

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

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## **Proposed changes to the support and services for children and their families (CAF-14-b) – Update on Public Consultation**

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families Division and Local Member: Countywide

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. On the 12 September 2018, Cabinet approved CAF-14b "Proposals for the alteration and / or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families – getset". This decision followed its consideration and debate, along with CAF 14a, at Scrutiny Place committee on 11 September.
- 1.2. The public consultation on the proposed changes to the County Council's support and services for children and their families was launched on 5 November 2018 and the purpose of this paper is to provide an update following its launch.

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

The Committee is asked to consider and comment on this report.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The purpose of the consultation is to understand the impact of the Council no longer providing getset services for children with additional needs (at level 2 of the Effective Support for Children and Families in Somerset guidance), and how best the Council, as the lead agency, ensures effective early help across the partnership in the future. The consultation is aimed at service users, partners and staff.

#### **3.2. Development of the paper**

The consultation papers were developed by the Strategic Commissioner for Early Help working closely with the SCC Corporate Communications, Legal Team and Somerset Parent Carer Forum to ensure it was written in plain English and made clear what services are in place now and what services would be in place after the decision.

The paper was signed off by the Director of Children's Services and the Assistant Director for Commissioning and Performance and the following groups were sent the draft paper on the 31<sup>st</sup> October before its launch on the 5 November 2018.

- Somerset Children's Trust
- SCC Strategic Commissioning Group
- SCC Senior Leadership Team
- SCC Children's Services Senior Management Team

- SCC Scrutiny for Children and Families Committee Chairman
- Somerset Children's Trust Executive Board
- Family Support Services Project Board
- Senior members of staff from Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- All members of the getset service
- Union members

The paper introduces the proposals and explains what getset's role is as well as the wider Somerset early help offer. The 4 levels of need are explained and it is made clear which aspects are both affected and not affected by the proposals. The paper describes what support is on offer in each of the 5 districts and what support would be offered following the proposals. Appendix 1 lists parenting support groups run by both getset and non getset organisations. Appendix 2 contains demographic and contextual data.

### 3.3. Pre-Launch

To raise awareness of the consultation itself the approach was also shared at the following meetings/boards:

- Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board
- Somerset Children's Trust Executive
- Family Support Services Board
- 17/10/2018 Early Years Partnership Meeting
- 19/10/2018 SCC Scrutiny for Children and Families
- 24/10/2018 Primary Headteachers Conference
- 25/10/2018 Primary Headteachers Conference

### 3.4. Launch of the consultation

The consultation went live on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November. A member's information sheet was sent to all elected members. A press release was then shared with all local media.

The consultation consists of the following documents:

- Consultation paper
- Consultation questionnaire
- Appendix 1 – List of parenting support groups split by district (list contains getset and non-getset groups)
- Appendix 2 – Supporting data pack

The consultation is hosted on the following link:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/getsetconsultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/getsetconsultation)

Paper copies of all documents and posters publicising the 6 public drop in sessions have been circulated to the 8 family centres and all libraries.

### 3.5. Communications plan

The consultation has been emailed to relevant stakeholders. Social media channels such as the SCC Facebook and Twitter accounts have also been

used to promote the consultation. Communications will continue throughout the consultation period.

Consultation responses will be analysed as and when they are submitted to enable us to target any future communications to stakeholders to mitigate any gaps.

The following public drop in sessions have been publicised as part of the paper:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	10.00am - 6.00pm	Glastonbury Library, 1 Orchard Court, The Archers Way, Glastonbury, BA6 9JB
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Key Centre, Feltham Lane, Frome, BA11 5AJ
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	1.00pm - 6.00pm	Frome Library, Justice Lane, Frome, BA11 1BE
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	10.00am - 6.00pm	The Hub, Minehead, Hopcott Road, Minehead, TA24 6DJ
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2018	10.00am - 6.00pm	Taunton Library, Paul Street, Taunton TA1 3XZ
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	10.00am - 6.00pm	Victoria Park Community Centre, Victoria Park Drive, Bridgwater, TA6 7AS
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	10.00am - 6.00pm	Yeovil Methodist Church, Vicarage Walk, Middle Street, Yeovil, BA20 1JZ

The following groups will be visited to ensure we meet a variety of service users who currently attend parenting support groups:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Type of session</b>
07/11/2018	Chard Baptist Church	Healthy Child Clinic
08/11/2018	St Peter's Hall, Yeovil	Stay, Play and Learn
13/11/2018	Glastonbury Library	Public drop in session
14/11/2018	The Key Centre, Frome	Public drop in session
14/11/2018	Frome Library	Public drop in session
15/11/2018	Williton Childrens Centre	Cafe Mama Breastfeeding support
16/11/2018	Sydenham Childrens Centre	Stay and play
19/11/2018	The Hub, Minehead	Public drop in session
20/11/2018	Wellington Methodist Church	Stay, Play and Learn
22/11/2018	Taunton Library	Public drop in session
27/11/2018	Acorns Childrens Centre	Young Parents group
28/11/2018	Victoria Park Community Centre	Public drop in session
29/11/2018	Glastonbury Childrens Centre	Stay, Play and Learn
03/12/2018	Acorns Childrens Centre	Healthy Child Clinic
04/12/2018	Yeovil Methodist Church	Public drop in session

Focus groups will also be held with getset staff, and district council staff to obtain their views and to understand impacts.

As part of the communication activity we have included promotion of the consultation with non english speaking families, gypsy and travellers, the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender (LGBTQ+) community and the black, asian minority ethnic (BAME) community. This has included having the documentation translated into Polish, Hungarian and Portuguese and engagement with these communities to have their say. All communications have included contact details where people can ask questions, request the information in an alternative format or ask for a hard copy.

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

- 4.1. CAF14-b set out the proposal for a public consultation and this approach has also been shared with our strategic partners who are members of the Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board.

#### **5. Implications**

- 5.1. As set out in previous papers (See background papers).

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

- 6.1. CAF-14a Scrutiny call in paper (08/10/18).
- 6.2. CAF-14b “Proposals for the alteration and/or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families – getset” – Part of the cabinet papers on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- 6.3. Equalities Impact Assessment for CAF-14b – Part of the cabinet papers on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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