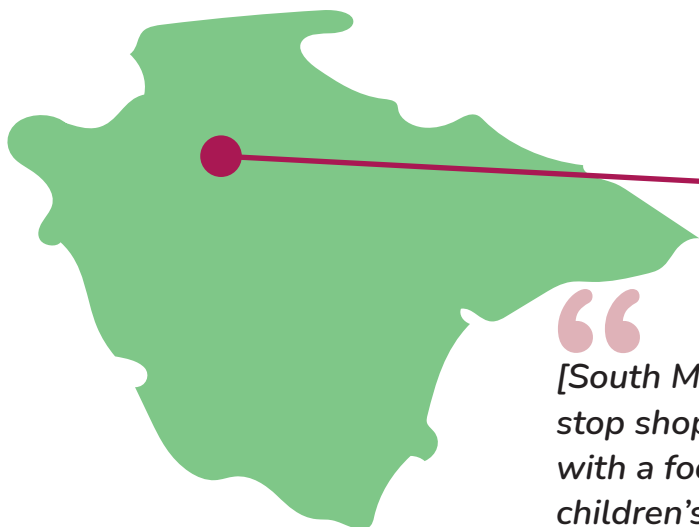


# Public Health Outreach Team Insight Snapshots 2023

## #3 SOUTH MOLTON



### PROJECT: FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES



“  
[South Molton needs a] one  
stop shop community hub  
with a focus on family and  
children's services...”

 onesouthmolton

### IN A NUTSHELL...

One South Molton is a community-based organisation made up of many providers, living and working in South Molton. One South Molton works collaboratively to support the health and wellbeing of the community. Funded by One Northern Devon, it works alongside other One communities across Northern Devon and Torridge. The Public Health Outreach Team have been working alongside Jess Twydall, the Community Developer for One South Molton, Katie Blackmore the Social Prescriber for South Molton Medical Centre, and Amy Somerwill YMCA Community Coordinator to improve availability of, and access to, public health services in the area.

### NEEDS, GAPS AND BARRIERS

Multiple deprivations and barriers to access health services have been associated with rurality in and around South Molton. Of particular note are:

- Lack of family services for all ages including children and young people and those caring for vulnerable people – for both physical and mental health
- Drugs and alcohol issues of under 18s and unwanted/challenging behaviour
- Lack of social housing – many in temporary accommodation
- Poor public transport infrastructure creating difficulties for access to services
- Poor connectivity to internet, lack of digital skills
- Poverty – wages not reaching levels of other parts of Devon therefore debt also an issue
- Lack of funding and volunteers for community groups

Individuals and community groups report 'lack of listening', and 'more joined up services needed' as key barriers, indicating survey overload – communities feeling that their views, once surveyed, are not acted upon.

### COMMUNITY VISION – WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

One South Molton's recent focus has been on tackling the Cost of Living Crisis in winter 22/23. In addition to the recent community 'Beat the Winter Blues' event, information on warm hubs and other services are promoted within South Molton Library, YMCA, local churches, and South Molton Medical Centre.

Furthermore, a community signposting service is soon to be established at the weekly Pannier Market. In addition to the foodbank service, the YMCA also provides hot meals, a community fridge, and details of available activities for South Molton residents. The YMCA has also hosted the Public Health Outreach Team's monthly health clinic. Consultation with community shows need for more connection between services and real listening to communities' needs.



## ROLE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH OUTREACH TEAM

The involvement of the Public Health Outreach Team began through attending One South Molton meetings to hear of local issues. The Outreach Team officer then collaborated with One South Molton with drop-in sessions at the local library to support local people in the Cost of Living crisis, picking up deeper information about the gaps and barriers in services. The Public Health Outreach Team has taken a clear role in brokering contacts and meetings and collaborating with local VCSE groups, providing a regular person on the ground prepared to take time to listen and support action.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Provided Action for Children and Young Devon with Outreach team community contacts in areas across Devon

Connections made with local family groups at South Molton Methodist Church, Action for Children and Young Devon as part of Sarah Miller's, SEN Speech and Language Adviser for Area Education Commissioning Bridging the Covid Gap project

Collaborated with One South Molton to improve and extend local access to health and social information, e.g the signposting stall at the Pannier Market

Provided parental response data relating to questions regarding Covid and access to health services with the Bridging the Covid Gap project

Connected Devon Mind with One South Molton, Together and Eddystone Trust

Collaborated with agencies and voluntary groups for activities /funding for young people in areas of high-density social housing – e.g., Skate Molton and South Molton Methodist Church Family Groups

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS

- A one stop shop community hub with a focus on family and children's services so people can talk to health visitors and discuss parenting, communication with teenagers and their own physical or mental health
- Outreach service support from public health services, based on listening to community needs

Community Support by Karen Humber of Devon Public Health Outreach Team. Snapshot Designed by Devon Communities Together.