

# Information

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## for County Councillors

From:	Trevor Simpson, Strategic Commissioner Early Help and Complex Families & Kate Lovell, Interim Deputy Director of Children's Services
Date:	13 June, 2014
To:	All County Councillors

## Launch of 'getset' services

This message is to let you know about the launch of this new way of working and invite all councillors to a briefing session on 27 June.

### What are 'getset' services?

This is what we are starting to call Early Help Services - the help and support for children, young people and their families.

Many of you will be familiar with the support available through our Children's Centre Services. This is aimed at the 0-5 age group and can include things like pre-birth parenting classes, health visitor support and parent support groups.

**All that good work will carry on**, through Children's Centres and other places in the community. And with 'getset' we are expanding what is on offer, bringing together the other help available for people aged under 19 or with children aged under 19.

Working with partners like health, schools, district councils and charities the aim is to eventually offer a range of extra support depending on what people want in their local area. That could mean anything from help with school attendance and healthy eating, to advice on finding a job and understanding what benefits people are entitled to.

By tackling problems early, successful 'getset' services will be key to improving our Children's Services across the board and the recent restructure of Children's Centre Services has allowed us to bring an additional 30 FTE front line staff into getset.

This exciting new way of working formally launches at the end of the month. Attached is a leaflet that will be available in Children's Centres and gives you some more detail.

[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)



## The big ideas behind getset

- A little bit of help at the right time makes a big difference. We want to help people solve small problems before they become big ones.
- Support where it suits people. Children's Centres will still be important, but we will also make use of other places to make it easier for people to get the help they want.
- A 'one stop shop'. Where people see a 'getset' sign, they will know they have come to the right place. If the people there can't help, they'll help find the people who can.
- Deciding with families what support they need. Everyone is different and we will work with them to find the right way forward.
- Working as one. There are lots of people in different organisations who can help. 'getset' will bring them together and make them work as one.

## What will it mean for your constituents?

There will not be a big change straight away. But the Children's Centre Services will continue and gradually more support will become available as we bring more and more partners on board and work more closely with them under the 'getset' name.

The 'getset' way of working is already happening in some parts of the county – for example JobCentre Plus staff working from Williton Children's Centre; Stay and Play sessions at Rockwell Green Primary School; ante-natal clinics and young parents groups at Reckleford Children's Centre.

Our vision is that this kind of close partnership working will eventually be happening consistently across the county.

We will be promoting 'getset' gradually over the next 12 months. There will be an article in the July Edition of Your Somerset and a website [www.getsetsomerset.org.uk](http://www.getsetsomerset.org.uk) with more information (though please note this is currently still under construction).

## Briefing session on 27 June – please come along

We appreciate that many of you may have questions so we have arranged a briefing session:

- Friday, 27 June in the Luttrell Room, 1-2pm
- The session will take place immediately after the Scrutiny: Policies and People Meeting and before the Shadow Cabinet/SLT meeting.
- A light lunch will be available

There will be a brief presentation from Kate Lovell and Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, followed by the chance for you to ask questions and seeking more information.

We very much encourage all councillors to attend, but especially those with particular interest in support for Children, Young People and Families.

It will be helpful to know how many people can attend, so if you are planning to come please email Change Officer, Dawn Carter, [DCarter@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:DCarter@somerset.gov.uk)

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