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To: The Chair and Members  
of the Devon Education  
Forum

County Hall  
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Date: 13 June 2023

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### **DEVON EDUCATION FORUM**

Wednesday, 21st June, 2023

A meeting of the Devon Education Forum is to be held on the above date at 10.00 am at Committee Suite - County Hall to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson  
Chief Executive

### **A G E N D A**

6 Head of Education Update (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Head of Education (DEF/23/10), attached.

*Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.*



Deputy Director of SEND Update  
 Jackie Ross  
 DEF 21/23

## Key performance Indicators:

**Table 1: EHC Needs Assessment Case Management Overview (DfE Requested Table)**

2023	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023
Number of 20 weeks assessments completed	58	62	95	109	120
Number of 20 weeks assessments completed on time	10	7	15	11	6
% Of 20-week assessments completed on time	17%	11%	16%	10%	5%
% Of 20-week assessments completed on time cumulative	17%	14%	15%	13%	11%
Number of 20-week assessments overdue 30 Weeks	304	393	369	324	315
Number of 20-week assessments overdue 52 Weeks	4	25	32	17	20

### SEN 2 - Benchmark Data

% 20 week assessments completed on time

England

2021 - 59.9% | 2022 - 50.7%

Devon County Council

2021 - 38.8% | 2022 - 11.8%

Current Devon County Council | 11.0%

**Table 2: EHC assessment advice requests overdue at end of each calendar month**

Advice Requests	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023
Education Psychology	523	544	477	476	535	501
Care	166	160	153	187	250	221
Health	128	107	86	87	109	112

**Table 3: Initial Requests for EHC Assessment**

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	2023
Number of Initial Requests for EHC Assessment (2023)	202	220	265	126	188	1001
Number of Initial Requests for EHC Assessment (2022)	209	157	240	133	204	943
% Difference between 2022 and 2023	-3%	+40%	+10%	-5%	-8%	+6%

### SEN 2 - Benchmark Data

% of Initial Requests for EHC Assessment (% of 0-24 Population)

England

2021 (0.56%) | 2022 (0.68%)

Devon County Council

2021 (0.83%) | 2022 (0.96%)

Current Devon County Council | 0.99%

# Agenda Item 6

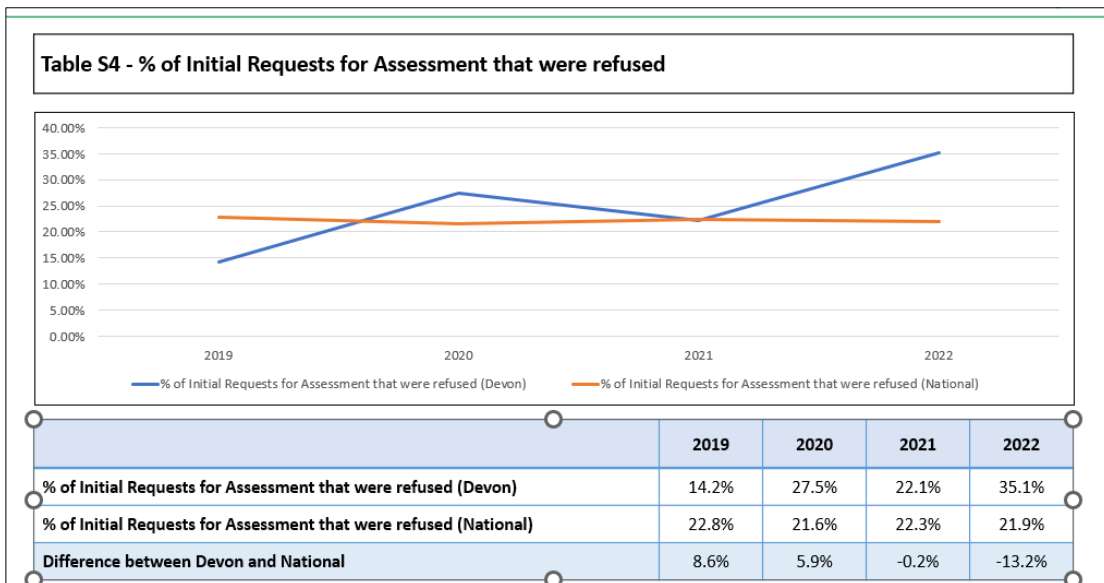
Table 4. Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)					
	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023*
Total Number of EHCPs	8421	8447	8492	8519	8582
Number of Annual Reviews Completed	698	629	935	460	697
Number Annual Reviews Overdue	1297	1207	1223	1247	1256

**SEN 2 - Benchmark Data**  
**EHCPs as % of 0-24 Population**

England  
**2021 – 2.82% | 2022 – 3.08%**

Devon County Council  
**2021 – 3.76% | 2022 – 3.98%**

Current Devon County Council |  
**4.0%**



## Update on recruitment and staffing levels in the 0-25 SEND team.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023:

- 9 new caseworkers have started employment.
- 7 other caseworkers will commence employment between July and September 2023.
- 1 caseworker has been promoted within DCC, leaving a single vacancy – currently out to advert.
- 1 FTE SEN Assessment Coordinator post remains vacant – currently out to advert.
- 2 FTE SEN Area Commissioning Manager posts have become vacant – currently out to advert.

There are currently 22 interims on contract across the wider SEND structure (a reduction of 7 since March 2023):

- 1 SEND Director
- 1 Team Manager

- 13 Case Workers covering secondments and vacant posts before permanent recruits start.
- 2 Post-16 Case Workers
- 5 within the EHCP Backlog Team-until July '23

## *Wellbeing*

- Trauma support training agreed. Will be delivered by 'March on Stress' between July and September 2023.
- Additional wellbeing support identified using the wellbeing themes from the March 23 staff focus groups to be delivered from June 2023 onwards.

## *Resourcing*

- Ongoing recruitment & retention strategy in development.
- Ongoing live recruitment for current vacancies.
- Review of work allocation in the Assessment Team complete. New approaches being tested from June 2023 to be reviewed prior to the start of the new academic year.
- Review of caseworker job description in progress.

## **SEND Improvement Plan**

Work is underway led by Dr Jane Williams on the Ordinarily Available Offer- this work will involve school leaders and SENDCos.,

A new EHC template-which is streamlined is being rolled out. There has been training-which will be ongoing-to SENDCos, the statutory Team and advice writers.

There is ongoing work in relation to the neurodiversity pathway.

## *Sufficiency:*

An invite has been sent to schools to express interest in developing a resource provision or satellite class based on local data which identifies gaps in provision for particular needs. This is based on Mime Regression Analysis and Local Learning Community Data. The first wave will establish 12 new provisions by September 2024. - (net savings £1.176 million per annum) This is part of the Safety Valve

## **Team Around the School**

Although planned as a major part of the safety valve this has not made progress as has the post-16 project (3-to-5-year placements) and outreach. The trial and test period started late and there has not been capacity in the system to lead this and has remained with the Deputy Director. There have been some themes identified:

# Agenda Item 6

This has consisted of initial meeting with school leaders-then request to consider 5 to 6 children/young people.

Themes identified:

Importance of support for schools to become confident in relation to safeguarding

Need to provide additional support to empower the school to meet more complex needs of children/young people. However, it has been identified that this is likely to be in relation to social care or health needs, in particular, mental health needs.

1. Curriculum issues-need for wider approach
2. Need for Early Help
3. For children/young people identified as 'in crises' as learners-what is available for them?
4. Wider needs -social care and health (e.g., for input from police and also Youth Intervention Team)
5. Further support in relation to work of the Designated Safeguarding lead-to make appropriate referrals to MASH.
6. Need for greater support for SENDCos
7. Training for the wider teaching team.