County councils up and down the country are struggling to cope with the cost of providing the services we know residents value.

Somerset County Council is no different. Big cutbacks in Government funding, coupled with growing numbers of elderly people and the rising cost of looking after vulnerable children have put our finances under enormous pressure.

In the last eight years we’ve found savings and efficiencies worth around £130m. During this time we have seen Ofsted confirm improvements in our Children’s Services, significant success nationally in our work to help people get home from hospital, and our road network was rated amongst the best-maintained in the country.

But we are at the point where we cannot maintain all our services at this level. With the funding we now have, we simply cannot afford to do everything we used to do.

Council Leader, Cllr David Fothergill said: “We have to live within our means, and in the coming months that means that we will have to make some very difficult decisions about the services we can and can’t provide.

“Our commitment is to focus on the services that support vulnerable adults and children, which together account for nearly two-thirds of our budget. We will become as efficient as possible and renegotiate contracts wherever we can to make sure every pound goes as far as it can.

Think you’d make a good foster carer?
Find out how you can help us to take care of the 500 children and young people in care in Somerset. See page 15.
I’ve been talking for a long time about the challenge of delivering our services at a time of great financial pressure.

We’ve worked hard, worked smarter and made around £130m worth of savings and efficiencies in recent years - but the years of falling funding and rising demand are now taking their toll. Some really tough decisions lie ahead as we refocus on core services and statutory duties. Somerset is not alone. It’s a similar picture across local councils, especially for those responsible for looking after vulnerable people, and it’s even harder for those of us doing so in rural areas.

We cannot rely on any bailout and so we must take action. Personally, I did not come into local politics to take the decisions we are now facing, but I keep reminding myself that the prize will be to lay the foundations for the long-term delivery of sustainable public services.

Aside from the financial challenges, our Vision for Somerset stands strong. We want to improve people’s lives by creating a thriving and productive county that is ambitious and confident. A county where all partners actively work together for the benefit of our residents, communities and businesses. And a county that provides you with the right information, advice and guidance to help you to help yourself and targets support to those that need it most.

The success of our social care Community Connect initiative (see page 6) shows what we can do when working closely with voluntary organisations and local communities.

Everyone can help by doing their business with the Council online wherever they can, recycling more and doing their best to stay healthy and active.

In this edition of Your Somerset you’ll see that we are still investing in schools and schemes that help create and support jobs (see page 3) using our capital funds – money we’re not allowed to use to pay for our day-to-day running costs.

And on pages 4 and 5 is information about the support that’s available to children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Cllr Fothergill adds: “These are difficult times, but the end result will be a County Council that can afford itself and continues to provide support and services that improve the lives of our residents.”

£5,000 per week

£317m budget

£90m - £9m

It can cost more than £5,000 per person, per week to provide specialist care, a commitment that can last for decades.

Of our £317m budget this year, 63 per cent is allocated to support vulnerable adults (£134m) and children (£65m).

The main government grant to the Council was nearly £90m five years ago, today it is less than £9m.

To get in contact with Your Somerset or to advertise in this publication, contact Lauren Fellingham on (01823) 359176, email yoursomerset@somerset.gov.uk or write to us at Your Somerset, Somerset County Council, FREEPOST NAT 9109, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of organisations that advertise in Your Somerset, but Somerset County Council can accept no responsibility for the products or services advertised. We advise readers to make their own enquiries before purchasing products or services.
The latest addition to Bridgwater’s landmark Somerset Energy Innovation Centre (SEIC) is rapidly taking shape.

The £6.5m second phase of the exciting project should be completed before the end of the year, creating more space for businesses in the nuclear and low carbon supply-chain sector. It will also include a dedicated area - Enterprise Hub@SEIC2 - providing light industrial and office workspace to support small and medium enterprises from any sector.

Phase one of the building opened in 2016 and is home to 40 businesses, ranging from civil engineering firms to tech start ups. The extension will add another 2,000 square metres of floor space, with the aim of attracting more skilled jobs to the area now and into the future.

SEIC2 is being funded by the Heart of the South West Growth Deal and Somerset County Council. The Enterprise Hub@SEIC2 is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (EDRF), and the Heart of the South West Local Growth Deal.

Several multi-million-pound County Council-funded schools projects have been successfully completed in the last few months.

**Wincanton Primary School**

In April, the new primary school with up to 90 much-needed school places and state-of-the-art facilities was formally opened at Wincanton Primary School. The £4m extension boasts eight new classrooms, dedicated therapy facilities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, an impressive outdoor covered play area and an IT suite.

**Kingfisher Primary School in Yeovil**

In June, we saw the handover of a brand new £7m primary school in Lufton, Yeovil. The 14-class school, along with a 52-place purpose-built nursery, offers fantastic facilities for pupils and the local community, and will meet the growing demand created by new housing developments and rising birth rates.

**Tor School, Glastonbury**

This dedicated Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), which will serve the whole Mendip area, held a special open day after being completed earlier in the year. The 12-classroom, £3m facility at the former Mendip Centre site in Beckery New Road, provides support for 80 pupils at Key Stage 2, 3 and 4, and brings together services previously delivered in three different places.

**Heathfield School in Taunton**

Pupils can now enjoy the use of two state-of-the-art performance studios and new science labs, as well as new art rooms in a new two-storey building, thanks to a £3m investment. The project means capacity at the school has been increased by 150 pupils to 1,350. The school also opened a new £600,000 centre for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. It offers high-tech teaching facilities with the aim of gradually introducing pupils back into the mainstream school.
What is SEND?

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It describes a huge spectrum of needs and challenges, which includes how a person communicates, learns and processes information, and covers physical or medical conditions that may affect a child or young person’s life and learning.

A child or young person of school age is said to have SEND if they:

- Have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.
- Have a disability, which prevents or hinders them from using educational facilities generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

What we do

Our Children’s Services are here to make sure children and young people with SEND are supported in all areas of their lives, from when they are born until they reach 25.

A big part of this is to make sure all children and young people with SEND have the opportunity to go to mainstream schools and be educated alongside their peers.

But even before this, we have an important role to play in helping to identify whether a child has SEND, and then helping families get the right support.

We help to make sure children and families get the support they need to access:

- Education
- Health
- Employment
- Independent living
- Respite and activities

It’s a team effort

Supporting children and young people with SEND involves a whole team of people, including social care, health, education and the local community – we are all in this together.

So, if you’re a parent carer or young person and want to find out more, take a look at the information about our ‘Local Offer,’ or check out our website at www.somerset.gov.uk/localoffer

There are around 12,000 children and young people in Somerset with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
The Local Offer
Improving information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

If you have a child or you are a young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities, we want to make sure that you can easily find all the services available to you in your local area.

The Local Offer sets out, all in one place, all the services that are available for children and young people up to the age of 25, across education, health, social care, support services and leisure activities.

It tells you everything you need to know about SEND and includes information about:
- services and support available locally for children and young people with SEND
- education, childcare, health, transport, support and preparing for adult life

We make the Local Offer by listening to and talking to parent carers and young people in schools and colleges. One person who has been actively involved in this is Kiah Durham. Kiah is a former Young People’s Champion for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Somerset County Council.

“The Local Offer is interactive, easy to access, and has loads of useful information. One example is the Learning Disability (LD) Health Check, which all young people are entitled to. I don’t think people realise what an LD Health Check is or know who to ask about that sort of thing, but the information is there on the Local Offer. The Local Offer also helped friends of mine find clubs and activities.”

Kiah
former Young People’s Champion

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Sign up now!
The SEND newsletter

We produce an eNewsletter packed full of useful information on health and wellbeing, education, social care and support services for families and people who work with children and families with SEND. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email childrensimprovement@somerset.gov.uk

Im proving inform ation about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
Would you like to know more about what care and support is available in your local area? Do you know someone who would benefit from a little extra help to live more independently and keep healthy and well?

Now running in several locations across the county, the Community Connect teams are made up of Community and Village Agents, health professionals, Adult Social Care workers and community organisations, like the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and volunteers.

The teams work with residents to ‘connect’ them to the right support when they need them most, and as shown in these two recent stories, they can give people back their independence no matter what their circumstances.

Michael, who has learning disabilities, is being supported by Adult Social Care. The team were concerned that he was not coping very well at home and was losing his confidence. The team got in touch with Community Agent, John, who visited Michael to find out how he could help him rebuild his confidence and make him more independent.

They had a chat about his interests and agreed that they would contact a local walking group, as Michael really wanted to get a bit fitter and knew that this would make him feel much better about himself. John went with him to the first session to support him, but the group couldn’t have been more welcoming. Michael now attends most weeks and really loves getting out and about in the countryside.

Michael also told John about his lifelong love of dogs. John got in touch with the local pet shop owner who was running a dog training class at the local community centre and asked if she needed a volunteer to help her run things. The dog trainer was keen to help and invited both John and Michael to attend a dog training session. Michael made quite an impression on her and is now regularly helping out.

Just by getting involved in a few local groups and events, and making some new contacts, Michael is so much happier and is much more confident in social situations.

Amy is 22 and has Aspergers. Her mum turned to Community Connect when she was worried that she was becoming more and more isolated at home - spending most of her time online. When the Village Agent visited their first conversation proved challenging, until she asked Amy what sort of hobbies, courses or maybe employment she might be interested in. Her response was: “I’ve never been asked that before...”

It soon became apparent that Amy had a passion for two things, fine art and horses. The Village Agent suggested that Amy might be able to visit a local stables and volunteer.

They are also looking into an art course through the Positive People project in Taunton. Amy is now feeling less isolated and is really excited about her future.

Since Community Connect’s involvement with both Amy and Michael, their lives have become better. By bringing together the resources available within the community, the programme can create solutions unlike any care package available. This is why we will continue to support investment, so that more people can live their lives the way they want to.

To find out more about Community Connect Talking Cafés, visit www.somerset.gov.uk/dropin or phone 0300 123 2224.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.
The number of people diagnosed with dementia is on the rise in Somerset. Making sure the right support is in place for people with the condition is vital so that they can continue to live their lives the way they want to.

But none of the agencies can do it alone. It’s a big challenge. We have to do it together. Money is tight, but if all the different parts of the health and care system work more closely together we’ll see some big rewards.

We all need to do more to stop getting ill in the first place. But when people do become ill we want to make sure they get access to joined up health and care services in the community, away from hospitals where possible, to help them live as independently for as long as they can.

At the end of the day, it’s all about people:
- living healthier lives and feeling able to look after themselves
- building on strong, connected communities where people support each other
- giving our children the best possible start in life
- joining up health and care services in the community with the person at the centre
- tackling inequalities, so everyone gets support when they need it.

In the autumn we’ll be coming to a place near you to find out what you think should change or could be done better.

Here are some of the changes people have already told us they’d like to see:
- “Not having to repeat my story over and over again.”
- “Patients and carers being involved in their own care planning.”
- “Mental health being treated equally to physical health.”
- “All agencies working together for the needs of the community.”
- “People getting help from the point of diagnosis - no-one falling through the net.”
- “Access to ‘buddies’ who I could call for information.”

We want to hear what you think too. To find out more about how you can have your say, visit www.fitformyfuture.com

DEMENTIA DAY CARE SERVICES

The number of people diagnosed with dementia is on the rise in Somerset. Making sure the right support is in place for people with the condition is vital so that they can continue to live their lives the way they want to.

We have recently reviewed our day care services, as the current contract is up for renewal in 2019. Following a consultation with service users and residents, we have put together proposals to create a community grants programme, which focuses on specialist support services for people with dementia.

If you would like to find out more about these proposals, Council staff will be on hand to discuss the plans and answer questions at the following events, taking place across the county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wincanton Library</td>
<td>Monday 10 Sept, 9.30am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yeovil Library</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 Sept, 9.30am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wells Library</td>
<td>Thursday 13 Sept, 1pm-5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellington Library</td>
<td>Monday 17 Sept, 9am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chard Library</td>
<td>Tuesday 18 Sept, 9.30am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnham-on-Sea Library</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 Sept, 10am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgwater Library</td>
<td>Thursday 20 Sept, 9am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taunton Library</td>
<td>Friday 21 Sept, 11am-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minehead Talking Café</td>
<td>Monday 24 Sept, 10am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frome Library</td>
<td>Thursday 27 Sept, 10am-2pm</td>
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Somerset Care has care homes throughout Somerset. For details of your nearest homes, please call: 0800 9884 337, www.somersetcare.co.uk

Whether you would like company on trips out, assistance with hobbies, a bit of support with the weekly shop or some help around your home, My Willows provides a home care service completely tailored to suit your lifestyle.

Contact My Willows and start living your life the way you want to.

Call: 0800 0902 312
Email: enquiries@mywillows.org.uk

Life begins at Lavender Court, Taunton

www.mywillows.org.uk

My Willows is part of the Somerset Care Group.
Digital technology is transforming all types of health care and how we share your information securely. Technology makes the referral processes much slicker and helps to save valuable time when you visit a clinician or receive treatment, giving you a better standard of care.

So, with multiple benefits, we are working hard in Somerset to reduce the number of paper-based systems being used to share health and care information between our services.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**GP Records**

Since October 2016, if you live in Somerset, medical professionals in Yeovil District Hospital, Somerset Partnership, Musgrove Park Hospital, NHS 111 and the GP Out of Hours service have been able to see your GP Records if they have provided you with care.

By having access to your medical history, medical professionals can treat you more quickly, and in some cases, it has prevented unnecessary tests being carried out.

"Having the ability to access the GP Record is a fantastic resource. It speeds up patient care and increases safety. We can now check what medicines patients have been prescribed, so that we don’t give them anything inappropriate or something that they are allergic to." Pharmacist, Somerset Partnership

However, the different health services are unable to update or view each other’s records electronically, so this is where SiDeR (Somerset Integrated Digital e-Record) comes in.

**SiDeR**

All care information will be securely available through SiDeR (Somerset Integrated Digital e-Record). This means that all GP Practices, Hospitals, Mental Health, Community and Social Care services in Somerset can view any relevant information to help them deliver better and safer care for you. For example, they will be able to see what medications you are taking, what conditions or allergies you have and what appointments you have coming up. If you have a care plan in place, they will also be able to see this to understand what your exact needs are.

"The GP Record helps us speed up care at the front door of the hospital and fully supports key aspects of patient safety." Emergency Department Nurse, Musgrove Park Hospital

**Home First**

Somerset’s health and social care services are now working even more closely together to help people get home from hospital sooner. Getting back to our lives and routines and regaining independence after a stay in hospital is an essential part of getting better, mentally as well as physically. The Home First approach is all about making this happen more quickly with technology playing a big part.

As soon as the doctor agrees a person is well enough to go home, their information is sent electronically to Social and Community Care providers, making the discharge process much faster.

If you have had an experience with Home First, we would really like your feedback. Please contact the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) at somccg.pals@nhs.net or phone on 0800 085 1067.

**Taking Control of Your Health Information**

GP Online Access allows you to book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and view your medical record online.

This is particularly useful for people with long-term conditions, such as diabetes, as they can monitor their own test results. It may also be useful for when you are planning to go on holiday, as you can see what immunisations you have had previously. To sign up all you need to do is take some ID to your GP Practice.
Somerset’s local authorities work together as Somerset Waste Partnership to ensure that our household waste is reduced, reused, recycled and effectively treated.

**2020 VISION FOR WASTE**

Substantial progress is being made to boost Somerset waste services by 2020 to help us all waste less, recycle more and save money.

Residents have already more than tripled recycling rates in a decade to recycle over half their waste, with 90% recycled in the UK.

This has put Somerset in the top 20% of English councils, hit national targets years early, cut carbon emissions by tens of thousands of tonnes, and saved millions for vital local services.

Now plans for the new Recycle More weekly kerbside collections from 2020 include taking many more plastics. Emptyer rubbish bins will be collected every three weeks. Recycling rates could jump 10% or more.

Three big deals are key to 2020’s waste transformation. Deal one, already signed, will stop landfilling most household rubbish in Somerset. Instead, it will be burned to generate electricity from 2020 at a new Resource Recovery Centre being built in Avonmouth. Complex negotiations have already begun for deal two, to find a new Recycle More collections contractor to start work in 2020. Deal three will build a new recycling truck fleet to take the many thousands of tonnes of extra recycling that Recycle More plans to collect each year.

The plan is to include the plastic pots, tubs and trays now taken at every recycling site, plus beverage cartons, small electrical items and batteries. Weekly separate collections will ensure these are recycled properly, almost all in the UK.

Successful long-term Recycle More trials with hundreds of Somerset families, including those with extra needs, such as nappies, in all sorts of homes saw recycling levels jump, rubbish shrink, few reported problems, and 84% wanting to keep the extra weekly recycling and three-weekly rubbish collections.

One trials mother with two children in nappies said: “All that extra weekly recycling emptied my rubbish bin; it was never a problem.”

Recycle More latest: somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more

Questions? Email: recycle@somersetwaste.gov.uk

PS: Thank you for recycling.

INSIDE: Your free green gift!

*Pupils are learning the new 3Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle – to help families waste far less and recycle much more. Somerset Waste Partnership has sponsored Somerset’s eco-education experts, Carymoor Environmental Trust, to run a new Schools Against Waste programme at 100 primaries, with “talking rubbish” assemblies and workshops on everything from composting to plastics. Here Street’s Brookside Academy pupils Alexandra Rusu and Josh Hawkins, both eight, deliver a thumbs up for recycling and a thumbs down for single-use plastics that can end up as litter. More: www.carymoor.org.uk/trips/schools-against-waste*

Pupils’ new 3Rs
WORST TO WASTE

Between the cost to you and the environmental damage it does, organic material such as food is the very worst thing to send to landfills in your rubbish.

And if everyone with a food waste bin recycled all they could, millions of pounds would easily be saved. You pay twice when discarding food: once for the food itself and a second time for the £100+ a tonne high cost of landfilling heavy organic matter.

And your food goes on to decay for decades and produce the powerful climate change pollutant methane.

Research shows that the average family with children wastes at least £100 of food a year, other households waste even more on food as a proportion of their spending. But there are plenty of simple ways to cut back food waste to keep your hard-earned money - see the “Save food, save cash” checklist below.

Waste food that cannot be avoided can still be “eaten”. At half the cost of landfill, use your food waste bin to feed the ever-hungry billions of burping bacteria in Somerset’s anaerobic digestion plant near Bridgwater.

The bugs transform food into a gas to generate electricity for 3,000 homes, plus farm compost to grow crops.

So, there’s a saving in half the cost of landfill, a nest egg for your hard-earned money, and a little better for the environment.

More help with saving food: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-food-waste/

Save food, save cash!

Help your family eat well yet waste less food with these tips from lovefoodhatewaste.com, and recycle whatever can be saved by taking the form below to any Somerset recycling facility for a free roll of compostable liners* to help you recycle food waste.

● Make weekly meal plans so you know what food you need and when.

● Write shopping lists after checking fridge, freezer, cupboard and meal plan.

● Buy loose fruit and veg and only pick up what you really need.

● Keep fruit and veg in the fridge within any packaging to maximise shelf life.

● Take indexed and squashed Tetra Pak, other beverage cartons, single-use coffee cups.

Dare you reveal what’s in your rubbish bin?

Luckily, you do not have to. SWP collected recycling of hundreds of Somerset homes - anonymity guaranteed - and specialist researchers discovered our successful recycling.

It is a “very good, but could do even better” report. Almost all of us recycle, and we recycle far better than the national average. But over half the stuff we send to landfill - by weight, a whopping 52% - could be recycled right here, right now.

At 26%, food is more than a quarter of the average bin. Another quarter is materials that could go into recycling boxes: 17% paper, cans, card, plastic bottles, textiles or glass bottles and jars, and another 9% is garden waste that should be in the compost bin or paid for garden waste collection.

Assessed by volume, proving how easy three-weekly collections will be with a bit more effort to recycle, almost 75% of what is in the rubbish bin should not be there. A quarter or so of the average rubbish bin is empty space and plastic pots, tubs, trays and Tetra Pak.

Other half is food, garden waste and other items that can already be recycled.

Recycling is getting easier, from the kerbside dozen items to the dozens taken at recycling sites, including lots of plastic. Plans to add a lot to weekly Recycle More collections from 2020, plus three-weekly pick-ups of emptier rubbish bins, offer even more chances to switch from refuse to recycling.

PS: Quick tip. We are good at recycling from the kitchen but not from elsewhere in the house. Before the weekly collection, zip around your home to scoop up everything that might otherwise escape into the rubbish bin.

Got a rubbish question? Email: recycle@somersetwaste.gov.uk

Tackling the tide of problem plastics...

To separate polymer types and grades, 16 optical sensors and oscillating metal grit sift materials by weight, size, colour and density. The result is raw material streams of seven plastics - clear, coloured and black polyethylene, clear and coloured high-density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene plus fennos metals, non-fennos metals, mixed paper, plastic bags and glass.

In Lancaster, bales of these plastics are washed and shredded into flakes ready for remanufacture into new plastic items, from bottles to plumbing pipes.

RECYCLING AND RUBBISH REVELATIONS

Dare you reveal what’s in your rubbish bin?

Bin contents, by weight

Food 26%
Non-food 24%
Recycle 17%
Garden waste 9%
Other 5%
Rubbish 43%
COLLECTIONS
Collection times can vary. Leave at the edge of your property by 7am on collection day.

Kerbside Recycling
- Food waste and kitchen waste, in food bin
- Paper (newspapers, magazines, directories)
- Card (flattened, take large amounts to recycling site) and brown envelopes
- Glass bottles and jars (rinse, unbroken, no table or cookware, no window glass)
- Food and drink cans (rinse, squash if possible)
- Aluminium foil (bag, clear plastic, seal, pre-pay on website)
- Aerosols (empty, do not crush or pierce)
- Plastic bottles (rinse, no tops, pots, tubs, trays)
- Textiles, clothes, shoes (bag to keep dry, label "textiles"), including blankets, curtains, sheets (no stuffed items, such as pillows).

Sort and roughly separate materials without carrier bags. Use only SWP boxes. Pick-up times may vary; put out by 7am on collection day. Contact your district council (below) for containers.

Bank Holiday Collections
Christmas and New Year 2018/19
All services as usual, except:

Usual collection day
Mon 24 Dec 2018
Tue 25 Dec 2018
Wed 26 Dec 2018
Thu 27 Dec 2018
Fri 28 Dec 2018
Mon 31 Dec 2018
Tue 1 Jan 2019
Wed 2 Jan 2019
Thu 3 Jan 2019
Fri 4 Jan 2019
Mon 7 Jan 2019

Revised collection day
No change
Thu 27 Dec 2018
Fri 28 Dec 2018
Sat 29 Dec 2018
Sun 30 Dec 2018
No change
Wed 2 Jan 2019
Thu 3 Jan 2019
Fri 4 Jan 2019
Sat 5 Jan 2019

Garden waste: collections halted from Monday 24 December, resuming from Monday 7 January. Decoration-free real Christmas trees: take to recycling site or home compost; garden waste subscribers only can add them to their collections.

Easter, May and August Bank Holidays
After single bank holidays, collections all one day later, including Friday collection on Saturday.

Communal property collections
Most blocks of flats have bins for paper, glass and can recycling, and for rubbish.

If collections are missed
In usual circumstances, contact customer services and put out containers for two working days for catch-up collections. In severe weather, put out recycling for up to four calendar days and rubbish for up to seven calendar days; if still not collected, put out by 7am on the next usual collection day. To maintain main services in severe weather, we may suspend garden, clinical and bulky waste collections.

Want a job
Contact Taunton Deane Borough Council about:
- Collection days and calendars (check www.tauntondeane.gov.uk)
- Kerbside recycling and refuse collections, including new container requests
- Communal recycling and refuse collections
- Free clinical waste collections and assisted collections for those with difficulty moving waste containers
- Paid-for garden waste and bulky waste collections www.tauntondeane.gov.uk 01823 356346 enquiries@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Contact Somerset Direct about:
- Recycling sites www.somersetwaste.gov.uk somersetdirect@somerset.gov.uk 0300 123 2224
- Businesses (charges apply)
- Garden waste (see website or seek advice on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)
- Gardening waste (e.g. garden chemicals, paint)
- Recycling sites in Taunton Deane take all kerbside materials for recycling, except food waste (double bag, put in landfill skip), plus:
- Asbestos, items containing asbestos (only Taunton; double bag, clear plastic, seal, pre-pay on website, ring site before visit)
- Batteries (car, household)
- Beverage cartons, e.g. Tetra Pak, and single-use plastic-lined paper cups (not Castle Cary, Somerset)
- Electrical appliances
- Fridges and freezers
- Garden waste (see website or seek advice on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)
- Gas bottles (charges apply)
- Hardcore (concrete/rubble; charges apply)
- Hazardous household waste (e.g. garden chemicals, paint)
- Lighting (fluorescent tubes, long-life bulbs)
- Metal
- Mobile phones
- Oil (cooking, engine)
- Paint (water-based only)
- Plasterboard (only Taunton; pre-pay on website)
- Plastic (rigid food & household pots, tubs, trays and plastic bottles)
- Residential waste (including window glass)
- Soil (charges apply)
- Toner cartridges
- Tyres (charges apply)
- Vehicle parts (charges apply)
- Wood

See website for recycling site services in other districts.

Business waste recycling
See website for waste company directory and details of commercial recycling facilities available, in Taunton Deane, at Taunton and Wellington.

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Sort and roughly separate materials without carrier bags. Use only SWP boxes. Pick-up times may vary; put out by 7am on collection day. Contact your district council (below) for containers.

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Thu 27 Dec 2018
Fri 28 Dec 2018
Sat 29 Dec 2018
Sun 30 Dec 2018
No change
Wed 2 Jan 2019
Thu 3 Jan 2019
Fri 4 Jan 2019
Sat 5 Jan 2019

Garden waste: collections halted from Monday 24 December, resuming from Monday 7 January. Decoration-free real Christmas trees: take to recycling site or home compost; garden waste subscribers only can add them to their collections.

Easter, May and August Bank Holidays
After single bank holidays, collections all one day later, including Friday collection on Saturday.

Communal property collections
Most blocks of flats have bins for paper, glass and can recycling, and for rubbish.

If collections are missed
In usual circumstances, contact customer services and put out containers for two working days for catch-up collections. In severe weather, put out recycling for up to four calendar days and rubbish for up to seven calendar days; if still not collected, put out by 7am on the next usual collection day. To maintain main services in severe weather, we may suspend garden, clinical and bulky waste collections.

Want a job
Contact Taunton Deane Borough Council about:
- Collection days and calendars (check www.tauntondeane.gov.uk)
- Kerbside recycling and refuse collections, including new container requests
- Communal recycling and refuse collections
- Free clinical waste collections and assisted collections for those with difficulty moving waste containers
- Paid-for garden waste and bulky waste collections www.tauntondeane.gov.uk 01823 356346 enquiries@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Contact Somerset Direct about:
- Recycling sites www.somersetwaste.gov.uk somersetdirect@somerset.gov.uk 0300 123 2224
- Businesses (charges apply)
- Garden waste (see website or seek advice on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)
- Gardening waste (e.g. garden chemicals, paint)
- Recycling sites in Taunton Deane take all kerbside materials for recycling, except food waste (double bag, put in landfill skip), plus:
- Asbestos, items containing asbestos (only Taunton; double bag, clear plastic, seal, pre-pay on website, ring site before visit)
- Batteries (car, household)
- Beverage cartons, e.g. Tetra Pak, and single-use plastic-lined paper cups (not Castle Cary, Somerset)
- Electrical appliances
- Fridges and freezers
- Garden waste (see website or seek advice on www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)
- Gas bottles (charges apply)
- Hardcore (concrete/rubble; charges apply)
- Hazardous household waste (e.g. garden chemicals, paint)
- Lighting (fluorescent tubes, long-life bulbs)
- Metal
- Mobile phones
- Oil (cooking, engine)
- Paint (water-based only)
- Plasterboard (only Taunton; pre-pay on website)
- Plastic (rigid food & household pots, tubs, trays and plastic bottles)
- Residential waste (including window glass)
- Soil (charges apply)
- Toner cartridges
- Tyres (charges apply)
- Vehicle parts (charges apply)
- Wood

See website for recycling site services in other districts.

Business waste recycling
See website for waste company directory and details of commercial recycling facilities available, in Taunton Deane, at Taunton and Wellington.
The Somerset Education Business Partnership (EBP) builds links between education and employers to inspire a local skilled workforce for the future.

How can you help?

If you’re an employer you could talk at an assembly, welcome students to your workplace or become a business mentor. Collaborating with a school increases your brand’s awareness, provides a professional development opportunity and allows you to form a relationship with your future recruitment pool.

If you’re an employer and want to inspire the next generation, phone support@somerset-ebp.co.uk

The Somerset EBP is an exciting opportunity for business-education relationships. Engaging with local schools and colleges is critical for fostering a future skilled workforce.

Chris Langdon, Interim CEO of Somerset Chamber of Commerce

Funded through the Hinkley Point C Community Impact mitigation Fund in partnership with

The BIGGEST event of its kind in the region with over 70 exhibitors including the Armed Forces, Universities, FE Colleges, Employers and Training Providers. Also featuring “Choices for Life” and “Apprenticeship Recruitment Information” Zones and introducing “The Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Careers Fair” Wednesday, 10th October 2018

Somerset County Cricket Ground, Taunton

Tuesday, 13th November 2018

Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton

For more information visit www.somerset-careersfair.co.uk

email: admin@somerset-careersfair.co.uk

Tel: 07714 396346

If you are an existing social enterprise in the area and would like to benefit from 12 hours of fully funded support available through the Enhance Social Enterprise Programme, please register at devon.cc/ese.

Somer set’s thriving network of enterprise centres for small businesses is growing.

The Highbridge centre, which is already home to fifteen businesses, has been expanded thanks to joint funding from the Council and the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership’s ‘Unlocking Growth Fund’.

The extra 234 square metres of light industrial space should accommodate another three firms and associated jobs.

Highbridge is one of five Enterprise Centres established around the county to help small and medium-sized businesses start up and grow, particularly in rural areas where access to suitable and affordable space is hard to find.

Together with the centres in Frome, Dulverton, Wheddon Cross and Minehead the network now provides 52,000 square feet of commercial office space and units – of which around 93 per cent is taken.

In total they support 54 businesses providing more than 120 jobs.

For more information, visit www.somerset-enterprise-centres.co.uk
Somerset aims to increase the voice of young people by providing advice and support to empower and help them to have their say.

What is an advocate?
An advocate is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people. It’s the role of the advocate to speak up for the young person, give advice, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings.

What is an Independent Visitor?
Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. Contact would normally take place monthly. By law all local authorities have to provide an Independent Visitor’s service.

In Somerset we encourage the relationship between the Independent Visitor and young person to continue beyond care. This way the care leavers continue to benefit from the support while making the transition to young adulthood. Independent Visitors are highly valued by the young people as they may be the only person involved in their lives who is not paid to be there.

Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability.

Your life experiences will be highly valued and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills.

We would like to hear from volunteers who would be interested in offering support to children with disabilities or special needs.

Please contact us and we will arrange a short visit to explain more and discuss your options.

(All your expenses are reimbursed.)

Like driving?
Then be a lifeline

Do you like driving?
Have time to spare?
Want to help people in your community?

Drivers can claim up to 50p per mile for expenses.

Just tell us which days you can drive each week and we’ll send you a schedule to let you know who you need to collect, where they need to go and what time they need to be there.

Most journeys are to Somerset-based hospitals, but sometimes journeys can be to Bristol, Exeter or further afield. Volunteer drivers also take some looked after children to school.

Interested in finding out more?
Phone CSW You Can Do on (01278) 664180
or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/volunteering

Calling all Somerset voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations. Find the key national and regional VCSE news, research and reports in one place, as well as key Somerset sector information and opportunities, at www.somersetvcse.org.uk
You can also find us on twitter @SomersetVCSE

For more information, visit our website at www.route1advocacy.co.uk
Email: Route1IndependentVisitors@somerset.gov.uk Phone: 01749 822801

Volunteer Drivers
We are looking for foster carers in Somerset right now, to offer our children stable, nurturing homes. Foster carers make a real difference to children's lives. They help them through tough times and give them the support they need to achieve their full potential.

Meet Roger, a Somerset foster carer

Roger and his wife Mandy have been fostering for nine years. As well as being a dedicated foster carer, he is also Centre Manager of a busy shopping centre in Bridgwater and coaches several football teams.

What made you decide to become a foster carer?

I was asked this at a recent fostering information event and my response was: "We were always going to foster, I just didn't know it!"

Mandy’s parents were long-term foster carers when she was in her late teens and that sowed a seed that eventually flowered for us too. We decided it was time to give something back to children that were not fortunate enough to have the kind of start to life that all children deserve.

What do you find most rewarding about being foster parents?

It really is fantastic to help and watch the children that come into our care develop. Sometimes the most rewarding times come when they have moved on to their permanent home and we receive a school photo or see a school report that shows just how far they have come.

How do you make foster children feel part of the family?

All the children that come into our house are always welcomed as part of the family and share all of our family experiences with us, from birthdays and Christmas, to coming on holiday with us. Our whole support network of family and friends also view them as additional family members, so there is never any divide no matter where we are or what we are doing.

Why do you foster with Somerset County Council?

The Council’s ‘Fostering in Somerset’ is the predominant care provider within the county. While there are other private companies out there, ‘Fostering in Somerset’ is ‘not for profit’ and we feel that we can make the most beneficial impact on children’s lives by fostering directly with our local authority.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of becoming a foster parent?

If you have the space, love and opportunity to provide a safe, secure and loving environment for children that may need it, you will play an integral part in their lives. Plus, you will enrich your own lives and that of your own family in the process.

There are over 500 children in care who need safe and stable homes. Could you offer a child that foster home? We can offer you a competitive fee, great training, support and extra rewards.

What do I need to be a foster carer?

- The enthusiasm to help turn a child or young person’s life around
- A spare room
- You must be over 21 (but there’s no upper age limit)
- You can be single, and it doesn’t matter what sexual orientation or gender you are.

Phone 0800 587 9900, visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk, or come to an information evening. Dates are available on our website.

Help us spread the word:
Like us on Facebook @fosteringinsomerset, follow us on twitter @fostersomerset
There is no such thing as a ‘typical’ day! Every day can present differently when working with children and young people — but that’s what makes the role so interesting. But usually, like today, I start off in the office checking emails, phone messages and have a quick catch up with the team before starting the day’s adventure.

Right, I’m off to my allocated secondary school for a multi-agency meeting. I love the rural community drive I have to do to get here. One of the perks of a community nursing job is being able to take in the beautiful sights of Somerset, while working! These regular meetings are an approach whereby schools meet with key partners in their community to share information about children and young people they are worried about. The focus is on early intervention and providing support. We discuss a young person called Jack* - who has poor school attendance. The school ask if I can see Jack so I can support him with his anxieties. I accept and ask the school to arrange for Jack to come and see me.

Following the Multi-agency meeting I grab a working lunch with the welfare officer and PFSA (Parent Family Support Advisor) at the school. I enjoy catching up with these guys and we discuss what’s currently trending in school and any new young people they wish me to see.
The lunchtime bell goes so it’s now time to start my School Nurse lunchtime ‘confidential drop in’ clinic. This clinic takes place on the same day and time every week in term-time. Young people can drop in to see me to discuss any aspect of their health and wellbeing. I know I have one Year 10 boy coming back to see me today to discuss his worries about substance misuse. He came to see me last week and I gave him some advice and signposted him to some support services. I asked him to come back to see me this week to have another chat about things and see how he is getting on.

My clinic is over, so I write up my notes. Today I saw four young people who are already registered with the C-card scheme, so wanted condoms. I also saw another two young people to complete their C-card registrations. Jack came to see me as well, and we discussed his anxieties and worries. Jack would like to continue to meet with me, so I’ve arranged to see him again for a one-to-one before next week’s drop-in clinic. Within the clinic I can also offer other sexual health services, emotional health support, sleep hygiene advice and signposting for smoking and substance misuse. At this time of year, I see a lot of young people in need of exam stress support. Because the clinic is a drop-in type service we abide by our confidentiality rules and only share information with parents or other professionals where there is a safeguarding concern.

I arrive back at the office for a quick cup of tea, check in with my team to make sure everyone is ok, write up this morning’s case notes and check emails and messages.

I leave the office again to complete my last task of the day. I am going to see 15-year-old Hannah* at her home to complete her Child Looked After (CLA) health assessment. Hannah gets offered one of these every year to give her a chance to discuss her physical health and general wellbeing. Hannah asks me about nutrition, so we have a lengthy talk about importance of eating a healthy balanced diet and look at her height and weight measurements.

Another busy day done - I’m off home.

*All names have been changed to protect the young people’s identities.

Concerned about your balance?

Join one of these sessions to help you to Stay Strong and Stay Steady!

As we get older the risk of having a fall increases. It is natural to feel worried about falling. But this can lead us to become less active, which in turn leads to a loss of strength, and then a loss of confidence - both of which makes a fall more likely!

Qualified instructors are running hour-long group sessions throughout Somerset. These friendly weekly sessions cost £4 and are open to everyone, subject to filling out a short health questionnaire.

Take the next step by phoning the Ageing Well team on (01823) 345626 or emailing ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk

These sessions are being run in partnership with Public Health, Somerset County Council.
In the heart of North Somerset is Sandford Station, a lively retirement village with a great community spirit. The excellent facilities and staff provide the perfect retirement lifestyle.

To find out more or book a place on an open day call 0117 949 4004. Or visit our show home open every Thursday 10am-4pm.

www.stmonicatrust.org.uk/villages/sandford-station
How Does The Lifeline Alarm Work?

• A base unit plugs into your phone line and you have a discreet, wearable alarm button on a pendant or watch
• The alarm button works in the house or garden so you’re in contact wherever you are in your home
• Additional products such as smoke detectors and door exit monitors make the service suitable for a wide range of needs
• Should you fall, activation of your alarm can result in our Emergency response Team coming to your aide.
• Less than the price of a cup of coffee each week

Deane Helpline Package

With Deane Helpline you know that if you need help fast it will be on its way at the touch of a button. Our Emergency Response Teams will be dispatched by the control center to assist you 24/7.

What’s Included?
• Lifeline unit & pendant
• Connection & installation
• 24/7 Emergency Response Team (ERT)
• 24/7 monitoring
• Test own pendant monthly

TSA Accredited Team

The Telecare Services Association (TSA) Code of Practice is a rigorous accreditation scheme which measures all aspects of our operations. We’re reviewed annually to ensure standards are maintained. Organisations which have been awarded the Code of Practice are committed to maintaining the highest standards and this accreditation is an essential quality symbol for the industry.

Deane Helpline 01823 257185
Call our 24 hour phone line for enquiries

Information is on the web site www.tauntondeane.gov.uk
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