

Health, Care and Wellbeing News




Somerset Health and Wellbeing

Improving Lives



Edition 1

February 2020

Welcome to the first edition of our dedicated newsletter for all Somerset Councillors bringing you the latest health and wellbeing news. We aim to email you after every Health and Wellbeing Board meeting (bi-monthly) going forward with some of the decisions made. We'll also include relevant health, care and wellbeing information from our NHS and community partners. To feedback, please email communications@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

[The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board](#) (HWBM) meet every two months and looks at people's health and social care needs together, as well as considering the bigger picture. The board considers transport, housing, jobs and leisure – so that services truly help people stay healthy and independent. It also produces a plan which focuses on methods of improving health and wellbeing for the local population; the current plan is called Improving Lives in Somerset Strategy 2019-2028. They also produce a joint needs and a pharmaceutical needs assessment and oversee the Better Care Fund. A key function of the board is to find ways of combining health, public health and social care services in a way that better serves the public. Members of the board look at the evidence of what works best to help target plans and resources. To help do this the board publishes [Joint Strategic Needs Assessments](#). Health and wellbeing is a wide and varied topic area, with many strategic and local partners involved. The board brings these organisations together to work on a collective goal of improving the lives of Somerset residents. Get involved – the next HWBM meeting is on **19 March 2020** at 11am in the meeting room at Taunton Library.

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'Our Plan- Somerset's plan for children, young people and their families 2019 -2022'

'Our Plan' – the Somerset Plan for children, young people and families 2019-22 was endorsed at the recent HWBB. The plan includes the priorities for Somerset, identified by children and young people, to support them to be happy, healthy and well prepared for adulthood.

Watch the children and young adults voicing their ideas for the plan: ['The Making of Our Plan' video.](#)

Read: ['Our Plan'](#)

New arrangements for safeguarding Children

During the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, members heard Somerset has a new safeguarding partnership due to legislation changes made in 2017/18. There is now a tripartite responsibility for safeguarding children in the area between Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Avon and Somerset Constabulary – overseen by the HWBB.

These three organisations now have joint and equal responsibility to safeguard children and young people, under the name Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

The four key priorities for safeguarding will remain: early help, multi-agency safeguarding, neglect and child exploitation. The Partnership also has ownership of the revised Children and young people's plan (2019-2022).

Find more in depth information on the vision of this new partnership [here.](#)

New Better Care Fund Initiative

Social workers have been placed in A&E hospital departments this winter to add to the multi-disciplinary approach to 'winter planning' and give further options to prevent admission. Yeovil Hospital already have staff in place and Musgrove Park will follow shortly. In addition, we have piloted placing a social worker with the South West Ambulance Service (SWAST) and believe that the advice and support of social work can make a real difference to people who reach out and dial 999. It is likely going forward that we will use social workers with mental health experience given the conversations that we have had with SWAST.

For more information go to [Better Care Fund.](#)

Somerset Health Checks

Health Provider Thrive Tribe has been awarded a renewal of the contract to provide NHS Health Checks in Somerset. Health Checks are available to anyone aged 40 – 74 living in Somerset. The checks can help identify those at risk or suffering from heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease, or high cholesterol – health conditions that are hugely preventable. Clinics are available throughout the county. To find a local one, check out [Somerset Health Checks](#).

Public consultation - changing acute inpatient mental health services

Following a decision by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body on 16 January 2020, health and care services in Somerset are running a public consultation to gather feedback from local people about the future locations of acute mental health beds for people of working age. The consultation runs until 12 April 2020.

The proposal is to change the location of the acute mental health ward at Wells for people aged between 18 and 65 years and move it to Yeovil. The number of beds will remain the same. The ward at Wells is not close to other wards and a long way from the nearest Emergency Department.

You can read the full consultation document [here](#), contact them by [email](#) or telephone 01935 384119. Listening events will be held across the county, full details of these are available on the [website](#).

Talking Cafes

'Talking Cafes' take place regularly across a number of Somerset locations where staff from a number of agencies are available to talk to members of the public and provide free, confidential advice and support, to anyone aged 18 or over.

They work on a drop-in basis – no appointment is necessary, and, provide a place where anyone aged over 18 can access several agencies in one location, in an informal, relaxed environment. A range of subjects can be covered - from health, finance, housing, home support equipment, reducing loneliness to childcare.

For details where your nearest Talking Café is taking place click [here](#)

Tackling health workforce challenges

There are several significant challenges which are impacting on our ability to sustain the workforce we need. Being a largely rural county, with an ageing population and not having a university in the county all effect the number of potential candidates in the local workforce. This added to the expectation that a significant proportion of our workforce are expected to retire in the next five years means that we are relying on bringing people in from outside the area.

A number of initiatives are currently in place to improve GP recruitment and retention including:

[Somerset GP career plus scheme](#), GP concierge scheme, [GP retainer scheme](#), [GP in Somerset recruitment campaign](#), [GP international recruitment](#), Portfolio/flexible working offers especially to newly qualified GPs

Advanced Care Practitioner strategy - The national Advanced Care Practice strategy aims to expand the size and scope of the non-medical senior clinician workforce, to enable our most highly skilled and experienced clinical colleagues to provide clinical leadership, use their skills for the benefit of patients and make best use of our scarce medical workforce capacity.

Community car scheme

Did you know that we have a community car scheme operating throughout the County? The scheme offers travel to essential services such as health appointments, accessing work, shopping or to help with social inclusion like visiting friends. Some schemes even offer further services such as prescription pick-ups.

It is a not for profit organisation, usually run by volunteers. Any potential passengers must first become a member of the scheme before they can use the service. They will then be charged a fare each time they travel to cover fuel expenses.

Further information is available on the [Travel Somerset website](#). Find your local Car Share Scheme at: [Mendip](#), [Sedgemoor](#), [Somerset West & Taunton](#), [South Somerset](#).

If there is no scheme and you are interested in starting one you can download a [Car Scheme Toolkit](#)

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