

SEND

Weekly Newsletter

1 May 2019



Issue 36

Blue print for a better future for young people

Children and young people helped launch a document recently that will shape the way Somerset County Council and its partners support them over the next three years. Their voices were central to the creation of the Children and Young People's plan for 2019-22 which outlines the challenges and dangers they face.

Supporting children and young people, keeping them safe and improving their lives, is one of the most important roles the Council and its partners in health and the police undertake.

The plan is there to help them achieve this and highlights issues like exam stress, difficulties in education, lack of opportunities, bullying, abuse, exploitation, poverty and self-harm and family problems.

Children and young people from across Somerset took part in a series of workshops and helped draw up the plan and set its priorities. Some of them include better health provision and access to affordable activities to support health and wellbeing, support for parents, useful training and social skills, and ensuring schools and colleges were safe places.

The Plan's overall vision is for Somerset's children and young people to be happy, healthy and preparing for adulthood.



TES awards finalist

Avalon School in Street has been shortlisted in the prestigious Tes School Awards 2019.

It is in line for the Alternative provision of the year award.

It's up against seven other schools in its category from across England and Wales.

The winners will be announced at a glittering ceremony and dinner at the Great Room in the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London on Friday 21 June.

Sponsors of the awards include the British Council and the National Education Union.

For more information on [the awards visit here](#).

You can read the [plan here](#)



Fondness for furry friends inspires fab business idea

Thinking about the future and a finding job? Imagine the possibilities if you could turn something you love into your own business.

That's what Chloe-Ella Willcox, Somerset County Council's Young Person's Champion has done.

Her fondness for guinea pigs - many of them rescue animals, and her pet pugs has become a colourful cottage industry which she runs with her friend Bridget Traynor.

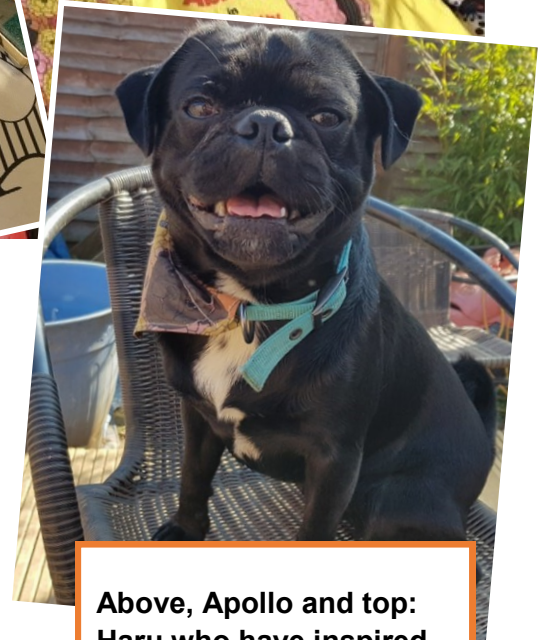
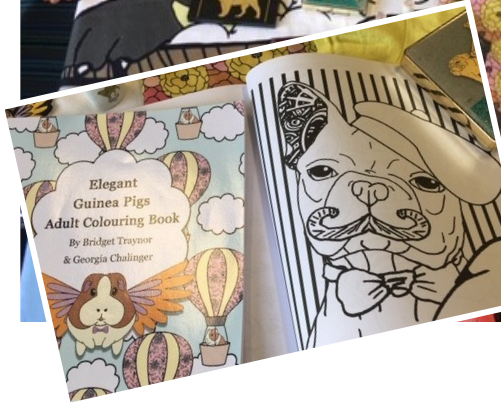
They make adult colouring books, printed fabrics for clothes or pet bedding, a make-up line - Chloe-Ella's even written a book, and goes by the pen name of Georgia Chalinger.

They've had orders from across the globe, from China to the US.

The use of social media means the possibilities are endless when it comes to running a small business.

The friends set up Elegant GP which has its own Facebook page where you can order the products.

They both create the artwork and use designers to produce the books and fabrics.



Above, Apollo and top: Haru who have inspired the designs

"There are a lot of talented people who bring the designs to life," said Chloe-Ella.

They recently acquired a third team member - former Young Person's Champion Nicole Tucker, who is working on a line of inclusivity designs.

[Visit the Elegant GP Facebook page.](#)

Download the new Rough Guide to Accessible Britain - for free!

There's an excellent 224-page guide to accessible places you can visit across the length and breadth of the UK. The Rough Guide to Accessible Britain can be downloaded

for free or read online, and covers everything from historic sites and beaches, to country parks and museums.

You can access the [guide from here.](#)

