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| **Don’t suffer in silence – help is at hand** |
| Support continues to be available for Somerset residents affected by domestic abuse with the County Council working closely with partners to make sure services continue during the current health emergency.    It is vital that people stay at home or self-isolate to help tackle the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic but that can put strains on relationships.    The County Council wants to reassure residents that its vital services continue to run – and that includes help for those affected by domestic abuse.    The County Council has commissioned The You Trust to be the new provider of the specialist Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS) in Somerset from 1April 2020.    Both the current provider (Livewest Housing) and The You Trust have robust business continuity plans in place which will ensure that SIDAS continues to operate at this time.    The service works with men, women and children affected by domestic abuse, and who need the specialist support that SIDAS offers.    A range of services are available through SIDAS including safe emergency accommodation, outreach support and a local helpline. All these are delivered by a highly experienced and qualified team which is following Government guidance for keeping those experiencing domestic abuse safe in these unprecedented times.    People are also being urged to support the current council campaign #noclosedoors2020 - on Twitter and Facebook.     You can access useful information online at the Somerset domestic abuse website [www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk) or you can call the local confidential helpline on 0800 69 49 999.    For the latest updates from the Government, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.  For further information about Somerset County Council services and the latest updates, please visit [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/).  **ENDS** |
| For more information, please contact the Press Office on 01823 355020 or email [pressoffice@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@somerset.gov.uk).  **Notes to editors**  To view all our news releases, please visit [www.somersetnewsroom.com](http://www.somersetnewsroom.com)  The SCC Communications Team are also on social media:  [www.twitter.com/somersetcouncil](http://www.twitter.com/somersetcouncil)  [www.facebook.com/somersetcountycouncil](http://www.facebook.com/somersetcountycouncil)  [www.flickr.com/somersetcountycouncil](http://www.flickr.com/somersetcountycouncil)  [www.youtube.com/yoursomerset](http://www.youtube.com/yoursomerset)  To find out who the elected Somerset County Councillor is for a particular area, simply visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/councillors/somerset-county-councillors/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/councillors/somerset-county-councillors/)  *If you no longer wish to receive emails from the Somerset County Council Communications Team, please email* [*communications@somerset.gov.uk*](mailto:communications@somerset.gov.uk) *and tell us and we will remove you from our media contacts distribution list.* |
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