams in 2017/18	25 Placed since start of April 2017. 7 further names in the pipeline.	15 placed and 17 in the pipeline to be placed 
Aim to provide 35-50 student placements at levels 2 and 3 in 2017/18 <i>Conversion of 60% of students to ASYE</i>	Overall 44 student placements offered from April 2017/ April 2018 20 student placements 10 cohort 5 Step Up Students starting January 18 – 1 st placement will begin in Feb 18 14 Open University Social Work degree students beginning placements in Feb 18 (5 Year 2's, 8 Year 3's and 1 PGDip) 75% of cohort 4 Step Up now on ASYE 100% of OU 2017 completers now on ASYE	19 student placements 10 cohort 5 Step Up Students starting January 2018 14 Open University SW degree students commencing this month 75% of cohort 4 Step Up now on ASYE 
75% permanent workforce in 2017/18	61% (frontline Social Workers) anticipating reaching 75% in September (Y3 Q2)	67.8% (all SW qualified roles) 
Average caseload of 14	17.79	16.47 
12% staff turnover target	13.32% (all Social Worker qualified roles)	11.34% (all SW qualified roles) 
Vulnerable young people and families are more emotionally resilient and capable of resolving problems including being directly involved in helping themselves and encouraged to help others through volunteering or peer mentoring	Significant number of resources provided to this group and support coordinated across the service	
Number of young carers of parents with mental health problems and drug and alcohol problems have access to advice and support and know how to call for help when needed <i>All identified in target group</i>	Targeted work with 47 individuals identified to date	

Outcome measure/Performance Indicators	Current performance	Direction of travel <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<p>Troubled Families data warehouse identifies vulnerable families (Tableau) to ensure data sets align to identify vulnerable groups</p>	<p>This has been rolled out to external partners through Professional Choices</p>	
<p>All professionals and staff who work with adults and children and young people understand the concept of 'think family' and are alert to the effects of adult behaviours on children and young people and know how to take action to respond appropriately <i>Think Family Strategy in place and implemented</i></p>	<p>Think Family Strategy in co-production. Anticipated completion 26/01/18</p>	<p>Think Family Strategy in co-production</p> 

KEY		
<p>Shows improvement</p> 	<p>Stayed the same</p> 	<p>Has deteriorated</p> 

Changes to Education Travel Policy

Lead Officer: Phil Curd

Author: Phil Curd

Contact Details: Phil Curd – pjcurd@somerset.gov.yk 01823 355165

Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1. Officers have undertaken a biennial review of the Education Travel in Somerset policy to ensure compliance with legislation and statutory guidance. The revision focused on reducing the size of the document, providing more clarity and flexibility in terms of service provision.

It was also an opportunity to remove the final few discretionary elements from the policy to enable the statutory elements to remain deliverable within a pressured budget.

'Legitimate Expectation' requires policy changes to only affect new pupils starting school for the first time and those children who are changing schools.

- 1.2. The recommendations link to the County Plan 2016-2020:

To provide the information, help and advice you need to make informed choices for you and your family. If you or a member of your family needs help, we want you to be able to find it quickly and easily – and for that information to really help.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. One key issue for the LA is the withdrawal of the few remaining discretionary elements of the Education Travel in Somerset policy. They are:

Split Families

From September 2018 we will be removing transport entitlement from split-residence families (where a child's parents live separately).

In future, travel assistance will only be assessed and awarded from the address which is registered with the school as the home address or, prior to admission, the address used on the relevant school admission application form.

Travel Assistance on Grounds of Religion or Belief

From September 2018 travel assistance will be removed for those attending faith schools unless that school is the child's nearest or catchment school and is over minimum statutory walking distance.

Temporary Medical Need

Currently as part of our discretionary policy we will consider limited travel assistance for a child suffering from a temporary medical illness or injury to any school even if this is not the nearest school to the home address or the designated transport area school. From September 2018 we propose only to consider travel assistance to a child's nearest or designated transport area school.

- 2.2. The next key issue are the changes which are designed to reduce the cost impact on the LA for delivering the service. The changes also offer the LA more flexibility in the way it can structure routes:

Waiting Time on School Premises

Currently we state that waiting time on school premises is a maximum guideline of 15 minutes for pupils. From September 2018 this will only apply to primary / middle school pupils.

This will allow Transporting Somerset to have more flexibility to manage the network fleet more effectively.

Late applications for School Admissions

The policy will be amended to raise awareness of the impact to the school transport budget due to late applicants. If a late application has resulted in the child being placed in a school which is neither their nearest or catchment school and if travel assistance was granted a notice period of ½ term will be applied. Cases will be reviewed individually.

- 2.3. The last element is the additional clarity provided in the policy, essentially addressing inconsistencies in the policy which have made certain elements hard to enforce:

Withdrawal of School Transport – Behaviour

The content relating to the suspension and removal of travel assistance due to behavioural reasons will be amended to provide clear thresholds for imposing sanctions.

This will remove any ambiguity and grounds for challenge. This means that the Transport Officers will have authority to implement sanctions within the policy.

Provision of Passenger Assistants

Currently within Transporting Somerset (The SCC team delivering school transport), Passenger Assistants are allocated following a robust Risk Assessment Process. To underline this process we will be making this clearer within the Policy.

Low Income

The content relating to Low Income will be revised to reflect new guidance and ensure policy aligns with the implementation of Universal Credit. This means that the Local Authority will be accepting the DfE's Free School Meals threshold as the measure for low income.

- 2.4. The recommendation is for all changes to be implemented.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Education Travel in Somerset Policy is the key document which defines how the LA will meet its statutory duty regarding home to school travel for children of school age (4-16).

It is reviewed biennially to ensure it complies with statutory guidance and reflects contemporary issues.

- 3.2. This revision is probably the most significant edit in many years.

Although the statutory parameters remain unchanged, the LA's financial ability to

offer support beyond what is required of it, is diminished.

Therefore, the last few remaining discretionary elements have been withdrawn from the policy, other elements have been changed to provide more flexibility and reduce cost.

As with all other revisions, there are clarifications where the current policy is unclear or inconsistent.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** An 8 week public consultation took place between 16th October 2017 and 15th December 2017.

Approximately 3957 text messages were sent to parents / carers currently using school transport informing them of the consultation and how to respond. Hard copies were also available.

In addition to the text messages to parents / carers, all Headteachers in Somerset were informed of the proposals. Schools in B&NES and Wiltshire, where Somerset children attend on religious grounds, were also made aware of the proposals and the consultation.

A media release was issued by SCC's Communications Team with articles appearing in the local press and on local radio.

- 4.2.** 207 responses were received during the consultation period.

Generally, the feedback was in support of the proposed changes, although more detail is contained in Appendix A (Consultation Feedback Report) to the main decision paper.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** In terms of the removal of discretionary elements, the LA is recognising 'Legitimate Expectation' so changes will only affect children applying to use the service for the first time, those that are moving to a new school or those being reassessed due to a change of address.
- 5.2.** Although there will be some reduction in the cost of providing these discretionary elements, it will be gradual as various protections (awarded in recognition of Legitimate Expectation) will take time to expire.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** Cabinet Member Key Decision Paper – Education Travel Policy – March 2018
Appendix A – Education Travel Policy – Consultation Feedback
DRAFT – Education Travel in Somerset – April 2018

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

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Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee
16 March 2018

School Performance 2017 – National Curriculum Test and Public Examination Results

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster

Author: Neal Chislett

Contact Details: NChislett@somerset.gov.uk

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: ALL

1. Summary

- 1.1.** This report provides a summary of the Somerset outcomes through Ofsted inspections and performance data for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Assessments, KS1 and KS2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), GCSE and A Level results for 2017. The report includes comparison to national data where available. It also reports on vulnerable groups against each Key Stage. This is not final validated data in some cases so caution needs to be given to the accuracy of results as some national comparative data is still unavailable for some indicators. For comparison, information for statistical neighbours is also provided in places.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** The members of the Committee are asked to:
- (i) Consider the improvement areas of school performance in 2017
 - (ii) Recognise the areas that still require significant improvement and the priorities for action to ensure that improvement is achieved
 - (iii) Recognise the systemic challenges being faced across the authority by school leaders and governors, as well as the increasing role of the Regional School Commissioner and the DfE locally
 - (iv) Read the report in connection with the strategic education vision for Somerset 'Achieving Excellence for All 2016-2020'
<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/board3d/2016%20May%2011%20Item%206%20Paper%20B%20%20Annex%201%20Education%20Strategic%20Vision.pdf>

3. Background

- 3.1.** This report contains a review of all available data to cover all the Key stages mentioned above. The commentary reflects a summary of the key points for each key stage and the priorities for action in 2017/2018.
- 3.2.** Early Years Foundation Stage refers to children who at age five have completed their Reception year in primary, infant or first schools. Key Stage One refers to children who have completed Year 2 in primary, first or infant schools and are aged seven years old. Key Stage 2 refers to children who have completed Year 6 in primary, junior or middle schools and are aged 11 years old. Key Stage 4 refers to young people who have completed Year 11 and are aged 16. Key Stage 5 refers to young people who have completed Year 13 and who are aged 18.

Whilst this report covers the attainment and progress in 2017 national results it is important to stress what is in place to support schools and settings with their improvement programmes. Schools either as academies or as maintained schools have increasing autonomy and the Local Authority works in partnership with schools to maximise this autonomy and to increase school effectiveness. Following the development of the strategic vision 'Achieving Excellence for All' the Local Authority has put in place a number of key activities to support the areas for improvement that the following report describes. These include:

- The appointment of Somerset Education Partners to support every school with their improvement priorities
- The continuation of a funding regime agreed across the phases of age 2+ to 16 that necessitates schools bidding for school improvement funding by working in groups to address priorities, with some funding for 'transition panels' at 16+.
- The continuation of the Somerset Education Partnership Board that holds schools, the LA and other partners to account for the impact on pupil outcomes of the available funding
- The design of a new focus upon SEND provision through the work of nine priority groups to ensure a clear multi-agency approach to support schools with closing the gap between vulnerable groups and their peers. This multi-agency approach has become more effectively managed across the authority, partly through the Team Around the School programme and partly through liaison between Health, Social Care and Education.
- Recognising the need to ensure young people with SEND who qualify for Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) are afforded appropriate support, leading to an increase in the number of plans being processed, bringing LA EHCP plan percentages, more closely in line with the National average
- A greater engagement with transition between schools and colleges through the regular Transition Panels in readiness for education choices post 16.

More information on all of these outcomes is available at; <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables> and Neal Chislett is happy to support further understanding as necessary through dialogue.

Outcomes through Ofsted inspections

The table below shows that the number of inspections of Somerset schools has risen significantly over the last three years. Partially as a result of this increased rate of inspections, there have been a rising number of inadequate judgements, requiring schools to become sponsored academies. Working in partnership between the LA, multi academy trusts and the office of the Regional School Commissioner is becoming a growing work stream for LAs. Whilst it is the responsibility of the Regional School Commissioner to secure sponsors for these schools, the LA has to be involved, to try and ensure sensible decisions are made.

This year there has been a significant withdrawal of an academy chain in Somerset by the Collaborative Academies Trust. This has meant that five primary schools being run by that trust are being re-brokered to other trusts. This

process is yet to be completed.

School Improvement support is increasingly being offered through the fledgling group of Teaching Schools and any funding available requires a bid writing process. All of these additional structures can result in time being lost when schools require support the most, following an inadequate judgement. As an LA there are still academy 'cold spots' where no sponsor can be found for schools, especially schools that are financially less attractive to sponsors.

Date ranges for Ofsted judgements in the table below are for the year from February 22nd for a year to the following February 22nd. Judgements made are good, requires improvement (RI) or inadequate (Inad)

Year	Primary Phase Ofsted Judgement			Secondary Phase Ofsted Judgement			Totals
	Good	RI	Inad	Good	RI	Inad	
2015/16	21	1	2	6	0	0	30
2016/17	35	4	2	7	3	2	53
2017/18	48	19	4	8	1	2	82

3.3. Early Years Foundation Stage

The main overall indicator for children at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage is the percentage of children achieving a good level of development (GLD) for which they need to achieve Expected or Exceeding in all prime Learning Goals (including Literacy and Mathematics). In Somerset 71% of children achieved GLD in 2017. This is 2.3 percentage points higher than in 2016 and continues a 6 year improvement trend. This is in line with the national average of 70.7%. Our top Statistical Neighbour (SN) is East Sussex at 76.5%.

Gender

Girls continue to outperform boys on most indicators, including the GLD indicator. The gap between the performance of girls and boys has remained constant at 13.2 percentage points for the last three years, though Nationally the performance gap between boys and girls has closed in this time. However, the gap in Somerset schools has been and remains less than the National gap.

Literacy, including reading and writing remain as weaker areas of performance. Speaking was the weakest area in 2016 but this is no longer the case and has been replaced by writing. The strongest area assessed is technology followed by health and self care. Each of the seventeen Early Learning Goals as assessed across Somerset all sit just above National average outcomes. There is a recognition from Ofsted that the pressure of assessing some many goals is considerable.

Less Able Learners

The achievement gap between the bottom 20% of learners and all other children assessed is 26.1 ppts which is the smallest gap and therefore the strongest performance amongst our statistical neighbours.

3.4. Priorities for Action

- To further develop collaborative partnerships and provide the highest

quality support and opportunities for all children and families leading to self-improving communities

- Ensure communication and information is relevant, clear and accessible to parents, carers and providers.
- Identify and recognise the number of transition points a child has in their first 5 years and ensure timely, multi-agency strategies to guarantee positive transitions and continuity across the 0-5 age range
- Improve the quality of Teaching and Learning across all settings and schools in the EYFS through working closely with Teaching Schools to make relevant training available
- Secure high quality and resilient leadership and governance in every school and setting and strengthen workforce development through on-going self-improvement

3.5. Key Stage 1

In 2016 a new assessment system was implemented for the first time in Key Stage 1. Children are now assessed as reaching an Expected Standard (ES) or a Higher Standard (HS). This assessment is used for all indicators of performance either as a combined result or separately as Reading, Writing, or Mathematics.

The combined Reading, Writing, Mathematics (RWM) Expected Standard for Somerset was 65% against a national average of 64%. This performance ranks the LA at the 42nd percentile nationally where 1 is the highest. Those children gaining the Higher Standard (HS) were 12% against a national average of 11%. This ranks the LA at the 38th percentile nationally. We are therefore in line with the national performance and this represents a statistically significant rise from the performance of 2016.

In terms of progress this is now measured on a scale where 0 is average. Anything below 0 is slightly below or below average, and anything above is slightly above or above average. For RWM Expected Standard, Somerset was -1% and for progress at the higher standard we were -0%. Ofsted would describe both these results as in-line with National Average.

In Reading, Writing and Maths viewed as individual subjects, there was a statistically significant upturn at both the Expected and Higher standards in all three subjects. Performance as measured is statistically above the National outcome in reading at the higher standard, writing at the expected and higher standard and maths at the expected standard.

Phonics

In 2017 the phonics result for 5889 Year 1 pupils assessed was 78.8% against a national performance of 81%. This is an improvement on 2016.

Vulnerable Group Difference

The gap between children in receipt of Free School Meals and their peers on the RWM combined indicator reduced this year from 22% in 2016, to 18% 2017, despite the significant upturn in the overall result. The performance of the 768 pupils identified with SEND increased overall this year by 3 percentage points to 21%. We remain focussed on all vulnerable groups and are determined to narrow the gaps further through supporting and challenging our schools.

3.6. Priorities for Key Stage 1

- Continue to support improvement in the quality of provision in Key Stage 1 overall and ensure that the direction of improvement is maintained as well as performance which is statistically above National average.
- Work alongside Teaching Schools to ensure that opportunities for professional development focussed upon Key Stage 1 are made available, through joint funding bids where possible.
- To ensure that with the introduction of Assessment without levels that schools are confident in tracking the progress of all children, by maintaining the assessment moderation process currently in place through SSE.

4. Key Stage 2

In 2016 a new assessment system was implemented for the first time in Key Stage 2. Children are now assessed as reaching Expected Standard (ES) or higher standard (HS). This assessment is used for all indicators of performance either as a combined result or separately for areas such as Reading, Writing or Maths.

The combined Reading, Writing, Maths Expected Standard for Somerset was 59% against a national average of 61%. This ranks the LA at the 68th percentile nationally. Whilst the expected standard measure in Reading, Writing and Maths at 59% is below the National outcome, there has been a statistically significant improvement since 2016, when the Somerset outcome was 52%.

The percentage of pupils gaining the Higher Standard in 2017 was 8% in Somerset against 9% nationally. This measure ranks the LA at the 57th percentile nationally

In terms of progress, again the new national average is 0. For Reading, Writing, Maths at Expected Standard for KS2, Somerset achieved - 3%. This is below the national average and ranks the LA performance at the 75th percentile Nationally.

Whilst attainment in Reading at the Expected and Higher standard, Writing at the Higher Standard, Maths at the Expected and Higher standards and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling at the Expected and Higher standards all show statistically significant improvement between 2016 and 2017, progress made by pupils between Key Stage One and Key Stage Two remains mixed.

Gender

In Reading, Writing, Maths combined attainment girls continue to do better than boys, though both groups made statistically significant progress between 2016 and 2017. The measure for girls achieving the combined Expected Standard rose from 55% to 63% and for boys the measure rose from 44.9% to 55%. Therefore the gap between girls and boys widened slightly in 2017 at the end of Key Stage Two.

Vulnerable group difference

The gap between children in receipt of Free School Meals and their peers for those achieving the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths is 22%. This has risen from 17.3% in 2016. However in 2016 only 29% of pupils in receipt of free school meals achieved the combined Expected Standard,

compared to 37% in 2017. Therefore the rate of improvement for the 609 pupils in receipt of free school meals in year 6 in 2017 was good but not as rapid as the overall national improvement for all pupils.

There was a statistically significant improvement in the combined Expected Standard outcome in 2017 for the 908 pupils in receipt of SEND support in year 6 in 2017. The gap between the performance of this group and the overall National performance grew by 1% in 2017 though the overall group performance improved by 6%.

4.1. Priorities for Key Stage 2

- To continue to support and challenge all schools to secure further improvement, especially given the current changing leadership patterns.
- To continue to challenge all schools to set and achieve aspirational outcomes for all pupils.
- To further work with schools to ensure that all vulnerable groups are making accelerated progress and that rates of exclusion are not allowed to rise
- To further develop the school to school support network to ensure the sharing of best practice, knowledge and skills in conjunction with Teaching Schools.

5. Key Stage 4

In 2016 the assessment arrangements for KS4 changed, with further changes this year in 2017. There have been changes in headline measures, as well as the grading of English and Maths moving to a 9 point scale. There is continued interest Nationally in the validity of these new measures. These changes also mean that for the majority of indicators it is not possible to look at trends overtime and it is necessary to consider Somerset's performance against the national and regional attainment and achievement.

The main headline measure of whole school performance is 'Progress 8'; additionally, the performance of schools is measured through the 'Attainment 8' score, by the percentage of students achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE and the final measure of the English Baccalaureate. For the sake of simplicity here the focus is upon Progress 8 and Attainment 8.

KS4 progress which measures the value that secondary schools add from the KS2 data, showed a Progress 8 score of -0.12 which is below National average. The percentile rank of the LA was at the 64th percentile.

The Attainment 8 measure showed a significant rise upon last year and is in line with the National average, ranking the LA at the 53rd percentile Nationally.

Higher performing groups in Progress 8 included first language not English, Indian, Chinese, Other Asians, and Girls. The performance of all of these groups is statistically significantly above the National average.

Lower performing groups in terms of Progress 8 include those pupils with an Education, Health and care Plan, students in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), SEN support and FSM in the last 6 years and those that joined in Year 10 or 11.

The gap in the performance of Gender in Progress 8 terms, shows the 2397 girls assessed last year performing significantly above the National average with an overall score of +0.13. Conversely, the performance of the 2448 boys achieved a significantly below average score of -0.35, against National outcomes.

Pupil Premium Attainment 8 has improved being broadly in line with National average at 3.5. However, the progress being made by this group of pupils and disadvantaged students more generally remains a concern locally and Nationally, with much to learn from pockets of good practice where they exist.

SEND pupils either in receipt of SEN support or with an ECP do not attain as well as their peers. This is equally true for progress indicators and remains a key concern for school leaders and within the LA.

5.1 Priorities for Key Stage 4

- To support schools and academies, as well as their leaders, to aspire to and access a strong supply chain of good teachers, to impact positively upon all learners.
- To focus upon and understand the challenges faced by school leaders and governors and support systemic improvement and accountability systems in the changing educational landscape
- Closing the gaps for our most vulnerable groups remains an on-going focus and schools require support to reduce exclusions
- To ensure that schools are more aware of and appropriately prepared for challenges and accountability measures, whilst protecting the rights of vulnerable learners, especially Children Looked After.

5.2 A Level

In 2017 there were 2374 students completing their Key Stage 5 education studying at least one A level course. 903 were in state schools or academies with sixth forms and the remaining 1471 entries were at the four colleges.

The average point score (APS) per entry for those attending Somerset schools was 33.25. This was slightly above the National Average of 31.13. For Somerset overall when combining the colleges and schools results the APS entry was slightly below the NA at 30.71. Both of these results represent an improvement on the outcomes in 2016.

For those taking A levels in Somerset 13% achieved AAB or better in at least two qualifying subjects which are commonly needed for entry to leading universities which is slightly below the National Average of 14.3%.

The overall grade at A level was a C which was exactly in line with the National Average. The average grade for a student's best 3 A levels was a C+ and again this is exactly in line with the NA.

5.3 Priorities for Key Stage 5

- Continue to promote the raising of standards in sixth forms and colleges, working with leaders to ensure that 6th Form provision remains viable especially in more rural settings, given recent funding changes
- Continue to improve teaching and learning, student progress, tracking and provision, especially for more vulnerable students, so that suitable post 16 options are widely available.
- Work with academy providers and the Regional School Commissioner to

ensure that students are able to access courses and chosen pathways through post 16 settings

5.4 Children in Care – The Virtual School

The Virtual School (VS) is a national construct designed to improve the educational outcomes of Children who are Looked After (CLA). The VS is led by a Virtual Head teacher and has a staffing compliment of advisory teachers and education support workers. The Virtual Head works closely with Children's social care to ensure education is a pivotal aspect in reviewing children and young people's placements, any potential moves as well as transitions in schooling terms.

The results for the VS can be difficult to interpret as many factors such as small cohorts in age groups, time spent in care, special educational needs as well as significant trauma all impact on the ability of children to be able to learn appropriately and to achieve in the same way and time frame as their peers.

However the potential complexity of these children and young people applies to all CLA nationwide and therefore it is important that we look to compare Somerset's performance against the national indicators.

Key Stage 1 (8 children)

75% of 7 year old CLA achieved the expected standard in Reading; 50% in Writing; and 63% in Mathematics. In the combined, 50% of CLA achieved the expected standard. This compared to 65% of their peers.

Key Stage 2 (22 children)

36% of 11 year old CLA achieved the expected standard in Reading; 45% in Writing; and 41% in Maths. In the combined, 23% achieved the expected standard, against 59% of their peers. It is important to note that the majority of the cohort (73%, 16 children) had some form of SEND.

Key Stage 4 (34 students)

6% of CLA achieved GCSE standard passes in English and Maths, against 63% of their peers. It may be noted that 71% of the CLA cohort (24 students) had some form of SEND. 41% of the cohort attended a special school or pupil referral unit.

65% of the cohort (22 pupils) obtained at least one GCSE pass. Of those not entered for GCSEs, attainment included a range of Entry Level, Functional Skills, and Preparation for Working Life qualifications.

National comparative CLA attainment statistics are due to be published by the DfE in late-March. In line with DfE measures, the above figures relate to long-term CLA (those continuously looked after for at least a year).

Priorities for the Virtual School

- There is still work to be done to enhance and embed the VS and education within CSC and other services but there has been significant

- change in the last 6 months, with the Virtual School Headteacher joining key Education Leadership meetings
- There has been greater involvement with young people outside of personal education plan meetings this year though this improvement needs to continue
 - The development of the Children Missing Education Panel as a forum for scrutinising children on part time / no provision has supported swifter action on behalf of CLA students
 - Recording of information in one secure place (Capita) for all CLA in and out of county and in all types of provision remains a challenge
 - To further develop the improvement in the Virtual School being involved in all decisions around educational plans and school moves

5.5 Conclusion

While there has been some improvement in many areas of Somerset schools in 2017 though there is still wide variability in performance. The Education Strategic Vision set our ambition for a more rapid improvement rate through to 2020. This Vision will need to be re-visited and refreshed in the light of changes both within and beyond the LA. The monitoring of improvement is increasingly complex given the changes to the assessment arrangements in 2016 and subsequent further changes in 2017, especially at GCSE. Assessment changes make recognising real year on year improvement within the LA or individual schools more problematic.

The improvements in the EYFS represent good progress over the last five years. However, the improvement is not consistent in all areas across the LA, with provision and performance being much stronger in some areas than in others.

Key Stage 1 and 2 remain broadly in line with the national position on almost every indicator. Our ambition is to be significantly above all national indicators and we are keen to continue building on a solid base,

However, gaps between our most vulnerable groups and their peers remain our most urgent priority. Schools are very aware of this and our focus to support school improvement through the Somerset Education Partner programme has enabled more focused and specific challenge and support for those schools struggling with closing the gaps.

Gender differences continue to be significant, opening in the EYFS and continuing to be a key issue at all key stages so that by GCSE just over half of boys achieve a good outcome. Boys are over-represented in figures for SEN, exclusion from school, children looked after and the NEET data. Improving their progress and attainment is a key element in raising standards overall in Somerset and in achieving full participation for all young people.

Progress is being made in narrowing the gaps in attainment for pupils with special educational needs. The work on preparation for the inspection of SEND provision has galvanised professionals across the authority to work more closely together to review, amend and enable greater cohesive support. There are early signs of more focussed provision for Children Looked After and whilst their achievement gaps continue to be a concern there has been a greater recognition of the gaps in practice and these are now being tackled.

In spite of large funding for Pupil Premium students over time, the attainment gaps for pupils on free school meals have shown little improvement overall. This National priority remains a challenge for many Local Authorities.

Educational attainment gaps result in low social mobility. With West Somerset identified as one of the priority areas for social mobility with 'Opportunity Area' status by the Department for Education, we are actively engaged in a three year programme of improvement. Learning from this work must be used to inform other areas of need across Somerset as a whole.

Note: For sight of individual background papers, or further information about data sources used, please contact the report author.

Update on Support Services for Education (SSE)

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Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member:

1. Summary

- 1.1. Support Services for Education (SSE) is currently an internal trading unit within the Commercial and Business Services Directorate that provides a wide range of support services to schools and other education providers, with a turnover of approx. £19m and over 400 staff.
- 1.2. The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee requested an update on SSE.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. A presentation has been prepared for the Scrutiny meeting on 16 March that focuses on the following:
 - Highlights to date
 - Priorities - Services, Financials and Customers.
 - Update on commissioning of SSE SEND services.
- 2.2. Highlights include the following:
 - Achieving full cost recovery earlier than expected and delivering a small surplus each year.
 - Development of a new 'one-stop shop' website.
 - Retaining good buy back levels from schools.
 - Provision of work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for young people.
 - Encouraging supporting staff to take on volunteer roles such as being a Governor or mentoring young people.
 - Positive staff survey results
 - Collaborative work with North Somerset Council around the TUPE transfer of staff to SSE for future provision of commissioned services.
 - Shortlisted finalists in three national awards, more recently the Public Finance Innovation award.
- 2.3. Future priorities include:
 - Developing new traded packages to replace those previously funded by LA or Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding and ensuring existing packages meet the needs of large academies and Trusts.
 - Finalising Service Level Agreements for services commissioned by the LA.
 - Finalise the contract with North Somerset for commissioned services and explore similar opportunities with other LAs.

- Develop traded arrangements in North Somerset as well as in other counties in order to widen SSE's customer base.
- Develop brokered service arrangements.
- Improve feedback mechanisms from customers to identify areas for continuous improvement.
- Optimise use of new IT equipment and systems and develop time recording and resource management systems.

2.4. SSE have been working closely with the lead LA SEND Commissioner on ways of providing SEND Support Services using less of the High Needs Funding, which is overspent.

3. Background

3.1. The County Council considered a business case in Dec 2014 and made the decision to keep Support Services for Education (SSE) in-house with the following objectives:

- Continue to deliver high quality services to schools that provide value for money.
- Improve the commercialism of SSE and the services within it.
- Ensure a strong customer focus is maintained.
- Ensure the full cost of service delivery is recovered – through price increases, growth and efficiencies.
- Continue to work with commissioners on the Local Authority (LA) commissioned services.
- Provide updates to members

3.2. A paper went to Cabinet on providing an update against each of the main objectives set by the County Council in Dec 2014.

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1. The LA SEND Commissioner is leading on consultations with schools and stakeholders in the impacts of these changes and SSE is leading on consultations with staff.

5. Implications

5.1. SSE will continue to focus on the priorities summarised above, which in turn will ensure that it is able to continue to achieve the objectives set by the County Council.

6. Background papers

6.1. The Paper to Cabinet providing an operational update on SSE was discussed at the meeting on 16 March.

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