

COVID-19 Somerset Update 18.09.2020



Public Health Summary

ACHIEVEMENTS



Key Actions achieved this week:

- Somerset COVID Engagement board signed off coronavirus logo and agreed the decision making for local events to proceed
- CCG agreed to fund a community swabbing service to enable delivery of pathways of care, domiciliary care, social care and elective NHS care – if people can't access routine testing
- Public health support and advice provided to five schools and early years settings with confirmed cases.
- Trudi Grant appeared on BBC Points West and Catherine Falconer on BBC Somerset to talk about the Somerset situation.
- The COVID-Checker (a simple tool for parents and carers) shared with school settings, the CCG and via press briefings.
- Over 500 people completed Suicide Prevention Training on the 10th September.

Key Statistics for the week:



Testing (latest data up to 09/09/20):

Pillar 1 – 2341 patients and 597 staff

Pillar 2 – 5662, Positivity rate through pillar 2 increased to 0.9% (from 0.4% previous week)

Pillar 2 testing rate / 100,000 population 95% of south west average

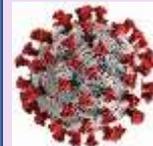
Mobile testing results – working to have Frome mobile testing venue in place for next week

Domestic Abuse Campaign: Impressions: 93,668 Reach: 28,398 resulting in 480 unique clicks through to the Somerset Survivors website.

New sponsorship deal with Frome FM. Public information broadcasts booked with Frome FM. Article 'No visible scars – not all domestic abuse is physical' submitted to Exmoor News. Bannervan billboard mobile. Crimestoppers joint initiative finalised.

Sky TV, radio commercials, sponsorship, public info broadcasts, digital advertising ongoing.

NEXT STEPS



Key Actions for the coming week:

- To continue to work locally to enhance the local testing offer for key workers where possible. To continue to escalate nationally issues experienced by Somerset with the national Test and Trace service.
- To ensure the local processes regarding support to schools and early years setting are robust in line with recent Department for Education guidance.
- Developing a COVID-checker for adults to cover when to get a covid test.
- Continued communications with the CCG and primary care regarding appropriate testing and how to access.



How to help:

- Help to promote social distancing and hand washing messages - Hands, Face, Space - <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Hands-Face-Space/>
- Help to promote if you have symptoms to isolate and request a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by dialling 119.



Reinforcing the measures:

Twitter - @SomersetDPH – 24.4k impressions in the past 28 days

Social Media reach this week (FB & Twitter): Infection Prevention Control: 88,960 Healthy Living: 4,096, Domestic abuse: 5,545, Child Accident Prevention: 900, Drugs and Alcohol support: 650, Sexual Health Support: 883, Smoking Cessation: 1,616, Bereavement Support Service: 971, Mental Health (Mindline promotion): 38,709, BBC Somerset Wellbeing Slot: 535, Maternity Toolkit: 1058

Happy, Healthy & Safe:

- Mindline Calls data not available this week
- 1,828 users of the Healthy Somerset website this week (compared to 964 last week, however there was a campaign run on the 10th to complete suicide prevention training which was hosted on the website, which made up most of this week's users.)



Mindline Somerset
Emotional support helpline

01823 276 892
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Detected cases



Outbreaks being managed



Open



Surveillance

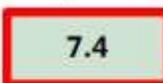


Closed

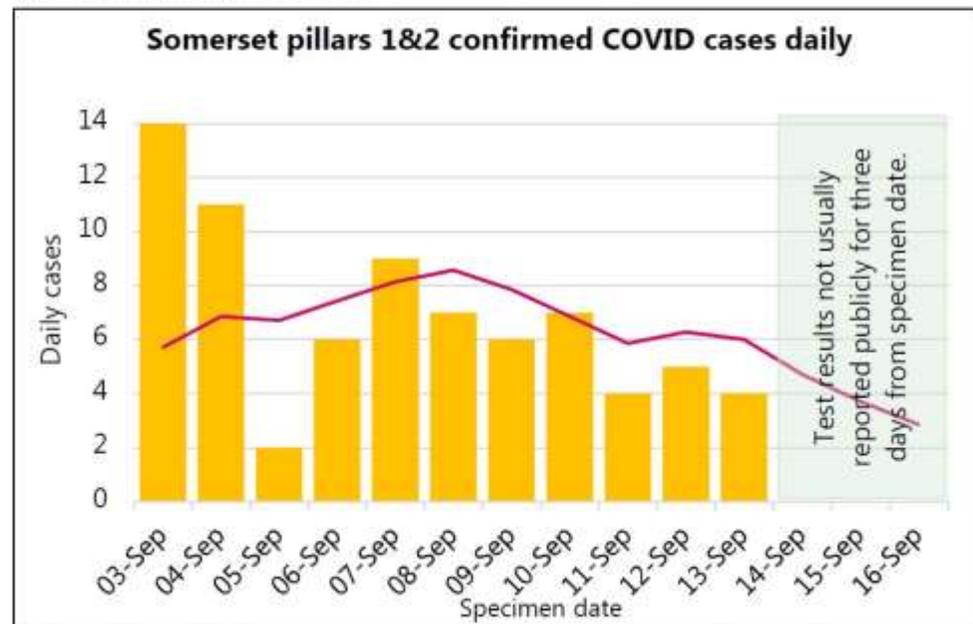


Latest 7 day rate per 100k

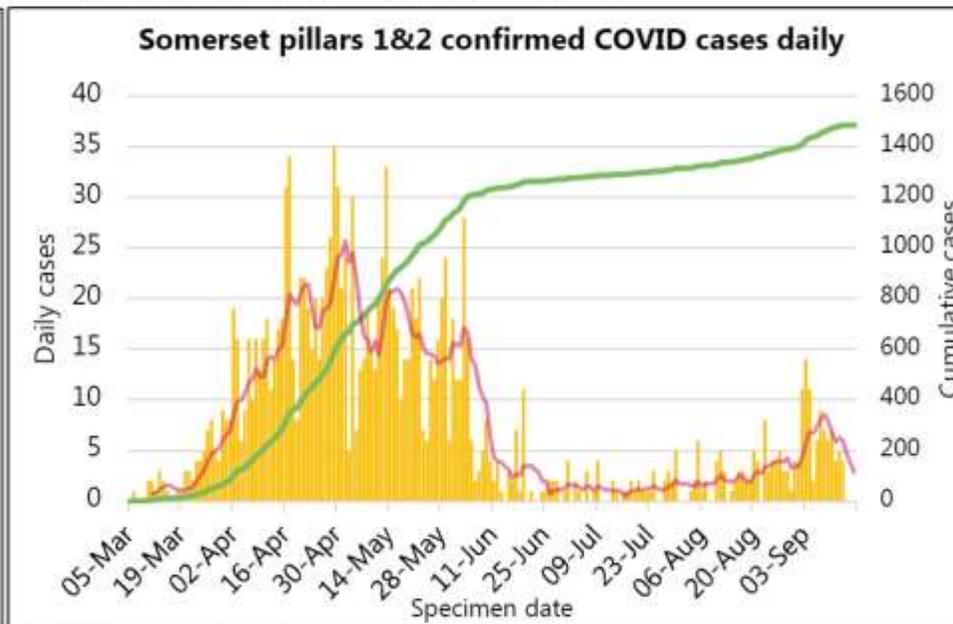
07-Sep to 13-Sep



Most recent days of cases



Overall profile of the epidemic in Somerset



Somerset COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard

Latest R number range for the South West

0.9-1.2

Last updated on Friday 11 Sep 2020

Produced by:

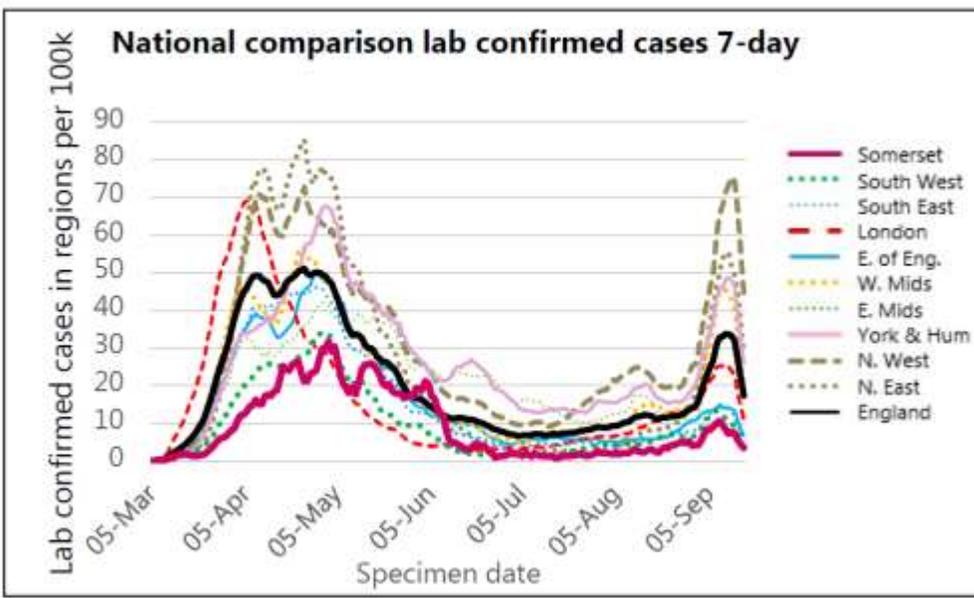
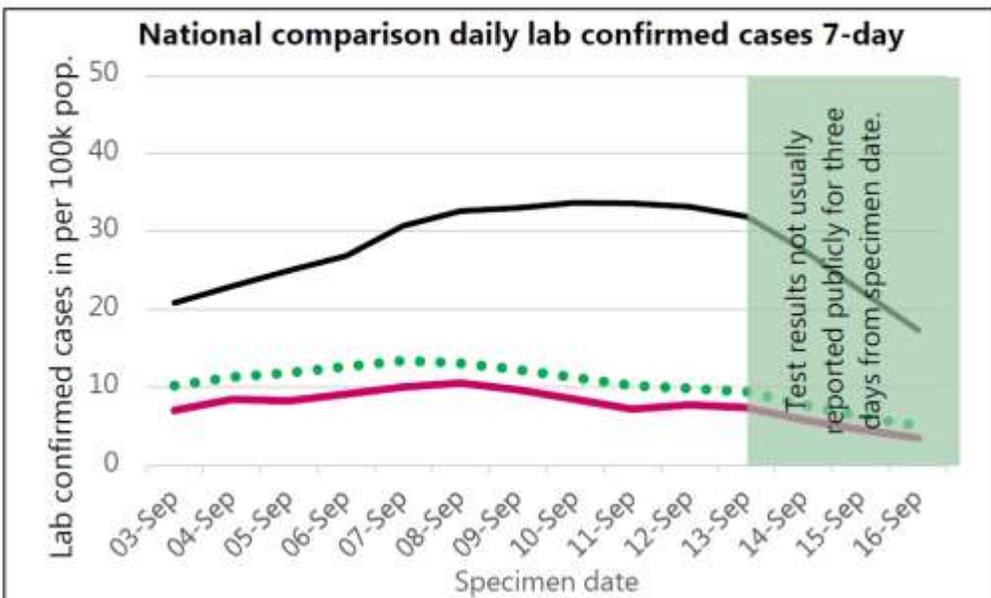
UK Government Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

What is R?

The reproduction number (R) is the average number of secondary infections produced by 1 infected person.

An R number of 1 means that on average every person who is infected will infect 1 other person, meaning the total number of new infections is stable.

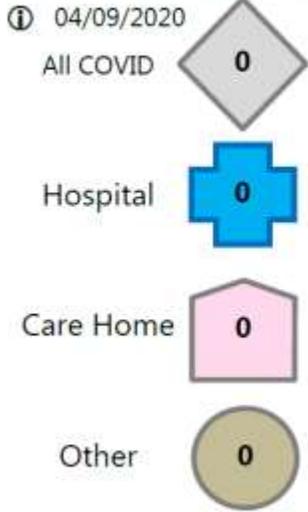
Region	R
UK	1.0-1.2
England	1.0-1.2
East of England	0.9-1.2
London	1.1-1.3
Midlands	0.9-1.1
NE and Yorks	1.0-1.2
North West	1.1-1.3
South East	1.0-1.2
South West	0.9-1.2



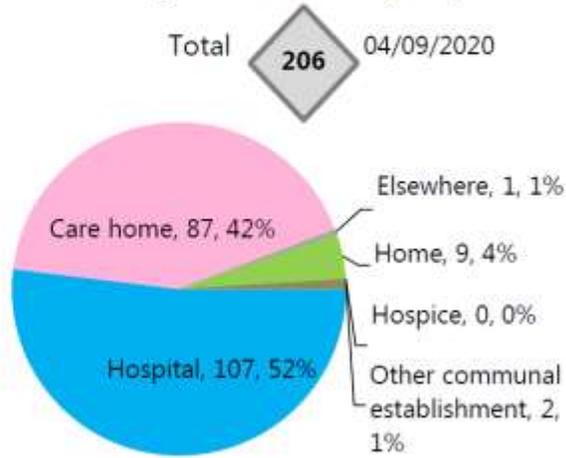
Somerset COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard



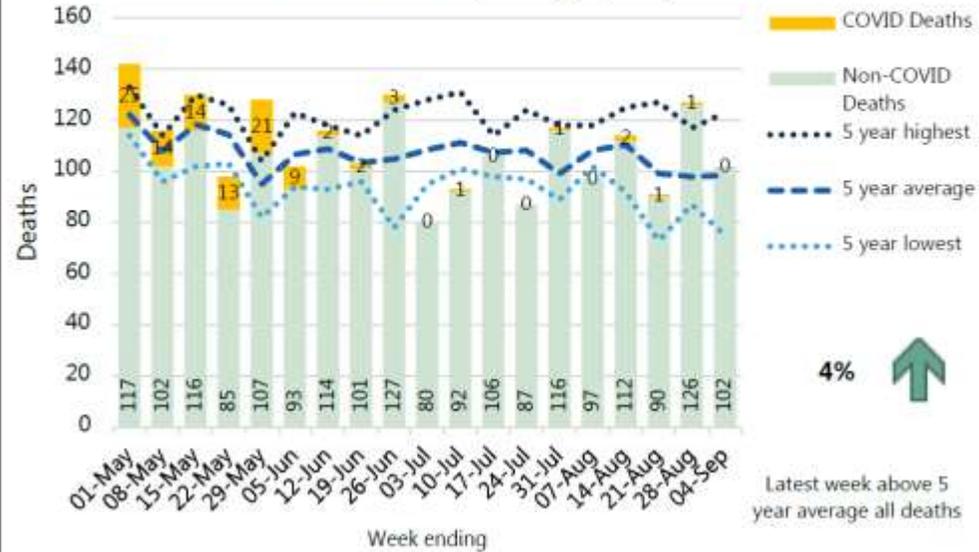
COVID deaths week ending



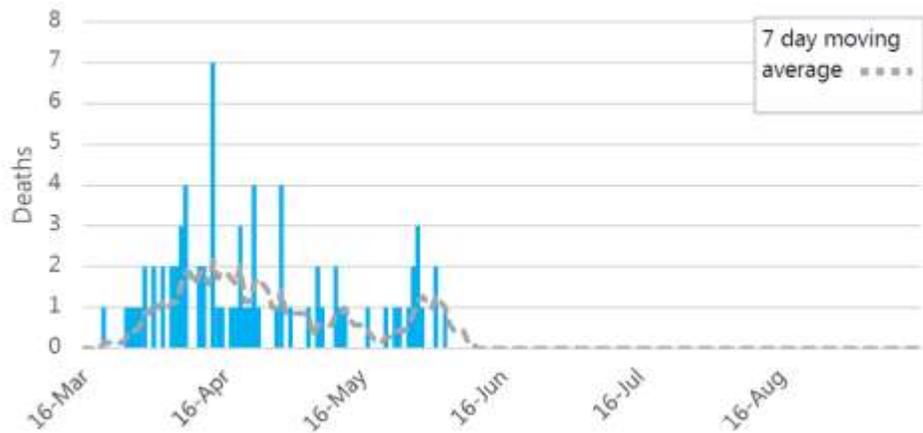
All COVID Deaths in Somerset by Place of Death (ONS)



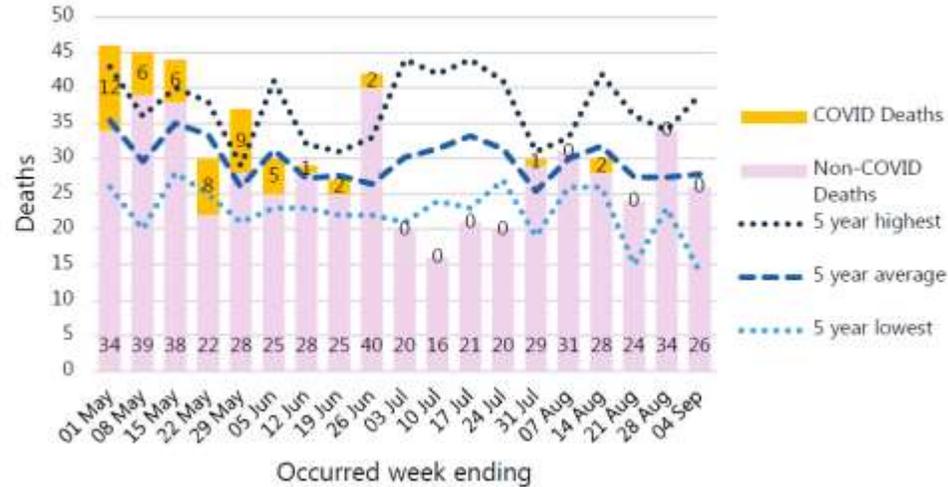
Somerset All Deaths (weekly) (ONS)



Daily COVID Deaths at Somerset Hospitals



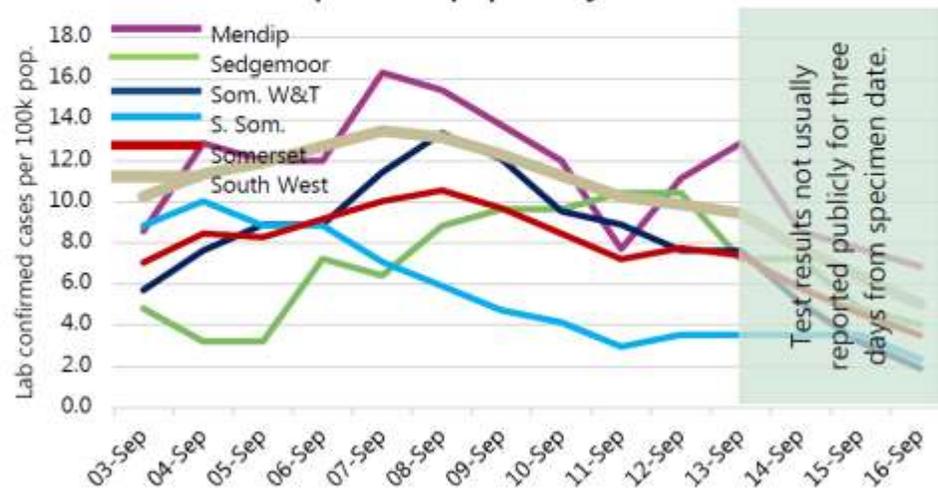
Somerset Care Home Deaths (weekly) (ONS)



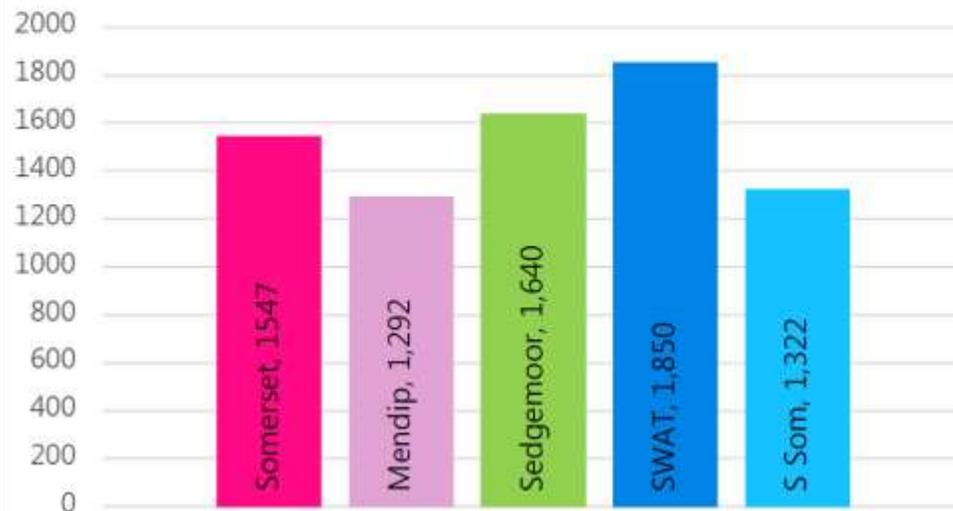
Somerset COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard



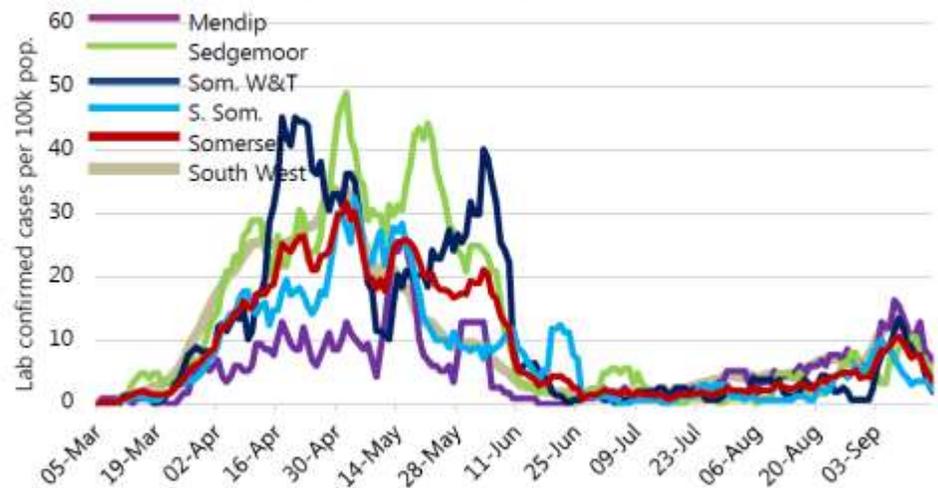
Daily detected cases pillars 1&2 (Lab confirmed) per 100k pop. 7 day rate



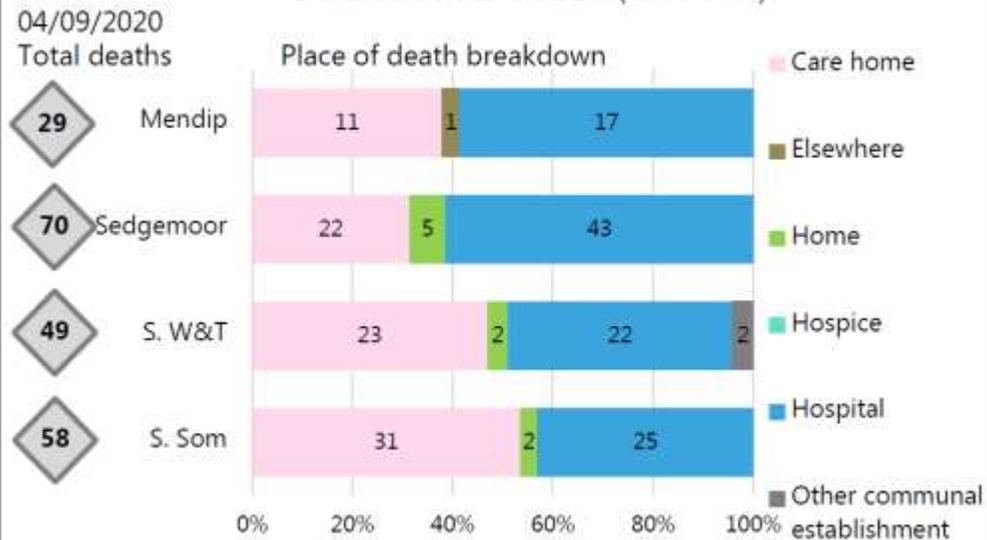
Pillar 2 Tests per 100k population last 7 days



Daily detected cases pillars 1&2 (Lab confirmed) per 100k pop. 7 day rates



District COVID deaths (ONS data)



Vulnerable Children

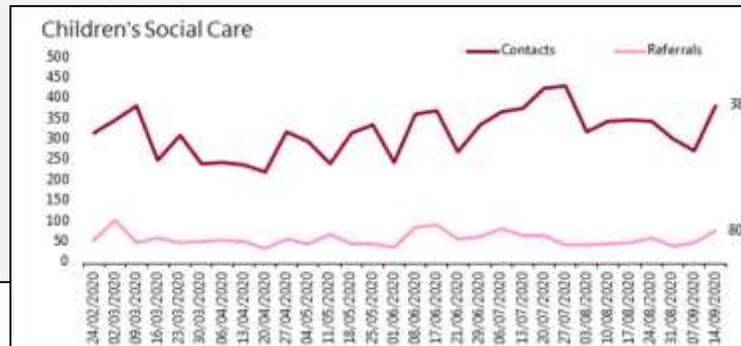


Key Points

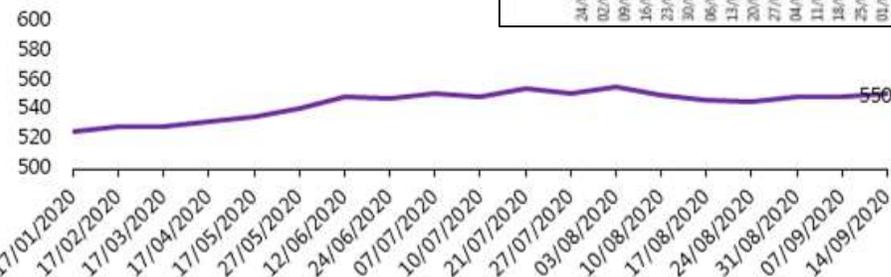
- Rise in complexity of need materialising as families emerge from lock-down, triggered by increased family pressure, alongside increased exposure to domestic violence, substance misuse and adult mental health issues for some families
- Approximately 5% increase in 'Children Looked After' (CLA) numbers compared to January 2020
- Ofsted assurance visit expected Autumn / Winter 2020/21
- Electively Home Educated numbers have risen by 100% (estimate for September is 200 in comparison to highest total in previous years of 92)
- Concerns around food resilience for families living in poverty or who are in receipt of Universal Credit.

Actions going forward

- Internal audits and data analysis continuing to understand impact on service need and demand and inform service planning
- On-going liaison with family courts to prioritise care proceedings hearings and with CCG re adoption medical advisor capacity
- On-going liaison with Multi-Agency Designated Safeguarding Leads within District areas to help provide appropriate support in response to the increase in contacts and referrals expected from now until November 2020
- On-going liaison with schools and partners around trends in increasing numbers of Electively Home Educated pupils
- Social Workers in Schools project progressing – 8 Social Workers to be embedded within Somerset schools to support children at risk of exploitation
- Family Safeguarding model being established to help support families with complex needs
- Community & Resilience Cell exploring food resilience options for supporting families into autumn / winter



Children Looked After



Impact

- Increased Children's Social Care costs due to increased demand and complexity of need
- Limited placement capacity for teenagers & general placement opportunities as 'Children Looked After' numbers rise (Building Local Capacity programme seeking to mitigate)



Key Points

- Since Somerset's mainstream schools began to fully open on 07/09/20, the number of children attending has increased from 39,890 (79.1% attendance) to 56,410 on 10/09/20 (92.4%) at peak, before dropping slightly to 55,319 on 15/09/20 (89.0%) - reduction explained in part, by the **required self-isolation of around 500 children from 2 schools in Taunton after 3 positive COVID-19 tests** (as of 15/09/20)

Date	Attending pupils	Attendance rate
3 September	5,366	32.0%
4 September	10,894	42.0%
7 September	39,890	79.1%
8 September	47,491	86.7%
9 September	52,932	91.7%
10 September	56,410	92.4%
11 September	52,771	90.8%
14 September	53,442	88.4%
15 September	55,319	89.0%

Attendance data is reliant on non-mandatory submissions from schools (work underway to encourage all schools to submit data) and on rudimentary DfE calculations which do not take into account variations to children's timetables, (including typical phased introduction of reception-aged children through September and those children who are educated off-site)

- Lack of available local testing slots is impacting on timescales for school staff and pupil testing (recognised national issue)
- Lack of clarity and conflicting NHS advice on symptom 'thresholds' (e.g. definition of when a temperature is considered as a Covid symptom) is leading to parents contacting head teachers for decisions about attendance / isolation
- Pupils living in poverty may struggle to access remote learning should isolation requirements lead to further periods of home learning
- School transport team receiving parent and press enquiries about 'bubble protection' – assurances provided that procedures are compliant
- Impact on attendance of family / pupil / staff anxiety being monitored
- As of 15/09/20, one Nursery in Taunton has closed due to a confirmed Covid case (**affecting 55 children**)

Actions going forward

- On-going attendance monitoring (including of vulnerable pupils)
- On-going monitoring & discussions of testing availability with Regional Schools Commissioner and Public Health
- On-going Comms with parents/schools/providers around school transport provision in terms of compliance and use of face coverings
- Monitoring & review of the impact of digital poverty on remote learning (to include access to devices and internet services)
- Monitoring and review of the impact of catch up grants & National Tutoring Programme to reduce the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils
- Somerset Educational Psychologist team to deliver DfE 'Emotional Wellbeing Support - train the trainer' sessions during September/October
- On-going monitoring of impact on school delegated budgets

Impact

- Family anxiety / confidence may impact on school attendance and general attainment levels for pupils not attending school regularly
- Possible on-going impact of digital poverty on remote learning for some pupils leading to detrimental impact on attainment gap for vulnerable pupils
- Lack of available local testing slots may impact on ability of schools to operate due to reduced workforce capacity, and on speed of school decisions to instruct 'bubble' isolation as required
- School budget implications due to required Covid safety measures

Active Travel

Overview

The Active Travel cell was mobilised in order to provide an immediate response to the social distancing necessary to maintain public health as and when the lockdown measures are amended. This included encouragement of walking and cycling to support people who are discouraged from using public transport or wishing to use more active travel models.

Status of Outstanding Deliverables/ Risks/ Issues and Opportunities

- Delivery of Tranche 2 scheme. A bid was submitted to the Department for Transport by the deadline which contained a number of indicative schemes we would put in place in Somerset using the allocated funding. We are currently awaiting the decision as to how much funding we will receive.
- Some of our Tranche 1 schemes are still in place (e.g. the pedestrianisation of East Street in Taunton). The group will continue to monitor feedback and make tweaks to schemes if required.

Process for standing up

The group are continuing to meet in order to progress our schemes that are being mobilised through use of the 2nd tranche of Active Travel funding from the Department for Transport.

If there is clear government guidance to instigate emergency active travel measures in the event of a local or national lockdown then the group can be plugged into any COVID response governance. The group are continuing to meet with the same membership so it is envisaged that this could happen quickly.

Economic Response & Recovery

Transition Overview

- The Somerset Growth and Recovery Plan will be managed by the business as usual of the Somerset Growth Management Group (SGMG) which is multi-agency including District Councils.
- Sub-cell of the Unemployment Support Group will continue as a task and finish group.

Outstanding Deliverables	Issues/Actions / Activity to be followed up	Owner allocated	Deadline for resolution/ completion	Mechanism for monitoring progress
Response to Redundancy Framework	Currently in finalisation stage	Mel Roberts	September 2020	Unemployment support task and finish sub group
Growth Plan	Projects to be developed for full submission to central Gov in Nov	James Hassett/Paul Hickson (SCC lead)	November 2020 submission to Central Government	Somerset Growth Management Group
Employment Skills Package	Currently in finalisation stage	Mel Roberts	September 2020 Roll Out.	Unemployment support task and finish sub group
Tourism Response Package	Currently in finalisation stage	Carl Benneyworth	September 2020 Roll Out	BAU

Review

- Business Grant success – £131,520 total value paid, in excess of 87% eligible claims processed, 11,034 claims processed and paid!

Going forward

- The latest intelligence on economic impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is available online **at:** <https://www.somersetrends.org.uk/covid-19-economic-impacts> .
- Results of the Somerset business survey on the economic impacts of COVID will be available on the Somerset Trends website in late September.
- Working with partners to identify gaps in support and any vulnerabilities in local business support infrastructure – a phased programme of activity will be launched under the Business Rates Retention Scheme
- Visitor Economy Support Programme (VESP) - Work to start on new Task & Finish Group. The group will oversee delivery of the Business Rates Retention funding and support the development of future project work.
- Linking with the development of Employment Hubs and Youth Hubs. . SCC supporting or leading as appropriate.
- The new Step Up Somerset website and the phone number will go live on Monday 14th September and will be promoted in Your Somerset, social media, partner newsletters, daily update and via a press release

Recommendations and future opportunities

The cell will meet intermittently in the short term to keep the cell standing up contingency document current. To share information and to allow for a smooth standing up process, should that be required in future – with roles and responsibilities refreshed with new personal/resource.

Transport and Logistics

Overview

The Transport and Logistics Cell was set-up to ensure effective co-ordination, monitoring and tracking across Patient Transport, Free School Meals and PPE. The cell worked across multi agency groups to ensure Demand could be met and solutions were implemented.

Process for standing up

Distribution Warehouse Model – PPE

- Warehouse Manager discussions outline need for the cell to be stood back up again,
- Liaise with COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cell to confirm required approach and reporting.

Status of Outstanding Deliverables/ Risks/ Issues and Opportunities

Patient Transport Cell

- Meetings to continue for the foreseeable future with a focus on Patient Demand Management and associated risk assessments, ensuring we operate in line with current and up to date national guidance,

Distribution Warehouse Model – PPE

- Work to continue for the next 3 months,
- PPE charging model has been implemented,
- Regular assessment of whether demand reaches a level where we can stand this down,
- Link established with Patient Transport Cell, enabling quick resolution to any Patient Transport Cell issues,

Recommendations and future opportunities

- An opportunity for more joined up working between NHS and CCG, as well as NHS and CCG with Somerset County Council.