

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

# **Early Help Proposals**

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# 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.



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# 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

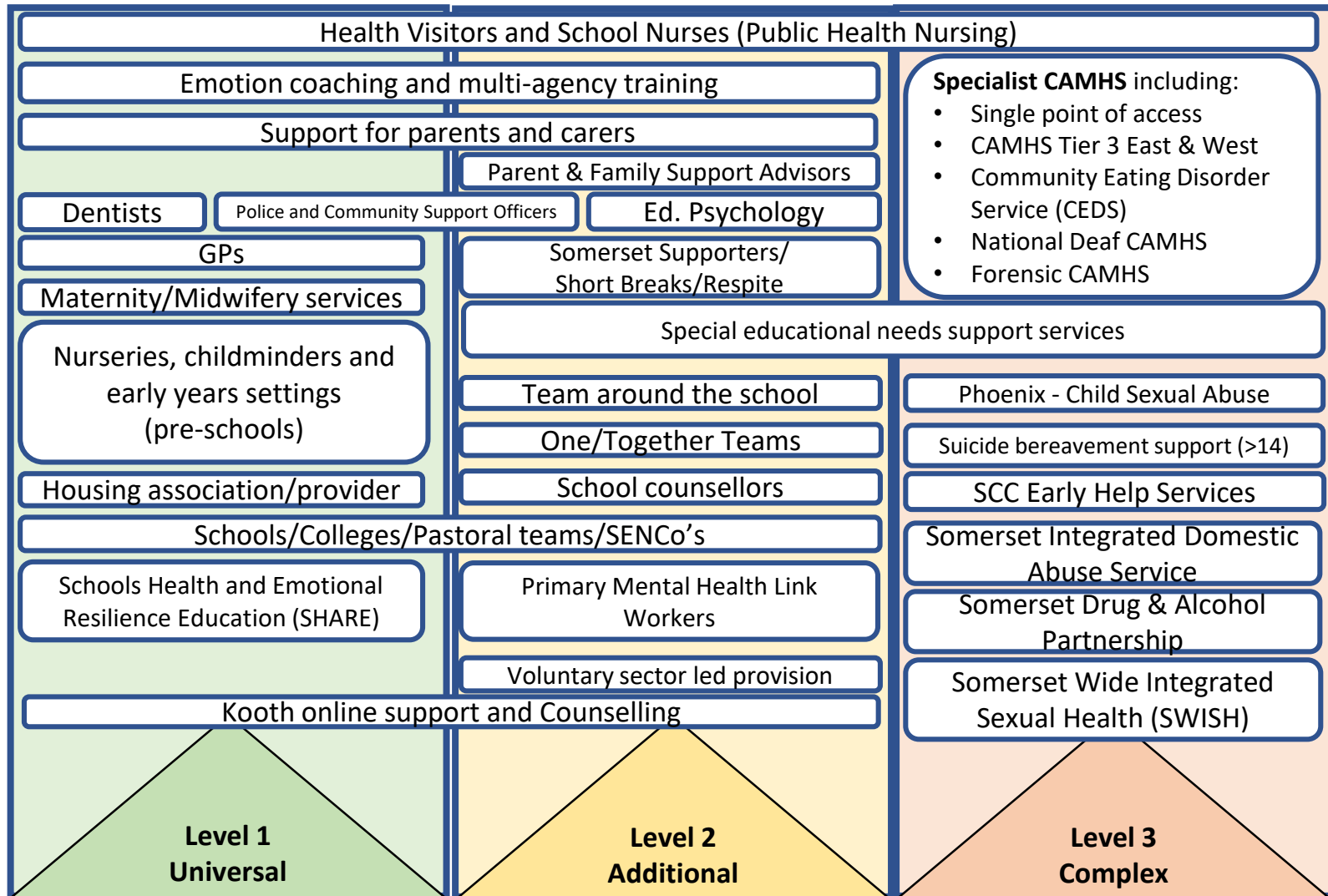
# Safeguarding Partnership Sign-up

- 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)

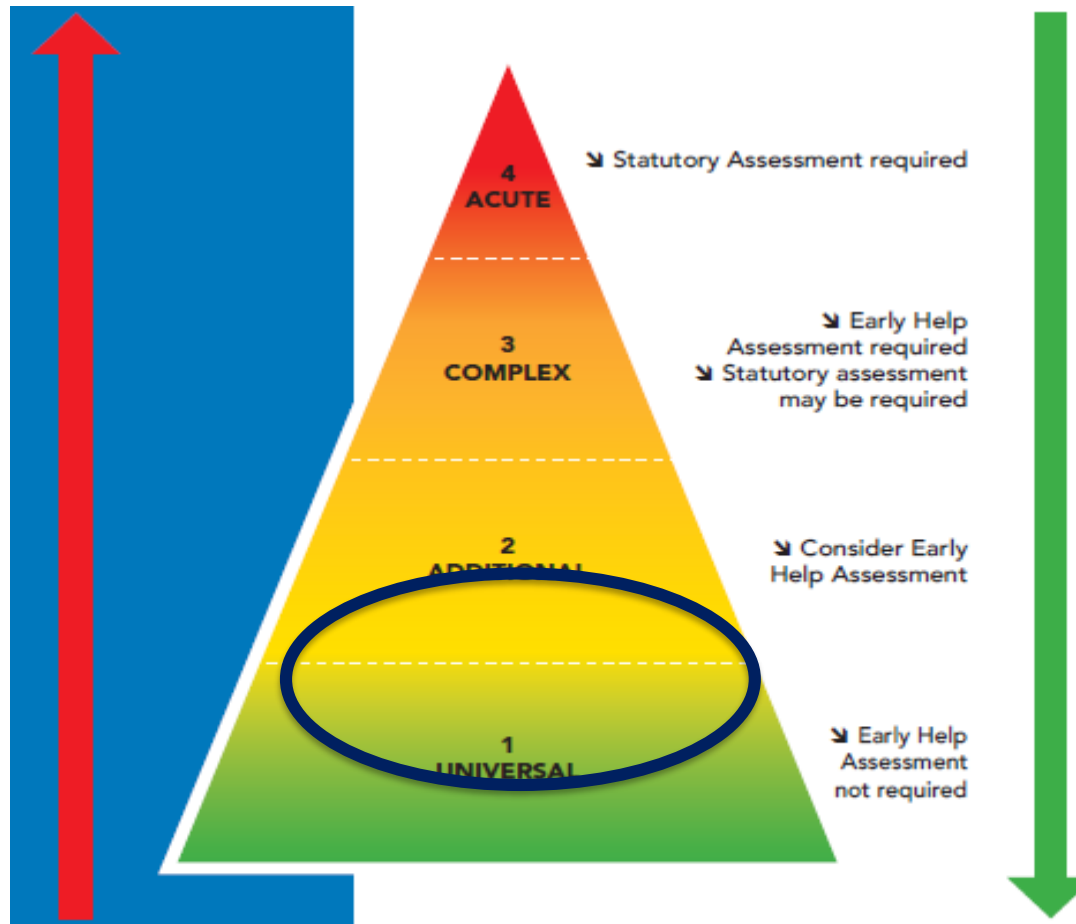
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# Other Level 1-3 services available across the Somerset partnership



# Future of early help support



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# 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