

# Information

for County Councillors

Sheet Number:  
2022-27/17



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| From: | Nigel Pluckrose, Service Manager – Occupational Therapy - Operational & Commissioning Services, Adult Social Care. |
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| Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date: | Mel Lock, Director of Adult Social Care, Lead Commissioner for Adults and Health |
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| Date: | 07/09/22 |
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| To: | All County Councillors |
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## Somerset Independent Living Centres (SILC)

Somerset Adult Social Care in partnership with Mendip District Council will be opening a new independent Living Centre in Shepton Mallet on Tuesday 27 September 2022. Our new Somerset Independent Living Centres (SILC) have a range of equipment and technology to help people stay independent, both in the home, and also when out and about. This new centre will compliment our existing service in Wellington <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you/> which is also being relaunched on the 28 September.

We want to use this opening as a opportunity to re-launch the service to the public, encouraging people to attend to support them to help them live well at home for longer. We also encourage people to attend with people who support them in their lives. We are able to demonstrate equipment and technology to support people with their invaluable caring role.

Nationally and locally there is a shortage of occupational therapists, this has resulted in delays in us being able to offer timely support to people in Somerset. By asking people to visit us at our SILC's we are able to offer more appointments and keep people independent at home for longer. Our SILC Teams offer advice and information and can demonstrate equipment and technology that can help:

- Anyone who may need support to living independently such as older people, people with disabilities / sensory impairment or health conditions of any age.

- Families and carers
- Care providers, GPs, health professionals and community and voluntary sector who may be supporting the above people in their own home or be aware of people who may benefit from visiting or service.

New to our ILC offer will be our TEC lounges, these will be used to show case how technology can support people with their day to day living. We can demonstrate Apps to help people with learning disabilities manage their own support or people can try opening curtains using a smart speaker. Technology has become a part of our daily living and in the coming decades, as the population ages we can expect to see an even greater demand from our population for technology to help them maintain their health and independence

SILC's are a key part of our prevention approach helping people to help themselves, either through us providing the equipment through our equipment service as part of their appointment or people purchasing items themselves to fit into their homes and lifestyles. We will also refer people to our partners, for example Somerset Independent Plus for adaptations or help to improve heating and insulation or the Library Service or the Home Reading Service for those who are unable to visit their local library. Our SILC service is free for people to attend through booking an appointment on 0300 123 2224.

After the opening event today we will continue to promote the SILC Service across the health and social care network, this will include: drop in sessions for health and social care staff to learn about the service, videos guiding people through what they can expect when they visit including the facilities and promotion material such as posters, postcard and pop up banners. In the future we also hope to be able to offer people to book their own appointments online.

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