

REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 21ST JUNE 2018

SUBJECT OF REPORT: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SOCIAL IMPACT BOND

TOWN OR PARISH: NORTH SOMERSET

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: AMANDA BRAUND, SERVICE LEADER,
RESOURCE SERVICE**

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel receives the progress made in relation to the Social Impact Bond and that the Panel add this to their work plan for monitoring the progress of the Social Impact Bond on an annual basis.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to outline the progress of the Social Impact Bond during its first year of implementation and analyse the impact upon North Somerset's children in care population.

2. POLICY

Not applicable

3. DETAILS

North Somerset have commissioned an edge of care service, Turning the Tide using a Social Impact Bond arrangement. The service is delivered by Core Assets. The Social Impact Bond derives the substantive funding from Social Investors Bridges with a small proportion being obtained by Big Lottery Funding. The Social Impact Bond like others will be independently evaluated throughout its life cycle and this evaluation is being completed through a partnership of Ecorys with Bristol University. North Somerset will pay an outcome payment to Core Assets defined by an agreed rate card on successful completion of the intervention. The income stream for this arrangement is provided by the savings made by North Somerset for not caring for a child in foster care as successful intervention will mean the child or young person can safely live with their primary care giver in the long term.

The service was originally targeted at children aged between 10-17 and the purpose of the service is to prevent children from entering the care system, or to safely reunify children

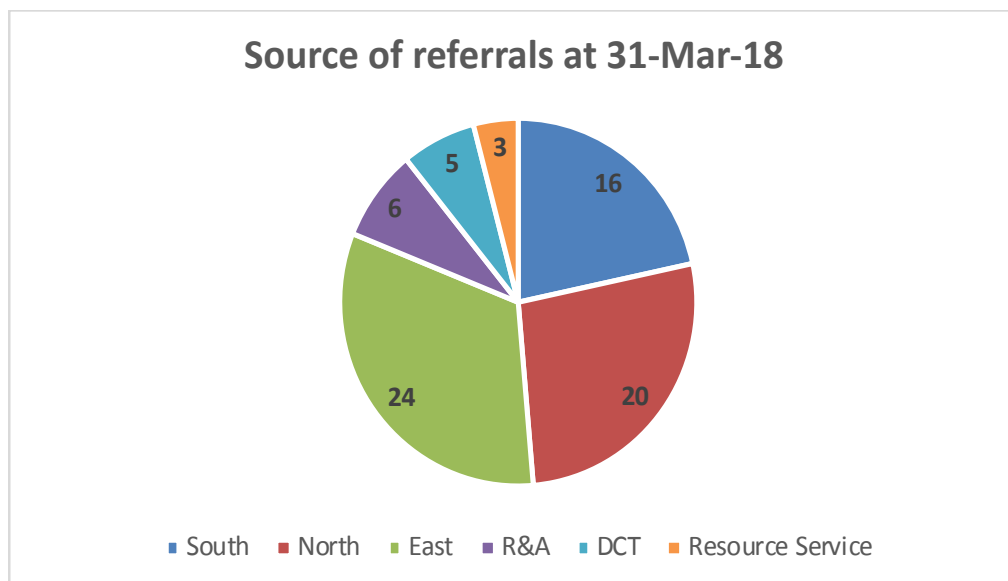
living in care with their primary carers. The criteria for the service is that child or young person is in receipt of s17 (child in need) or s47 (child in need of protection) services from social care and is at risk of becoming entering care if their home situation does not change. Key indicators which suggest children may be on the edge of care within North Somerset include older adolescent children in step parent families with younger siblings, young people engaged in drug or substance mis-use, children missing educational, children engaged with criminality, violence or challenging behaviour within the home, and critically children where their parents and care givers identify they feel unable to manage parenting their child or children moving forward. Further data analysis to see if we can 'predict' more accurately children who may come into care and therefore may be eligible for Turning the Tide services is ongoing. The principle of the service is to support families through targeted intervention to support children and young people remaining at home with their primary care giver. Therefore, children who are suffering direct abuse and need to be accommodated into foster care for their safety will not be eligible for the intervention. Not all young people within the designated age band will be eligible for the service provision, for example young people claiming asylum within the UK.

The Social Impact Bond in place since April 2017 and has been running over one calendar year. The service is designed to work with at least 40 children to divert them from care, and at least 10 children being reunified home per year. This may increase if the demand and need is there within North Somerset. As can be seen in the tables below last year from 1st April 2017- 31st March 2018, 62 children were referred for diversion with 42 being accepted for intervention. 8 children were referred for reunification with 4 cases being accepted. Therefore, the target for division work was met and slightly exceeded however reunification cases did not meet the expected targets. This was there was not enough children in care during the last calendar year who were assessed as eligible for reunification. Targeted work is ongoing to assess whether this figure can be increased appropriately.

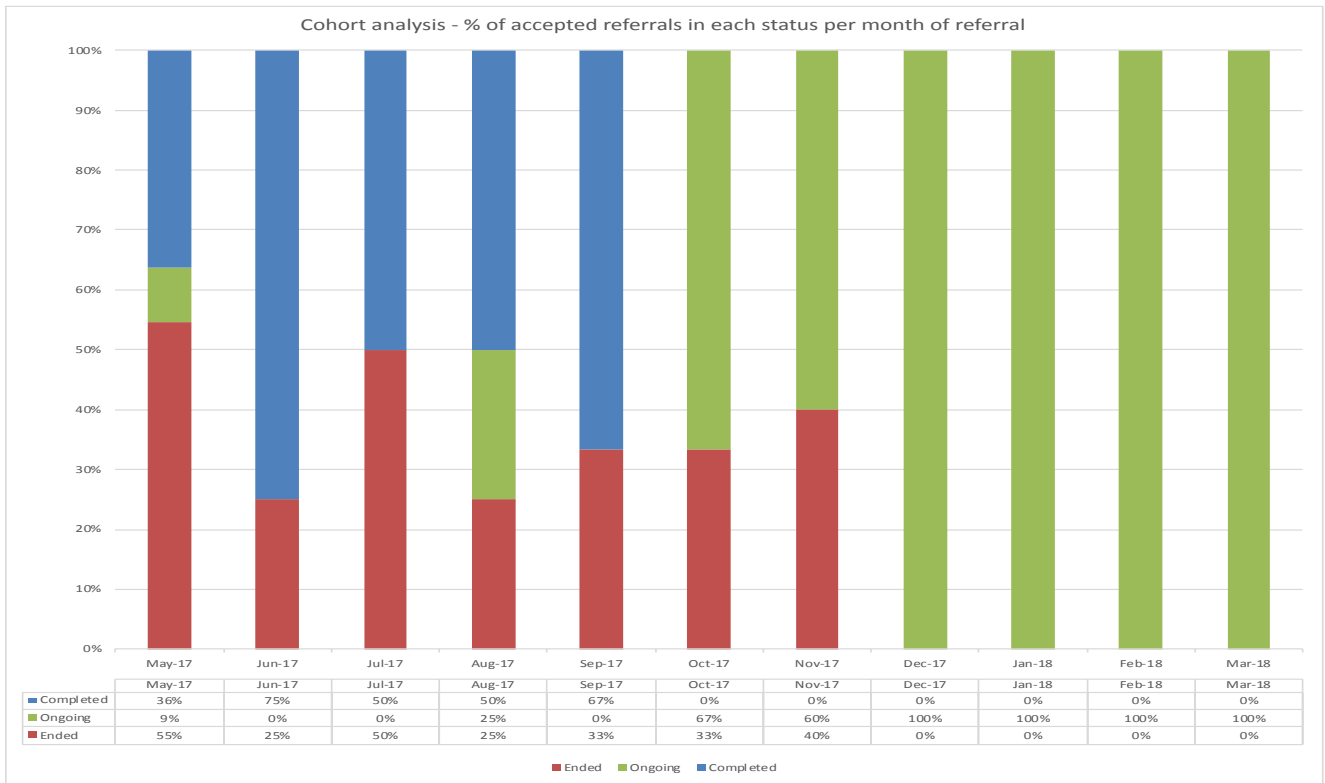
Cohort 1 - Reunification	How much?	How well?	Trend
Referrals (not including pending)	8 (0 March) 5 accepted	63% acceptance	
Cumulative referral volumes plan	5 v 11	45%	
Young People in intervention	4 vs 7 plan (1 Ended) [2 completed but can't return home]	57% v plan 80% accepted (target 68%)	
Young People completed Outcome 1	0	4 on track	
Young People in care before O1	5		
Young People completed Outcome 2	0		
Young People in care before O2	0		
Care avoided (measure to be discussed)	Nights =	Saving =	

Cohort 2 - Diversion	How much?	How well?	Trend
Cumulative referrals (not including pending)	66 (4 March) 45 accepted	68% acceptance 3 Pending	
Cumulative referral volumes plan	45 v 45	100%	
Young People in intervention	(15 completed plus 15 ongoing) 30 vs 36 plan (15 ended)	83% v plan 67% of accepted referrals (target 80%)	
Young People completed Outcome 1	15	15 on track	
Young People in care before O1	0		
Young People completed Outcome 2	0	14 in progress (1 in care 17 days)	
Young People in care before O2	0		
Care avoided (measure to be discussed)	Nights = 1,778	Saving = £165,100	

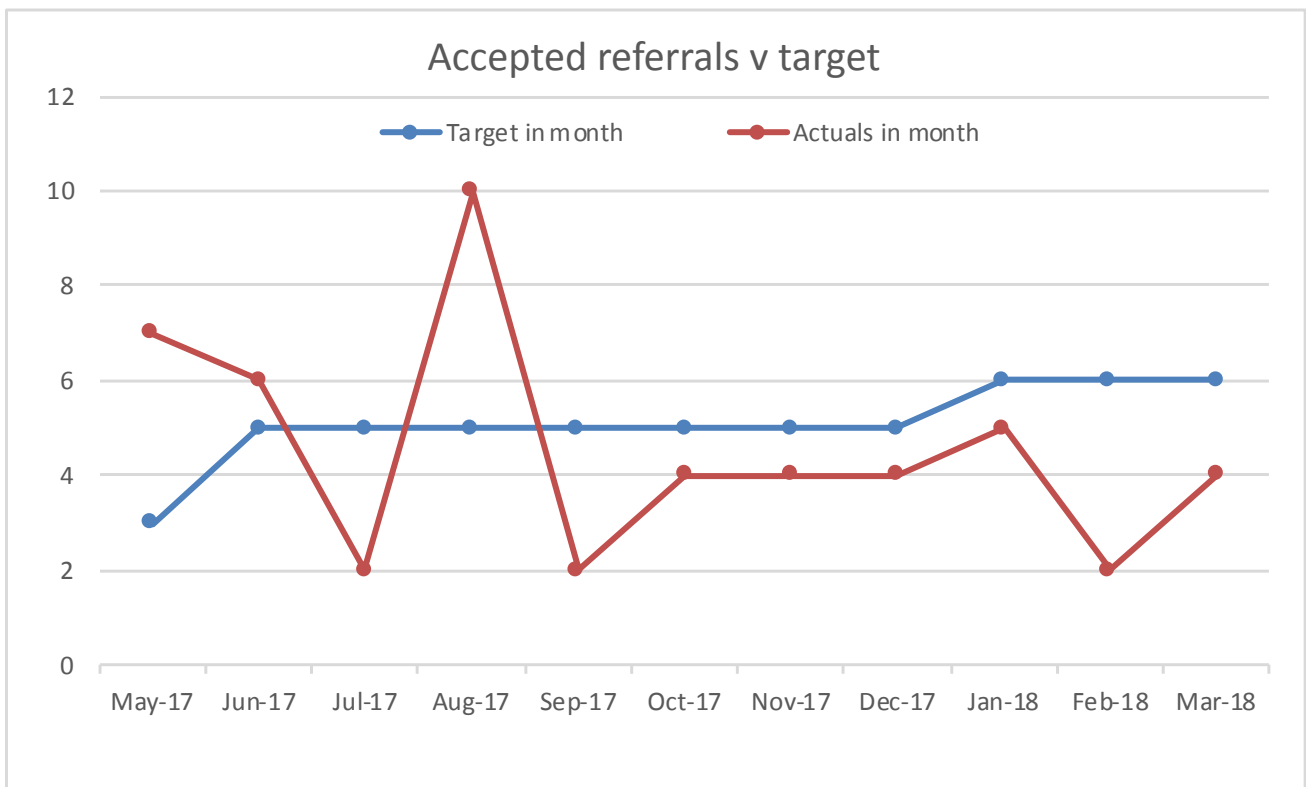
The Social Impact Bond covers all the North Somerset boundary and works flexibly across teams with its substantial base within the Health Living Centre. The distribution of referrals can be seen in the following chart: -



Initially when the service first began we saw a significant proportion of referrals not being able to proceed and this was often due to parents not giving consent to the service or not understanding what the service was able to provide. As the service has embedded within North Somerset this trend has ceased and as can be seen by the graph below at recent referrals have been successfully accepted by the service.



It has been noted that there were less referrals from the South of North Somerset than were anticipated and targeted work has been undertaken to increase referrals from this area. It was noted towards the end of the first year that referrals to the Social Impact Bond had declined as can be seen on the graph below.



To address this trend a targeted leaning event held for staff and stakeholders in April 2018 to encourage appropriate referrals and raise awareness of the service in a context of some staff churn within children's social care. Since this event we have seen a significant increase in referrals including 9 in the month of May and 5 so far in June. It is too early to assess whether these referrals are suitable for the intervention but it does demonstrate increased awareness and use of the service which is positive. Throughout the year many interventions are followed to ensure continued and appropriate use of the service, this is not an exhaustive list: -

- Attendance at the Out of School panel by Katherine Schumacher, Turning the Tide Service Leader
- Co-location of Turing the Tide staff in offices with North Somerset staff
- Regular attendance a promotion at team meetings including social care managers, service leaders, independent reviewing officers and social work team meetings
- Regular dissemination of key literature aimed at staff members and parents
- Promotion via email and other communication methods such as performing well newsletter
- Checking of use of Turning the Tide prior to any care admission for children within the age range of the service
- Consultation available from Turning the Tide Service

The Social Impact Bond is monitored through monthly operational meetings and quarterly governance meetings. The operational meetings are an opportunity to review the progress and impact of the service and make changes within operational delivery that might be required to meet changing need, ensuring the service remains responsive to change. It is also an opportunity to escalate and discuss any case issues that may be challenging. These meetings are attended by key representatives from North Somerset, Bridges and Core Assets and the governance meetings are attended by the Assistant Director of Children's Services.

Within the last year key changes to the original operating structure of the service have been made both through the operational and governance groups. This has included widening the remit of the service to ages 8-17 to recognise the cohort of younger children entering care. Furthermore, widening the reunification remit to work with children under Care Orders as well as children subject to section 20 voluntary accommodation arrangements as was originally intended. This has enabled positive flexibility within the service and has meant additional children and families have benefitted from its intervention.

Turning the Tide provides an evidenced based intervention based on Core Assets Safer Stronger Family model. The service is comprised of the Service Leader (Katherine Schumacher) who also provides educational expertise, a qualified Social Worker, Family Support Workers, and a music therapist who aim to work holistically with children and families to affect change. Intervention is 12 weeks for diversion cases or 18 weeks for reunification cases, the timescales can be flexible depending on need. After the program the family enter the 'maintenance phase' where the service will keep in touch with them up until 60 weeks post the intervention beginning. The main methodology used to effect change within the service is the Triple P parenting program. The service offers a holistic approach using the outcome star, SDQ scoring and a variety of parenting questionnaires to assess the key areas of intervention and measure change. These are summarised in Appendix 1.

The service has been in operation for just over a year and our current statistical data suggests there are 14.58% less adolescent children entering care than there was this time last year, which demonstrates the service is having a positive impact for children within North Somerset. A case study outlining the intervention in a case of a child being diverted from care can be seen in Appendix 2.

Initial feedback from parent and children has been positive regarding the intervention and a selection of feedback comments are available in Appendix 3. The Outcome Star is used to holistically measure at the beginning and end of the intervention the self-assessment of the parent and child. A comparison of the mean average Outcome Star scores over the first year demonstrates positive change for children and families because of the intervention of the social impact bond. This can be seen in Appendix 4.

Overall it is assessed that the Social Impact Bond has impacted positively upon North Somerset's children in care population however the current figure of children in care remains a significant concern given the commitments within the North Somerset MTFP. It has been assessed that the increase in the children in care figures are attributable to younger children entering the care system and reflect a national picture of children in care populations rising, as they have done in recent years. The coming year will be key in ensuring the maximum impact and effect of the Social Impact Bond to continue to work towards the safe reduction of our child in care population. The governance arrangements as outlined above will be responsible for monitoring this progress and assessing whether any additional changes to operational arrangements are required to meet changing need.

4. CONSULTATION

Consultation is regularly sought on the quality of the service from parents, carers and children and a selection of this feedback can be seen in Appendix 4. Overall feedback regarding the intervention of the service has been positive.

The Social Impact Bond will be evaluated over its duration by independent evaluators Ecorys in partnership with Bristol University. The results of that evaluation can be made available to the Scrutiny panel in due course once received. The evaluation includes feedback from parents, carers, children, social workers and senior offers within North Somerset.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

From a financial perspective, the Social Impact Bond project is designed to mitigate the costs associated with looked after children's placements. Placement costs vary depending on type, with the average in-house foster placement costing c. £20,000 per annum, independent foster agency placements costing approximately £45,000 per annum and the average residential placement costing c. £175,000 per annum. Any outcome payments are more than outweighed by the placement costs avoided.

The SIB is part of a package of measures designed to both reduce the number of placements and change the mix of placements, with an increased emphasis on in-house foster placements. The Medium Term Financial Plan includes targeted budget savings of £850,000 in respect of this. More details can be found in a report elsewhere on this agenda.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Turning the Tide has been commissioned by North Somerset through a Social Impact Bond. Contractual arrangements are in place between Core assets, Bridges and North Somerset which sets out the operation and service delivery and the outcome payments as defined on the agreed rate card.

The governance meeting includes a representative from the Procurement Team to ensure these arrangements are appropriately monitored.

The Social Impact Bond works with children open to social care under section 17 – child in need and section 47 – children in need of protection. The involvement of the local authority within these children and families is underpinned by the Children Act 1989. Turning the Tide staff members record directly onto North Somerset Systems and are co-located with North Somerset Staff. North Somerset in this instance is the data controller with Core Assets being the data processor. A Data processing notice is in place between the two agencies to underpin this arrangement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The key risks within this service relate to the payment by results by North Somerset Council which are derived from the anticipated savings from children not entering the care system. In the event that the children in car population does not decrease in line with the projections

within the MTFP this will mean a financial risk to North Somerset's mid – long term financial planning within children's services.

The opportunities within the service is a mechanism to support the safe reduction of the children in care population, providing good outcomes for children, families and communities and deriving the savings that are required for longer term financial stability for North Somerset Council.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been assessed as required for the purposes of this report.

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

There are no current assessed cross-impact implications for other services.

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options have been considered for the purposes of this report. The purpose of the report is to present an overview on the progress of the Social impact Bond after its first year of implementation.

AUTHOR

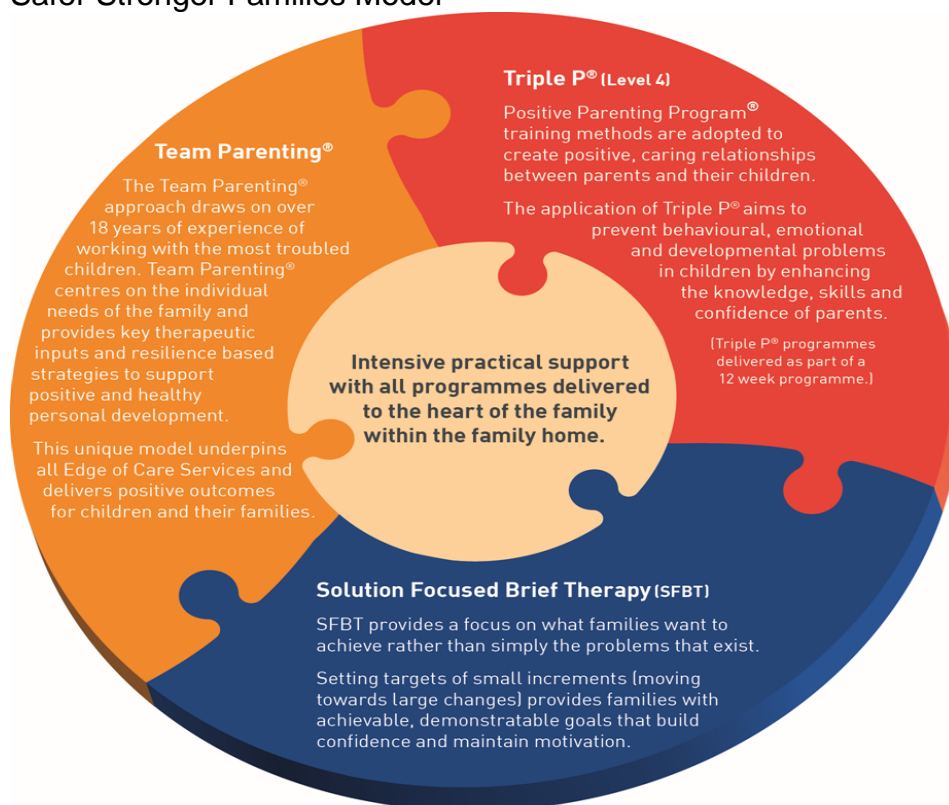
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

Appendix 1

Safer Stronger Families Model



Name of form	Frequency Used
Family Star Plus	Week 1, 6, 12,12 (& 18 if applicable)
My Star	Week 1, 6, 12,12 (& 18 if applicable)
CWAC SSF Service Satisfaction Questionnaire (Parent/Carer)	Final Session
CWAC SSF Service Satisfaction Questionnaire (LA)	Final Session
CWAC SSF Service Satisfaction Questionnaire (YP)	Final Session
Triple P Resource Pack	Week 1 & 12

Outcome tools

Appendix 2

A case study is included below

<p>Background Information</p>	<p>The family have been known to Social Care for many years.</p> <p>Z was 16 years old at the beginning of the intervention. She has been in a relationship with her boyfriend since she was 11 years old. There was a concern that Z and her boyfriend are in an interdependent relationship.</p> <p>Z gave birth to a baby girl in February 2016 after a concealed pregnancy and she has been adopted outside of the family.</p> <p>Z lives at home with her dad. Z's father has some learning needs. She has no contact with her mother who has issues with alcohol dependency and had been emotionally abusive and neglectful of Z whilst in her care.</p> <p>Z had been on a CP plan for two years.</p> <p>Z had not attended or engaged in school for more than a few hours a week for more than two years.</p> <p>Z does not always look after her personal hygiene and was reliant on her father for all her care needs.</p> <p>Z spent most of her time in her bedroom and did not socialise.</p>
<p>Positive outcomes at the end of the intervention</p>	<p>Changes in Dad's Parenting: Inputting consequences and rewards, using positive language about Z, encouraging independence skills, using praise, Dad seeking advice and support when needed.</p> <p>Changes in Z wellbeing: More positive relationship with Dad, socialising with friends, practising self-care and hygiene, spending time out of home, college tutors reporting Z becoming more confident, communicative and assertive, good attendance at college until January 2018.</p> <p>Stepped down from CP to CIN</p> <p>Good joint working with TTT FSW and Social Worker</p>

<p>Outcomes after 6 months</p>	<p>Maintaining change and preventing escalation of family crises.</p> <p>Reviewing strategies and reflecting on what has previously worked well.</p> <p>Continued good joint working between Social Worker and TTT FSW.</p>
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Compliments and Feedback

I personally thank you so much for your effort, patience, understanding and for sharing your knowledge in parenting. It surely was a great help. May you be able to help more parents and children and build good and happy relationships.
- Parent

This has been a really good piece of work so thank you for your input and skills to help improve their relationship - I have no doubt that we were going to have to accommodate "S" otherwise.
- Social Worker

This is the only space that I have where I can be completely honest.
- Parent

Lizzie has been great help and on hand when I've needed support. I know I can always get hold of her.
- Parent

I can't thank you enough. You have supported me to do my degree something that just didn't seem like an option 6 months ago and you have changed my relationship with my daughter.
- Parent

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Bridges Fund Management

North Somerset COUNCIL

Compliments and Feedback

Turning the tide has really helped our family to deal with the difficult situation that we found ourselves in. H has improved a great deal over the last two months simply by the way we deal with difficult situations. He has certainly been more responsive since we have taken our new approach.
- Parent

You really listen to us and seem to understand what it is like living with this behaviour.
- Parent

I feel like you are making this whole process feel achievable, there is a light at the end of the tunnel
- Parent

The service bridged and repaired my relationship with my son. I am now equipped with the coaching to deal with any behaviour problems, should they arise. Nicole is an absolute star and her personality is amazing for the role she played in mending my relationship with my son. I could not have done it without her friendly approach to it all and her firm belief in us.
- Parent

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Appendix 4

