

1. The OFSTED report published in Jan of this year stated, “Early help services in Somerset have improved, yet are not fully established across the partnership”. As Somerset County Council have yet to achieve a rating of good in their social care inspection, does the council feel that by reducing early help they will be able to provide good quality social care and improve outcomes for our children?

2. The OFSTED report published in Jan of this year also stated “Early help assessments ... are still too variable and not all are sufficiently focused on actions for improving children’s outcomes. Assessments do not always analyse children’s experiences sufficiently and not all risks are clearly articulated.” In light of this do you

a-acknowledge there is a risk that the reduction in the number of get set cases open could be due to the poor quality EHA’s?

b- feel that reducing a service based on referral numbers via early help assessments of variable quality is robust, has this risk been identified and a plan to mitigate it produced.

3. Sections 3.5 and 3.6 of the report discuss the groups being run by getset. Feedback from a recent survey and conversations with families highlighted how vital these services are. Families relayed how the groups reduced their feelings of isolation.

The Improving Lives Strategy acknowledges that “A lack of social contact and feelings of isolation and loneliness can have a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing.” This is a key area of focus for the strategy over the next 10 years. Please can you

A.clarify if all the families accessing the groups will have had an EHA and therefore be included in the data given

B.explain how this cut in getset service is compatible with the focus and vision of the Improving Lives Strategy?