

Local Account - Introduction

Director of Social Services Lead Commissioner for Adults and Health

Clare Steel

I am pleased to present our second Local Account in which we have worked hard to listen to the views and experiences of the people who use our services.

Despite possibly the most challenging financial period the Council has ever faced, we are continuing to focus on improving the quality of our services with a key priority to help vulnerable and elderly people stay in their own homes for longer. This is in keeping with our strategy on promoting independence. Around two thirds of the people who use our reablement programme do not need a long term service. So as well as leading to better outcomes for individuals, reablement has played a key part in the wellbeing of Somerset's communities.

During the year we have taken on the responsibility for Public Health and we look forward to working together to help improve the health outcomes for the people of Somerset.

We have been working closely with the (Clinical Commissioning Group) CCG that have replaced the Primary care trust and developed a framework for our shared approach to integrating health and social care services, which is both a national and local priority.

We are preparing for the implementation of the Care and Support Bill from 2015. New legislative requirements along with continued financial challenges mean that we have to look at new ways of working in balancing prevention, supporting carers along with our core responsibilities to protect the most vulnerable people in Somerset. Where our most vulnerable have the care they need and the choices they want and all our residents have every opportunity to live healthy lives.