



Somerset Liberal Democrats Chard South July 2024



Nationally in Children's Services

Nationally in Children's Services, we are trapped in a storm with poverty, homelessness, health, justice, the number of children in care and quality of life getting worse. The economy has slumped over the last 20 years and, in parts of the country, local services are on their knees, putting pressure on other parts of the system and at times, failing our population.

There is a stark choice for Children's Services - 1) a managed decline in the standards and outcomes we expect, or 2) we do something different. The risk Of standing still is now much higher than the risk of change. The reason all of us got into this job was to make a difference for residents. That's why we have to choose the second option; to redesign our system of services, partners, community and families, and win the argument for early help, but also the conclusive proof that when early help is cut back, there is a commensurate increase in costs and worse outcomes.

Through *Connect Somerset*, we are doing something different to re-imagine public sector delivery. More early help, a symbiotic model with our communities, new tech, and in time rebalancing funding from acute to prevention.



Get Active....in the Library



Would you, or someone you know (friend or family member), appreciate a bit of support to become more active? Starting in July, there are free weekly guided activity sessions running in the afternoons in Taunton, Glastonbury and Bridgwater libraries. Sessions will be led by an experienced activity coach, and they will include taster sessions for Tai Chi, Yoga, Bocca, Balloon Tennis and much more!

All the details are on this webpage [Free Low Impact Activity and Movement Sessions \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/free-low-impact-activity-and-movement-sessions)

Do take a look at the full Library Service offer – we do so much more than lending books! <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/leisure/libraries/>

What's on in Chard Library

Monday - Childminders session 9.30, Baby Bounce & Rhyme 10.30, Talking Café 10am-12pm, Employment hub

Tuesday – Toddler time 10.30, Employment hub

Thursday – Knit & Natter 2pm

Friday – Tech help, Somerset Integrated domestic abuse service 10am

Sessions may change or be amended please check the website for more details

Learn to Swim in the Summer Holidays

SWIMMING COURSE

STAGES 1-6! Let's get all of our children to learn to swim and passing their stages at speed.

9 Private lessons available as well as an over 7-year-olds course, a 10–15-year-old course, Beginners course and a stage 2 progressing to stage 3 course. We have it all available and only 4 spaces in each class!

Book at Chard Leisure center reception or by phoning 01460 315007

For new enquiries, follow the link

<https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/.../swimming-lessons.../>



Swim School
SWIMMING
3 DAY COURSE
STAGES 1-6
SUMMER
HOLIDAYS 24
PHONE OUR RECEPTION
TO BOOK IN! ONLY 4
CHILDREN PER CLASS!

9 PRIVATE
LESSONS
AVAILABLE!
& A BEGINNER
OVER 7'S CLASS

LET'S GET THE
CHILDREN
PASSING
THEIR
STAGES!

Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset



Thousands of children who are eligible for free school meals are set to benefit from free fun activities and food during the upcoming summer holidays – thanks to the Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset (HHHS) project.

The initiative is part of the Government's Holiday, Activities and Food programme which has been designed to help tackle inequalities in holiday hunger, physical inactivity, and social isolation for children eligible for free school meals.

Somerset County Council has teamed up with Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) to deliver the programme across the county.

More than 60 venues across Somerset will be offering face-to-face provision during the summer holidays for children aged 5 to 16, with activities on offer including kayaking, sports, music workshops, and much, much more. Eligible families receive a code through their school which allows them to book places for their children through an online portal. Bookings for the summer programme have been open since June 22 and have already seen a huge take up. The programme has gone from strength to strength and is making a big difference to families in Somerset. During the Easter holidays, a total of 2,500 individual children attended activities for an average of four days, with children, parents, and activity providers all offering positive feedback.

One mum whose son attended activities at Millfield School at Easter said her boy enjoyed it so much she caught him sleeping with his course activity timetable at night as it was the last thing he looked at before going to bed.

Somerset County Council and SASP have strived to incorporate feedback and adapt the programme so that it helps as many people as possible. These improvements have included finding transport solutions for rural areas, making the activities more accessible for SEND children, and providing more unique activities for youngsters aged 13+.

One of the aspects of the HHHS programme that has proved popular is 'make and take' food, which is being expanded for the upcoming summer holidays. One of the providers in the Frome area, Purple Elephant, reported back that: "The families really appreciated the meal packs we gave them to take home. They have been asking for more in the way of healthy recipes at our sessions. It really helped the families on Free School Meals to bridge the gap over the holiday period."

Keeping in Contact

**COME AND TALK WITH US
AT A LIB DEM SURGERY**

FIRST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH
With your Town and Unitary Councillors

AT THE GUILDHALL, CHARD  10am to 12pm

You can meet with me to discuss any concerns or for help by dropping into our monthly surgery or I can arrange an appointment on a day and time that suits you or feel free to give me a call on 07736 310805 or email Jason.baker@somerset.gov.uk

Putting the heart back into S  merset

**Liberal
Democrats** 