



Our Plan The Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019 - 2022

Foreword

“Fairer Life Chances and Opportunity for All”

This is a plan for all children, young people and their families living in Somerset. Our Plan has been developed with children and young people and with the Somerset partnership.

The plan picks up the themes for children and young people, identified in ‘Improving Lives’ – the Somerset Health and Wellbeing strategy. A key priority for Somerset is strengthening families and communities, the importance of partnership working, providing the tools for families to help themselves and intervening early when we need to.

This new Children and Young People’s Plan sets out the clear and ambitious vision of all partners to ensure that we know we are providing the best start and support for our children, builds on improvements already underway and identifies our next steps. In this new plan we have retained many features of the previous plan - 2016 to 2019 - as we believe it has already made, and can continue to make, a real difference in the lives of children and young people.

This plan is intended to be a “live” document that provides an overarching framework to stimulate action, encourage debate and support continuous challenge of our collective leadership. It will drive conversations across the

partnership and also with children, young people, families and front-line professionals to help ensure that whatever we do genuinely makes a difference to their lives.

Supporting children and young people is the responsibility of everyone who works with and cares about children and young people. No one agency can do that alone. We work in partnership, so that children and young people and their families are heard and involved at home, at school, in their communities and particularly when they need additional information, advice, support or interventions to help them.

The success of this plan will depend upon the skills and determination of each partner; so let us renew our collective energy and enthusiasm for what we do, and our shared ambition to make sure that Somerset really is one of the greatest places in which to grow up.



David Fothergill
Leader of the Council



Cllr Frances Nicholson
Cabinet Member,
Lead for Children and
Families



Pat Flaherty
Chief Executive,
Somerset County
Council



Julian Wooster
Director of Children’s
Services, Somerset
County Council



Sandra Corry
Director of Quality &
Patient Safety,
Somerset Clinical
Commissioning Group



Mike Prior
Superintendent,
Avon & Somerset
Police



Trudi Grant
Director of Public
Health, Somerset

The Background

The beautiful county of Somerset consists of a mixture of rolling hills and rugged coastlines, quaint villages and bustling market towns; the splendour of misty moorland and the mystery of the wetlands, shrouded in Arthurian legend.

In the summer Somerset fills with holidaymakers, who come to experience festivals, music, our culinary delights and walking experiences that over 1,300 square miles has to offer. In the winter, our county celebrates wassail and solstice, carnival and crisp winter walks around historic country estates.

Somerset provides some excellent education and healthcare through schools and hospitals rated as outstanding or good by their inspectors.

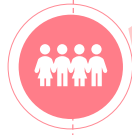
Our children and young people are safer than their more urban peers – with lower levels of knife crime, gang-related activity and drug use in Somerset.

There is a rich tradition of community support in Somerset with nearly 3,000 charities registered in the county and over three quarters of them working solely in Somerset. Despite the challenge of sustainability many work in partnership with other organisations, and more plan to do so to improve services – generating efficiencies and increasing funding opportunities.



555,000

Somerset Population



122,000

Children & Young People under 19 years



of the county's overall population are Children & Young People



12,500

Children & Young people with SEND (0-25 years)



800

Children & Young People are looked after by the local authority or are being supported out of children's social care into independent living

“Somerset is a safe place to grow up, with a strong sense of community, and lots of places to go and things to do. However, knowing where to find out about activities, and transport can be an issue, especially in rural areas”

Somerset Young People's Voice Group
February 2019

The Challenge

Keeping our children and young people safe - partners in Somerset have the statutory responsibility for coordinating and challenging all activity relating to safeguarding children and young people living in Somerset.

Neglect - Neglect is the most common reason for taking child protection action. We are building a greater recognition of the impact that neglect can have on children. When parents or carers can't meet a child's needs its because they don't have the skills or support needed; and sometimes it's due to other problems such as mental health issues, drug and alcohol problems or poverty.

Improving education outcomes for all children - Somerset has made disappointing progress in closing the gap in attainment between vulnerable groups and their peers at Key Stage 4; our data shows a performance gap of 22% in achievement of a standard pass in English and Maths.

Lack of higher education choices - Somerset, and the wider region, would benefit from greater choices in higher education and employment; support economic development - making Somerset a place where people come to study and work with a vibrant economy and thriving communities.

Rural poverty - which includes lack of digital connectivity, lack of public transport and less access to services and facilities

Workforce Issues - Somerset, like many other local authorities faces a skills shortage especially in specialist teaching and children's social care

Contextual safeguarding - Increasingly, our children and young people can be vulnerable to abuse, or exploitation from outside their families. These threats include exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation.

“Somerset is a great place for old people to settle down and retire, however finding good opportunities in the county for young people can be difficult”

Somerset Young People's Voice Group
February 2019

Growing Up In Somerset

77% say they worry 'quite a lot' or 'a lot'

Worried About:

36%
Tests and Exams



32%
Family Problems



22%
Health



23%
Bullying



5%
do not get enough sleep



19% go to after school or youth club

20% have received a chat message that scared/upset them

27% Yr 6 pupils have seen adult only images online

91% have been told how to stay safe while online

34% play sport or do other physical activities

27% been bullied in past 12 months

40% afraid to go to school because of bullying

Self-esteem:

30% high level of self-esteem

32% low level of self-esteem

8-11 years old
Primary School

6% are young carers



3% had nothing to eat or drink before school



89% visited the dentist in the last 12 months



80% help with cooking at home

78% say they worry 'quite a lot' or 'a lot'

Worried About:

47%
Tests and Exams



30%
Family Problems



26%
Mental Health



37%
The Future



Want to continue in full time education

53%



Enjoy most or all school lessons

40%



18% had alcohol in the previous 7 days



20% have been offered drugs



5% regularly smoke

5% are young carers

31% parents/carers smoke

32% Not enough time to do other activities



16% had nothing to eat or drink before school



14% had nothing to eat or drink for lunch

9% Transport is a problem

Feel Safe:

74% at school

58% outside

12-15 years old
Secondary School

The Journey

We have a strong and well established partnership, whose participants share a common goal to work together to improve the wellbeing and life chances of every child in Somerset.

We want this plan to make a difference, not just to the services we deliver but to children's lives. We realise the outcomes in this plan cannot be achieved by any single organisation. To really make change happen, we need all parts of the system to work together - from families to children's services, schools and other statutory services, to communities and voluntary organisations.

Our OFSTED inspection in November 2017 found that children's services are improving and Somerset is on a journey from 'Requiring Improvement to get to Good'.

In October 2018 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation and judged that specialist community mental health services for children and young people 'Require Improvement', child and adolescent mental health wards rated as 'Good' and community health services for children, young people and families rated as 'Good'.

This new plan reflects the actions needed by all the partners to help us to achieve excellent outcomes and to fulfil our ambitions for all children and young people in Somerset to be happy, healthy and well prepared for adulthood.

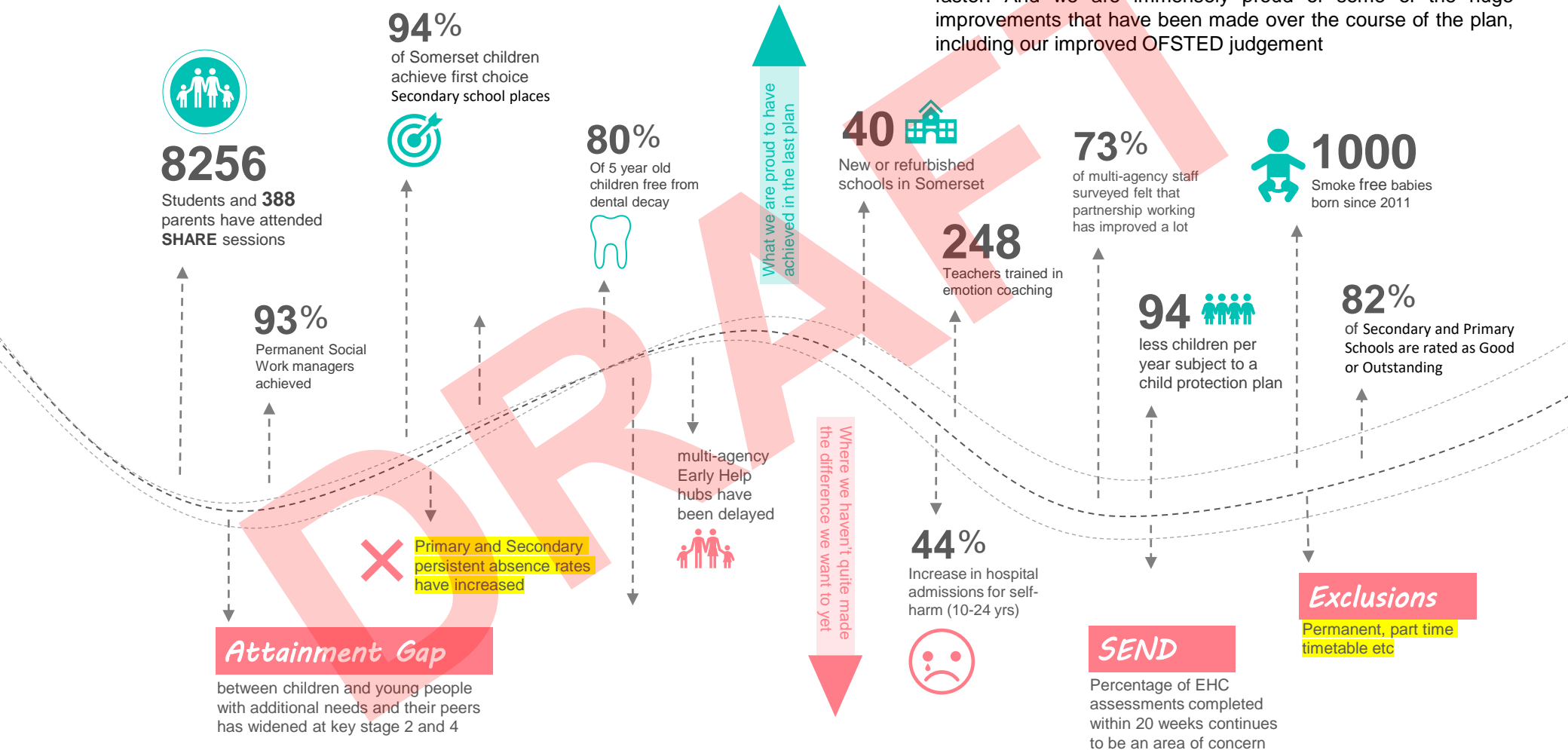
We will continue to develop multi agency training programmes bringing together staff from a range of services, providing opportunities for sharing of practice and experiences..

"I have definitely seen massive improvements in the way partners are working together - I don't feel alone in trying to help children and families. Through better information sharing, the Oneteams and closer working relationships we have seen better outcomes for families, either supporting people to achieve, or supporting the community as a whole"

Avon & Somerset Police Constable
June workshop, 2018

Progress Since the Last Plan

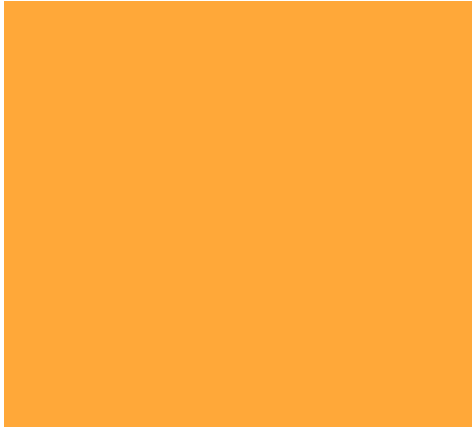
Somerset Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019 was a focussed improvement plan. It identified seven improvement areas for children, young people and their families. We agreed that these priority areas for action could drive change further and faster. And we are immensely proud of some of the huge improvements that have been made over the course of the plan, including our improved OFSTED judgement



The Plan on a Page

Our Vision: *Happy, Healthy and Preparing For Adulthood*

Our Key Outcomes



our priorities for all children, young people and families

How we'll know we've made a difference



Our Key Considerations



Our Approach



An Introduction to Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2019-2022

Our vision:

Happy, Healthy And Preparing For Adulthood

Our vision has been strongly shaped by young people themselves. We asked them about their hopes for the future and how they can be supported to thrive in Somerset. They told us that they want to grow up in loving families and caring communities with well supported and supportive parents, families, friends, schools and the wider community

We want every child and young person in Somerset to have:

Supported Families - strengthening families and building resilient communities

Healthy Lives - families making the right choices to support happy healthy lifestyles

A Great Education - high aspirations, opportunities and achievement for all

Positive Activities - getting the most out of life through play, leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities

These priorities are interwoven: education, family life; positive activities and health . Our young people also reminded us to think of their safety and security, the accessibility of services and how to support the more vulnerable because of individual, environmental, social or economic factors. By recognising the crucial interaction between these outcomes, we will work together to improve the lives of all children and young people. We will do this through actions in these four priority areas owned by the boards and groups of the Somerset partnership- this CYPP will be the benchmark against which it's effectiveness and progress will be measured and against which the risk to achieving the aim of the CYPP will be managed.

“Good preparation for adulthood is an important priority for children and young people as it will make us informed about our choices, confident in our abilities and happy and optimistic about our futures”

Halcon Youth Group, September 2018



This new plan has been written by children and young people, for children and young people in Somerset. Over the summer of 2018 more than 200 children and young people took part in face-to-face consultations and follow up sessions to determine the priorities they wanted to see in their plan. We heard about what's important for good health and well-being; how our young people value their education; the support they feel is important for their parents and carers – and finally, they told us what they want to do with their spare time, and how we can help them to achieve this.

Our Priorities for 2019-22

Help us to look after our health, achieve at school and prepare us for adulthood

Support our parents (as well as us) and help us to take part in positive things to do

We need better access to fair and young people friendly health services and affordable activities that improve our health and well-being

English and maths are essential but equip us with useful training and social skills too

Schools and colleges should be safe places for everyone, they should help us with work experience as well as exams

Supported Families

Strengthening families and building resilient communities

Outcomes

Young people and families are in control and know where to access help and advice to manage their own health and wellbeing

Children and young people are protected from harm and well cared for at home wherever possible

Staff will have the skills and knowledge to identify issues early in families and to address those issues quickly and effectively in a Strengthening Families way

Families receive good quality multi-agency help to support parents or carers so risks to children are reduced, reducing the need for high cost, statutory interventions

Measures that will tell us we are making a difference

The number of open early help cases

Number of children in need

Number of children subject to a child protection plan

Number of children looked after

First time entrants to the youth justice system

Percentage of young people who feel safe at home

Percentage of children and young people with a high wellbeing score

Number of parents completing Reducing Parental Conflict courses

“A happy family life is a balance of freedom and security and knowing that there is always somewhere or someone to turn to if you need support” Somerset Young People’s Voice Group, February 2019

The children and young people’s consultations told us overwhelmingly that we must give high quality support to their parents, carers and their communities.

Child health and wellbeing is dependent on supportive and safe homes; studies repeatedly show the importance of having at least one supportive caring adult to establishing childhood resilience, and this is critical so that children are able to bounce back when difficulty threatens that happiness.

We know families achieve better outcomes if their needs are supported early. Access to universal services e.g. nurseries, schools, primary, libraries and community health care, and positive interaction in families that spend time together e.g. play, leisure, sport, cultural activities, creates opportunities for happy memories to be made and resilient capacities to be built. This enhances the foundation for happiness and lifelong health and wellbeing.

Most children and families only need universal services, however it is the practitioners working in universal settings who first recognise when a child or family are starting to struggle and may have additional needs. These practitioners are the teachers, youth workers, health visitors and volunteers who need to build a trusting relationship with that family, helping them to organise and co-ordinate the support they may need. All staff working with children and families should be able to recognise and address the needs of the entire family in a holistic way; keep the child and their family at the heart of their work and listen to what they need in our Strengthening Families approach.

“We need to have an ‘airplane oxygen mask’ approach. Help parents get the ‘oxygen’ they need themselves first – parents need to look after themselves first, so that they can look after our children better”

Parent/carer, consultation day 2018

We want our parents and carers to feel confident in their parenting skills. The Schools Survey 2018 discovered that, compared with a reference sample, young people in Somerset seem to be doing better on safety, diet and exercise, but not so well in regards their emotional wellbeing. Secondary pupils show some increased use of alcohol and exposure to illegal drugs, which is against recent national trends. The Somerset Parent Carer Toolkit addresses the issues that most affect families via web-based information and local support to help tackle some of these issues.

“Adults can help you by showing respect to you and caring for you, adults can help with treating you equally, which leaves us feeling like we are cared for”

Young people of Shepton Mallet Youth Club, 2018

In the Autumn of 2018 we consulted with young people about how to support parents and carers. The young people were able to acknowledge that they know their parents/carers want them to succeed but realised that parenting is a tough job and not all parents are well equipped to be successful. Access to good local support and information e.g. the SEND Local Offer; strong communities looking out for each other; inclusive schools; support for parents who are in conflict with each other and knowing how to look after the emotional health and well-being of themselves and their children were all key areas that young people identified.

Healthy Lives

physical and emotional

Families making the right choices to support happy healthy lifestyles

Outcomes

Children, young people and families are enabled to lead healthy lives

More children and young people will have good emotional health and wellbeing, are emotionally resilient and equipped to manage their lives

Children and young people are able to safely manage their long term physical and mental health conditions and disability and are supported to manage the transition to adult services

Measures that will tell us we are making a difference

Life expectancy at birth

Smoking at time of delivery

Breastfeeding initiation

Obesity measures at reception and Year 6

Hospital admissions caused by unintentional or deliberate injuries

Hospital admissions for mental health conditions

Hospital admissions for self harm

Percentage of children with a high measure of resilience

“Learning how to look after yourself earlier, and knowing it is ok to not be ok” Somerset Young People's Voice Group, February 2019

We want to encourage and help children, young people and their families and carers in Somerset to live healthier, longer lives by helping them to stay well and prevent illness in the first place.

We want to help parents to make good choices to help their children have a healthy start to life. A healthy childhood leaves a legacy of good health and well-being for their entire lifetime and helps them to make the right choices. We know that the vast majority of mental health problems experienced in adult life emerge before young people reach adulthood, and that early identification and intervention of social, emotional and mental health issues can improve mental health and resilience and reduce the considerable distress of those experiencing them and that of the people caring for them.

“What good is education if someone isn't healthy” Young person, May 2018

We aim to create healthy environments and health services that are accessible and engaging to children and, young people and their families and carers to help them make the choices and changes needed for a healthy and happy life. This includes advice, tips and tools to help them make the best choices about their health and wellbeing - healthy eating and healthy weight, getting exercise to help have healthy bodies and healthy minds, increase good sleep habits, awareness of good sexual health and prevention of smoking and use of drugs and alcohol.

44% increase in last 5 years in hospital admissions for self-harm (10-24 yrs)



Self-harm (15-19)

Somerset

1211 per 100,000

national average

617 per 100,000

Self-esteem

(high self-esteem score 12-15)

Somerset national average

24% **34%**

Somerset national average

46% **52%**



“I’m so grateful that there are websites like Kooth and people I can talk to when I feel overwhelmed” Young person, May 2018

In 2018 over 9,000 children and young people across Somerset participated in a Health and Wellbeing survey. The survey concluded that young people in Somerset have improved safety, diet and exercise, but declining emotional wellbeing. Contrary to expectations, males report fewer health-risky behaviours. The findings for females signal poorer emotional wellbeing, especially among older pupils.

An indicator of emotional resilience is the level of self-harm amongst the population; Somerset data demonstrates that there is a distinct pattern of presentation for girls, which is mirrored for England and the south west. ‘Looking through the Lens of Self-Harm’ the annual report of the Director of Public Health in Somerset 2018 looks to address the stigma associated with self-harm and improve access to the support available.

We will strengthen the ‘protective factors’ of mental health and wellbeing by enabling children and young people to develop skills around building friendships, self-esteem and resilience and supported by a confident and informed workforce who can support early identification of mental health problems.

Children and young people told us that health is one of their top priorities for this plan. They were able to name health services in Somerset that they thought worked well and could talk about improved issues. They acknowledged that education and awareness is improving and could name self-help mechanisms. They stated that stigma around mental health is decreasing and education on mental health is improving and also spoke of positive relationships with school nurses, GPs, dentists and the emergency services.

Somerset Youth Parliament told us that ‘better access & shorter waiting list for mental health service such as CAMHS, better/ improved & regular, consistent PSHE in schools, more school nurses/ time, more opportunities for young people to have a voice & be consulted with’ will improve health services in Somerset.

A Great Education building skills for life

High aspirations, opportunities and achievement for all

Outcomes

Every child will achieve well above expectations and not be held back by their social and personal backgrounds, special educational needs or disabilities

All children get the best start in the early years; all pupils can go to a good school and have high aspirations for their future

Every young person will benefit from a broad range of pathways to further learning and employment, for their own achievement and economic independence and for the success of the Somerset economy

Measures that will tell us we are making a difference

Percentage of children reaching a good level of development at early years

Percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in years 12 and 13

Percentage of pupils achieving expected standard at KS2

Progress 8 score at KS4

Average attainment 8 score at KS4

Percentage of young people with L2 and L3 qualification by age 19

Progress made by those with free school meals in areas of low social mobility

“Teach us skills to prepare us for life from day one”

When consulting with young people about what they need from their education, they identified a broad range of issues that could be supported in addition to qualification attainment. The topics range from debate and discussion, democracy skills, understanding each other's needs, having a voice, knowing our rights and support to young people who are LGBTQ+ to more practical elements such as social media support, careers support, health awareness, mental health support, understanding finance and good sex and relationships training.

Our Key Considerations:

PLACE

Overall, almost all Somerset children attend a good or outstanding secondary school. There are 254 state-funded schools (including 86 Academies), 4 FE colleges, 1 Free school and 31 Independent schools in Somerset (January 2018)

The size and rurality of Somerset presents challenges for provision, in particular maintaining a broad ranging curriculum offer and a range of opportunities that are both vocational and academic.

Somerset's Team Around the School model is for schools to meet with local family support services on a regular basis to have a shared conversation about children and young people they are worried about. This provides a strong foundation which supports children, young people and their families by refocusing resources on prevention rather than crisis intervention.

Early schooling matters most for children and attending a good pre-school and primary has more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background - the quality of teaching children receive is more important. A high quality pre-school followed by an academically effective primary school gives children's development a significant boost, especially when built upon a foundation of a stimulating early years home-learning environment.

64 % of KS4 pupils achieved a standard 9-4 pass in English and Maths GCSE's (2016/17)

74 % of Somerset students achieved at least 2 A-Levels (2016/17)

% of young people who believe Schools care whether they are happy or not:



Somerset
63 %



Somerset
58 %

“Preparing for adulthood is an important priority for children in care to make us confident, resilient and prepared to leave care” Somerset In Care Council, 2018

DEPRIVATION

Disadvantaged pupils continue to perform less well than their peers at all key stages both locally and nationally, and the gaps between those eligible for school meals and others are wider in our county than the national average.

The West Somerset Opportunity Area was launched by the government to raise education standards locally, providing every child and young person with the chance to reach their full potential. The programme is focused on improving early years education, improving outcomes at primary and secondary school, and helping young people find a good job. West Somerset is one of 12 areas in England chosen as an Opportunity Area, and forms a part of the government's efforts to unlock the true potential of England's young people.

Every young person in Somerset should be equipped to succeed in the world of work. This includes raising educational aspirations – only 38% of young people in Somerset went to university in 2015 compared to 49% nationally.

INCLUSION

Somerset's new Inclusion Programme is developing improvements in SEND support; attendance and exclusions; capital investment into the right and sustainable places; having better information, advice and guidance and a campaign on narrowing the word gap for pupils.

In our consultations with children and young people they asked us to consider their safety and security in their environments. In the Schools Survey 2018 40% of primary school pupils said they sometimes feel afraid of going to school because of bullying. 51% of secondary school pupils think their school takes bullying seriously.

Positive Activities

Getting the most out of life through play, leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities

Outcomes

Families and communities are thriving and resilient and support each other

All children have a safe place to live in which they can grow, thrive and reach their potential

Vulnerable young people and their families are directly involved in helping themselves and encouraged to help others through volunteering or peer mentoring

Measures that will tell us we are making a difference

The number of youth/after school clubs operating across Somerset

Uptake of short breaks

National Citizens Service uptake

Number of young people undertaking the DoE / number of schools offering the DoE

Percentage of young people who feel safe outside

First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17 (per 100,000 population)

Digitalisation of Somerset

“Challenge and support us to take risks and grow as individuals”

Somerset Young People's Reference Group, February 2019

We want Somerset's children and young people to feel happy in a childhood that is full of fun, laughter and love, in vibrant and aspirational communities that they can be proud of, in which their dreams are realised.

In Summer 2018 we asked children and young people about the priorities that would make their lives better. They told us that they want to have more things to do, to feel safe, and to enjoy themselves. They asked us to consider how children and young people can access safe and engaging positive activities.

The young people were able to identify the benefits of taking part in positive activities and felt this was an important priority for the new plan. They were able to list the educational, health and social benefits of being challenged to try new things in different environments. They were also able to identify why it can be difficult to take part in new activities – the main reasons being money, time and transport; lack of confidence and parental consent.

In February 2019 Radio 1's Newsbeat's Know Your Place project found that all 5 districts in Somerset scored lower than national average for entertainment and leisure, youth population, bus services and sports facilities. They all scored better than the national average for mental health care and average rent. 4G coverage was better in South South Somerset and Sedgemoor. Natural environment only scored higher in West Somerset. South Somerset was the only district that scored higher for employment.

“Play is an essential part of every child’s life. It is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as for social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends are usually at the top of the list”

Play England

“Inspire us to develop our sense of adventure”

Somerset Young People’s Reference Group, February 2019

The National Citizen Service (NCS) is a voluntary personal and social development programme for 15–17 year olds in England and Northern Ireland. During 2018, over 800 young people from Somerset took part in NCS; 11.5% of these were in receipt of free school meals and 5.5% had Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Their providers currently work with more than 40 mainstream schools and colleges in Somerset, several special schools and numerous local youth organisations, delivering a mixture of universal and bespoke NCS programmes, to ensure as many young people as possible can benefit. During 2018, we introduced NCS School Coordinators in 7 Somerset secondary schools, to ensure NCS is embedded into the school curriculum, and are planning to roll out an additional 15 during 2019. Special school student participation in NCS is also a priority focus for 2019.

When asked what’s working well to keep children and young people safe in their communities the Somerset’s Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Forum told us that open access youth provision is working well with plenty of activities around risk-awareness, internet safety, bullying and sexual health. However, they warned of the risks to these interventions due to local authority cuts in grants to communities, less money available from funders and more competition for a decreasing funding pot.

Rural England’s State of Rural Services Report 2019 looked at 8 key contracting rural services including local transport, broadband and mobile connectivity, libraries, young people’s services and personal advice services. The report identifies growing expectations of communities and volunteers to sustain services, often to stop them from disappearing. Although there is evidence that this model can result in service improvement; some communities have fewer volunteers and limits to volunteer capacity.

Partnership Working

'duty to cooperate'

This plan provides clear strategic direction for the partnership and enables partners to work better together on shared priorities and targets in order to make the necessary changes to improve outcomes for children, young people and families locally.

We will celebrate inclusion, diversity and a sense of community with our existing partners and new partners. Collectively these achieve Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 which places them under the 'duty to cooperate' with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area.

Partners in Somerset will monitor and evaluate performance against this plan, and the supporting strategies and action plans. We will challenge ourselves and partners where progress is slow. The partnership Executive will monitor progress on a quarterly basis, acting as programme board and joint commissioning forum.

The Board will monitor progress against the Plan on a six-monthly basis and with a comprehensive annual review. These reports will be presented to Somerset County Council's Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Children and Families and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Working Together to Safeguard Children places a requirement on three partners - the local authority, the police and the health service - to make arrangements for working together on child protection in a local area



Conclusion

This plan is a “live” document designed to be flexible enough to allow for and recognise change. We will continually monitor this plan, and review it on an annual basis to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with shifting local and national priorities. Our partnership scrutiny processes will hold us to account for our progress.

We have identified a number of key outcomes where we want to see real positive change. We have identified ambitious actions and targets against these outcomes, and we are determined to meet the challenge we have set ourselves. The board will regularly review progress against these outcomes. The board will support and challenge where it is clear that we need to take action in order to ensure progress is maintained and improved.

However, there is also a vast range of information which we will continue to review to ensure that this plan is having the impact we would want it to. We will take a flexible approach, making careful use of a range of objective performance information so that we can respond to emerging issues.

As a partnership we seek to enable change. To achieve our ambitions within the very significant financial pressures and constraints faced by all partners we will continue to transform the delivery arrangements for local services. We will explore opportunities to find efficiencies in the way we deliver services, and where it is in the best interests of children and their families, we will accelerate arrangements for services to be jointly commissioned across the partnership.

Our large and diverse workforce display great dedication and professionalism in the work they do every day for the children and young people of Somerset. We will support our workforce to do the job that they love through valuing, respecting and investing in them so they are confident, competent and have the skills, abilities, knowledge and motivation to provide the very best outcomes.

The Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019-2022 presents a huge opportunity, as well as a great responsibility. It is a responsibility which the Somerset partnership is privileged to hold and an opportunity it is determined to seize.

With thanks

This plan has been written with and by children and young people in Somerset through a series of engagement events and consultations.

Organisations/groups from which young people attended CYPP face to face sessions:

UK Youth Parliament (UKYP),
Somerset County Council (SCC)

The Unstoppables (SEND) Forum,
Somerset County Council (SCC)

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
Participation group, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Halcon Youth Club,
YouthUnLimited CIC

Lower Lakes CIO

Somerset In Care Council (SiCC),
SCC

Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC, SCC)

North Petherton Youth Club, Young Somerset

Healthwatch Somerset

Practitioners/Decision Makers:

Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SOMPAR)

Avon & Somerset Police

Somerset Parent Carer Forum (SPCF)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Somerset County Council (SCC) – officers and elected members
HealthWatch

Somerset Association of Primary Headteachers and Officers (SAPHTO)

Yeovil District Hospital

Women & Children's Health Clinical Commissioning Group Yeovil

Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Special Educational Needs. Somerset Expertise (sen.se)

Governor, Chilton Trinity School / Sky College

Organisations/groups who participated with online consultations:

2BU

Halcon Youth Club

Limitless Wells Youth Club

Mendip YMCA

North Petherton Youth Club

Shepton Mallet Youth Club

UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

The Unstoppables

Somerset In Care Council (SiCC)

Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC)

“It has been great to be able to come to the event, be heard, and talk to decision makers about our experiences, and how we can make some positive change in Somerset”

Somerset Young People's Voice Group
August 2018