

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 : 11 January 2019
Please ask for : Stephanie Lewis 01392 382486

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 21st January, 2019

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 Items Requiring Urgent Attention
Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.
- 3 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

- 4 Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Task Group - update on progress of recommendations (Pages 1 - 4)
Report of the Head of Education and Learning (CS/19/01), attached.
- 5 Exploitation Strategy 2019-2021 (Pages 5 - 14)
Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (CS/19/03), attached.

- 6 Atkinson Unit (Pages 15 - 18)
Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (CS/19/05), attached.
- 7 Education Performance Report (Pages 19 - 32)
Report of the Head of Education and Learning (CS/19/02), attached.
- 8 Children's Social Care Performance Report (Pages 33 - 40)
Report of the Head of Children's Social Care (CS/19/04), attached.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 9 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:

- SEND Ofsted Inspection visit
- Foster Carer Allowances update

Briefing notes can be found at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/information-for-members/briefings-for-members/children-and-schools/>

- 10 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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Public Participation

Devon's residents may attend and speak at any meeting of a County Council Scrutiny Committee when it is reviewing any specific matter or examining the provision of services or facilities as listed on the agenda for that meeting.

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/>)

All Scrutiny Committee agenda are published at least seven days before the meeting on the Council's website.

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Induction loop system available

Committee Terms of Reference

1) To review the implementation of existing policies and to consider the scope for new policies for all aspects of the discharge of the Council's functions concerning the provision of personal services for children including social care, safeguarding and special needs services, schools and learning;

(2) To assess the effectiveness of decisions of the Cabinet in these areas of the Council's statutory activity;

(3) To relate scrutiny to the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities and objectives and of delivering best value in all its activities;

(4) To make reports and recommendations as appropriate arising from this area of overview and scrutiny.

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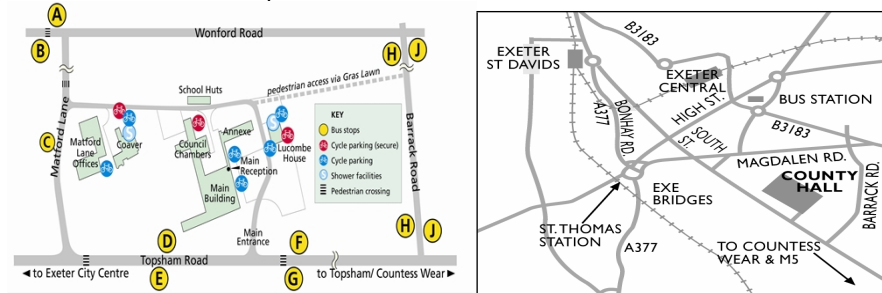
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NB   Denotes bus stops

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Contact Main Reception (extension 2504) for a trained first aider.

Children's Services – Emotional Health and Wellbeing Update

Report of the Head of Education and Learning

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:

Scrutiny to note the progress on actions from the task and finish group report and the resulting action plan.

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## **1. Early Help 4 Mental Health Service**

### **1.1 Recommendation 1**

- 1.1.1 That Early Help for Mental Health (EH4MH) provision is continued.

#### **Update**

The Early Help 4 Mental Health programme continues to work with schools to promote positive emotional health and wellbeing and offer early intervention and support to children and young people. Opportunities to build on the EH4MH programme approaches and provision for early help for mental health support across a range of appropriate settings (this may include at home, in clinic, education or community settings) is being commissioned through the new 'Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health: CAMHS' contract starting on 1 April 2019. This service will include access to Kooth, the online counselling and information website specifically for young people. Amongst the objectives set for the provider are the requirements to build capacity in universal settings to identify and support children and young people with emotional health needs, to be involved in the training, supervision and consultation of others who may be best placed to support children and young people (for example class teachers, pastoral support, youth workers etc.) and cascade knowledge and evidence-based practice that enables families and those engaging with children and young people to create emotionally healthy environments and prevent psychological harm. In the context of prevention, there is an expectation that the contract will see a proportional reduction in spend on high cost crisis care, to an increase in prevention and early intervention.

Following the Green paper consultation on "Transforming children and young people's mental health provision" the government announced, that they would pilot seven 'trailblazer' regions across the UK. In September Devon applied to become one of the trailblazer areas. Unfortunately, we were not successful in this application, we have however been invited to apply to wave two. The Department of Health and Social Care has also selected seven higher education providers to offer a new mental health practitioner course from next year. The University of Exeter was one of these providers and will have access to some of the £209m pledged in the children and young people's mental health green paper to train up practitioners to work in the new support teams.

- 1.1.2 That EH4MH continues to be offered to all primary schools in Devon to ensure maximum take up of the service.

# Agenda Item 4

## **Update**

An analysis of the current take-up of the EH4MH programme by primary and secondary settings was undertaken. The Chair of the Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Task Group, Councillor Christine Channon, subsequently wrote individually to all schools in Devon regarding EH4MH. All engaged schools were thanked for their participation in the programme. Non-engaged schools were encouraged to take part and offered the invitation to get in touch and take the opportunity to benefit from free training, supervision and consultation. The schools were also provided with a copy of the scrutiny report and a copy of the EH4MH leaflet.

311 schools are currently engaged or in progress with the EH4MH programme, representing 88% of schools in Devon. 42 schools are still not engaged, which are mostly primary schools rather than secondary schools. However, even though some schools have not actively engaged they have, throughout the course of the programme, been able to access free training in the community for their staff.

## **2. Schools**

### **2.1 Recommendation 2**

2.1.1 That there is better awareness in schools in Devon as to the nationally available tools and resources on emotional and health & wellbeing, that can be linked in with EH4MH, promoting use of a range of strategies to ensure wrap-around support to young people including counselling, peer mentoring and internal pastoral support.

## **Update**

Revised guidance on supporting children with mental health issues was provided by the DfE in Nov 2018 and was circulated to all schools. The documentation also provides access to case studies.

Links to the following documents were also circulated to schools:

- Rise Above website. Launched by Public Health England for schools and young people around lifestyle and emotional health and wellbeing,
- Public Health England guidance on Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools
- DfE – Mental Health and Behavior in schools
- DfE – Supporting mental health in schools and colleges

Two examples have also been produced locally which provide a good demonstration of how schools are embedding the Early help for Mental health strategy into their work. Links to these two examples are provided below for your information.

<http://www.honitoncollege.com/emotional-w>

<https://www.colytongrammar.com/safeguarding-and-wellbeing/mental-health/>

### **2.2 - Recommendation 3**

2.2.1 That all Devon schools are encouraged to have a mental health champion and support champions and that all appropriate teaching staff are trained in terms of emotional health & wellbeing with access to annual best practice updates.

## **Update**

Schools continue to be encouraged to have a mental health champion and in addition all schools are able to access free training on offer from the EH4MH programme (whether they are actively 'engaged' or not). This includes introductory sessions to mental health awareness, bereavement training, anxiety training, difficult conversations, 'normal magic' and attachment patterns. In addition, the provider has developed, during the last year, additional training programmes enabling schools to work directly with families and children to support children presenting with anxiety symptoms (primary schools). In secondary schools, staff can access all courses as well as a programme to build pupils resilience within the curriculum. In terms of annual updates, the school support provider holds annual conferences, one focused for primaries and one focused for



secondaries, to share best practice case studies and updates and give the opportunity for mental health champions to network. These conferences all include participation by pupils, who showcase the peer support work they are leading within their schools with support from the EH4MH programme.

## 2.3 Recommendation 4

2.3.1 That there is better promotion of the offers available from outside agencies so schools know exactly what support and training is available.

### Update

As part of their work, the EH4MH practitioners are providing resources and information to schools on local agencies and sources of support. During the training session focused on developing a mental health strategy, the schools participating map what resources and services they know about and use, in order to share with all schools present, so that everyone becomes more aware of what is available locally and nationally. The EH4MH programme hosts a central website ([www.eh4mh.co.uk](http://www.eh4mh.co.uk)) where schools can access locally developed resources. In addition, school staff attending the individual training sessions receive a slide pack detailing links to useful resources and suggested tools.

## 3. Multi-Agencies

### 3.1 Recommendation 5

3.1.1 That the County Council supports the work started by the Strategic Partnership Forum who, alongside schools are seeking to resolve issues relating to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments. This work will later transfer to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Board.

### Update

Support for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder is an ongoing concern and will become a focus of the SEND improvement board from the Spring term onwards. Leaders at appropriate levels across all agencies and schools will be part of the task group. 6 weekly reporting will be made from the SEND board to the Devon Children and Families Partnership to provide additional oversight and challenge on progress.

### 3.2 Recommendation 6

3.2.1 That the Council promotes joint agency working in line with the Early Help protocols to ensure that, as far as possible, all agencies (DCC, CAMHS, Health, Police etc) work together to support young people whose mental health puts them at risk of harm.

### Update

The DCFP has been proactive in supporting the work to embed Devon's Early Help protocols. Early Help, including Early help for Mental Health is a key element of the Devon Children and Families partnership work and is circulated across all agencies.

An updated Early Help action plan was submitted to the Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities in December. This plan clearly outlines how policy and practice in the local area is moving from the development stage of the National Matrix into a more mature model which provides a system wide response to Early Help and draws in other transformation programmes and service/ provider strategies.

The Scrutiny report has been circulated to the Devon Children and Families Partnership and Early Help Improvement Board for wider dissemination.

# Agenda Item 4

**Dawn Stabb**

Head of Education and Learning

**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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Room: 130, County Hall

## Exploitation Strategy 2019-2021

### 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.*

The purpose of this paper is to;

Brief members on the agreed Exploitation Strategy for Children 2018-21. This strategy was agreed by the Safer Devon Partnership in November 2018 and the Devon Children and Family Partnership in December 2018. The Strategy is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The previous child sexual exploitation (CSE) strategy had been agreed in 2015-18 by the then Local Safeguarding Children Board. The South West CSE Peninsula Group in July 18 agreed that 'exploitation' needed to be considered more widely. The strategy needed to address the challenges posed by economic, criminal and sexual exploitation.
- 1.2 Over the last year there had been increasing evidence provided by Devon and Cornwall Police that Devon was being targeted by criminals in larger cities such as London and Liverpool to distribute drugs within Devon. County lines sometimes also referred to as Dangerous Drug Networks (DDN's) is the term for urban gangs supplying drugs into our towns and villages through child criminal exploitation (CCE). This is the use of children from the urban source area or the targeting of local children and vulnerable adults to move both drugs and money. Gangs having established a market base can typically take over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force, coercion and or deception in a term referred to as 'cuckooing'.
- 1.3 A multi -agency group "The County Lines Strategic Forum" was set up with representatives across all partners to ensure a cohesive response to this threat. Protocols were put in place to ensure children found subject to this exploitation were viewed as victims and protected. Disruption activity was undertaken by the police with a multi -agency response to ensure that Devon was a 'hostile environment' for this form of activity. This swift multi agency work has been viewed by the Government as innovative and is being copied by other Local Authorities across Britain. We were also successful in gaining innovation funding through central government funding to undertake a project in Exeter and a project in South Devon with a joint response from both Torbay Council and Devon County Council with the Safer Partnerships in both authorities to target the challenge of gang activity in South Devon.

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## 1.4 Work already undertaken includes:

- Guidance written and cascaded across all partner agencies
- Leaflets and training provided for train the trainers
- Partner Agency Intelligence Form devised, cascaded to agencies and within wider communities such as hotels, taxi firms and other groups to ensure wider understanding
- Protocol agreed and implemented between Devon and Cornwall Police to ensure any child suspected of being involved in County Lines to be treated as vulnerable and a victim.
- Targeted disruption by Devon and Cornwall starting in Exeter and other hotspots across Devon. There are trusted relationships which have enabled a joint response with Adult and Childrens services including the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) being notified prior to the operations ensuring accommodation and services are available to support victims.
- Tracking and understanding of our cohort.
- Guidance updated to ensure clear process for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- All children under 18 are escorted back to their home Local authority or family given accommodation overnight to collect them.
- Agreement with Courts to ensure any bail conditions are supportive to the family and do not cause hardship and promote re- integration to the family

## 2. **Exploitation Strategy**

- 2.1 A Devon Strategy was needed to ensure all forms of exploitation were considered. This was jointly devised by the Devon Children and Families partnership (DCFP) and the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) to ensure a joint response as child sexual, criminal and economic exploitation is rarely a solitary issue, concerns are often multi-faceted and interrelated. These types of abuse are extremely complex and often hidden. They occur when children and young people misplace their trust in peers and/or adults who exercise coercion over them through grooming, intimidation, debt bondage and violence for their own gains. The indicators for exploitation can sometimes be mistaken for 'normal adolescent behaviours'. It requires professionals and the community to gain awareness, knowledge and exercise 'curiosity' to identify the abuse. Children and young people may not recognise the harm they are experiencing and may also be very reluctant to talk and as such all agencies, professionals and the wider community need to be alert to the signs of exploitation and be able to effectively respond.
- 2.2. The scope of this strategy crosses the domains of child sexual exploitation, missing children, gangs, modern slavery and the Prevent Strategy and criminal exploitation as the Devon Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) and the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) recognises that a broader view of safeguarding is required when considering exploitation of children and young people. The DCFP and SDP views exploitation on a continuum that is a consequence of grooming from either within or outside the young person's home by peers or adults. All forms of exploitation for either criminal or sexual gains are equally as abusive and destructive to a young person's outcomes.

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- 2.3. This form of safeguarding promotes the idea that young people's behaviour, levels of vulnerability and resilience are informed by the social, public as well as the private contexts in which young people spend their time. As young people grow they spend increasing amounts of time with their peers independent of carer/parent supervision. During this period of exploration children and young people may be exposed to harmful situations or be vulnerable to abusive and exploitative relationships. To protect them a joint community and professional response is needed to identify the risks. Interventions need to include all the social environments where the exploitation and abuse occurs.
- 2.4. For our strategic preventative and protective efforts to be both purposeful and effective, the strategy recommends that we develop and embed a shared understanding of the problem and the environments and contexts in which exploitation occurs so we can identify wider patterns of concern and intervene to protect victims (or potential victims) and disrupt perpetrators of abuse swiftly and affectively. The format to implement the wider strategy is based upon the 4 P's used widely by police forces across the Country. The use of Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue with expectations set out for each part. This enables a joint conversation with shared understanding.

## **3.0 Next steps**

- 3.1. Exploitation web site across the Safer Devon Partnership and Devon Children and Family Partnership websites has been built and is currently being tested. This will inform all professionals and the wider public about exploitation, the different types and what everyone can do. It will go live in February 2019.
- 3.2 Implementation of the changes needed to the Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation groups (MACSE ) to Multi Agency Exploitation ( MACE) Groups across Devon also to be implemented in February 2019.

### **Rachel Gillott**

Locality Director (South), Children's Services

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact for Enquiries: Rachel Gillott, Locality Director (South)

email: [rachel.gillott@devon.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.gillott@devon.gov.uk) Tel: 01392 383000

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## Appendix 1 : Exploitation of Children Strategy 2018-2021

### Description

This scope of this strategy crosses the domains of child sexual exploitation, missing children, gangs, county lines, modern slavery and all forms of criminal exploitation. The safeguarding of children and young people from the psychological and physical harm caused by exploitation is a core priority for the Devon Children and Family Partnership (DCFP) and Safer Devon Partnership (SDP). They recognise that a broader view of safeguarding and response is required when considering the exploitation of children and young people.

### Introduction

Child sexual, criminal and economic exploitation is rarely a solitary issue, concerns are often multi-faceted and interrelated. These types of abuse are extremely complex and often hidden, they occur when children and young people misplace their trust in peers and/or adults who exercise coercion over them through grooming, intimidation, debt bondage and violence for their own gains. The indicators for exploitation can sometimes be mistaken for 'normal adolescent behaviours'. It requires professionals and the community to gain awareness, knowledge and exercise 'curiosity' to identify the abuse. Children and young people may not recognise the harm they are experiencing and may also be very reluctant to talk and as such all agencies, professionals and the wider community need to be alert to the signs of exploitation and be able to effectively respond.

The Devon and Cornwall Police Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile on Child Sexual Exploitation (2016-17), the Strategic Profile for Youth Gangs (2017-18) and the Devon Strategic Assessment 2018 (<https://new.devon.gov.uk/emergencies/files/2018/11/Devon-Strategic-Assessment-2017-18.pdf>) advised that a 'contextualising framework' for safeguarding is needed to address the increasing numbers of young people 'at risk' of and in some cases 'perpetrators' of exploitation. This form of safeguarding promotes the idea that young people's behaviour, levels of vulnerability and resilience are informed by the **social, public** as well as the **private** contexts in which young people spend their time. As young people grow they spend increasing amounts of time with their peers independent of carer/parent supervision. During this period of exploration children and young people may be exposed to harmful situations or be vulnerable to abusive and exploitative relationships. To protect them a joint community and professional response is needed to identify the risks. Interventions need to include all the social environments where the exploitation and abuse occurs.

More is now known about further forms of exploitation including the threat of young people being exploited by dangerous drugs networks also known as County Lines. The Safer Devon Partnership has identified with Devon and Cornwall Police via the County Lines Serious Organised Crime Local Profile 2017 that initially young people aged 15-17 who live outside the area were being exploited. This is reflected in the fact that we have seen an increase in the number of modern slavery National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals that involve young people who have been trafficked into Devon to sell drugs. However, in the last 12 months there is an increased risk of local children being targeted and becoming involved. Children who are looked after and those involved with the Youth Offending Teams have an increased vulnerability to exploitation. Children are being targeted and exploited and should be viewed as victims, at risk and in need of protection.

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In Devon, there is growing evidence of the strong links between exploitation, missing, drugs, gangs and youth violence. Our approach to tackling the problem must be collaborative, inclusive and multiagency, supported by purposeful leadership across the Partnerships. We need to ensure that through collective efforts we work together to protect children.

## Types of exploitation

Child exploitation is the act of using a child or young person for profit, labour, sexual gratification (virtual or in person), or some other personal or financial advantage. Child exploitation often results in cruel or harmful treatment of the child, as the activities he or she may be forced to take part in can cause trauma, emotional, physical, and social problems.

## Sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse. Children and young people in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection because of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.

Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs. Child sexual exploitation is a hidden crime. Young people often trust their abuser and don't understand that they're being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what's happening.

It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults, including oral and anal rape. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - a family member, friend or professional. The law states that consent is only valid where a young person can make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or are fearful of what might happen if they don't comply (all of which are common features in child exploitation) consent cannot legally be given whatever the age of the child.

## Criminal exploitation, County Lines and Gangs

County lines, sometimes referred to as Dangerous Drug Networks (DDN's) is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs into our local market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone numbers, often referred to as 'graft phones' or 'deal lines'. It can often involve child criminal exploitation (CCE) using children from the urban source area or the targeting of local children and vulnerable adults to move both drugs and money. Gangs having established a market base can typically take over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force, coercion and or deception in a term referred to as 'cuckooing'.

Gangs can typically recruit and exploit children and young people to courier drugs and cash either within their area or to another location across the Country. Gangs recruit through deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. Sexual exploitation is also used in gangs to:

- exert power and control over members

# Agenda Item 5

- initiate young people into the gang
- exchange sexual activity for status or protection
- entrap rival gang members by exploiting girls and young women
- inflict sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

Girls and young women are frequently forced into sexual activity by gang members. Research by [Beckett \(2012\)](#) found girls considered to be engaging in casual sex were seen as forfeiting their right to refuse sex. The 2016 runaway and Missing children and Adults, all Party Parliamentary Group Report found that “patterns of grooming children for criminal exploitation are very similar to sexual exploitation. In the past CSE was often perceived amongst professional’s as the young person’s fault, or due to risky behaviour. We believe that in some areas of the UK a similar culture currently exists around criminal exploitation by gangs”. The majority of sexual exploitation within gangs is committed by teenage boys and men in their twenties ([Borowitz et al, 2012](#)).

## Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Child trafficking and modern slavery are child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.

Children are trafficked for:

- child sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs and bag theft.

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another

## Radicalisation/Prevent

The Government recently launched a new counter terrorism strategy ([CONTEST](#)). PREVENT is one of the four strands of the strategy. The purpose of PREVENT is, at its heart, to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Individuals who are risk of being radicalised or who are believed to be in the process of being radicalised, including children and young people, should be referred into PREVENT so that partners can assess the risk and, if deemed appropriate, formulate a plan to stop the individual becoming further drawn towards terrorism or supporting violent extremist activity.

While no single factor will cause someone to become radicalised, several factors can converge to create the conditions under which radicalisation can occur. These factors include background, aspects of someone’s personal circumstances, which might make them vulnerable to exploitative individuals and /or organisations. They may be influenced by, peoples, ideas or experiences that influence an individual towards supporting extremism/a terrorist movement; and an ideological opening, or receptiveness to extremist ideology. They may be struggling with a sense of identity, are distanced from their cultural or religious



# Agenda Item 5

background, questioning their place in society, may have suffered a traumatic event, have difficulty in interacting socially, lacking empathy. Most individuals experiencing this combination of factors will not go on to become involved in terrorism because there are protective factors that prevent them from doing so. These range from having no opportunity to develop extremist contacts, to having other more important priorities in their lives (such as a family or community involvement). A small number of people who lack these protective factors may become radicalised. In these circumstances, a range of social and ideological influences can combine to intensify commitment to a terrorist cause and provide opportunities for them to act.

## Outline of strategy

This document provides the strategic pathway to ensure all strands of exploitation are brought together to ensure greater understanding and collective response.

Any strategic approach needs to be in line with national and local policies. All activities and services referenced in this document must be underpinned by a robust evidence base for practice.

## Purpose and Aims

Exploitation of Children and Young People is located within a wider context of risk and harm. For our strategic preventative and protective efforts to be both purposeful and effective, we must develop and embed a shared understanding of the problem and the environments and contexts in which exploitation occurs, so we can identify wider patterns of concern and intervene to protect victims (or potential victims) and disrupt perpetrators of abuse swiftly and affectively. The scope of this strategy crosses the domains of child sexual exploitation, missing children, gangs and criminal exploitation as the Devon children and Families Partnership (DCFP) and the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) recognises that a broader view of safeguarding is required when considering exploitation of children and young people. The DCFP and SDP views exploitation on a continuum that is a consequence of grooming from either within or outside the young person's home by peers or adults. All forms of exploitation for either criminal or sexual gains are equally as abusive and destructive to a young person's outcomes.

This strategy should be read alongside the:

- Adolescent Safety Pathway - operation document (under development)
- CSE - Peninsula Strategy
- Substance Misuse Strategy
- Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy (under development)
- Youth Justice Strategy
- Safer Devon Partnership's Community Safety Agreement and the 2018 Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder (Threat, Risk and Harm) in Devon
- Youth Homelessness Protocol
- Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Missing Children Policy and Procedures

The aims of this strategy will be overseen by the Complex Safeguarding Group which reports to the DCFP (which includes SDP and Devon Safeguarding Adults Board representation).

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The following model provides a structure on which to base operational activities:



## Prepare

All Local Leaders and Partners across Devon have a responsibility to safeguard children from harm. They have a shared responsibility to understand the problem, have an agreed and coordinated approach to tackle it and an uncompromising tenacity and ambition to ensure that a zero-tolerance culture is developed that allows no child or young person to be exploited within our communities. That each organisation highlights the issue of child exploitation and informs its employees and other partners on how to identify a child at risk and pathways to ensure information is shared.

We must exercise and model positive and proactive curiosity about what life is like for children and young people in Devon, provide challenge to systems and practices that exclude and blame vulnerable children and young people and appropriately challenge harmful and exploitative situations.

## Prevent

- The safety of children and young people is prioritised across the partnerships including partner agencies, political and community leaders and that this is reflected and owned within their respective strategic ambitions.
- Individuals living and working in Devon from businesses, professional and nonprofessional backgrounds, grassroots organisations, the voluntary sector, community and faith groups are effectively engaged and know what to do if they are worried about a child or young person. Schools and colleges will recognise grooming behaviours, understand the nature of consent and be able to evidence preventive measures.
- Risks to children and young people are considered in the systems and context in which they live, learn and grow and which recognise the valuable contributions of their families, schools, neighbourhoods and communities make towards achieving successful outcomes.
- All agencies understand the responsibility and pathways for information sharing under [Working Together 2018](#). That multi-agency information and intelligence is gathered and shared to identify early, those children and young people at the greatest risk of exploitation.
- That all agencies mobilise early help multi-agency intervention, targeted at children at risk of experiencing adversity arising from exposure to familial violence, poverty, parental mental health or substance misuse or from being excluded from school
- Multi Agency information and intelligence is gathered to identify risks and vulnerabilities in groups, communities and individuals
- Early help is effective in building resilience and preventing vulnerabilities from escalating into social or educational exclusion, neglect and abuse. We will do this through 'working together within localities, towns and communities to support children who need support'.
- A universal approach to building resilience of children and young people is promoted through services such as childrens centres, and the SDP funded initiative that aims to

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support the development of confident and skilled professionals in effectively delivering personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and 'relationships and sex education' (RSE). In addition to this there is a desire by the Emotional Health Workstream of the Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) to test a whole school approach to promoting resilience in children and young people. A [Resilience Framework](#) is being considered, amongst other approaches, that focuses on five aspects; basic necessities, belonging, coping, learning and core self (Hart & Blincow, 2007).

- Trusting relationships are built between partners and with families and children to hold and support risk, provide training and build awareness about how children and young people can keep themselves safe online, in their homes, schools and communities.
- The need for statutory youth offending and or safeguarding interventions is reduced
- Families feel supported and informed about risks and know how to access support.
- The DCFP partnership is to ensure professionals have a good understanding of normal adolescent behaviours and the concept of 'consent
- The use of technology is recognised as potential platforms from which exploitation can occur and present opportunities to understand the early indicators of local issues and tensions.

## Protect

To identify and protect children and young people who are being coerced or exploited to engage in harmful and illegal behaviour and our shared ambition to provide rapid and effective protective multi agency response and support to the child, family community and community. Thereby ensuring that children and young people are kept safe with partnerships that wrap around vulnerability to protect them from harm.

All agencies and professionals co-operate and collaborate to build a clear and accurate picture of a child or young person's circumstances and who can be involved to provide protection.

## Outcomes

- Multi agency information and intelligence is gathered and shared to identify children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, to map hotspots, trends and risks in missing episodes, victim and perpetrator identification and criminal activity involving children including County Lines
- Professionals across DCFP and the SDP have relevant and proportionate knowledge of risk and vulnerability factors as they relate to the exploitation of vulnerable adolescents.
- That professionals take part in the addressing these challenges where possible in the early help, child in need arena to ensure support is at the earliest point and/ or (Vulnerable Risk Meetings tbc).
- A non-pathologizing culture is developed in which exploited children and young people are always recognised and supported as victims
- There is a common understanding and language of exploitation and its impact on victims and their families

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- Multi- Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Panels will ensure that the risks and needs in an area can be identified at the earliest point and measures put in place to protect vulnerable families and children.

## Pursue

Victims must be assured that all partners are working together to safeguard them through robust enforcement activity. Young people should be protected within their own community and that moving the child victim out of the home or to 'placements' at distance is minimised and only used in very exceptional circumstances.

- All legal options will be considered to ensure the exploitation is disrupted and a child or young person is safe from the perpetrator
- Agencies flexibly apply the full range of disruption tactics available through the criminal and civil routes to protect children and young people including but not exclusive to:
  - Child abduction Notices
  - Sexual Risk Orders
  - Sexual Harm Prevention Order
  - National Referral Mechanism
- Information is shared to assist with prosecutions and in relation to highlighted locations, perpetrators or suspected perpetrators within communities, school networks and other relevant organisations

## Atkinson Secure Children's Home

### 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.*

#### 1. Background to the Report

- 1.1 The Atkinson Secure Children's Home is one of 15 secure children's homes providing secure accommodation to children across England. Demand for secure beds far outstrips supply. It is not uncommon to be unable to secure a place in a secure children's home. Some secure homes meet the needs of children who are secured through criminal proceedings, others are designated for welfare, some do both. Atkinson is a welfare secure home. Children are placed there because professionals and courts have determined it is in their best interest, because of the risks to which they would be exposed in a non-secure setting. Inevitably this means that secure children's homes are designed to meet the very highest levels of need in children. This makes the work, while intensely rewarding, extremely demanding.
- 1.2 The DfE has invested significant capital in Atkinson to support the Local authority in the delivery of the function. The DfE plans to move to a commissioning model in 2020/21. Their intention is to commission sufficient capacity to meet need and reduce the financial risk to those Local Authorities that host a secure children's home. Most Local Authorities in the South East/South West, that operate secure children's homes, are reporting a situation similar to Devon, where the recruitment of staff is becoming an increasingly challenging proposition. In the North East and North West there are much higher levels of unemployment and a residential child care role may be a more attractive proposition.
- 1.3 The Atkinson is the only secure children's home in the South West and is very highly valued by neighbouring Local Authorities. The next closest secure home is in Hampshire. Placing very vulnerable children far away from their home is often inevitable and is recognised as almost invariably having an adverse impact on their outcomes.

#### 2. The Atkinson Secure Children's Home

The recent Ofsted interim inspection (30th October 2018) confirmed that the home has evidenced sustained effectiveness as a 'Good' provision. A full inspection is expected before the end of March 2019.

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- 2.1 The home has space for 12 young people. Staffing levels have never been sufficient to enable this number of placements. The ratio of staff support, for example 1:1,2:1 or even 3:1, impacts on the number of children that can be safely looked after at any time. Admissions decisions are the responsibility of the Registered Manager, who has to take into account the matching of children and staff and children with other children, ensuring all children can be safely cared for. Currently, there are 5 young people in placement; 3 requiring standard levels of staff support, one requiring 2:1 support and one requiring 1:1 support.

Low levels of occupancy impact adversely on budget forecast. The current occupancy level is not sustainable financially. We expect the planned commissioning approach by central government will help to resolve this.

- 2.2 The recruitment of residential care workers, who have the resilience and skills to undertake intensive direct work with young people in this setting requires careful selection, induction and ongoing support to ensure they remain in their posts. Exit interview analysis reveals a mismatch between what staff expect from the role and their actual experience given the complex emotional needs of children placed, the need to physically intervene at times and the level of verbal and physical assaults they can experience. During the second half of 2018, considerable support has been offered via Devon County Council's Human Resources Team to develop the recruitment approach and this has proved successful.

- 2.3 Since April 2018, there have been three recruitment cycles, each resulting in several applicants and a selection of candidates being taken forward to recruitment. Changes have been made to the process, since September 2018, including:

- Inviting interested candidates to information sessions prior to making an application. This gives them realistic information about the role and the work involved.
- Candidates who are offered employment are invited to undertake a series of 'shadow shifts' so that they can try before their final recruitment is confirmed. This initiative has been in place since September 2018 and we wait to evaluate the impact of this on retention over the coming months.

- 2.5 The home will continue to hold a rolling programme of recruitment activity throughout the coming year to anticipate any ongoing vacancies.

- 2.6 In September 2018 there were 9 residential care staff vacancies and active efforts to recruit have been ongoing. 5 permanent members of staff have been offered posts and are all due to commence work in early January 2019. They will have a period of induction / shadowing and training to support them in their role and occupancy is expected to increase once new staff have settled in their roles. Assuming a satisfactory period of induction, the plan between now and the end of the current financial year is to increase occupancy to seven young people (four standard placements and three young people requiring 1:1 support).

2.7 A range of support is offered to promote retention, including:

- A robust induction programme to support residential workers' understanding of all processes and requirements for their role
- Comprehensive training in trauma informed practice approaches
- Close support while on shift via an experienced Team Leader
- Regular monthly supervision
- Team meetings that support reflection and training needs
- On-site CAMHs support/consultation for staff to review their experience of work with young people.

Consideration is being given to a range of financial retention options, such as, increasing the current secure allowance paid, or offering market supplements. Work is ongoing with Human Resources to consider which option(s) may be appropriate and to develop these through relevant processes.

2.8 In addition to the changes to the recruitment and retention activity included in the report, the following actions have been taken:

- The Chief Officer has written to the Department of Education to enquire if there is any additional support that might be offered to support the home. No additional support is available from this source.
- Charges to local authorities for placement at the home have been increased and came into effect from 1 January 2019.
- Budget planning for 2019/2020 have been built on the basis of a maximum occupancy of 10 and assuming an 80% average occupancy over the year.

### 3. Conclusion

3.1 Atkinson is a very highly valued, national resource. The financial burden of budget shortfall currently falls to Devon County Council. This should be significantly mitigated by the commissioning approach planned for 2020/21. The needs of this group of children and particularly complex and behaviours can be very difficult to manage. The workforce with the moral purpose to persevere to ensure children's complex needs are met is limited. Children's residential care generally and the secure estate in particular is under extraordinary pressure. This will continue to be an area of focused attention for Children's Social Care

#### **Darryl Freeman**

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

Children's Services

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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## **Devon Education and Learning**

### **Education and Learning Performance Report Interim Quarter 3 - 2018/19**

### **Update and discussion Brief**

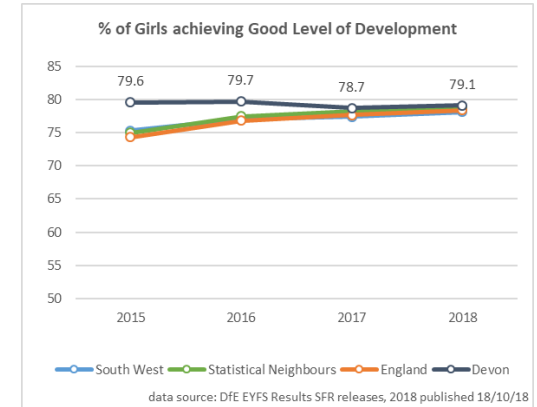
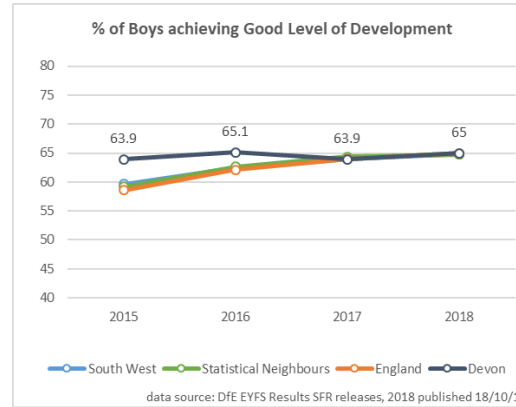
**This report provides additional information based on pupil characteristics which was not available when the annual education attainment report was provided in November.**

Also included is an update on schools that were judged inadequate.

# 1 Closing The Gap Early Years Foundation Stage 2017/18 outcomes

## EYFS – Gender

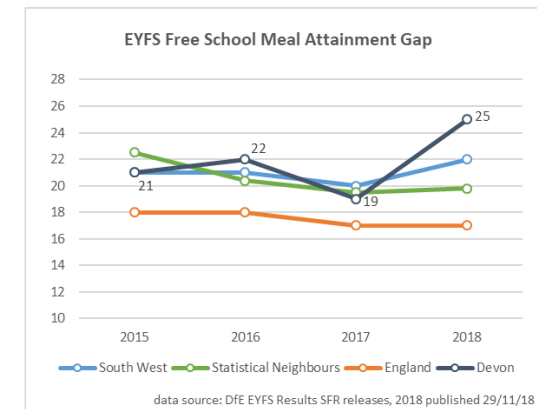
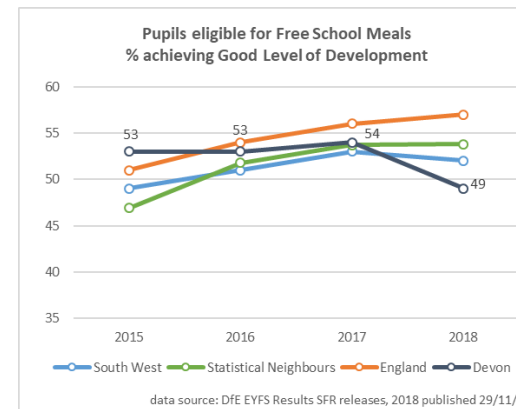
Girls continue to outperform boys in EYFS. 79.1% of Devon girls achieve a good level of development compared to 65% of boys. Devon girls perform better than nationally (78.4%) and regionally (78.1%) whilst Devon boys are in line with the national average (65%) and slightly better than regional (64.8%). The gap between boys' and girls' attainment is a concern and we have developed an Early Years improvement programme to secure improvement in this area.



## EYFS Free School Meal pupils

The percentage of FSM pupils achieving a good level of development has fallen in the last year (49% compared to 54% previously). Devon's FSM pupils are not performing as well as nationally (57%).

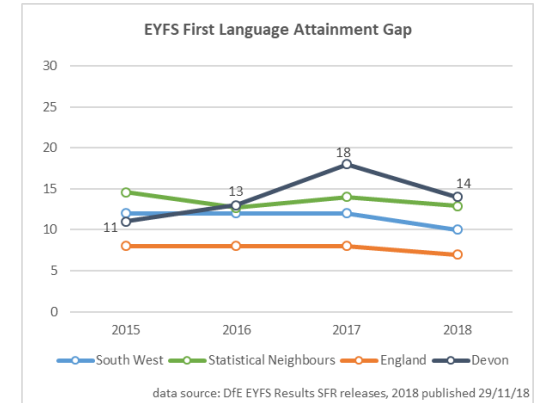
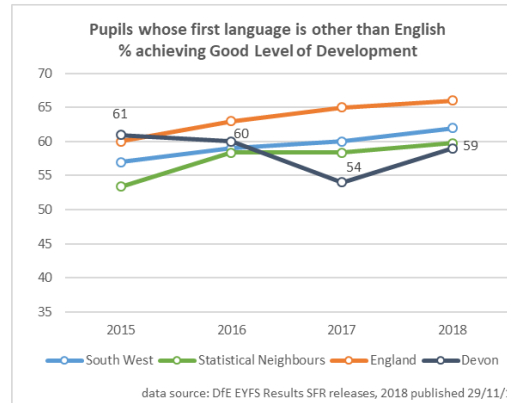
Devon's attainment gap between FSM pupils and all other pupils has widened from 19% to 25%. Work to improve this will again be part of the Early Years improvement programme.



# 1 Closing The Gap Early Years Foundation Stage 2017/18 outcomes

## EYFS – First Language other than English pupils

The performance of pupils whose first language is other than English has improved in the last year, with 59% achieving a good level of development. As a result of this, the attainment gap between pupils with a first language other than English and those whose first language is English has also improved (narrowing from 18% gap previously to 14%). Devon's pupils are not performing as well as nationally where the gap is narrower.



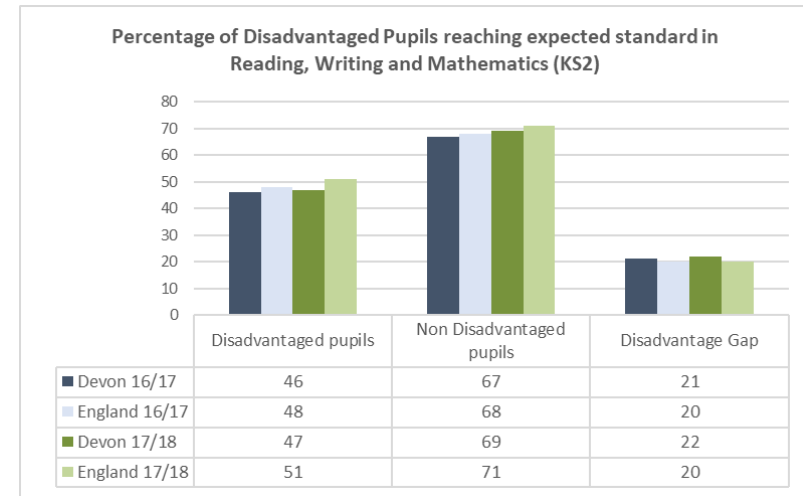
**Progress for the universal group of pupils in Devon has decreased but has remained above that seen nationally, regionally and with our statistical neighbours in Reading and Maths. Progress in Writing is now just below other averages.**

**Key Stage 2 – Disadvantaged\* Pupils**

Recently published information indicates that 47% of Devon’s disadvantaged pupils reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics in 2017/18. This is a slight improvement on the previous year. However Devon’s disadvantaged pupils are not performing as well as nationally.

The attainment gap between Devon’s disadvantaged pupils and their counterparts has remained relatively stable (widening by 1 percentage point). Devon’s attainment gap is slightly wider than the national average (22% compared to 20% nationally).

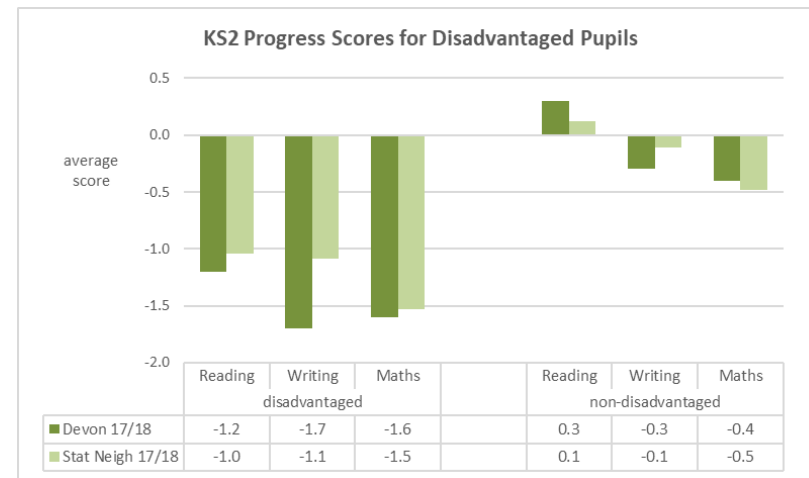
\* those registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years, children looked after by the LA and children who left care in England and Wales through adoption or via a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangements Order.



**Key Stage 2 – Progress Scores Disadvantaged\* Pupils**

Nationally, and in each of the three subjects, disadvantaged pupils do not progress as well as all other pupils. This is also reflected in the Devon figures; however, our progress scores fell significantly this year and this is a cause for concern. A revised approach to supporting schools’ work with disadvantaged pupils has been developed. Schools’ response to this may however be affected by the funding issues they are facing. The Local Authority’s and schools’ aspirations for these pupils remains high.

Disadvantaged pupils in Devon make similar progress to their statistical and regional neighbours in Reading and Maths but do not make as much progress in Writing (-1.7 in Devon compared to -1.1 with statistical neighbours).

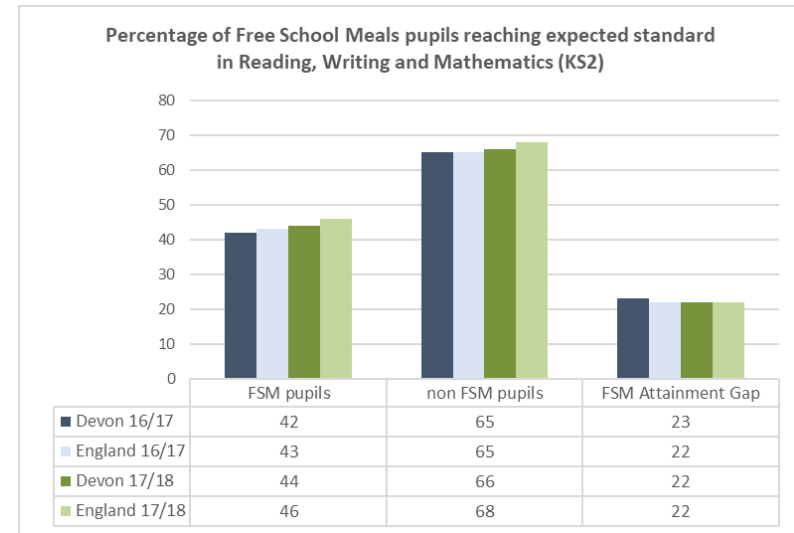


# 1 Closing The Gap Key Stage 2 pupil characteristics results 2017/18

## Key Stage 2 – Free School Meal Pupils

Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths for Devon's Free School Meals pupils has seen improvement on the previous year. 44% of FSM pupils achieved the expected standard compared to 42% previously.

Devon's improved performance has therefore reduced the attainment gap between the FSM and non FSM cohorts by one percentage point and Devon is now in line with the national average (22%).

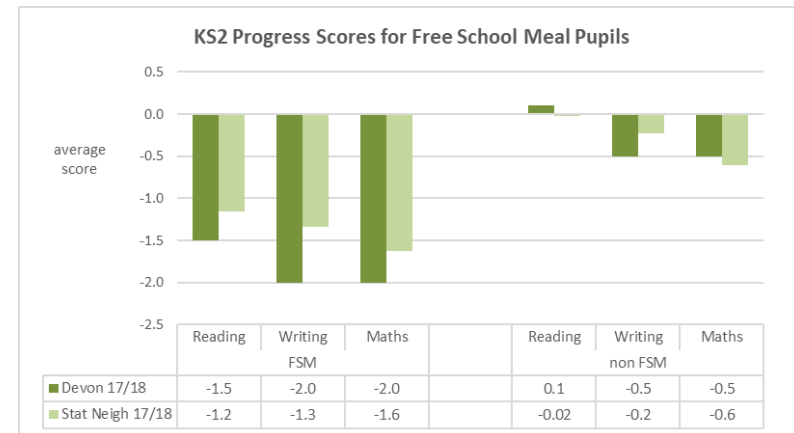


## Key Stage 2 – Progress Scores Free School Meal Pupils

The number of children eligible for FSM in Devon has seen a dramatic fall this year. Whilst the exact reason is not known, initial hypotheses link this to high employment levels and subsequent changes in benefit support. Whilst in many ways a higher rate employment is encouraging, a low wage economy means that the income of many of the families is broadly similar to when they were entitled to FSM but, as they are no longer eligible, the schools no longer receive the additional pupils premium funding to support them.

Free School Meal pupils do not progress as well as their non-FSM peers. The difference in progress between the two cohorts is on average one and a half scaled score points in Devon (-1.5). Devon's Free School Meal pupils are not making as much progress as their statistical neighbours whose difference between cohorts is on average is one scaled score point (-1.1).

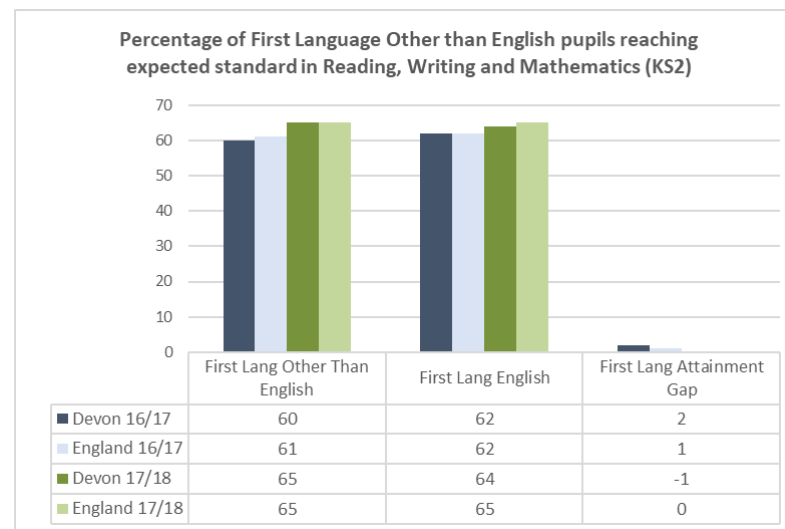
Free School Meal pupils in Devon make most progress in Reading, followed by Writing and Maths, this is a similar trend to their non-disadvantaged peers.



**Key Stage 2 – First Language other than English Pupils**

The performance of Devon pupils whose First Language is other than English has improved significantly in the last year. 65% of these pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, an improvement of 5 percentage points on the previous year.

The attainment gap between pupils whose First Language is other than English and those whose First Language is English has also improved. Devon’s pupils whose First Language is other than English are now performing slightly better than their counterparts. The gap has reduced down and is now better than the national average.

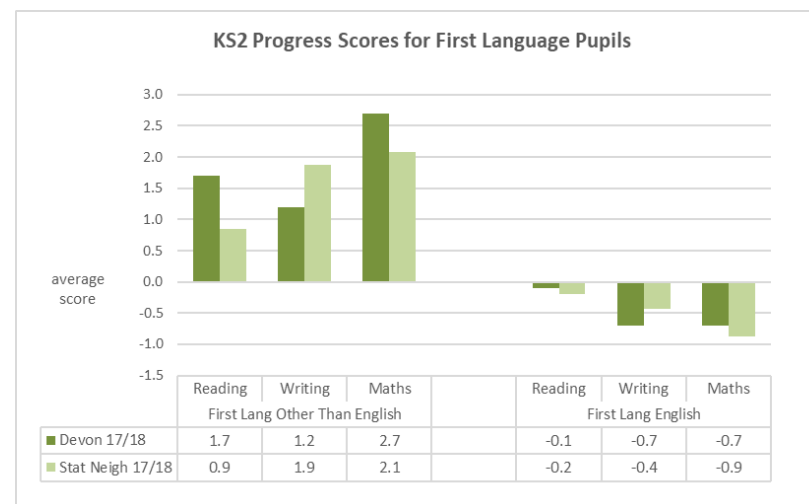


Data Sources: LA tables in 2017/18 SFR: National curriculum assessments at key stage 2, 2018 (revised), LA tables in 2016/17 SFR69/2017: National curriculum assessments at key stage 2, 2017 (revised)

**Key Stage 2 – Progress Scores First Language other than English**

Pupils whose First Language is other than English make significantly better progress than pupils whose First Language is English. Devon pupils with a First Language other than English make most progress in Maths (+2.7), achieving nearly three and a half scaled score points more than their peers whose First Language is English (-0.7).

Devon pupils with a First Language other than English make better progress than their statistical neighbours in Reading and Maths. They make significantly better progress in Reading (+1.7 compared to +0.9 for statistical neighbours). They do not make as much progress as their statistical neighbours in Writing.



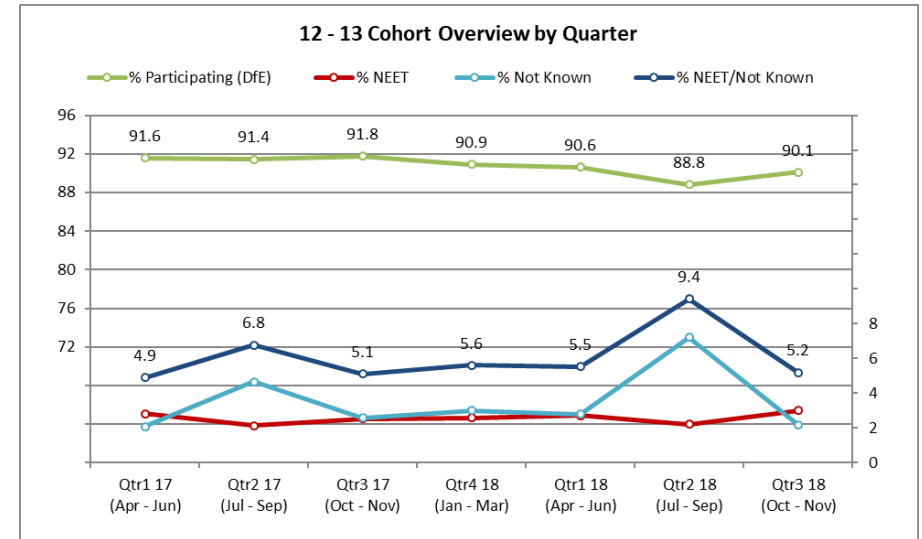
Data Sources: LA tables in 2017/18 SFR: National curriculum assessments at key stage 2, 2018 (revised), LA tables in 2016/17 SFR69/2017: National curriculum assessments at key stage 2, 2017 (revised)

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

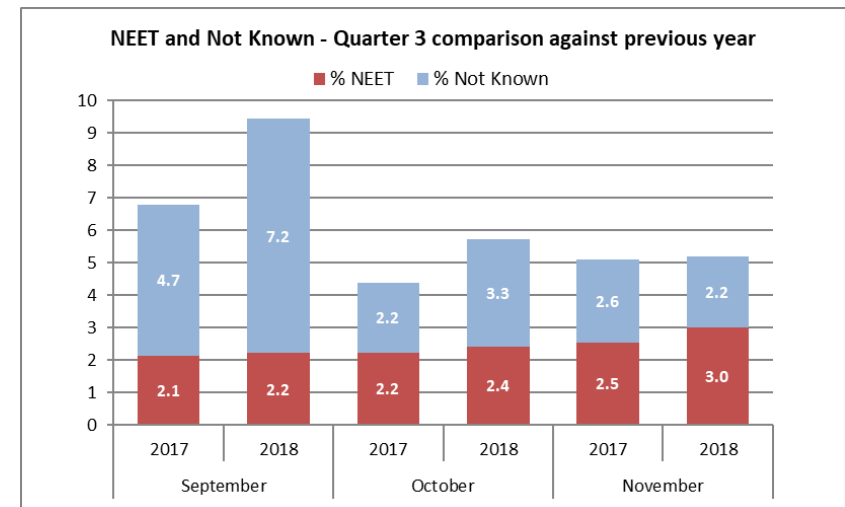
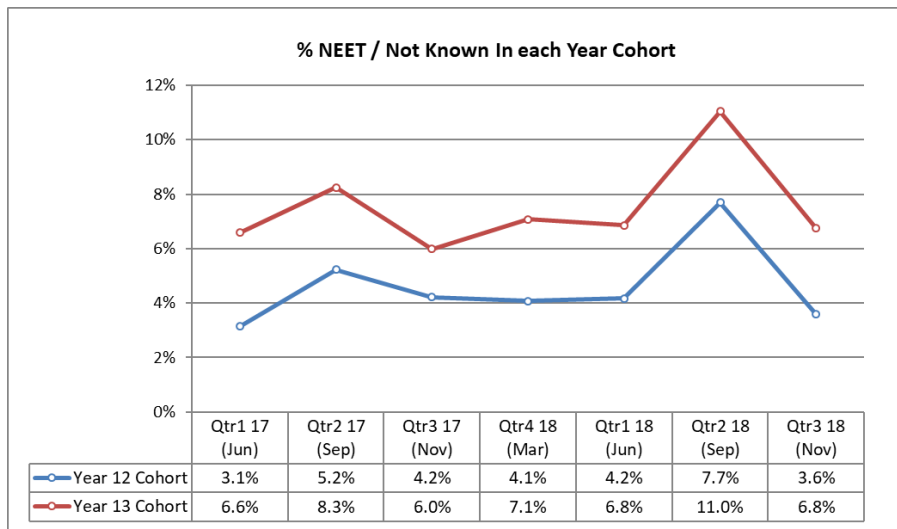
### Overview for 16 and 17 year olds<sup>1</sup> Nov 2018 data

Latest information from Careers South West (Nov 18) indicates that the percentage of young people who are NEET in Devon is slightly higher than the same period last year (3.0% compared to 2.5% in Nov 2017). However the Not Known rate is lower (2.2% compared to 2.6%). This means the combined NEET / Not Known measure for the overall cohort has reduced significantly in the last quarter. This is because confirmation of ongoing study/employment has now been obtained after the summer break and is now similar to the same period last year (5.2% compared to 5.1% previously).

When reviewed by cohorts, Year 12 has the lower NEET / Not Known rate with a rate of 3.6%, slightly lower than the same period last year (4.2%). The NEET/Not Known rate for Year 13 is slightly higher than last year (6.8% compared to 6.0% in Nov 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.



<sup>1</sup> 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 Inclusion Pupil Destinations

### KS4 and KS5 Destinations Overview (Latest National Statistics 2016/17)

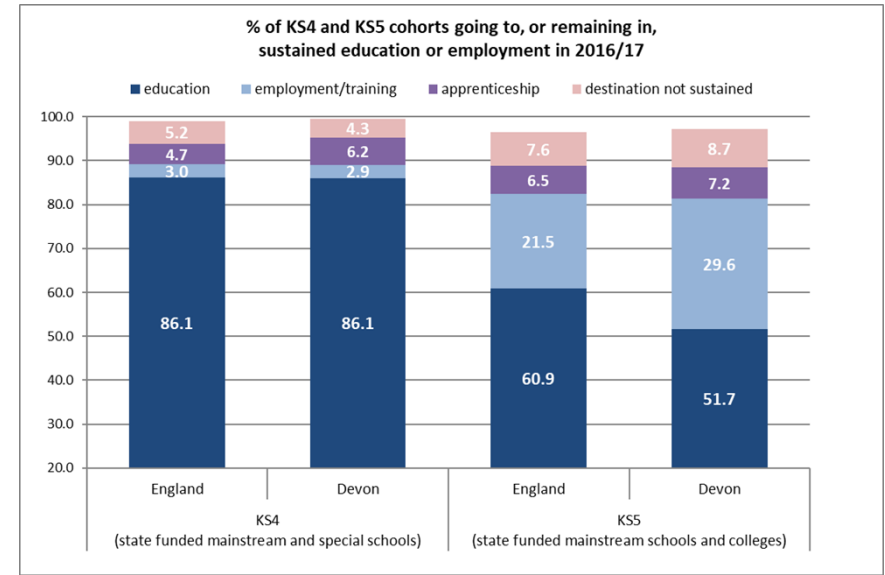
In the year after completing Key Stage 4, 95% of pupils in Devon were in sustained education, employment or training. This is slightly better than the national picture (94%). Only 4% of pupils were in a destination which was not sustained which is slightly better than seen nationally (5%).

88.5% of Key Stage 5 pupils were in sustained education, employment or training, close to the national rate (88.9%).

Whilst fewer pupils in Devon remained in education after Key Stage 5 than nationally (52% compared to 61%) a greater proportion went on to employment or training (30% compared to 22% nationally).

Note: Destination Not Sustained includes;

- pupils who did not have continuous participation from October to March but had some participation between August and July.
- pupils who had no participation in education or employment but had claimed out of work benefits or were recorded as NEET by the Local Authority between August and July



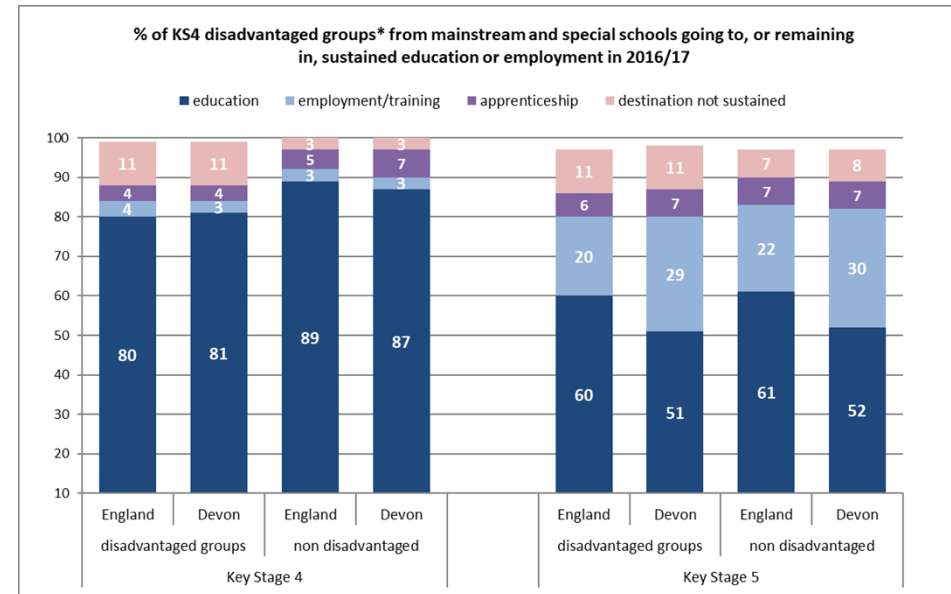
Note: the totals of the sub groups might not match overall total due to rounding of figures

### KS4 & KS5 – Destinations Disadvantaged\* Pupils

Disadvantaged pupils in Devon and nationally are less likely to have a sustained education, employment or training destination than all other pupils. 88% of disadvantaged pupils in Devon were recorded in a sustained destination after Key Stage 4, compared to 97% for all other pupils. Devon reflects the national picture at KS4 (also 88%).

After completing Key Stage 5, 87% of disadvantaged pupils in Devon were in sustained education, employment or training, compared to 89% of all other students. This is better than nationally where 85% of disadvantaged pupils were in a sustained destination.

\* pupils eligible for free school meals in the previous 6 years or have been looked after by the LA





## 2 Inclusion Pupil Destinations

### KS4 Education Destinations – All Pupils (Latest National Stats 2016/17)

The destinations of young people as they turn 16 is shown in the graph opposite. The split between 6<sup>th</sup> form and Further Education (FE) colleges reflects the provision in the Local Authority, where 55% of secondary schools have a sixth form compared to 65% nationally<sup>1</sup>. FE colleges in Devon are of an excellent standard and entry to FE in no way limits the qualification the young person can achieve. In fact, they can progress to degree level with these providers.

Comparisons to previous years cannot be made due to a change in the way apprenticeships are reported which also impacts on reporting of 'FE Colleges & Other FE' destinations.

Slightly more pupils in Devon continue to move on to Apprenticeships than nationally.

Note:

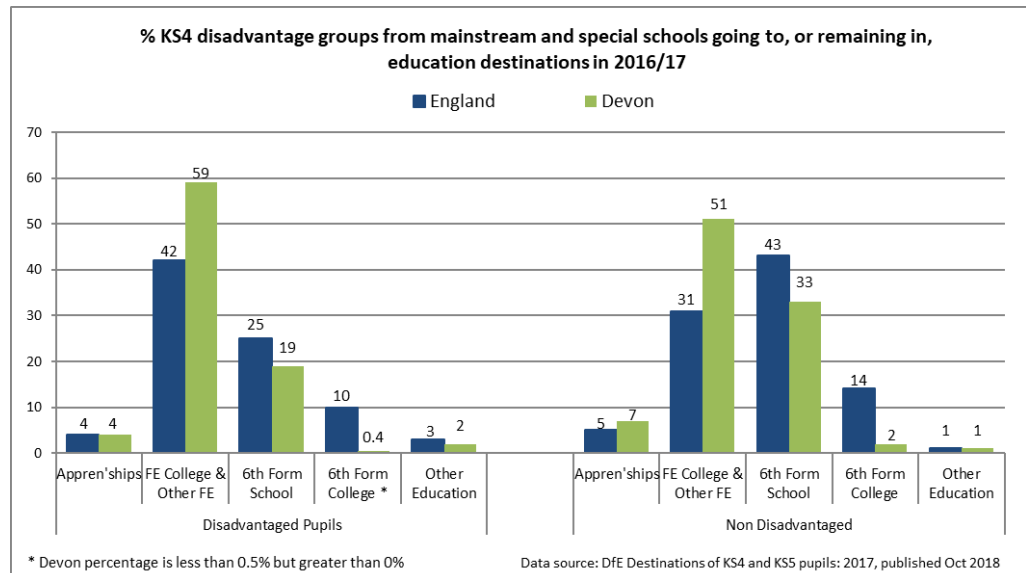
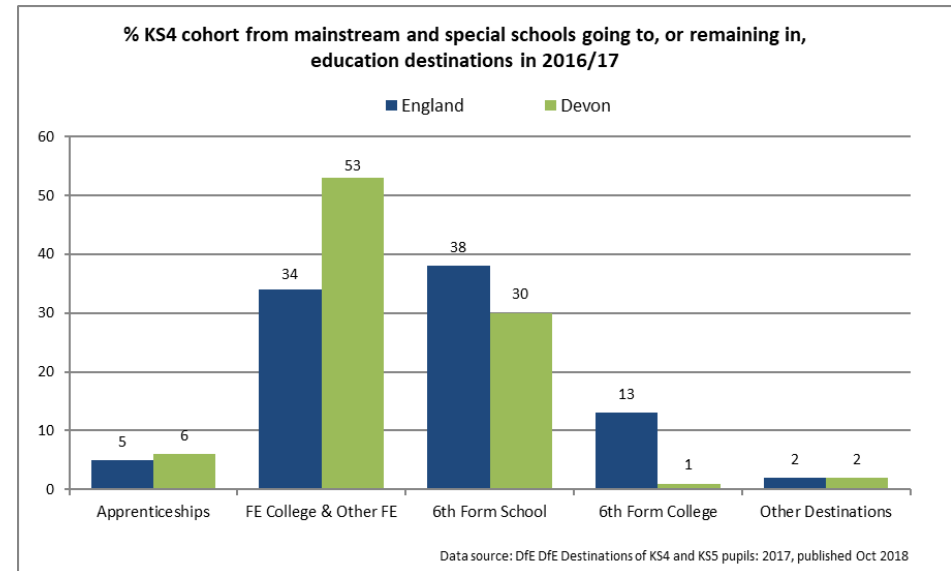
- FE Colleges include other FE providers, such as higher education institutions with FE provision
- Other Education Destinations include independent schools, alternative provision, special schools, specialist post 16 provision and HE institutions

<sup>1</sup> DfE Get Information About Schools, register of schools & colleges in England, Nov 18

### KS4 Education Destinations – Disadvantaged\* Pupils

The destination profile for disadvantaged pupils mirrors the profile for all pupils with the majority of disadvantaged pupils in Devon moving on to FE.

\* pupils eligible for free school meals in the previous 6 years or have been looked after by the LA



## 2 Inclusion Pupil Destinations

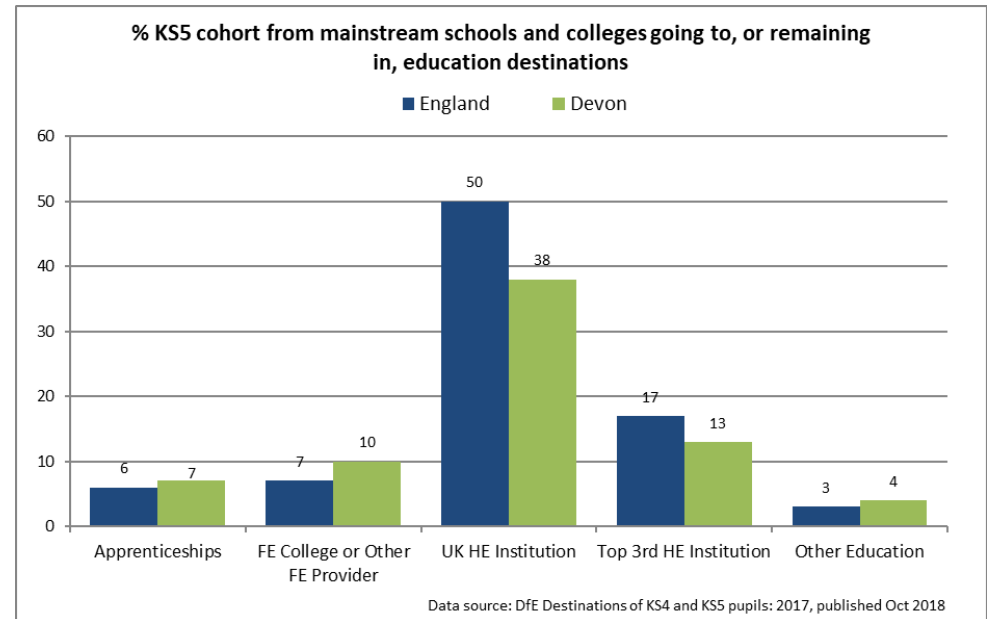
### KS5 Education Destinations (Latest National Stats 2016/17)

At the age of 18 over a third of Devon students in state funded mainstream schools and colleges move on to Higher Education after completing Key Stage 5 (38%). The percentage moving on to a top 3<sup>rd</sup> HE Institution remains stable at 13%, slightly less than nationally (17%). Devon figures are lower than nationally as more students in Devon move on to sustained employment / training (as illustrated in the chart on page 9) rather than Higher Education.

The percentage of students moving on to Apprenticeships has also remained stable at 7% which is slightly higher than the national picture (6%).

Note:

- Top third of HEIs is a sub set of the UK HE Institution group
- Other Education Destinations include independent schools, HE alternative provision, sixth form colleges, special schools and specialist post 16 providers



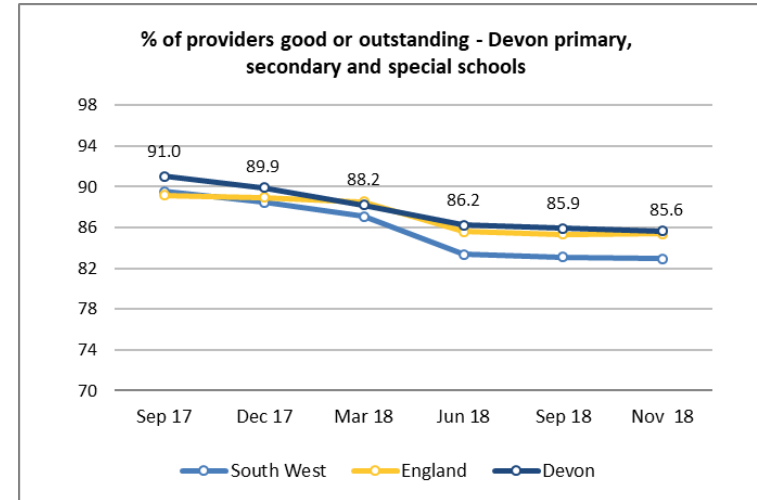
### 3 Quality and Ofsted Outcomes

#### 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. This reflects a National trend and Devon continues to perform better than regionally and nationally with 85.6% of Devon schools currently good or outstanding (82.9% regionally, 85.4% nationally).

Data source: Monthly Management Information: Ofsted's school inspections outcomes, Management Information – Schools – 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018.

86.5% of Devon primary schools have been judged as good or outstanding, which is close to the national average (87%). Devon Secondary schools are performing slightly better than nationally with 76.2% judged as good or outstanding (compared to 75.5% nationally). 100% of Devon Maintained Special Schools are judged to be good or outstanding.

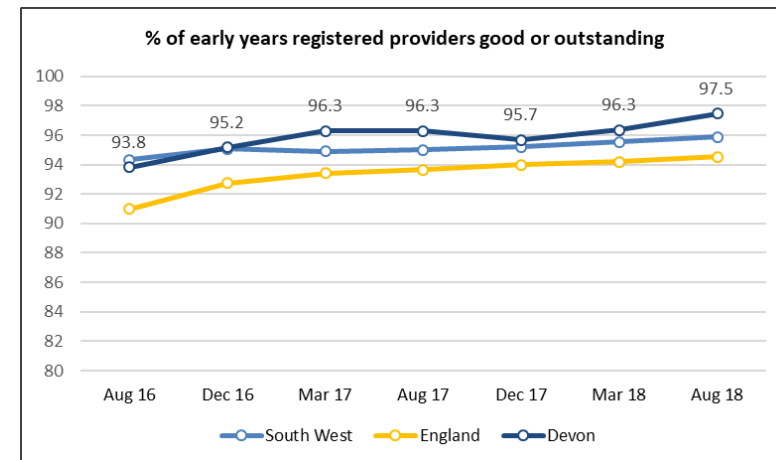


Data Source: DfE Monthly Management Information: Ofsted School Inspection Outcomes, 30 Nov 2018

#### Devon Early Years Registered Providers<sup>1</sup>

Recently published national information indicates that Devon's performance continues to improve with 97.5% of active Early Years registered providers in Devon judged as good or outstanding. Devon continues to perform better than both nationally (94.5%) and regionally (95.9%).

<sup>1</sup> 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 Nov 2018

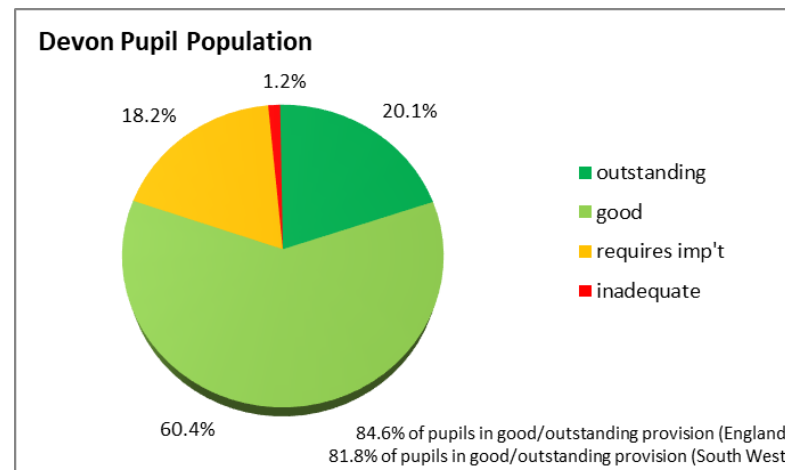
#### Devon Pupils in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools

80.6% (78,278) of Devon pupils<sup>1</sup> are attending schools that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is not as good as the national picture (84.6%) but is close to the regional picture (81.8%). This reflects the fact that some large secondary schools are currently graded as requiring improvement.

77.2% (15,764) of disadvantaged children<sup>2</sup> 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.

86.3% (2,269) of pupils with statements of special educational needs or education, health and care plans<sup>3</sup> 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 Nov 2018

<sup>1</sup> Ofsted MI Report uses Spring 2017 pupil cohorts

<sup>2</sup> Pupil Numbers from DfE Pupil Premium July 2018

<sup>3</sup> Pupil Numbers as at Spring Census 2018

#### Update on schools that have previously been judged inadequate.

##### SchoolsCompany

All the academies in the SchoolsCompany multi academy trust officially transferred to WAVE multi academy trust on 01/11/2018. Wave Multi Academy Trust is an Alternative Provision (AP) Multi Academy Trust (MAT) that delivers education to pupils across Devon and Cornwall. Prior to taking on the Devon schools the trust (then known as Acorn Trust) successfully led 5 Academies 2 of which are graded as outstanding, with the remainder being good.

Wave will now provide the medical and alternative provision places for Devon young people who are unable to attend mainstream school. A comprehensive service level agreement is in place and this includes our expectations in terms of academic and re-integration reporting and monitoring visits to ensure pupils are safe.

The Devon Academies are now known as

- Shoreline Academy in North Devon
- Stansfield Academy in Exeter
- River Dart Academy in Dartington

##### Route 39

Route 39 transferred to Launceston College Multi-Academy Trust on the 1st September 2018. The school now known as Atlantic Academy continues to offer secondary education in a small school environment but with support from an experienced trust.

##### Steiner Academy

An inspection, which took place in October, reported serious concerns regarding the safety and education of the pupils attending the school. These concerns reflected those raised by the LA and the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office at the start of the Autumn term. Partnership arrangements between the Local Authority, Babcock LDP, Regional Schools Commissioners staff, Steiner Academy and the TED Wragg trust have put in place interim support to ensure the school can operate safely whilst longer term arrangements can be made. These arrangements have meant short periods of closure for some year groups to allow for additional staff training to take place.

As an Academy the future of the school will be determined by the DfE and schools interim governing body, however the Local Authority along with Babcock's school improvement and safeguarding teams are continuing to provide support and advice.

##### Yeo Valley Primary School

Following a management partnership that was agreed between the schools governing body and the local authority, Yeo Valley converted on 01/01/2019 to become a sponsored academy as part of Cornerstone trust.



## Performance report: Children's social care

### 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 committee are requested to:

- Receive this report and note the impact of continuing efforts to bring about improvement in a number of practice areas as well as the challenges and pressures that continue to exist in parts of the service.

#### 1. **Background to the Report**

- 1.1 The majority of the business information now available to leaders and managers in children's social care services is provided via an online portal which allows users to better interrogate the available data.
- 1.2 The data behind many of the reports is drawn from CareFirst, the current case management system (CMS). In general, this data is refreshed every two weeks.
- 1.3 Work is in progress to ensure that within as short as possible a period after the implementation of the new CMS (Eclipse), planned for 21 January 2019, a full suite of reports will be available to the service using data drawn from Eclipse which will be updated daily.
- 1.4 This report includes information extracted from the service business information reports and also, from use of the Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT).

#### 2. **Performance information**

##### **Contacts and referrals**

- 2.1 In the three months up to 10 December 2018, the service received 2623 contacts, of which 1262 progressed to referrals. The rate of referrals per 10,000 children aged 0-17yrs is currently 349 indicating a small increase in rate in recent months. We experienced a rise in the rate of referrals during 2017-18 and the current in-year position is expected to fluctuate month-by-month and is closely monitored.
- 2.2 The re-referral rate (children with more than one referral in the 12 months prior to the reporting date) has risen from a reported 19% at 31 March 2018 to 22% at 10 December 2018. The rate varies during the course of a year and is scrutinised by the Senior Management Team. At 22% Devon has a rate almost equal the most recently published England average rate (21.9%) and a slightly higher rate than statistical neighbours (20.5%).

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2.3 Schools, the police, and health services are the three main broad sources of referrals to children’s social care with the percentage of referrals received by these agencies in the past three months being 25%, 21% and 20% respectively.

## Assessments

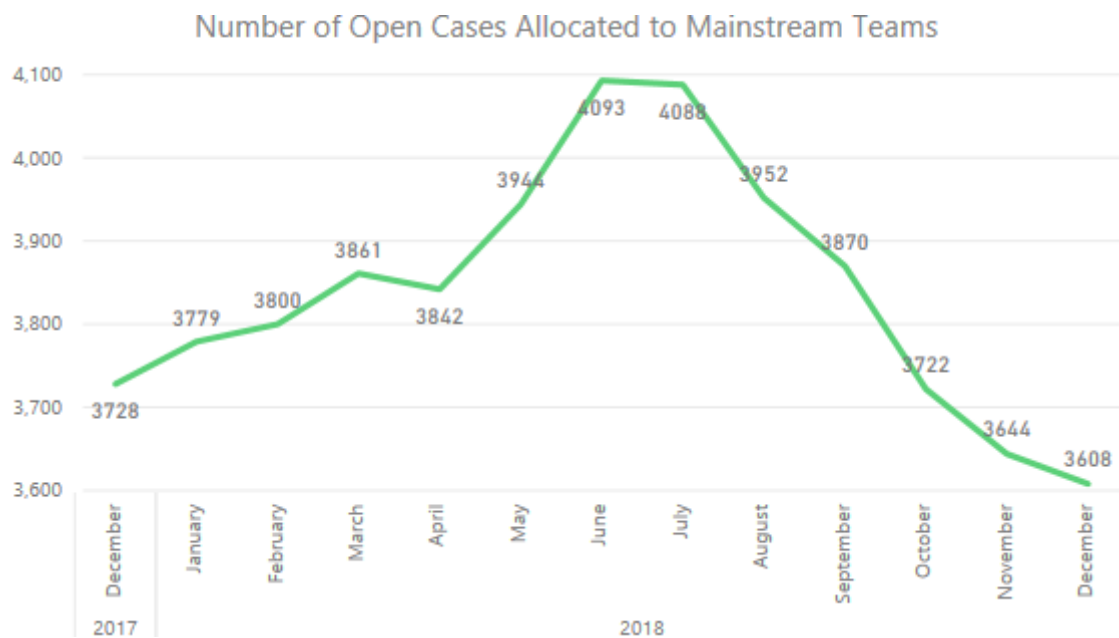
2.4 In the six months up to 10 December 2018 the service completed 3000 single assessments. A further 922 had an assessment ongoing at 10 October 2018.

2.5 67% of the 3000 assessments were completed in 45 working days. The percentage of assessments completed with 45 working days in the year 2017-18 was 77% (compared to 78% among statistical neighbours and 83% as the England average rate). 67% represents an improved position from that seen earlier in the year but falls short of service expectations and managers are working hard to improve the rate of completion and also ensure both the quality of the assessment and the timeliness of provision of support where needed.

2.6 The range of and nature of quality assurance activity in recent months has been extended and continues to indicate that the quality of assessments in those cases audited is improving and each open case having a good quality up-to-date assessment is one of our three service priorities.

## Caseloads

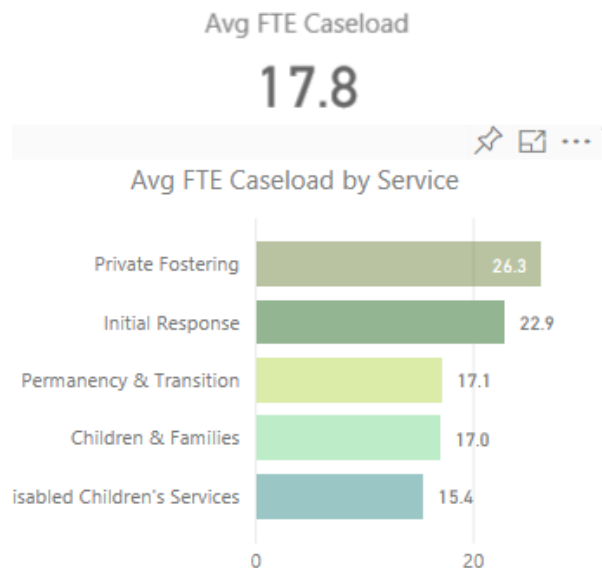
2.7 As at 31 December 2018, the average caseload in case holding social care teams was 17.8 cases. This marks a further period of reducing caseloads across the service. The number of cases allocated to mainstream teams is now lower than at this time last year and the significant reduction in recent months is a result of intensive activity to review caseloads and case work and where appropriate to close cases or to transfer/refer to other services, such as Early Help. It is not anticipated that the number of open cases will continue to reduce at this rate.





2.8 Average caseload by broad service area is illustrated in figure 1.

**Figure 1: Caseloads by service area**



- 2.9 Slightly higher average caseloads still exist in the Initial Response teams but here again we have seen a significant reduction in recent months. The average caseload in Initial response teams had risen to a high of 34.4 cases at the end of July and following management action taken at time we are seeing month-on-month improvement. The average caseloads in these teams at 31 December 2018 was 23 children (compared to 26 children reported in the November Scrutiny Committee report).
- 2.10 Across the service, action has been taken to reduce caseloads by improving workflow and transfer of cases where appropriate; the closure or step-down of cases that no longer required a social work service; the continuation of efforts to recruit to vacant posts; and additional capacity being provided to the South and North locality areas where pressures had been more acute.

### **Children in Need**

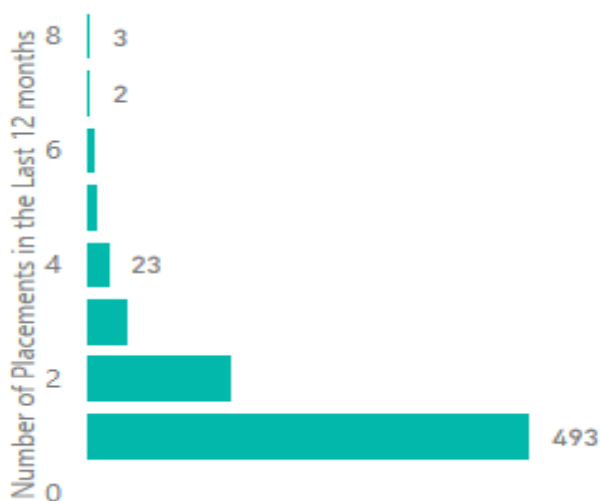
2.11 As at 10 December 2018, there were 3811 children in need being supported by the service (including children the subject of a CP Plan (529); those who are Children in Care (743), and care leavers (451).

### **Children in care and care leavers**

- 2.12 As at 10 December there were 743 children in the care of Devon county council and services were supporting 451 care leavers. This represents a recent increase in the number of children in care and a decrease in the number of care leavers being supported by the service.
- 2.13 123 children in care ceased to be looked after in the past six months (168 become looked after). Of these 123 15% (19 children) ceased to be looked after because they were adopted and 18% (22) ceased to be looked after because a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) was granted.
- 2.14 At 10 December 2018 our rate of children in care per 10,000 children was 51. Whilst the rate has increased in recent months it remains lower than that of statistical neighbours and the most recently published England average rates.

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- 2.15 Almost 3% of our children in care are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
- 2.16 The breakdown of the legal status of our children in care is summarised as follows:
- Interim Care Order 19%
  - Full Care Order 54%
  - Placement Order granted 6%
  - Accommodated under S20 21%
- 2.17 71% of our children in care are placed in foster placements. 52% of our children in care are placed in our own provision. The service continues to experience challenges with regard to the availability and choice of placements available.
- 2.18 22% of our children in care are placed outside Devon which whilst a higher proportion than we would like, is a slowly improving statistic.
- 2.19 88% of our Looked After Children have experienced either one or two placements within the past 12 months but 12% of our cohort have experienced 3 or more moves in the past 12 months. The lower the number who have experienced 3+ moves the better and our rate is higher than we aspire to and is symptomatic of some of the challenges in identifying appropriate placements for some children. The most recently published England average was 10% and the statistical neighbour rate was 11%.



- 2.20 Long-term placement stability. 59% of our current children in care who have been looked after for 2 ½ years or more have been in the same placement for more than 2 years (125 of 212 children). There has been no change in our rate in this current reporting year but the figure is poor compared to most recently published England average rate (70%) and Statistical neighbour rate (69%).
- 2.21 Of 466 young people supported as care leavers we are in touch with 85% of the 17-18yr olds (*Statistical neighbours – 87% and England average 92%*) and 92% of the 19-21yr olds (*Statistical neighbours – 89% and England average – 88%*). This represents an improving position as recognised by Ofsted in their recent focussed visit but there is clearly more to be done to make further improvement.

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2.22 49% of the 17- 18yr olds (*statistical neighbours – 60% and England average – 62%*) and 42% of the 19-21yr olds (*statistical and England average rates – 50%*) are known to be in education, employment or training (EET). This is an improving statistic and the service is working hard to make further improvement.

## Child Protection (CP) plans

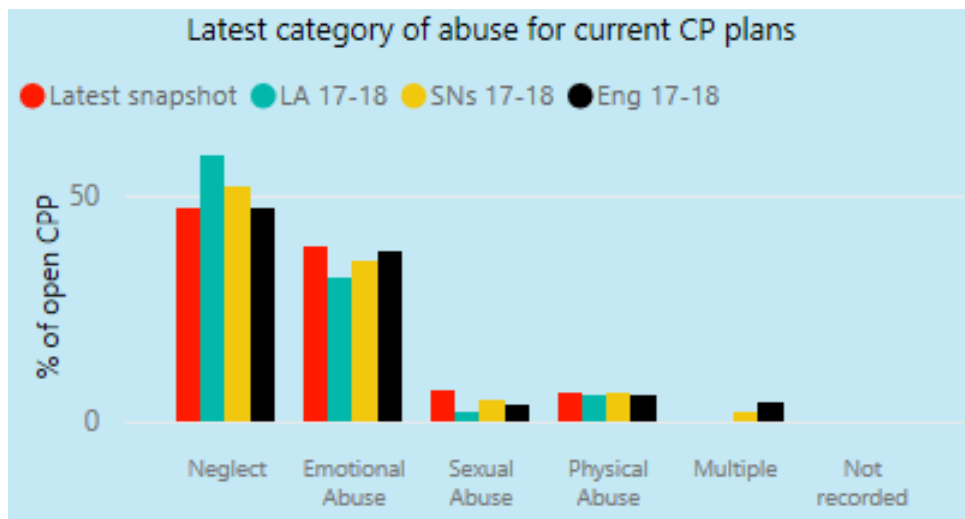
2.23 As at 10 December 2018, 532 children were the subject of a child protection plan.

2.24 We have seen a rise in the number of children the subject of a CP plan recently. The number tends to fluctuate during any given year and is closely monitored and remains below the average rate per 10,000 children among Statistical neighbours and the overall England average.

2.25 In the majority of cases, the duration of the open CP plan is less than 12 months (85%). 14% of open CP plans have been open for between one and two years and 1% have been open for between two and two-and-a-half years.

2.26 The percentage of current CP plans broken down by category of abuse is indicated in figure 2.

Figure 2 : Latest category of abuse for current CP plans

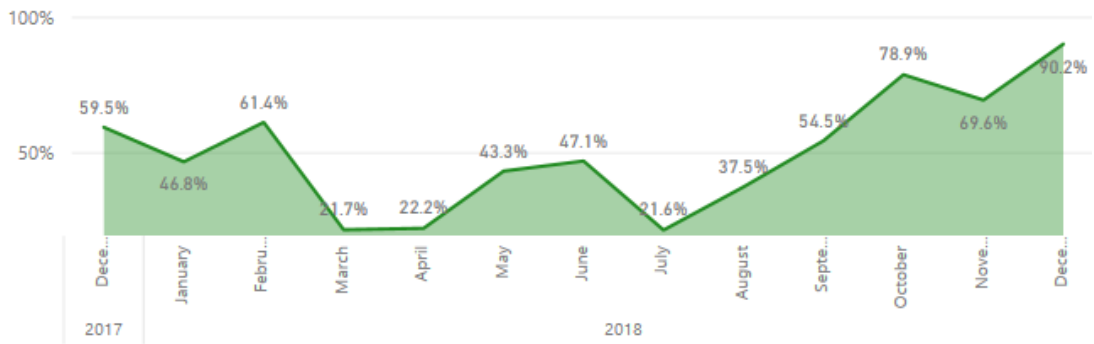


Source: ChAT tool 10/12/18

2.27 It was reported previously that our end-of-year census data had shown the percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within 15 working days of a Section 47 enquiry start date across the year had fallen to 67% (compared to a statistical neighbour average rate of 80% and an England average rate of 77%). Management action initiated in the spring has produced month-on-month improvement since July with 90% of ICPCs held within the required 15 working days in December. (See figure 3).

Figure 3:

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Source: Performance dashboard (PowerBI)

- 2.28 Snapshot data as at 10 December 2018 showed that 89% of children the subject of a child protection plan had been seen by a social within the four weeks prior and that of these, 78% had been seen alone.

## Service Priorities

- 2.29 In the late Spring the service adopted three service priorities that we strongly believe will as improvements are made and the impact of these is embedded will provide a very strong foundation for an environment and culture within which excellent social work practice will flourish. These are:
- Every child will have an up-to-date assessment of need that informs the current intervention.
  - Every child will have a SMART plan that clearly sets out the reason for the intervention and the outcomes to be achieved.
  - All practitioners will receive regular supervision that is of a high standard and that supports excellent practice. This will include observation of practice where appropriate, and appraisal.
- 2.30 Due to the limitations of the current case management systems and the difference systems within which some of this information is recorded there remain challenges in gathering accurate management information to measure progress against these priorities.
- 2.31 As at 31 December 2018 61% of all open cases (excluding finance only cases) have an up-to-date assessment in place (authorised/updated within the past 12 months).
- 2.32 The data relating to plans is more complicated owing the range of different plans and the the different requirements with regard to reviewing and updating these. Snapshot data in December indicated that 89% of children the subject of a CP plan had an up-to-date recorded plan and that 63% of Children Looked After had an up-to-date recorded plan. 68 of children in need cases held in child anf family teams also had an up-to-date assessment. Each of these are likely to be under-reported figures reflecting the challenges in extracting some data from the current case management system.
- 2.33 Our ability to report accurately the supervision rate is challenged by the variance in the manner in which this is recorded. A solution to this is being developed.

## Accelerated Improvement Period

- 2.34 A period of accelerated improvement activity across the service commenced on 1 October and continued until Christmas. The primary focus of this was to:

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- bring caseloads down to a manageable level for all practitioners;
- to close any cases that should no longer be open to children's social care services;
- to intensify the activity related to our three service priorities; and
- to fill where possible any vacant case holding posts (using locums in the short term if a permanent appointment is not possible).

2.35 The impact of this activity has been broadly covered elsewhere in this report with the exception of an analysis of the current workforce profile. An detailed analysis of the current workforce profile will be provided as an appendix to the report presented to the Scrutiny Committee in March 2019.

## **Darryl Freeman**

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

Children's Services

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Children Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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