



# **Family Safeguarding:**

## **January 2020**

Rowina Clift-Shanley – Strategic Children’s Commissioner  
Claire Winter – Deputy Director, Children’s Services

# Improving Lives – SCC Vision

- Our overriding aim, as captured in our County Vision, is to improve lives.
- We need to change if we are to continue achieving our aim within the financial realities of modern local government.
- Through hard work and tough decisions, we have a degree of financial stability for the short-term. We need to build on that and plan ahead, so we can become the confident, ambitious and improving organisation that we wish to be.
- We must focus on a new approach that enables us to improve lives earlier, faster and in a way that's more joined up with our partners.
- We need to create a sustainable organisation, a culture that encourages innovation and values staff.





# What does SCC want to do?

- Prevent rather than react.
- Manage demand by working alongside our communities to make best use of all Somerset's available assets, providing the best possible outcomes and enabling our communities to be strong and resilient.
- Plan ahead, so we manage potential demand and have the right services where and when we need them, making the best use of every Somerset pound.

# What is Family Safeguarding?

Bringing adult workers into integrated teams with children's workers to strengthen the whole family in order that children can remain with birth families and not come into care.

- Delivers improved outcomes for families and reduces the Care Population – both in prevention and return home.
- Delivers support to families when they need it, reducing escalation and long-term trauma.
- Presents an opportunity for a culture shift – innovation, empowerment and staff feeling more valued.
- Allows us to evidence impact on wider system. Reduced demand on emergency services (NHS & the Police), prevention savings to Adult Services (Mental Health & Drug services).
- Recognised Practice Model for effective family intervention – assurance that our ambition is well placed.
- Addresses Ofsted's criticisms of 'less than good' multi-agency working between services for vulnerable families - improving lives faster.





# Hidden Harm

In 2015 Public Health Somerset published a 'Hidden Harm' needs assessment

(<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/hidden-harm.html>), this highlights the issue of mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse in households with children across Somerset, identifying areas of overlap between the three factors.





*'Improving the conditions for vulnerable children across Somerset is best achieved by improving the life chances of the most vulnerable fastest.'* (2016/16 Somerset JSNA – Children and Young People)

<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/cyp/>



# What is the demand?

January 2015 - 'Hidden Harm' needs assessment, there were 465 children in Somerset with a Child Protection plan in place, 18% had all three hidden harm factors.

August 2019 - of 3735 Children in need of Protection or support in Somerset 14% (528 cases) had all three hidden harm factors.

Social work assessments identified that 70% (2,600) of these children had at least one 'hidden harm' parental factor identified.

- 41% - domestic abuse (1530 children)
- 40% - adult mental health (1500 children)
- 21% - adult drug misuse (784 children)
- 18% - adult alcohol misuse (672 children)

# Model for area teams:

## As Is

Assessment Team 1

Assessment Team 2

Safeguarding 1

Safeguarding 2

Safeguarding 3

CLA Team 1

CLA Team 2

## To Be

Assessment 1 (including Adult Practitioners)

Family Safeguarding 1 (including Adult Practitioners)

Assessment 2 (including Adult Practitioners)

Family Safeguarding 2 (including Adult Practitioners)

Wider Safeguarding

CLA Team Permanence outside of family

CLA Team Re-unification

**2 x Psychologists**

**Half of the County Each**

**Reflective Supervision**

**Integrated teams enhanced by Adults Practitioners:**

**2 x Domestic Abuse Worker Victims**  
**2 x Domestic Abuse Perpetrators**  
**2 x Substance Misuse Worker**  
**2 x Adult Mental Health Worker**





# Implementation timescales

Year 1 - 20/21 –South Somerset and Bridgwater offices

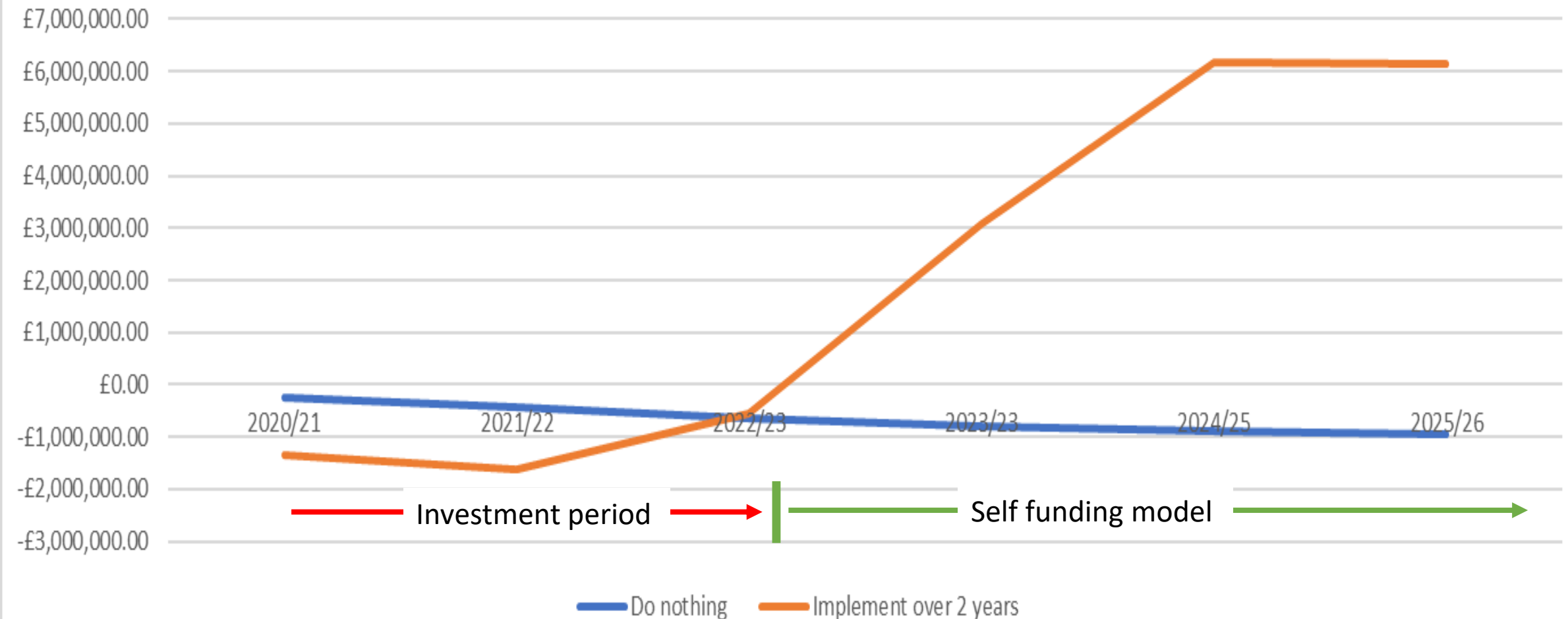
Year 2 – extend implementation county wide to include Mendip and West Somerset and Taunton

# A financially sustainable model:

£3.5m investment required over 3 years ( from social care grant monies) to deliver savings over future years



Financial impact (Cost benefit analysis)



# Service User Outcomes

Children experience less trauma

More children remain with their birth family

Reduction in parents with:

- Alcohol dependency
- Drug dependency
- Unmanaged mental health issues
- Domestically abusive relationships

Fewer children need to be in the care of the Local Authority



# Workforce Outcomes

Local skills development in order to resource roles that there are currently a shortage of locally.

More working together across professional disciplines; greater job satisfaction

Reduced vacancies in social work posts (currently 18)

Reduced dependence on locums as Somerset becomes a more attractive LA to work for with its change in culture and practice



# SCC Outcomes

Reduction in spend on placements for Children Looked After

Reduced re-referral rates as we get the right work completed first time

Improved relationship with families and communities, increased trust.

No or minimal increase in Child Protection Plans

Resilience in Commissioning across SCC as specialisms are shared, a common understanding is achieved and a reduction in potential for single points of failure.



# Somerset System Outcomes

Reduction in Accident and Emergency Attendance for families that are worked with

Reduction in Anti-social behaviour for families that are worked with

Reduced Police Call Outs for Domestic Incidents

Resilience in Commissioning across the system as specialisms are shared.

Improved health outcomes and reduction of escalating demand

As families stabilise there is the potential for families to increase their income





# Conditions for Success:

Partnership continue to buy-in to the approach and support alignment

Unified commitment from SCC's Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet

Stable leadership supporting the model – system, operational, commissioning

Childrens Services at 'Requires Improvement'



# Key Risks

- Family Safeguarding needs organisational commitment to the vision and transformation which is matched with investment and commitment of resources.
- Family Safeguarding implementation timescales needs to be considered alongside likely future Ofsted inspection timelines, to avoid a situation whereby services are inspected at a time of significant change
- The Information Governance Board, established under the Health and Wellbeing Board must be able to deliver capability for Transform information sharing as this is paramount to understanding and articulating the whole system impact.