THE SOMERSET CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN

2009 - 2011

PROVIDING FOR LIFE
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*Please note where words are underlined, clicking on these will take the reader to further information. This may be to an explanation held within this document or a web link to wider information.*
Foreword

We are pleased to present our second Children and Young People’s Plan. It is a strategic document that sets out the priorities of Somerset Children’s Trust for improving outcomes for children and young people in Somerset and describes how we will work together to achieve them.

Ofsted recently rated services for children and young people in Somerset as ‘Good’ for the third successive year. Our achievements are celebrated in this plan and these inform our vision for the future.

A key area for development over the next two years will be the development and delivery of a Joint Commissioning Strategy. This will help us to join up our services more effectively with key partners to meet the needs of children, young people and their families in Somerset.

We will continue to work to reduce child poverty and so improve children’s life chances. We will strive to ensure that no child or young person is at a disadvantage because of their family background. This plan has at its heart an ambition to narrow the gap in health, safety and education and to give all children, especially ‘Children Looked After’, the best start in life.

We recognise that children and young people’s experiences and life chances are influenced by services beyond those delivered by the partners in Somerset Children’s Trust. Somerset’s Local Area Agreement sets out our priorities for promoting safer and more prosperous communities and this plan has been developed within this context.

Our Children and Young People’s Plan reflects the aspirations of Somerset Children’s Trust for improving outcomes for children and young people. These priorities are set out in more detail on pages 13-17. We hope that you find this plan both informative and a good account of the work we intend to do.

David Taylor
Corporate Director
Children and Young People’s Services

Jan Hull
Deputy Chief Executive/Director
of Strategic Development –NHS
Somerset
Vice Chair, Somerset Children’s Trust
Summary of the Children and Young People’s Plan

Through our Children and Young People’s Plan we aim to make Somerset the best place to grow up. Our vision brings together many plans (see page 11) and is for all children and young people. Somerset Children’s Trust (see page 20) is responsible for producing and delivering this plan, which is based on national and local priorities. We have had considerable success in improving our services for children and young people, and, by working together, we intend to improve outcomes even further.

We have good information on what life is like for our children and young people and this also guides us in making decisions about how we use our resources. We have many ways of finding out what our children and young people feel about current and future services and these always form part of the decision-making process (see page 9).

You will find the highlights of what we intend to do, the evidence for why we have identified these priorities and the main activities that we will undertake on pages 13-17. There will be more detail of these issues in the many action plans that are produced by agencies and departments, especially the way in which the activities will be monitored, and these details can be found within the Plan’s accompanying Activity Monitoring Document. Where possible we have explained technical terms within the text, but where this makes reading difficult, we have included those terms in the glossary (see page 31).

In writing this plan, we have taken account of other related plans and we have been guided by information from consultations. We formed a multi-agency editorial group who have commented as we have proceeded and most significantly we have received direction, guidance and comments from Somerset Children’s Trust. As government legislation and guidance are changing in the near future, we have been advised to write this plan to cover 2009-2011 and during this period we will prepare for the change in responsibility from Somerset County Council to a ‘partnership’ responsibility for the production of the plan.

Somerset County Council have recently adopted the five Every Child Matters Outcomes (Being Healthy; Staying Safe; Enjoying and Achieving; Making a Positive Contribution; Achieving Economic Wellbeing) as the basis for their plans and so we have used them within this plan. The Government has adopted slightly different groupings in their own Children and Young People’s Plan, Building Brighter Futures (2007).

We have tried to give you a flavour of what it is like to be young in Somerset and have included case studies to illustrate our story. We hope you find it helpful in understanding why we are doing what we are doing to help all our children and young people to be the best that they can be.
Vision Statement

This Vision Statement sets out the overall direction for Children’s Services in Somerset over the period of this plan and beyond. It builds on our previous vision, which formed the basis for the development of more locally-based integrated services.

In April 2008, all eight of our Local Service Teams became operational. This new way of partnership-working provides early support for families and has been achieved through massive effort and co-operation between families, schools and other agencies. We are also pleased at the successful roll-out of Children’s Centres, which are part of the Local Service Team structure. They now operate locally to provide good quality health, education and family support services to children under five and their families.

Underpinning all of our work is a commitment to early intervention and prevention to improve outcomes for all children and young people. More effective prevention and early intervention will be possible through the use of ContactPoint. Authorised Children’s Services staff will have access to ContactPoint to find out who else is working with the same child or young person and will use a Common Assessment Framework, ensuring a common approach to assessing a child’s needs. This will save a lot of time and duplication of work and enable us to be more effective. This process will also strengthen our work to ensure that we have robust safeguarding arrangements in place throughout Children’s Services.

Keeping children safe remains one of our top priorities (see page 14). Somerset Children’s Trust will work closely with the Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board, responsible for co-ordinating work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

We will continue to work together to raise attainment for all Somerset children and young people aged 0-19, whether they are attending schools, colleges or work based learning providers. A key aim of our new way of working is to seek stronger engagement with schools. Area Education Managers were appointed in April 2009 and will have an important role in helping the schools in their area to raise standards. Area Managers for Education, Social Care and Partnerships will be co-located to ensure all are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

From April 2009, social care services for children with disabilities will integrate with other Education and Individual Services. These will be organised into four geographical areas. Each area will be led by an Integrated Services Manager, who will work closely with local health services. The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Disability service will be responsible for:

- specialist social care and SEN services for complex learning, hearing, vision, physical, medical, autism and communication needs;
- residential units.

The Government has recently published Healthy Lives, brighter futures – the strategy for children and young people’s health (2009). Although children are healthier today than they have ever been, particular trends, which include childhood obesity, certain sexually transmitted infections and the amount of alcohol...
consumed by young people, give cause for concern. This matters because good health for children and young people enables them to make the best of their opportunities in education and helps them to develop healthy lifestyles. The strategy is concerned with action to promote health and we will be working with our health partners, and with children and their families, to implement the recommendations of the strategy.

You will see from our priorities that there are many ways in which we will promote prevention (including work on mental health issues - see page 13) through increasing the resilience of children and young people (including Healthy Schools Plus - see page 13). We will also continue to support the ethos of Sustainable Communities by encouraging schools to respond to the recent government initiative ‘Developing Sustainable Communities through Sustainable Schools’ (GOSE, 2008).

The next few years will be challenging ones. Whilst good progress has already been made, there remains the real potential to make positive change in the way we all work together for the benefit of children, young people and their families. In particular, Somerset Children’s Trust (see page 20) will provide a powerful tool for shaping services and jointly focusing on outcomes. It provides the freedom to develop and mould services around the needs of our populations. The Children’s Trust emphasises the importance of joint multi-agency working. This has already begun with very positive examples including the joint NHS/Somerset County Council appointment of the Director of Public Health.

If we are to make the best use of all our resources, we need to find new and innovative ways of delivering our shared objectives. Joint commissioning, as a way of planning and securing services in response to the needs of children and families, will become increasingly common. It is already in place in relation to mental health and substance misuse services, and is being developed in relation to children’s therapy services (i.e. speech and language, physiotherapy and occupational therapy).

The delivery of priorities identified in this plan at a local level is a challenge for a large rural county. This will be a key task for the four Area Planning Groups, whose membership reflects that of Somerset Children’s Trust (see page 20) and which act as a delivery arm of the Children’s Trust on an area level.

In order to deliver this plan and ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people we will aim to ensure that everyone who works with children and young people in Somerset is:

- ambitious for every child and young person;
- excellent in their practice;
- committed to partnership and integrated working;
- respected and valued as professionals.

We have been successful in securing funding for a number of pilot projects to help us to deliver this goal (see page 28).

We will continue to drive this local approach, harnessing the widest range of contributions at the local level through the full engagement of partners. By working together we will anticipate many of the challenges ahead and will be in a position to improve outcomes for all children and young people even further.
Section A: The context for our work with children and young people

**Life in Somerset**

The attractive county of Somerset is well known for its countryside, agriculture, food and tourism. It covers an area of 3,452 square kilometres and has few big towns. More than half of its population of approximately half a million people live in communities numbering less than 3,000. There are few people from black and minority ethnic groups, but the number is increasing.

There are large areas of outstanding natural beauty including Exmoor National Park in West Somerset and other sparsely populated, scenic areas, such as the Quantocks, Brendon, Mendip and Blackdown Hills. This rural aspect provides challenges for young people, their parents and service providers to access work, leisure and services. Just getting to school or college can be difficult and time-consuming – the only secondary school in West Somerset has a catchment area of 1,553 square kilometres.

The economy is dominated by small and medium sized enterprises linked to tourism, rural life and work and a variety of service and e-commerce outlets. Although the aerospace industry has an important base in and around Yeovil there is little other manufacturing industry apart from quarrying in the Mendips. The percentage of young people aged 16-18 not in employment, education or training (NEET) is low.

There are significant areas of both rural and urban deprivation, although these are not as many as in other areas of the country. Somerset is disadvantaged by the way in which government grants are allocated to Local Authorities. Somerset currently ranks 135 out of 149 Local Authorities and this poor funding impacts on the Council’s capacity to deliver some services.

Most of the time there are about 3,250 Somerset children ‘in need’: about 240 with a Child Protection Plan and about 370 Children Looked After.

The national school building programme, Building Schools for the Future, will affect all Somerset secondary schools within 15 years. Somerset County Council decided to focus initial work on Bridgwater, based on levels of deprivation and attainment together with the condition and suitability of existing buildings. All members of the community, especially young people in secondary schools, are involved in planning. The exciting opportunities to develop new school buildings will be a catalyst to transform learning, health and social support for young people. Building will start in 2010 and the first school is expected to be in use in 2011.

**NHS Somerset** commissions health services to meet the needs of the population of Somerset. Somerset Community Health is the provider arm of NHS Somerset and is responsible for a range of community health services. Acute health services for children and young people are provided by hospital trusts based in Taunton, Yeovil and Bath. More specialist services are provided in Bristol. The Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is the main provider of mental health and substance misuse services. The South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust provides ambulance services and manages out-of-hours primary care services. The South West Strategic Health Authority has strategic leadership of the NHS in South West England and is responsible for ensuring that it operates effectively and delivers improved health and healthcare performance in Somerset.
If you want to find more detail and statistics relating to our work, please find this in our Needs Assessment: Performance Update.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who supports our children, young people and their families?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 Local Service Teams</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>33 Children’s Centres</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

270 Schools:
- 223 primary schools;
- 9 middle schools;
- 30 secondary schools – 8 with 6th form provision;
- 8 special schools.

205 schools have achieved National Healthy School Status and 41 are registered with the Healthy School Plus programme (as of December 2008).

9 resource bases for severe and complex speech and language needs:
- 5 resource bases for hearing;
- 2 resource bases for autism;
- 2 resource bases for generic SEN.

13 Pupil Referral Units including a Virtual Classroom and 4 Link Education Centres.

5 post-16 colleges; 3 tertiary colleges, 1 sixth form college, 1 general further education college. 3 have achieved Beacon status and within colleges, 6 vocational areas have achieved Centre of Excellence status.

4 Children’s Local Care Teams.  
6 Residential Children’s Units.  
2 Residential and Respite Disability Units.

**Local Service Teams**
Somerset County Council as a whole is moving towards more local working and we now have eight Local Service Teams responding to the needs of children, young people and their families with professionals working together to be most effective. The teams are managed by a Local Service Manager and include Youth Workers, Connexions Personal Advisors, Youth Inclusion Support, Parent and Family Support Advisors, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Workers, Education Attendance Officers and Children’s Centre Managers. Some Local Service Teams have an Adolescent Support Team offering quick response.
Children’s Centres*
We currently have 33 Children’s Centres across the county. Many Centres have been designed and built using clever construction solutions and working together. Christchurch Centre in Frome has housed the Children’s, Community and Healthy Living Centres all in the same building. Sustainable timber frames and external log constructions have been used in six Children’s Centres to allow the buildings to be completed more quickly. Our partnership with Somerset-based Woodcraft Homes has brought a positive feel and appearance to the buildings, with a welcoming, homely atmosphere, with a structure strong enough to cope with continued use.

*Children’s Centres bring together a range of services, including early education, health services and family support for children under five and their families.

Outstanding Ofsted Inspections – Taunton Centre and Mendip Centre Pupil Referral Units (PRU)
Following an Ofsted* inspection in June 2008, the Taunton Centre PRU received an ‘Outstanding’ report; an extremely rare achievement for a PRU managing young people with challenging behaviour. This has been made possible by a forward-thinking County Council working in partnership with good schools and an exceptionally inclusive college. The Centre was established seven years ago as a unique partnership between Somerset College and the Children and Young People’s Directorate.

Ofsted described the success as “Breathtaking…outstandingly effective in transforming the lives of its students…excellent provision brings about extraordinary academic and personal achievement with students, all of whom have experienced calamitous setbacks in their previous education”. In the autumn term 2007, 15 former Taunton Centre students were in further or higher education.

The Mendip Centre also demonstrated their great achievements by receiving an ‘Outstanding’ judgement after their inspection in October 2008. The Inspector made particular mention of a student’s comment that “At the Centre, we can enjoy learning” and a parent’s remark that “Since beginning at the Mendip Centre all aspects of his life are improving”. “The whole environment of the Centre, including the excellent care and guidance, is conducive to enabling students to work through with staff the many difficult issues they face in their lives.”

* Ofsted – Office for Standards in Education

Virtual Classroom
In September 2007, Somerset County Council's Virtual Classroom introduced ‘Day Six Provision’, a statutory duty where the Local Authority has to provide full time education within six days for every child excluded from school. Somerset is proud of the innovative way statutory obligations have been met by providing online learning through the internet, offering a full-time package of education focusing on re-engaging learners. At one point 116 pupils were receiving either all or part of their education in this way. Over half of these students were receiving the Day Six Provision, and attendance has shown a marked improvement. Most importantly the pupils themselves say they enjoy the experience.
## Sedgemoor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of children (2001 census)</td>
<td>23,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage attaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C, including English and Maths</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children on a Child Protection Plan (Dec 08)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Looked After (Dec 08)</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 overweight or obese (Summer 08)</td>
<td>27.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with dependent children (2001 census)</td>
<td>12,449 (58.43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children dependent on workless benefits (Apr 07)</td>
<td>1,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Healthy Schools Status (Dec 08)</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Teenage pregnancies per 1,000 female population aged 15-17</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Mendip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of children (2001 census)</td>
<td>24,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage attaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C, including English and Maths</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children on a Child Protection Plan (Dec 08)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Looked After (Dec 08)</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 overweight or obese (Summer 08)</td>
<td>29.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with dependent children (2001 census)</td>
<td>12,461 (50.90%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children dependent on workless benefits (Apr 07)</td>
<td>808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Healthy Schools Status (Dec 08)</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Teenage pregnancies per 1,000 female population aged 15-17</td>
<td>26.7</td>
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</table>

## Taunton and West Somerset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of children (2001 census)</td>
<td>28,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage attaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C, including English and Maths</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children on a Child Protection Plan (Dec 08)</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Looked After (Dec 08)</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 overweight or obese (Summer 08)</td>
<td>29.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with dependent children (2001 census)</td>
<td>15,299 (53.03%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children dependent on workless benefits (Apr 07)</td>
<td>1,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Healthy Schools Status (Dec 08)</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Teenage pregnancies per 1,000 female population aged 15-17</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## South Somerset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of children (2001 census)</td>
<td>33,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage attaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C, including English and Maths</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children on a Child Protection Plan (Dec 08)</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Looked After (Dec 08)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 overweight or obese (Summer 08)</td>
<td>27.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with dependent children (2001 census)</td>
<td>17,282 (51.95%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children dependent on workless benefits (Apr 07)</td>
<td>1,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Healthy Schools Status (Dec 08)</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Teenage pregnancies per 1,000 female population aged 15-17</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How children and young people influence services
The 2008 Annual Performance Assessment of Somerset by Ofsted reported that ‘there are effective opportunities for children and young people to express their views and to influence the development of services’.

Since the establishment of the Children and Young People’s Directorate to enhance interdepartmental partnerships within Somerset County Council, a multi-agency Participation Steering Group has been in place to ensure that participation, involvement and engagement is at the heart of service delivery. Somerset County Council is formally signed up to United Nations Article 12 of the Rights of the Child, which refers to children’s rights to express their own opinions and to have them taken into account in any matter affecting them. They also adopted the National Youth Agency ‘Hear by Rights’ standards, which apply to 13-19 year olds. Within the wider context of services for the 0-19 year olds, this policy was reaffirmed in 2005. A review of the ‘Hear by Rights’ standards was undertaken by young people in 2009 and Somerset County Council was assessed as being ‘good’. Work was then undertaken with the voluntary sector to establish their participation criteria and a number of standards were amalgamated and captured in the Values and Purpose statement, adopted by Somerset Children and Young People’s Partnership (now Somerset Children’s Trust) in 2006.

A Participation Standards chart, approved by the Participation Steering Group in 2008, is at the centre of the Somerset Participation Strategy for the next three years. This is to align levels of awareness, commitment, implementation and prioritisation of participation across the organisations and services of Somerset Children’s Trust.

Children and young people are encouraged to participate in a number of ways. A selection is shown below, with more detailed examples described within the case studies shown overleaf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services that encourage participation of the children, young people and parents that use them…</th>
<th>Information on opportunities is available through…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Children’s Centres;</td>
<td>• Positive activities for 13-19 year olds:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extended School Programmes;</td>
<td>○ AWSOM search engine;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Healthy Schools Programme;</td>
<td>○ ‘MovingonMovingup’ website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Schools Councils;</td>
<td>• Somerset Direct and the Service Directory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Playbuilder;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Play and Participation Service;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Care Council for Children Looked After.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The running of Somerset County Council…</th>
<th>Opportunities to get involved in politics…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Selection and recruitment of staff for key posts within the Directorate;</td>
<td>• Somerset UK Youth Parliament;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ‘Local Democracy Week’ takes elected members into schools to discuss local issues with young people;</td>
<td>• Children’s Parliament 9-11 year olds;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Young assessors presented the findings of the 2009 ‘Hear by Rights’ review to the Leader of Somerset County Council and an action plan has been produced to implement their recommendations.</td>
<td>• Youth Councils aligned to local parishes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Young People’s Consultation Group meets monthly with Children and Young People’s Directorate Management Team;</td>
<td>• Pupil Parliament in West Somerset;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ‘Committee Member Improvement Programme’ includes County Councillors meeting annually with young people.</td>
<td>• Student Forum 16-18 year olds;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Assembly of European Regions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Links and consultations with Members of European Parliament, Members of Parliament and Councillors at all levels of local government.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participation Priorities for 2009-2011
During the next two years we aim to build on existing work by maintaining and promoting the engagement of children and young people and, through their involvement, enhance access to provision for play through the Playbuilder and Play Rangers programme, positive activities through the AWSOM website and local area promotions. We will also develop provision through the MYplace programmes (in 2009 Minehead Eye and Bridgwater).

We plan to involve children and young people more in the allocation of budgets and will invite young people representatives to join the Board of the Somerset Children’s Trust (see page 20).

We will continue to support and respond to national consultations, e.g. Tellus surveys and local surveys and consultations. The annual Children’s Parliament, Somerset UK Youth Parliament, Student Forum and other issue-based conferences will be supported and the information from these, alongside the continued active participation of children and young people, will inform and develop our service planning.

The Care Council
For Children Looked After we are establishing a Care Council which will include children and young people in care alongside those receiving and leaving care support. This will allow direct feedback to service development about care experiences and the views of children and young people. There is a dedicated website www.lookedafter-somerset.org.uk. There are also groups of care leavers who meet regularly and parts of these meetings include discussions about how the service could be improved.

Somerset UK Youth Parliament
The Somerset UK Youth Parliament is very active and publishes its own manifesto annually. Voting for UK Youth Parliament in Somerset is conducted electronically. In 2008, over 20% of the 11-17 electorate voted for their three Members of the UK Youth Parliament (MYP) and three deputies. The MYPs are supported by an action group of up to 60 young people. They meet monthly and organise countywide forums on issues of their choice.

Children’s Parliament
For the last ten years, there has been a Children’s Parliament, a prestigious event held in the council chamber of Shire Hall. Children from Years 5 and 6 of primary and middle schools are invited to put their case on topical issues. They are judged on their performance by a team of professionals and their peers. The issues raised at this competition are fed back into governance channels within Somerset County Council, having a direct impact on influencing decision makers. For example, the Children’s Parliament has informed the Anti-bullying Strategy, and contributes to the voice of young people in the recruitment and selection pack. A Pupil Parliament is also well established in West Somerset, where school children listen to professionals involved in local government, then debate the issues allowing their views to be heard by decision makers. A typical example was discussion on the Community Strategy produced by West Somerset Strategic Partnership.

Student Forum
The Student Forum for 16-18 year olds meets annually to ensure the views of students at college and in training contribute to strategic planning and policy. The main focus is on issues pertinent to themselves, including transport, mentoring, economic wellbeing and the environment.
Links between Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan and other plans

Overarching plans
- Somerset Strategic Partnerships’ Sustainable Community Strategy
- Local Strategic Partnerships’ Community Strategies
- Somerset Local Area Agreement

Child-focused strategic plans
- Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan

Multi-agency plans for CYP
- Somerset CAMHS Strategy
- Somerset Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
- Somerset Transforming Learning 14-19
- Somerset Youth Justice Plan
- Youth Crime Action Plan

Single-agency plans for CYP
- SCC Children and Young People’s Directorate Service Plans
- SCC Building Schools for the Future Outline Business Case and Strategy for Change Part 2
- SCC Behaviour and Attendance Strategy
- SCC CYP Workforce Action Plan
- Dorset and Somerset Learning and Skills Council Annual Plan
- Voluntary and Community Services Plans
- Connexions Somerset Strategic Plan
- School Improvement Plans
- District Councils Play Strategies

Multi-agency plans (all ages)
- Somerset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy
- Tackling Alcohol Misuse in Somerset, Strategy and Action Plan
- Somerset Cultural Strategy

Single agency plans (all ages)
- SCC Annual Plan and Corporate Equality Scheme and Action Plan
- NHS Somerset Strategic Framework
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority Corporate Plan
- Avon and Somerset Probation Service Business Plan
- Avon and Somerset Police Policing Plan
- District Councils Housing Strategies

How key partner plans relating to children and young people link with this plan

The priorities in this plan are consistent with those identified in the strategic plans of partner organisations which have distinct themes running through them, linking back to the overarching goals.

Key: CAMHS = Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, CDRP = Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership, CYP = Children and Young People, DCSF = Department for Children, Schools and Families, LSC = Learning and Skills Council, NHS = National Health Service, SCC = Somerset County Council.
Section B: Every Child Matters – Our Priorities

Introduction
Our work is focused on the five outcomes of Every Child Matters. These outcomes form the aims for our work. Within each of these aims we have a number of priorities. These priorities are what we will focus on in order to achieve the aim. The activities are the actions we will take in 2009–2011.

It is very important for us to know how our actions are developing and what impact they are having on children and young people in Somerset. All the details of what we do are contained in the many strategies, plans and action documents that we and our partners produce. The relationship between these plans has been set out on page 11.

In the following pages we hope to show you the most important priorities and activities we will undertake in the next two years, acknowledging that these represent only a small proportion of all the work that we will do. Although some activities have been assigned or linked to a particular priority, we recognise that inevitably there are overlaps and there may well be contributions to more than one priority or Every Child Matters outcome. Some of the most prominent cross-cutting threads of work include:

- Work with children and young people who have special needs or disabilities;
- Building Schools for the Future;
- National Healthy School Status;
- The development of the children and young people’s workforce;
- Work with parents, including the Parenting Strategy;
- Narrowing the gap.

We have used words that appear in national and regional government documents to avoid confusion. We have linked supporting evidence from our Needs Assessment and other sources to explain why we think these are our priorities. Where possible we have used actions that we can measure, but sometimes it is difficult to include all that detail here, so then we have said what difference we are making to young people’s lives.

For full details around the activities we will undertake over the next two years, please refer to the Plan’s Activity Monitoring document.

If you want any further details of our work please contact Somerset Direct on 0845 345 9166.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority A1 Improve the mental and emotional health and wellbeing of young people through early intervention</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence:</strong> National data suggests there are likely to be a significant number of young people in Somerset who might benefit from specialist CAMHS intervention but who are not receiving intervention. In 2007, a comprehensive needs assessment of CAMHS at Tiers 3 and 4 was produced. It estimated that 11,347 children and young people in Somerset would benefit from specialist CAMHS at Tiers 3 and 4 using national estimates. The latest CAMHS mapping indicates 1,387 were receiving a specialist service at Tiers 3 and 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• By December 2009, develop a Somerset Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including recommissioning CAMHS, making the service more accessible and reducing the number of failed appointments;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• By September 2009, produce guidance to assist frontline staff in developing their knowledge and understanding of children and young people’s mental health;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• By March 2010, have in place a single referral/triage/assessment system incorporated within an overall CAMHS pathway;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• By May 2009, consider ways to maintain and strengthen capacity across CAMHS Tier 2 provision.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Priority A2 Reduce teenage conception rates and the incidence of sexually acquired infections in young people</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence:</strong> The national target is to reduce teenage conception rates by 50% by 2010. However, Somerset’s 2006 rate showed a reduction of only 15%. Teenage deliveries are on the increase and under 18 conceptions are 4.7 times higher in the most deprived areas of the county, with St Benedict’s ward in Glastonbury and Taunton’s Halcon and Lyngford wards having the highest rates. Sexually transmitted infections are on the rise across the South West region, in line with the rest of the UK, with particular concern for chlamydia amongst young people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase the number of school-based health clinics to 18 by March 2010 with all secondary schools having an on-site clinic by March 2011;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improve the collection and sharing of teenage pregnancy data;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promote Long Acting Reversible Contraception;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure a co-ordinated approach to curriculum, policy and sexual health services by linking in with the work of Healthy Schools Plus;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Train 70 teenage parents to be peer educators by 2011 and deliver this programme to 16 schools;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase the rates of young people being screened for chlamydia.</td>
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<th>Priority A3 Reduce health inequalities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence:</strong> As of December 2008, 205 schools had achieved National Healthy Schools Status and 41 were registered in NHS South West Healthy Schools Plus. Results from the National Child Measuring Programme undertaken in 2007/08 Academic Year (AY) show that 14% of Somerset’s reception-age children are overweight and 8% are obese, and 13.7% of Somerset’s Year 6 children are overweight and 15.2% are obese. During 2007/08, 91% of 5-6 year olds were participating in 2+ hours of sport per week according to the School Sport Survey. Problematic use of alcohol and cannabis make up the majority of referrals to the young people’s drug service, On The Level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increase the number of schools with National Healthy Schools Status especially where there is greatest health inequality and engage schools in Healthy Schools Plus;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduce the year-on-year rise in obesity by engaging schools in the Healthy Schools Plus programme, prioritising schools where there are higher rates of obesity and ensuring that all registered primary schools adopt strategies to promote healthy weight;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Maximise the uptake of free school meals for those eligible children;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure that a substance misuse service is provided at a targeted level;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop more integrated and responsive services for disabled children, young people and their families.</td>
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### Aim: Staying Safe

**Priority B1** Improve safeguarding by strengthening arrangements for the effective protection of children and young people and reduce the number of accidents or injuries suffered by children and young people at home or on the roads

**Evidence:** The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in Somerset is below the national average as other preventative methods are favoured where appropriate. Bridgwater and Yeovil have the highest number of children with a Child Protection Plan. The Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board has been effective in addressing inter-agency and inter-professional working arrangements that have emerged from the Serious Case Reviews in Somerset. There are some areas of the county with significantly higher rates of emergency hospital admissions of children, or of domestic fire incidents. The number of serious injuries or deaths of children aged 0-15 in road traffic accidents in Somerset increased from 20 to 28 in 2007.

**Activities:**
- Ensure child protection procedures, statutory duties and thresholds/standards are understood and followed by all relevant agencies;
- Develop practitioners’ ability to manage complex cases;
- Roll out the Common Assessment Framework;
- Reduce accidents/injuries in the home and on the roads and work with schools to educate children and young people about risks through developing a Child Accident Prevention Strategy and joined-up work of the emergency services and road safety;
- Implement ContactPoint to enable more effective prevention and early intervention support through frontline services;
- Revise protocols and procedures in relation to children missing from home or care.

**Priority B2** Improve placement stability for those Children Looked After, whilst developing the effective early interventions and preventative strategies for those children on the cusp of care

**Evidence:** In 2007/08 14.9% of Children Looked After had 3 or more placements during the year (compared to a national average of 11%) and 59.6% of Children Looked After aged under 16 had been continuously looked after in the same placement for two years or more (compared to a national average of 66.5%).

**Activities:**
- Implement the Foster Carer Strategy to provide increased placement choice and availability;
- Reconfigure residential in-house provision to create smaller, more specialised units;
- Develop the range of interventions to improve placement stability;
- Reduce the number of children who come into care through multi-agency interventions.

**Priority B3** Reduce incidents of bullying (including racist, homophobic and cyber bullying) and discrimination in schools, colleges and local communities

**Evidence:** The Tellus Survey 2008 revealed that 53.6% of children questioned had experienced bullying, compared to a national average of 48.0%. Approximately 100 racist incidents are reported to the LA by schools each year and there is evidence from parents and young people of additional unreported incidents.

**Activities:**
- Implement a multi-agency Anti-bullying Strategy for Somerset, identifying hotspots and working closely with schools and local communities to reduce bullying;
- Work with other agencies to effectively monitor incidents, identify key issues and implement appropriate strategies;
- Continue to provide support for the production and implementation of Disability Equality Schemes in all Somerset schools.
### Priority C1 Increase levels of attainment and the rate of progress of all children and young people to improve outcomes at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, as well as reducing the gap in attainment between vulnerable groups (including those looked after, travellers and other under-achieving minority ethnic groups) and their peers

**Evidence:** In line with national trends, girls consistently perform better than boys across all key subjects. Also in line with national trends, some minority ethnic groups achieve below the average for all Somerset pupils. The importance of narrowing the gap between disadvantage and attainment has been nationally recognised as a key area for focus. Children from deprived backgrounds are three times less likely to achieve good outcomes at age 16. Although the educational achievement of Children Looked After in Somerset compares favourably with other authorities and has improved, Children Looked After do not achieve as well as other children and there is room for further development.

**Activities:**
- Improve levels of attainment of our children and young people by restructuring the Education Development Service and ensuring School Improvement Partners and Advanced Skills teachers are used most effectively; and implement the secondary raising achievement plan alongside Somerset Association of Secondary Heads.
- Develop Somerset’s Virtual School through the creation of an integrated team;
- Support children and young people with learning needs;
- Maintain and extend support for schools to meet the needs of children and young people learning English as an additional language;
- In partnership with the representative head teacher organisations, develop and implement a Leadership Development/Succession Planning Strategy.

### Priority C2 Improve the behaviour and attendance of children and young people

**Evidence:** To improve the management of poor behaviour, particularly in secondary schools, the Local Authority should ensure that its behaviour support services provide an appropriate balance of peripatetic and withdrawal support and that there are effective management arrangements, including robust performance monitoring. Secondary schools persistent absence has improved from 5.8% to 5.5% for AY 2007/08 and there is a need to raise awareness amongst primary schools as 24% of primary schools have persistent absence rates higher than the national average of 2.4%. Somerset’s overall average is 1.8%. Overall permanent exclusions have reduced from 121 to 112 for AY 2007/08, with secondary school permanent exclusions continuing to be comparatively high.

**Activities:**
- Increase the number of pupil referral unit places;
- Extend restorative justice to all secondary schools and interested primary schools;
- Improve support for schools in managing poor behaviour and reduce the number of permanent and fixed-term exclusions;
- Extend the SEAL project across all key stages by 2011;
- Support settings to establish positive intervention for those children who have challenging behaviour;
- Improve pupil attendance by ensuring Somerset County Council has effective strategies in place;
- Set up a countywide framework agreement to have alternatives to exclusion of Year 10-11.

### Priority C3 Develop integrated and sustainable educational and recreational provision

**Evidence:** Somerset County Council is faced with significant challenges regarding the planning of school provision, particularly with falling rolls and the consequent need to remove surplus places, and with the Government's ambitious plans to revitalise all secondary schools by 2020, as set out in 'Building Schools for the Future', which is a national programme to rebuild 50% of the secondary school estate, to remodel 35% and to refurbish the remaining 15%, over a 15 year programme. The first phase of this investment will not only see all four secondary and two special schools in Bridgwater rebuilt but will provide a wide range of sustainable facilities for use by the wider community.

**Activities:**
- Reduce the proportion of surplus school places through the federation, amalgamation or closure of schools not sufficiently supported by their local community;
- Develop, agree and begin to deliver the Primary Capital Programme;
- Deliver the next phase of the Building Schools for the Future programme;
- Develop the Somerset Learning Platform in line with schools' requirements;
- Roll out the final phase of Children’s Centres by March 2010.
### Priority D1 Encourage young people to take a greater role in their community through volunteering and active citizenship

**Evidence:** National statistics indicate that 60% of children and young people would get involved in their community if it was valued and led to things changing. Children in Somerset believe that the development of social skills, confidence-building and just having fun doing new things should be at the centre of the support offered to young volunteering. The Children's Fund Report, ‘Have Your Say Too’ (2008), provides eight criteria that children and young people recommended should be used in commissioning services.

**Activities:**
- Implement a co-ordinated Participation Strategy by July 2010 from consultation with and involving children and young people;
- Maintain and develop a range of forums to engage young people in decision making and active citizenship;
- Encourage and support young people to take a greater role in volunteering and active citizenship;
- Encourage and support young people to take advantage of the gap year programme.

### Priority D2 Increase the opportunities for accessing positive activities for children and young people

**Evidence:** Children in Somerset would like a greater range of leisure opportunities in safe environments; a view shared by their parents/carers who also emphasise equal access to provision for all age groups and children with disabilities. Included in this are out of school and holiday activities, greater availability of youth venues and more provision for young people in rural areas. ‘Have Your Say Too’, a county-wide piece of consultation with over 100 5-13 year olds carried out in 2008 at the closure of the Children’s Fund Project, established their priorities as being to promote better play spaces, free-play and wild-play outdoors.

**Activities:**
- Ensure that all schools are delivering the Extended Schools full core offer and address economic blocks to participation in Extended School services by implementing the Disadvantage Subsidy programme by 2010;
- Implement the Playbuilder Strategy to complete the renovation of 20-25 play spaces by 31 March 2011;
- Deliver and extend Somerset Partnerships Arts Education Agency’s Strategy for increasing children and young people’s access to high quality arts activities;
- Enable a wide range of young people aged 11-19 years to engage in and benefit from positive activities;
- Extend the work of Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership to support healthy active lifestyles and increase young people’s participation in physical activity and sport;
- Implement the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme.

### Priority D3 Continue to reduce rates of offending by children and young people, including Children Looked After

**Evidence:** Offending by Children Looked After in Somerset has been consistently higher than the National Average and has been highlighted as an area for development in Somerset’s APA 2008. The number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in Somerset aged 10-17 as of 2007/08 was 824, compared to 966 in 2006/07.

**Activities:**
- Through the ROLAC Group, continue to focus on initiatives to reduce the offending of children looked after;
- Support police training in restorative justice approaches;
- Continue/extend Youth Inclusion Programmes.
### Aim: Achieving Economic Wellbeing

#### Priority E1 Ensure young people have full access to independent information, advice and guidance in order to make informed choices about a range of learning and employment opportunities

**Evidence:** In 2008, 89% of Year 11 leavers continued in learning with 81% into full-time education, 8% into full-time employment including apprenticeships with training to NVQ2 or above, 5% into employment without training and 4% were unemployed. 97.6% of the county’s 17 year olds were offered a place in post-16 education and training in 2008, higher than the regional figure of 90.5%.

**Activities:**
- Ensure provision of independent information, advice and guidance for pupils in Year 7 onwards and ensure all secondary schools provide impartial careers education and guidance;
- Organise a major interactive skills exhibition aimed at raising the aspirations of 14-19 year olds;
- Further develop relationships with post-16 learning providers so as to ensure a smooth transition of 16-19 funding and responsibilities from the LSC to the LA.

#### Priority E2 Ensure young people have access to an appropriate range of learning and development opportunities that prepare them for further learning and for working life

**Evidence:** The percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) reduced to 4.3% for 2007/08. The percentage of care leavers, young offenders and teenage parents are actively being targeted to improve performance further. In 2007/08, 62.1% of care leavers and 65% of young offenders were in education, employment or training.

**Activities:**
- Reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- Improve the percentage of care leavers engaged in education, employment or training on their 19th birthday;
- Increase the percentage of young offenders in suitable education, employment or training;
- Increase the range of learning opportunities through introduction of the new diplomas and the extension of apprenticeships.

#### Priority E3 Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty

**Evidence:** The Government is committed to halving child poverty by 2010 and to eradicate it by 2020. Eradicating child poverty will mean improving children’s life chances so that no child is disadvantaged by their family background or by the situations they find themselves in, and so that intergenerational cycles of poverty are broken. Care leavers are also known to be disadvantaged. Pockets of deprivation exist across the county of Somerset, mainly in urban centres but also in rural West Somerset where around a fifth of children live in households dependent on benefits. 15.7% of children in Somerset (aged between 0 and 4) were dependent on workless benefits (April 2007) and 15.1% of children and young people aged under 16 were affected by income deprivation in the same year. Somerset County Council has a legal duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient childcare where reasonably practicable to enable parents to work or take up training leading to work.

**Activities:**
- Ensure an appropriate standard, range, location and affordability of housing accommodation is available to care leavers;
- Undertake the annual refresh of the Somerset County Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, increasing the number of children taking up formal childcare places, and promote the offer of free early learning and childcare places to the most disadvantaged two year olds in Somerset;
- Promote the independence of vulnerable young people through the work of the Supporting People Team;
- Implement the Parenting Support Strategy;
- Develop a Child Poverty Strategy in consultation with local partners.
Section C: Enablers

How Somerset’s education standards are being improved through the delivery of the Every Child Matters outcomes

Somerset County Council has a statutory responsibility to promote high standards in its schools. Recently introduced School Improvement Partners have a significant role to play in this as they undertake the ‘single conversation’ with schools in relation to setting performance targets, ensuring the school’s priorities are the right ones and are appropriately focused, monitoring the progress of schools and reporting annually to the governing body on these aspects of the school’s work. Support is provided to schools in inverse proportion to success and is related to the categorisation of schools, undertaken annually. However, in order for standards to be improved, children and young people have to be in a fit condition to attend school and learn and teachers have to be able to deliver the highest quality learning and teaching.

In order to raise standards we must ensure:

- good quality Early Years Foundation Stage provision is provided for children;
- good levels of attendance at school;
- children and young people are fit and healthy and able to benefit from an interesting education; schools achieve the National Healthy School Status and partners will continue to tackle issues surrounding obesity;
- children and young people are safe in the home, on the roads and at school – free of bullying and not engaged in anti-social behaviour;
- children make the best start in life with speech and language deficits tackled early on and intervention strategies deployed by schools to secure high levels of achievement. Vulnerable pupils are supported and their needs met;
- children and young people contribute to shaping their lives by being consulted about their learning and their views sought about the services they receive to ensure these are shaped to best meet their needs; in addition, we will ensure young people throughout the county have access to a range of activities which will shape their future lives and instil a desire for lifelong learning;
- young people are able to access appropriate learning opportunities by receiving impartial information, advice and guidance; that their full educational entitlement is available to them and that transport facilitates access to different provision.

Improved educational standards and higher aspirations will lead to better access to education, employment and training which will in turn:

- improve self-esteem and hence reduce rates of teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug/alcohol misuse and related crime;
- reduce entrants aged 10-17 into the criminal justice system and the prevalence of anti-social behaviour by young people;
- increase the proportion of young people participating in full-time education at 18, 19 and 20 years, who previously would not have chosen to do so – thereby upskilling the potential workforce in Somerset;
- through the new 14-19 curriculum entitlement, diplomas, apprenticeships and work-related learning, reduce the skills gap identified by local employers and consequently attract employers to Somerset;
- continue to reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training and hence improve income levels and reduce the proportion of the community living in poverty.
Whilst these exciting new initiatives focus on support for the most vulnerable members of the community, every child matters! Therefore all our children and young people deserve the best education possible. We will strive to improve schools through the National Challenge and by implementing the ideals of the 21st Century School where the needs of the community are at the heart of school life.

**Oaklands Community Learning Centre and Community Primary School**

The Oaklands Community Primary School is due to open in January 2010 and will bring together the existing separate Westfield Infant and Parcroft Junior schools in a 420-place primary school as part of the Oaklands Community Learning Centre (CLC). This will co-locate the school, Yeovil West Children’s Centre, a community lounge, a production kitchen (serving local schools), an area autism base, a dedicated extended schools facility, an ICT training/adult learning base and meeting rooms.

The two existing schools are currently on separate sites serving the same catchment area within one of the most deprived wards in Somerset. The new school will be purpose designed and built, providing a high quality teaching and learning environment in which to transform learning for primary school age children of the Westfield Estate; to support the learning vision developed for the 21st Century and to develop a multi-agency approach to support children aged 0-11 in the area by positioning itself at the very centre of life in the community.

The school communities have been very supportive and enthusiastic. Project development has been very successful with the continuous involvement and commitment of the governors and head teachers and, through the latter, the staff and pupils. Wider community support has also been secured.

The ongoing development of the 14-19 initiative will ensure that more young people have increased opportunities to access appropriate learning situations to fit them for their future learning and working life.
Somerset Children’s Trust

The Government’s Children’s Plan, Building Brighter Futures, 2007, sets out their aim to make this country the best place in the world to grow up. This means making sure that all children are healthy, stay safe, enjoy life and achieve well at school and beyond, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing. The role of Children’s Trusts is to turn this vision into reality. You can read about the progress Somerset has made in response to Building Brighter Futures on page 26.

What is Somerset Children’s Trust?

Somerset Children’s Trust is a statutory local partnership bringing together the key organisations responsible for providing services to children, young people and their families in Somerset. All the partners share a commitment to improving children’s lives.

Somerset Children’s Trust is led by Somerset County Council, through the Director of Children’s Services and the Lead Member for Children’s Services, working closely with other local agencies.

Members of Somerset Children’s Trust

The members are:

- Somerset County Council
- Duty to Co-operate Partners*
  - NHS Somerset
  - Somerset Community Health
  - Taunton Deane Borough Council
  - South Somerset District Council
  - Mendip District Council
  - Sedgemoor District Council
  - West Somerset District Council
  - Avon and Somerset Police Constabulary
  - Avon and Somerset Police Authority
  - Avon and Somerset Probation Service
  - Somerset Youth Offending Team
  - Connexions Somerset
  - The Learning and Skills Council
  - Job Centre Plus
  - All maintained schools in Somerset–represented by the Primary and Secondary Heads Associations and the Schools Forum
  - Post-16 Education Colleges

Other Partners

- Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- East Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- The Voluntary and Community Sector
- Young people from the UK Youth Parliament
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board

* These organisations either have a statutory ‘duty to co-operate’ to improve children’s wellbeing, or will do when the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill is enacted.
Somerset Children’s Trust is not a separate organisation in its own right. Each partner retains its own responsibilities, while working together to join up services because no single agency can improve outcomes for children by working on its own.

What does Somerset Children’s Trust do?
Somerset Children’s Trust is both a commissioner of services for children and young people and, through the work of its partners, a provider of some of these services. It is responsible for the local strategy for improving children’s lives, including their health and wellbeing, by delivering better services through the joint planning and commissioning of services. This means:

- Deciding on focus—what our priorities should be;
- Understanding the current position, based on an assessment of needs;
- Planning and designing the services required;
- Procuring services—deciding whether to provide or purchase services;
- Developing an integrated strategy for joint commissioning and the use of joint budgets, based on this plan;
- Monitoring and reviewing services to ensure they are improving outcomes and throughout this process taking account of the views of children, young people, their parents and carers and other stakeholders.

Somerset Children’s Trust is also responsible for producing and delivering the Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan (this plan), which describes how the partners will work together to improve children’s lives and when those improvements will be delivered.

**SOMERSET’S OUTCOMES FOCUSED COMMISSIONING CYCLE**

1. **DECIDING ON FOCUS**
   including outcomes

2. **UNDERSTANDING the CURRENT POSITION**

3. **PLANNING and SERVICE DESIGN**

4. **PROCURING SERVICES** – make or buy

5. **MONITORING and REVIEW**
   including performance and contract management
Delivering the Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan
Somerset Children’s Trust is made up of a formal Board, which determines the overall vision and key priorities for children’s services, and an Executive, responsible for the delivery of the priorities (set out on pages 13-17 of this plan). The Board and the Executive are supported by a network of groups responsible for the delivery of specific priorities in the Children and Young People’s Plan. As Somerset is a large Two-tier Authority (that means we have both county and district councils serving local people), we have four Area Planning Groups. These are local partnerships which are responsible for implementing the priorities for improvement in their areas. The organisation of the Somerset Children’s Trust is explained in the diagram on page 24.

Links to other partnerships
Somerset Strategic Partnership (SSP) is the body responsible for the vision set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It also agrees the priorities for inclusion in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Somerset Children’s Trust reports to the SSP on the delivery of LAA priorities relating to children and young people. The Chair of Somerset Children’s Trust is a member of the SSP and informs and influences its work as it relates to children and young people.

Keeping children safe is a top priority for Somerset Children’s Trust. It therefore works closely with Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board, which is responsible for co-ordinating work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Somerset Children’s Trust also works together with the two Somerset Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (East and West) to prevent and reduce youth offending. It also works together with Somerset Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to prevent the onset of substance misuse in young people and to provide services to minimise harm and provide treatment for those who reach that stage of need.

Somerset schools
Somerset Children’s Trust relates to schools via a number of school partnerships:
- Somerset Education Policy Team (SEPT) – made up of Head Teachers and Local Authority officers who determine education policy for Somerset schools;
- Somerset Schools Forum – also comprises Head Teachers and Local Authority officers, who decide how to allocate schools’ budgets, within the policy framework set by SEPT;
- Somerset Governors’ Strategy Group – made up of Chairs of School Governing bodies and local authority officers, which provides the governors’ perspective on priorities and policies;
- Area Planning Groups – on which representatives of schools are key partners.

Somerset Children’s Trust and the 21st Century School
All Somerset schools will be 21st Century Schools, operating as part of a local system of schools and services providers, in partnership with Somerset Children’s Trust, to promote the wellbeing of all children, young people and families in the area. In return, schools and colleges will receive the services they need from Somerset Children’s Trust to support their students.
Scrutiny
The Somerset Children’s Trust is held to account through Somerset County Council’s scrutiny arrangements. The Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Sub Committee works with partners and young people to oversee the Somerset Children’s Trust and ensure joined up working to deliver the five outcomes for children and young people. The Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel was set up in 2006 to undertake this function. Its membership consists of County Council members who are on the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Sub Committee, parents and carers, children and young people and co-opted members. It has an independent Chair.

Performance Management
In order to measure the effectiveness of Somerset’s Children and Young People’s Plan, performance against the key performance indicators and actions identified is reported to the relevant subgroups of Somerset Children’s Trust (see page 24).

An overall progress report on the implementation and delivery of the Children and Young People’s Plan is collated by the Children and Young People’s Directorate Performance and Management Information Team on a four-monthly basis. Findings are reported to Somerset Children’s Trust and a brief comprehensive report providing an overview of the lives and wellbeing of children and young people in the area across each of the five Every Child Matters outcomes are provided annually, as part of the review of the Children and Young People’s Plan. The Needs Analysis is reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis. In addition, the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel looks at progress on specific priorities during their annual cycle of work.

The primary basis for identifying the key performance indicators has been the National Indicator Set and attention has been given in particular to those indicators which form an integral part of Somerset’s Local Area Agreement and the accompanying statutory performance indicators. Where appropriate we have referenced additional local performance indicators or monitoring scorecards, which also support the delivery of these priorities.
Section D: How we make it happen

Plan production
Somerset’s Children and Young People’s Plan reflects the guidance and lead given by the government’s own Plan, Building Brighter Futures (2007). It also acknowledges the Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework 2008, which has drawn together the relationship between these initiatives and the National Indicator Set.

The plan has been produced through the involvement of many professionals who undertake diverse aspects of work to support children, young people and their families. It has drawn on the many existing plans and government guidance, which form the bedrock of our work, and follows on from our previous Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan (2006-2009).

A Writing Group was formed to undertake the actual production of the document. An Editorial Group, comprising representatives of all the members of Somerset Children’s Trust (see page 20), were consulted throughout the development. They were able to comment from the perspective of their organisations and also provide information when needed. In accordance with government regulations (2005), 2007 and 2009 guidance, we have consulted not only with the agencies represented on the Somerset Children’s Trust, but also with the following individuals and groups:

- Schools Admission Forum;
- Diocese of Clifton;
- Diocese of Bath and Wells;
- Somerset Governors Strategy Group;
- Safer Somerset Communities Group;
- Somerset Sustainable Development;
- Somerset County Council Equalities and Diversity;
- Somerset County Council-Participation.

At all stages in the production of the draft document, Somerset Children’s Trust has directed, scrutinised and commented.

A major part of the whole task has been the updating of our priorities for action. To do this, a draft document drew on:

- the previous Children and Young People’s Plan;
- information gained from all sections of the community (including children and young people) from consultation events;
- other strategies and action plans;
- Local Area Agreement;
- Government Office of the South West (GOSW) Priorities;
- National Indicators;
- Annual Performance Assessment and inspection feedback.

Our supporting evidence is based on the Needs Assessment (2008) which has been updated where necessary by officers. We have a Monitoring Group (often the group involved in the joint commissioning process) for each aspect of work. Every officer involved in the draft priorities was contacted and talked through the demands and requirements to ensure we had the best possible information.

The draft plan was then issued to partners and stakeholders for their comments and amendments. The amended version was scrutinised by the Management Team of the Children and Young People’s Directorate, then by Somerset Children’s Trust and the Somerset County Council Executive Board whose recommendations were taken to the Full Council. This rigorous process ensures that the maximum number of people are involved and the final document is an accurate reflection of how we plan to support our younger generation.
Building Brighter Futures – what we are doing
The Government’s Children and Young People’s Plan, ‘Building Brighter Futures’, was published in 2007 and set out actions they expected local areas to undertake. Here are some examples in Somerset:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What did Building Brighter Futures say?</th>
<th>What are we doing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide two expert Parenting Advisers in the Local Authority.</td>
<td>Appointing two Parenting Development Managers to lead on the development of Somerset’s Parenting Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand school-based Parent Support Advisers.</td>
<td>Local Service Teams employ 66 full-time equivalent Parent and Family Support Advisers (PFSA) ensuring all schools, including Special Schools and PRUs, have access to one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve outreach services from Sure Start Children’s Centres.</td>
<td>By May 2009, Children’s Centres family outreach services will be in place, jointly commissioned by Somerset County Council and NHS Somerset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help families in which children are caring for others.</td>
<td>A project which identifies children with a caring role has been developed. This provides services to reduce their need to care and supports them in their caring role to enable them to be children and young people first. The ‘Think Family’ approach is publicised and training helps workers to better recognise when children and young people may be beginning to take on a caring role.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve facilities for disabled children to take short breaks.</td>
<td>Project worker appointed jointly with NHS Somerset to set up programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create up to 30 adventure playgrounds in disadvantaged areas.</td>
<td>Seven will open by end March 2009 with work on a total of 25 well underway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prioritise children’s needs in housing decisions, especially the need to stay close to services like schools.</td>
<td>A strategic group has been set up to look at the equity of service across Somerset, map services and make recommendations. District Councils are working to the Somerset Homelessness Strategy. Somerset is one of seven Local Authorities to have been selected to take part in the teenage pregnancy supported housing pilot (see page 29).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure LAs take a proportionate approach to health and safety to allow children to take risks whilst staying safe.</td>
<td>The Barnardo’s Play and Participation service is promoting risky play as are the five District Councils via lottery funding. The new Play Ranger service specifically responds to this agenda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every secondary school to have specialist trust or academy status and every school to have a business or university partner.</td>
<td>All Key Stage 4 students undertake block work experience giving them links with business and many schools involve businesses in a range of business theme days and curriculum projects. A small number of schools have their own education business partnerships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 5 years no secondary school with fewer than 30% A*-C GCSEs.</td>
<td>There are only four Somerset schools with fewer than 30% A*-C GCSEs (Academic Year 2007/08).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every secondary school to be in a behaviour partnership from 2008, to work together to improve behaviour and tackle persistent absence.</td>
<td>All secondary schools are now involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot a restorative approach to youth offenders.</td>
<td>The ‘Youth Restorative Disposal’ is being implemented across Avon and Somerset. Intensive training for police officers has begun. In addition, restorative practices are being adopted in Somerset schools.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service Management

Financial management
Our last Children and Young People’s Plan mentioned Somerset County Council’s ‘ISIS’ (Improving Services in Somerset) project which planned to improve value for money. In 2007, Southwest One turned the idea into reality. This joint venture between IBM and Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary is unique. Southwest One aims to create efficiency savings, develop new ways for people to access public services, help the Councils and the Police improve services to the community and support the development of the local economy. This will have benefits for our services to children, young people and their families.

Resources
The resources dedicated to providing services for children and young people in Somerset come from a complex pattern of government grant, to Somerset County Council, Health, Police and other agencies, Council Tax and, to a smaller extent, fees and charges. Somerset County Council has clearly identified resources dedicated to services for children and young people, in financial terms, assets and staff time. During the course of the next year, Somerset County Council will work with other partners to clarify the resources available for improving outcomes across all priority areas and all partners, including both universal and targeted services. This will inform joint commissioning during the life of this plan.

Annual revenue spend, by Somerset County Council, on services for children and young people is £418m (2009/10 budget), with a further £72m, of which £48m relates to schools, in capital spending planned. Budgets for the period covered by this plan will require the delivery of 3% cashable efficiency savings with the potential for additional savings depending on demographic, inflationary and other pressures.

The Schools Budget accounts for £312m of the resources available to Somerset County Council, funded entirely by specific grant, and providing for delegated budgets for schools, early years provision and many central educational services. The allocation of resources is determined in partnership with the Schools Forum in line with priorities agreed with school representatives. In future a closer relationship with the Somerset Children’s Trust will be developed to ensure resource allocation has regard for the priorities within Somerset’s Children and Young People’s Plan.

To date, the Schools Forum has supported the combining of the Schools Budget with other resources to provide for additional support for vulnerable children, particularly those looked after, through the funding of a virtual head teacher and team. Other vulnerable groups, for which targeted funding has been provided, include English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners and Gypsy Roma and Irish Travellers. Resources have been set aside for a contribution from special schools to the overall resources available across the partnership for commissioning therapy services. A pooled budget has also been established with Children’s Social Care to fund integrated care and educational provision for some of the county’s most vulnerable young people.

Somerset County Council has long felt that the level of resources allocated by the government has understated the needs of children and young people in the County, particularly in respect of the additional cost of provision in a rural area and the impact of rural deprivation. Research suggests that the low skill/low pay, seasonal and self-employed aspects of the rural economy are not accurately reflected in data on child poverty. Somerset Children’s Trust holds the elimination of child poverty and the reduction of its impact as a key priority but has limited resources at its disposal for this important work. However, reducing child poverty will be more difficult as the current economic downturn pushes families further below the poverty line.
Somerset has been fortunate to be chosen for a range of pilot studies and pathfinder projects resulting from ‘Building Brighter Futures’ (2007):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pilot Project</th>
<th>Key Aims</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extended Schools Disadvantage Pathfinder</strong></td>
<td>To provide funding to enable economically disadvantaged children and young people to access extended schools activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Pathfinder</strong></td>
<td>To improve outcomes for families at risk by ‘thinking family’ at every level. Looking at individual needs in the context of the whole family so clients are not seen just as individuals but as parents or family members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extended Family Pathfinder</strong></td>
<td>The most at-risk families in Somerset are set to receive more help and support thanks to a successful bid for an extra £1.2m of government funding. Somerset has been selected by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) as one of only six Local Authorities in the Country to be an Extended Family Pathfinder. We will look at system changes at all levels within local areas, from frontline delivery to strategy and governance. In addition we will look to better address the support needs of families with young carers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Train the Trainers</strong></td>
<td>The project is a pilot, funded to March 2009. It will then be evaluated and the hope is that it will be continued and developed. Ten young people have been recruited from over 100 applications. They are aged 15-19 and once trained will deliver a number of training programmes within the Integrated Workforce Development Team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>0-7 Partnership</strong></td>
<td>To enable children and families to embrace different phases of development by joining up services offered to families with children between the ages of 0 and 7 and therefore easing stages of transition they experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buddying</strong></td>
<td>To strengthen multi-sector networks and set up mentoring schemes with the aim to identify where practice is strong and create expert practitioners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anti-poverty-Work focused on Children's Centres</strong></td>
<td>To deliver a range of services to support a full-time Job Centre Plus Advisor who will work with three Children's Centres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pod Pilot</strong></td>
<td>To test out a new style of social work delivery. In Somerset, social work teams will be divided into smaller ‘pods’ which share case loads and tasks. Each team will include a team leader and three social workers to be supported by two social work assistants and two administrators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reducing child poverty for teenage parents and their children</strong></td>
<td>To provide an enhanced support package to teenage parents to reduce the immediate and long-term effects of early parenthood and the impact of economic wellbeing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bids are being prepared for further pilot and pathfinder work, and a specific grant is being allocated for developments, such as Every Child a Writer, a Talker.

Somerset Children’s Trust will be evaluating the outcomes of these projects, along with the DCSF to inform future resource allocation and commissioning.
The voluntary and community sector provides a wide range of services, which meet the needs of vulnerable young people. It can be difficult for such organisations to secure ongoing funding, and in particular to attract funding for core costs, which means that the sustainability of some of these services can be an issue. The diversity of the sector also makes it difficult for one organisation to represent others. Therefore, a further challenge for the voluntary and community sector is to contribute to statutory priorities but to retain a level of independence and an ability to respond creatively to emerging issues.

The development of Area and Local Service Teams
Since our last Children and Young People’s Plan, we have forged ahead and established a network of more than 33 Children’s Centres (see page 7) and eight Local Service Teams (see page 6). This means that Somerset is at the forefront of delivering integrated services to children, young people and families within their local communities. All schools are now developing closer links with the professionals who provide local support.

We have also recognised the importance of joint approaches to families working much more closely with those colleagues who deliver services to adults with learning disabilities, mental illness, substance misuse and domestic violence.

We are now establishing four area teams to oversee the delivery of joined-up services to children and young people with severe and complex special educational needs and/or disabilities delivering ‘Aiming High for Children with Disabilities’. Area Managers from the Partnerships Directorate will be co-located with Area Managers for Children’s Social Care to support the ‘Bridging the Gap’ work.

Workforce Development
To improve outcomes for all children and young people in Somerset we need a skilled and stable workforce, in sufficient numbers, led and deployed effectively around the needs of children and young people. To achieve this, we must provide lifelong learning for the entire workforce. Our Workforce Development Strategy ensures that we continue to refocus efforts towards early intervention, prevention and delivery of more services in local communities.

Our Children’s Services are at the cutting edge of innovative practice. Consequently we have been piloting a number of the Children’s Workforce Development Council’s initiatives including the Remodelling of Social Work (2008-11) and common approaches to induction. We have trained 12 young people as trainers. We are also piloting the Think Family Pathfinder. This, together with our development of ‘POD working’, is groundbreaking. Currently we are learning from our work involving the ‘Team Around the Child’ and ‘Narrowing the Gap’. All these ideas will better equip our workforce to cope with professional life in an Integrated Children’s System (a framework for working with children in need and their families) both now and in the future.

We have had success, as one of the initial ten authorities chosen to pilot the Family Nurse Partnership, working with vulnerable young families at the point where we can make the most difference – in pregnancy and the first two years of life.

We will continue to develop common core skills and knowledge to improve multi-agency working, information sharing and awareness of the welfare and developmental needs of children and young people.

Sharing information through the national initiatives of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Lead Professional and ContactPoint (the planned national information sharing index) is central to improving outcomes for children and young people in Somerset. Information-sharing tools will help us provide better joined-up services for them.
Train the Trainers – young people train the professionals
This initiative involves young people, who are recruited and trained by youth workers, delivering training to adults within the children and young people’s workforce. This pilot project is currently funded to March 2009, but it is hoped that it will continue and develop.

Young people applied for the role and all went through the same full interview process including giving a five minute presentation on an issue they felt was important to their peers in Somerset. Having been selected, the young people then underwent extensive training delivered by an external agency. The training is accredited with the Open College Network and will lead to a qualification at Level 2. Whilst the young people undertook the training on a voluntary basis, their time for preparation and delivery of training will be paid. Ten young trainers are aged between 15 and 19. The other two are employees from Somerset’s Integrated Workforce Development Team (IWDT) and this is serving as a development opportunity.

The young trainers are able to choose the areas they are most interested in and will be involved in delivering the Level 1/2 National Induction for the Children’s Workforce (another pilot project within IWDT). They are going to be involved in delivering training on:

- Common induction programme for C+YP practitioner Level 1/2;
- SCITT teacher training programme covering Children and Young People’s rights;
- Risk assessment;
- How to build resilience and self-esteem in children and young people;
- How to engage effectively with young people and involving young people in recruitment and selection;
- cyber bullying.

Whilst the benefit to the individual young person’s personal development is immense, this also adds, for the first time, a young person’s perspective on the development of the professionals. This improves their ability to plan and deliver services to support children, young people and their families and to build upon a culture of participation within the organisation.

Remodelling Social Work Pilot (POD Working)
In December 2007, Children’s Social Care successfully bid for money from the Children’s Workforce Development Council to establish a small social work team based in the Taunton Office. The purpose of this was to consider a different way of working which allows qualified social workers to spend more time working directly with children and young people to achieve better outcomes. The team comprises qualified social workers, social work assistants and support staff who all work flexibly, changing some of the more traditional roles that they would have undertaken previously. The pilot runs for three years and the lessons currently being learned will help to inform the development of other area teams. To date, the feedback from families, the team and from partner agencies has been positive. Communication and information-sharing has improved, families are more involved in planning and there is a strengthened sense of teamwork.
This glossary is short as it has references to only those terms which are not hyperlinked or explained within the text.

**Annual Performance Assessment**
The Annual Performance Assessment focuses on the contribution that a council’s services have made in the previous twelve months towards improving outcomes for children and young people.

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**
CAMHS promote the mental health and psychological wellbeing of children and young people, providing high quality, multidisciplinary mental health services. [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/camhs/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/camhs/)

**Children and Young People**
The Children and Young People’s Plan must cover services for all those in the area aged 0–19, young people aged 20 and over who are leaving care and those up to the age of 25 with learning difficulties.

**Children Looked After**
Children and young people who are looked after by their Local Authority.

**Child Protection Plan**
A Child Protection Plan is drawn up to make sure the child is kept safe and to help the family. Children who have a child protection plan are considered to be in need of protection. This includes protection from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. The Plan will detail the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns, how the child will be kept safe, and how we will know when progress is being made.

**Children with special needs**
Children and young people who have extra challenges, either disability or other factors which make them vulnerable.

**Children’s National Service Framework**

**Children and Young People Plans**
The Children and Young People’s Plan is a single strategic, overarching plan for all services which affect children and young people in the area, provided by the local authority and all relevant partners.

**Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)**
The DCSF, established June 2007, is responsible for all aspects of policy relating to children and young people. [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk)

**Diplomas**
A qualification combining theoretical and practical learning. These will be introduced to 14-19 year olds over the coming years. [www.yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/](http://www.yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/)

**Extended Schools**
A range of services or signposting to them, often beyond the school day. [www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/childrenservices/review/extendedschools/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/childrenservices/review/extendedschools/)
GCSE
General Certificate of Secondary Education—a qualification usually taken between 14 and 16 years of age.
www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained/DG_10039024

GOSE
Government Office for the South East
www.gose.gov.uk

GOSW
Government Office of the South West puts Government policy into practice at local level.
www.gosw.gov.uk/

Healthy Schools Plus (NHS South West Healthy Schools Plus)
A programme to enhance and deepen the work already carried out by schools that have gained National Healthy Schools Status, enabling schools to concentrate on their own priority areas alongside reducing childhood obesity and reducing health inequalities.

Integrated Youth Support
Services that are aligned to effect early identification and support for 13-19 year olds.

Joint Commissioning Strategy
A formal statement of plans for securing, specifying and monitoring services to meet people’s needs at a strategic level.

Key Stages (education)
- Foundation Stage 3/5 year olds
- KS1 5-7 year olds
- KS2 7-11 year olds
- KS3 11-14 year olds
- KS4 14-16 year olds

Long-acting reversible contraception
Long-acting contraceptives include: contraceptive injections, which work for up to 12 weeks and can be repeated; devices that are fitted inside the womb which last for between 5 and 10 years and implants placed under the skin, which last for three years. They are reversible because they can be stopped to allow pregnancy.

National Child Measurement Programme
This national programme involves all children in Reception and Year 6 having their height and weight recorded annually.

National Healthy School Status
A national initiative whereby schools have to have evidence of achieving a whole school approach to aspects of health-related education.
www.healthyschools.gov.uk/

National Indicator Set (NIS)
Indicators that reflect national priority outcomes for local authorities – working alone or in partnership.
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/indicatorsdefinitions

Reception
First year of school for 4/5 year olds.
Restorative justice
Part of the criminal justice system, and helps communities to deal with conflict in schools, the workplace and neighbourhoods.

ROLAC
Reduce the offending of looked after children.

SEAL
Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning.

Serious Case Review
Serious Case Reviews are undertaken when a child dies (including suicide), and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the death.

Somerset Learning Platform
The Somerset Learning Platform is Somerset County Council's solution to the challenge that has been set by Government to provide an e-learning portfolio and a learning space for all learners in Somerset schools, and, at the same time, providing improved parent and carer access to the information that schools and the LA hold about their child or children.

Targeted Positive Activities
Activities for young people organised by local key stakeholders. www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm?action=content&contentID=9815&letter=L

Tellus Survey
An annual survey of children and young people across England, asking their views, covering the five Every Child Matters outcomes. It asks about their experiences and views of their life, their school and their local area.

Tiers
Mental health services delivered in a four-tier strategic framework.
- **Tier 1**- universal service provided by practitioners who are not specialists e.g. doctors, nurses, teachers.
- **Tier 2**- specialists working in community and primary care settings to identify severe or complex needs which require more specialist interventions.
- **Tier 3**- usually a multi-disciplinary team providing a specialised service for children and young people with more severe, complex and persistent disorders.
- **Tier 4**- services for children and young people with the most serious problems. www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/camhs/

UKYP
United Kingdom Youth Parliament is run by young people for young people, giving the young people aged 11 to 18 a voice, which is recognised by local and national decision makers. www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/

Year 6
Primary children aged 10-11, the final year of primary school.

Youth Inclusion Programme
Tailor-made programmes for 8-17 year olds who are at high risk of involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour. YIPs generally work with either the 8-12 age range (Junior YIPs) or the 13-17 (Senior YIPs).
For further information please contact:
Somerset Direct
Children, Young People and Learning.

Telephone: 0845 3459122
Email: childrens@somerset.gov.uk
Website: http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/childrenservices/

Working together for equalities

This document is also available on request in Braille, large print, tape or disc and can be translated into different languages.

All artwork kindly created and supplied by children and young people of Somerset.
Designed by the Children & Young People's Directorate
and Printed by Design & Print, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4DY.
Telephone: 01823 355045