



Somerset Covid-19 Weekly Workstream Update

Friday 4th September 2020

Improving
LIVES



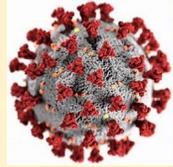
Introduction

Somerset County Council is working tirelessly with community organisations, charities, volunteers and its partners to support communities during the current Coronavirus pandemic. A number of multi-agency workstreams are in place to support this vital work. The following pages advise you of these workstreams, their key actions during the last week, what's planned going forward and what you can do to help. We plan to issue this workstream update every Friday. If you need more information, please check out www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus

Public Health

ACHIEVEMENTS

Key Actions achieved this week:



- Trudi Grant appeared on BBC Points West to talk about schools re-opening. The piece also featured the Blue School, Wells who had taken part in Exercise Apollo. A letter has been distributed to all parents on behalf of the DCS which includes a flowchart for parents on the actions to take in case of a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus.
- BBC Somerset Wellbeing Hour has a return to school special featuring the Youth Parliament, Fiona Moir from Public Health and several headteachers. This is supported by the back to school health teacher video (<https://youtu.be/m9x3cifSkMQ>) which has had 5,037 Twitter impressions, 1,263 views, 18 retweets and Facebook - 11K reach, 679 reactions, 33

Key Statistics for the week:

Outbreaks:

- Closed Situational Outbreaks = 108
- Open Situational Outbreaks = 35

Testing: For the week 25/8 to 31/8 there were 1,112 tests conducted at the Regional Testing Site at Taunton Racecourse.

Home tests: Mendip: 414, SWAT: 253, Sedgemoor: 172, South Somerset: 357, Total = 1,166

Domestic Abuse Campaign: Multi-agency plan in place for male domestic abuse awareness week.

Facebook boosting - Impressions: 101,849, Reach: 31,081 resulting in 439 unique clicks through to the Somerset Survivors website.

Article 'Busting the Myths on domestic abuse' published in the Exmoor News.

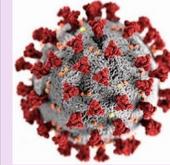
Bannervan billboard located to catch circus and car boot sale traffic.

Sky TV, radio commercials, sponsorship, public info broadcasts, digital advertising ongoing.



NEXT STEPS

Key Actions for the coming week:



- Development of the COVID Engagement Board logo and website
- Continued development of the Advisory Network and Community Champions to support the work of the Covid Engagement Board
- Continued communications on the need to self-isolate (if symptomatic, are a contact of a positive case, returning from a holiday destination where self isolation is required.)



How to help:

- Help to promote social distancing and hand washing messages.
- Help to promote if you have symptoms to isolate and request a test through

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by dialling 119.

Reinforcing the measures:



Twitter - @SomersetDPH - 22.5k impressions in the past 28 days

Social Media reach this week (FB & Twitter): Infection Prevention Control: 24,408, Healthy Living: 4,530, Domestic abuse: 3,222, Child Accident Prevention: 992, Drugs and Alcohol support: 5,865, Sexual Health Support: 886, Smoking Cessation: 2,055, Bereavement Support Service: 1,204, Mental Health (Mindline promotion): 2,859, BBC Somerset Wellbeing Slot: 717, Maternity Toolkit: 1,237

Happy, Healthy & Safe:

- 714 Mindline calls received this week
- 371 users of the Healthy Somerset website this (27/08 - 02/09) compared to 281 last week.



Mindline Somerset
Emotional support helpline



01823 276 892

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Somerset Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard



NHS 111 COVID Demand

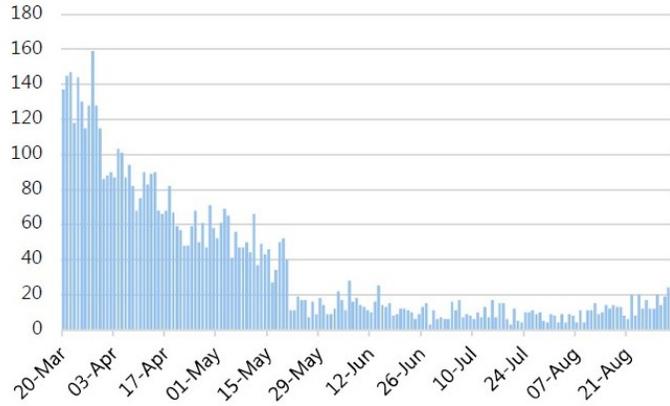


24

Latest daily Somerset based calls to NHS 111 to assess COVID symptoms

01/09/2020

NHS 111 Calls to assess COVID Symptoms

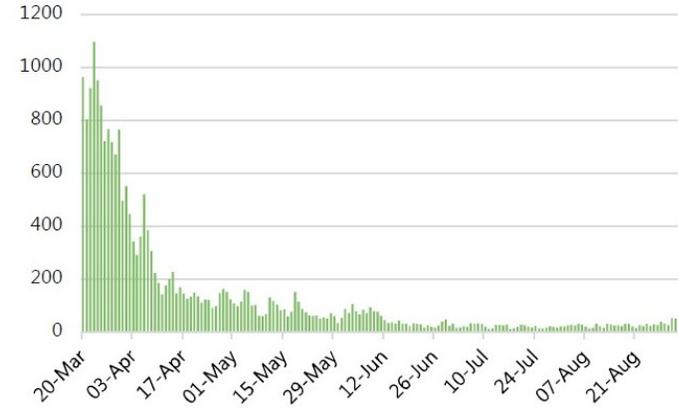


51

Latest daily NHS 111 Online symptom assessments for COVID giving Somerset postcode

01/09/2020

NHS 111 Online Assessments for COVID Symptoms



Detected cases



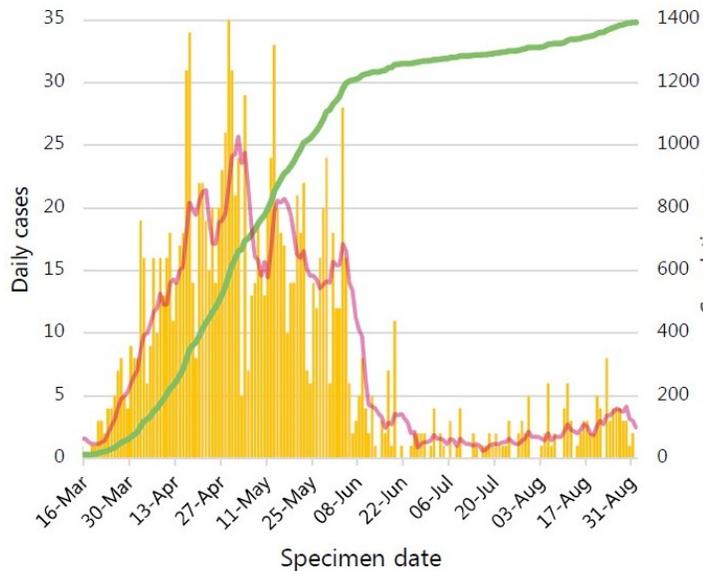
1392

Total pillars 1 & 2 lab-confirmed COVID cases in Somerset

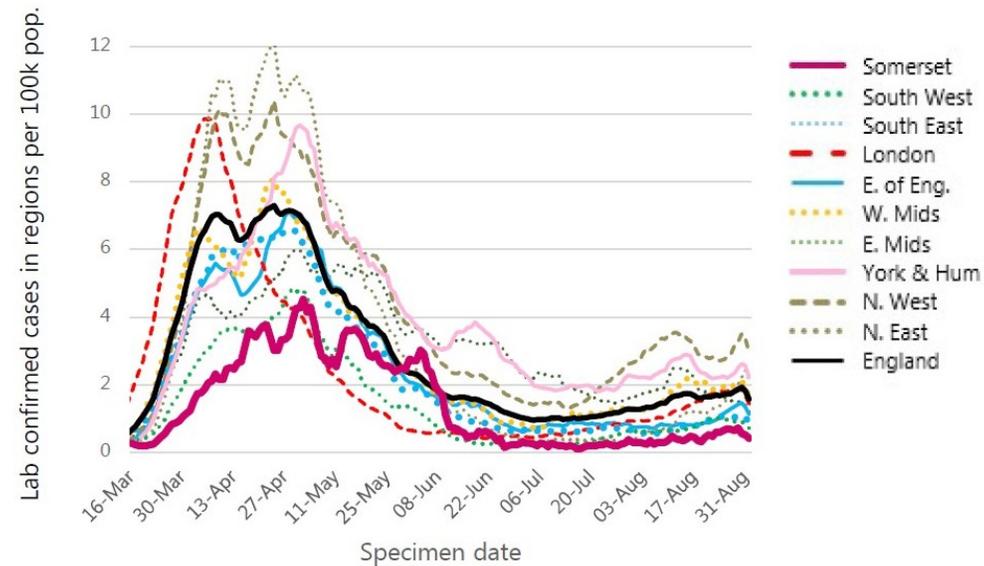
01/09/2020

7 day moving average
Cumulative cases

Somerset pillars 1&2 confirmed COVID cases daily



National comparison lab confirmed cases 7-day averages



As of 2nd June 2020, numbers of lab-confirmed positive cases now include those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2).

Produced 02/09/2020 For data sources see final page. For more information contact publichealth@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard

Latest R number range for the South West

0.8-1.1

Last updated on Friday 28 Aug 2020

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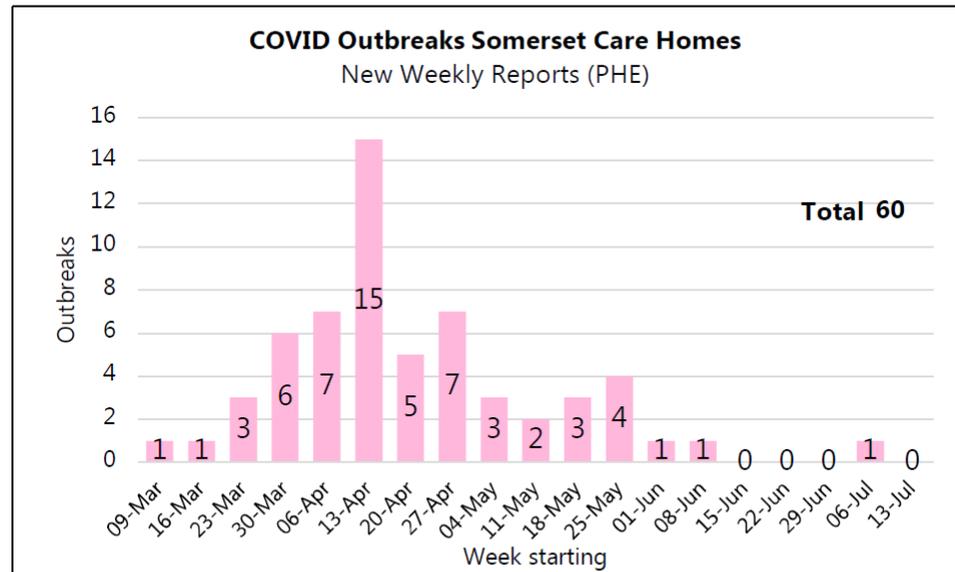
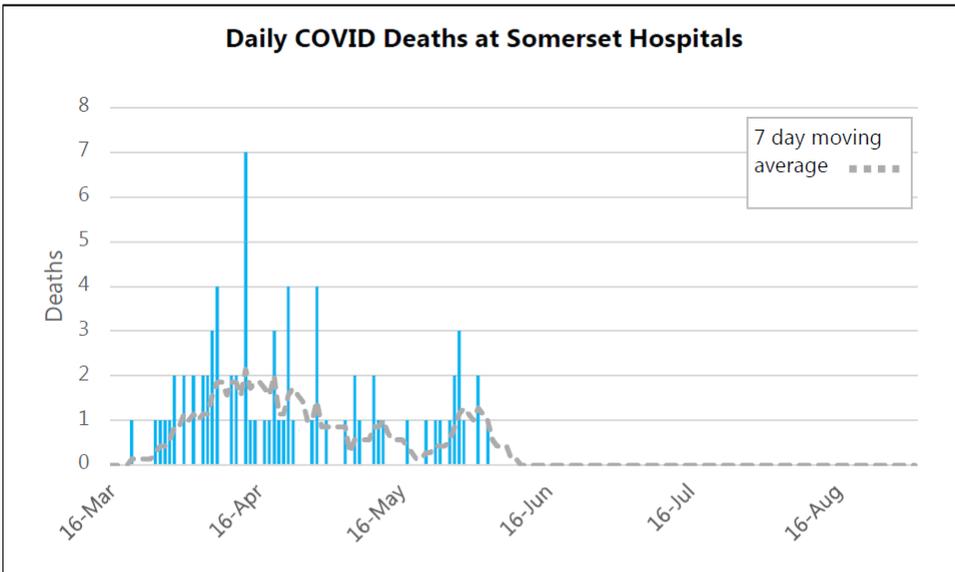
UK Government Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

What is R?

The reproduction number (R) is the average number of secondary infections produced by 1 infected person.

An R number of 1 means that on average every person who is infected will infect 1 other person, meaning the total number of new infections is stable.

Region	R
UK	0.9-1.1
England	0.9-1.1
East of England	0.8-1.0
London	0.9-1.1
Midlands	0.8-1.1
NE and Yorks	0.8-1.0
North West	0.9-1.1
South East	0.9-1.1
South West	0.8-1.1



Somerset Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard



COVID deaths week ending

21/08/2020

All COVID **1**

Hospital **1**

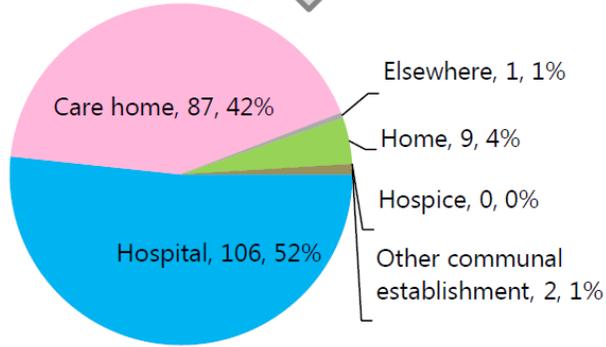
Care Home **0**

Other **0**

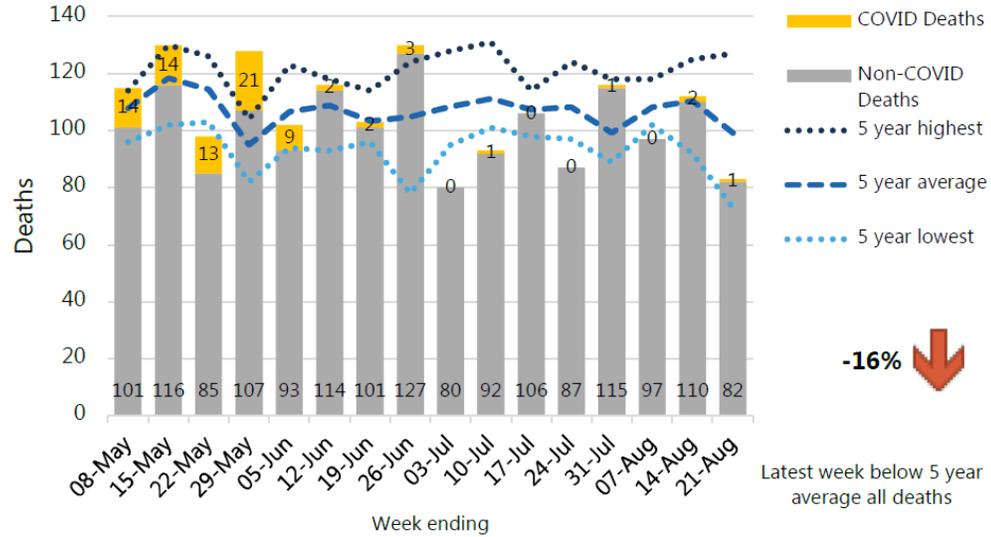
No COVID deaths most recent week.
Total increase due to a registration for a previous week.

All COVID Deaths in Somerset by Place of Death (ONS)

Total **205** 21/08/2020



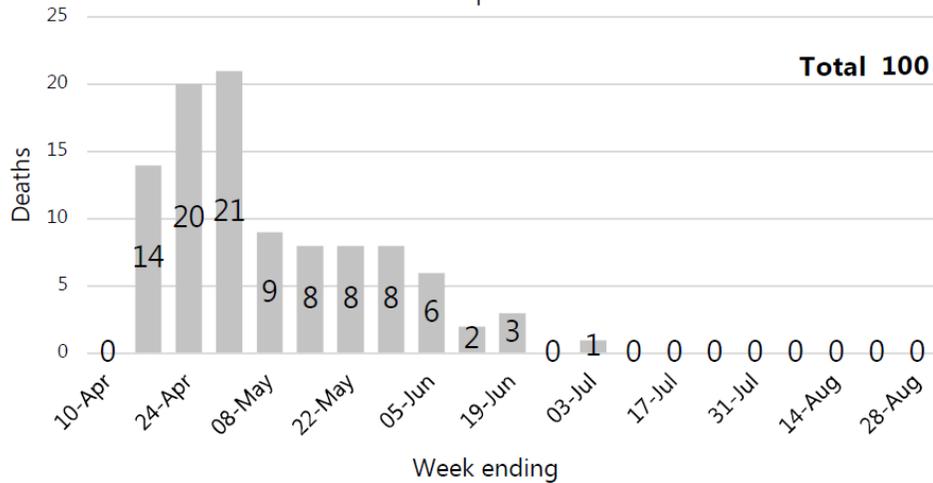
Somerset All Deaths (weekly) (ONS)



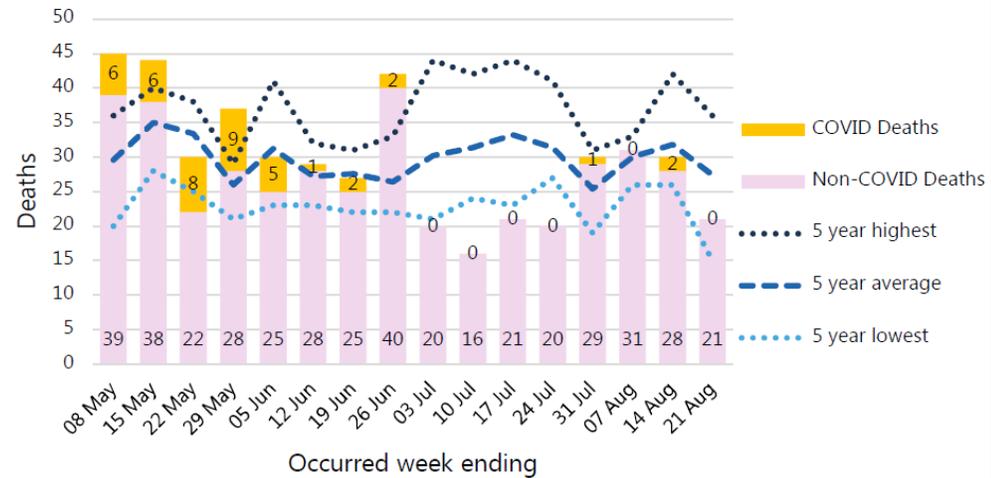
Somerset COVID Care Home Deaths (weekly) (CQC)

Week reported

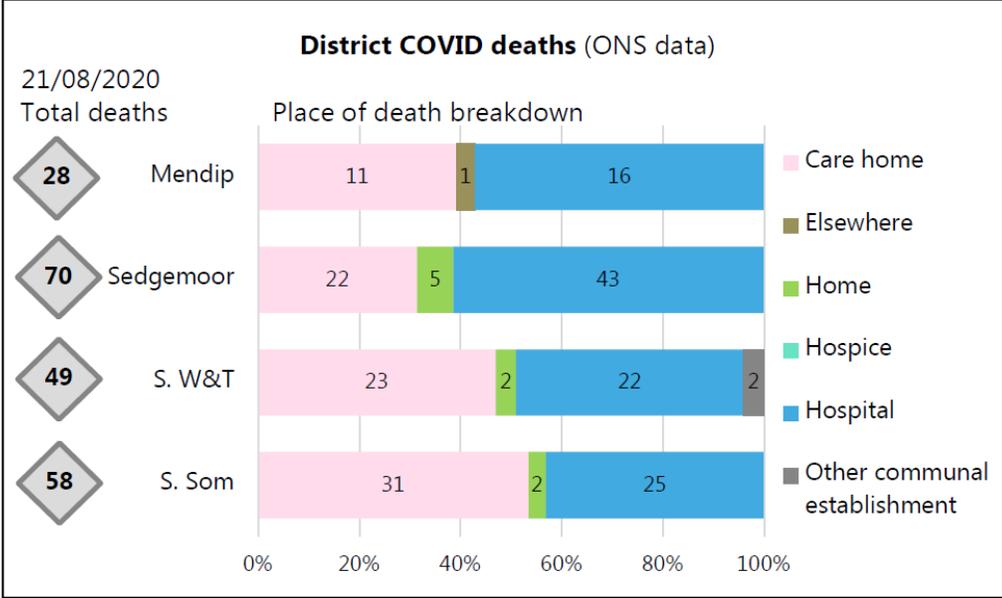
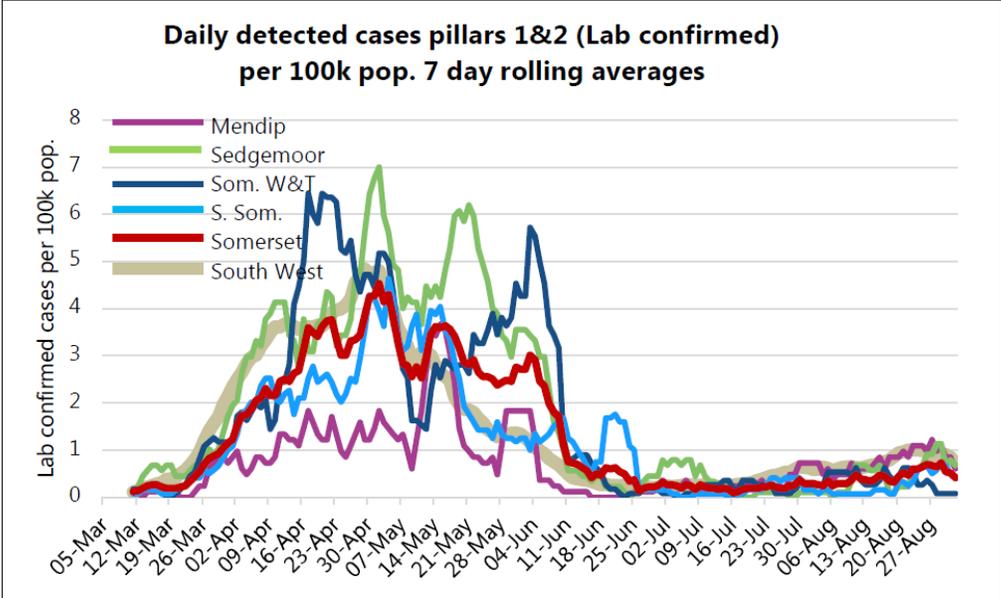
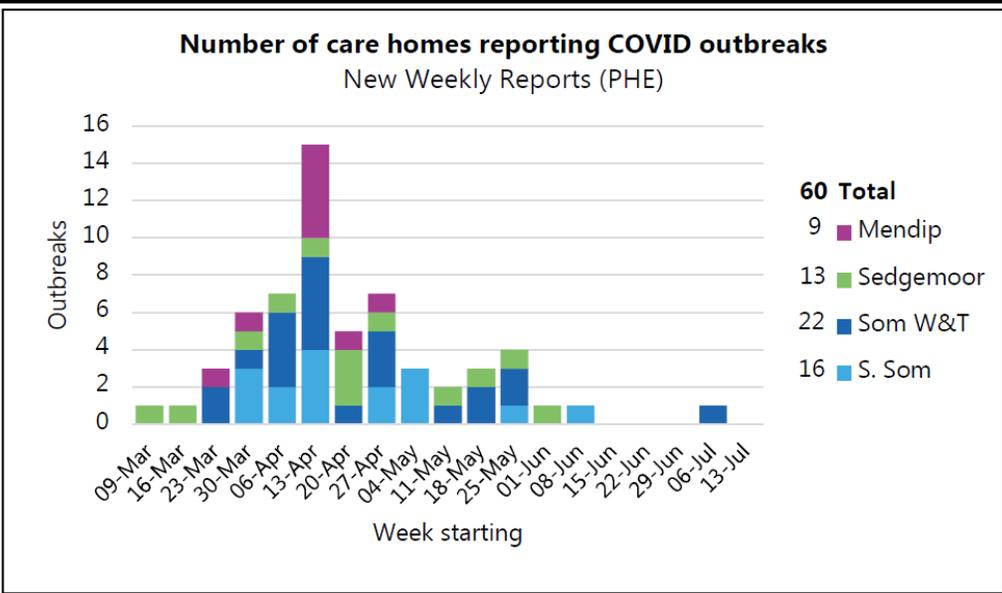
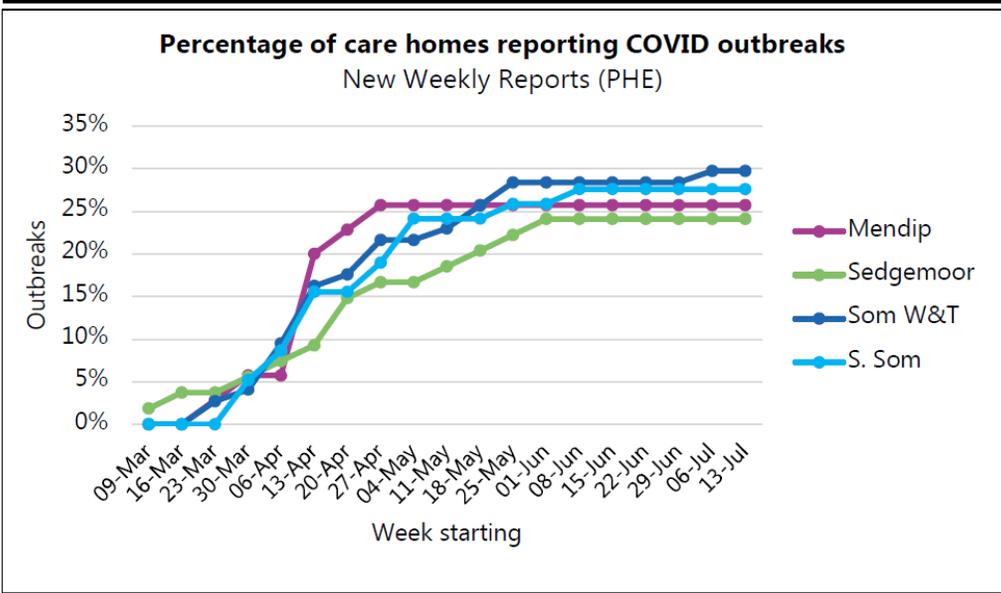
Total 100



Somerset Care Home Deaths (weekly) (ONS)



Somerset Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard



Community & Resilience Cell

Key Points (*figures correct as of 26th August*)

- The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline has received 7,926 calls. The calls remain constant and any potential spike as a result of shielding ending has not yet materialised. Attention continues on developing a process to channel businesses and individuals who find themselves in a redundancy position following the end of the furlough scheme, to the Helpline for financial, employment, mental health or upskilling support. The Helpline is confident that it can manage COVID calls alongside BAU. A small test and trace exercise has been launched to attempt contact with individuals locally that have not been able to be contacted by the national efforts.
- Continuing to define the plan to utilise funding from Government to provide emergency food and enable preventative, resilient community-based offers to manage debt, food poverty and ensure that underlying issues or causes are addressed.
- Discussions on capacity to look after the needs of the communities in the event of an outbreak with particular consideration on:
 - Establishing a Local Test and Trace through the Contact Centre
 - Distributing food and medicine for those self-isolating due to contact with confirmed case /required to shield.
 - Accommodating people who need to self-isolate but currently live in a building that doesn't allow it. e.g. communal facilities or shared household etc.
- We also discussed our current state of readiness on these areas and identify what is needed to ensure that we can 'stand-up' these interventions if and when needed.
- Briefing on the basics of the legislative changes brought in by government this week. The Homelessness sub-cell are continuing to meet in their current guise during the transition to becoming the Homelessness reduction board. This new board will have links to the Health and Wellbeing board and will also mobilise a tactical, operational group as part of their new governance.
- SPARK are hosting a Forum along with SALC on the 15th September aimed at Parish & Town Councils. It will be an opportunity to showcase some of the councils in Somerset who really engaged in the Covid-19 response in their communities, co-ordinating local efforts and experimenting with new ways of working. We are hoping that this will initiate a conversation about how Parishes can work better with the communities they serve and capitalise on the volunteering legacy from Covid-19. Link to forum is in the 'How to Help' section on this slide

Actions going forward

- Progressing programme of food resilience within our communities.
- To consider future provision for Travellers & Nomadic Communities
- To consider links to Local Outbreak Management Plan and the role and readiness of the cell in the event of a local outbreak.

How to help / for information

Continued promotion/awareness of;

- Somerset Coronavirus Response & Recovery Fund 2nd phase of grant funding is now open and groups need to complete a short application form via: www.somersetcf.org.uk/coronavirus to apply for up to £10k For information on how to donate to the appeal visit: <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/appeal>.
- If you wish to help your local community, become a Corona helper! Register at <https://www.corona-helpers.co.uk/>
- The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline 0300 790 6275
- All Spark Somerset resources can be found at <https://www.sparksomerset.org.uk/covid-19>,
- For further information on Community Council for Somerset (CCS) please use link <https://ccslovesomerset.org/>
- **Mindline** - 24/7 emotional support helpline 01823 276 892
- **Bereavement Support Services** - contact Marie Curie 0800 3047 412 Monday - Saturday 09.00-17.00.
- Somerset CAB Adviceline 03444 889623 10am - 4pm Monday - Friday <https://citizensadvicesomerset.org.uk/>

Active Travel Cell

Key points & next steps (3rd September 2020)

- The questionnaire from the DFT regarding our Tranche 1 schemes has been submitted before the deadline.
- Our Value for Money report for Tranche 2 schemes has been drafted and is being shared for comment before being signed off next week before the 11th September deadline.
- Street Parish Council has now agreed to step down its temporary pedestrianisation. However, remain keen to consider something more permanent for Tranche 2.

Tranche 1 schemes

Area	Tranche 1 Scheme
Taunton	Pedestrianisation of East Street, part of Tranche 2 bid.
Minehead	Remove of some parking bays on The Avenue and the Parade to enable widening of footways
Bridgwater	Eastover/ East Quay / Salmon Parade One-way traffic movement to provide widened footpaths and facilitate safer cycling. Part of Tranche 2 bid.
	Pedestrianisation of Cornhill to High Street on Fridays during Market opening hours.
Burnham-On-Sea	Pedestrianisation of part of High Street. Due to be removed on the 6 th of September.
Yeovil	Pedestrianisation of High Street & Middle Street. Part of Tranche 2 bid.
Frome	Closure of Market Place
Wells	Daytime pedestrianisation of Market Place and Sadler Street

Tranche 2 schemes

Area	Tranche 2 Scheme
Taunton	Continuation of the closure of East St and upgrade to the infrastructure of the initial scheme. This will include re-provision of bus stops and ramps to assist wheelchair users. The scheme will be re-designed to continue to allow access for cycles and access only without the need to man the barriers, replacing temporary barriers to make best use of space, improve the public realm, and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.
	Creation of a dedicated cycling and walking route from Canal Road to Trenchard Way. This route will join the newly re-oriented mainline train station entrance directly to the river and into the centre of town, creating a direct visual link to the river, town centre and beyond. This route circumvents a congested route and removes significant numbers of pedestrians and cyclists from Station Road and links directly with National Cycle route 3
Bridgwater	Eastover/Salmon Parade/East Quay: Exploring a scheme for semi-permanent measures to build upon the temporary interventions that are already in place in Eastover. This is looking at maintaining one-way traffic movements and widening of footpaths to facilitate social distancing; with more semi-permanent measures replacing temporary barriers to make best use of space, improve the public realm, and reduce ongoing maintenance costs. The ability to include a contraflow cycle lane is also being explored in detail to enable west to east cycling. The need to retain some space for deliveries and parking (including disabled parking) is also being taken into account.
	Linham Road to Bridgwater docks: Provision of a new cycle route between the Bridgwater Northern Distributor Road and the docks that will improve accessibility between the town centre and residential areas. The scheme forms part of planned corridor wide improvements that will provide off-road cycle facilities into Bridgwater from the north, and will provide the only off-road connection for cyclists between North East Bridgwater and the rest of the town, thereby connecting residential areas to places of employment and retail helping to reduce dependency on the car and public transport.
Yeovil	Walking and Cycling Package - The scheme will deliver routes adopted by the Yeovil Refresh Cycling and Walking routes directly into the town centre. This is a mix of on and off carriageway solutions. Cycle parking will also be increased. A bus gate will be installed to at Junction of Hendford / High Street / Princes Street to assist in shared space management.
	Lyde Road Strategic Cycleway The scheme will deliver 3 sections of segregated Cycleway approximately 1 kilometre in length. This is an on and off carriageway solution serving the Eastern residential and commercial areas of Yeovil.
Frome	Temporary trial of a 'Schools Street' scheme around Oakfield Road - Somerset Road. The scheme will allow safe access to three schools, connect access to a fourth school via Victoria Park and improve safety on a section of road section on the NCN 24. The scheme will involve "Pedestrian and Cycle Zone" threshold signage, planters with road signage at key locations, Access permit holders only for residents. During the trial FTC will collect and consider feedback data to review the effectiveness of the scheme.
	The temporary installation of a new dedicated cycle lane between Spring Road, Frome College, the

Economic Response & Recovery

Key points

- ***Business Intelligence** - Business intelligence group provides evidence to support response and recovery, gathered from district partners, business representative organisations, local and national surveys, national statistics and expert organisations and think tanks.
- **The latest intelligence on economic impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is available online at:** <https://www.somersetrends.org.uk/covid-19-economic-impacts> .
- Headline summary of findings from Oxford Economics modelling report also now available on Somerset Trends (see above). Baseline scenario estimates an 8% reduction in economic output in 2020 and as many as 10,000 job losses, but a bounce back in 2021, and return to pre-COVID outputs and employment levels during 2022, in line with regional and national averages. Economic growth will remain low over the next 5 years.
- Feeding headline business issues (incl. redundancy info) into LEP weekly response to BEIS.
- **Somerset business survey on the economic impacts of COVID closed on 21st August. Over 1,300 responses were received from businesses across Somerset, providing robust/representative data to help inform response and recovery work. Initial results and analysis due September.**
- * **Local Solutions to Gaps In Local Support for Business**
- **Working with partners to identify gaps in support and any vulnerabilities in local business support infrastructure - a phased programme of activity will be launched under the Business Rates Retention Scheme - a scheme for clusters/peer networks offering grants to establish/grow networks has just closed with over 63 applications. Grants will range from £5k up to £25k for strategic groups. These applications are currently being reviewed. So far three have been processed and paid.** Additional business support will be phased over the coming months to supplement HotSW Growth Hub support and respond to local need.
- Somerset's Skill Up Service is supplying general and bespoke advice to employers on managing their apprentices and other training needs as their businesses diversify to reflect need.
- The Response to Redundancy Framework (currently being finalised) will provide details of resources for business to access advice on survival and ongoing resilience.
- * **Employment/Self Employment**
- A Response to Redundancy Framework is currently being finalised. The framework will be adopted across Somerset partners and will set out a process for providing a coordinated support offer to businesses and individuals facing redundancy. The Coronavirus Helpline number will be used as a first point of contact for those needing support.
- Employment and Skills Hubs (physical/telephone) will be rolled out across Somerset from September. The hubs will provide 1-2-1 support and advice for those seeking work or looking to up/re-skill. It will bring together support services from a range of partners including JCP, Skill Up and others.
- Step Up Somerset (an online employment and skills hub) is currently being developed. The hub will provide an online resource for the services available through the 1-2-1 hubs and will host all links to all support on employment and skills in Somerset. It will be launched on 14 September.
- Somerset Works (£1.3m ESF NEETs programme) will support young people who are, or at risk of becoming, NEET (not in education, employment, training) back into education or into employment. Activity is underway but the official launch is 1 September.
- We are still waiting on the outcome of our Skills within the Workforce £4.2m ESF application which seeks to unskill

Actions going forward

- **Business Intelligence** - Analyse business survey results and disseminate initial findings early September.
- **Comms** - Continuing to promote the need for business to tell staff that they must self-isolate if they suspect they have Covid 19
- **Young People's Employment group** to produce a quick reference guide on the national (ESFA, DfE, BEIS) and local initiatives, detailing who the programme is for, eligibility and time frame.
- **Employment and Skills** - develop and implement a communications plan to promote the services available to individuals seeking work and/or looking to unskill

How to help

- Please keep aware of any information regarding companies /sectors that could be at risk of redundancies and feed this back on a confidential basis to the Recovery and Economic Response cell
- Raising local awareness of the Small Business Grant Fund and the support available to businesses via the Growth Hub
- Feedback any comments to Joanna from constituents over opening of schools - what's the feeling out there? This will help inform our web content.
- Promote Skill Up if you hear of employers needing skills advice or of apprentices in need of support.
- Digital connectivity guide now published and can be promoted
<https://www.somerset-ebp.co.uk/news/top-tips-guide-for-families-receiving-devices.htm>
- Direct to the EBP page if you hear of younger people at important transition points struggling with decisions

Key points

* **Tourism - .**

- **HotSW LEP Growth Hub launched the Kickstart for Tourism grant programme on 1st September.** More than 100 applications have been received in Somerset and the Growth Hub expect to allocate all funding available. Information is available here [Growth Support Kickstart Grant Scheme page here.](#)

* **Support for Young People**

- Education Business Partnership (EBP) have support information for all students that have received their results.
- **Linking with the development of Employment Hubs and Youth Hubs.** Aware that programmes coming out from Government are being rolled out but there is reliance on several key agencies which means the speed this can be done is compromised. **SCC supporting or leading as appropriate.**
- **BTEC results did not all come out within the revised timescale** and there is continuing concern given the start date for post-16 and post-18 choices and rapid changes needed to their plans if results not as hoped.
- Change in DfE Permanent Secretary with a temporary position being filled.
- FE and Private training Providers will welcome their post-16 learners in September using a blend of home learning using laptops/phones and sessions on-site in college.
- Cross departmental work will continue to ensure that SCC plays its role in the identification of connectivity issues (internet/broadband/wifi) and solutions. There will be continuous demand for online delivery in the Autumn term as a minimum.
- **Recovery**
- **Somerset economic recovery plan.** Working with District Councils to develop final plan for October 2020 following submission of outline plan to Government on 14 July
- **Getting Building Fund.** Full business cases submitted for the four Somerset schemes included in LEP's approvals list for the Getting Building Fund.

For more information..

Copies of the general business and accommodation flyer and poster which helps business know what to do with a Covid 19 case can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-back-to-work-government-guidelines/>

Somerset Skill Up Service has developed a package of online support for business and individuals looking to up-skill. It also provides support for apprentices who require advice and guidance. www.skillupsomerset.org.uk

The response for younger workers and those transitioning from education onto their next steps is being promoted and is being continuously developed and hosted by our Education Business Partnership. <https://www.somerset-ebp.co.uk/covid-19-resource-hub>

Support available for the self-employed can be found here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-support-for-self-employed/>

SCC Recovery & Renewal Board

The Board will ensure fitness for purpose of council projects and programmes, and make sure SCC works in partnership to deliver recovery and renewal across the county

Projects and services reviewed:

Adults Transformation

- The Board agreed with ASC management this was not the time to refresh the transformation programme, but instead create a programme framework to monitor and deliver recovery and improvement ideas.
- This framework will apply an agile approach, to pilot ideas which can be scalable if required
- Scoping ideas in the coming month.
- Quality check from external partner at the end of September.

Strategic risks

- Updated in light of Covid-19 learning, and recovery plans



(MARCG) Somerset Multi-agency Recovery Coordination Group

The group will bring partners together to maximise **collaboration**, understand impact and deliver recovery activity whilst sustaining necessary response activity

This and next week's agendas are given over to workshops on opportunities that have arisen to deliver positive change as a result of Covid-19.

• For employees

There are opportunities to work in different, more effective ways as a result of learning from Covid by doing things differently and understanding how the jobs market has changed. Impacts on housing pressures, wellbeing risks and attitudes need to be understood and not all people or organisations will benefit from changes. Remote working offers a greater pool of potential employees, and also opportunities for Somerset people to work outside the county without moving there: however it must be tempered with type of work, impacts of home-working, and what place-based businesses need. Risks / unintended consequences also need to be understood.

• Sustainable travel - walking and cycling

How to take advantage of people's positive experience of non-driving during lockdown but understanding how people are prepared to change behaviour if the change is made easy, timely and accessible. The Active Travel cell talked about their pilot project of closing East Street and other roads to traffic. Opportunities to test and learn were discussed including how our organisations could lead from the front as cycling/walking friendly. It was agreed that this topic matters economically as well as in terms of health, wellbeing and climate emergency and that whilst it can take time, positive results can be achieved and it must be a priority.

The full notes from the workshop will be written up and a plan of

Transport and Logistics Cell

w/c 24/08/20

Key Points

PPE

- There was a continued reduction in demand for PPE in line with our demand predictions.

Patient Transport

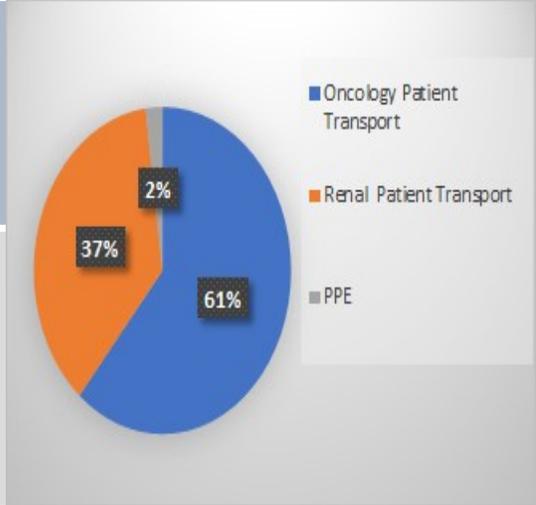
- Patient Transport continues to be delivered efficiently with the fleet being well utilised and no supply / demand issues to report

Actions Going Forward / Recovery

Patient Transport

- Demand management profiling still needs to be completed.
- A renewed patient risk assessment form to be developed with Health colleagues to provide clarity over patients' transport requirements.
- A wider risk stratification tool is to be agreed and adopted by SW CCG's.
- Looking ahead, winter pressures will need to be closely

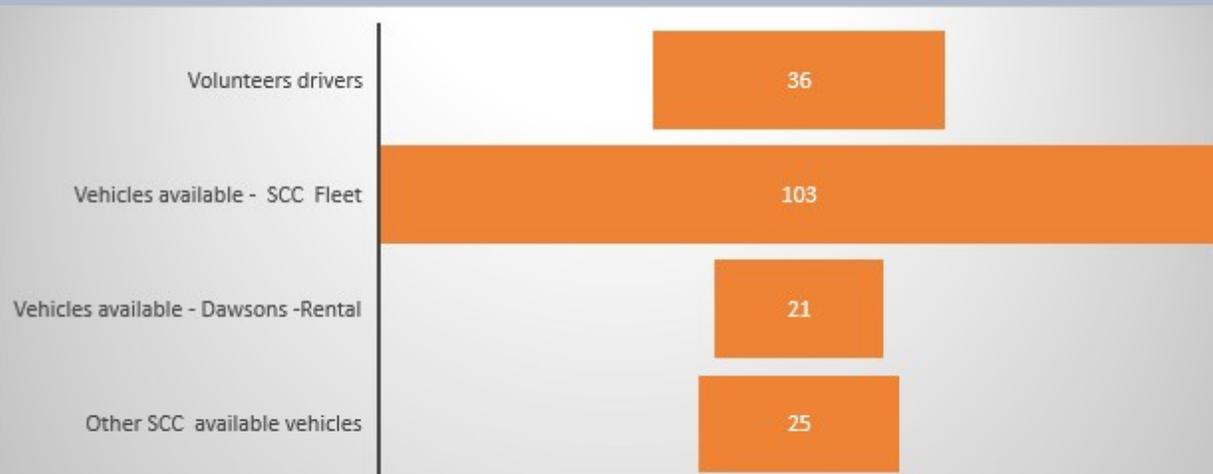
Renal Patient transport	Oncology Patient transport	Food parcels-school meals	PPE deliveries
158	263	Nil	9



Logistic Requests:

No urgent PPE requests

Resources:



Health and Social Care - 4/9/2020

(SCC contribution to H&SC Tactical Cells)

Key points

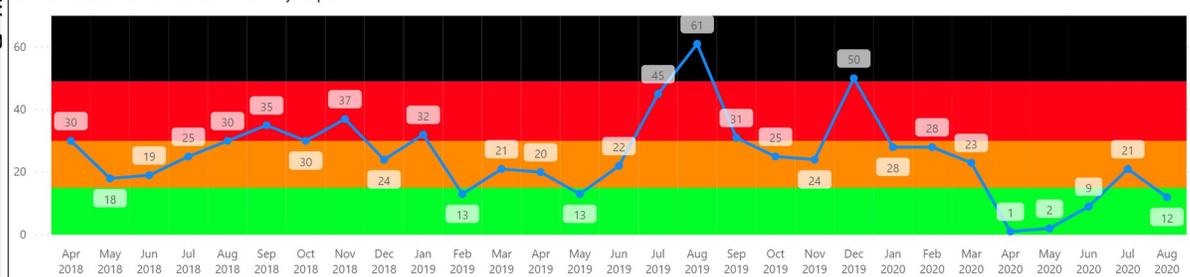
Updated National Directives and Guidance - The Phase 3 national guidance for discharge and intermediate care has been published and broadly is a continuation of previous policies with further capacity required and an emphasis on people returning home rather than to bedded facilities (95% target for discharges home). Somerset is well positioned to implement the guidance with much of the infrastructure and ethos already in place through our Home First work. A joint health and care initiative will see these services expanded further to cope with reduced acute bed availability and to offer more people a quicker and supported route home, as well as offering the same expanded service for those trying to avoid an admission to hospital.

Infection Control Grant - All the funding has been distributed to those care providers who were eligible and applied across care settings and providers. We are now gathering data on how this had been spent, with returns informing an audited completion statement to NHSE and DCLG. We have included an allocation for VCSE, micros and day respite services as required even though the funding does not specifically reference those areas.

Good News:

Sourcing care - Sourcing Care have maintained good performance in ensuring unmet homecare levels are kept to a minimum despite recognised seasonal challenges and growing demand. w/c 24 August 2020, the team received 54 requests for packages of care; the team was able to source 49 that same week. August ended at OPEL 1 escalation; a significant achievement given last August's comparable performance. Recruitment for

Unmet Needs - OPEL Levels - Monthly Report:



and 38

Actions going forward

Communications

- The service continues to issue routine provider email briefings updating the adult social care market on latest developments, national and local guidance and offering support and advice. Working closely with Public Health and CCG's Infection Prevention Control team, we also monitor any care home outbreaks
- #ProudtoCareSomerset:** Seeking care provider engagement to help us promote our care sector: Local Authority comms team is keen to put together a series of videos to help promote and champion the care sector in Somerset and has shared detail, advice and guidance about how the market can get involved. Advert featuring in the upcoming Your Somerset edition (sent to homes across the county) encouraging people to consider a career in care and confirming that we have available vacancies/are 'open for business' as part of a wider feature around support for people at risk of redundancy

How to help

- Directing providers in your local area to our provider webpage for useful info and responses to FAQs etc;
<https://ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/covid19/>
- Talking Cafes - Live sessions are held every day at 11am. You can also watch the video offline and ask questions.

For more information..

Link to video of our Community/Village agents; <http://youtube.com/watch?v=zrh0hIMbn5E...>

New AD Operations - Anna Littlewood commenced her role within Adult Social Care heading up our Operational teams (1st Sept 2020). She brings a wealth of experience

Vulnerable Children

Key Points

- LA to continue to monitor school attendance of vulnerable groups in partnership with schools and social care – in alignment with new DfE data returns
- Potential increase in complexity of need, particularly in mental health, is being explored
- Risk assessment process in place to support learners with EHC return to school plan
- Laptops for disadvantaged Yr 10 learners rolled out. Further roll-out of ICT equipment for vulnerable learners KS2-4 planned for the Autumn
- Exploring issues around Free School Meal vouchers for families in Independent Non-Maintained Schools
- Approx 5% increase in Children Looked After numbers compared to January 2020. No clear pattern emerging. Audits & data analysis continue in order to identify any emerging themes
- Safeguarding concerns around families living in isolation under increasing pressure and amid expected rise in domestic abuse and substance misuse incidents
- Impact of Covid-19 on placement costs being monitored
- Impact of delays to Birth Registration process being monitored
- PeopleToo Demand Modelling underway to understand the lag of demand and possible impact to Children's Social Care services triggered by Covid

Successes

- Additional foster care enquiries & assessments generated through adapted processes
- LA link officers established for schools and EY settings to provide single points of contact
- Successful alternative solutions provided for supporting vulnerable families for respite (Outdoor Education Centres)
- Improved monitoring and reporting of attendance across all schools
- Embedding of Multi-Agency Linked Professional safeguarding approach
- Delivery of an average of 1,000 Free School Meal boxes / week to schools
- Summer holiday Free School Meal vouchers – issues for rurally isolated families resolved – vouchers for local shops to be made available, or Village Agents to support
- 4 tonnes of food per week secured from FareShare – partnership working in place with voluntary organisations & partners to link summer holiday activities for vulnerable families
- 'Positive Activities for Teenagers Group' successfully delivering voluntary sector & detached youth work summer holiday support (for young people on the edge of criminality & exploitation). 120 young people engaged, approx 80 matched with activities to date. Work underway with settings to support young people with transition back into education

Key Risks

- Increased safeguarding risks to vulnerable children during lockdown and expected rise in referrals as lockdown ends
- Increase in anti-social behaviour and complex needs emerging
- Limited placement capacity for teenagers & general placement opportunities as CLA numbers rise

Actions Going Forward

- On-going review of partial return to office bases & virtual team building for new teams
- Explore options to reduce the impact of digital poverty on remote learning
- Research and discussions to develop understanding and response to emerging need
- Monitoring & review of the impact of providing vulnerable learners with IT devices

Schools - Extending Provision

Key Points

- Preparations continue for the return of all pupils to school. Weekly LA/School meetings continue. Schools Cell has reconvened. All schools are planning to open by w/c 7th September
- New attendance data returns expected from schools. LA to continue to monitor attendance of vulnerable groups in partnership with schools and social care
- Scenario planning exercise undertaken with schools, Public Health & CCU. Feedback provided to inform Local Outbreak Management Plan processes and key messaging. Actions arising to be tracked and monitored.
- Public Health supporting schools with updated guidance around the implications for education settings of the CONTAIN (local outbreak management) framework. Discussions continuing around how to manage the requirement to hold 'sufficient stocks' of PPE in school and how best to support schools with home testing kits
- Letter from Julian Wooster issued to all Heads and parents. 'Welcome Back to School' video has had good engagement on social media, Somerset schools featured on Points West this week with representation from the Somerset Youth Parliament. Ongoing 'return to school' promotions planned on social media. Media enquiries emerging around school transport, use of face coverings and school fines
- Monitoring of requests for Electively Home Educated pupils underway - to identify trends/emerging issues
- On-going support to be provided to schools with exams appeals process.
- In order to manage bubbles, some schools are planning staggered starts. Schools advised to take a flexible stance to accommodate issues arising (use of Toil, unpaid leave etc)
- HR supporting schools with staffing queries on quarantine and health and safety concerns in relation to return to work
- School transport - plans implemented for return to school. Transport team working hard to resolve pressure on SEN & emerging queries over staggered start times
- Potential resource issues for schools in managing blended virtual and face to face curriculum should blended learning still be required in September
- Support available to help schools manage high levels of anxiety for learners, parents and staff in relation to phased return to school. Funding made available by the DfE to support training for school staff. Helpline established to aid staff with signposting from the beginning of term
- Availability of Early Years places - all Early Years providers are expected to be open within

Successes

- School leadership appreciative of SCC support during Covid 19 period and on implementing extended provision
- Outdoor curriculum offer developed with partners / agencies with 290 staff trained
- Emergency PPE provided and on-going ordering process established
- Information on holiday activities and Childcare Finder service shared with partners / parents (and published on Somerset Choices Website)

Key Risks

- Staff & family confidence to return to school in September
- School transport demand and capacity for September
- Anticipated increased attainment gap for disadvantaged students
- Anticipated rise in anxiety levels for some staff & children returning to school
- Concerns raised over impact on transition arrangements for

Actions Going Forward

- Establish impact on school delegated budgets
- The successful link worker arrangement will be continued until October.
- Planning for September and beyond
- Working group to explore implementation of Catch-Up grants & National Tutoring Programme
- 'Centralised information resource 'libraries' to be established for parents and schools, to include updated Public Health and DfE / school information
- Impact of digital poverty to be considered in event of continued home learning. School cell to monitor progress
- Wellbeing support for remote learners (in the event of continued home learning) to be considered within Health &

Schools - Extending Provision

Vulnerable Children

School Attendance data anticipated to be available from 15th September

