



Somerset Liberal Democrats
Chard South
June 2025

Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund has been extended until March 2026, providing £6.74 million from the UK government to assist families, older residents, and those facing financial hardship. Funds are allocated for food vouchers, community hubs, crisis support, hospital discharge aid, and utility bill reductions for young people. The program aims to lessen the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis, reflecting the Lib Dem commitment to promoting equality and community well-being. Support can be accessed online or through council customer services.

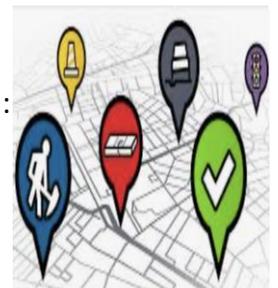


Find out whether you are eligible for vouchers to help you pay your gas and electricity or food bills. This includes help towards paying for food and supermarket food vouchers which you can use in all major supermarkets. Visit our **[Apply for the Somerset Household Support Fund](#)** to find out more. If you need help with food costs for your children over the school holidays, contact your child's school office. They will be able to provide further information on how to claim and access your vouchers.

Visit **[Citizens Advice Somerset](#)** for information on Hardship funds for families and residents experiencing fuel and/or fuel poverty. The information also covers funding for school uniform.

Changes to reporting highways issues

Somerset Council is implementing changes for reporting to our highways service. **Fix My Street** will no longer be an access point for reporting issues. Instead, the preferred method is to use Somerset Council's online reporting portal: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>. This ensures issues like potholes, blocked drains, and overgrown vegetation are logged accurately, tracked, and quickly addressed. When reports are submitted through this portal or the call centre, they are automatically assigned to the correct team, and enquirers receive updates via reference numbers.



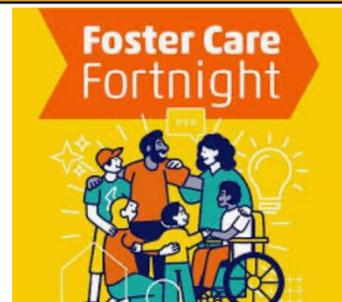
Councillors and the public are asked to no longer use **Fix My Street or email reports for highways**. This new process aims to streamline issue reporting, reduce unnecessary communication and duplication, and ensure quick resolution of highway defects.

For those without internet you can call: 0300 123 2224.

Foster Care Fortnight Highlighted Urgent Need for Local Homes in Somerset

With around 630 children in care and fewer than 150 foster households, Somerset Council is encouraging residents to consider fostering, offering flexible options and full support.

Since being elected to run Somerset Council, the Lib Dems has been working to improve the placement system for vulnerable children. In the past, children were often placed in out-of-county locations, far from their families and friends. One of our manifesto commitments was to "bring our children home."



Since taking over as leader, Councillor Bill Revans points out that out-of-county placements have significantly reduced—from 18 down to just five—and the cost has dropped from £10.7 million to much lower figures.

The council has developed a successful partnership with the not-for-profit Shaw Trust to open therapeutic children's homes called Homes and Horizons. These homes are converted residences where children receive tailored education with expert staff experienced in mental health, therapy, and social work.

These homes are designed for children who find it more difficult to manage their daily emotions and behaviours, including those with verbal aggression, mental health challenges, and self-harming behaviours.

Anyone interested in fostering can visit fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 587 9900, and they will find that almost anyone can foster provided they meet the basic requirements.

Reaching out does not commit anyone to anything, but it can make a real difference to the lives of children in need.

Blood Pressure Monitoring Kits Available in Libraries

People in Somerset are being reminded they can borrow more than just books from their local library with free blood pressure monitors available alongside the latest bestsellers. High blood pressure (hypertension) affects millions of people in the UK and is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. It is estimated that around 1 in 3 people in Somerset have high blood pressure and because there are usually no symptoms, many people remain unaware they have it until serious complications arise. To promote health and early detection of hypertension, Somerset Council and NHS Somerset encourage residents to borrow free blood pressure monitors from local libraries,



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