The Statutory SEND Team has recently been restructured and now consists of a Reviewing Hub and an Assessment Hub. The Reviewing Hub is responsible for maintaining Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans and processing the review reports following a child or young person’s Annual Review. We currently have 2,393 EHC Plans in Somerset which require Annual Reviews. The team is responsible for processing reviews and updating EHC Plans at key phases of the child or young Person’s education. This involves securing educational placements for those children and young people who are due to move to another setting. The Reviewing Hub now consists of 5 x Senior Assessment and Review Officers (SAROs), 2 x Assessment and Review Officers (AROs), and 1 x Senior Business Support Assistant led by Poppy Tuck, SEND Operational Manager. The team has a range of expertise and backgrounds including teaching, school inclusion, early years, preparing for adulthood, social care and law.

Pictured from left to right are Joanne Bundy, Aimee Loxton, Richard Matravers, Emma Watch, Hari Fuller and Stephanie Salter. Not pictured are Kane Clarke and Lianne Wadham. Clare Tranter is joining in early November.

Book your Short Breaks Activities

We’ve only just finished the summer holidays but it’s already time to start preparing for the half term—28 October—1 November. The Short Breaks October Half Term Calendar is available now, packed with affordable activities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families. You can download it here. For more information contact 0300 123 2224.
We’ve just finished Sexual Health Week (16–22 September) and the theme - ‘Relationships, sex and disability’, gave the Somerset Wide Integrated Sexual Health Service (SWISH) a chance encourage some talk around sex and disability and hopefully reduce the stigma. The team supports professionals to empower the people they work with by attending free training sessions and having those conversations around relationships and sex. The plan is to help improve wellbeing in Somerset through quality sexual health service provision, helping to improve relationships and sex education. Inclusive relationships and sex education in schools will become compulsory next year, but it’s still a taboo subject. Sex education and disabilities is even more stigmatized. It isn’t talked about enough and this means lots of young people are missing out on valuable education, and support. So get talking, myth-busting - access resources from here to break down the barriers.

We’d like to extend a warm welcome to our new secondary heads starting this academic year. They are:
Mark Lawrence – Bucklers Mead Academy
Polly Matthews – Court Fields Community School
Aaron Reid – Haygrove School
Jen Jacklin – King Arthur’s School Wincanton
Gregg Mockridge – West Somerset College

My exciting year as a Young Person’s Champion

I am honoured to have been a Young Person’s Champion and will miss my role.
I have grown and learnt a lot, I felt welcomed by other Council members and seeing how much of an impact everyone has made was incredible to see.
In the year I’ve been a Young Person’s Champion; I have met a range of new people across Somerset to talk about what’s working well and what could be better, I took part in the Children and Young People’s Plan, delivered presentations in front of students and professionals and created a monthly Newsflash, and much more!

As well as representing children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, my favourite part of my role has been working with The Unstoppables young people’s forum, their passion for change is inspirational.

I hope to find a new role as exciting and enjoyable as my time here and wish the next Young Person’s Champion all the best.

Chloe-Ella Willcox