

Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families  
Committee – 20 July 2018

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## **PREVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AT THE EDGE OF CARE**

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Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson  
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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Prevention services are provided by Team 8, and received positive comments in the November 2017 Ofsted inspection report. Initially working with children known to social care, at risk of being accommodated but not yet children looked after, the breadth of services provided have of late been invested in, to widen the reach and reduce escalation of children at level 3 into CSC provision and support families on their exit from CSC where continuing support is assessed as being needed to reduce the possibility of a 'revolving door' scenario.
- 1.2. Prevention service plan links to Ofsted comments – see *PowerPoint for plan details*.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1. Team 8 historically worked with CSC Level 4 children and families but is now developing Level 3 preventative services based upon the former Targeted Youth Support staffing structure. Two services are working under one Team 8 banner with plans for a move towards one adolescent series as of April 2019 – Team 8 Edge of Care at level 4 and Team 8 CAT (community adolescent team) at level 3.
- 2.2. Working at level 4 CSC can be too late, where earlier preventative work could / should prevent escalation with the resultant cost implications. This requires investment in staff skill sets to the level of the existing Edge of Care staff as training deficits have been identified as the CAT staff move to an holistic family model.
- 2.3. The breadth of the current and planned preventative offer requires flexible working patterns which will require staff consultation and HR resources – see *PowerPoint for planned design of increased service provision*

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. Team 8 Edge of Care service is well established and valued – soft data is highly positive but hard data is only just becoming available through SSRS reports. Work is ongoing on development and data cleansing.

- 3.2. Team 8 CAT launched on 1 April 2018 so is effectively still in set up phase. The breadth of delivery has resulted in some delay, as external contracts and statutory MISPER work have to be incorporated in the offer. Dual recording (due to external contract reporting) has resulted in delays in a data dashboard being designed and implemented. Planned date is September 2018
- 3.3. *See PowerPoint for currently available case level data – note data cleansing is ongoing*

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1. Staff consultation over the extended day time offer is necessary and planned for late Autumn / early Winter 2018. Cost neutral due to overnight hours being set at 10 pm – 7 am.

#### **5. Implications**

- 5.1. The integration of preventative services for adolescent children (age 10 plus) will result in one team 8 service capable of following children and their families through the levels of service provision without repeated change of worker. Skills sharing and upskilling of staff can take place with the development of a flexible workforce from a multi-disciplinary background – key recruitment strategy.
- 5.2. Increased out of hours provision (*see PowerPoint*) will reduce reliance on private providers where quality of provision cannot be supported by in house training, supervision and performance management practices.

#### **6. Background papers**

- 6.1. *To be referenced in PowerPoint presentation*

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