

Somerset Prevention Charter

OUR DEFINITION

Prevention means different things to different people.

It can be about:

- preventing harm,
- preventing the need for a service,
- preventing ill health and disease,
- preventing loss of independence,
- preventing risky behaviour
- preventing an existing problem becoming worse.

In essence it's all of these and more. We agree we need to keep a broad view of prevention so we do not miss opportunities to improve the lives of people in Somerset.

OUR VISION

People live healthy and independent lives, supported by thriving and connected communities with timely and easy access to high-quality and efficient public services when they need them.

OUR PRINCIPLES

We agree that:

- Prevention is **everyone's responsibility**; we want children, families, communities and agencies to work together and develop knowledge and skills to live healthily
- We will develop accountability at organisation level for delivery against the charter through regular measuring of progress and achievement
- We want to help everyone to have a **good birth, a good life and a good death**
- We want to provide people **with the knowledge, skills, confidence and environment** to enable healthy living and minimise unhealthy behaviours that can lead to dependence on health and social care services

- Strategically, **a place-based, population, approach to prevention** is better; joined up activity and shared investment funding achieves the best outcomes and best value for money
- Prevention activity needs greater shared investment
- Prevention is **equally important** for physical and mental health, social, environmental and economic issues
- Helping people, families and communities **build protective factors and resilience** to prevent situations escalating or recurring is an important part of our prevention activity
- Providing the **right service** when needed, **in the right place at the right time** helps prevent situations escalating and reduces waste
- Effective prevention needs **joined up information** so all the issues facing people can be understood together and people can receive joined up help.
- **Sharing data** to enable better care, and anonymised data to understand population health, with necessary privacy safeguards, is essential
- We will be clear on what our strengths and weaknesses are and **find practical ways to improve**

OUR ACTION

We agree that:

- **We all** have a responsibility to consider prevention opportunities **for everyone**, and will lead by example
- **We will enhance the skills** of our front line staff and volunteers, through training, to make every contact count in addressing risks to health
- We need to improve the lives of Somerset people overall but focus our work to **improve the lives of the worst off fastest**
- We will **join up our prevention approach and resources** to maximise impact at population level
- We will **increase and refocus resources** allocated for preventative activity over time
- For services, prevention will be **done systematically** and built into our systems.
- **No door is the wrong door**, all our staff have a responsibility to help people get the right service at the right time, redirecting supportively if appropriate
- We will have **honest and open discussions** with individuals, families and communities about the issues, their responsibilities and that of public services.
- Where possible and appropriate we will **share information** to help provide people with better support. We will challenge each other and find practical solutions if appropriate information is not being shared.
- We will seek **change in local and national policies, or laws**, if such change would be most effective in improving prevention

OUR COMMITMENT

On behalf of

South Somerset District Council

I/ We endorse the Somerset Prevention Charter, committing our organisation to the Vision and Principles and to work with our co-signatories and others to deliver Our Actions.

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Chairman

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Chief Executive