

‘Our Plan’ – the Somerset plan for children, young people and families 2019 – 2022

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<p>Summary:</p>	<p>In April 2019 the Somerset Children’s Trust (SCT) approved and launched ‘Our Plan- Somerset’s plan for children, young people and their families 2019 -2022’ (the ‘Plan’).</p> <p>The plan was co-produced by partnership staff working with the children, young people and families they support; through a series of engagement events and worker’s session plans.</p> <p>The plan includes the priorities for Somerset, identified by children and young people, to support them to be happy, healthy and well prepared for adulthood. It also presents the challenges to achieving this ambition and states the areas of concern from the previous 2016- 2019 plan that require a continued focus.</p> <p>The plan provides clear direction for the new Somerset Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (SSCP) (the ‘Partnership’) and enables better working together on shared priorities in order to make the necessary changes to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Somerset.</p> <p>Appendix A – Video: the making of Our Plan . Appendix B - ‘Our Plan – the Somerset plan for children, young people and families 2019 – 2022’</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board endorses :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ‘Our Plan’ which seeks to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families 2. ‘Our Plan’ which underpins the work of the newly formed Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) 3. The plan which aligns with and informs Programme 3 of the Improving Lives strategy- ‘Fairer life chances and opportunity for all’

	<p>4. That members advocate for and share ‘Our Plan’ with their networks.</p>								
<p>Reasons for recommendations:</p>	<p>The plan supports ‘Improving Lives’ – the Somerset Health and Wellbeing strategy. Key priorities for Somerset are strengthening families and communities, the importance of partnership working, providing the tools for families to help themselves and intervening early when we need to.</p> <p>The focal point of the plan is to realise the vision of all partners for our children and young people to be happy, healthy and preparing for adulthood. It builds on improvements already underway and identifies our next steps. In this plan we have used the learning of the previous plan - 2016 to 2019 - which we believe has already made, and can continue to make, a real difference in the lives of children and young people.</p>								
<p>Links to The Improving Lives Strategy</p>	<p>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 931 1466 1406"> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 931 1289 1059"> <p>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 931 1466 1059"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1059 1289 1187"> <p>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1059 1466 1187"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1187 1289 1279"> <p>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1187 1466 1279" style="text-align: center;"> <p>✓</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1279 1289 1406"> <p>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1279 1466 1406"></td> </tr> </table> <p>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.</p>	<p>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</p>		<p>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</p>		<p>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</p>	
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<p>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</p>									
<p>Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:</p>	<p>‘Our Plan’ has been prepared in a context of rising need in the population and reducing funding for public services. The four priorities outlined in the plan are intended to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of SCC and its partners, taking into account anticipated spending arrangements over the next three years.</p> <p>The Council’s commitment to provide good or better services to</p>								

	<p>improve outcomes for all children is reflected by the rebasing of the Children’s Services Budget in 2019/2020 based on need and the effectiveness of services.</p> <p>The children’s partnership arrangements are underpinned by the “duty to cooperate” (Section 10, Children Act 2004). The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in the authority’s area so far as relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Physical and mental health emotional wellbeing b) Protection from harm and neglect c) Education, training and recreation d) The contribution made by them to society; and e) Social and economic wellbeing <p>The safeguarding aspects of the partnership are further strengthened by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and arrangement currently being consulted on to hold its individual members to account for delivering their agreed contributions to the shared plan. The partners have agreed to review progress against the plan on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>There are no specific workforce issues arising from this report</p>
<p>Equalities Implications:</p>	<p>SSCP 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.</p>
<p>Risk Assessment:</p>	<p>The principal risk lies in the failure to secure improvement across the partnership. This would impact on the delivery the Council’s ambitions in relation to improved outcomes for children and young people in Somerset and could result in poor inspection results from regulatory bodies.</p>

1. Background

- 1.1. This is a three-year Plan for all children, young people and their families living in Somerset. ‘Our Plan’ has been developed with children and young people and the Somerset partnership.
- 1.2. The plan 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.

1.3. Our engagement events told us that we should focus on seven challenge areas, as follows:

- Keeping our children and young people safe
- Neglect
- Child Exploitation
- Improving education outcomes for all children
- Lack of higher education
- Rural poverty
- Workforce Issues.

1.4. The progress of the plan development was directed by the SCT Executive group, and quarterly oversight by the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee.

1.5. The SCT merged with the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) in October 2019 to become the SSCP. The progress of the plan is reported by exception to the Executive Group of the partnership and is governed by the SSCP's Business Partnership Group.

1.6. The four priorities of 'Our Plan' have been merged with the four safeguarding priorities of the SSCP. A new scorecard has been designed to capture the RAG rating of all 8 priorities' actions and their direction of progress, on one page. This will complement and inform the quarterly reporting to the SSCP from the sub-groups who own the actions.

2. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes

2.1. 'Our Plan' aligns with and informs Priority 3 of the Improving Lives strategy- 'Fairer life chances and opportunity for all'

2.2. The children and young people consulted asked that the following priorities shaped the new plan:

- Supported Families
- Healthy Lives
- Great Education
- Positive Activities.

2.3. 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.

3. Consultations undertaken

3.1. This plan has been written by children and young people, for children and young people in Somerset.

3.2. 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.

3.3. We heard about what’s important for good health and wellbeing, 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.

4. Request of the Board and Board members

4.1. 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.

4.2. 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 require endorsement to continue to transform the delivery arrangements for local services and explore opportunities to find efficiencies in the way we deliver services in the best interests of children and their families.

5. Background papers

5.1. Appendix A - Video: the making of ‘Our Plan’ .

5.2. Appendix B - ‘Our Plan’ – the Somerset plan for children, young people and families 2019 – 2022

6. Report Sign-Off

6.1

	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	23/12/19
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Christine Lawrence	19/12/19
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	Click or tap to enter a date.