

# Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Friday 22 March 2019

10.00 am Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library



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

Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr J Lock, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr J Williams, Elliot, Ms Helen Fenn, Ruth Hobbs and Mrs Eileen Tipper

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 14 March 2019

For further information about the meeting, please contact Neil Milne on 01823 359045 or [ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ndmilne@somerset.gov.uk)

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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# AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - 10.00 am Friday 22 March 2019

**\*\* Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe \*\***

**1 Apologies for Absence**

to receive Members' apologies

**2 Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils will be displayed in the meeting room. The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via the Community Governance team.

**3 Minutes from the previous meeting (Pages 7 - 22)**

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

**4 Public Question Time**

The Chairman will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chairman's discretion.**

**5 Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 23 - 54)**

To discuss any items for the forthcoming work programme. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached:

- a) – The Cabinet's latest published forward plan;
- b) – Current Work Programme for the Committee;
- c) – Outcome Tracker.

**6 Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019 - Quarter 3 - Year 3 (Pages 55 - 66)**

To consider and comment on this report.

**7 Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2022 (Pages 67 - 88)**

To consider and comment on this report.

**8 Family Support Services (Pages 89 - 96)**

To consider and comment on this report, that will also include an update on about 'get-set'.

**9 Higher Needs Funding Provision (Pages 97 - 104)**

To consider this report.

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10 **School Performance 2018 - National Curriculum Test and Public Examination Results (To Follow)**

To consider this report.

11 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chairman may raise any items of urgent business.

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## Guidance notes for the meeting

### 1. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting on 01823 359045 or email: [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk)  
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### 2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

### 3. Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the Minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

### 4. Public Question Time

**If you wish to speak, please tell the Committee's Administrator by 5.00pm on the Monday before the meeting.**

At the Chair of the Committee's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, normally to two minutes only.

5. **Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

6. **Committee Rooms & Council Chamber and hearing aid users**

To assist hearing aid users the meeting rooms have infra-red audio transmission systems. To use this facility, you need a hearing aid set to the T position.

7. **Recording of meetings**

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No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

The Council will be undertaking audio recording of some of its meetings in County Hall as part of its investigation into a business case for the recording and potential webcasting of meetings in the future.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting in advance.

## SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held in the Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library, on Friday 25 January 2019 at 9.30 am

**Present:** Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr J Lock, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr J Williams, Ruth Hobbs and Mrs Eileen Tipper

**Other Members present:**

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr James Hunt, Elliot and Ms Helen Fenn

34 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no declarations made.

35 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 December 2018** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

36 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

There were a number of questions submitted by members of the public regarding agenda item 10 - Update on CAF-14b Proposals for the alteration and / or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families – 'getset'. The Chair invited the following speakers to ask their questions.

**Elvira Elliott on behalf of the "Parents and carers of GETSET" group, RE: 3.2**

"A 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, school nurse, teacher, health visitor and/or special educational needs co-ordinator could undertake the lead practitioner role.

Decisions about who should be the lead practitioner should be taken on a case-by-case basis and should be informed by the child and their family."

Question: This was the caseworker from GETSET at level 2. now who would that lead practitioner be given that social services, teachers, health visitors, SENCO's and doctors are overloaded and understaffed already, school nurses are a rarity, family support workers are (or were) GETSET?

RE: 3.6

"Safeguarding Partners (Local Authority, police and the Clinical Commissioning Group) and other stakeholders across SCC, District Councils, NHS agencies in Somerset, schools and early years settings, the police, housing providers, and the charitable, voluntary and community sectors"

Who out of these is going to provide the sort of groups and keyworker support that GETSET were providing up to this point (albeit in reduced form due to

previous cuts)? If the answer is volunteers and parents that is not good enough as detailed in my previous communication with the GETSET consultation.

RE: APPX 1 RE: 1

Question: what is to keep the remaining staff in their jobs for another year knowing their jobs will not last? Staff morale is at an all-time low. Many have already taken voluntary redundancy costing thousands of pounds in settlements because the cut was initiated before the consultation on impact had been carried out. A decision informed by what we now know to be dubious data and incorrect assumptions. How can the service now function for another year with so few staff left?

“The team will deliver a “train the trainer” model for evidence based parenting programmes open to any community / voluntary group to enable them to identify and support more vulnerable families and run parenting programmes”.

Question: this raises several serious concerns. Firstly, that the staff should have to train their replacement to work for free, knowing their own job is to end next year. This is frankly an insult to their many years of work and training. Secondly, does the idea of parents approaching their peer group (volunteers and community groups) for parenting support not create a particularly problematic power dynamic? This could easily lead to social exclusion and gossip. How is privacy safeguarded in such a situation like delivering parenting courses? Under this model anyone who wants to get involved can find themselves in a position of power over and in possession of very personal information about another person in their peer group. How is accountability to be dealt with under this scenario?

What does “Train the trainer” mean in this context? Who are these people trained by a chain of other people answerable to? Short in-house workforce training programs cannot equate to and should not replace a range of multidisciplinary professional qualifications? The home-start model was designed to augment not replace other professionally provided services.

Who is delivering TTT? How long for and what level of program?

Why is it felt that unqualified people can do this specialised work? Specialist knowledge of child development and child protection is needed.

“The team will move to providing group work and building resilient community settings, rather than individual case work”

This is literally a cliff edge for the families who are currently being supported by level 2 key workers.

“working alongside other key agencies that support 0-4 year olds eg health visitors and Early Years settings”

Question: Health visitors are also being cut and some replaced by assistant health visitors. Early years settings are struggling to cope with the new demands of the 30 hours placements and cannot take on case work. How can early years settings help parents who cannot afford to have their child in a nursery and do not qualify for funding?

How can these two realistically take on any of the work of the GETSET staff?

“The team will align with the Public Health Nursing teams and be allocated across the 8 family hubs; they should act as community agents and help partners through training to

identify and provide support for families so that partners can continue this once the getset level 2 service ends in March 2020. “

Question: Again, we have the reference to partners. Who will provide playgroups and level 2 keyworkers? The police? The housing association? Nhs clinics? The answer cannot be “volunteers” and “community groups” unless the



council has actually identified specific volunteers and groups who are prepared to take this on forever, for free and have the capacity to do so. I see nothing here to replace GETSET. I see no evidence that volunteers and community groups with the capacity to help have been identified and that such groups would not also be overstretched with trying to run the libraries and other services. As the GETSET users from our group have made quite clear, we cannot give that amount of time commitment and work for free. There is a huge difference between people who put their names down on a piece of paper wanting to “help” in vague terms and people who will actually turn out week after week to run groups unpaid. Parents with young babies will not be able to do much and people with school age children will have moved on from GETSET so there is a very narrow window of volunteering time. There will be constant churn. If you ask the question : your service is going to be cut do you want to help it continue? of course people will say yes. The questions on the consultation were very loaded in this way.

RE: 2

“Empower parents/carers to be confident in utilising self-help methods to increase selfreliance, in line with SCC’s digital strategy, by: o Signposting families via Somerset Choices and the local offer”

Question: this is nothing more than victim blaming. Parents are struggling with serious issues like universal credit, housing, and domestic abuse. The entire point of GETSET universal and level 2 support is for parents who need help. Self-reliance is a bit difficult when your partner walks out leaving you and two autistic under-5s with no money from UC for 6 months. (real life example of a GETSET user).

Support services in our area are woeful and often inaccessible to people in rural communities. There is no point signposting to charities and organizations who are already overwhelmed. Having lived in Somerset with small, SEN children for years I am wondering again, who are these organizations and specifically which of them will be delivering playgroups and keyworker support for families who have multiple issues and needs? It is not good enough to keep referring to “partners” and “organizations” unless the council has identified which ones have the capacity to take over specific aspects of GETSET’S work.

“Redesign and resourcing of Somerset Direct (SD) to be first point of contact for young people and families (based on adults model) providing advice and guidance in a more comprehensive way, only referring onto the Early Help (EH) Advice Hub if appropriate “

Question: A phone number/webpage is no substitute for a universal playgroup where highly trained staff can observe children and parents. What about someone who has post-natal depression and just needs to see a smiling face and be listened to in a non-judgmental way? A 2 week wait for the GP could mean the difference between suicide and treatment. A physical place where you can drop in for advice while your child plays is incomparable. What mitigation will be in place to prevent children who are not in school or nursery from falling through the cracks? How will the council ensure that every hard to reach parent in Somerset knows that they are to direct all their parenting/life problems to a customer service enquiries line or a “portal”?

RE: 3

Question: What capacity does community connect, an organization which helps the elderly and disabled stay in their own homes and live independently have to provide children’s services? What relevance does their work and resources

have to providing Children's services? How could this be achieved without compromising the service they currently provide? If recruitment and commissioning is going to have to be used to set up a whole new wing of community connect, why not just call that thing GETSET, retain the staff and children's centres and equipment?

"This fund will be facilitated by SCC with application/tender panels drawn from the multiagency Early Help Commissioning and Area Advisory Boards to seed fund support at level 2 and 3 of need."

Question: how are services going to be funded when the seed funding runs out? Who is going to deliver this support? "larger voluntary and community sector "

Question: once again, has the council actually identified volunteers and organizations which have the capacity to take on GETSET'S workload, which is bound to increase as universal credit rolls out to more families?

"Utilise Somerset Choices and the SEND Local Offer as key resource of information, advice and guidance to families by ensuring community groups, support and activities are widely publicized, thereby supporting individuals to help themselves and promote independence."

Question: There's no point publicizing what barely exists. What groups have been identified that serve rural areas of Somerset? Are these activities inclusive and affordable to the poorest and hardest to reach families? If the children's offer is not reaching these families it is failing.

RE: 5

"Clear vision and communications and marketing to promote and engender support for early help in Somerset o Refresh and implementation of the EH strategy, offer and approach across Somerset o Measuring impact and effectiveness of EH across the "system" o Holding partners to account o Two way link with each of the EH Area Advisory Boards o Stronger voice of families and an ambition to co-produce.

4 "Greater presence from the community and voluntary sector"

Question: This all sounds like management speak. What does any of it mean in specific concrete proposals? Some of these aren't even proper sentences.

Question: Troubled families is generally held to have been a failed approach. How specifically will implementing this approach help GETSET users?

RE APPX 3: The council's response.

Observations:

3.4 "There appeared to be some concern that volunteers are untrained or unable to provide high quality support for children and families."

The response to this is two cherry picked statistics about two small organisations. I dare say I could find 2 examples of volunteer driven incentives which have not gone so well. What evidence is there that these two organizations or any others have spare capacity?

3.6 "There remains a range of support via casework available at level 2 and 3, from both the council (see appendix 1 below) and other partners eg health visitors and PFSA's for school age children that will continue."

The health visitor service is not in a position to do what GETSET were doing. It is already overstretched and to be cut further. There is nothing else for preschool children at level 2. This answer is utterly disingenuous.

4 .1 I find the suggestion that parents said they were against seed funding because they didn't understand the question to be utterly insulting and

laughable. Parents are against seed funding because it is unsustainable. We want children's services funded in perpetuity.

4.2 There is a big difference between putting your name down and actually giving your time and labour for free forever. The notion of "helping" could mean anything from sharing on facebook to holding a bake sale. Only a tiny number if any would actually be able to commit to running groups long term which would be equivalent to a part time unpaid job.

Overall

These responses and proposals are formed around a major assumption that other groups and "partners" have the capacity to take on GETSET's workload. There is only a year to have it all in place and the caseload is likely to increase in that time with universal credit poised to throw families into chaos. The assumption that there is an endless supply of competent volunteers is highly flawed. Nothing in this proposal is backed up by any convincing data. It is simply an attempt to push the responsibilities of the council onto other organisations with no realistic assessment of how feasible that is.

There are no costings here. There is no thought given to staff retention. The council needs to show data to prove that every family that needs support can be supported with a seamless transition by one of these other organisations, and not put on a waiting list, "signposted" in circles or directed to a service they cannot realistically access.

Finally, how is accountability and oversight going to be meaningfully carried out if the service is fragmented in the way that is being suggested?

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for your submission which contains a number of observations, concerns and questions, too many to respond to here so a full written response will be provided.

However to address your key points now - The recommendations included in the papers are currently draft proposals for change, subject to Cabinet approval. If approved more detailed scoping and plans will be needed.

We are proposing to retain the Level 2 getset work, which covers 0-4 children's centre activity, for a further 12 months over this development period and will move to offering more group work. The needs of the users of the getset level 2 service is varied and can include support around bedtime routines, potty training, school readiness, positive play. These needs could be met through themed nurture groups in future. In addition, we would run regular family support drop in sessions in local community venues to provide assistance on a range of subjects including parenting, financial issues, housing support, advice on benefits etc. This service could be offered by staff from within the council such as libraries and other partner organisations such as housing providers, district councils and health colleagues.

The train the trainer model will identify suitable practitioners to be trained in agreed evidence-based parenting programme(s) which they can in turn, train other agencies in who provide 0-4 services such as nurseries, reception classes etc. This model has been successfully implemented in the West Somerset Opportunity Area and now many early years settings and the voluntary sector who have received training in the Peers Early Education Partnership (PEEP) parenting programme can support parents of young children in the West Somerset area with their parenting.

In terms of statutory responsibilities this is laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance:

“Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child’s needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.”

This means that all agencies have a responsibility within Somerset to be a lead professional where appropriate, to complete Early Help Assessments, ensuring children/young people and families receive the right support at the right time. Indeed, Somerset’s early help offer comprises a range of level 2 support for children aged 0-4 and some of these were included in the consultation papers and in the papers today.

In terms of nursery places, there is a national universal entitlement which provides nursery places for three and four-year olds. Two-year olds who meet the eligibility criteria can also access nursery placements.

Our proposals include strengthening the first point of contact for a family, including website information and advice that is available on Somerset Choices and the local offer for children with SEND.

For clarity, Somerset Direct is the council’s call centre and has highly trained staff who can provide advice, guidance and signposting via email or on the phone, and we are considering how this can be improved even further. We also want to look at learning from adult services as to how community connects could be extended to provide help to children and families.

Our proposal is to establish a fund that can be used to start groups and activities, but we will also have staff that can work with these groups to find other sources of funding. National funding bodies have reported that Somerset’s take up of third sector funding is disappointingly low. For your information, often local authorities are unable to access these sources of funding. We want to work actively with the voluntary and community sector and secure more external funding into the county. We know this can take time so would ensure seed funding is provided over a period of time to allow bidding application processes to happen.

To answer the point regarding Troubled Families a summary of key benefits from the Annual report of the Troubled Families Programme 2017-18 are listed below.

- 92,245 have families been supported to achieved significant and sustainable progress with the Troubled Families Programme March 2018 compared March 2017 (44,000 families)
- The programme is driving service transformation in local authorities
- The programme is driving change in the way frontline staff in different services support families
- Families have appreciated the way family keyworkers take the time to understand the family, build relationships and trust.
- With demand rising on children’s social care nationally, the Troubled Families Programme’s early evaluation results showing reduced demand

on children's social care are particularly encouraging (Child In Need 13%, Looked After Children 49%, relative to the comparison group)

- Children across the county are improving their school attendance through the Troubled Families Programme
- The Troubled Families Employment Advisers provide valuable support to individuals to help them move towards work
- The Troubled Families Programme has provided the platform and resources to catalyse the whole family approach.
- The programme helps families avoid statutory intervention
- Keyworkers prioritise problems of safeguarding or child protection when goal-setting and working with families
- Keyworkers are co-working with social workers on child protection cases
- The programme has helped one or more adult in 13,907 families to move into continuous employment

To provide some Somerset context, since April 2015, 1,479 families have made significant positive outcomes in least two of the below 6 areas:

- Crime and anti-social behavior
- School attendance
- Children who need help
- Worklessness or financial exclusion
- Domestic abuse
- Health problems

9,535 have been worked with using the Troubled Families methodology (one workers, one plan, whole family assessment).

### **Nigel Behan**

Question 1 Relates to Item 10 Update on CAF-14b Proposals for the alteration and / or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families - 'getset'

Paragraph 5.2 states: "The early help arrangements in Somerset, whilst improving as indicated by Ofsted, have still some way to go to become more effective across the partnership."

and

5.3 states: "The proposal is to retain the level 2 service for a further year to March 2020,

in which time further development work can be undertaken with partners and the community and voluntary sector to develop Somerset's early help offer."

Does "develop" include the option of SCC continuing to be the Prime Service Provider for the Early Help Offer (following further consultation and analysis of any relevant empirical data in Somerset and other (comparable) Local Authority Areas?

**Response:** The council has a statutory role to ensure there is a joined-up approach to early help with its key partners ie health, police, early years sector etc. The proposal to retain the level 2 service for a further year, until March 2020, is to enable us to spend more time developing that approach and the offer. The council already funds or provides a range of other support across level 2 and 3 which are detailed in today's scrutiny papers.

Question 2 Relates to the Transfer of Health Visitors from Somerset Partnership to Somerset County Council (2019)

Have the recent changes and proposals (known as) and corresponding to CAF 14a and

CAF 14b made any changes to the planning for the integration of Health Visitors and School Nurses into Somerset County Council – are HV and SN more likely to spend more time as “lead practitioners” if there has been a reduction in Level 2 in Getset?

Response: At the end of the current contract for Health Visitor (HV) and School Nursing (SN) with Somerset Partnership, the HV and SN services will transfer to Somerset County Council (SCC) and we are working productively together across these 2 organisations to ensure service continuity.

Phase 1 of the Family Support Service (FSS) was always aiming to focus on the smooth transfer of staff into SCC. The development of the FSS (Phase 2) i.e. the integration with early help services, is currently paused pending the outcome of the consultation on early help services and the subsequent decision to be taken by cabinet in February 2019. We will then rescope the proposed integration, should this be required.

Regarding lead professionals, HV are commonly the lead professional for children aged under 5 years, as they have a lot of contact and expertise with families with additional needs. However, the lead professional can come from any service and must be agreed with the child, young person or their parent/carer.

For school age children there are many professionals who can fulfil this role and it is likely that this will continue as getset level 2 worked with children aged 0-4 yrs so did not have a role with school age children, so the inputs of SN are likely to be unchanged by this decision.

### **Eva Bryczkowski**

The government has cut the funding for children's services nationally and locally.

Somerset County Council has had extremely tough choices to make regarding where and how to spend the limited amount of money they have available.

A report has just come out by the National Audit Office, with evidence that there has been a substantial increase in cases of child neglect and abuse. Regarding the cuts in funding by the government, social workers, for example, report that because they have huge caseloads, often the easiest and safest choice is to put children into care rather than offer support to struggling families.

#### **QUESTION 1:**

GETSET has been given another year to carry on its role of supporting children and families. As the Council continues to struggle with the shortfall in funding from the government, might it be a false economy to not put a lot more money into this service?

Otherwise, if families with children are not given enough support, the same thing could happen locally.

**RESPONSE:** Our proposals outline how the council will lead a multi-agency response to providing early help for families. The council has invested, and will continue to fund, level 3 services which also provides support to families with more complex needs, before statutory social care intervention is required. The National Audit Office (NAO) report on “Pressures on children’s social care” is very timely as it lays out recent trends in pressures on children’s social care

and the response of both national and local government to these pressures. Amongst its key findings are that “Local authorities which have closed children’s centres have not had any consequential increases in child protection plans. We found that the closure of these centres has not resulted in increased statutory children’s social care activity. Indeed, for those local authorities which had closed centres there was a slight fall in the number of child protection plans in future years”

**QUESTION 2:**

Regarding the massive cuts in funding mentioned above, might it be a good idea for Councillors to lobby the government a lot more assertively and forcefully, (in a polite manner), in order to be able to increase the help desperately needed by children and families?

For example, certain Councillors could mention that some, or many of them, risk losing votes as a consequence of making these cuts, which might possibly have a negative effect on the present government’s votes, both locally and nationally.

**RESPONSE:** This is a question for Councillors to respond to.

Senior council officers have and will continue to lobby government on funding.

**37 Scrutiny Work Programme - Agenda Item 5**

The Committee Chair explained the reports that make up the work programme agenda item and the importance the Committee should attach to planning its future work.

The Committee then considered and noted the Cabinet’s Forward Plan of proposed key decisions in forthcoming months.

The Committee considered and agreed its own work programme and the future agenda items listed.

- It was agreed to add the Children and Young Peoples Plan update to 22 March.
- To discuss with Chair and the Vice Chair what items might be able to be moved from March to April meeting.
- To bring a report back with recommendations in summer following conclusion of the consultation exercise with voluntary sector regarding meeting the need of young carers
- To schedule in regular financial monitoring reports about Children’s Services starting in the new financial year.

It was noted that the Outcome Tracker was being refreshed and updated and would be presented to the 22 March meeting.

**38 MTFP Plan for Children's Services - PeopleToo Recommendations update - Agenda Item 6**

The Committee considered this report that accompanied the following agenda item and report on the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan (2019-2022). The

report provided an update on decisions made in relation to the Children's Service MTFP budget setting process and how recommendations arising from the PeopleToo review and financial plan had been incorporated and progressed.

The Committee was reminded that following a Corporate Peer Review last year the Council had commissioned a review from Peopletoo, as recommended by the Local Government Association (LGA). The work undertaken between June and September last year was a review of current budgets and existing practice and process across Children's Services, both Children's social care and Education, and it identified potential areas of opportunity to safely reduce the projected spend and developed evidenced recommendations to help ensure future sustainability of the service.

Significant elements of the three-year programme and recommendations including a financial plan arising from the review were considered by the Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet in September 2018. The Director for Children's Services and Interim Director of Finance have taken these recommendations and elements into account when resetting the Children's Services budget for 2019/20 and the following 3 years as part of reflecting the known service funding and future demand pressures including MTFP savings.

Attention turned to Appendix A of the report that set out the Financial Plan for Children's Services (2019 – 2022) and it was noted that further proposals had been developed offering savings to the budget. Additional recommendations had been made in relation to the High Needs element of the Dedicated Schools Grant, those required further work before recommendations could be fully considered.

It was noted that a key theme of the PeopleToo recommendations was to support the improvement of children's commissioning and further develop joint commissioning opportunities with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), District Councils, Public Health and Adult Social Care. It was reported that initial PeopleToo feedback, including moving to a 'statutory minimum service', had informed key policy decisions at last September's Cabinet meeting.

It was agreed that it was important to continue transformation work in particular with work on systems with partner organisations to make it easier and more efficient with sharing information and using data.

Most of the key policies areas for transformation were taken last year but members were informed that there would be a future report regarding young carers.

**39 Medium Term Financial Plan (2019-2022) for Children's Services - Agenda Item 7**

The Committee considered this report that summarised the key messages from the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (2019-22) report presented to the Cabinet last December so the Committee could consider relevant service areas



ahead of the more detailed budget report being presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February.

It was reported that the Council recognised the on-going financial challenges confronting it and the importance of setting a robust budget for 2019/20 as well as laying foundations for the financial plans for 2020/20 and 2021/22. It was confirmed that all the known funding and service demand pressures had been reflected in the budget alongside proposals for reducing spend and hence producing a balanced budget for 2019/20. This produces indicative budgets for each service and this report focuses on those services for Children's Services.

Overall it was reported that against a gross revenue budget of more than £800m annually, and a net revenue budget need for 2019/20 of £338m, (as reported in December 2018), the MTFP Strategy paper showed that funding would fall short of spending need by £28m across the next three years. This meant the Council must consider what it would deliver and how in order to reduce spending in line with funding.

As noted earlier the budget proposals for Children's Services had been informed by the PeopleToo review and working with the Service a three-year programme of savings based on a statutory children's service offer and the continuing transformation of services had been developed. Significant elements of the three-year programme had been approved at Cabinet in September 2018 based on a statutory Children's Service offer.

The work with PeopleToo had allowed for a rebasing of the Authority part of the Children's Services budget and this ensured that from 2019/20 (and indeed from the later part of 2018/19) managers had budgets for which they could be held to account allowing for more effective budget monitoring.

There was further discussion about:

- The need for more fostering places to alleviate demand on residential places
- Reminder to councillors to support fostering and adoption campaigns and promote in their divisions
- Reduction in senior managers in Children's Services and move to establish permanent social workers in the county
- Proposed realignment of social work services within the county around an east-west split
- Plans to increase number of childminders in areas where there are shortages of early years places and further information about this could be discussed at a future meeting
- Proposal to hold a number of children's staffing vacancies and for how long.
- Consultation with parents about school transport and aim to encourage more local school provision for children
- Concern about staffing levels in young carers team and support for this provision for the future
- Better monitoring of spending in Children's Services

It was agreed that the consultation exercise with voluntary sector regarding meeting the needs of young carers would be brought back for consideration by the committee in summer with recommendations.

It was also agreed that regular financial monitoring reports regarding Children's Services would be taken to meetings starting in the new financial year.

#### 40 **Annual Somerset Safeguarding Children Board report - Agenda Item 8**

The Committee considered this report, introduced by the Independent Chair of the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB), which provided information of the activities of the SSCB regarding 2017-18.

It was reported that overall, SSCB partners had continued to work together to improve their safeguarding arrangements amidst a changing national context for safeguarding of reduced leadership capacity and shrinking resources. The response to challenges within individual agencies had sometimes had an impact across the partnership, resulting in some challenging conversations between partners and within the Board.

Members noted the report provided information about children and families in Somerset which showed that, despite the relative affluence of the county, too many children were living in poverty. It also offered a snapshot of the levels of child protection and other activities aimed at helping families at the right time and promoting the wellbeing of their children. During the year, the SSCB had focused on five priority areas:

- 1) Early Help
- 2) Multi-agency Safeguarding
- 3) Neglect
- 4) Child Exploitation (CE) / Children Missing
- 5) Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

It was explained the partnership closely monitored the effectiveness of multi-agency work to safeguard children. While practice has improved significantly, audits and scrutiny of performance has indicated areas where more needed to be done to improve the quality and consistency of partners' contribution to multi-agency plans to ensure that children were safeguarded and risks to their safety and wellbeing were reduced.

The Committee had the benefit of a presentation that outlined an overview of the previous 12 months that included information of the findings of 2 serious case reviews, and the actions and impacts that arose from their respective findings. It was also noted that there had been, at least, 13 child deaths between 2009 and 2017 because of suicide or probable suicide and a list of priority areas for action were discussed.

The priorities for the year ahead were outlined and these focused on achieving improvements in:

- Early help;

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

The Committee discussed, there were questions asked and answers provided on concerns about children being held in custody overnight, safeguarding in home education, information sharing and data gaps, greater emphasis on universal community services flagging safeguarding concerns at an early stage, modern slavery and child exploitation.

The Chair was thanked for the report and her presentation and for all the hard work of the Board.

#### 41 **Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2022 Update** - Agenda Item 9

The Committee considered this report that explained Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) was developing a new 3-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) from April 2019. This new CYPP would follow a multi-agency approach and be influenced by the engagement with children and young people undertaken during 2018.

The new CYPP would run from 2019-2022 and set out the actions the SCT and its partners were taking to continue and sustain improvements in children's services and build on the achievements made since 2016.

The report was supported by a presentation and this noted that the new CYPP would focus on 4 priority areas, each managed by a specific Boards to ensure that every child and young person in Somerset would benefit from:

1. A Happy Family Life
2. A Healthy Start to Life
3. A Great Education to Build Skills for Life
4. Positive Activities

A timeline for progress of adopting the CYPP was noted by the Committee and it was proposed to present the final/agreed CYPP at the 22 March meeting. The new CYPP would then be formally launched by the SCT during April 2019.

There was some discussion about:

- Members were positive about the approach and how it aligned with the young peoples views
- It was felt it would be helpful to explain the RAG status
- Ensuring the childrens voice continues to be heard and to shape the implementation of the plan
- How commissioners can be involved in the cycle and not at the end of the process

The Children's Commissioning Manager was thanked for her hard work and her outstanding engagement with young people.

42 **Update on CAF-14b Proposals for the alteration and / or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families - 'getset' - Agenda Item 10**

The Committee considered this report that provided details of the public consultation and emerging proposals. Final recommendations will be presented to the Cabinet for consideration on the 11 February 2019.

Members were reminded that last September the Cabinet agreed to launch a public consultation exercise about the provision of level 2 services, namely 'get-set' level 2, with the proposal to make significant changes to this service (CAF-14b). Details of the consultation and the responses were highlighted in the attached appendices to the report. It was noted that following the consultation process a number of new opportunities have been followed up, most notably with the district councils to explore greater joint working across community development roles and resources.

It was noted that most of the feedback obtained from respondents during the consultation had either replied with 'strongly disagree' or 'disagree' when asked about the Council's proposed approach. Many outlined concerns that the proposals appeared to be around a major assumption that other groups and partner agencies would have the capacity to take on get-set's workload and this was against a backdrop uncertainty about the impact of universal credit and less than a year before the changes would come in to effect. Others noted that there was not an endless supply of competent volunteers and there was insufficient data to evidence there was capacity for a smooth transition. Concerns were raised about how elected members could ensure accountability and oversight if the proposals for 'get-set' services to be delivered in a fragmented were implemented.

Members heard that the Council was pleased to be working more closely with District Councils to explore greater opportunities to collaborate on community development and the multi-agency Early Help Commissioning Board had an increasingly strong membership which was actively engaging the need for effective early help across Somerset. It was reported that the Council and partners had agreed that providing early help for families was everyone's business and it is clear that 'get-set' had gone above and beyond for families sometimes in the absence of other partners meeting their early help responsibilities.

It was also explained that following the staff reductions already undertaken in 'get-set' the level 2 service currently consisted of just 11 FTE family support workers and apprentices covering the whole of Somerset, and this reportedly cost £450k. The Council's view that investing an annual £200k in community based local support had the potential to create a larger, more effective and sustainable resource with the ability to attract further funding from other sources.

There was some further discussion about:

- Making the best use of a small staff team and arrangements for West Somerset and South Somerset worked well
- Concern about the responsibilities of health visitors
- Sharing information across agencies
- Building community capacity
- Establishment of an annual £200k commissioning/grant fund and the process
- There had been an 8 week consultation around the county
- Concerns about the reduction of the service

It was agreed that there would be further work carried out to explore and mitigate gaps identified by cessation of get-set level 2 with community connect and community catalyts.

It was also agreed that responses from other partner organisations which raised concerns would also be added into the report on the consultation and that this would be added onto the forward work programme for a future update.

43 **Any other urgent items of business** - Agenda Item 11

There were no other items of business.

**(The meeting ended at 1.01 pm)**

**CHAIRMAN**

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## Somerset County Council Forward Plan of proposed Key Decisions

The County Council is required to set out details of planned key decisions at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken. This forward plan sets out key decisions to be taken at Cabinet meetings as well as individual key decisions to be taken by either the Leader, a Cabinet Member or an Officer. The very latest details can always be found on our website at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>

Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

(a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or

(b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

The Council has decided that the relevant threshold at or above which the decision is significant will be £500,000 for capital / revenue expenditure or savings. Money delegated to schools as part of the Scheme of Financial Management of Schools exercise is exempt from these thresholds once it is delegated to the school.

Cabinet meetings are held in public at County Hall unless Cabinet resolve for all or part of the meeting to be held in private in order to consider exempt information/confidential business. The Forward Plan will show where this is intended. Agendas and reports for Cabinet meetings are also published on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the meeting date.

Individual key decisions that are shown in the plan as being proposed to be taken "not before" a date will be taken within a month of that date, with the requirement that a report setting out the proposed decision will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the date of decision. Any representations received will be considered by the decision maker at the decision meeting.

In addition to key decisions, the forward plan shown below lists other business that is scheduled to be considered at a Cabinet meeting during the period of the Plan, which will also include reports for information. The monthly printed plan is updated on an ad hoc basis during each month. *Where possible the County Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is quite likely, however, that some items will need to be rescheduled and new items added as new circumstances come to light.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date plan.

For general enquiries about the Forward Plan:

- You can view it on the County Council web site at <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>
- You can arrange to inspect it at County Hall (in Taunton).
- Alternatively, copies can be obtained from Scott Wooldridge or Michael Bryant in the Democratic Services Team by telephoning (01823) 357628 or 359500.

To view the Forward Plan on the website you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)  
Please note that it could take up to 2 minutes to download this PDF document depending on your Internet connection speed.

To make representations about proposed decisions:

Please contact the officer identified against the relevant decision in the Forward Plan to find out more information or about how your representations can be made and considered by the decision maker.

The Agenda and Papers for Cabinet meetings can be found on the County Council's website at:  
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0>



Weekly version of plan published on 5 March 2019

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<b>FP/18/06/08</b> First published: 19 June 2018	4 Mar 2019 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure	Issue: To approve the appointment of a supplier to deliver the Wiveliscombe Enterprise Centre and Wells Technology Enterprise Centre Decision: To approve the appointment of a supplier	F Joint Key Decision paper Wells and Wiveliscombe 2019.02.18. Appendix 1 Appendix 2 - Wells and Wiveliscombe Enterprise Centre - Equality Impact Assessment Copy of Wells and Wive Worksheet		Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210
<b>FP/19/01/06</b> First published: 22 January 2019	11 Mar 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Proposal for merger of existing Children's Safeguarding Board Executive Arrangements with the Children's Trust Board Decision: Cabinet is asked to agree the merger of the two executive bodies to fulfil the new arrangements to safeguard children under the revised legislation (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) from October 2018			Caroline Dowson, SSCB Business Manager
<b>FP/19/01/13</b> First published: 5 February 2019	11 Mar 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Social Value Policy Statement Refresh Decision: To agree a refreshed Social Value Poliy Statement to guide the social value priorities if the council			Vikki Hearn, Strategic Manager - Commissioning Development
<b>FP/19/02/04</b> First published: 21 February 2019	11 Mar 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Month 10 Revenue Budget Monitoring Decision: To consider this report			Interim Finance Director

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<b>FP/18/07/05</b> First published: 17 July 2018	11 Mar 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Equality Objectives 2019 - 2023 and Equality Commitment Decision: Asking Cabinet to agree a new set of Equality Objectives for 2019 - 2023 and the new Equality Commitment			Tom Rutland Tel: 01823 359221
<b>FP/19/01/10</b> First published: 29 January 2019	11 Mar 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Enhanced Programme of Flood Risk Management Works and the SRA Memorandum and Understanding of Constitution Decision: As SCC is the accountable body for the SRA the Cabinet is asked to approve the allocation of funds raised through an additional notional amount of Council Tax, for use by the SRA in 2019-20. The Cabinet is also asked to agree forward funding of SRA works in advance of recouping costs from a Heart of the SW Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal allocation. Also review the 2019/20 MOU and approve for signing by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development			David Mitchell, Technical Lead: Projects and Studies, Transport Policy Tel: 01823356789
<b>FP/18/12/04</b> First published: 10 December 2018	11 Mar 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Award of Contract Bridgwater Special School Decision: To consider the report			Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165

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<b>FP/18/12/01</b> First published: 4 December 2018	13 Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation, Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure	Issue: Creation of New Academies in Somerset Decision: Brent Knoll Church of England Primary School; Charlton Horethorne Church of England Primary School; North Cadbury C of E Primary School; Pawlett Primary School	Creation of New Academies - March 2019		Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
<b>FP/18/10/03</b> First published: 23 October 2018	Not before 14th Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	Issue: A change to the protocol for schools converting to a sponsored academy retaining any surplus revenue balances, and the charging for academy conversions by the authority Decision: To consider the report	Academy Charging		Ken Rushton, Service Manager - School Finance Tel: 01823356911
<b>FP/18/02/08</b> First published: 13 February 2018	Not before 18th Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Taunton Transport Strategy Decision: To agree to adopt the joint (with TDBC) Taunton Transport Strategy			Lucy Bath Tel: 01823 359465

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p><b>FP/18/11/11</b> First published: 21 November 2018</p>	<p>Not before 25th Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to conclude the establishment of an Open Framework Agreement for Reablement Providers in Somerset Decision: To award an open framework that will ensure continued and new supply of reablement care across the county, mirroring the current arrangement for homecare. This follows interim contractual arrangements that were put in place following the unsuccessful</p>			<p>Tim Baverstock, Strategic Commissioning Manager - Strategic Commissioning</p>
<p><b>FP/19/01/02</b> First published: 3 January 2019</p>	<p>Not before 25th Mar 2019 Interim Finance Director</p>	<p>Issue: Acceptance of European Regional Development Funding for the Heart of the South West Inward Investment Project Decision: Approval for Somerset County Council (SCC), in its capacity as the accountable body for the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, to accept £1,181,308 of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for the Heart of the South West Inward Investment Project and to enter into an associated funding agreement with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)</p>			<p>Paul Hickson, Strategic Manager - Economy and Planning Tel: 07977 400838</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 5 March 2019

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<b>FP/19/01/12</b> First published: 5 February 2019	Not before 25th Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing	Issue: Adoption of the Somerset Air Quality Statement Decision: To agree the adoption of the statement			Stewart Brock, Public Health Specialist, Public Health Tel: 01823357235
<b>FP/10/01/11</b> First published: 5 February 2019	Not before 25th Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	Issue: Bridgwater College Academy Expansion - Funding Decision: To agree funding as required			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
<b>FP/18/11/09</b> First published: 20 November 2018	Not before 25th Mar 2019 Director of Children's Services	Issue: Framework for the delivery of Food Produce to SCC properties Decision: Decision to award contract(s) to the successful supplier(s) following a competitive procurement exercise			Simon Clifford, Customers & Communities Director Tel: 01823359166
<b>FP/19/01/09</b> First published: 29 January 2019	25 Mar 2019 Director of Adult Social Services	Issue: Award of contracts for care and support services within Extra Care Housing (ECH) Schemes in Somerset Decision: Decision to approve award of contract for care and support services to Extra Care Housing Schemes in Somerset			Steve Veevers, Strategic Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823359155

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<p><b>FP/19/02/03</b> First published: 19 February 2019</p>	<p>Not before 25th Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: Early Years Block - Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) 2019/20 Decision: The base rate for EYSFF for 2019/20 for 3 and 4 year olds as £3.96 per child hour. The hourly rate for funded 2 year olds to remain the same as 18/19 at £5..04 per child per hour</p>			<p>Alison Jeffery</p>
<p><b>FP/19/02/06</b> First published: 26 February 2019</p>	<p>26 Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: The School Building Condition Programme Decision: The Cabinet Member authorises appropriate officers under delegation to commission and deliver the School Building Condition programme within the allocation of capital funds for 2019/20 as approved by full Council on the 21 February 2019</p>			<p>Paula Hewitt, Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure Tel: 01823 359011</p>
<p><b>FP/19/02/06</b> First published: 26 February 2019</p>	<p>26 Mar 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation, Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Creation of a new Academy in Somerset Decision: Chilton Trinity</p>			<p>Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260</p>

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<b>FP/18/12/09</b> First published: 20 December 2018	Not before 1st Apr 2019 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Disposal of part of of the Six Acres Day Centre site, Taunton Decision: Disposal of part of the Six Acres Day Centre site, Taunton			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325
<b>FP/18/03/04</b> First published: 12 March 2018	Not before 1st Apr 2019 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Procurement for the construction of traffic signals improvements at the Rowbarton junction in Taunton Decision: To commence the process to secure a contractor to deliver the scheme to improve the traffic signals at Rowbarton junction in Taunton			Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
<b>FP/18/11/10</b> First published: 20 November 2018	1 Apr 2019 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure, Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning Director	Issue: Decision to approve revisions to the Connecting Devon and Somerset phase 2 deployment contracts Decision: To approve revisions to the Connecting Devon and Somerset phase 2 deployment contracts			Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210
<b>FP/18/11/01</b> First published: 13 November 2018	1 Apr 2019 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Decision to extend the contract for Parking Enforcement and Related Services Decision: To extend the existing contract until June 2022 with appropriate break clauses			Steve Deakin, Parking Services Manager, Parking Services, Community and Traded Services Tel: 01823355137

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p><b>To approve the appointment of a preferred contractor to proceed with a 7 classroom expansion for September 2020</b> First published: 12 February 2019</p>	Not before 1st Apr 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	Issue: Proposed Expansion of Willowdown Primary Academy, Bridgwater from 210 to 420 places Decision:			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
<p><b>FP/19/02/01</b> First published: 12 February 2019</p>	1 Apr 2019 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Disposal of Two County Farms - Spring / Summer 2019 Decision: Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of two surplus farms and lands including those disposals to be conducted via a public auction as appropriate			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325
<p><b>FP/19/03/01</b> First published: 5 March 2019</p>	Not before 3rd Apr 2019 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure, Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	Issue: Creation of a new Academy in Somerset Decision: Critchill School			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260



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FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p><b>FP/18/12/05</b> First published: 10 December 2018</p>	<p>1 May 2019 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: The Somerset Children and Young Peoples Plan 2019-2022 Decision: The Children and Young Peoples Plan 2019-2022 is a multi-agency partnership vision for all children, young people and thier families to be happy, healthy and well-prepared for adulthood.</p>			<p>Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director - Commissioning and Performance, Children's Services Commissioning Tel: 01823 359054</p>
<p><b>FP/18/04/06</b> First published: 30 April 2018</p>	<p>Not before 3rd Jun 2019 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Procurement of the HotSW Growth Hub Service Decision: To undertake the procurement of a Business Support Service (Growth Hub) on behalf of the HotSW LEP</p>			<p>Melanie Roberts, Service Manager - Economic Policy Tel: 01823359209</p>

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## Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Committee meetings		Lead Member & Officer
<b>22 March</b>		
CYPP Quarter 3 Year 3 + CYPP 2019-2022		Fiona Phur + Champions
Family Support Services update + Update on CAF14b proposals		Julian Wooster + Alison Bell
Higher Needs funding provision update		Annette Perrington
GCSEs results including Children Looked After		Dave Farrow
<b>26 April</b>		
Pathways to Independence Update		Claire Winter
Regional Adoption & Fostering Agency Update		Julian Wooster + Suzanne Lyus
Progress on the Ofsted Inspection outcomes		Julian Wooster + Paul Shallcross
Autism Strategy		Annette Perrington
Update report after consultation with Young Carers		Julian Wooster
<b>17 May</b>		
SEND Peer review update		Annette Perrington
CYPP Update 2016-2019 – Year 4 Quarter 4		Fiona Phur
Governor Services Update		Ann Adams
<b>14 June</b>		
Self-Harm Update		Pip Tucker/Trudi Grant
Initial MTFP budget update		Julian Wooster
CYP Mental Health Local Transformation Plan		James Slater
<b>13 September</b>		
Children's Social Care Statutory Customer Feedback report		Julian Wooster
Q1-Q2 MTFP analysis		Julian Wooster
<b>18 October</b>		
West Somerset Opportunity Area update		Julia Ridge
Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme		Orla Dunn

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Update		
CYPP Update 2019-2022 – Year 1 Quarter 1		Fiona Phur
<b>15 November</b>		
Annual Somerset Safeguarding Children Board		Sally Halls
<b>13 December</b>		
CYPP Update 2019-2022 – Year 1 Quarter 2		Fiona Phur
<b>24 January 2020</b>		
<b>13 March</b>		
<b>24 April</b>		
<b>15 May</b>		
<b>12 June</b>		

**Note:** Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Democratic Services (01823) 359500 & [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk) who will assist you in submitting your item.

**Possible future items:** A Joint Scrutiny Focus Group on Children’s Services Finances (as suggested by the Peer Review);

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items	Action owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
<b>29 January 2016</b>			
Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	Members agreed the first update on Leaving Care services should come to their meeting on 18 March 2016.	Completed
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families	Christina Gray	Requested that the topic be considered in more detail at a future meeting	Completed
Care Quality Commission(CQC) Child Safeguarding and Children Looked After inspection report	Lucy Watson - CCG	Requested a link to the published action plan be circulated to members. CCG provide an update report to their April meeting.	Completed
Children's Services Improvement Dashboard	Rowina Clift-Shanley	should continue to receive the monthly reports and thanked officers for the work done	Completed
County Plan	Simon Clifford	Report accepted.	Completed
MTFP – (budget report)	Kevin Nacey /	Ensure Impact Assessments (IAs) are based on latest data	Completed
<b>26 February 2016</b>			
Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	Agreed for a wider update on children's mental health at a future meeting.	Completed
Children's Social Care – Area Team issues	Claire Winter	A written response was requested to a question as to how many social workers had left the council in recent times – and whether any had returned as locum workers	Completed
Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2016-2018	Caroline Fry	"rurality" issues affecting Somerset were highlighted and Members felt these were not sufficiently reflected in the document. The Assistant Director agreed to review the wording and pass those comments onto the Trust.	Completed
Results and Attainment Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4	J Wooster	Officers agreed to provide: •Confirmation that OFSTED reports were sent to local members; •A written response on the issues of (lack of) a university town.	Completed
Children's Services	Rowina Clift-	Members requested written replies to:	Completed

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Improvement Dashboard	Shanley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The status of recruitment of a medical advisor;</li> <li>•Whether the SW Audit report recommendations regarding the “Liquid Logic” application had been implemented.</li> </ul>	
Any other business	Julian Wooster	The DCS agreed to produce a report on the overall progress since the start of the nine point plan and suggested new approach – for the 15 April meeting.	Completed
<b>18 March 2016</b>			
Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	It was suggested and agreed to receive an update at a future meeting regarding the transformation agenda and changes made in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The Chairman and the Scrutiny Manager gave an undertaking to review the outcomes tracker to reflect how outcomes/recommendations were monitored and report back to a future meeting.	Completed – considered at June meeting
Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	The Chairman and the Scrutiny Manager gave an undertaking to review the outcomes tracker to reflect how outcomes/recommendations were monitored and report back to a future meeting.	Completed – standing item at each meeting
Addressing parent mental health concerns in relation to safeguarding	tbc	Question were asked about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the waiting times to access Sompar talking therapies service;</li> <li>•and what help was provided to enable families to access the in-patient family assessment centres in Exeter and Bristol.</li> </ul>	Completed
Governor Services Update	tbc	This agenda item was deferred at Officers request	Completed – report to May '19 meeting
Youth Justice update	Tom Whitworth	Members accepted the report and endorsed the general direction of travel including the on-going service integration.	Completed
Somerset Education Strategic Vision Consultation feedback	Sue Rogers	Members were encouraged by the direction of travel and the commitment to continue to consult with young people as service users.	Completed
Leaving Care update	Trish Lyons	The report was accepted.	Completed

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Children's Services Improvement Dashboard	Rowina Cliff-Shanley	There was a discussion about how progress of achieving the new 7 improvement programme targets would be reported and monitored and it was suggested and agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman meet with the Lead Officers and submit a proposed future reporting template to the next meeting.	Completed (but without Member involvement)
Committee Chairman's feedback on the March Children's Services Quality and Performance Review Meetings (QPRM)	Julian Wooster	The Chairman in summary reported that his recollection of the impression of the meeting was that it was effective and focused and he noted the overall direction of travel regarding performance was positive and he undertook, and the Committee agreed, to attend other quality and performance review meetings.	Requested also at May 2018 meeting
<b>15 April 2016</b>			
Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	agreed in respect of the next meeting to request that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the <b>Housing Providers/P2i</b> update include an overall direction of travel update providing details of work with District Councils;</li> <li>•that the Sedgemoor Together Team be invited to attend for the <b>Community Safety/Early Help Strategy</b> item along with the Halcon One team.</li> </ul>	Completed
Improving Children's Services in Somerset 2015/16	Julian Wooster	The Chairman thanked the Director for his update report and noted the Committee's thanks to all those involved in bringing about improved outcomes from young people in Somerset and the report was accepted.	Completed
Review of Children and Families Scrutiny Committee arrangements	Scrutiny Manager	It was noted that 3 sessions were outlined and these would follow after the May, June and July meetings of the Committee.	Completed
Children's Services Improvement Programme Dashboard	Rowina Cliff-Shanley	The report was accepted and the Chairman thanked the Senior Programme Manager for her endeavor in ensuring the compiled data was reported in a way the Committee had requested. Looking forward the Chairman noted that it was important to ensure that all strategic lessons learnt should have, where appropriate, a Council wide application.	Completed
Future Performance Reporting Proposal	Philippa Granthier	The report was accepted. The Chairman reminded Members that he and Cllr Hill had already agreed to meet with the Lead Officers to further refine the reporting format.	Completed (but without Member

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

			involvement)
Early Years and School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan	Helen Waring	The Chairman thanked the Officers for the presentation. The report was accepted and the final draft would be considered at the May meeting.	Completed
Children's Services – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Action Plan Update	Lucy Watson	The report was accepted.	Completed
Somerset: Our County – Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2016	Trudi Grant	There was a brief discussion of the report and Members sought and received reassurance that data and figures used in the report were the most up-to-date and available information held. The report was accepted.	Completed
<b>13 May 2016</b>			
Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	It was agreed in respect of the next 2 meetings that: •the June meeting would start at 2.00pm; •that the 8 July meeting would now be held on 22 July instead	Completed
Focus on the education of vulnerable children (To include Children Looked After, Special Educational Needs and Free School Meal recipients)	J Wooster	The update was accepted and it was suggested that to help improve information available for and communications with all service users a <b>decision tree</b> for the benefit of service users be considered.	Completed – guidance rewritten to comply with Code of Practice(Feb 19)
Early Years and School Place Planning Growth Plan	Helen Waring	The plan was endorsed, prior to Cabinet approval.	Completed
Children and Young People's Plan Performance Update	Claire Winter	It was confirmed that the <b>direction of travel</b> would be included in the monthly updates reports. The report was accepted.	Completed
Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Annual report to Council	Chairman	The report was accepted and would be introduced to Full Council by the Chairman.	Completed
<b>17 June 2016</b>			



## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Work programme	Scrutiny Manager	The Chairman highlighted the importance of maintaining the Committee tracker of outcomes so that progress against recommendations of requested actions could be monitored.	Completed
		It was agreed in respect of the next meeting that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the Committee would receive an update on the Expansion of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in Somerset;</li> <li>•the work programme be amended to include details of the objective for each item and the reason/priority link to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP);</li> <li>•the work programme be redesigned and also list the 7 priorities of the CYPP and also nominate the Lead Member and report author for each item.</li> </ul>	
Youth Offending Team (YOT) – Inspection Report	Tom Whitworth	The update was accepted and it was agreed to receive a further update at the December meeting.	Completed
Somerset Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental health & Wellbeing (2015-2020) Progress Update	Ann Anderson	The update was accepted and it was requested that copies of the presentation be emailed to the Committee.	Completed
Educational Excellence Everywhere	J Wooster	This item was deferred at Officers request. It was agreed to consider this item at 22 July meeting, perhaps by extending the 22 July meeting.	Completed Workshop Sep '16
Children and Young People's Plane – update on improvement programme	Claire Winter	An update report was requested for the next meeting.	Completed
Any Business of Urgency	Chairman	The Chairman suggested that 7 Members of the Committee each take a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes and focus their attention and consideration of each report of how progress was being made against their particular improvement programme. The DCS replied that he thought this was a good suggestion and offered to provide Officer support for any Member of the Committee.	Completed 5 out of 7 at end of quadrennium

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Any Business of Urgency	Chairman	There was a suggestion that as the Committee had experienced vacancies for its Governor representatives (2) and Church representatives (1 position of 3 engaged) that consideration be given to inviting other interested parties to utilise those positions.	Completed - invitations sought via Governor Services
<b>22 July 2016</b>			
Work programme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Committee would receive an update on the Task &amp; Finish Group in to Child Sexual Exploitation in Somerset at the September meeting</li> <li>a workshop for all Members in late September/possibly extend the 7 October meeting be arranged to consider the Educational Excellence Everywhere theme, to include Key Stage 2 and 4 exam results.</li> </ul>	Completed 26 October
Work programme		It was noted that several items on the agenda were presentations, and it was requested that those be circulated to Members after the meeting, including those from the last meeting.	Completed
Safe, Healthy, Happy and Ambitious, Somerset's Local Area Strategy to address the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND)		The Committee endorsed the local area strategy particularly the 8 improvement outcomes that formed the basis of the strategy. It was also requested that an update report on Educational Health and Care Plan's (EHCP) be presented to the October meeting.	Completed
Children and Young People's Plan – Performance Update Quarter 1 2016-17		The report was received. An update on improvement programme 6 would be considered at the September meeting. The Chairman highlighted during the discussion of the 7 programmes that it would be an opportune moment for Members of the Committee to indicate which programme they would like to act as a Committee champion.	Completed
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)		The Committee requested an update at the September meeting.	Completed

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)		There was a suggestion that the Council consider approaching the local Muslim Community to work with and offer advice on this area and that such a representative might also be invited to become a co-opted Member of the Committee.	Pending – this is being progressed with Equalities Officer
Customer Experience report		The Committee received a verbal update from the Director for Customers and Communities and he suggested and it was agreed that a report detailing all comments, complaints and compliments received would be presented to the September meeting.	Completed
<b>9 September 2016</b>			
Work programme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Committee would receive reports on the Children's Workforce Strategy and the Pathway to Independence (P2i) at the October meeting, a report from the Safer Somerset Partnership at the December meeting and an update from the Beyond Care Team at the January 2017 meeting.</li> </ul>	Pending
DBS checks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers to ensure all Members of the Committee, as well as those on the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board have completed a DBS check</li> </ul>	Complete Jan 2018 – all Scrutiny Comm members
Children's Social Care Statutory Customer Feedback report 2015-16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee to receive a further update report at July 2017 Committee meeting.</li> </ul>	Completed
<b>7 October 2016</b>			
Child Sexual Exploitation – Strategic and Operational	Julian Wooster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee requested a further update report in six months.</li> <li>Members also requested that senior children's services officers ensure awareness of and best practice in how to support CSE, was being facilitated in all schools across Somerset, including Academies.</li> </ul>	Completed
Child Sexual Exploitation – Task and Finish Group Report	Julian Wooster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee requested a further update in six months on progress against the Task and Finish Group's recommendations</li> </ul>	Completed
<b>11 November 2016</b>			

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Work Programme	Leigh Redman	Chairman to liaise with the Chairman of Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee to discuss the possibility of a joint meeting.	Arranged Jan '17
Work Programme	J Wooster	Committee requested an update on the Team Around the School work	Completed 27/1/17
Work Programme	Jamie Jackson / Julian Wooster	Committee agreed that a Task and Finish Group be established to consider support for Young Carers. Aims and membership of the T&F group to be finalised at December meeting.	Completed Final report April '17
Work Programme	Kevin Nacey	Committee requested a further update on the in-year Revenue aspect of the Council's budget at the next meeting	Completed
MTFP Capital Bids – 2017/18	Charlotte Wilson	Committee requested a specific update at the next meeting on the Early Years Capital Bid	Completed
SEND Update and EHCP Plans	Julia Ridge	Committee requested further update in 5 months time, to include – Following the September 2016 Reception Year intake at all Somerset schools details of the number of children regarded as not being	Completed
<b>9 December 2016</b>			
MTFP Revenue budget update	Nick Blee	The update was accepted and Members requested a breakdown of the additional funding made available and the period of time that additional funding covered.	Completed
Early Years Capital Bid to EFA	Dave Farrow	The update was accepted and it was agreed to request a further update report in 6 months.	Completed June '17
Fostering Recruitment Report	Julian Wooster	The Committee accepted the report and the Chairman suggested that Appendix 5 of the report – future recruitment activity be circulated to all Members and he encouraged Members of the Council to raise the profile of Fostering.	Completed
Data Handling Update		The Committee accepted the report and given the number of actions and improvements that had been recently undertaken they requested a further update report for the March 2017 meeting. •	Completed March '17 & October '17
<b>27 January 2017</b>			

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Children and Young Peoples Plan 20162-19		In respect of Improvement Plan 1 an update report was requested a future meeting on the West Somerset Social Mobility project; In respect of Improvement Programme 3 an update report was requested a future meeting regarding the vacant posts in the Children Looked After Team, including the Psychologist posts.	Completed - quarterly updates
Impact of proposed financial changes to Schools		The Committee encouraged Officers to continue to lobby for these proposed changes to be made so the higher funding materialised.	Completed – reassurance of continued lobbying
Young Carers Task and Finish Group		The Committee agreed to proceed with the Task and Finish Group and the Chairman and Eileen Tipper volunteered to sit on the Group with a view to producing a final report for the 7 April meeting.	Completed
Team Around the School School Performance 2016		It was agreed to defer consideration these 2 reports for the next meeting.	Completed
<b>10 March 2017</b>			
Addressing drug and alcohol safeguarding concerns in families		The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting in 12 months.	Completed Nov 18
Youth Offending Team update		Youth Offending update report, which was an information report was accepted.	Completed
Data Handling update		The Data Handling Update would be considered at the next meeting.	Completed
School Performance 2016		The report was accepted with an update requested in 12 months.	Completed March 18
Team Around the School		The Committee a report on the development of the Team Around the School (TAS) model that is an early help approach that supports the targets set out in the County Plan relating to Childrens Services in particular those improving the Ofsted rating and improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children. The report was accepted	Completed

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Data Handling update	Sarah Moore	The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting.	Completed Oct '17
Young Carers Task and Finish Final report	Gemma Pickford-Waugh	The Committee agreed the suggested recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families/Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and requested a follow-up/update report in 6 months.	Completed Nov meeting
Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19 – improvement programme 6 update		The Committee considered this report that provided an update on achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service. There was a brief discussion of various aspects of the programme and the update was accepted.	Completed
<b>16 June 2017</b>			
Child Sexual Exploitation		The Committee considered this presentation that provided details of the Council's on-going work to prevent child sexual exploitation. It was explained that there was a great deal that was unknown about the perpetrators, this was because relevant agencies did not seem to record data on those responsible and frequently victims did not know their abusers. The update was accepted.	Completed
Pathways to Independence (P2i) Update		The Committee considered a report that explained the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to homeless 16 to 17 year olds and Care Leavers up to the age of 25 and how some of the duties were met through an integrated commissioned service called Pathways to Independence Service (P2i).. The report was accepted.	Completed
Data Handling update		The update was accepted and it was suggested that an update report be provided at a future meeting.	Completed Oct '17
Young Carers Task and Finish Final report		The Committee agreed the suggested recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families/Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and requested a follow-up/update report in 6 months.	Completed report to Nov '17 meeting
Committee Annual report to Council		The Committee considered and agreed its report before it would be presented to the 26 April 2017 Full Council meeting.	Completed

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

<b>28 July 2017</b>			
Children and Young People's Plan update	Julian Wooster	To receive a SEND update, to include EHCP figures, at Sept meeting	Completed Sept 2017
Children and Young People's Plan – Member Champion	Philippa Granthier	5 of the 7 programmes have a Member Champion	Completed
Family Hubs – now Family Support Services	A Bell/ P Granthier	It was suggested and agreed that an update report be provided as a standing item at each meeting.	Completed Sept 2017
Fostering Recruitment Activity	Becky Hopkins	It was requested that the final version of the revised progression scheme of fee payments be circulated to the Committee once approved.	Completed 26 Jan '18
<b>15 September 2017</b>			
School Exam Results	Julian Wooster	Final results to be reported to the Committee	Completed March 2018
<b>20 October 2017</b>			
Family Support Services	Philippa Granthier	The committee agreed to note the update and request a further update at the 8 December meeting	Completed 26 Jan '18 meeting
West Somerset Opportunity Area	Julia Ridge	The Committee noted the report and it was agreed that an update on this would be given in 6 months.	Completed May '18
<b>17 November 2017</b>			
Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019	Julian Wooster	In respect of Programme 4 - EHCP's be prepared for the next meeting and include information about transitions from SEN statements and between different key stages and School.	Completed Dec 2017
Children's Services Commissioning	Louise Palmer	It was requested that an update report on Pathways to Independence (P2i) be considered at a future meeting.	Completed April '18 meeting
Young Carers update	T Whitworth + W Jenner	It was requested that an update report be prepared for the 16 March 2018 meeting.	Completed April '18
<b>8 December 2017</b>			
SEND Peer Review Update	Rowina Clift-Shanley	The report and presentation were accepted and the Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee for the progress made so far. It was suggested and agreed that a further update be provided in the Spring.	Completed – report to March '19 meeting

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Family Support Services	P Granthier	To receive an update report at the January 2018 meeting	Completed 26 Jan meeting
<b>26 January 2018</b>			
Overview of Family Based Care (Fostering) -	Louise Palmer	<p>The Chair asked if consideration had been given to producing a flow-chart or a form of easy to follow guide to show the overall process and the Director of Children's Services noted that this had been raised by others and was being progressed.</p> <p>There was a question about the turnover of Foster Carers and what work was undertaken to identify the reasons for carers leaving and it was agreed a written response would be provided.</p> <p>There was a question about the complaints process and how allegations were managed, and how complaints were resolved and the timescales involved. It was agreed a written response would be provided.</p> <p>The update was accepted and it was agreed to request an update in a further 6 months.</p>	Completed + Update to April 2019 meeting
<b>16 March 2018</b>			
Public Question Time		There were 8 questions in relation to item 10 – Support Services for Education, and there was also a question regarding agenda item 9 and school performance and the school admission code for summer born children.	Completed
School Performance 2017 - National Curriculum Test and Public Examination Results	Neal Chislett	The Committee requested more information at a future meeting regarding KS4 outcomes, particularly for children with SEND.	Completed - report to March 2019 meeting
Update on Support Services for Education		The Committee agreed a Member proposal that an urgent position statement was required on the implementation of staffing changes within SSE services. In addition, the Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member that any planned changes be paused and requested that a full report be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.	Completed
<b>20 April 2018</b>			
SEND Peer Review		Agreed to consider the update at a future meeting.	Completed June '18



## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Changes to the PIMS Team		The Committee agreed to request an update report at the September 2018 meeting	Completed Oct'18
<b>18 May 2018</b>			
West Somerset Opportunity Area	Julia Ridge	The Committee requested that a further update report be brought to the October meeting. It was further requested that the next update report contain the following: examples of achievements/progress made to date within each of the 4 priority areas; examples of how funding had been allocated to initiatives and if this had been successful and/or how this could be used in other initiatives, as it was not clear in the current report format; examples of how partnership working on the cross-cutting themes had brought about improvements; how could the WSOA be stretched to include the general prosperity and economic activity in the area; ideas on how learning from the WSOA could be rolled out/shared for the benefit of all children and young people in other parts of Somerset.	Completed Oct'18
Young Carers Update	Wendy Jenner	The Committee requested that a further update report be brought to the October meeting. Members welcomed the projected further progress of the Action Plan and also suggested that: Further thought be given to some form of ID card for Young Carers; Each school in Somerset be encouraged to nominate a Young Carer Champion, to be a point of contact for Young Carers in that setting; Ensure that every School properly submit completed Data Collection forms of its pupils to aid identification of Young Carers; Approach GP Federations to address the issue of the low number of referrals to Young Carers Service; Consideration be given to help Young Carers to have access to the Department of Work and pensions and available benefits; Continuation of the 2 County Councillor Champions to help raise the profile for Young Carers in Somerset.	Completed Oct'18

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Progress on Recommendations arising from the Ofsted Inspection Report, January 2018	Claire Winter	It was suggested, in addition to the regular CYPP reports, that a specific Ofsted update report be provided in 6 months so progress against the Ofsted recommendations could be reviewed	Completed – part of Prog 6 update
		The Committee asked if the Chair could be invited to QPRM meetings, as this practice of him being able to attend as an observer seemed to have lapsed.	Completed – Chair invited to April 19 mtg
Elective Home Education – Government call for evidence		It was agreed that the Council's draft response would be circulated at the beginning of June for any comments. It was requested that the link to the website was circulated to the Committee and the lead officer encouraged any Member to contact him with any questions.	Completed Completed
<b>20 July 2018</b>			
Scrutiny work programme	Dr Orla Dunn Fiona Phur Dave Farrow	It was agreed that the following items would be included on the work programme: 19 October – Update on Syrian Families in Somerset; 19 October – Planning for the 2019/2020 CYPP; 16 November – Pre-validation exam performance in Somerset.	Completed Completed Completed
Family Support Services (FSS) Update	Philippa Granthier	The Committee requested that a further a FSS update report be provided for the December meeting that will include the following: • Evidence of service provision (following changes) and take up/usage of service; • Identifying and retaining vulnerable families to ensure they were not 'lost', particularly regarding changes in location and public transport; • Technology strategy – for staff and accessibility for clients; • Property – staff bases and service delivery.	Completed
<b>14 September 2018</b>			
Changes to the PIMS team	Annette Perrington	The Committee considered this report that provided an update on the implementation of changes to the PIMs team, plans for further engagement on future service delivery and the impact on children and families. Members were informed that when engagement was concluded there would be a further update about this to the committee.	Completed

(What impact does that have on the Children in Somerset?)

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2016-2019	Fiona Phur & Member Champions	The Committee received an update regarding the development of the three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which started in April 2016 setting out the actions the council and its partners were taking to continue and sustain improvements in children's services. Members nominated as programme champions and officers involved in the programmes were reminded of the need to engage for updates and progress prior to committee meetings. The Committee accepted the update.	Completed
Children's Social Care Statutory Customer Feedback Report 2017-2018-	Simon Clifford	The Committee considered this item which reports on the operation of the complaints procedure containing an executive summary followed by 3 separate detailed sections for Children's Services, Adult Services, and Economy and Community Infrastructure (ECI). An update report was requested in 12 months.	Completed - report due to Sept 19 meeting
<b>8 October 2018</b>			
Extraordinary Call-In meeting to consider Savings Proposal CAF 14a	Julian Wooster	The Committee reviewed the decision taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September 2018 regarding CAF 14a - proposals for the alteration and/or reduction of early help services provided to children and their families – 'getset'. In summary and reflecting on the responses to a number of questions raised in the call-in review including, data, demand for services, caseloads for workers and reductions in staff the Committee did not feel that the additional supporting evidence, which it noted had not been considered by the Cabinet, had provided assurance about the decision taken by the Cabinet in respect of CAF14a. The Committee agreed to uphold the call-in and in light of clarification provided by officers during its call-in review of proposal CAF14a, to request that the Cabinet: Receive a report from the Director of Children's Services at its next meeting, based on Appendix A of the call-in report, and review the decision for CAF 14a that was taken on 12 September with the aim of deferring the implementation, pending the completion of the consultation on CAF 14b with staff, partners and service users in order to allow for a comprehensive proposal to come back to Cabinet for decision in February 2019.	Completed, follow up report to 19 October meeting
<b>19 October 2018</b>			

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Consultation on Early Help – proposal (CAF 14b)	Julie Breeze	It was requested that a report be provided at a future meeting and officers also recommended that officers reconsider the length of the proposed consultation period as the 8 weeks included the two weeks of the Christmas holidays.	Completed
Young Carers Update – plus proposal (CAF 20)	Pip Cannons	The Committee requested that an update report be provided at the December meeting.	Completed
Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme Update 2018	Dr Orla Dunn	The Chair and Committee thanked the officer for the clear report and the very worthwhile on-going work in this area. A further report was requested in 12 months.	Completed-report to Oct 2019 meeting
West Somerset Opportunity Area	Julia Ridge	The Chair and Committee thanked the officer for the clear report and requested a further report in 12 months.	Completed-report to Oct 2019 meeting
<b>16 November 2018</b>			
Children and Young People's Plan 2016 - 2019	Fiona Phur	There was a question about apprentices working for the Council and it was asked how many of those had previously been in care or not previously in education, employment or training?	Pending – with Children in Care + Leaving Care team
Children and Young People's Plan 2019 - 2022	Fiona Phur	To continue receiving update reports and the first of the new CYPP in October 2019	Completed
Proposed changes to the support and services for children and their families (CAF-14b) - Update on Public	Julie Breeze	To receive an update in January 2019 after the consultation process had finished and before the Cabinet meeting in February.	Completed
<b>7 December 2018</b>			
Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2018 – Hospital Admissions for Self-Harm in Somerset	Trudi Grant	The Chair of the Committee reflected that the mental health and well-being of others was a matter for all, not just the NHS. The report was accepted, and it was requested that a further update be considered at the June meeting.	Completed – report due June 2019 meeting
<b>25 January 2019</b>			
Public Question Time	Clerk	3 members of the public asked questions and it was agreed to provide them with written responses.	Completed + published in minutes

## Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Work Programme	Clerk	Chair and Vice Chair to meet and review items to be moved from March to April meeting.	Completed
MTFP 92019-2022) for Children's Services	Julian Wooster	Response to Cllr Hewitt-Cooper regarding the timescale of plans to increase numbers of childminders where there are shortages of Early Years places forming part of an annual review of supply against demand across the county.	Completed
	Sheila Collins	Regular financial monitoring reports regarding Children's Services to be provided for meetings, starting in the new financial year.	Update reports programmed
CYPP	Fiona Phur	It was requested the final version of the CYPP be presented to the 22 March meeting, and the Committee suggested that the new CYPP include an explanation of RAG status.	Completed – report to March meeting
Update on CAF14b proposals		It was requested that responses from partner organisations which raised concerns, be added to the report on the consultation and that an update report be provided for a future meeting.	Completed – update to March meeting in FSS report

The CYPP has been produced following a multi-agency process, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust. Seven improvement programmes have been identified – our work is focused on ensuring progress and achievement within these 7 programmes:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce

Key:

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting.
Pending	Action on-going or plans in place to address.
Incomplete	No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.

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Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee –  
22 March 2019

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## **Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-2019**

Lead Officer: Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance

Author: Fiona Phur, Partnership Business Manager – Children’s Commissioning

Contact Details: [FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk); 01823 355259

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson, Lead Member for Children and Families

Division and Local Member: All

### **1. Summary**

**1.1.** The three-year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) commenced in April 2016 setting out the actions we and our partners are taking to continue and sustain improvements in children’s services. The plan follows a multi-agency approach, overseen by Somerset Children’s Trust (SCT). Seven improvement programmes, managed by the relevant Board for each improvement area are in place, as follows:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
4. Building skills for life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children’s social work service.
7. Embedding a ‘Think Family’ approach

**1.2.** Children and families are a key theme within the County Plan 2016-20, recognising the importance of providing the information and advice families need to help themselves and of focusing our help early and effectively when needed. The key priorities are to improve children’s safeguarding services; to improve exam results, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils; and to improve children’s health and wellbeing.

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

**2.1.** The Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-19 is the strategic plan for Somerset Children’s Trust, providing the focus for partners’ actions and investment and the means by which the Department for Education has measured our improvement. The plan is reported on a quarterly basis and we are now reporting upon the activity of the third quarter (October to December 2018) of Year 3 which provides a summary of activity and progress, supported by each of the seven programmes’ Highlight Reports.

Work during this quarter has been focussed on ensuring that the remaining actions are completed; or if appropriate, form part of the actions for the next CYPP 2019–22. The Somerset Children’s Trust Executive held an extraordinary

meeting in December to consult with its members on the Early Help consultation, and to look at the proposed new Children & Young People's Plan.

This meeting provides an opportunity for members to comment on the progress at the end of the third quarter and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan through its concluding year. Attached are the Quarter 3 Executive Summary (appendix 1) from the Somerset Children's Trust Executive group, and the Highlight Reports from each of the seven delivery groups.

- 2.2.** The last engagement event on the priorities for the new CYPP was held on Halloween with 20 young people and the same number of staff working together on the theme of supporting parents and carers and positive activities. The Halloween theme meant that everyone had fun and it was a thoroughly productive day.

The Children & Families Scrutiny Committee also took the opportunity to receive an update on the progress of the plan in December and gave some very constructive feedback regarding the design and contents of the draft CYPP.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1.** On 6 November 2015 Somerset County Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education requiring us to develop and implement by April 2016, a three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which the Department for Education judge likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's social care functions. This plan is now implemented and reporting upon second year progress.
- 3.2.** The focus of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) in 2016 was vulnerable children and young people and it has informed the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP.
- 3.3.** At the end of Quarter 3 five of the seven Improvement Programmes are rated AMBER as being partially on track to meet target dates for all actions by March 2019. The attached appendices outline the progress made.

### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1.** In developing the CYPP, all those organisations and groups including under the duty to co-operate as stipulated in the Children Act 2004 were consulted, as well as children, young people and their parents and carers and other key partners.
- 4.2.** Consultation undertaken includes:
- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
  - The Unstoppables (SEND)
  - CAMHS Participation Group
  - Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
  - Young Healthwatch
  - Young Carers
  - Somerset Parent Carer Forum



The voice of children, young people and their families is regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback their views.

## **5. Implications**

- 5.1.** Financial: The CYPP has been implemented in a climate of continuing financial austerity for the public sector. The priorities outlined in the plan are to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of SCC and its partners, taking into account anticipated reductions over the lifetime of the plan.
- 5.2.** Equality & Diversity: Somerset Children's Trust seeks to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people. This incorporates the need to tackle inequalities and narrow gaps, paying suitable regard to the 2010 Equality Act's General Duty.
- 5.3.** Legal: Local Children's Trust arrangements are underpinned by the 'duty to cooperate' (Section 10, Children Act 2004) and there are no plans to repeal this duty. The Children's Trust holds its individual members to account for delivering their agreed contributions to the shared plan and has agreed to review progress against the Plan on a quarterly basis.

The Direction Notice referred to in para 3.1 above was issued under section 497A (4B) of the Education Act 1996.

## **6. Background papers**

- 6.1.** [Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19](#)

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

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## Somerset Children's Trust – Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) Executive Summary

### ***Progress as at: end December 2018***

#### **Overall**

At the end of Quarter 3 of Year 3 (October to December 2018) the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) is providing a progress update on the 7 Improvement Programmes.

Improvement Programmes 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are rated as Amber, Improvement Programmes 2 and 7 are rated as GREEN on course to completion.

Analysis of Quarter 3 highlight reports show that the previous themes following Quarter 2 are still relevant and evidence that most activities are concluding positively as the year ends.

#### Information, Advice and Support for Parents and Communities

P1 New Local Offer (Somerset Choices) website has launched and is showing good levels of use with an average of 530 weekly site users.

P1 Parent Family Support Advisor's (PFSA) will start to attend Talking cafes in West Somerset area to support parent/carers. A grant, as part of the West Somerset Opportunity Area, will be provided to the Transport Community Agent to facilitate community engagement in West Somerset which will build community capacity

P2 The infant feeding and nutrition strategy has resulted in a statistically significant increase in breastfeeding rates in our 20 % most deprived communities at 6-8 weeks, from 27% in 2013/14 to 37% in 2017/18. This is against a nationally declining rate. This work has been submitted for publication at Local Government Association and Public Health England conferences

P2 The health and well-being survey has been completed, gaining views from over 7000 children across schools in Somerset

P2 There were 662 hits on Parent Carer Toolkit in this quarter (4300 this year), and Tuning into Kids parenting courses ran in 11 settings across

county in the autumn term

P3 Successful Q3 Kooth service; NHS England funding for additional online counselling work planned from Q4 onwards

P4 Funding has been confirmed (via the West Somerset Opportunity Area) and work is now underway to develop a Somerset Higher Education & Skills website with our local colleges and training providers. The website is aiming to launch by late Spring 2019 and will provide impartial information on higher level skills and the local Somerset Higher Education offer.

P5 The public consultation on the reduction of Somerset County Council's (SCC) service has now completed. The recommendations will be taken to Cabinet for decision in February 2019. The development of the Family Support Service will need to be re-scoped, following the Cabinet decision. Public Health Nursing staff transfer into SCC is, however, on track and staff engagement to finalise the details is being held in January 2019.

20 young people and 20 practitioners consulted on the themes of 'Support for Parents/Carers' and 'Positive Activities' in preparation for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22

The Children's Trust Board met at the Taunton Academy and focused on a multi-agency support to schools for vulnerable pupils. The Board were pleased to meet two students who presented their journeys. The Children's Trust Board engaged in and responded to the Early Help consultation at an extra ordinary meeting in early December 2018.

#### Support for Schools and Preparation for Adulthood

P1 Newly developed service level agreements (SLA's) for both TAS and PFSA's were circulated to all schools through the community learning partnership structure

P3 SHARE service Q3 Performance – successful term of Year 2

P4 A new South West Regional Framework for school improvement has been established through the Teaching Schools South West including a set of Regional School Improvement Boards which Somerset are engaging with. The new Regional Teaching School representative is in place and in discussion re the support for Somerset schools that are causing concern

P4 Refreshed Year 12/13 panels now established as twice yearly meetings (October and May) with each of our Further Education/Sixth Form colleges, to help identify and support those young people at high risk of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or with limited progression opportunities. National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) funding has been secured to provide additional support to vulnerable learners and will include 1:1 careers guidance lessons and group sessions on wellbeing, resilience and employability skills

P4 Revised guidance was agreed through the Somerset Education Partnership Board in October 2018 on the use of part-time time tables. This has now been circulated and is in place in schools. South West Audit Panel (SWAP) will be auditing its application later this academic year

P4 The Children Missing Education panel model of working has been revised. A more robust challenge is being put in place for when concerns arise around the use of part-time timetables or other forms of off-rolling

P4 2018 data continues to show performance gaps between vulnerable groups (41% (8% CLA) achieving a standard pass in English and Maths) and their peers (63% achieving a standard pass in English and Maths). Key Stage 4 (KS4) data is still only provisional, but we are not narrowing the gap. Team Around the School are engaging to make sure that they are focusing on vulnerable groups to ensure they are in school and able to learn

#### Workforce Development, Quality & Capacity

P1 New Service Level Agreements are now in place for both Team around the School (TAS) and Parent and Family Support Advisers (PFSAs). TAS training sessions were delivered to 78 school staff to ensure reporting requirements and new tools including a case tracker and a new Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire are fully understood.

P2 New speech and language lead identified. Draft strategy developed, resources for early years to be taken to provider evenings in January. Secured additional funding for speech and language training for both Health Visitors and early years settings

P2 Posts within the Specialist perinatal and infant mental health service now recruited to following previously reported new funding

P3 Mandated 2018/19 NHS investment in Children and Young People's Mental Health has been delivered & recruitment is largely complete

P5 Think Family strategy is now live, training is in place and work continues to embed the approach in partner organisations. As the current strategy ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 the Children's Trust may wish to review, and quality assure partner's action plans as outlined in the strategy. Working Together 2018 legislation, may direct this strategy to support the actions required of Local Authorities to ensure multiple vulnerabilities are safeguarded

P6 An increase in the number of consultant social workers, who are available to support newly qualified social workers and students.

P6 Somerset has been successful in applying to lead the third regional consortium of Step up to Social work increasing our student numbers from 8 to 12 for the 19/20 cohort.

P6 Somerset has also successfully joined Frontline (an additional graduate based social work degree programme) and will take 4 students for the first south west cohort in 2020

P6 Successful re-structure at operational management level into East West areas, in place from April 2019, will provide greater local practice consistency, accountability and partnership working, throughout the child and family's journey with Children's social care.

P7 Following the summer multi-agency events 2 further events were held in Q3, these focused on the Lead Professional role and, how as a multi-agency group, the blocks and barriers can be overcome

P7 A developing relationship with VisitSomerset is providing opportunities to promote Somerset as a good place to live and work and has engaged businesses who can work with us.

P7 Social worker recruitment and retention targets have both decreased this quarter. Programme 6 comments that there has been significant increase in social work turnover. However, this includes a number of staff who moved to the Regional Adoption Agency but continue to work to place Somerset children with adoptive families. It is recognised that the best way to improve this is by growing our own, which takes time. The Workforce Strategy is in progress including new routes into Social work in Somerset – Yeovil College Social work Degree Programme. A focus on retention and working with managers to ensure early notification of 'intention to leave' messages to the Engagement Officer to allow the opportunity to establish reasons to leaving and discuss options, where appropriate

Systems, Process and Finance

P2 49 schools are signed up to the Somerset well-being framework – adopting a whole school approach to health and well-being, focusing on emotional health and well-being

P2 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy Action Plan has been developed that includes an action plan to develop a shared understanding and pathway for children with additional needs (Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) presentations) by bringing together existing workstreams and ensuring a graduated response for those with SEMH needs at risk of exclusion

P3 Joint Protocol for complex cases in Acute settings – rollout underway

P4 A working group meeting has taken place to review the role of the Somerset Education Partnership Board, which identified the principles that any replacement group should work to, and a follow up meeting is taking place on 22nd January. The Phase Strategy Group for Specialist Provision is due to commence Spring term 2019

**Emerging work for next quarter:**

- Work to be undertaken on the Local Offer website profile with providers to ensure all local provision is listed on the site
- Launch of new specialist perinatal and infant mental health service planned for January
- Training for Health Visitors and early years settings on Speech and language – utilising additional resources secured
- Proposed workshop in February to look at gaps in local weight management pathway for children and young people
- Public Health Nursing transfer to Somerset County Council staff engagement meeting to finalise details being held in January 2019
- Phase Strategy Group for Specialist Provision is due to commence Spring term 2019
- SW England i-Thrive Risk Management Workshop to be held 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Somerset Education Partnership Board replacement group follow up meeting is taking place in January 2019
- Inclusion Offer in development to include improvement in attendance and exclusion, capital investment into new schools and refurbishment, focus on identifying and managing behaviour and a campaign around speech, language and communication needs.
- Somerset Higher Education & Skills website with our local colleges and training providers is aiming to launch by late Spring 2019
- SCC early help service decision to be taken in Q4 Feb 2019, then Family Support Services will be rescoped and proposals for system-wide improvement across early help will be actioned.
- Expansion of First Response and early help hub teams into an integrated partnership hub, to support early decision-making about

providing the right help to families, at the right time.

- Partnership conference led by the Safeguarding Board to explore and embed good partnership practice for children at risk of exploitation.
- Undertake a review of the November roadshows 'Lead Professional Role' to identify actions for Somerset County Council and partner agencies
- A third set of Roadshows is planned to keep the multi-agency dialogue open and build on the Working Together theme
- Continue work to identify creative opportunities to enhance recruitment with particular focus on our digital presence
- Keep monitoring staff turnover to identify focused activity to reduce numbers leaving
- Sign-off of the refreshed NHS Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, 2015-2020
- A February workshop is planned for young people to finalise the new Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22


**Decisions Required:**

- That the Somerset Children's Trust Executive considers and comments on the progress for all Improvement Programmes at the end of Year 3, Quarter 3.

**Governance Arrangements:**

This is the third quarter of reporting against the third year of the plan and covers the period October to December 2018. The second annual report of the progress and impact of Year 2 of the CYPP was presented to and endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Plans for the relevant reporting for the next Children and Young People's Plan are being discussed with relevant Leads in order to assure the Children's Trust Board of robust reporting arrangements.


**1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient**

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	The current status for this programme in Quarter 3 is AMBER with some outstanding actions including the engagement of the VCS and communities and the development of an inclusive charter mark; recently approved early help proposals will provide a focus on this area. There continue to be improvements around the local offer and team around the school approach. The ongoing public consultation in relation to the future delivery of early help will have an impact on some of these actions,		




especially the parenting programme offer.


## 2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	Work is progressing and beginning to deliver improved outcomes, we have also made significant progress in joining up work to address Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) across health, education and care.		




## 3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	This programme holds the status of AMBER in Quarter 3. There has been slippage in sign-off of the NHS Long Term Plan Refresh (awaiting national NHS Long Term Plan & 2019/2020 financial allocations). However, both on-going work in legacy schemes from 2017/18 and current operational performance remain on-track.		

## 4. Building skills for life

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	Programme 4 currently holds a status in Q3 AMBER. A lot of effective work taking place to support schools working with disadvantaged pupils and to work to support disadvantage pupils, but this is not translating into consistently improved educational outcomes throughout the county i.e. 2018 outcomes at KS2 and KS4 saw us slipping behind the national averages and gaps in performance between vulnerable groups and their peers widened		

## 5. Providing help early and effectively

<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	The current status for this programme in Quarter 3 is AMBER, with some outstanding actions. The original scope of the Family Support Service is now on hold pending cabinet decisions on the future of early help services which will be taken in February 2019.		
<b>6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service</b>			
<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	Programme 6 currently holds a status in Q3 AMBER		
<b>7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce</b>			
<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>Status Trend:</b>	
<b>Reason for current status:</b>	There is good engagement in progressing Programme 7. Recruitment is steady and there is regular monitoring to identify opportunities to improve. Retention continues to be a problem, but systems are in place to manage this. Multi-agency working is being encouraged through joint workshops and Serious Case Reviews		



# **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



**22%**

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

8-11 years old  
Primary School

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

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

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

12-15 years old  
Secondary School

31% parents/carers smoke

9% Transport is a problem

## Feel Safe:

74% at school

58% outside

# 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

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**8256**

Students and **388** parents have attended **SHARE** sessions

**94%**

of Somerset children achieve first choice Secondary school places



**80%**

Of 5 year old children free from dental decay



**40**



New or refurbished schools in Somerset

**73%**

of multi-agency staff surveyed felt that partnership working has improved a lot



**1000**

Smoke free babies born since 2011

**93%**

Permanent Social Work managers achieved

**248**

Teachers trained in emotion coaching

**94**



less children per year subject to a child protection plan

**82%**

of Secondary and Primary Schools are rated as Good or Outstanding

What we are proud to have achieved in the last plan

Where we haven't quite made the difference we want to yet

multi-agency Early Help hubs have been delayed



**44%**

Increase in hospital admissions for self-harm (10-24 yrs)



Primary and Secondary persistent absence rates have increased

**Attainment Gap**

between children and young people with additional needs and their peers has widened at key stage 2 and 4

**SEND**

Percentage of EHC assessments completed within 20 weeks continues to be an area of concern

**Exclusions**

Permanent, part time timetable etc

# 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



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Our Key Considerations



Positive  
Activities

Supported  
Families

Healthy  
Lives

A Great  
Education

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

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## Family Support Service (FSS) Update

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Christine Lawrence (Public Health & Well-Being) and Frances Nicholson (Children & Families)

Division and Local Member(s): All

Lead Officer: Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health and Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services

Author: Alison Bell, Consultant in Public Health and Julie Breeze, Strategic Commissioner for Early Help

<p><b>Summary:</b></p>	<p>This paper aims to give an update the Committee on the progress to deliver a new Family Support Service (FSS) for the parents, children and families of Somerset, following the initial Cabinet approval received in February 2018.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p><b>That Scrutiny Members consider and comment on the progress made to date regarding the Family Support Service.</b></p> <p><b>This report focuses on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transfer of Public Health Nurses smoothly over to the employment of SCC</li> <li>• An update against the de-designation of children's centre buildings</li> </ul> <p>An acknowledgement of the professional support we have received from Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in working towards this transition of services</p>
<p><b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b></p>	<p>An update has been provided to make the Committee aware of the progress within the Family Support Service Project, since the Cabinet approval in February 2018 and subsequent decisions regarding SCC early help services in September 2018 and February 2019 (See background papers 1, 2 &amp; 3).</p>
<p><b>Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy:</b></p>	<p>The development of the Family Support Service approach supports the following plans: Health &amp; Well-Being (HWB) strategy<sup>1</sup>; the service will contribute to the shared vision that</p> <p><i>'People live healthy and independent lives, supported by thriving and connected communities with timely and easy access to high-quality and efficient public services when they need them.'</i></p> <p>Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019, specifically</p>

<sup>1</sup> The HWB strategy is currently being updated as is the CYPP, but we are reporting against actions within the old plans

	<p>Programme 2 ‘improving the health and well-being of children and young people’ and Programme 5 ‘providing help early and effectively’:</p> <p><i>‘To establish early help hubs in local communities offering multi-agency integrated services that identify and support children and families who need additional help and can intervene quickly and effectively.’</i></p> <p>Somerset’s County Plan - part of the vision being to reduce inequalities wherever we can and empower people to take responsibility for their own health and well-being.</p> <p>Public Health Nursing (PHN) services are based on the principle of proportionate universalism – so the service is provided to all, with more resource being targeted to those in greater need. This approach with its focus on equity aims to tackle inequality in health and social outcomes.</p> <p>Plans to rationalise the children’s centre estate are in line with the Council’s refreshed approach to asset rationalisation approved in November 2017. The Family Support Service will benefit from, and make use of where appropriate, new delivery opportunities enabled by the One Public Estate programme and other initiatives associated with the asset management plan.</p>
<p><b>Consultations and co-production undertaken:</b></p>	<p>A public consultation was undertaken (September – December 2017) to inform the development of Family Support Services. A detailed consultation report and SCC response to the consultation report can be found as appendices to the phase 1 February 18 – Cabinet paper (see background paper 1).</p> <p>A further public and professional consultation were undertaken on ‘the proposal to remove getset level 2 services’. This closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet in February 2019 and the decision was taken to approve the decisions set out in the key decision papers (See 3.3 and 3.4 below).</p>
<p><b>Financial Implications:</b></p>	<p>For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p>
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b></p>	<p>For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p>
<p><b>HR Implications:</b></p>	<p>For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p>
<p><b>Risk Implications:</b></p>	<p>For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p>

	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score
<b>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</b>	<p><b><u>Equalities Implications</u></b> Going forward we will be showing due regard to equalities implications where necessary. This will include any changes to location of staff or service delivery within the accommodation workstream. As well as any changes to the service offer within the commissioning and specification workstream.</p> <p><b><u>Community Safety Implications</u></b> For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p><b><u>Sustainability Implications</u></b> For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p><b><u>Health and Safety Implications</u></b> For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p><b><u>Privacy Implications</u></b> For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p><b><u>Health and Wellbeing Implications</u></b> For details of the implications, please see the relevant sections in background papers 1, 2 and 3.</p>		
<b>Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):</b>	Not applicable.		

## 1. Background

- 1.1. In 2016 full council adopted the Somerset Children & Young People’s Plan 2016-2019 (CYPP) which included a priority to ‘establish early help hubs in local communities offering multi-agency integrated services that identify and support children and families who need additional help and can intervene quickly’.

The CYPP also includes agreed actions to develop proposals for the future use of children’s centre buildings in the context of an ‘integrated early help offer’. This integrated early help offer, developed a working title of Family Support Services

The development of the Family Support Service aims to:

- Achieve better outcomes for families; engaging hard to reach families and providing services where they need them
- Provide more effective services; reducing duplication and providing more community based support and guidance
- Provide consistent and coherent services for families in order to tackle health and social inequalities
- Protect frontline services by reducing management and business support functions, and overhead costs associated with buildings
- Respond to the end of the government Troubled Families grant in 2020,

and the reduction in DoH grant for public health

The Family Support Service will be developed over three phases.

**Phase 1** (2018/19) addresses the development of the Family Support Service and the delivery of a co-ordinated and coherent “early help offer” utilising technology and a wide network of local community venues such as families’ homes, schools, health centres, village halls and children’s centre buildings, **this phase focuses on transfer of PHN to the employment of SCC.**

**Phase 2** (2019/20) will address the integration of Public Health Nursing (health visitors and school nurses) with Somerset County Council’s (SCC) getset service – **this phase is on hold pending the outcome of the getset consultation.**

**Phase 3** will consider the integration of additional child and adults services to achieve a holistic ‘think family’ model.

Initial proposals were consulted upon in Autumn 2017 and included the development of an integrated Family Support Service and how the service could be enhanced by using technology, as a source of access to information and advice, as an alternative contact method, (but not replacing face to face contact.) and providing a wide network of places in local communities delivering early childhood services. The service would make use of venues appropriate to the support being offered, such as in families’ homes, schools, health centres, village halls and children’s centre buildings.

The proposals also looked to remove the “Sure Start Children’s Centre” status or designation from 16 current buildings and develop 8 into Family Centres linked to a wider community network of support to reflect the outreach and enhanced family visiting model and in line with the statutory guidance.

**At February 2018 Cabinet it was agreed to proceed with** proposals to implement phase 1 and in principle to agree to bring public health nursing into SCC and develop an integrated Family Support Service in house. (see background papers)

Since this original decision, there has been a financial imperative to consider further cost savings in year.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Cabinet approved two proposals relating to changes within the getset service:

- CAF-14a relating to reductions in staffing levels across the service as a response to current demand levels and increasing caseload targets
- CAF-14b relating to the launch of a public consultation exercise to review the provision of Somerset County Council early help services, to include the proposal that SCC no longer provide level 2 services.

The public consultation approved under CAF-14b has now been undertaken and ran for 8 weeks from Monday 5 November 2018 to the 31 December 2018. Nearly 900 people took part in a detailed consultation into the future of

Somerset's getset service – providing valuable insight and helpful comments. We are grateful for the time and consideration residents and professional staff gave to the Council.

The key decision approved at Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 is that for 2019/20 the service focus will be to promote prevention in the community. It should be noted that this activity will be to move towards investment in direct service provision which will include an amount set aside to provide important and valuable “seed” investment in the community sector to develop early help projects and support (£200k).

The aim, and to reflect public and professional comments and responses within the consultation, is to strengthen prevention opportunities within targeted communities while working alongside key partners such as schools.

Under the Fit for My Future strategy proposals for children and young people, there is a workstream focusing on locality working for services working with children and families. Following the SCC consultation on the future of SCC early help services it will be important to link Family Support Service work with the Fit for My Future work going forward, through the new Children's Delivery Board.

## **1.2. Update on Progress to Date**

It is important for Scrutiny to understand that the work to transfer Public Health Nursing to SCC has continued at pace and we are on track to delivery this.

The Family Support Services Project Board has progressed these cabinet decisions by implementing six workstreams covering HR, Accommodation, Information Technology and Information Governance, Communications and Engagement, Clinical Governance and Safeguarding Children, Commissioning and Specification. This report and presentation to the committee gives an overall progress report to date, which will include the following:

- The PHN service offer post April 2019
- An update on de-designation of children centres
- The highlights of key progress made so far

The workstreams within the Family Support Services project has progressed accordingly:

### **HR**

- A Head of Service has been recruited – Jo Smith, who is embedding clinical leadership
- The TUPE list has been received from Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- A recruitment protocol is in place managing recruitment into essential posts during this transition period and ensuring joint interview panels
- Recruitment to 3 student Health Visitor and 1 student School Nurse. Commenced January 2019, training continuing post transition to SCC
- The NHS pension application, for this staff group, has been made
- Staff and Union engagement has been continuing through regular face to face events, a regular staff newsletter and a virtual FAQ, this has

become a more positive dialogue

### **Accommodation**

- There is a plan in place for staff bases and service delivery points. Staff consultation regarding moves of base was launched on 11 January 2019 and will be completed by the end of February.
- 9 GP surgeries where SCC wish to retain Health Visitor teams (particularly in rural areas) have expressed an interest to continue with this arrangement, negotiations regarding lease arrangements are underway
- All Health Visitors and School Nurses will be housed in either SCC buildings, GP surgeries or community buildings.
- De-designation of the 16 agreed centres is continuing and making progress.
  - 11 of the centres have been transferred to schools, nurseries or a trust (for example Balsam Centre in Wincanton). These include:
    - Hamp, Bridgwater
    - Brock House, Norton Fitzwarren
    - Wellington
    - Alcombe, Minehead
    - Little Vikings, Watchet
    - Birchfield, Yeovil
    - Little Marsh, Ilchester
    - Balsam Centre, Wincanton
    - The Bridge Centre, Frome
    - The Link Centre, Coleford
    - The House, Shepton Mallet
  - Bishops Lydeard will be transferred to the Bishops Lydeard Village Hall Management Committee
  - Oaklands in Yeovil will be transferred to the Nursery by the end of March 2019.
  - The following 3 sites will be retained as staff bases – Victoria Park in Bridgwater, The Hollies in Taunton and Chard.
- In the cabinet paper of February 2018 it was agreed that Cabinet would approve the development of plans for Minehead, Wellington, Chard and Yeovil:
  - Minehead – The West Somerset Opportunity Area project is making good progress and this community is well served by services and working well
  - Wellington – Discussions are taking place with several stakeholders in the community to agree the best location for a community hub.
  - Yeovil/ Chard – Yet to be determined.

### **Clinical Governance & Safeguarding Children**

- The process of CQC registration is underway, now SCC has the registered manager (Jo Smith) in post
- A Patient Safety Officer has been recruited
- Basic and mandatory training requirements have been scoped and arrangements for delivery put into place
- A safeguarding children, training, support and supervision service has been secured from Taunton and Somerset /Somerset partnership NHS Foundation for the first 2 years of PHN service delivery within SCC

- An equipment calibration and maintenance contract is being explored
- All clinical guidelines and Patient Group Directives for medications are in the process of being signed off by the SCC clinical Governance assurance process in February 2019

### **Information Technology and Information Governance**

- Negotiated continued access to RIO (the case management system) post April 2019, to enable service continuity, performance management and compliance with national reporting requirements
- The need for Laptops and Phones has been quantified and have been purchased. SCC has developed a deployment plan, within the available resources.
- IT quantifying network requirements for non SCC buildings where some staff will be based.

### **Commissioning and Specification**

- A service specification is in place for PHN post April 2019, this has been shared with strategic partners.
- Between February and April 2019, Healthwatch will be facilitating meetings with service users to explore how the HV service could be delivered most effectively and what has worked well historically
- The business case for FSS has been signed off, based on PHN finances only at this time, by both the DCS and DPH

### **Communications and Engagement**

- Regular staff “In the know” newsletter, in addition to face to face meetings with teams
- Developing information for service users that will be available on SCC website post April 2019 regarding service delivery, contact arrangements and complaints and compliment procedures

## **2. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them**

2.1. N/A

## **3. Background Papers**

3.1. Cabinet reports February 2018

3.2. CAF-14a papers considered at Cabinet on 12 September 2018 – Pages 130 to 134

3.3. CAF-14b papers considered at Cabinet on 12 September 2018 – Pages 533 to 537

3.4. Key decision 11 February 2019 – Pages 497 to 573

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## Higher Needs funding provision update

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Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson

Division and Local Member: Childrens Services

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. To provide an update on progress against the SEND strategy 2016-2019
- 1.2. To outline spend against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs funding, projected outturn and annual allocations in relation to revenue and capital spend in meeting the SEND strategy.

### 2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. To consider and comment on the significant demand and pressures related to activity across the Local Area partners and specifically for children and young people who may have SEND and identified actions and progress.
- 2.2. To recognise the on-going work to refresh the SEND Strategy and align it with the new Children and Young People Plan.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. Nationally there remain significant financial pressures within Schools. Funding since 2010 is reported at 8%, alongside well documented reductions to Childrens and Adult services budgets with estimated reductions in these budgets ranging from 25% to 54% being reported, against a back drop of increases in statutory functions and regulatory control. Public spending remains a matter for national debate and concern.

Schools are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Within the grant there are 4 distinct allocations of funding known as Blocks: Early Years, central schools, schools and high needs. School funding is governed by the schools and Early years finance regulations(find) and is governed locally by the Schools Forum and the Local Authority, with the DCS and lead members oversight.

With effect from 2019/20 DfE intends to tighten up the rules under which LAs set out their plans for bringing the DSG account back into balance. The DfE require a report from any LA that has a DSG deficit of more than 1% of its gross DSG as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, such a report will need to be discussed with the Schools Forum and set out the authority's plans for bringing the DSG account back into balance within 3 years across all blocks. The gross DSG for 2018/19 is £368.988m equal to 1.57% thereby potentially requiring a plan to be returned to the DfE.

There continues to be an ongoing pressure within the High Needs Block of the DSG and work has been ongoing since the implementation of the SEND

review in 2016. Pressures have been identified across 5 key interdependent areas and are seen most sharply in spend for independent Schools and independent non-maintained Special schools, with the spend exceeding budget by more than £2m and within spend against provision for pupils who are permanently excluded or whom need provision which is not within mainstream for medical reasons, identified as £2m.

The High needs budget 2018/19 was set at £45,982,719 with a projected outturn reported to Schools forum on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 of £48,917,969 in year overspend is projected at £2,935,250, approximately 6% over budget. This is a reduction from 11.5% in 17/18. This reduction in overspend is seen mainly due to transfers between blocks.

In Somerset the cumulative deficit 2017/18 was £5,620,150. For 18/19 (with projected outturn) this increases to £8,555,400. With agreed mitigations applied of £2,205,000 the final High needs deficit is projected at £6,350,400. This is an increase in year of £730,250.

The agreed mitigations are detailed in the High Need Paper received by Forum on 6<sup>th</sup> March (attached as Appendix 1). In summary they include savings made across the DSG, transfers from the Schools block as agreed 17/18 and additional funding allocated from the DfE<sup>1</sup>. The impact for Somerset of this additional high needs funding is £1,171,257 for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- 3.2.** To support a strategic focus on Inclusive education changes the 2019/20 gross provisional HNB has been set at £55.592m. This accounts for forecasts against all budget lines as of end February and includes an increase of 2% across all top up funding. This exceeds DfE funding by £3.447m however the shortfall is planned to be met from the following transfers and savings targets and was considered by Schools forum on 6<sup>th</sup> Marc <sup>2</sup>.

Ongoing mitigations will include potential transfers between blocks and includes a reduced disapplication agreement by the Secretary of State of £298,200. This leaves a shortfall of £0.570m and this will need to be found within year. Any efficiencies or savings achieved over and above this figure will go towards reducing the cumulative overspend projected as £6.350m.

The DSG (HNB) recovery plan is being updated continuously and aligned with strategy direction and forms part of ongoing recovery work by officers, forum and partners. It focusses upon redistributing the budget spend across the 5 key areas to improve local inclusion in schools, by improving joint commissioning with partners and Local Area improvements as set out in the SEND strategy through the Local area Improvement network (LAIN).

Projects focus on a “A Local First approach” and include: “Reducing our reliance on Independent schools”, “Identifying and managing behaviour”<sup>3</sup> and the investment in the Capital programme. Ongoing alignment of services

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretary of State announced on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 an additional £250 million of high needs funding, £125 million for 2018-19; £125 million for 2019-20; and a further £100 million top-up to the special provision capital fund for local authorities in 2019-20.

<sup>2</sup> Details of all school forum reports can be found on the Somerset CC website: Schools forum

<sup>3</sup> Name as yet not confirmed

continues , which realise management savings and allow for co-production of new services with parents, such an example is the PIMS team are now part of a newly forming Sensory Service.

Alignments across services internally will form part of Children's Services transformation and support schools as the self-improving school system locally and regionally builds capacity in Schools to improve outcomes for all children and to work in collaboration with the LA for those schools who are causing concern, are at risk of failure or where Ofsted has rated them Inadequate or Requiring Improvement.

### 3.3. SEND strategy

The Somerset SEND Strategy for children and young people aged 0-25: 2016-19 has **5 key outcomes**

**Our families, children and young people report a positive experience of our SEND systems and support, feel empowered and confident to engage and make decisions**

Parent/carer engagement through SPCF and participation of C&YP through 'Unstoppables' is a strength with SPCF Directors having regional and National responsibilities to support and share good practice.

Recent Local Area Roadshows "Local Offer Live" demonstrate high levels of engagement from parents/carers and are informing ongoing development of the local offer, improvement planning, updating on progress on the capital programme, future uses of capital funding and provided opportunities for parents and practitioners to meet, however not all parents / carers and young people yet report a positive experience.

**Timely and accurate identification and assessment of SEND across education, health and care services**

The new Local Offer is providing clearer information and guidance however some pages are incomplete and ongoing improvement will continue with parent/ carer forum and the Unstoppables.

Multi Agency Identification & Support in the Early Years (MAISEY) meetings are working well in supporting early identification of SEND needs and individual transitions into school and termly online Schools information packs are providing clearer guidance for schools. The Core standards developed in 2016 is supporting a graduated response from schools and is being refreshed and improved with School SENCOs.

Data suggests that we are over identifying pupils with Social, emotional and Mental health needs and under-identifying Autism and there is evidence that an Autism diagnosis is sometimes delayed with the quality and speed of Health diagnoses varying between areas and professionals however AET<sup>4</sup> training to schools is due to be rolled out shortly.

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<sup>4</sup> AET "Autism Education Trust" licence accredited trainers to support autism friendly schools

Implementation of revised 'Banding' system and High Needs Funding for pupils with SEN support across all schools, combined with improved data matching with Children Social Care is improving identification of children to be prioritised for an EHCP and we are developing a strategic approach to the Dedicated schools grant (DSG) with School partners outlined in section 3.2.

### **Inclusive and equitable access to good quality local education**

Revised Statutory panel guidance is supporting improved and more consistent decision making on statutory SEND assessments; reasons for decisions are clearer for parents and scheme of delegation is clear.

The new online portal is in place and supports more timely and consistent assessment requests and annual review submissions and there is an ongoing programme of support to embed its use.

In Spring 2018 performance in delivery of EHCPs against target 20 weeks increased to above regional and national average. Improvements against statutory timescales are seen monthly however this is not yet consistent and competing priorities are likely to reverse this trend towards the end of this financial year. Improving performance and assuring the quality of EHCP's remains a priority area of work.

There is scope for further improvement in completing annual reviews and SEND support reviews within target timescales, with full 'voice' of all involved in young person's provision (including child themselves and family) and in ensuring assessments into adulthood are consistently timely across the county.

### **Smooth and effective transitions happen at key points for the child and young person**

The number of Electively home educated children remains comparatively high and the system for monitoring children moving out of education has been strengthened and where parents wish to return their children to a school this is supported through the admissions process for those at SEN support or via the SEND statutory team for those with EHCP's.

Insufficiency of places and full special schools has led to high number of pupils being placed out of area. This remains a significant challenge with 272 young people placed in INM provisions however a significant investment of £34m of Local Authority Capital Investment Programme is ongoing and detailed in section 4.

Exclusion rates continue to be high and we are working with schools, PRU's and the specialist sector and aligning multi- agency partners within a single joint project.

We are continuing implementation of new High Needs Funding and develop a High Needs deficit recovery plan with School partners with a strong focus on increasing placements in local provision and supporting inclusion.

### **Creative partnership working delivers effective, fair and transparent**

## **systems and services**

The Joint Commissioning Strategy is now in place with clear strategic links to H&WB, C&YP and SEND outcomes; partnership working continues to strengthen

### **4. Capital programme**

#### **4.1. Investment in specialist provision**

The LA have agreed to invest £34m in building additional capacity within Somerset for high needs children and young people. The planned investment will create up to 247 additional specialist places over 4 years, 50 are already in use from September 2018.

- £800k on a new and extended primary-phase ASD Resource Base at Westover Green, Bridgwater. 8 new places (now in use)
- £900k on a new secondary-phase ASD Resource Base at Bridgwater College Academy- 20 new places (now in use but not all commissioned)
- Bridgwater £620k on a new and extended secondary-phase ASD Resource Base at Heathfield, Taunton- 10 new places (now in use but not all commissioned)
- £900k on a new primary-phase ASD Resource Base at Holway Park, Taunton- 14 places – 6 in Sept 2018.
- £180k on extending an existing primary-phase ASD Resource Base at Oaklands, Yeovil- 6 places
- £400k on extending an existing secondary-phase ASD Resource Base at Preston, Yeovil- 9 places
- £9m on expanding an existing all-through special school at Selworthy, Taunton- 80 places from September 2019
- £18.5m on replacing and expanding existing special school buildings at Elmwood (secondary) and Penrose (primary), Bridgwater, with a new all-through school building- 60 places (Sept 2020). Approved at Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- £4m on expanding an existing SEMH special school at Sky College, Taunton (40 Places Date not known- feasibility to be programmed)

In addition to these confirmed investments, we're also carrying out:

- A feasibility study to expand an existing special school at Fiveways, Yeovil and a feasibility study to expand an existing special school at Fairmead, Yeovil, which have subsequently been given approval to progress
- We applied to the DfE for free special school for SEMH and SLCN<sup>5</sup> in South Somerset 120 places. As with all Free schools if approved the place funding for the agreed opening cohort is funded direct by the EFSA for 2 years from opening. This has now been approved by the Secretary of State on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

- 4.2.** The special provision fund allocations announced on 4 March 2017 support local authorities (LAs) to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities Local authorities can invest in new

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<sup>5</sup> Social emotional and mental health, speech, language and communication needs

places and improvements to facilities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision and approvals were supported in line with the outcomes in the SEND strategy. In order to draw upon this allocation Local Authorities are expected to make decisions in consultation with local stakeholders and to publish the outcome of this on the Local Offer.

The Department for Education is providing £365 million of special provision fund allocations for the financial years 2018-19 to 2020-21. In May 2018 and December 2018 the DfE increased the total fund as part of their announcements to support children with SEND, increasing Somerset's allocation from £1.716m to £2.913m.

Allocations for 2018-19 to 2020-21

Somerset's allocation is outlined below:

2018/19	£572,132
2019/20	£1,170,873
2020/21	£1,170,873
Total allocation	£2,913,878

In 2017/18 consultation with stakeholders was based on identifying preferred options and approval for projects supporting reasonable adjustments in mainstream schools across Somerset to meet the needs for pupils with physical impairments / disabilities or complex medical needs and works which upgrade the facilities of maintained special schools across Somerset to enable them to meet the therapeutic and sensory needs of children with complex, physical, medical and sensory conditions were progressed.

For 2019-20, the LA is proposing to broaden the range of projects which can be funded by the Special Provision Fund in line with assessed local need, current pressures and in line with the SEND strategy and which support new emerging priorities. On that basis, the nature of the consultation has broadened to seek support to fund a range of projects which fit the descriptions below:

- Reasonable adjustments in mainstream schools across Somerset to meet the needs for pupils with physical impairments / disabilities or complex medical needs.
- Works which upgrade the facilities of maintained special schools across Somerset to enable them to meet the therapeutic and sensory needs of children with complex, physical, medical and sensory conditions.
- Reasonable adjustments in FE Colleges across Somerset to meet the needs for pupils with physical impairments / disabilities or complex medical needs.
- Works which provide nurturing environments in maintained mainstream schools across Somerset to enable them to meet the needs of children with challenging behaviour.

Recent "Local Offer Live" roadshows with parents/ carers have provided an opportunity to undertake consultation on specialist capital allocations from central Government.

Feedback from the consultation exercise will be used to inform a recommendation that will be taken through a formal Cabinet Member decision-making process in April 2019 and will be reported to Schools Forum through the High Needs subgroup, through the Local Area Improvement Network through to the SEND intervention Board and through Childrens Scrutiny as required.

## **5. Implications and risks**

- 5.1.** Pressures within the system reflect National reporting however Somerset continue to see a sharper impact due to the requirement to convert from the previous funding system. This is currently creating significant stresses across all statutory teams. Improvements against statutory timescales are seen monthly however this is not yet consistent and competing priorities are likely to reverse this trend towards the end of this financial year.

Whilst capital investment is significant the pressure on places is dependant upon all build programmes delivering places on schedule, delays have implications for further placements to be required in the Independent School sector.

High levels of Exclusions and the need for day 6 provision impact on the availability of preventative outreach support, required across all keystages but most sharply needed at primary phase.

## **6. Background papers**

- 6.1.** School Forum Papers 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Item 9: Arrangements for children and young people with Special Educational Needs

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

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