

# Press Release



## New Chief Executive for CCS

Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is delighted to announce the appointment of Keeley Rudd as its new Chief Executive. Keeley has taken up the post after Katherine Armstrong's maternity cover comes to an end.

Keeley joined CCS in August 2010, initially as the Community Involvement Officer, then progressing to Community Involvement Manager in 2012. Keeley then became Acting CEO from January 2015 whilst Katherine Armstrong, the outgoing CEO took her maternity leave. However, following Katherine's decision not to return, the CCS Board unanimously appointed Keeley as the new CEO with effect from January 2016.

CCS delivers an extensive range of personalised support and services for rural (and urban) communities across Somerset. Our primary focus is on the needs of whole communities rather than narrowly focussed service provision. We aim to build capacity, capability and vision in communities so that they can shape their own futures, address vulnerabilities and make their place the perfect place to live.

Chair Tess Gill said: "Having worked with both Katherine and Keeley since becoming Chair in 2011 I have every confidence that we are still in good hands. I would like to send all good wishes to Katherine for the future and look forward to continuing to work with Keeley over the coming months"

Keeley said: "I feel very proud to have been given this opportunity especially following in Katherine's footsteps as she has led CCS through huge organisational changes over the last few years. I have a fantastic and dedicated team and look forward to facing the challenges and opportunities which will undoubtedly come our way.

Over the last 12 months CCS has helped local community projects to secure a fantastic £815,969 of funding with a 100% success rate for funding applications. Our Somerset Village Agents have supported almost 1000 people in the last 12 months and CCS projects and services are expanding to continue to meet the needs of Somerset's communities and individuals.

Katherine Armstrong said: "Keeley and I worked well as a team since she joined in 2010 and although I am sorry in many ways to leave CCS I know that the organisation will go from strength to strength."

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## Editor's notes

CCS works to support action in communities our innovative works to find solutions to the challenges faced by communities – from setting up fuel schemes, saving village shops to supporting, young and elderly people across Somerset



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