

County Councillor's Brief for Town & Parish Councils

South Petherton and Islemoor
Division

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- **Children and Young People Plan. A three year plan for children and young people were approved by the County Council's Cabinet and endorsed by partners in May.** The Children and Young People's Plan (2016-19) has been developed in partnership with the police, health, schools, early years settings, adults services who support parents and other agencies. It focuses on the continuous improvement to services for children, young people and their families in Somerset. The approval of the Plan by Cabinet Members comes after 12 months of urgent improvements to children's services in Somerset. The ambitious nine priorities of the initial plan have now been achieved, allowing the Council and partners to look ahead at how they intend to continue making improvements. The Department for Education (DfE) required Somerset County Council to develop the plan to highlight how the partnership of agencies working with children and young people in Somerset intend to continue and sustain improvements to children's services. Feedback from the DfE appointed advisors to Somerset's Improvement Programme, Essex County Council, has been positive.
- **Seven key themes emerge from the plan, which will be the focus of improvements for the next three years:**
 - Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient
 - Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
 - Improving emotional health and wellbeing
 - Building skills for life
 - Providing help early and effectively
 - Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
 - Embedding a think family approach across the workforce
- **Scheme helps drivers with medical conditions stay Road Assured.** A new programme to support older drivers, people with health issues or those returning to driving following a health issue is now available through Somerset County Council's road safety team. The Road Assured scheme enables individuals to take a short assessed drive with an approved driving instructor. The instructor will offer objective, independent advice and provide a written report for the driver at the end of the assessment. Individuals can book their own assessment, or they can be referred by their GP, health professional, or by a friend or family member. If you are referred to the scheme by your GP, a copy of the report will also be sent to them to help both driver and doctor decide what steps, if any, should be taken. The Road Assured scheme is not designed to

address the issue of notifiable medical conditions. The responsibility for this remains with the driver. A full list of notifiable medical conditions is available from your GP or on the DVLA website. To find out more about the Road Assured scheme, please visit <http://www.somersetroadsafety.org/page/road-assured/214/>, telephone 01823 423430 or email roadsafety@somerset.gov.uk.

- **SCC road Shows Listening Learning Calendar in our area. Every year the county Council seeks out your views listed below in the programme in our area.**

Wednesday 1 June – Saturday, 4 June 6pm	Shepton Mallet, Bath & West Show	9 am -
Saturday, 11 June 1pm	Ilminster Midsummer Experience	10 am -
Saturday, 18 June	Frome stand at Frome Market	
Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 July 6pm	Yeovil Show, Yeovil Showground	9 am -
Friday, 5 August & Sunday 6 August 6pm	Taunton Flower Show	10 am -
Sunday, 21 August 6pm	Shepton Mallet, Mid Somerset Show	8 am -

- **Protect your Child in the Sun.** Somerset County Council is encouraging parents to be 'sunsmart' to protect their children from the harmful effects of the sun this summer. Exposing children to too much sun may significantly increase their risk of skin cancer later in life. Covering up, staying in the shade and using sunscreen are the best ways to protect children against the sun. More people develop skin cancer in Somerset on average compared to the rest of the country. Somerset has the 14th highest incidence of skin cancer diagnosis compared to other areas in England and on average between 2013-15 there were 37 skin cancer deaths each year. Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health said: "Being out in the sunshine is a great way for children to be active and get the Vitamin D their bodies need. But parents need to make sure they know their children's skin, don't let them burn and if they're outside for a while make sure they're in the shade, covered up or wearing sunscreen."
- **Safer homes for Somerset children** Somerset County Council and its partners are urging parents to keep their children safe at home and 'Turn off technology' ahead of National Child Safety Week (6th - 12th June). Accidents are a leading cause of death, serious injury and acquired disability for children and young people in the UK. Accidents often happen when people are distracted and serious accidents can happen very quickly – when answering a phone call or checking a text. Somerset County Council, working in partnership with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Health Visiting Teams and getset family support workers, have launched a 'Safer Homes' project to support families to prevent accidents in the home. Last year over 1000 Somerset children aged 0-14 years were admitted to hospital as a result of injuries caused by accidents such as falls, burns and scalds and eating inedible household items. ²Falls account for two in five (42%) of these admissions, which is more than any other type of accident. Most parents assume their home is a safe haven but that is where most of the falls (35%) happen and this is especially true of very young children. The 'Safer Homes' project identifies families who need additional support with

child safety equipment. To date there have been 65 visits to Somerset families through this scheme, which will continue through 2016-17.

- **Social workers scramble up Snowdon for Somerset Foster Carers.** Dedicated social workers have trekked to the top of Wales' highest mountain, Mount Snowdon, 3,560 feet above sea level, in aid of a voluntary organisation representing Foster Carers in Somerset. The Somerset Foster Care Association (SFCA) is a voluntary organisation run by Somerset foster carers for foster carers, their sons and daughters, and foster children, established in 2015. The Association aims to bring foster carers in Somerset together, providing them with a stronger voice that influences and develops support services in the county.
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