



Somerset Liberal Democrats
Chard South
 September 2024

Somerset Council announces top table Changes

Somerset Council is reducing the number of its Lead, Shadow and Associate Member roles, resulting in significant savings for the Local Authority. The Executive will be reduced from eight Lead Members to seven, Associate Lead Members will be reduced from 10 positions to six, and there will be one less Opposition Spokesperson.

The savings breakdown is as follows:

- 1 x Lead Member = £20,500
- 1 x Opposition Spokesperson = £3,875
- 4 x Associate Lead Members = £ 11,625



The changes represent a substantial £36k saving in total and will be implemented from 1st April 2024. The planned reduction in key roles was agreed by Full Council at its budget meeting in February this year. A number of high-profile Councillors are moving on for personal and private reasons, resulting in a reshuffle of Somerset Council's Executive, plus a merger of some portfolios. Cllr Adam Dance has stepped down as Lead Member for Public Health, Equalities and Diversity, following his election success as MP for Yeovil. Executive stalwarts, Cllr Ros Wyke and Cllr Dixie Darch have stepped down for personal and private reasons. Also, Cllr Tom Deakin, who will now focus on his role as the Leader of Taunton Town Council. Leader of Somerset Council, Cllr Bill Revans, said: "As part of the Financial Emergency we are looking to make savings in all parts of the Council's work. "Adam, Tom, Ros and Dixie have been such valuable members of the Executive Team, and I thank them wholeheartedly for all that they have contributed to their areas of focus over their time in these roles.

New Therapeutic Education Service for SEND children to open in Somerset

An innovative new Therapeutic Education provision will be opening in Somerset in September, offering places for children and young people with additional and SEND needs. The Education service in Misterton, owned by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, will be run by Horizon's Therapeutic Education Trust. Somerset Council jointly funded the service with Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, and delivered the refurbishment works through Futures for Somerset.



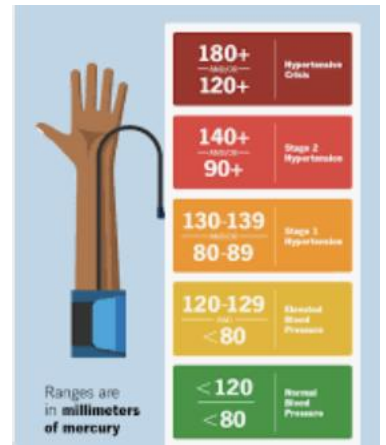
This initiative is part of a Strategic Partnership between Somerset Council, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, and Shaw Trust. The service will support children in care and children whose health impacts their ability to succeed in mainstream schooling. It is led by multidisciplinary team of specialist teaching staff and NHS professionals.

Blood Pressure Awareness Week

This week is Know Your Numbers week, a nationwide campaign to raise awareness about blood pressure and other health 'numbers' such as cholesterol and sugar levels.

Did you know library members can borrow a blood pressure monitor from Chard Library for two weeks for free?

Pop in and check out our range of books, and information about health and diet and of course our blood pressure monitors! We even have a limited supply of free tote bags, pens and badges available!



One Team Working in Somerset

One Team working has been in operation in targeted areas of Somerset since 2013, originating in the Halcon estate of Taunton, where it was driven by local police teams with the motto of 'Right person, right time, right place'. The aim was to support vulnerable children, families and adults at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent escalation to statutory services.

During the last decade, One Team working has evolved in terms of how individual 'teams' are managed, governed and operate day to day.

One Teams are now managed as part of Somerset council which is undergoing a period of transformation. This offers a unique window to

review the One Team operating model to ensure that the Council, and our partners, together, understand the issues in our local communities and are able to support vulnerable people at the earliest opportunity in a way that is consistent, resilient, safe and adds value to the Council.

Whilst this review is undertaken, an interim arrangement will be put in place to ensure that multi agency collaboration can continue. This may look different across each One Team area, but agencies will be able to continue to seek support centrally whenever it is required. Colleagues participating in One Team working, will be contacted separately, with details about their local interim arrangement.

Once the review has been undertaken, a further briefing will be provided.

At its heart, One Team working is about working together to understand and respond to local need, build trust and community resilience. Across Somerset, there are excellent examples of professionals coming together to keep people safe and well. Thank you all for the part you play in this and also for your patience during this period of change.



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