

Question 1

The proposals being discussed today are over 600 pages in total and cover a vast range of provision. The agenda and proposal for significant cuts to services across the council was on the Council website only, which many families in Somerset find difficult to access due to a variety of reasons. Due to the use of jargon, commissioning terminology and acronyms many families have reported they do not understand what is being proposed. The Children and Families Act 2014 section 19 shows that Councils have a duty to ensure children, young people and their families are supported to participate in decisions about the things that affect them. Do you feel that the council have complied with the legal duties on them in this regard?

Question 2

On the 19th April 1990 the United Kingdom signed up to the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child. Through doing so this country agreed to comply with Article 12 and article 13, to respect children's views and allow them to express their thoughts and opinions. How has the council fulfilled this duty to our Somerset Children and young people especially in relation to cuts to services that directly affect them eg, school transport, Early Help, Young Carers service, Youth Offending and Youth services (CAF 01-20)?

Question 3

Do you feel that the proposals are robust and fair considering;

- The data used in some cases is over 2 years old
- impact assessments undertaken in many areas indicate either red and/or amber risks
- The impact assessments indicate high risks for our most vulnerable groups
- Impact assessments are based solely on data without discussing with services users to ascertain the real impact on them.
- Some of the impact assessment have not even been signed off? (ASC 01, 02, 03, CAF-10a, ASC 10, CAF 18, Corp 01, ECI 06)
- The Council does not appear to have followed its own democratic procedures allowing for these proposals to be effectively scrutinised.