

The Somerset Children and Young People's Plan 2022-2024

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<p>Summary:</p>	<p>This report is provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board for their understanding of the consultation and production of the new Children and Young People's Plan, effective from 2022, following the cessation of the previous plan 2019 - 2022. It sets out the production and governance of the Plan which will function as an overarching plan for the children's workforce, 2022-2024.</p> <p>In addition, it details consultation with young people and stakeholders, both across the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Structures but also across groups with responsibility to strategies and action plans to support health and wellbeing at a universal and targeted level.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board receives for information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Somerset Children and Young People's Plan which is a partnership plan for the entire children's workforce 2022-2024
<p>Reasons for recommendations:</p>	<p>The previous Somerset Children and Young People's Plan concluded in March 2022 and consultation on the new plan with children, young people and stakeholders has been underway since June 2021.</p> <p>The plan is submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board as the overarching action plan, as designed by children and young people, against which existing strategies and plans will align and report.</p>
<p>Links to The Improving Lives Strategy</p>	<p>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</p>

	A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services	
	Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment	
	Fairer life chances and opportunity for all	X
	Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer	
	The Children & Young Plan aligns to the Improving Lives Strategy – Fairer life chances and opportunity for all through its vision for all children and young people in Somerset to be happy, healthy and preparing for adulthood.	
Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:	As a partnership plan, there are no specific financial, legal or HR implications as the plan brings together the measures of existing strategies and plans against the key priorities identified by children and young people. It is designed to coalesce the shared priorities of aspects of partnership working.	
Equalities Implications:	<p>An equalities impact assessment has not been completed since the new Children and Young People’s Plan is an overarching framework which brings together existing strategies and plans against the priorities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping children and young people safe • Supporting physical and emotional health • Supporting young people to learn and thrive. <p>Strategies and plans against specific areas which sit behind the overarching plan are owned by identified/groups or individuals who are responsible for the equalities implications.</p>	
Risk Assessment:	The risks of fulfilling the Children & Young People’s Plan are aligned to the Children’s Services risk assessment.	

1. Background

- 1.1.** The current plan for Children, Young People and their Families ended in March 2022, and the new plan took effect July 2022. Following the absorption of the Children’s Trust Board into the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) arrangements in September 2019, the SSCP has taken oversight of the existing plan and reported on its priorities

through multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The existing plan, and its successor, are multi-agency plans, owned collectively by the three statutory safeguarding partners – Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Avon and Somerset Constabulary – as well as relevant agencies as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018).

The SSCP decided, through the SSCP Partnership Business Group in June 2021, to consult widely with children and young people on their priorities and to ratify this with the SSCP subgroups. The plan therefore constitutes what children and young people across Somerset have stated are their priorities, and identified existing strategies, plans and actions to align and report against their key areas of focus.

- 1.2. The process for consultation has been through the SSCP subgroups, as shown in the structure chart <https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Structure-Chart-Childrens-safeguarding-Arrangements-in-Somerset-Sept-2021.pdf> as well as other associated groups, such as the SEND Improvement Board. There was an expectation that all chairs and members of the subgroups consulted with their sectors/agencies and feedback via the SSCP Business Unit.

The SSCP recognises the need to ensure safeguarding is at the centre of the next plan, but that it also encompasses a whole system approach that supports children, young people and their families who only access universal services, and not just those who make use of targeted or specialist parts of the system.

2. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes

- 2.1. Our vision is that Somerset children and young people grow up in a child friendly county that supports them to be happy, healthy and prepared for adulthood. Our vision will help keep our children and young people safe and be ambitious - building a county that encourages equality and diversity, protects the environment and is ambitious on climate change for future generations, and increases social mobility that in turn will build a more prosperous county. We aim to improve outcomes for all our children whilst recognising the need for outcomes to improve faster for vulnerable children and young people.

This rights- based plan centres around the rights of children and young people to expect that they will be safe, have good health and be able to learn and thrive. It focuses on eight priorities:

- Early Help
- Safeguarding from birth to adulthood
- All babies have the best start in life
- Better support for social, emotional mental health and wellbeing
- Support for education and inclusion
- Reduce bullying and promote positive communities

- Reduce poverty and homelessness
- Tackle climate and transport

3. Consultations undertaken

3.1. Consultation across the partnership

The plan, in its various stages of development, was considered at the SSCP Partnership Business Group during quarterly meetings in 2021 and 2022. In addition, this timeframe has been followed in consulting with the SSCP Executive Group. It remains the responsibility of subgroup members and members of the associated functions, as set out on the structure chart, to consult with their sectors/agencies. In addition, Board structures which support universal and targeted priorities, such as the Education Strategy Board, have also been approached regarding how the plan fits with existing and emerging strategies.

Some bespoke meetings have been held with key stakeholders, e.g., Commander for Somerset in the Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Assistant Director for Education, to support their understanding of the purpose of the plan and the process for multi-agency involvement in the partnership plan.

The feedback from partners, notably Somerset County Council, focussed on the need to specify accountable bodies and contributory strategies and this is illustrated against each priority in the plan.

Consultation with young people

Young people have been consulted extensively throughout this process through a variety of means, including:

- The national Make Your Mark survey, 2,500 young people in Somerset voted on their priorities – facilitated by Somerset Youth Parliament
- Youth Forum consultation, which was consultation with young people on their priorities, and a subsequent presentation to the children's safeguarding partnership in its widest sense through an online SSCP Forum week in June 2021.

4. Request of the Board and Board members

4.1. The Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership, which takes oversight of the Children and Young People's Plan, is a tri-partite arrangement between the three statutory safeguarding partners: Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary, and encompasses wider partners, defined as 'relevant agencies' in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*.

4.2. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

Endorse the plan for 2022-2024 and support the reporting mechanism as set up by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership, holding the owners of the strategies and plans to account.

5. Background papers

5.1. A copy of the slide set, showing the Children & Young People's Plan, and supporting information can [be found here](#).

6. Report Sign-Off

- 6.1
- Report authors responsible for ensuring they have email confirmation
 - Incomplete reports will not be accepted

	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Julian Wooster	20/07/22
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Cllr Tessa Munt	20/07/22
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	20/07/22