



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

PSTA working with Somerset County Council

Creating a more integrated approach to health and social care

The PSTA are supporting Somerset County Council and NHS Somerset CCG to work together, using local projects to influence a system change towards prevention, early intervention and joined-up working. Three cohorts of 30 have completed a Somerset Academy so far, and a fourth is now underway.

The county and its partners have been looking to create a more integrated approach to the delivery of health and social care, with more emphasis on prevention, early help and reablement. As a rural county, isolation, poor social mobility, an ageing population and difficulties in recruiting carers create a strong need to move towards an approach that mobilises local assets in the community.

The Somerset Academies programme tailors the national approach for Somerset.

- It focuses on the challenges in the health and social care sector.
- It involves a five-day programme run over a period of five months.
- 'Challenge projects' build momentum through action research and creating a 100-day action plan to make real change happen.

The aim is for partners to work together as place shapers and system leaders, building a mutually supportive 'team' ethos across Somerset by developing stronger relationships, shared understanding and collaborative behaviours and adopting a strengths/asset-based approach.

The programme supports people to live independent and positive lives by:

- providing person-centred support;
- fostering partnership working and collaboration;
- exploring sustainable, community-based solutions; and

- focusing on outcomes

Other key partners now include:

- Health Education England through the STP local area workforce board (LAWB)
- The NHS QI faculty; and
- South West AHSN

Each Academy has initiated a range of projects, for example:

- A project looking at how better to support frequent attenders at A&E with multiple needs has resulted in a data sharing protocol between the NHS, local authorities and emergency services
- A housing project used asset-based thinking and co-production with local groups to integrate single tenants better into the local community, which has influenced the broader Somerset strategic housing framework.

Other initiatives launched by the academy include a project to identify the early signs of self-harming in children, and a project prototyping/testing an 'advanced care (end-of-life) planning protocol' with micro-providers and families.

For further information contact:

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