

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

To: The Chair and Members of the
Children's Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

(See below)

Your ref :
Our ref :

Date : 7 September 2018
Please ask for : Stephanie Lewis 01392 382486

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 17th September, 2018

A meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee is to be held on the above date at 2.15 pm at Committee Suite - County Hall to consider the following matters.

P NORREY
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)
Minutes of the Children's Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 June 2018 (previously circulated).
- 3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention
Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.
- 4 Public Participation
Members of the public may make representations/presentations on any substantive matter listed in the published agenda for this meeting, as set out hereunder, relating to a specific matter or an examination of services or facilities provided or to be provided.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR REVIEW

- 5 Foster Carer Allowances (Pages 7 - 32)
A Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services (CS/18/25) on the consultation of Fostering Fees and Allowances.
- 6 DYS Space Ltd (Pages 33 - 34)
A Report from DYS Space Ltd providing a progress update following the halfway point of its initial core youth service with Devon County Council in August.
- 7 Care Leaver's Peer Review (Pages 35 - 50)
A Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services (CS/18/26) providing a summary of a peer review that took place during June 2018.
- 8 Performance - Social Care (Pages 51 - 62)
A Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (CS/17/27) on the Annual Census returns for Children Looked After and Children in Need.
- 9 Performance - Education (Pages 63 - 76)
Report of the Head of Education and Learning (CS/18/28), attached.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 10 Information previously circulated
Below is a list of information previously circulated for Members, since the last meeting, relating to topical developments which have been or are currently being considered by this Scrutiny Committee:
- Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report 2017-2018
 - Refreshed Mandate for Children's STP
 - Sufficiency Strategy
- 11 Children's Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
In accordance with the previous practice, Scrutiny Committees are requested to review the list of forthcoming business (previously circulated) and to determine which items are to be included in the Work Programme.
- The Committee may also wish to review the content of the Cabinet Forward Plan to see if there are any specific items therein it might wish to explore further.
- The Work Programme and Forward Plan can be found at:
- <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain confidential information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

Membership

Councillors R Hannaford (Chair), D Sellis (Vice-Chair), S Aves, F Biederman, J Brazil, E Brennan, C Channon, I Chubb, G Gribble, J Hawkins, L Hellyer, R Hosking, T Inch, J Mathews, A Saywell, M Squires and C Mabin

Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Stephanie Lewis 01392 382486

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Scrutiny Committees set aside 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting to allow anyone who has registered to speak on any such item. Speakers are normally allowed 3 minutes each.

Anyone wishing to speak is requested to register in writing to the Clerk of the Committee (details above) by the deadline, outlined in the Council's [Public Participation Scheme](#), indicating which item they wish to speak on and giving a brief outline of the issues/ points they wish to make. The representation and the name of the person making the representation will be recorded in the minutes.

Alternatively, any Member of the public may at any time submit their views on any matter to be considered by a Scrutiny Committee at a meeting or included in its work Programme direct to the Chair or Members of that Committee or via the Democratic Services & Scrutiny Secretariat (committee@devon.gov.uk). Members of the public may also suggest topics (see: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/committee-meetings/scrutiny-committees/scrutiny-work-programme/>)

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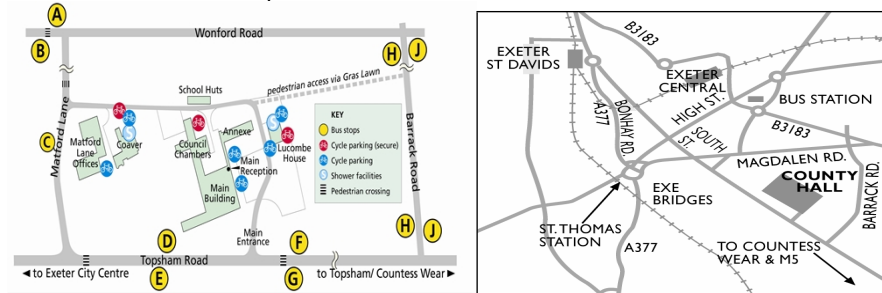
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NB   Denotes bus stops

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 June 2018

Present:-

Councillors R Hannaford (Chair), D Sellis (Vice-Chair), S Aves, F Biederman, C Channon, J Hawkins, L Hellyer, R Hosking, T Inch, J Mathews, A Saywell, M Squires and C Mabin

Apologies:-

Councillors J Brazil, E Brennan and G Gribble

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillor J McInnes

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Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of Children's Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 March 2018 be signed as a correct record.

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Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

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Announcements

The Chair reported on the recent sad passing of Rob Hooper, former Head of Democratic Services, who had worked for local government for 47 years, of which over 44 years were with the County Council, and was hugely respected by colleagues and Members across all political parties.

A minute silence was held as a mark of respect and to pay tribute to Mr Hooper.

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Public Participation

There were no oral representations received at the meeting from a member of the public. The Chair read out a statement to clarify the Council's procedures for public participation at Scrutiny Committee meetings.

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Children Centres - Action for Children

The Committee received a presentation from representatives of Action for Children on the re-commissioning of Children's Centres which aimed to strengthen early help and deliver integrated community based services.

The main points covered by the presentation included how Action for Children were delivering services across all four areas, with eight main children's centre hubs each with its own annual service plan and additional satellite hubs; partnerships with services such as, inter alia, early help, social care, public health nursing and schools; 'Grow' and 'Play' by Action for Children commercial services; and supporting community groups such as Axminster Breastfeeding Group and Barnstaple Multiple Births Group.

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Members discussion points and questions raised included:

- that transitional funding had been made available to Action for Children;
- whether funding was available for Citizen's Advice;
- ongoing work and training with Devon Universities and public health;
- welfare reform and early help provision and the changes to Universal Credit.

RESOLVED that Action for Children be invited back annually to report to the Children's Scrutiny Committee.

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Special Education Needs and Disability Update Report

(Councillor Biederman declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of having a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan)

The Committee received an update Report from the Head of Education and Learning (CS/18/20) outlining the specific challenges faced by the local authority and the action being taken to mitigate these risks. Since 2014, SEND 0-25 had operated under the new SEND Code of Practice which brought together joint responsibility of education, health and care services to identify and plan to meet the needs of children with special educational needs (SEN). In Devon, an SEND Improvement Board monitored the joint responsibilities across the services and how these aligned within Devon's SEND Strategy.

Key points raised within the Report included:

- a 10% increase from September 2017 in the number of children with an EHCP, with data reporting 4093 EHCPs at January 2018;
- educational outcomes for children with SEN were higher than the national average and judged Good or Better by Ofsted;
- all transfers from Statements to EHCPs were completed within DfE timescales;
- feedback received from families was generally positive.

The Head of Service explained that current issues related to the First Assessment Process which was under considerable pressure and had resulted in delays in completing assessments within the statutory 20-week timescale. This in part was due to each child requiring professional advice to process their assessment, which had to come from at least an Educational Psychologist, Health and Care Professionals. Where one piece of information/advice was returned late, the plan could not be completed and the whole timescale was delayed. As a result, investment had been made to increase staff capacity and intensive monitoring had been put in place to ensure the impact of this investment was visible.

Discussion points with Members and Officers included:

- the quality of communication with parents;
- the number of special schools available in Devon (currently 10) with approximately 1,000 spaces, all of which were already filled for the start of September 2018;
- the need to expand current Special Schools and the number of places available;
- ongoing work with mainstream schools and the Devon Inclusion Project to provide necessary support for children with SEN to avoid Assessment and the need to attend a Special School;
- issues with ICT around the Council's new phone system which was hindering parents' ability to contact the 0-25 team, as it did not notify parents when a member of staff was engaged or that they were in a queue;
- the need to engage with parents and young people to understand how to make the process of obtaining an EHCP more streamlined and easier to access; and

- an update on the progress of the Dawlish Federation of Special Schools merger, which would open in September 2018; Members and Officers recommended a site visit in the autumn to further understand the running of a special school.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Aves, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hannaford, and

RESOLVED that a Task Group be set up to look into the process of Education, Health and Care Plans.

* **64** **Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Task Group Report**

The Committee received the Final Report of the Task Group (CSO/18/13) which set out its findings and recommendations relating to Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing. The Report looked into concerns over children and young people with mental health and behaviour problems which could be linked to issues that affected adults, such as drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, sexual exploitation or even genetic disorders. Concerns had been raised regarding young people suffering with anorexia, bulimia, self-harm, stress or bullying, with schools often feeling the only option available to them was an already over-stretched Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), with little early intervention available.

The Task Group therefore explored the options of early help available to schools, including the Early Help for Mental Health Services (EH4MH) and examples of best practice relating to support and intervention that could be rolled out across the County, specifically in relation to secondary schools.

Members noted the importance of ensuring the findings and recommendations of the Task Group Report be widely circulated to primary and secondary Headteachers.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the report and intention of the recommendations be endorsed; and
- (b) that the Chair of the Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Task Group work with Officers to review the phrasing of the recommendations to ensure that they are 'SMART' (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound) before being commended to the Cabinet.

* **65** **PRU Provision**

The Committee received the Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services (CS/18/21) updating Members on the current position of Devon's Alternative Provision and Schools Company Trust (SCT). The SCT had been running Devon's Alternative Provision since March 2015, where initially its performance was considered acceptable. However, in the last 18 months, concerns had been raised directly with the Trust over its performance, and directly with the Regional School Commissioner (RSC). As a result, the Trust was now under new interim leadership, with a new CEO and Board of Trustees appointed by the DfE.

Devon was undertaking a deep-dive into the commissioning of Alternative Provision to ensure its strategic overview and operational approach were aligned and provided appropriate education and a therapeutic offer to match the learners' specific needs.

Members were informed that the Regional Schools Commissioner had agreed upon a new sponsor for the three academies, who was an existing provider with two schools already graded as outstanding; with the current school improvement provider remaining in place during the transition phase until the contract for the new provider began.

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4/06/18

RESOLVED that the new PRU provider be invited to a future Children's Scrutiny Committee to provide a progress update.

* **66** **Performance - Education**

The Committee received the Report of the Head of Education and Learning (CS/18/22) on the latest performance measures, highlighting key areas including: Early Years, Children in Care, requests for Statutory Assessments, transfers from statements, rates of absence, Parental Responsibility and Penalty Notices and Ofsted outcomes. The Head of Service undertook to explore and report back to the Committee on the relationship nationally between Ofsted results and school funding.

* **67** **Learning from Audit in Children's Social Care 2017-18**

The Committee received the Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (CS/18/23) on the activity being undertaken to further develop Devon's learning from quality assurance activity. The Quality Assurance Framework set out the approach used to provide continual assurance that the Council was achieving positive outcomes. Messages of best practice would be shared to replicate across the service and any identified issues for corrective action would also be shared to support improvement.

Other key areas highlighted included improving outcomes for young people, a focus on quality, themed audits, self-assessment activities and a response to Children in Need. Areas of good practice highlighted included evidence of effective multi-agency working, practitioners evidencing that they knew and understood the needs of the children they were working with and that the wishes and experiences of the children were effectively captured in many cases. Areas for improvement included the quality of single assessments, visits, supervision and management oversight.

* **68** **Commissioning Liaison Update Report**

The Committee received a Report from the Chief Officer for Children's Services (CS/18/24) outlining the work of the Commissioning Liaison Officer in reviewing the current and future children's services commissioning activity. The Report highlighted key areas of focus, including Community Health and Care Contracts and pre-procurement preparations, disabled children's short breaks, placements for children in care and the Regional Adoption Agency.

The Commissioning Liaison Member highlighted the valuable work undertaken by the Commissioning Group, acting as a link between Scrutiny, Cabinet Members and Chief Officers and the significant commissioning activity undertaken at the Council.

COUNCILLOR SELLIS IN THE CHAIR

* **69** **Election of the Commissioning Liaison Member**

In line with the recommendations of the '*Scrutiny in a Commissioning Council*' Task Group Report, the Committee was asked to select a Commissioning Liaison Member, whose role was to work closely with the relevant Cabinet Members and Chief Officers/Heads of Service, developing a fuller understanding of commissioning processes, and provide a link between Cabinet and Scrutiny on commissioning and commissioned services.

The Commissioning Scrutiny Task Group Report can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s1830/Scrutiny%20in%20a%20Commissioning%20Council.pdf>

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4/06/18

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sellis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Saywell, and

RESOLVED that Councillor Hosking be appointed as the Commissioning Liaison Member for the Children's Scrutiny Committee.

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Children's Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

RESOLVED that the current Work Programme be approved subject to inclusion of the following topics for future consideration and also those agreed at the meeting:

- Behind the EHCP Task Group
- Individual Member Investigation led by Cllr Channon on the Council's preparedness for the new Ofsted inspection framework

[NB: The Scrutiny Work Programme was available on the Council's website at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/committeemeetings/scrutinycommittees/scrutinyworkprogramme/> and the Council/Cabinet Forward Plan is available at <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=133&RD=0&bcr=1>]

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 5.15 pm

Consultation: Fostering fees and Allowances

Report of the Chief Officer Children's Services

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

1. Introduction and Recommendation

- 1.1 The responsibilities a Council holds for children in care are unique and to be discharged with the utmost care and gravity. The Council is a corporate parent and, all its decision-making pertaining to children in care, must have the welfare of the child as the paramount consideration. Being child centred isn't always easy as there are always other interests in play. Members are required to discern in the myriad representations, where the best interests of the child lie.
- 1.2 This report proposes changes to the current structure of foster carers' fees.
Scrutiny members are asked to:
Support the proposed changes to the fee structure, recommending any adjustments to cabinet that they consider appropriate.
- 1.3 The matter under consideration is sensitive and complex. As a consequence, this report is detailed: it covers
- Background information about children in care and fostering
 - The case for change
 - The process for developing the recommended fee structure model
 - The model
 - The consultation on the preferred model
 - The consultation responses
 - The conclusion and recommendations

2. Background

- 2.1 Fostered children are not 'placements'. They are individual children with unique personalities and characters and often complex needs, who need support and help from a range of services if they are to recover from their early childhood trauma.
- 2.2 At any time, Devon has around 700 children in care, about half of whom are cared for by Devon foster carers (on 3.9.18 there were 720 children in care, of whom 376, 52%, were with in-house foster carers). There are 270 fostering households in Devon and we want to recruit more. Spend on in-house foster care allowances in 2017/18 was £8,305,062.

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- 2.3 Foster carers are self-employed but work either for a Local Authority or for an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA). They are paid an allowance (recommended nationally by the Department for Education) and a fee (set locally by the Local Authority or their Independent Fostering Agency). Allowances and fees can be disregarded for benefits and the tax regime gives foster carers favourable tax discounts.

3. The case for change

- 3.1 The current fees and allowances system has been adapted and developed over many years to respond to national and local policy and best practice innovations and to address specific issues. The unintended consequence has been increased complexity, some confusion and inequities.
- 3.2 Currently, there are five different payment schemes; three tier progression schemes; and four different age bands. This has created inequalities and an unhelpfully complex system of administration. Prospective carers tell us that they find the current payment system complex and confusing. It does not compare favourably with the local independent sector where they generally have one fee.
- 3.3 Foster carers are not always receiving equal payments for children presenting similar needs. For example, to care for the same 16-year-old child:
- A tier 2 carer would receive £397 in fees and allowances,
 - A DYPAS tier 3 carer would receive £471 in fees and allowances, and
 - A tier 3 carer would receive £536 in fees and allowances.
- 3.4 Whilst tier 3 carers are expected to have significant experience and training in caring for more complex children; in practice, many complex children are being successfully cared for by carers in other tiers.
- 3.5 A commitment to review the fees and allowances was made in 2015 but, due to changes in senior leadership, could not begin until September 2017.
- 3.6 The Council wants a model of payment that is fair and equitable. The Council wants to strengthen the focus on children and their needs, matching payments to the complexity of need.
- 3.7 Devon County Council values its foster carers and the contribution that they make to the lives of many children and young people. In addition to creating a fair and equitable system, it is our intention by creating a more transparent fee structure, coupled with our highly regarded support for foster carers, to be in a stronger position to recruit more foster carers in the future.

4 The process for developing the recommended fee structure model

- 4.1 The work to develop the proposed model commenced in September 2017 with the establishment of a project group, set up to work with foster carers and staff. A group of carers, known as the Working Party, drawn from across all three of the fostering tiers has been involved in the co-production of proposed payment models that reflect

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the costs of caring for a child; rewards personal professional development; and acknowledges the challenges of meeting the needs of individual children. The Working Party devised a set of governing principles that would underpin the model. These principles are included in the [consultation document](#).

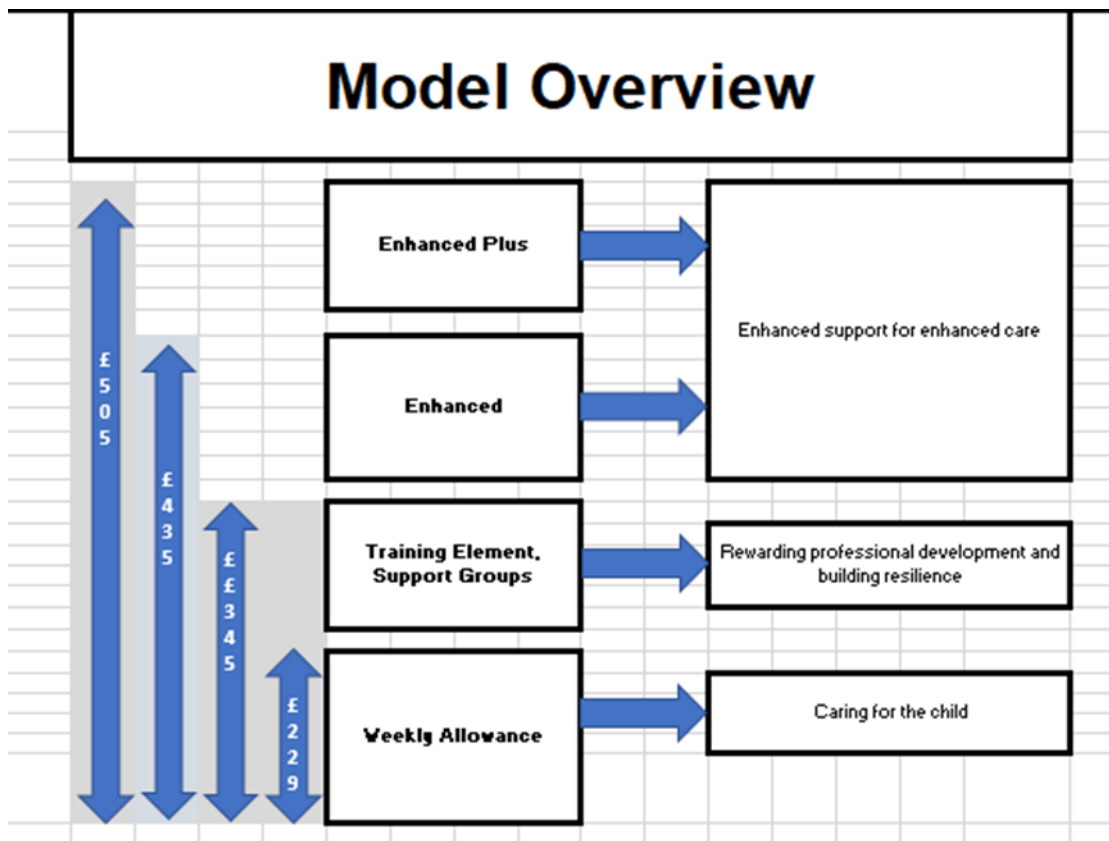
- 4.2 The first finance modelling consultation with carers was held on 31 October 2017. A second workshop for carers was held on 29 January 2018 seeking feedback on the modelling developed at that time and following further review, three of the original five models were discounted by the group as not being workable
- 4.3 An engagement meeting was held with a specific group of tier three carers (see footnote¹) on 23 January 2018 which followed a briefing of the Chair and Secretary of the Devon Foster Carers Association on 12 January 2018.
- 4.4 Six updates for foster carers have been provided throughout this process in the foster carers newsletter and the topic has been a standing agenda item at the monthly Foster Carer Strategy meeting.
- 4.5 During this co-production period, a group of tier three carers made various representations in writing and in person to the Council, through its officers and its members. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee analysed all the representations and asked the Service to respond in writing to the summarised issues raised. The paper prepared for this purpose is attached at Appendix One.
- 4.6 A group of about 30 tier three carers have been particularly active, sharing their views and concerns. These are captured in the consultation feedback later. Some carers have felt it necessary to repeatedly state their views as they felt they were not being heard. The service view is unequivocal; all views have been heard, but not all are agreed.
- 4.7 The preferred model was subject to detailed financial modelling. The model was applied to every fostering household based on the children in placement on 31.3.18.

5 The model

- 5.1 The model complies fully with the governing principles agreed as part of the development work. It comprises a weekly allowance, an allocation for engagement with training and support groups, and allocations based on the needs of the child.

¹ *Historically, there was a fostering scheme in Devon referred to as the 'Family Care Workers Scheme'. Carers entered this scheme with the understanding that they would give up paid employment. Some carers continued to have other income streams as well as fostering, for example running a small business from home or other paid caring roles or had a partner who was not a member of the scheme and had other paid employment and this was accepted by children's services. The Family Care Workers Scheme ended in April 2016 and carers were invited to become tier 3 carers. There is not and has never been an expectation that tier 3 carers will give up paid employment. The current Devon County Council Foster Carers Agreement makes no requirement of carers to give up paid employment.*

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- 5.2 **Weekly Allowance.** The Devon Weekly Allowance enhances the National Minimum Allowance published by the Department of Education. The 2018-2019 minimum rate is £222 for young people placed in London and £191 for the rest of the UK. This covers the basic costs of caring for each child. The proposed weekly allowance is **£229.00 pw**
- 5.3 **Training and Development.** This recognises and motivates continued professional and personal development. The proposed Training element payment is £58.00 pw or £3,016 pa
- 5.4 **Support Groups.** Peer support is critical to successful fostering, giving and receiving. The proposed Support Group element payment is £58.00 pw or £3,016 pa
- 5.5 These two measures are recognition of carers' skills and expertise, which is referred to in the Narey Review of Fostering. The measurement of this is straightforward and transparent and will be assessed annually. A carer household would be expected to complete a minimum of 6 training sessions per year and attend 6 support groups. A record of attendance will be maintained, considered at a carer's annual review, and payments adjusted accordingly.
- 5.6 A foster carer receiving the weekly allowance plus the training and support group elements would receive £345 per week per child, equivalent to £17,940 pa, for each child in placement. Considering the current profile of children in foster placements and assuming no changes to the model as proposed, we anticipate that approximately 55% of placements will be in this category (weekly allowance, plus training element, plus support group element)
- 5.7 **Enhanced payment.** Foster carers will receive the enhanced payment when the care they need to give a child requires extra support. The proposal is for a payment of £90 per week in addition to the weekly allowance and the training and support group

elements (equalling £435 pw or £22,620 pa for each child in placement). Considering the current profile of children in foster placements and assuming no changes to the model as proposed, we anticipate that approximately 10% of placements will be in this category

- 5.8 **Enhanced Plus payments.** For children with more complex needs, and who pose a significant caring challenge, fees - quite properly - rise substantially, and carers will receive the Enhanced Plus payments. The proposed additional payment is £70 pw, (equalling £505 pw, or £26,260 pa for each child in placement). We anticipate that 35% of placements would be enhanced plus.
- 5.9 **Placement stability.** The allowances should reward successful foster caring. Many allowance models we have considered reward foster carers for caring for a child when they first move in and are extremely unsettled and particularly challenging to care for. Foster carers have to work hard to settle a child and often, once settled, the payments reduce as the child's perceived needs diminish. In Devon we want to recognise the hard work put in by a carer, resulting in continued placement stability and propose that payments will not be reduced when a child settles.
- 5.10 **Assessing the level of payment.** We have taken the assessment tool successfully used by Plymouth fostering and developed it to work for Devon. The tool that we propose has been part of the consultation with foster carers (see the [consultation document](#)).
- 5.11 **Protection of income.** Based on our analysis about 60% of carers will either stay the same or see an increase. The Council recognises that the model will have an adverse impact on some carers. To ameliorate that impact and to take all the steps we can to protect placements for children, we propose that foster carers whose total allowances are going down by 5% or more are offered protection for two years or until the end of the placement, whichever comes first. Foster carers are not employed by the Local Authority and have self-employed status. Nevertheless, the protection proposed would mirror that of employees adversely affected by restructuring.
- 5.12 **Support to foster carers.** Devon has a very favourable and highly valued package of support to foster carers. Currently Devon foster carers have access to:
- A comprehensive training programme that includes face to face and on-line training
 - An 18-week therapeutic training programme
 - A good foster carer to supervising social worker ratio
 - Peer mentoring scheme
 - Carer participation in the development of the service
 - Membership of the national organisation Foster Talk
 - Fun activities, zoo trips, pantomime, etc
 - Membership of Devon Foster Carers Association
- 5.13 Foster carers also have access to the Placement Support Team. The team offers planned preventative therapeutic support and crisis intervention 7 days a week. It offers 1:1 therapeutic support with children and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy with carers and the children. The team have clinical supervision, a psychologist and make a significant difference in terms of supporting the resilience of carers and increasing placement stability.
- 5.14 The fee structure compares well with other fostering providers. Payments by Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) in the South West vary from £378 per week to £606 per week. The average IFA rate, locally, which includes enhancements for

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complex and additional needs is £407 per week. Similarly, the new Devon offer compares well with Plymouth, Somerset and Cornwall

- 5.15 The Devon offer of up to £505 is highly competitive and easy to understand. It is intended that this will boost the recruitment of new foster carers to Fostering Devon and support the retention of our existing foster carers.
- 5.16 With our internal placement sufficiency boosted, this will reduce the numbers of children being placed in external fostering placements. When we pay for external placements, we not only pay the carer but also the agency management fees and a profit element.
- 5.17 An increase in capacity will facilitate 'step down' placements for more of our young people, moving them out of expensive residential care and back into in house placements, and a well-supported family environment.

6. The consultation on the preferred model

- 6.1 The consultation on the preferred model commenced on 25 July 2018 when full documentation of process and proposals was sent to all carers. [The consultation document can be found as Appendix Two at the end of this report.](#)
- 6.2 A small number of carers have suggested that holding the consultation during the summer holidays was intended to restrict and limit participation and feedback. This is not so. The nature of the co-production approach means that feedback is actively sought at all stages. Consultation events ran from 10am to 3pm and were planned to enable drop-ins and personal one to one conversations as well as wider discussions. Childrens activities were available at each event. Two consultation events were added to take place after the school holidays. This report is written in advance of the final two events. Some carers found they were able to attend more than one event.

6.3

	Venue	Number of carers attending
25 July	Exeter	23
30 July	Totnes	13
31 July	Barnstaple	9
1 August	Tiverton	2
2 August	Exeter	5
14 August	Cullompton	14
11 September	Exeter	
12 September	Torrington	

All carers have been invited to contribute to the consultation and comment via email and at the time of preparing this report 40 emails had been received, the majority being from the ex-Family Care Worker group of carers.

- 6.4 Individual letters explaining the potential financial impact of applying the model based on children placed on 31st March 2018 were sent out to carers during the week commencing 20 August. Follow-up calls were made to the 20 carers who would be most financially impacted to explain the calculation and to answer any questions.

7. Consultation feedback

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- 7.1 The open day format was appreciated by many carers who attended as it allowed for individual conversations about their own circumstances and what the proposals meant for them. It is a truism of consultation that those who are broadly happy may not bother to respond while those who are unhappy are more likely to respond. In this matter the 60% of carers whose fees are either increased or unchanged may be more likely to be broadly in favour, while those who expect to experience a decrease may be more likely to be against. Some key issues have been raised.
- 7.2 **Cross-county team of staff.** A major modernisation programme followed an inspection of children's services in 2013 which introduced plans to strengthen locality based working. The fostering teams now have local management across four areas of Devon. The staff and manager in each team have a good understanding of the needs of each of the children in their area and they also have a good understanding of the support needs of carers in their area. Each foster carer continues to have their own supervising social worker and local support groups are in place open to all foster carers.
- 7.3 **Summer holiday group activities.** The local teams and support groups have organised events and each area has an allocated budget to arrange activities. Christmas parties were held in each area over the Christmas season. Some events have been organised by carers and carer's organisations, other events were organised by staff. Many have been financially supported by the Fostering Service. All carers and their families were invited to a Christmas Panto that was well attended and *A Big Day Out* has been organised in partnership with the Exmoor National Park. Feedback from events so far has been excellent. Events and activities are planned for the summer holidays with other regular activity groups being planned.
- 7.4 **Support staff.** All foster carers can request support from our in-house placement support team. The Placement Support Team offers support on planned referrals which are longer term on-going work, and they also offer crisis and unplanned work on a duty system. The team offer this crisis work on an out of hours basis for Special Guardians and adopters as well.
- 7.5 The work of the team has shifted from largely offering practical support, such as child minding, to offering more therapeutic support. Prior to coming into care, many of our children have had multiple carers, and this can have a significant impact on their ability to develop attachments. We need to minimise the number of people coming in and out of our children's lives. The Placement Support Team has had a significant impact on improving placement stability.
- 7.6 **Guaranteed 14 days holiday a year, and respite.** Respite care is recognised as an important facility and remains available to all children. Respite arrangements have now become part of a child's care planning. This means that it is more individually focused around the support needs of that placement, and promotes placement stability. As carers are self-employed, they are free to take a break between placements that suits them and their families.
- 7.7 **28 days paid notice.** Historically tier 3 carers would be paid for 28 days after giving notice on a placement. If the child left after a week, the carer would still be paid for the

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28 days. This came to an end, following full consultation with foster carers, at a strategy meeting in April 2017.

- 7.8 **Funding for taxis and increased expectations on carers to support family contact.** Many of our children have had multiple carers prior to coming into care. When we look after them we are keen to do what we can to promote the building of attachments. Part of this can mean reducing the number of people a child comes into contact with. We want children to be taken to and from school by their main carer whenever practically possible. At times this can conflict with other demands and in these cases, we would seek an alternative. There is good evidence that family contact in most cases, is good for children. Supporting family contact is a usual expectation for foster carers.
- 7.9 **Reimbursement for mileage used.** We reimburse foster carers for mileage incurred and there no plans to cease this.
- 7.10 **Internet grant.** Historically, all carers had received £15.00 a month to cover broadband costs. This payment had been set up several years ago, however over time broadband has become part of normal household expenses and it was agreed, through foster carer strategy groups, to stop this payment in April 2017. To protect children's confidentiality, carers should only be printing information on children in only a very few circumstances.
- 7.11 **Birthday Holiday and Festival Allowances**
The consultation has highlighted concerns around the administration of birthday, festival and holiday allowances. The current proposal is that these are included in the child's weekly allowance. However, carers have expressed concern about this. Some carers have expressed a view that inclusion of these elements into the weekly fee would assist in planning and budgeting through the year. Other carers have expressed a concern that if a child comes into placement near to a celebration then they would not have the opportunity to have saved enough.
- 7.12 **Assessment tool.** During the feedback some questions have been asked about the detail of the assessment criteria tool and how it would be implemented. Carers want to be involved in the assessment process and identified some specific criteria that would need to be added. For example, children having experienced neo-natal abstinence, and children who have complex contact arrangements.
- 7.13 **Protection.** Some carers have expressed concern regarding the proposed protection period of two years and have requested protection for the full duration of their approval as foster carers for Devon County Council. We do not propose to extend the period of protection.
- 7.14 **Training and support groups.** Some carers have expressed concerns about the level of availability of training and support groups to meet the obligations required of them. Our aim with training and support for foster carers is to support them to manage their own development on an ongoing basis.
- 7.15 Training is interpreted in its broadest sense. Training can include training courses, online training, conferences and other learning i.e. agreed reading / research

depending on the child and carers needs. This will enable maximum flexibility. It will be based on a framework of Personal Development agreed between the carer and Supervising Social Worker. There will be enough Support Group capacity to meet the need.

7.16 **Other more general feedback not in favour of the proposal** (and not already covered elsewhere in this report) has included the following:

- We do not want any changes.
- Want to maintain income even if changed for others.
- State they were asked to give up employment and would now find it difficult to re-enter the labour market.
- Fees should not be based on the needs of the child – want it to remain on the experience of the carer.
- Concerned at loss of carer progression for carers.
- Concerned at loss of status.
- Some carers state that they do not feel listened to or consulted.
- You are ‘Robbing Peter to pay Paul.’
- We maintain that this is a money saving exercise.
- You are taking resources from carers for teenagers.

7.17 For those carers who fundamentally object to a model built around children’s needs rather than carers’ experience/career progression, it may have been difficult to engage with the detail of the model. The same group of carers report their sense of an erosion of the support they have had in previous times. We know that all parts of the public sector have seen change and none more so than local government, where efficiencies and different ways of working that enable us to improve outcomes in the context of increased demand and complexity have been challenging for all. For some, this change, which is a fundamental remodelling, is reported to be the straw that will break the camel’s back. This is deeply regrettable, nevertheless the Council remains confident that the model is most true to the agreed framework of governing principles and to the Council’s core responsibility that it builds from the child’s best interest over and above all other interests.

7.18 **Other more general feedback in favour of the proposal** has included the following:

- It has been good to be included in decision making of the ‘new model’.
- Sounds fair to me.
- We feel this is a fairer system.
- The scheme seems well thought out. I like the fact that the child is in the centre of the plan.
- As a carer for primarily babies it appears to be a better system.
- Assessment criteria taking into account complex contact arrangements and baby FAS etc. is good to know.
- Overall, the new plan is looking positive and more balanced.
- Very well explained and enjoyed being included in the process – which as carers we feel is very important!
- We are really encouraged by the transparency that will now exist within the service. We will benefit from the service coming in line with private foster

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agencies and we believe that it will reward carers who are doing an amazing job with tricky children of all ages

- We support you in creating a service that is more fair and transparent between 0-18 years of age, whilst also in line with private fostering agencies. Ultimately, I believe you will attract more foster carers into Devon Fostering.
- We are in favour of this model, and feel, in particular that it is a more skills-based model than the current one. We are tier 2 carers. We have been told by independent professionals that the children are some of the most traumatised children they have worked with. Since they arrived with us we have learnt so much, through support and training. We now feel so much more prepared to care for these, and any future children who may be placed with us. Our skills have improved and because of this we can, if we chose to, take some of the more complex children who will need more enhanced support, and this is not based on the tier that we find ourselves on.

7.19 Feedback left by a young person in care at one of the consultation events:

“I am surprised as how much people actually care about children in care. Thanks for actually caring.” – Charles, age 14.

7.20 Changes to be made following consultation feedback. The Council has considered in depth the strong representations made by a small group of very active carers, supported by the IWGB (Independent Workers of Great Britain) and, to an extent, by the Fostering Network (a campaign group dedicated to championing fostering and lobbying government on behalf of foster carers), that the model is fundamentally flawed and that a fee structure should be based on carers’ experience and recognised career progression. We agree that any scheme should recognise carers’ experience and expertise hence the allocations for training, development and support groups. However, we do not agree that the scheme should be based on this; we believe it should be fundamentally grounded in children and their needs.

7.21 Birthday, Holiday, and Festival allowances. Based on the feedback received we are undertaking a piece of work that reconsiders the best way of doing this. This will not change the overall allowance over the year.

7.22 Assessment of needs tool. We value the feedback received and will be amending the assessment of need tool to include some of the additional criteria identified by carers. We will also be further developing the process through which the tool is completed and how carers can be involved in this.

8 The conclusion and recommendations

8.1 Changes to fostering fee structures are notoriously challenging and this has been no exception.

8.2 The Council is confident that the process of the review has been open, transparent and fully inclusive.

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- 8.3 The Council is permanently committing an additional £400k into the base budget of fostering to enable the scheme to come into place, and a further £600k to provide the two-year protection for those carers most adversely affected by the changes to be introduced. It would be surprising if those at risk of adverse financial impact were in favour and those who stand to gain were against.
- 8.4 The Council needs foster carers who want to look after children who are often in deep distress, troubled and oftentimes troublesome and we want to reward those carers who look after the more challenging children. We know our current scheme is off-putting for potential foster carers and we have had strong endorsement of the model from carers as well as challenges from some. Some carers have indicated their intention to mount a more public campaign in the event of the Council agreeing the model. It is to the credit of all carers that, to date, protests have not impacted on children.
- 8.5 Some carers will be adversely affected, most will not, and many stand to gain.
- 8.6 The touchstone for the Council is how does it best serve the children for whom it is a corporate parent?
- 8.7 **Scrutiny members are asked to:**
Support the proposed changes to the fee structure, recommending any adjustments to cabinet that they consider appropriate.
- 8.8 A final proposal will be made to cabinet on 10th October 2018. Subject to the governance process and decision-making, the scheme will commence three months later and there will be a model evaluation and review after 12 months that will be reported back to the Children's Scrutiny Committee

Darryl Freeman

Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills: Councillor James McInnes

Chief Officer for Children's Services: Jo Olsson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact for Enquiries:

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SCRUTINY MEMBER BRIEFING – FOSTER CARER ALLOWANCES

Overarching concerns and queries:

Position of foster carers as tier three carers / The removal of the Family Care Worker Service.

The Family Care Worker Scheme ended two years ago, and carers were invited to become Tier 3 carers.

A lack of involvement and consultation about the possible changes.

In September 2017 a project group was set up to work with foster carers and staff to develop a new model of foster carers fees. We have worked with foster carers throughout the whole process with workshops. The working group on the project has included foster carer representatives

Consultation

The review of fostering payments is working to build a model of payments that are fair and equitable. A sample group of carers, known as the Working Party, drawn from across all three of the fostering tiers have been involved in the co-production of proposed payment models that reflect the costs of caring for a child, rewards personal and professional development, and acknowledges the challenges of meeting the needs of individual children.

The first finance modelling consultation with carers was held on 31st October 2017. The Working Party started their contribution at this point outlining the principles for the project and developing potential models. In addition, a carer with significant commercial experience has been an active member of the Officers group tasked with implementing the project.

An engagement meeting was held with ex-Family Care worker foster carers on 23rd January 2018 which followed a briefing of the Chair and Secretary of the Devon Foster Carers Association on the 12th January 2018.

A second workshop for carers was held on 29th January 2017 to share the development of the models and seek feedback and ideas from the group. Following further review, three of the original five models were discounted by the group as not workable.

Updates (6) have been given in foster carers newsletters throughout this initial co-production stage. In addition, it has been a standing item on the monthly Foster Carer Strategy meeting. The issue was discussed at Cabinet Scrutiny on 23rd January 2018 and two Tier 3 carers made representations.

Scrutiny members were given a masterclass on foster carers fees on 20th March. The Fostering Service has worked with foster carers throughout the process to date. It would not be possible to involve all of Devon's Foster Carers in this co-production stage however the representative group of carers have worked closely with other members of the Fostering Service. The Fostering Service has shared information and involved carers throughout the process. This sharing of information and involvement will continue.

Regarding the concern regarding clarity about decisions, no decision has yet been made regarding the Model/s to be put forward for consultation. However, once a decision has been made it will be shared, giving an appropriate notice period for the implementation of any change.

We very much want to work closely with our carers, in getting the model right to ensure our children are growing up in placements that are well supported and stable.

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Currently we are working on the financial modelling and it is lengthy complex work designed to confirm the financial viability of any proposal. When the proposal is ready we will share with the wider foster carer community for further consultation and seek their views before presenting to scrutiny and cabinet.

An apparent requirement over carers giving up paid employment.

We understand that historically there was a fostering scheme titled the 'Family Care workers scheme'. Carers entered the scheme with the understanding that they would give up paid employment in order to be a part of this scheme. However, many carers in this scheme had other income streams as well as fostering, and this was accepted by the department. The family care workers scheme ended two years ago and carers were invited to become 'Tier 3 carers'.

Expectations of Foster Carers.

The current DCC Foster Carers Agreement makes no requirements on carers giving up paid employment.

We are aware that Foster carers who were part of a scheme known as the Family Care Workers Scheme, joined that with an understanding that they wouldn't take on any other paid employment to keep them available to care for particularly complex children. This scheme ended two years ago. The scheme created a strong identity amongst the group of carers who could offer each other significant support.

Foster carers are self-employed, and Devon foster carers informed us that they wanted to stay that way. As with all self-employed workers there is no guarantee of income.

We are aware that there are Tier 3 carers who have taken the opportunity to have other income streams in addition to fostering. For example, running a small business from home, or taking on other paid caring roles. Many foster carers in all tiers find that the income they receive from fostering means that they can manage their money differently and they don't feel the need to take on other forms of employment.

Terms and conditions of the original foster carers' agreements.

See document attached:



Agreement
Form.doc

Actual or implied "employment" status for foster carers – being tested in the High Court.

There was recent ruling where foster carers in Glasgow were found to be employees of Glasgow CC. however, the particular arrangement that Glasgow had with its foster carers differed to the one that DCC has with our carers.

Pay, terms and conditions being amended.

We pay an allowance for the child. Foster carers are not employees, they are self-employed so there are no 'terms and conditions' as such.

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It's important to remember that fostered children are NOT placements. They are individual children with unique personalities and characters and many complex needs, who need support and help from all of us if they are to recover from their early traumatic childhoods.

Devon are working very hard to ensure that foster carers get the right support to enable them to care for our children well.

Responses to specific concerns and issues raised:

Loss of a dedicated cross county team of staff.

The fostering teams now have local management across four areas of Devon. The staff and manager in each team have a good understanding of the needs of each of the children in their area. They also have a good understanding of the support needs of any carers in their area.

Each foster carer continues to have their own supervising social worker and local support groups for all local carers which is inclusive of all carers in each area.

Loss of summer holiday group activities

The local teams and support groups have organised events and each area has an allocated budget to arrange activities. Christmas parties were held in each area over the Christmas season. Some events have been organised by carers, and carer's organisations, other events were organised by Staff many have been financially supported by the Fostering Service. All carers and their families were invited to a Christmas Panto that was well attended and A Big Day Out has been organised in partnership with the Exmoor National Park. Feedback from events so far has been excellent. Events and activities are planned for the summer holidays with other regular activity groups being planned.

Loss of Support Staff

All foster carers can request support from our in-house placement support team. The Placement Support Team offer support on planned referrals which are longer term on-going work, and they also offer crisis and unplanned work on a duty system. The team offer this crisis work on an out of hours basis for Special Guardians and adopters as well.

The work of the team has shifted from largely offering practical support, such as child minding, to offering more therapeutic support. Prior to coming into care, many of our children have had multiple carers, and this can have a significant impact on their ability to develop attachments. We need to minimise the number of people coming in and out of our children's lives. The team's brief is to support attachments between the child and the carer, through guidance in therapeutic interventions. The Placement Support Team has had a significant impact on improving placement stability.

Loss of guaranteed 14 days holiday a year, and loss of Respite

Respite care is recognised as an important facility and remains available to all carers. Respite arrangements have now become part of a child's care planning. This means that it is more individually focused around the particular support needs of that placement and promotes placement stability.

As carers are self-employed, they are free to take a break between placements that suits them and their families.

Loss of 28 days paid notice

Historically Tier 3 carers would be paid for 28 days after giving notice on a placement. If the child left after a week, the carer would still be paid for the 28 days. This came to an end, following full consultation with foster carers at strategy meeting in April 2017.

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Loss of funding for Taxis and increased expectations on carers to support family contact

Many of our children have had multiple carers prior to coming into care. When we look after them we are keen to do what we can to promote the building of attachments. Part of this can mean reducing the number of people a child comes into contact with. We want children to be taken to and from school by their main carer whenever practically possible. At times this can conflict with other demands and in these cases, we would seek an alternative.

Withdrawal of reimbursement for mileage used

There no plans to withdraw reimbursement of mileage for foster carers.

Internet grant

Historically, all carers had received £15.00 a month to cover broadband costs. This payment had been set up several years ago, however over time broadband has become part of normal household expenses and it was agreed, through foster carer strategy groups, to stop this payment in April last year. In order to protect childrens confidentiality, carers should only be printing information on children in only a very few circumstances.

Kath Drescher

09/07/2018

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

Why are we reviewing the fostering fees and allowances?

Our current fees and allowances system is old-fashioned, inconsistent and unfair.

It has changed over many years to address specific issues but as a result has become confusing and inequitable.

We need to increase the number of our in-house fostering carers to reduce the amount of money spent in the independent sector.

Currently Fostering Devon has:

- 5 different payment schemes
- 3 tier progression schemes
- 4 different age bands

The current fees and allowances system:

- creates inequalities
- rewards the top end carers well, but isn't competitive at entry level
- creates unnecessarily complex administration
- is a block to recruitment

Fostering Devon's current position:

- 270 fostering households in Devon (we need more)
- circa 700 children in care
- approx. half are placed with in-house foster care
- 2017/18 spend on in-house foster care allowances: £8,305,620

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

How has this new model been created?

We have used a process called CO-PRODUCTION which:

- involves people working together in equal partnership
- engages at the earliest stages of service design, development and evaluation
- acknowledges that people with 'lived experience' are often best placed to advise on what will make a positive difference
- aims to create a level playing field where everyone involved, including foster carers from each existing scheme, have a voice, value each other and learn together from the start of the process

We worked with a sample group of Devon foster carers throughout the process to co-produce a fee model for consultation. This group is called the Working Party and consisted:

Family & Friends Carers • Tier 3 carers • Tier 2 carers • Tier 1 carers • Devon Young People's Accommodation Service • Children and Parent Assessment Service • Fostering Managers • Fostering Social Workers • Devon Foster Carers' Association Members • Independent Workers Union of Great Britain Member.

"... it was good to feel like we were part of the team and definitely felt like all views were listened to, whilst knowing that not everyone can have everything that they want (since we don't live in an ideal world!)" **Tier 2 Foster Carer**

"The breakout groups enabled everyone to voice their opinions and shape individual models" **Tier 3 Foster Carer**



"I thought it was very positive and enjoyed the participation in it. More importantly I feel we all had a say with our opinions" **Tier 2 Foster Carer**

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

The governing principles

The governing principles as agreed by the working party mean that the new model:

- ✓ RECOGNISES THE INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT NEEDS OF THE CHILD

- ✓ IS EQUITABLE AND FAIR

- ✓ GIVES REWARD & RECOGNITION FOR THE ONGOING TRAINING AND RESILIENCE OF THE CARER

- ✓ IS AFFORDABLE

- ✓ RECOGNISES THAT SUPPORT FROM DCC CONTINUES TO BE VALUED

- ✓ HAS A FAIR ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- ✓ IS SIMPLE. BRINGS TOGETHER ALL ALLOWANCES

- ✓ IS COMPETITIVE WITH INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCIES

- ✓ HAS CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR CARERS

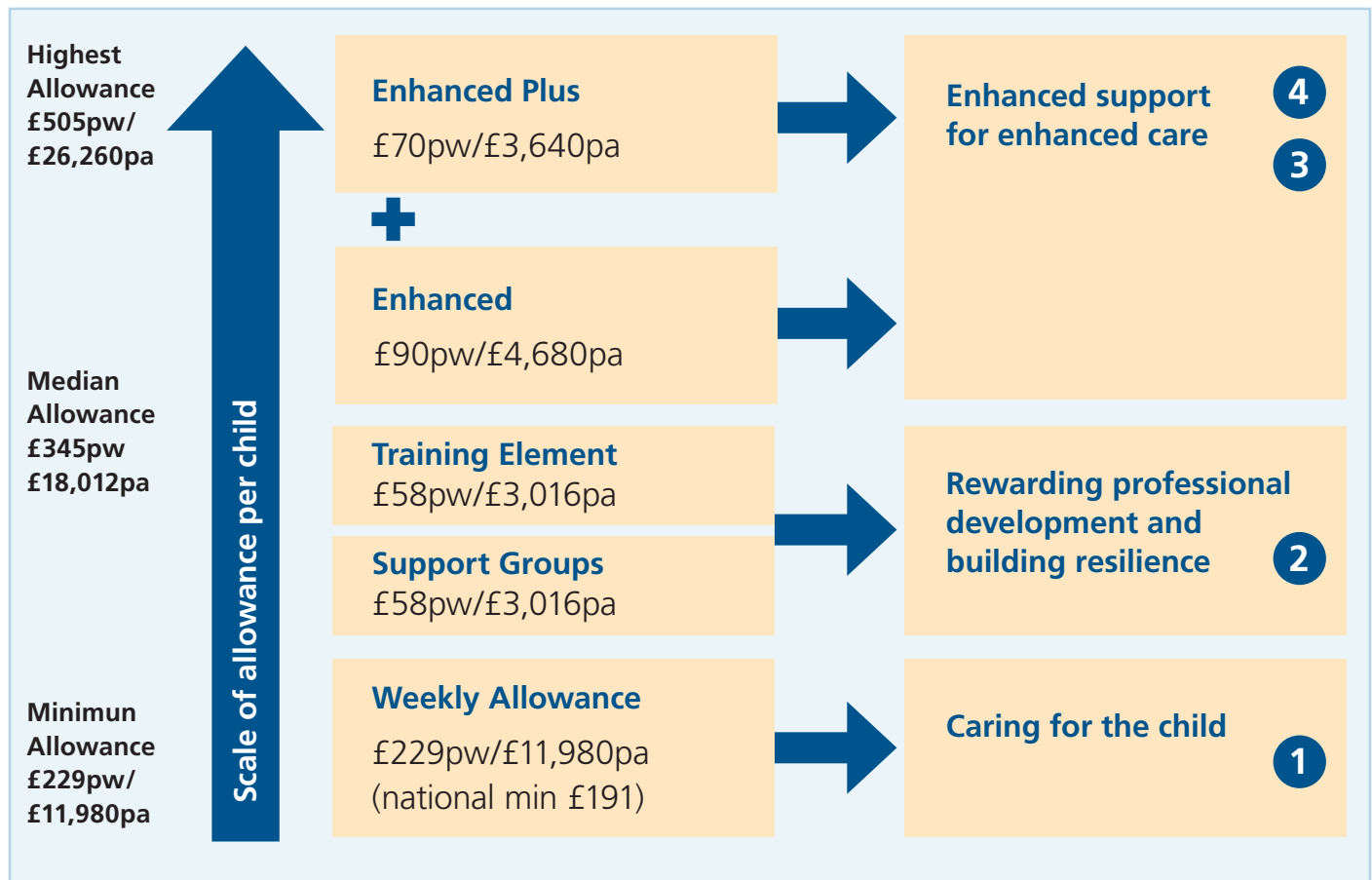
- ✓ HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO REWARD FOR THE WORK DONE

- ✓ IS TRANSPARENT AND UNDERSTANDABLE

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

The Model

Following several months of work by the Working Party and the Project Group, the following model was agreed for consultation.



How was the new model chosen?

- in October 2017 the Working Party drafted five potential models
- these were costed and scrutinised to ensure fit with the governing principles by the Project Team
- the preferred model was selected for detailed analysis
- the preferred model was then applied to each fostering household to establish the financial implications

Who are the Project Team?

- A Tier 3 Foster Carer
- Finance Officers
- Project Manager
- Fostering Operational Manager
- Communications Officers
- County Solicitor
- Business Support Manager
- Care First / IT

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

The Model

- 1** The weekly allowance is allocated to cover the basic expenses of caring for a child. The national **minimum rate is £191.00**. The proposed new model **exceeds this minimum. All carers will receive this payment.**

- 2** This will give **reward and recognition for carers'** who are committed to personal development and building resilience. If a carer attends **6 training events** in a year then this will be **recognised and rewarded**. If a carer attends **6 support groups** then this will be **recognised and rewarded too**.

This will **encourage personal development** and **promote participation in support groups** where experience, fresh ideas and mutual support can be shared.

- 3** The top principle agreed by the Working Party was that the support **needs of children should be recognised**. The Project Team explored how this could be assessed and identified a process tried and tested by Plymouth City Council.

This element enables **enhanced support** and **recognition** for those carers caring for **children with enhanced needs**.

An **Enhanced Plus** element has been included to recognise the challenges of caring for the **most traumatised children**.

- 4** What happens if a child settles down - will the Enhanced payment be removed?

The level of reward will **remain the same for the duration of the placement**. The aim of this model is to give **reward and recognition** for **successful care giving**. The Enhanced element will **not be removed** if the child settles down.

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

Assessment criteria for the Enhanced and Enhanced Plus payments. Have we missed any issues of complexity?

NEED CATEGORY	LEVEL OF NEED
1. Solo placement	
	Requires solo placement only
2. Risk	
	Risk to younger children
	Risk to animals
3. Legal status	
a)	Care Order
b)	Interim Care Order/EPO/PPO
c)	Accommodated
4. Number of previous placements	
a)	0
b)	1-3
c)	4+
5. Age	
a)	0-10
b)	11- 18
6. Time in Care	
a)	One year or under
b)	1-4 years
c)	5 years an up
7. Previous types of placements	
a)	From home/hospital
b)	Foster care/connected carer/Family
c)	Residential
d)	Secure
e)	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker (UAS)
8. Missing from home /care episodes?	
a)	None
b)	1-3
c)	4+
9. Education	
a)	Pre-School
b)	Full time education /FE college
c)	Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
d)	Special School
e)	Occasional non attendance
f)	Pupil Referral Unit / home tuition
g)	Frequent non attendance
h)	Temporary Exclusions
i)	Permanent exclusions
j)	No education

NEED CATEGORY	LEVEL OF NEED
10. Experience of abuse and neglect	
a)	Emotional abuse
b)	Neglect
c)	Sexual abuse
d)	Physical abuse
e)	Domestic Violence in home
f)	Displaced due to UAS status
g)	Young Persons Behaviour only
11. Health	
a)	No specific health needs mentioned
b)	Diagnosed mental health difficulties
c)	CAMHS involvement
d)	Learning disability/communication difficulties
e)	Physical disability/sensory
f)	Other diagnosed difficulties/inc global developmental delay
g)	Chronic health problems
h)	Diagnosis resulting in 24/7 health care (inc night care)
12. Substance Misuse	
a)	Substance misuse not mentioned as risk
b)	Low Level actual or potential risk
c)	Occasional and/or at medium risk
d)	Frequent and/or at high risk
e)	Other agency involvement
13. Level of need / risk	
a)	Can live as part of a fostering family. Not a high risk to others, less behavioural issues
b)	Able to form secure attachments reflected in learning and behaviour
c)	Some attachment issues mentioned
d)	Significant learning and/or behavioural difficulties
e)	Significant attachment issue that have a major impact on child development
f)	Autistic spectrum disorder leading to complex additional needs
g)	Emotional and behavioural difficulties
h)	YOTS involvement
i)	Severe emotional and behavioural difficulties
j)	Challenging or offending behaviours. Threats of violence and aggression towards care givers
k)	Extremely challenging or offending behaviour. Actual violence and aggression towards care givers/foster carers
l)	Sexualised behaviour and sexually harmful behaviour
m)	Risk of child sexual exploitation
n)	Language Barrier (no English)
o)	Self Harm – superficial
p)	Self Harm – serious concerns (not substance misuse)
	Risk of fire setting. One or more events of fire setting inside a home

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

How does this new model compare with other local authorities?

It compares well and will give Fostering Devon the competitive edge we need to recruit more in-house carers and decrease our use of independent and residential carers.

Devon County Council
£229 - £505

Plymouth City Council
£243 - £472

Cornwall County Council
£178 - £356

How does this new model compare with the Independent Fostering Agencies?

We reviewed the fees and allowances paid by 13 of the IFA's used locally. On average the standard weekly rate is £417 and the average weekly higher rate is £440.

Will I be protected if my fees reduce?

It is proposed that there will be a protection arrangement for two years in most cases.

If the decrease to your weekly allowance is less than 5% there is no protection. If the decrease to your weekly allowance is more than 5% then you will be protected for two years or until the placement ends, whichever is sooner.

What is the impact of the proposed new model on the wider Fostering Devon budget?

This is not a cost saving exercise.

The proposed new model will require an initial additional £1m investment in the Fostering Service. This figure includes any increase in the ongoing fees and the protection arrangements.

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

What about the other areas of support offered to Fostering Devon carers?

We are very pleased to say that the excellent support services you currently receive will be maintained under the proposed new model, these include:

- Good Social Worker to Foster Carer ratio.
- Placement Support Team.
- Therapeutic Parenting support.
- Dedicated Out of Hours Support.
- Fun programme of events including Activities / Pantomime / Gala Dinner.
- Comprehensive Training Program.
- Online Training.
- Peer Mentoring Scheme.
- Devon Foster Carer Association.
- FosterTalk Membership
- Carer Participation.



*"I used to foster with an independent agency but I now foster with Fostering Devon because I think the support they give you is superb. They are always on the end of the phone and the team is just brilliant." **Lisa, Foster Carer***



Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

Frequently Asked Questions

Will payment for support groups & training include those providing the training?

Yes, if carers contribute to the training & support groups that would be included.

Will training/support attendance be paid per child?

Yes.

Will online training be included in these payments?

Yes.

How will attendance be monitored for the training & support groups?

There will be an annual review of all carers attendance.

On occasions when training or support groups cannot be attended for valid reasons, for example sickness or emergency arrangements, these will be counted if required.

Are there enough courses available if all carers are required to complete 6 per year?

There are many occasions currently when training courses are under subscribed. Training can also include attendance at conferences, workshops and online training as agreed with the supervising social worker.

Which additional costs are included in the new fees?

The Working Party asked for holidays, birthdays and Christmas to be included. Respite, mileage and incidental costs are not included.

Will the Fostering Emergency Placement Scheme continue?

No, however carers will continue to be entitled to a disturbance allowance.

Is Child & Parent service included in the new model?

No, it is still separate and has been reviewed separately.

How will carers be supported if their fees reduce?

The model has been 'stress tested' to see what the implications are for carers (as at March 2018). Individual circumstances and placements may have since changed and the financial implications may be different at the time of 'go live'.

Any proposed changes will not happen immediately, there will be a three-month notice period. This is in addition to the two-year protection arrangement.

Does 'Solo Placement' account for circumstances such as a carer only having room for one child?

No. A solo placement means the child is too complex, or presents too high a risk for any other children to share that placement.

Will bed blocks still be paid an additional fee?

Yes

Will carers' fees change if the child's behaviour improves/their needs lessen?

No, the carer will remain on the same allowance for the placement duration.

Will current placements be assessed based on the needs of the child now or when they first came into care?

Children will be assessed based on their behaviour when they first started their current placement.

Can we add to the Needs Criteria forms?

Yes, additional criteria will be considered. Suggestions so far have included: complex contact arrangements; high levels of supervision; night time disturbance; caring for the terminally ill.

Is DYPAS and UASC included in the new model?

Yes.

Do IFAs include mileage in their fees?

Yes. IFAs expect carers to cover the first 100 miles per week.

Why is the protection scheme for the placement and not the carer?

The scheme is designed to recognise the work the carer is currently doing and their commitment to self-development and support.

What if carers say no to low need children because they cannot afford that pay/they would prefer to wait for a complex child for the additional pay?

Carers have a choice to wait for a child with enhanced support needs. Carers will not be paid an enhanced fee for a child who does not have that level of identified need.

Please speak to a member of the team if you have any further questions.

Consultation Fostering fees and allowances

What you think?

- Add your comments to our Post-It Wall below
- Place your comment in the box today
- Email your feedback to:
childsc.fosteringregisteredmanager-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

What happens next?

All feedback gathered at our events will be collated and considered with a presentation being made to Devon County Council's Children's Scrutiny Committee on **17 September** followed by Cabinet for a final decision on the **10 October**. The hope is to implement the changes from **1 November 2018**.

DYS Space* Progress Update.

August 1st marked the halfway point of our initial core youth service with DCC. In addition to our core contract services (open access youth work, targeted support, alternative education, community youth work support & Duke of Edinburgh for young people with protected characteristics) we have developed strong partnerships which help us deliver more diverse opportunities for Devon's young people. These include:

Atlantic Youth Creative Hubs - a 3-year Interreg funded project across 4 countries and 17 partners providing young people with crucial skills and knowledge using modern technologies and apply them to help resolve societal problems. We are supporting a group to realise their idea of using Virtual Reality to help educationists and businesses recognise and understand neuro-diversity and certain mental health conditions, with the hope that communities and working environments will be more inclusive and relevant for people who experience these issues.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children & YP (UASC) - We have secured the DCC contract, with Young Devon to connect young asylum seekers to their communities, this could be through volunteer mentors, access to activities and support networks and also by planning events to raise awareness of their needs.

Different Conversations - Again, in partnership with Young Devon, we are piloting innovative way of engaging young people in care and supporting them with their personal budgets and how they can access support, which has seen great success.

Friday nights football - We are working in partnership with Exeter College to provide a safe space on Friday nights in Exwick for young people to come together, we have a very diverse group using this session, including a number of UASC mixing with local people, thus bridging communities and building cohesion.

We also run **specific youth club sessions** for young people who share protected characteristics, such as LGBTQ and young people with disabilities. This gives us a chance to tailor our education curriculum to their needs and provide bespoke staffing structure and support network.

We are working closely with Community Safety, the Police and other partners on the front line, providing diversionary programmes for young people engaged in **gang activities in South Devon**.

Our great partnership with **Daisi (and Youth Music)**, enables us to provide employment for 2 young peer educators, whose job it is to lead music workshops in our professional grade recording studio and rehearsal rooms in Exmouth. We also

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have a 4-year contract to provide shadowing opportunities to community music leaders, sharing our expertise in delivering activities for hard to reach young people.

Young people have attended or worked at different **events across Devon** such as North Devon Sunrise Diversity Festival, Exeter Respect and Pride, Exmouth Pride and many more. All of these things have helped us develop a more local connection to our communities and subsequent funding bodies - we have now been supported by Tesco, One Stop, The Newton Abbot Rotarians, Exeter Chiefs to name a few. Each of our local youth centres are developing smaller, local links, that complement our organisational partnerships.

As at 1st August, we had approx 16k attendances during 3672 hours of direct delivery with young people (not including our Independent School, Chances)

99 volunteers have given over 2026 hours to support young people

We know that 31% of our members have protected characteristics

91% of young people trust a youth worker in their local centre

97% of young people can be themselves and feel safe in our space

94% of young people said that we listen to their opinions and ideas *and* act on them

“Youth club has helped me escape the problems I have been going through such as relationship and family problems. I honestly wouldn't be in a good place if it wasn't for my friends and the whole youth center. It has made me feel like I'm part of my own amazing family. If I didn't have youth club to turn to I think I would be sat in my room think of a good way to opt out or even I wouldn't have a home as a result of me running away.” K A, 16

“I just wanted to say what a big part you have played in being there to support this young man through a torrid and emotional period in his life. I am sure that the support you have provided both him and his mum has been instrumental to the turn around in his circumstances and possibly his life chances.” District Nurse

In our open access, young people spoke to us about their mental health 1089 times this year, making it the topic most raised by our members, followed by sexual health and relationship then issues relating to peers and family. Adverse mental health was also mentioned in 67% of our referrals for targeted support.

Kev Henman CEO - August 2018

Peer Review of Services for Care Leavers

Report of the Chief Officer Children's Services

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

1. **Background/Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of a peer review that took place during June 2018.

The peer review was commissioned via the South West regional group of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).

Cornwall County Council was approached due to having been judged 'Good' by Ofsted for their care leaving service. Cornwall also had experience of conducting peer reviews in other local authorities. Cornwall agreed to undertake the peer review with us, using a framework employed with three other local authorities recently.

- 1.2 The drivers for the peer review were: -

- Devon's' service to care leavers was deemed inadequate by Ofsted when last inspected in 2015. This peer review provided a timely opportunity to review our progress in advance of being subject to the new Inspection of Local Authority Services (ILACS) framework (launched in January 2018).
- The Corporate Parenting Board 'Summer Walkabout' in July 2017 recommended that in relation to care leavers, it would not be wise to wait until the next Ofsted inspection before satisfying ourselves of our progress since 2015. Board members suggested that the service consider a peer review of our services and progress.

2. **The Review Team and Key Lines of Inquiry**

- 2.1 The review team from Cornwall included, the Head of Service for Corporate Parenting and Care Leavers, a team manager for 16+ team, the participation team manager and 8 care experienced young people.
- 2.2 The review sought to evaluate our progress since the last Ofsted inspection against key lines of enquiry (for detail see appendix one).

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2.3 The Peer Review team used a variety of methods to evaluate the service including:

- An audit of 30 cases
- Group and individual interviews with Personal Advisors and Social Workers.
- Group and individual interviews with young people who are 'relevant' or 'former relevant' care leavers.
- Group and individual interviews with Corporate Parenting stakeholders
- Group interview with Independent Reviewing Officers
- Interviews with Senior Leaders, Chief Executive and Lead Member for Children.
- Review of key documentation (strategies and developments)

3. Peer Review Findings

3.1 The Peer Review team concluded that considerable progress had been made since the last inspection of Devon Children's Services by Ofsted in 2015. This finding was supported by the data evidence, feedback from care leavers themselves, and from other activities undertaken by the Peer Review team.

3.2 What's Working Well. The team identified a number of things that were working well or were much improved, including:

- Personal advisors' commitment to improving outcomes for children and demonstrating a young person-centred approach. The PA's morale is high. Care Leavers interviewed spoke positively about them.
- Personal advisor' and social work staff' morale was found to be much improved since 2015.
- Being In touch with Care Leavers has increased from 45% (in 2015) to at least 84% June 2018.
- More Pathway Plans are being completed and reviewed.
- Coordination of key multi-agency partner services is developing. For example, the joint protocols with district councils regarding accommodation and with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) regarding NEET. In addition, a delivery group is in development and this will bring services together in a formal way to drive further improvement.

3.3 Areas for Development. The team identified areas where more development would be of benefit, including:

- Continuing the work to develop and publish the Devon 'Offer' for Care Leavers, and to ensure that all care leavers are provided with an understanding of their entitlements.

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- Further developing the overarching methodology [practice model] and ensure that it is consistently applied by all workers. A 'strength based' approach has been partially implemented and the development of a practice model across Devon is in development to support all work with children, young people and their families.
- Maximising the opportunity to further improve the quality of case recording with the introduction of Eclipse, planned for later this year. This will support practitioners to manage and review work such as Pathway Plans.
- Considering how to further develop the participation activity so that the views and wishes of Care Leavers are better represented. Based on this review, Devon have a group of young people who could participate more and effectively.
- The current Pledge was developed by young people and has been part of an internal review. It now needs to be refreshed. The Pledge includes a high number of commitments. The review recommended reducing these in order that they are memorable and easier to implement and monitor.
- The number of Care Leavers in education, training and employment whilst in line with the England average at 48% could be further improved.

3.4 Recommendations

- Ensure, via management oversight/supervision records, that personal advisors are asked about the timing of the last pathway plan and young person's visit.
- The pathway plan format has been reviewed and will be implemented with the new records system (Eclipse), however looking at best practice in other local authorities would also be helpful.
- Provide a benefits/entitlements leaflet for care leavers at different stages and integrate that into the local offer.
- Review those care leavers not in touch, not in education, training and employment and not in suitable accommodation.
- Consider specialist leaving care management capacity to continue and develop the improvement since 2015.
- Development of a protocol with colleges to improve and maintain education opportunities for Care Leavers.
- Continue to develop the Children in Care and Care Leavers participation strategy.
- Progress the development of the corporate parenting board structure so that partners are fully included and wider consideration is given to partners understanding their role with Care Leavers.

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4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Key actions arising from the peer review are being implemented and worked on. Findings have been disseminated, learning events have been started and a draft action plan for improvement has been developed that will be monitored through the childrens social work management team (Appendix three)
- 4.2 The development of the 'Local Offer' is almost complete and will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board in September 2018.
- 4.3 Progress will be reported to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Darryl Freeman

Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills: Councillor James McInnes

Chief Officer for Childrens Services: Jo Olsson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact for Enquiries:

Darryl Freeman, Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)

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Tel No: 01392 383212

Room: 130, County Hall

Appendix 1: Peer Review Key Lines of Enquiry

Appendix 2: Corporate Parenting Principles

Appendix 3: Draft Action Plan

Appendix 1 Peer Review Key Lines of Enquiry

- Ensure that support being provided to all care leavers to ensure that their welfare is being promoted through receipt of the care leaving services to which these young people are entitled. How do we know and what difference is this making to support positive outcomes via transition to adulthood?
- Review the quality of senior leadership and monitoring by elected members to ensure best quality service provision and outcomes.
- Review the quality and provision of suitable accommodation for all care leavers.
- Review the quality of partnership work in respect of care leavers.
- Monitoring and quality assurance arrangements in respect of any unsuitable accommodation placements.
- In 2015, the number of care leavers in education, employment or training was below the national level; how has this improved and what has contributed to this improvement?
- Do all care leavers have a needs assessment and a SMART, outcome focussed Pathway Plan that is regularly reviewed and updated to support effective transition to adulthood.
- Are all reviews of pathway plans for young people aged 18 and over include purposeful management oversight that adds value?
- Is information readily available for care leavers in an accessible format explaining their rights and entitlements.

In addition, the team considered:

Compliance re Children and Social Work Act 2017 requirements, including:

- A clearly defined, advertised and implemented local offer.
- Personal Advisors available for all care leavers up to the age of 25 years of age from April 2018.
- Adherence to the seven corporate parenting principles ([Appendix 1](#)).

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Appendix 2

CORPORATE PARENING PRINCIPLES (CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT 2017)

The corporate parenting principles set out seven fundamental needs for looked after children and care leavers, as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to consider of the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Care Leavers Improvement plan 2018/19

A good corporate parent should have the same aspirations for a child in care or care leaver as a good parent would have for their own child. It means providing them with the stability and support they need to make progress; and helping them to access new opportunities and experiences that inspire them to set ambitious goals for themselves. It means celebrating their successes, but also recognising that they will sometimes make mistakes and need help to get back on track. It also means supporting them to gain the skills and confidence to live independent lives, while letting them know that they have someone to call on for help if the going gets tough.

Edward Timpson MP, Minister of State for Children and Families (2016) Corporate Parenting Principles (Children and Social Work Act 2017) to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;

- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work;
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

**‘Working to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Devon’
Mission Statement for Children’s Services written by Devon’s Children in Care Council**

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
1. Care Leavers understand the support that they can access and their entitlements in the Local Offer that is in a format accessible to all.	Local Offer to be written and consultation to take place.	Liza Jarvis	Draft for consultation	Consultation complete and completed document ready for launch	Local offer in place. Launch and publicise via Permanency & Transition Teams, stand up speak up website, newsletters	Care Leavers will return to us for support when they need it and have the support and opportunities to succeed.	Green
	Plan for launch	Liza Jarvis	Launch plan written and distributed				Green
2. Care Leavers are consulted regularly and have a voice in service delivery.	Participation strategy to be produced. (see also point 10)	Sophie Ellis	Draft strategy completed	Final strategy agreed	Participation Team fully staffed Strategy Action Plan completed and implemented	Service delivery is informed by care leavers and the service delivers to meet their needs.	Green
	Bright Spots Survey to be completed	Karen Morris			Survey closes. Results expected March 2019.		Green
3. Corporate parenting governance arrangements are clear and ensure that DCC meets its responsibilities as good corporate parents.	Governance strategy to be produced (Corporate Parenting Board).	Darryl Freeman	Draft Strategy written	Consult with Corporate Parenting Board	Implement	Corporate parents consistently prioritise the needs of care leavers and have sufficiently high aspirations for them	Green
	Mark Riddell invited to visit Devon to advise on good practice.	Karen Morris	Invitation		Date agreed for February 2019.		Green

	Devon team to visit Cornwall to identify good practice	Karen Morris	Team identified and arrangements made	Visit Cornwall	Learning disseminated and implemented.		Green
4. Resilient high performing workforce that ensures all care leavers receive a high-quality service	Ensure Sufficient Personal Advisor capacity to provide a good service. Identify capacity needed Recruit to posts	Karen Morris Area Managers TM's	Identify resource Identify capacity by number of care leavers and entitlement to service.	Additional PA's in post		Caseloads are manageable and audit evidences high quality service. Care leavers have caring and enduring relationships with effective and ambitious corporate parents.	Green
5. Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy.	Revised strategy to be completed.	Darryl Freeman	Draft complete	Consultation	Strategy published	Corporate parents consistently prioritise the needs of care leavers and have sufficiently high aspirations for them	Green

SUPPORT, ACCOMMODATION AND ENTITLEMENTS

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
6. Care Leavers understand DCC's commitment to them.	A pledge produced that is accessible to care leavers and staff.	Karen Morris	Pledge revised	consultation	Understood by all	Care Leavers understand Devon's commitment to them as corporate parents.	Green
7. Staff understand care leavers legislation, status and entitlements and that this is shared with all looked after children.	Staff training	All managers	Peer review feedback to managers with identified item on care leaver status at SDM.	Cascaded to teams by frontline managers	All staff have gained the knowledge and is routinely part of induction of new staff.	Care leavers receive a high-quality service and all staff understand what care leavers are entitled to.	Green
8. All 15-year olds who are looked after will have a full needs assessment that informs their Pathway Plan. This assessment must be updated every year.	Tracker to be completed to identify if requirements met. Line Managers to monitor compliance and quality of plans.	Area Manager's Team Manager's Assistant Team Manager's	Tracker to be populated Routinely monitored in supervision	All care leavers have up to date assessment.	Objective met and sustained.	Tenacious planning for care leavers futures at all levels and across all key agencies.	Amber
9. All 16-year olds who are looked after will have a Pathway Plans in place. The plan will be reviewed at each statutory review until young people reach 18 and then every 12 months post 18 years.	Tracker to be completed to identify if requirements met. Line Managers to monitor compliance and quality of plans.	Area Manager's Team Manager's Assistant Team Manager's	Tracker to be populated Routinely monitored in supervision	All care leavers have up to date assessment and pathway plan.	Objective met and sustained.	Tenacious planning for care leavers futures at all levels and across all key agencies.	Amber

SUPPORT, ACCOMMODATION AND ENTITLEMENTS

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
<p>10. Personal Advisors will keep in touch with all Care Leavers and ensure that their voice is heard.</p> <p>They will make contact and visit regularly to maintain positive relationships and offer timely, skilled support to promote independence.</p>	<p>Tracker to be completed to ensure requirements are met.</p> <p>Practice standard of visits every 2 months.</p> <p>Line managers to monitor frequency of contact in every supervision</p>	<p>Area M's</p> <p>PA's</p> <p>ATM's/TM's</p>	<p>Tracker to be populated.</p>	<p>Tracker to be updated and used regularly to monitor progress and ensure compliance.</p>	<p>Objective met and sustained.</p>	<p>Care leavers have caring and enduring relationships with effective and ambitious corporate parents.</p> <p>Care leavers will have a strong and stable social network to support them.</p>	Amber
<p>11. All care leavers have suitable accommodation in line with their assessed needs identified in the pathway plan and that staff understand what constitutes suitable accommodation.</p>	<p>Staff to understand what constitutes suitable accommodation.</p> <p>To be discussed in supervision. All changes of accommodation must be agreed as suitable by the TM.</p> <p>Tracker to identify where care leavers are not in suitable accommodation.</p>	<p>All managers</p> <p>TM's /ATM's</p> <p>AM's</p> <p>TM's/ATM's</p>	<p>Peer review feedback to managers with identified item on suitable accommodation at SDM.</p>	<p>Cascaded to teams by frontline managers</p>	<p>All care leavers are in suitable accommodation or if not contingency plans are in place and senior managers are made aware.</p>	<p>Care leavers can manage finances, maintain a home and manage their lives independently.</p>	Green

SUPPORT, ACCOMMODATION AND ENTITLEMENTS

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
	Contingency plans must be in place to ensure risk is managed and suitable accommodation is sourced.						

DRAFT

EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
12. All care leavers are supported to achieve their full potential through either being in further and higher education or in their chosen career/occupation.	Widen the participation in the EET working group to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Devon • Enterprise & Skills (DCC) • CSW • Virtual School • Social Care 	Ian Hemlick, Virtual School Head	Produce Terms of Reference group and ensure dates are set on a monthly basis.	Virtual College development plan to be produced.		Care leavers have the support and opportunities they need to succeed.	Amber
13. Care leavers have assistance to find employment, training and financial support.	A protocol between the Local Authority and post 16 providers detailing the responsibilities of each party. In addition, there will be terms of reference for the CLEET group. Develop the regional advice clinics which meet twice a year with agencies such as: Job Centre+, Children's Services, Careers South West, Virtual	Ian Hemlick, virtual School Head	Protocol and TOR for CLEET group produced	More effective transition between KS4 and KS5.		Care leavers progress into further or higher education, apprenticeships or skilled jobs.	Green

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	School and local post 16 providers.					
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HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
14. Care Leavers are supported to be emotionally resilient and physically healthy.	<p>All Devon Care Leavers will be offered an up-to-date summary of their personal health issues and suggested actions. They will be offered an ongoing point of contact for support with health issues and signposting to appropriate health services/information.</p> <p>Care Leavers will be offered support to transition into adult health services.</p> <p>All Devon Care Leavers will be sent a letter from the CIC Nurse team to offer on-going support post</p>	Cathy Jeremy, Named Nurse	Implement to all care leavers.	Electronic records will be able to evidence if this was offered and qualitative accounts will be documented in health records.		Care leavers are physically healthy, feel valued are not isolated and have learnt how to manage the challenges in life.	Green

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Objective	Actions	Lead	Milestones			Outcomes	RAG
			August 2018	September 2018	December 2018		
	18 years. This letter gives the team's contact details and reminds the YP of their Health Passport that they should have received at 16 years old.						

CS/18/27
Children's Scrutiny
17 September 2018

Annual Census returns (Children Looked After and Children in Need) – 31 March 2018

Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation:

Members of the children's scrutiny committee are requested to:

- Receive this report
- Consider the annual census data and draft proposed performance targets for the period 2018-2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Local authority children's services are required to submit to the Department for Education (DfE) two principal annual census returns one focussed on Children Looked After and Care Leavers (SSDA903) and the other focussed on Children in Need.
- 1.2 Both annual census returns were submitted by Devon County Council on time and using data taken from CareFirst.

2. Children Looked After census ([Appendix 1](#))

- 2.1 The numbers of children Looked After by Devon County Council remain increased only slightly on the previous year (rising from 682 on 31 March 2017 to 694 on 31 March 2018)
- 2.2 The rate per 10,000 of the local child population at 48.3 remains lower than the regional, statistical neighbour, and England average rates.
- 2.3 Placement stability has improved slightly with the percentage of our Looked After children experiencing three or more placement moves within the year dropping slightly to 12.1% almost equalling the regional average percentage but slightly above both our statistical neighbour and the England average rates. The Children's Scrutiny Committee is already aware of the challenges faced by the service with regard to placement sufficiency and one of the impacts of this is on the placement stability figures (including the data for placement length).
- 2.4 There has been a continuing improvement in respect of review health assessments with 100% of children aged under five years having had a review health assessment and 91.7% of those aged five and over having had a review health assessment within the year. The data does not allow for anything other than did, or did not have an assessment and does not therefore include data on those who were offered but refused, for example.
- 2.5 The percentage of children Looked After recorded as having attended an annual dental check remained steady at about 85% and again the way that the data is reported does not capture those refusing to attend the dentist and includes young infants too.

Agenda Item 8

- 2.6 The data concerning the number of children and young people identified with a substance misuse issue (which might be related to a parent or sibling) and the those being offered and/or receiving a service is confusing and indicates that the way in which we record this data does not aid data collection. More analysis of this data is currently being undertaken.
- 2.7 The apparent rise in the number of 'missing' episodes, coupled with the reduction in the number of 'absent' episodes is in fact largely due to a change in the way that Devon and Cornwall Police now record such instances in line with national Police guidance.
- 2.8 The percentage of children Looked After who ceased to be Looked After having been adopted rose from 14% to 19.5% and together with the similar rise in the numbers of children Looked After ceasing to be Looked After and being the subject of a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) from 9.4% to 11.7% are positive indicators of the impact of effective permanency planning for children and young people.
- 2.9 Reported performance in respect of our Care Leavers cohort was disappointing and has since been the subject of a Peer Review conducted by Cornwall County Council and a considerable amount of attention within the service.
- 2.10 The reported position as at 31 March 2018 was that the service was 'In Touch' with 80.9% of care leavers, fewer than had been the case in the previous year (at 88.7%) and that similarly, fewer care leavers were recorded as being in suitable accommodation or in Education, Employment, or Training (EET) than had been the case in the previous year. As a consequence of the work in progress to address these specific issues, the current position (as at the end of August 2018) is that the service is currently 'In touch' with 82.9% of care leavers and that 93.8% are in suitable accommodation with 53.9% now being known to be in Education, Employment or Training.
- 3. Child in Need census ([Appendix 2](#))**
- 3.1 The service experienced a 17.4% increase in the number of Child in Need cases open during the year 2017-18, rising from 6,904 to 8,106 open cases. There is evidence too that the nature of some of these cases is becoming increasingly complex placing increased demand on a range of services but the census primarily focusses on numbers.
- 3.2 The number of children in need with one or more disabilities recorded rose by 34.4% in the year to 1,228 children and represents 29.6% of the overall number of children in need cases open to the service at 31 March 2018.
- 3.3 The number of referrals received (and the corresponding rate per 10,000 of the child population) rose in the year and so too did the percentage of re-referrals (referrals within 12 months of a previous referral) and the percentage of referrals that resulted in no further action following an assessment by children's social care teams which together suggest that there is still more to do to work with the wider children's partnership to understand and use more appropriately the thresholds for services and to strengthen the relationship between early help and social care services.
- 3.4 77.3% of single assessments were completed within 45 working days of commencement, compared to 89.5% in the previous year. A number of factors will have contributed to this, including the impact of organisational change and difficulties in recruiting to vacant posts.
- 3.5 The number of Section 47 enquiries started in the year increased considerably (by 41.7%). Similarly, the number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) also rose in the year (although to a lesser degree) but fewer were held within 15 days of the

Strategy Discussion as is stipulated in Working Together to Safeguard Children (down to 66.5% from 85.4% in the previous year).

- 3.6 The number of children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan rose during the year with 643 children becoming the subject of a plan during the year and with 483 children being the subject of a plan as at 31 March 2018 (compared to 442 at 31 March 2017).

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This years' census data indicates clearly an increasing demand on services and some areas of performance that have been impacted negatively.
- 4.2 The Head of Service is currently consulting on a set of realistic but ambitious performance targets for the three years ahead ([Appendix 3](#)) and once agreed will incorporate these into service development plans and report progress to the Children's Scrutiny Committee as required.

Darryl Freeman

Head of Children's Social Care (Deputy Chief Officer)
Children's Social Care

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for [Children, Schools and Skills](#): Councillor James McInnes
Chief Officer for Childrens Services: Jo Olsson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact for Enquiries:

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Tel No: 01392 383000

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[Appendix 1](#): Children Looked After Census data

[Appendix 2](#): Children in Need Census data

[Appendix 3](#): Draft proposed performance targets 2018-2021

Appendix 1

Table 1 Children Looked After census Period to 31 March 2018

Local & National Measures		County Performance				Historical Data			Benchmarking Data		
		What does 'Good' Look Like	YTD Numerator	YTD Denominator	2017-18 Actual Performance	Year on Year Change	2016-17 Actual Performance	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 SW Regional	2016-17 Stat Neighbours	2016-17 England
ALL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AS AT PERIOD END											
LAC 1	Number of Looked After Children at Period End	I	694			682	710	5790	551	72670	
LAC 2	Number of Looked After Children per 10,000 Population aged u18	I	694	143555	48.3		48.0	49.8	53.0	54.0	62.0
LAC 3	Stability of Placements of LAC - 3+ Moves	L	84	694	12.1%		12.5%	14.0%	12.0%	11.0%	10.0%
LAC 4	Stability of Placements of LAC - Length of Placement	H	120	200	60.0%		63.7%	58.5%	-	-	-
LAC 5	Long term fostering return rate at 31st March (U1 & U4)	H	339	529	64.1%		72.4%	67.4%	-	-	-
LAC 6	LAC as at 31st Mar Reviewed Within Timescale throughout the year(Former NI 66)	H	542	666	81.4%		-	-	-	-	-
LAC 7	LAC as at 31st Mar that Participated in Their Most Recent Statutory Review. (Former C63)	H	482	586	82.3%		-	53.9%	-	-	-
HEALTH & WELLBEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (OC2 COHORT ONLY)											
HLT 1	CLA - Review Health Assess	H	429	468	91.7%		90.2%	85.4%	3440	330	44490

HLT 2	CLA - Review Health Assess (u5)	H	13	13	100.0%	↑	91.9%	58.5%	-	-	-
HLT 3	CLA - Dental Checks	H	400	468	85.5%	↑	85.0%	74.9%	3220	308	41490
HLT 4	CLA - SDQ's	L	339	4,969	14.7	↓	15.2	16.7	15.4%	14.5%	14.1%
HLT 5	CLA - Immunisations Up to Date	H	400	468	85.5%	↓	90.0%	48.2%	-	-	-
HLT 6	CLA - Identified with Substance Misuse Issue	L	59	468	12.6%	↓	12.9%	6.1%	5.0%	3.9%	4.0%
HLT 7	CLA - Received Intervention for Substance Misuse	H	28	59	47.5%	↓	64.5%	40.7%	-	-	-
HLT 8	CLA - Offered Intervention for Substance Misuse	H	27	31	87.1%	↓	95.5%	43.8%	-	-	-
HLT 9	CLA - Convicted During the Year	L	22	373	5.9%	↓	9.4%	2.6%	6.0%	4.5%	4.0%
OTHER MEASURES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN											
LAC 20	The % of CLA whom had a missing incident during the year	L	150	986	15.2%	↑	13.4%	85	10.0%	7.9%	10.0%
LAC 21	The % of CLA whom had an absent incident during the year	L	3	986	0.3%	↓	6.7%	19	3.0%	1.8%	5.0%
LAC 22	Number of Missing Episodes through out the year	I	1204			↑	939	263	-	-	-
LAC 23	Number of Absent Episodes through out the year	I	3			↓	186	35	-	-	-
LAC 24	Number Children Missing as at 31 March	L	1	694	0.1%	↓	0.6%	0.1%	-	-	-
LAC 25	Number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers in the year	L	35	694	5.0%	↑	3.7%	0.7%	220	23	4560
LAC 26	Number of Children Adopted from Care in Year	H	60	307	19.5%	↑	14.0%	10.8%	-	-	-
LAC 27	Number of Children with Special Guardianship Order from Care	H	36	307	11.7%	↑	9.4%	13.1%	-	-	-





CARE LEAVERS											
CL 1	ALL Care Leavers - DCC in Touch	H	380	470	80.9%		88.7%	86.2%	94.0%	94.0%	92.0%
CL 2	ALL Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	H	351	470	74.7%		79.9%	78.0%	86.0%	83.9%	84.0%
CL 3	ALL Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	H	184	470	39.1%		45.3%	47.9%	49.0%	49.7%	50.0%
CL 4	ALL Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training	L	196	470	41.7%		42.9%	44.0%	43.0%	41.2%	40.0%

Table 2 Child in Need census Period to 31 March 2018

Local & National Measures		2017-18 Year End Performance					Historical Data		Benchmarking Data		
		What does 'Good' Look Like	YTD Numerator	YTD Denominator	YTD Actual Performance	Year on Year Change	% Increase or Decrease	2016-17 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 SW Regional	2016-17 Stat Neighbours Ave
NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN NEED											
CIN 1	No of Children In Need throughout the Year		8,106		↑	17.4%	6,904	8,340	61,510	5,814	777,850
<i>CIN 1.1</i>	<i>No of Children In Need per 10,000 Population aged u18</i>	8,106	143,600	564.5	↑	17.4%	480.9	584.9	564.0	556.3	660.0
CIN 2	No of Children in need as at 31 March		3,983		↑	3.7%	3,842	4,668	33,360	2,862	389,430
<i>CIN 2.1</i>	<i>Rate of children in need at 31 March per 10,000 children</i>	3,983	143,600	277.4	↑	3.7%	267.6	327.4	305.9	273.8	330.4
CIN 3	No of children In Need (excluding CPP & CIC) as at 31 March		2,804		↑	3.9%	2,699	3,244			
<i>CIN 3.1</i>	<i>Rate of children in need at 31 March per 10,000 children (excl CPP & CIC)</i>	2,804	143,600	195.3	↑	3.9%	188.0	227.5			
CIN 4	No of Children starting an episode of need in the Year		4,848		↑	84.6%	2,626	3,861	31,300	2,780	374,640
<i>CIN 4.1</i>	<i>Rate of children starting an episode of need in the Year per 10,000 children</i>	4,848	143,600	337.6	↑	84.6%	182.9	270.8	287.0	259.9	317.9

CIN 5	No of Children ending an episode of need in the Year		3,991			↑	20.1%	3,322	3,672	31,460	2,797	367,430
<i>CIN 5.1</i>	<i>Rate of children ending an episode of need in the Year per 10,000 children</i>		3,991	143,600	277.9	↑	20.1%	231.4	257.5	288.5	269.1	311.8
CIN 6	Number of episodes closed in the year		4,159			↑	23.2%	3,377	6,294	33,250	2,952	282.5
CIN 7	No of Children in need at 31 March with one or more disabilities recorded		1,228			→	34.4%	914	1,035	4,870	420	50,360
<i>CIN 7.1</i>	<i>% of children who have a disability recorded</i>		1,228	3,983	30.8%	↑	29.6%	23.8%	22.2%	14.6%	14.7%	12.9%
REFERRALS AND ASSESSMENTS												
RA 1	No of Referral in the year		5,341			↑	5.5%	5,061	6,919	51,500	4,506	646,120
<i>RA 1.1</i>	<i>Rate of Referrals per 10,000 of children aged under 18 years</i>	L	5,341	143,600	371.9	↑	5.5%	352.5	485.2	472.2	418.1	548.2
RA 2	% of Referrals within 12 months of a previous referral	L	1,270	5,341	23.8%	↑	14.9%	20.7%	20.6%	23.2%	21.4%	21.9%
RA 3	% of Referrals that resulted in no further action	L	728	5,341	13.6%	↑	113.0%	6.4%	6.3%	7.4%	3.9%	10.2%
RA 4	% of Referrals that resulted in an assessment and the child was assessed not to be in need	L	2,012	5,341	37.7%	↓	-7.0%	40.5%	37.9%	27.3%	30.3%	27.8%
RA 5	Number of Continuous Assessments Started in the Year		5,282			↓	-3.9%	5,496	7,553			
RA 6	Number of Continuous Assessments Authorised		4,916			↓	-12.6%	5,625	7,552	53,140	4,776	571,640
RA 7	Percentage Authorised in 45 working days	H	3,799	4,916	77.3%	↓	-13.6%	89.5%	90.6%	83.5%	81.7%	82.9%

RA 8	Number of unique children who were subject to section 47 enquiries which started in the year		1,797			↑	34.5%	1,336	1,979			
RA 9	No of section 47 enquiries which started in the year		2,058			↑	41.7%	1,452	2061	15,220	1,284	185,450
<i>RA 9.1</i>	<i>Rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 of children aged under 18 years</i>		2,058	143,600	143.3	↑	41.8%	101.1	144.5	139.5	115.3	157.4
RA 10	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (excl 'Transfer In' conferences)		720			↑	13.4%	635	1,226	6,660	605	76,930
RA 11	Initial Conferences within 15 working days of Section 47 Start Date	H	479	720	66.5%	↓	-22.1%	85.4%	80.4%	78.5%	72.6%	76.7%
RA 12	Transfer In Conferences within 15 working days of Referral date	H	24	36	66.7%	↓	-18.5%	81.8%	66.7%			
CHILD PROTECTION PLANS												
CPP 1	No of Children who were the subject of a CPP during the Year		1,511			↑	24.7%	1,212	1,495	10,240	894	115,210
<i>CPP 1.1</i>	<i>Rate of children who were the subject of a CPP during the Year per 10,000 children</i>		1,511	143,600	105.2	↑	24.7%	84.4	104.9	93.9	89.2	97.8
CPP 2	No of Children who were the subject of a CPP as at 31 March		483			↑	9.3%	442	442	4,430	391	51,080
<i>CPP 2.1</i>	<i>Rate of children who were the subject of a CPP at 31 March per 10,000 children</i>		483	143,600	33.6	↑	9.2%	30.8	50.1	40.6	38.1	43.3
CPP 3	No of Children who became the subject of a plan during the Year		643			↑	24.6%	516	1,014	5,730	519	66,180

CPP 3.1	Rate of children who became the subject of a CPP during the Year per 10,000 children		643	143,600	44.8	↑	24.7%	35.9	71.1	52.6	50.1	56.2
CPP 4	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Ever)	L	170	643	26.4%	↑	7.0%	24.7%	22.4%	22.4%	21.3%	18.7%
CPP 5	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Last 2yrs)	L	80	643	12.4%	↓	-13.0%	14.3%	10.2%			
CPP 6	Children who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year		602			↓	-23.8%	790	781	5,940	515	65,420
CPP 6.1	Rate of children who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year per 10,000 children		602	143,600	41.9	↓	-23.8%	55.0	54.8	54.5	52.2	55.5
CPP 7	% who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year (after 2 or more years) (NI 64)	L	31	602	5.1%	↑	100.0%	0.0%	2.9%	2.7%	3.1%	3.4%
CPP 8	Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	278	322	86.3%	↓	-9.5%	95.4%	93.7%	86.8%	88.8%	92.2%

Table 3: Draft proposed performance targets 2018/19 to 2020/21 (subject to further consultation)

Ref	Measures	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Target	2019-20 Target	2020-21 Target
LAC 3	Stability of Placements of LAC - 3+ Moves	12.1%	11%	9%	8%
LAC 4	Stability of Placements of LAC - Length of Placement	60%	65%	70%	75%
LAC 5	Long term fostering return rate at 31st March (U1 & U4)				
LAC 6	LAC as at 31st Mar Reviewed Within Timescale throughout the year (Former NI 66)	81.4%	85%	90%	90%
LAC 7	LAC as at 31st Mar that Participated in Their Most Recent Statutory Review. (Former C63)	82.3%	85%	90%	90%
HLT 1	CLA - Review Health Assess	91.7%	93%	94%	95%
HLT 2	CLA - Review Health Assess (u5)	100%	100%	100%	100%
HLT 3	CLA - Dental Checks	85.5%	85%	90%	90%
HLT 4	CLA - SDQ's	14.7	14	13	12
HLT 5	CLA - Immunisations Up to Date	85.5%	90%	90%	90%
CL 1	ALL Care Leavers - DCC in Touch	80.9%	85%	90%	95%
CL 2	ALL Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	74.7%	80%	85%	87%
CL 3	ALL Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	39.1%	50%	60%	70%
CL 4	ALL Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training	41.7%			
RA 7	Percentage Authorised in 45 working days (Single Assessments)	77.3%	75%	80%	85%
RA 11	Initial Conferences within 15 working days of Section 47 Start Date	66.5%	70%	75%	80%
RA 12	Transfer In Conferences within 15 working days of Referral date	66.7%	70%	75%	80%
CPP 4	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Ever)	26.4%	25%	20%	15%
CPP 5	% who became the subject of a plan for a second or subsequent time (Last 2yrs)	12.4%	10%	8%	6%
CPP 7	% who ceased to be the subject of a CPP during the Year (after 2 or more years) (NI 64)	5.1%	3.5%	2%	1%
CPP 8	Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	86.3%	90%	95%	100%
	Recruitment of foster carers - net increase in fostering households in the year		30	35	40
	Average number of cases per child and family social worker	19.3	18	17	16
	Agency social worker rate (%) at 30 September	13.7%	12%	8%	4%
	Children's social worker: Turnover rate (%) during year	18.8%	15%	8%	5%
Service Priority	Every child has an up-to-date plan (created or updated within the past 12 months)		85%	100%	100%
Service Priority	Every child has an up-to-date assessment (authorised or updated within the past 12 months)		85%	100%	100%

CS/18/28

Devon Education and Learning

Education and Learning Performance Report Quarter 1 - 2018/19

Discussion Brief

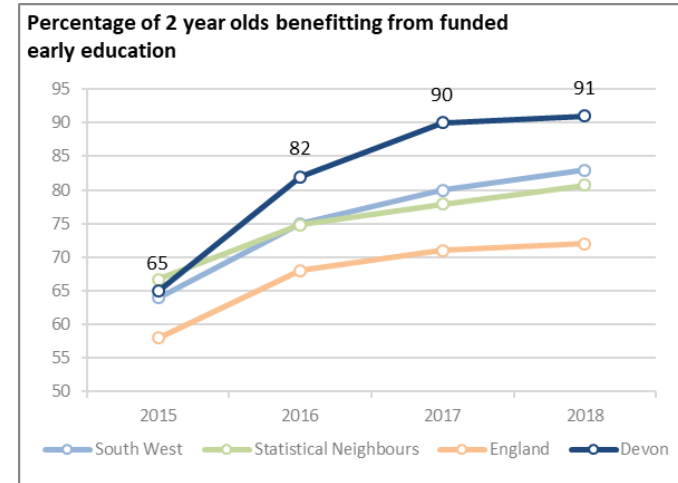
Please note initial information on this year's academic results will be provided at the scrutiny meeting.

Agenda Item 9

1 Closing The Gap Early Years

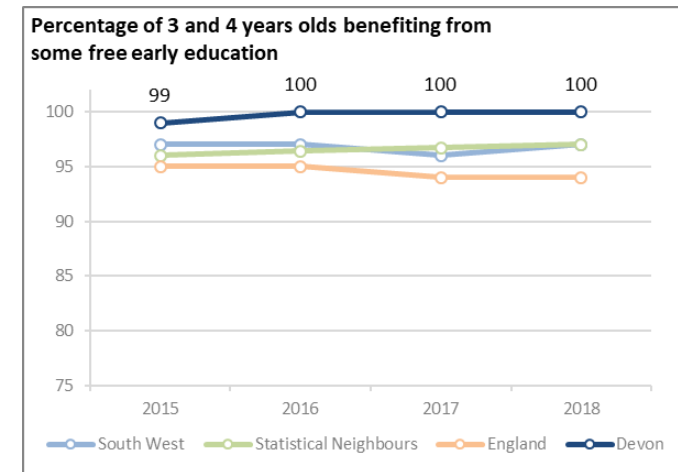
Review of Early Years Funding for 2 year olds

Recently published national information indicates that there has been a slight increase in the percentage of 2 year olds benefitting from early years funded places in Devon (91% compared to 90% in 2017). Devon is performing significantly better than nationally (72%) and is in the top performing quartile (ranked 20th of all Local Authorities).



Review of Early Years Funding for 3 and 4 year olds

The percentage of three and four year olds benefitting from early years funded places continues to be high. Devon is performing significantly better than both the national (94%) and regional (97%) averages. Devon is in the top performing quartile and is ranked 18th of all Local Authorities.



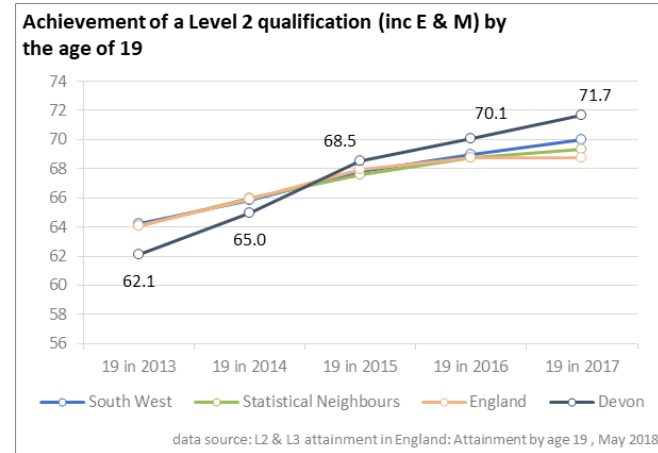
Data source: DfE Provision for children under 5 years of age in England: January 2018, published 28/06/18

1 Closing The Gap Level 2 at aged 19 years 2016/17

National comparative data has just been published for the 2016/17 academic year and so an update is provided below.

Attainment of Level 2 qualifications by those aged 19

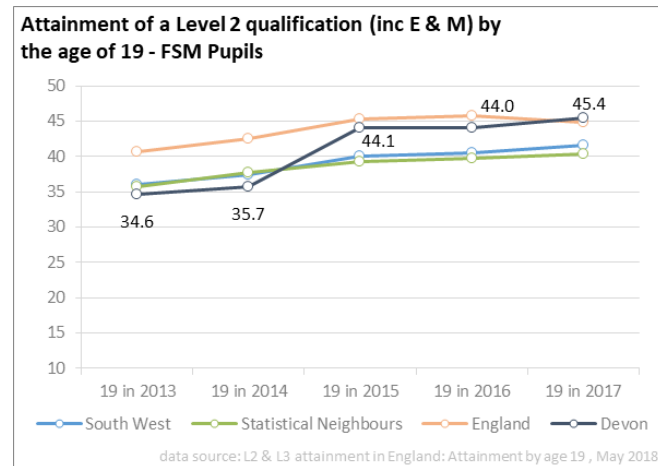
Devon is continuing its upward trend in the percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 including English and Maths. Devon is performing significantly better than nationally (71.7% compared to 68.8%) and regionally (70%).



Level 2 qualifications by those aged 19 – FSM cohorts

The performance of Free School Meal pupils has improved in the last year with 45.4% of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2. Devon is performing significantly better than regionally (41.6%) and slightly better than nationally (44.8%).

The attainment gap for Devon’s FSM pupils remains stable at 29%. Whilst Devon’s attainment gap is slightly wider than nationally (28%) it is narrower than regionally (31.6%).

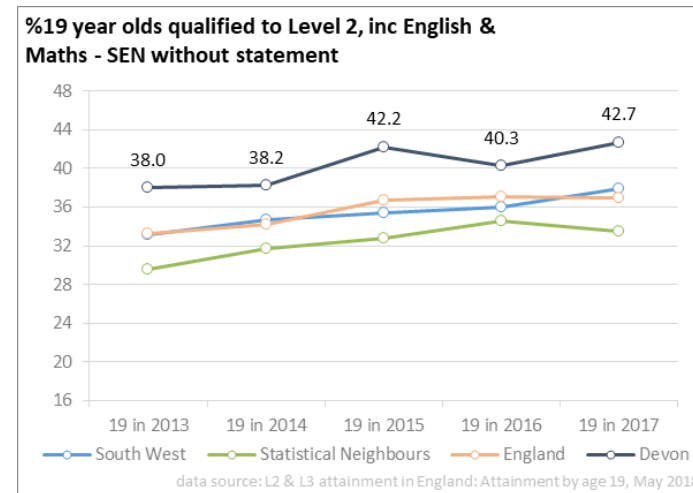
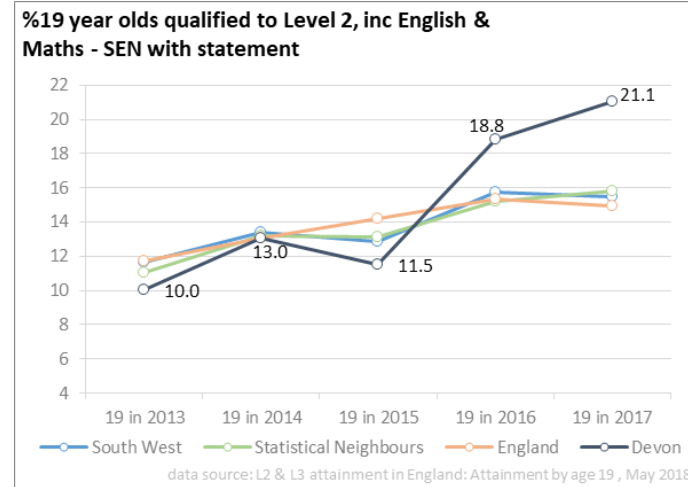


1 Closing The Gap Level 2 at aged 19 years 2016/17

Level 2 qualifications by those aged 19 - SEN Cohorts

The percentage of 19 year olds with SEN statements qualified to Level 2 (inc. English & Maths) continues to improve, with 21.1% qualified in 2017 compared to 18.8% previously. Devon young people perform significantly better than nationally and regionally (14.9% and 15.5% respectively).

The percentage of 19 year olds with SEN but without a statement qualified to Level 2 has also improved. 42.7% qualified to Level 2 in 2017 compared to 40.3% in 2016. Devon continues to perform significantly better than the national picture (37%).



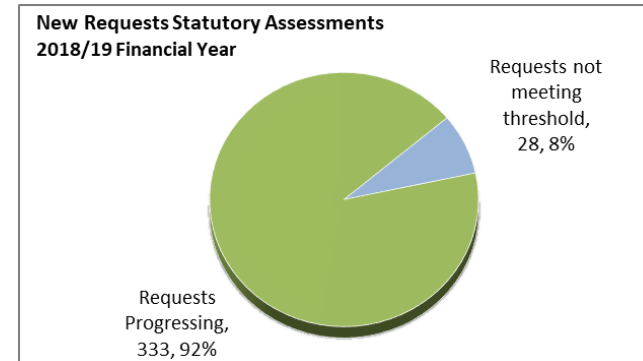
Requests for Statutory Assessments

The volume of requests for assessments continues to be high. There have been 361 new requests for statutory assessments in the Qtr1 period for the 2018-19 financial year, compared to 248 for the same period last year (2017-18). This represents a 46% increase in requests.

Of the new requests for the period 92% (333) are progressing compared to 89% (221) last year. This increase is mostly due to the ceasing of funded non- statutory plans and those pupils moving over to full Education Health and Care Plans.

The work rate of issuing plans within the 20 week national timeline still requires significant improvement. New staff started work in the SEN team on April 1st and this will start to make a visible difference to our work to support children and families. However due to the time it takes to complete an assessment (20 weeks) there will be a delay before the numbers completed within timescales is reflected in our data.

Note: the number of completions and numbers of plans in progress vary across quarters according to the timing of the processing of each request.



Data source: DCC 0-25 SEN Team, July 2018

2 Inclusion Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Overview for 16 and 17 year olds¹

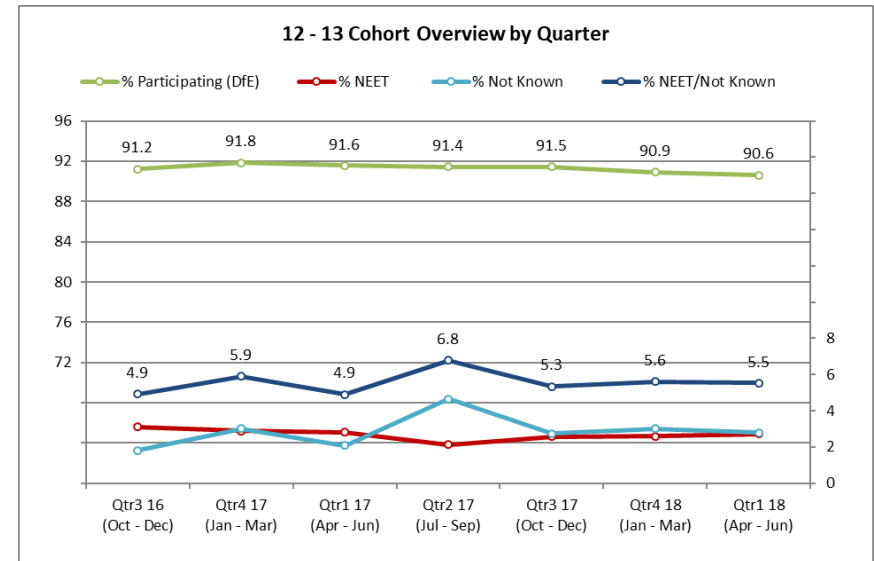
Latest information from Careers South West indicates that the percentage of NEET in Devon is slightly lower than the same period last year (2.7% compared to 2.8% in June 2017), whilst the Not Known rate is higher (2.8% compared to 2.1%).

The combined NEET / Not Known measure² for the overall cohort remains stable in the first quarter with a rate of 5.5%. However, the rate is slightly higher than the same period last year (4.9% in June 2017), which is due to the higher Not Known rate.

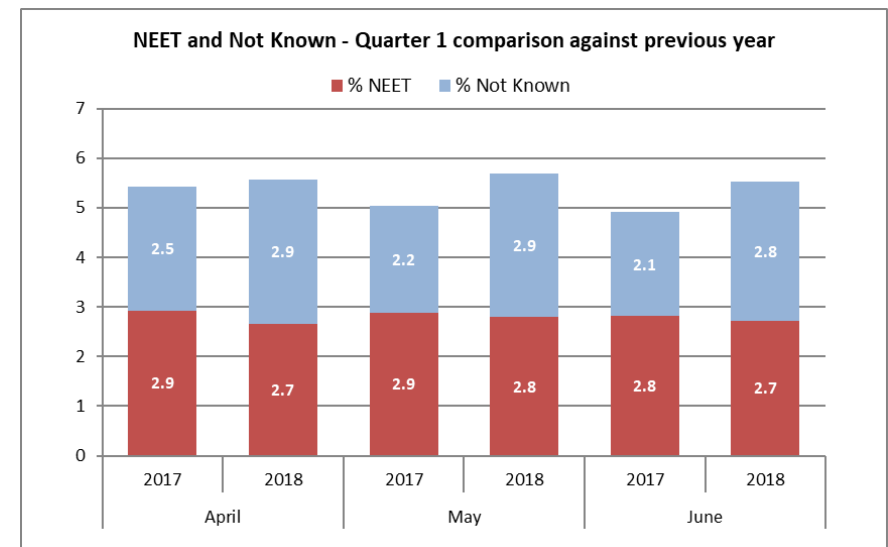
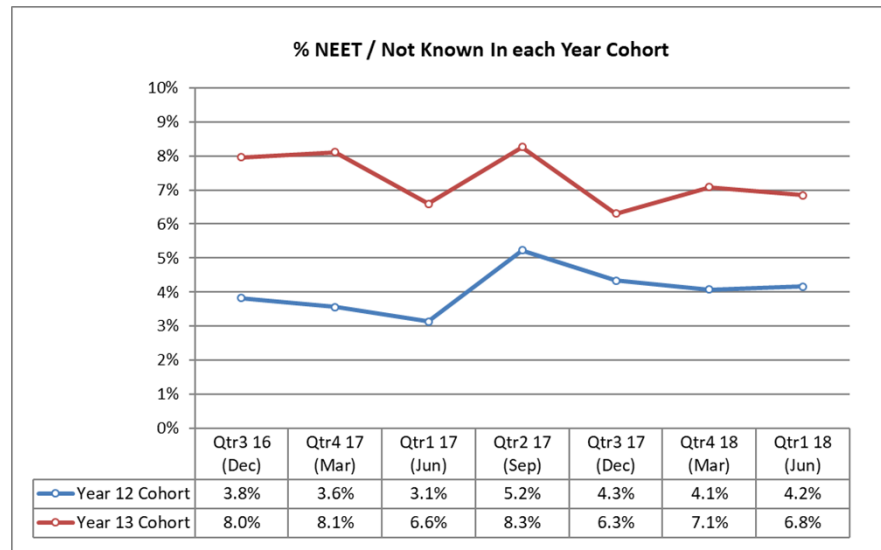
¹ data for years 12 and 13 are now regarded as targets by the DfE in line with the statutory duty on local authorities to track young people destinations

² previous focus was on separate measures, primarily NEET

When reviewed by cohorts, Year 12 has the lower NEET / Not Known rate with a rate of 4.2% in June 2018, slightly higher than the same period last year (3.1%). The NEET/Not Known rate for Year 13 is similar to the same period last year (6.8% in June 18 compared to 6.6% in June 2017).



Note: the peak in the NEET/Not Known rate is due to young people leaving education / training at the end of the academic year and obtaining confirmation of ongoing study/employment.



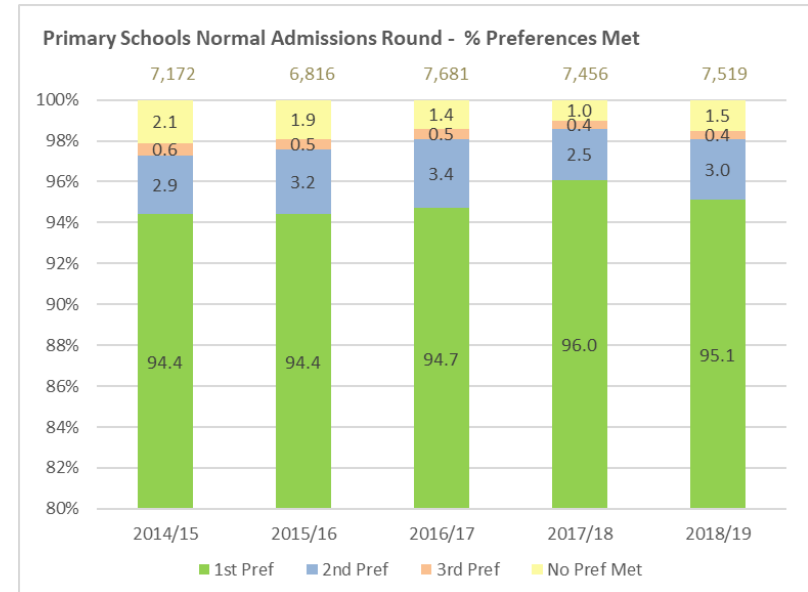
Data Source: CSW Monthly Scorecard June 2018 and June 2017

Devon Primary Schools Normal Admissions Round

Devon continues to perform well in the school admissions round. In primary schools 95% were offered a place at their first preferred school, whilst 98.5% were offered a place at one of their preferred options. This is in line with last year where 98.9% were offered a place at one of their preferred options.

Devon's performance continues to be significantly better than nationally. 95.1% were offered a place at their preferred school in Devon compared to 91% nationally¹. Devon is the second top performing LA in the South West for meeting primary school first preferences.

¹ DfE Secondary and primary school applications and offers: 2018

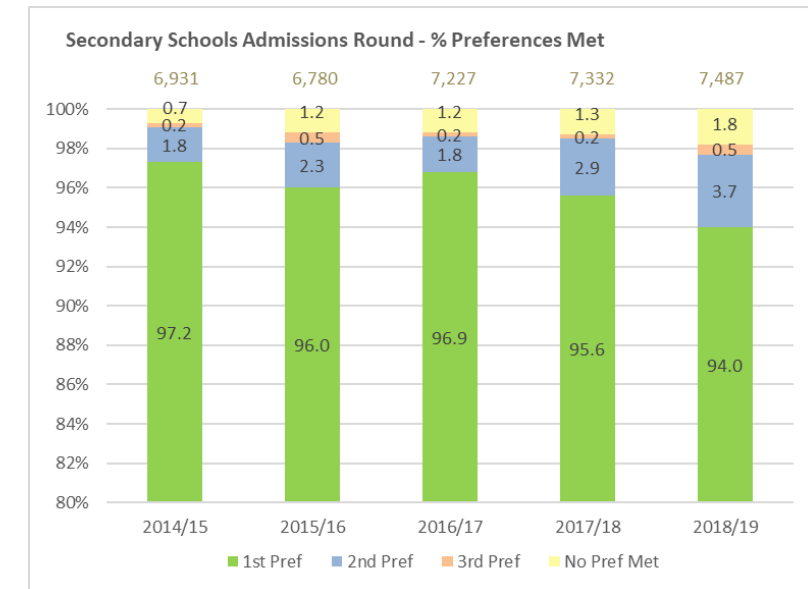


Devon Secondary Schools Normal Admissions Round

In Devon secondary schools, 94% offered a place at their first preferred and 98.1% were offered a place at one of their preferred options. This is close to last year where 98.7% were offered a place at one of their preferred options.

Devon's performance continues to be significantly better than nationally. 94% were offered a place at their preferred school compared to 82.1% nationally¹. Devon is the second top performing LA in the South West for meeting secondary school first preferences.

¹ DfE Secondary and primary school applications and offers: 2018



2 Inclusion 2016/17 Exclusion Rates

There is a **significant delay in the publication of National data for exclusion** so whilst the most recent comparative data is shown below steps have already been taken through the Devon inclusion project to address the significant rise which was seen last year. Initial analysis indicates that there has been no further rise in the 17/18 academic year. An update will be given on the inclusion project in November. A detailed annual exclusion report will also be provided then.

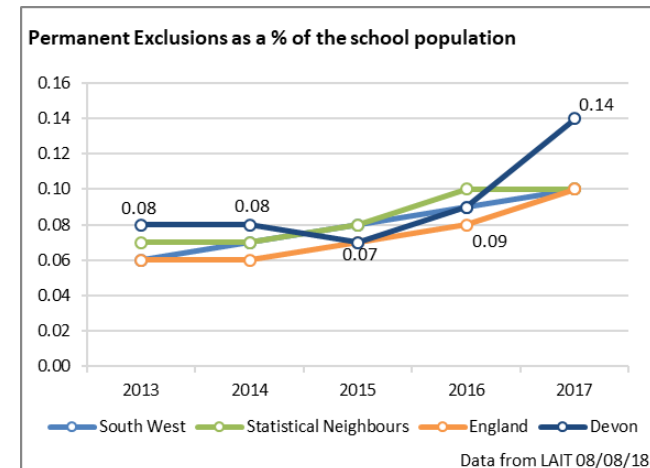
Permanent Exclusions 2016/17

Recently published national information indicates that Devon's Permanent Exclusions have risen from 0.09% of the pupil population to 0.14% in 2016/17. Devon's permanent exclusion rate is higher than the national and regional picture (0.10%).

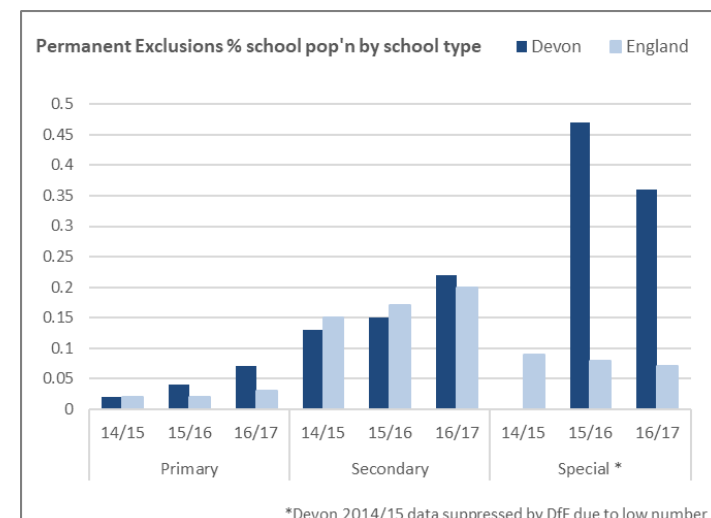
Permanent exclusions in Devon primary and secondary schools are slightly higher than nationally, 0.07% in Devon primary schools compared to 0.03% nationally and 0.22% in Devon secondary schools compared to 0.20% nationally.

Exclusions in Devon special schools have seen significant improvements (falling from 0.47% to 0.36% in 2016/17) but they continue to be well above the national picture (0.07%).

Note: Exclusion rates for different pupil cohorts will be included in the annual exclusions report.



Data Source: DfE LAIT, DfE SFR Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2016 to 2017, Underlying data



Data Source: DfE LAIT, DfE SFR Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2016 to 2017, Underlying data

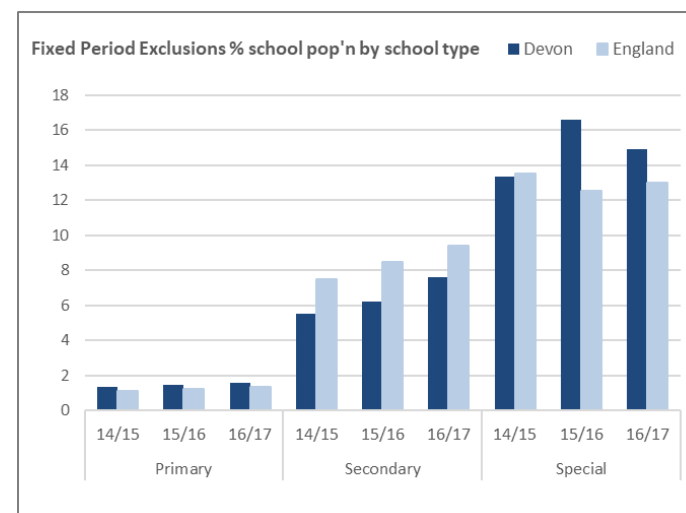
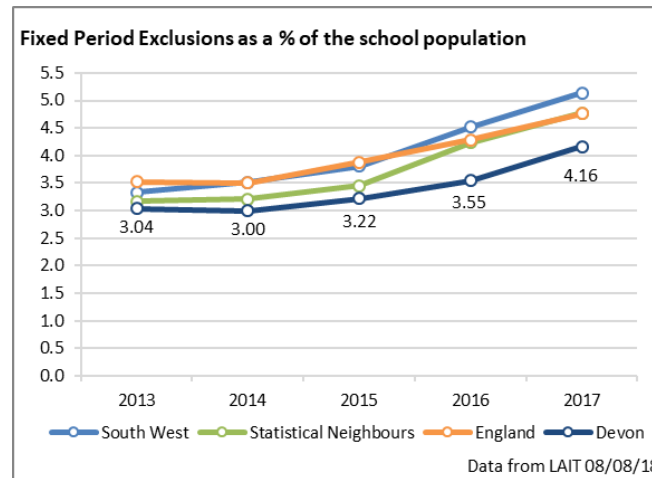
Fixed Period Exclusions 2016/17

Fixed period exclusions are also on the increase, both in Devon and nationally. Whilst Devon's exclusion rate has risen to 4.16% it continues to be significantly lower than both nationally and regionally (4.76% and 5.14% respectively).

Fixed period exclusions in Devon primary schools have risen slightly and continue to be higher than nationally (1.57% compared to 1.37% nationally). Exclusion rates in secondary schools have also risen but they continue to be significantly lower than nationally (7.63% compared to 9.4%).

Devon special schools have seen a significant improvement with rates falling from 16.59% to 14.91% but continue to be above the national picture (13.03%).

Note: Exclusion rates for different pupil cohorts will be included in the annual exclusions report.



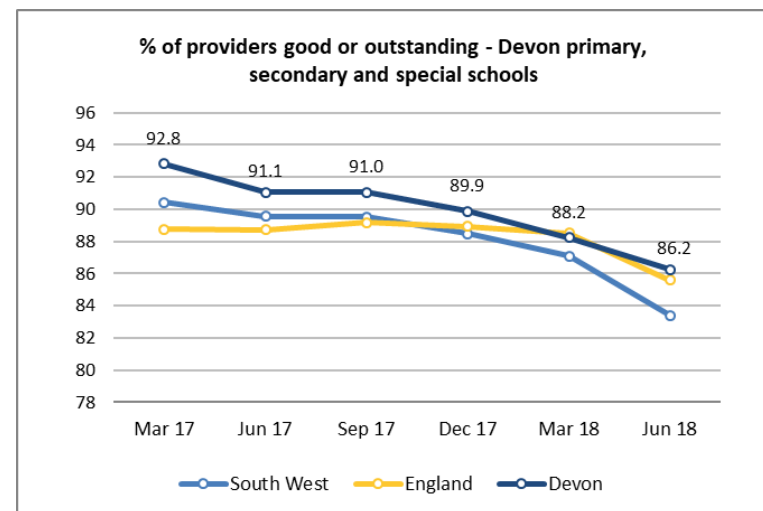
3 Quality Ofsted Outcomes

Devon Primary, Secondary and Special Schools

The overall percentage of Devon Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, judged by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding has fallen slightly in this last reporting period. However Devon continues to perform better than regionally and nationally with 86.2% of Devon schools currently good or outstanding (83.4% regionally, 85.6% nationally).

Data source: Monthly Management Information: Ofsted's school inspections outcomes, Management Information – Schools – 30th June 2018.

87.2% of Devon primary schools have been judged as good or outstanding, which is in line with the national average (87.2%). Devon Secondary schools are performing better than nationally with 78.6% judged as good or outstanding (compared to 75.8% nationally). There has been no change in the performance of Devon Maintained Special Schools as, at the time of writing, no school inspections had been published since the last reporting period.

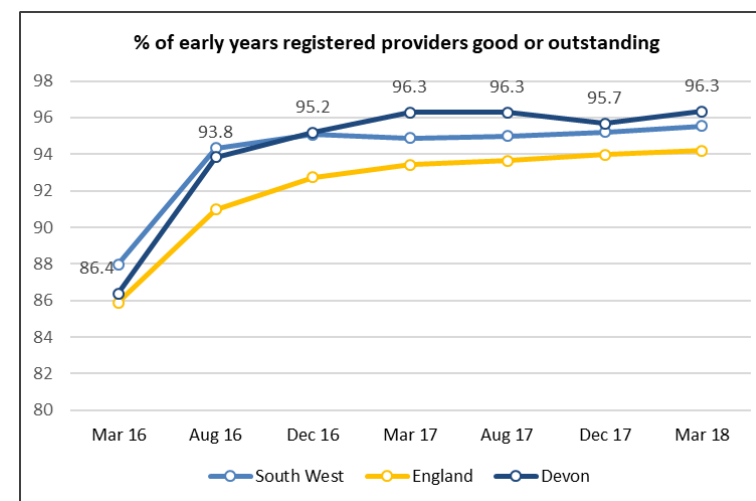


Data Source: DfE Monthly Management Information: Ofsted School Inspection Outcomes, 30 June 2018

Inspection of Early Years Registered Providers¹

Recently published national information indicates that Devon's performance has improved slightly with 96.3% of active Early Years registered providers in Devon judged as good or outstanding. Devon continues to perform better than both nationally (94.2%) and regionally (95.5%).

¹ The Early Years Register is for providers who care for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday. Registration is compulsory for such providers and they must meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage (EYFS). Early Years registered providers are childminders, childcare on domestic premises and childcare on non-domestic premises.



Data Source: DfE Early Years Childcare Statistics: Childcare Providers and Inspections, published June 2018

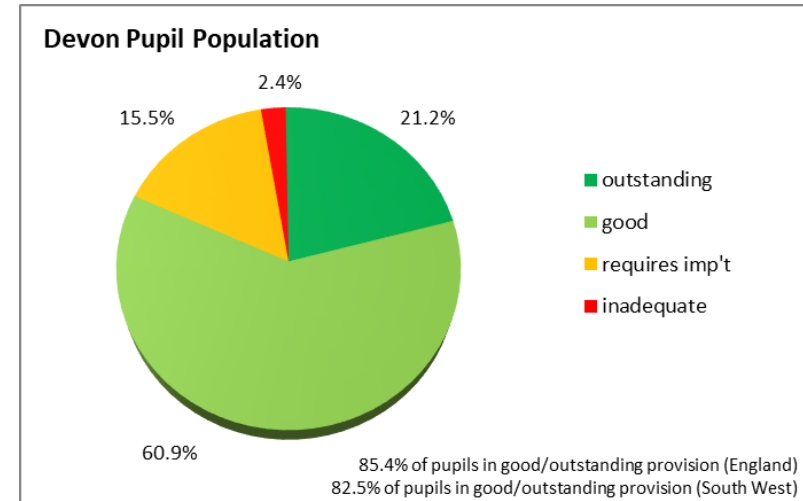
Devon Pupils in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools

82% (78,549) of Devon pupils¹ are attending schools that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is not as good as the national picture (85.4%) but is in line with the regional picture (82.5%).

79.3% (15,874) of disadvantaged children² in Devon are attending Good or Outstanding schools. These are pupils who are Free School Meal children, children currently in care, adopted from care or service children.

85.6% (2,252) of pupils with statements of special educational needs or education, health and care plans³ are attending Good or Outstanding Schools.

Note: no national benchmarks are available for disadvantaged children and children with SEN.



Data Source: DfE Monthly Management Information: Ofsted School Inspection Outcomes, 30 June 2018

¹ Ofsted MI Report uses Spring 2017 pupil cohorts

² Pupil Numbers from DfE Pupil Premium July 2017

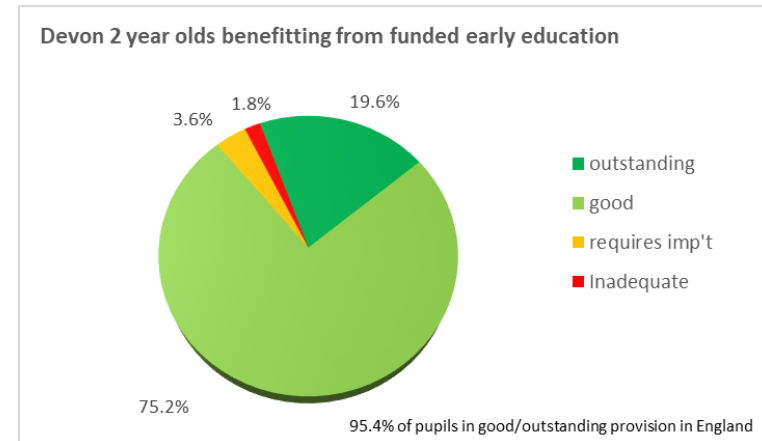
³ Pupil Numbers as at Spring Census 2018

3 Quality Ofsted Outcomes

Devon Early Years - 2 year olds

Recently published information indicates that 94.8% (1,507) of Devon two year olds benefitting from funded early education as at Jan 2018 are attending settings¹ that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is close to the national picture (95.4%).

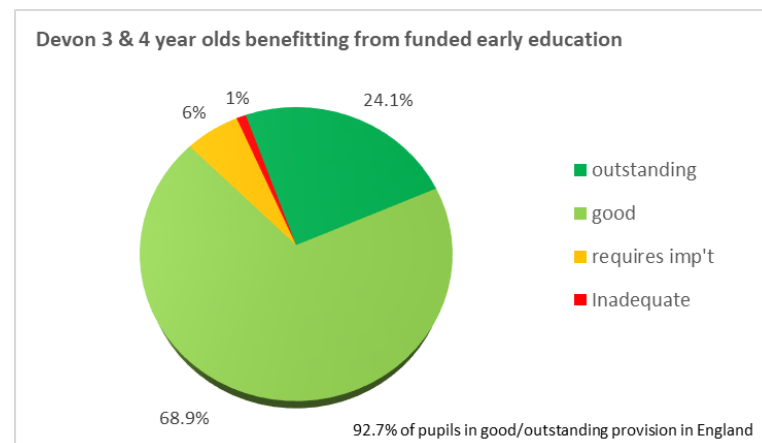
¹ private, voluntary and independent providers, and maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools



Devon Early Years - 3 and 4 year olds

92.9% (12,771) of Devon three and four year olds benefitting from universal funded early education as at Jan 2018 are attending settings¹ that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is also in line with the national picture (92.7%).

¹ private, voluntary and independent providers, and maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools



Data Source: DfE Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2018, published 28/06/18

