

**Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee**  
**Friday 25 January 2019**  
**9.30 am Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library**



**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA**

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

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Item 8	Annual Somerset Safeguarding Children Board report (Pages 3 - 12) To consider this report and receive a presentation.
--------	--

Item 10	Update on CAF-14b Proposals for the alteration and / or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families - 'getset' (Pages 13 - 20) To consider this report.
---------	---

Published on 29 January 2019

Community Governance, County Hall, Taunton

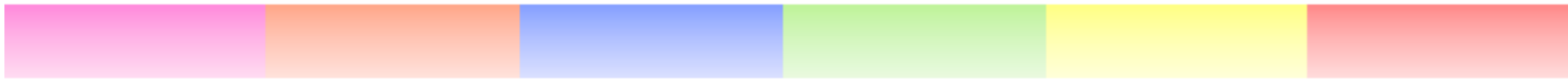
This page is intentionally left blank



Somerset Safeguarding  
**Children Board**



# Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18



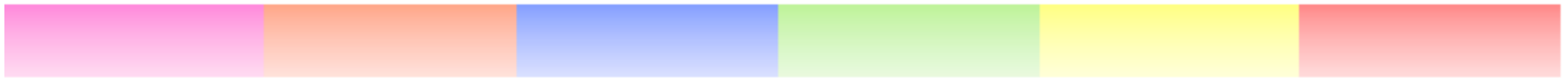
# Key priorities

Early Help

Multi-agency safeguarding

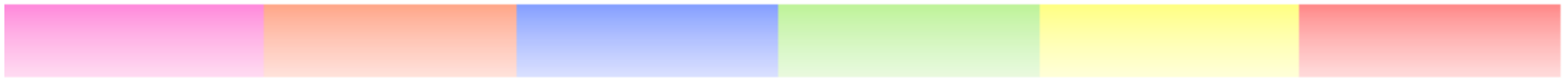
Neglect

Child exploitation/Children Missing



# Overall conclusion

- Strengthened their response to children and young people, including providing help and support earlier
- More to be done to ensure that service responses are consistent and effective
- Important to listen and respond more systematically to what children and their families are saying works for them



# Serious case review: Fenestra

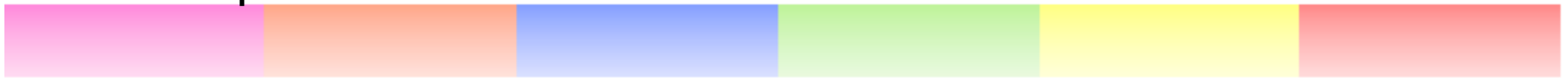
## 9 child victims of sexual exploitation

### Learning

- need for long-term intervention (including parental support)
- Meeting emotional and mental health needs of young people who have been exploited
- improved information sharing and collaborative responses
- improved community safeguarding e.g. tattoo parlours.

### Actions/Impact

- Single agency and multi-agency action plans
- Training and roadshows
- Improvements in agency responses to sexual exploitation
- Improvements in intelligence and increased disruption
- Topaz



# Serious case review: child Sam

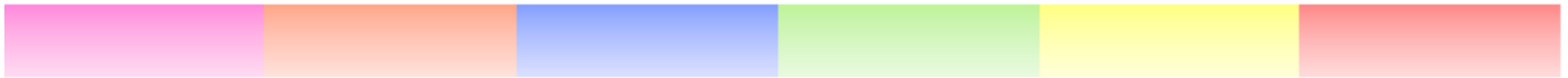
## Life changing injuries to a 6 month old baby

### Learning

- assessing and responding to risk within the wider family
- understanding of thresholds and the pre-birth protocol
- improved handovers between staff and improved information sharing
- health-specific findings e.g., training on recognising the presenting signs of brain injury in children.

### Actions/Impact

- Development of pre-birth toolkit to identify and respond to risk
- Action plans and awareness raising communications/training
- Thresholds document refreshed
- Improvements seen in agency identification, assessment and response to risk and vulnerability pre-birth



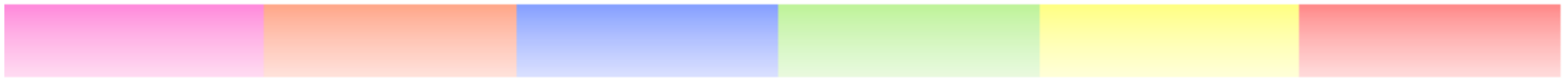


# Learning review - suicide

**13 child deaths between 2009 and 2017 as a result of suicide or probable suicide**

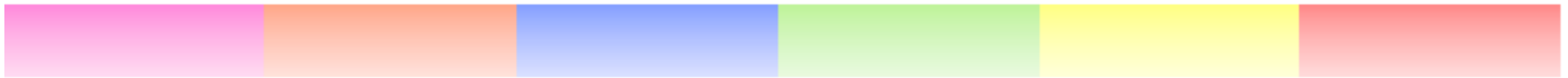
## **Priority areas for action:**

- Multiagency working - children and young people's mental health needs
- Identification of self-harm as an indicator of suicide risk
- Recognition of the issue of suicide prevention in the LGBT community
- Information and support for those bereaved or affected by suicide



# Priorities 2018/2019

- Early help
- Consistent partnership approaches to safeguard very young children
- Improving identification and effectiveness of responses to neglect
- Promote understanding of contextual and complex safeguarding
- Improved QA, incorporating better understanding of children's lived experiences/child's voice.



# Themes for Scrutiny

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Join up across partnerships – children and adults
- New safeguarding arrangements



This page is intentionally left blank

**Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families  
Committee  
25 January 2019**

**Early Help Proposals**

Page 13

Julian Wooster  
Director of Children's Services

[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)



Agenda item 10

# Somerset's Agreed Early Help Vision

Early Help is everyone's responsibility; we want children, families, communities and agencies to work together so that families are assisted to help themselves and are supported as soon as a need arises, thereby improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of all Somerset's children, young people and their families.



Working Together to Improve Health and Wellbeing

[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)



# Cabinet in September 2018 approved:

- the LGA recommendations to move to a **statutory minimum children's service** to meet the council's financial imperative.
- only funding early help services which directly reduce children's services costs (Safeguarding, SEND & Youth Justice).
  - a significant reduction in spend on **Getset** through efficiency measures (higher caseloads allowing a reduction in staffing) of £2m .
  - to consult on the future of **Getset Level 2** services on the basis that the remaining service is in excess of the statutory minimum for children's services.

# Early Help – Statutory Guidance

- **Local authorities lead** for developing joined-up early help services for children
- The **safeguarding partners (LA, Police & CCG (NHS))** should **agree** with their relevant agencies the levels for the different types of assessment and services to be commissioned and delivered
- All practitioners, including those in **universal services** and those **providing services to adults** with children, should understand their **role in identifying/addressing needs of children**
- **Lead practitioner** should undertake the assessment, provide help to the child and family, act as an advocate on their behalf and co-ordinate the delivery of support services.
- A **GP, family support worker, nurse, teacher, health visitor and/or special educational needs co-ordinator** could undertake the lead practitioner role

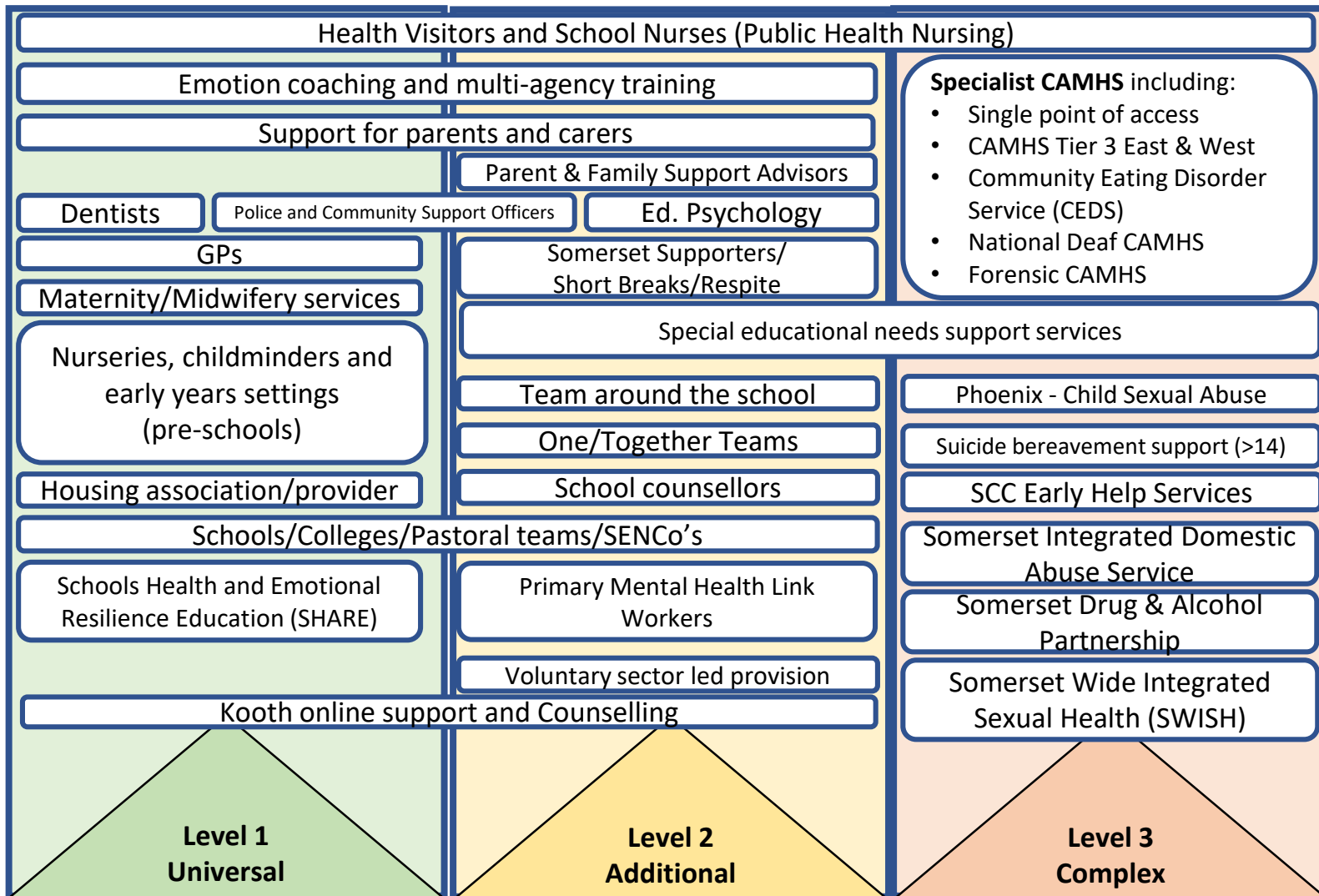


# Safeguarding Partnership Sign-up

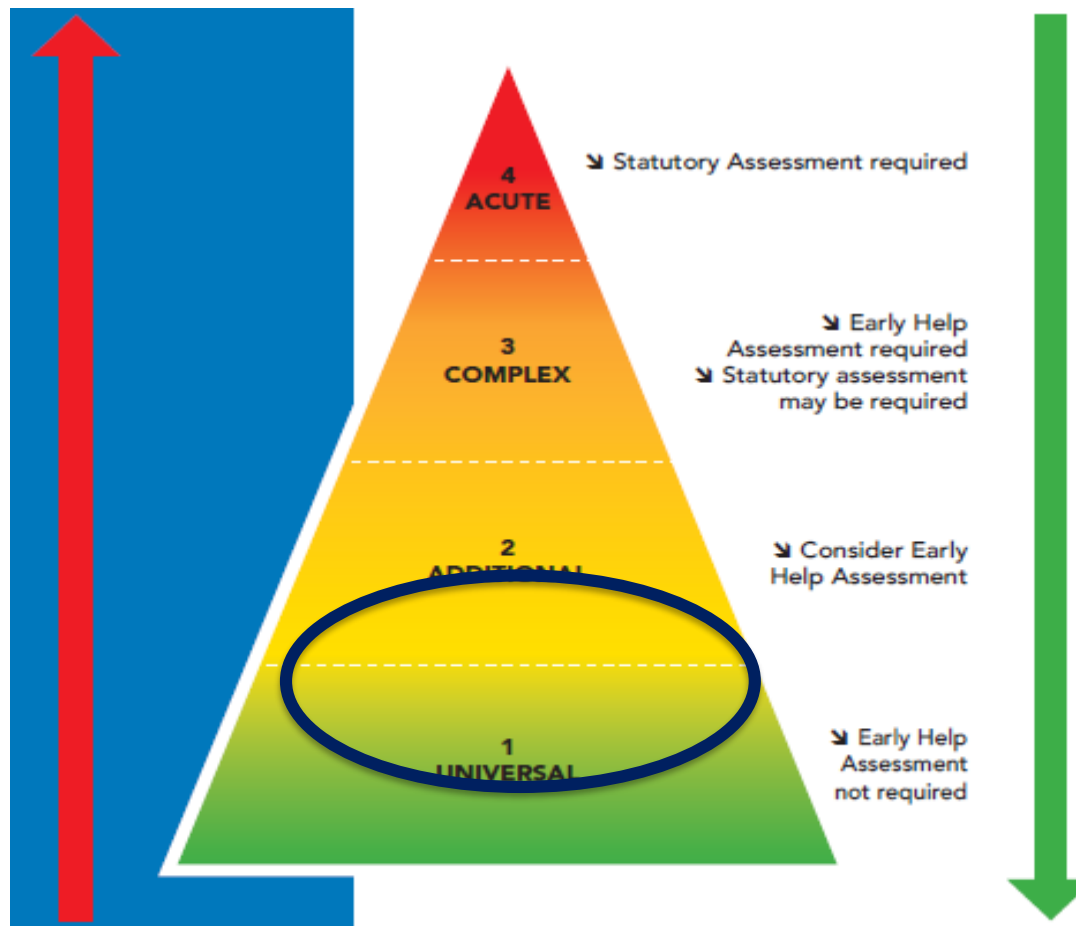
- Somerset Early Help Charter (2016)
- Somerset Children and Young People's Plan (2016-2019)
- Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Effective Support for Children and Families version 2 (2017)

# Other Level 1-3 services available across the Somerset partnership

Page 18



# Future of early help support



*Working Together to Improve Health and Wellbeing*

[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)

# Proposals for Change

- Improve the support and interventions for children with some additional needs – level 2
- Strengthening Early Help Infrastructure with partners and redesigning the early help “Front Door”
- Strengthening community capacity and capability
- Improve the support and interventions for children with complex needs – level 3
- Strengthen the multi-agency strategic approach to early help in Somerset