

Report of the Cabinet Member Children's Services and Skills

I have been asked to report by Councillor Hannaford, as follows for Full Council on 19 July:

- i. *In light of the recent public health report that focused on Child Poverty, could I please request a Cabinet member report on school holiday hunger in Devon.*

I have been further asked by Councillor Connett to report on the following:

- ii. *attendance and educational progress of looked after children in Devon*
- iii. *waiting times for Children's & Adolescent Mental Health Services*

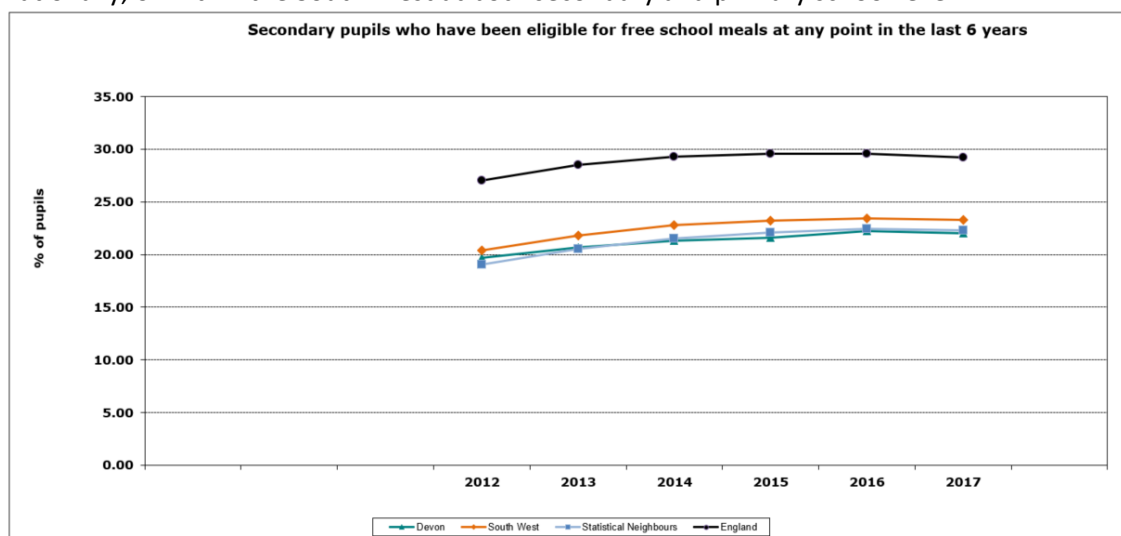
I have been further asked by Councillor Atkinson to report on the following:

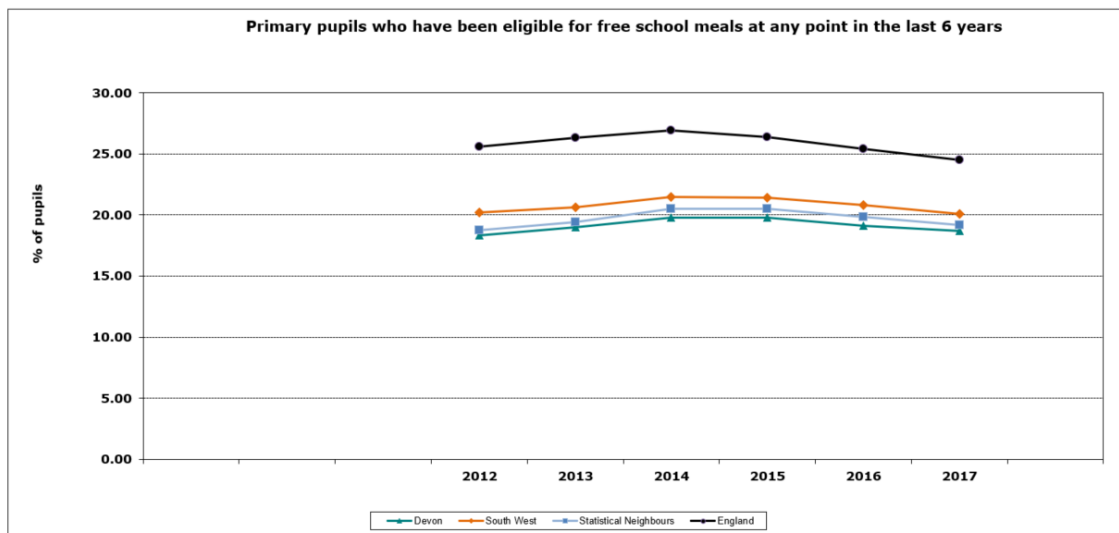
- iv. *We welcome the F40 School Funding Briefing Paper – May 2018 about the fairness of school funding allocation. We note: Its identification that a National Funding formula based upon averages is not appropriate to assess Devon's needs and more work needs to be undertaken to understand the costs of small rural schools. Its recognition that while funding needs to support schools in low deprived areas, and those with higher needs this should not be at the expense of other schools such as those in Devon and pupils with no higher needs. It is understood that Schools across England have 5,366 fewer teachers in the last year. Meanwhile there are 136,544 more pupils. Please provide a report on the position in relation to pupil number and teachers in Rural Devon Schools and Exeter schools where for example it is noted that West Exe school has lost - £377,156 between 2015 & 2020 -£373 per pupil Alphington Primary lost -£75,088 -£178 per pupil.*

Response:

i) Free School Meals / School Holiday Hunger

Devon has a lower number of children of children eligible for and claiming free school meals than that seen nationally, or within the South West at both secondary and primary school level.





These statistics do however mask some areas of high deprivation as outlined in the National state of the Nation report.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017 - Social Mobility in Great Britain.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf))

To support those families in need over the summer the Public Health team have collated information on where families can get free or low cost food onto a searchable webpage.

This website information is being constantly updated as we receive notification of other schemes that are running.

The link to this information has been

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/library/schools/food-poverty-and-schools/free-or-low-cost-food-during-summer-holidays-2018/>

and is also available by **searching for “Devon Free school meals”** the link appears at the top of the webpage.

The link has also been circulated directly to schools, via DAPH and DASH newsletters and to all Children’s Centres, the Public Health Nursing Service and the School Communications Website.

More information on the issue of food poverty is also available here:

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/overview/archive/economy/food-poverty/>

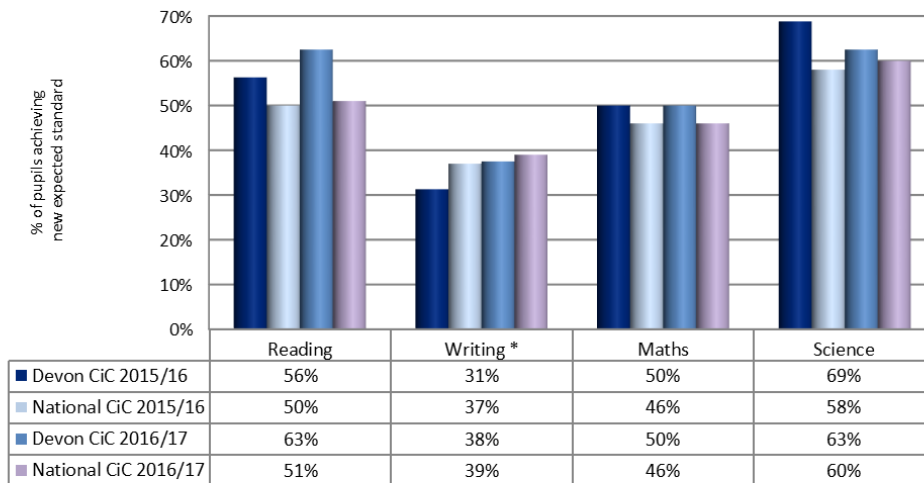
ii) Attendance and Educational Progress of Children in Care

Validated data outlining attendance at school and educational progress of children in care for the academic year 2017/18 will be available during the Autumn term 2018.

Please find below highlights from the 2016/17 Virtual School Annual Report (*DfE published data as at 27 April 2018*). The full annual report is available to view online at:

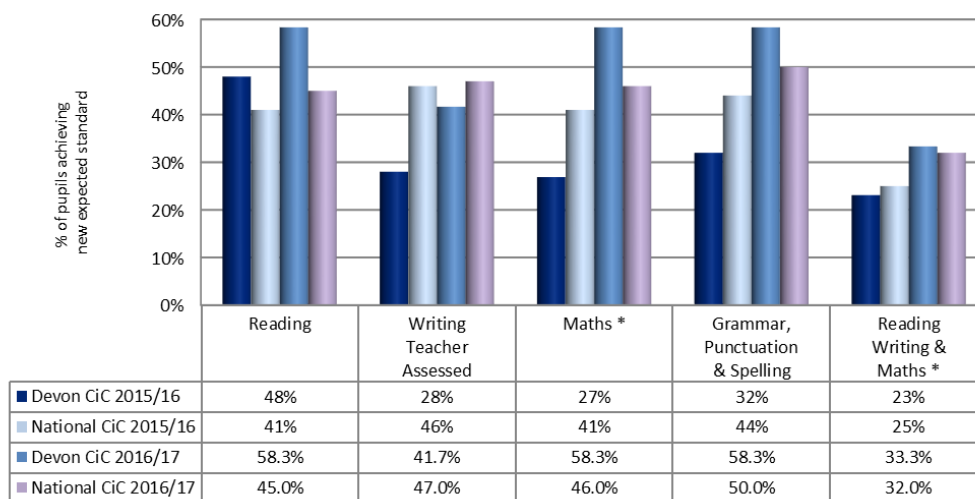
<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/young-people/children-in-care/education-of-children-in-care/information-for-schools-and-settings>

Key Stage 1 Results (TA) - CiC



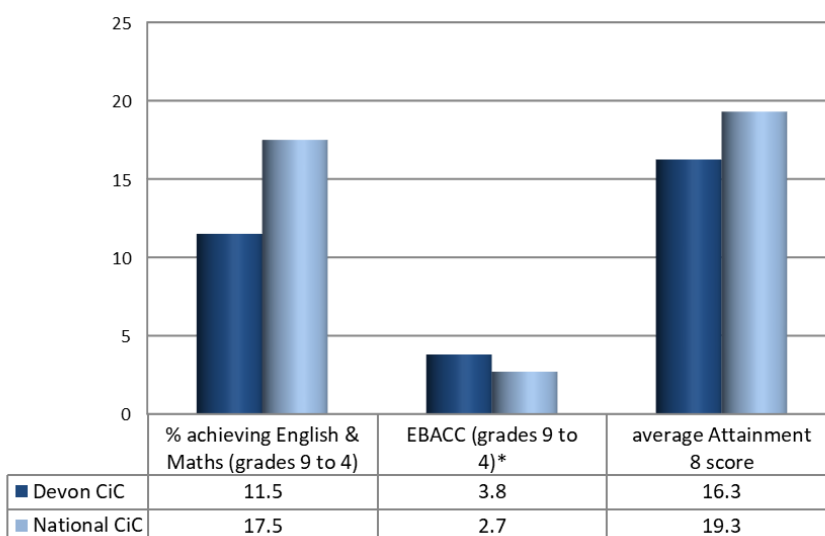
source: Devon CiC 2016/17 - NEXUS CLA KS1 Report, National CiC 2016/17 DfE SFR20_2018 Children Looked After Outcomes
Devon & National CiC 2015/16 - DfE SFR12_2017 Children Looked After Outcomes Mar 17
* Devon CiC 2015/16 Writing is based on NEXUS CLA Report as DfE SFR data was suppressed

Key Stage 2 Results - CiC



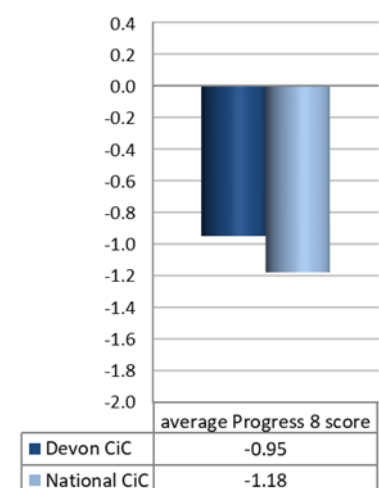
source: DfE SFR20_2018 Children Looked After Outcomes Mar 17, DfE SFR12_2017 Children Looked After Outcomes Mar 16
* Devon CiC 2015/16 Maths and Reading, Writing & Maths are based on information reported by schools as DfE SFR data was suppressed

2017 KS4 CiC Published Results



* Devon data is based Nexus NCER CLA Project, Key Stage 4 report, April 2018 as no national data published at LA level
data source: Devon EBACC: Babcock LDP Sept 17, DfE SFR20_2018, Outcomes for CLA to March 2017

2017 KS4 CiC Published Results



A high proportion (75%) of the 2017 cohort of children taking GCSE exams in 2017 had Special educational needs. This has impacted on the overall attainment levels. However, the progress chart on the right showed that these children made better progress than was seen Nationally.

Attendance (local data)

Overall attendance figures for Children in Care to Devon remain better than for all pupils in Devon, but have fallen slightly over the last year. Primary aged attendance is now at 96.72% and secondary age attendance at 89.6%. (National attendance data is not available as benchmarks use absence measures instead, information on this measure is provided later in the report). The breakdown below provides information relative to each phase. Attendance is least good in Key Stage 4 where there is also a significant gender difference. This is an area of focus for the Virtual school and Children's Social Care team and relevant actions are set out in the improvement plan.

Average % Attendance of all Children in Care to Devon by year group Sept 2016 to May half term 2017								
Year Group	2014/15		2015/16			2016/17		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All
R	96.77	94.31	-	-		96.33	97.8	96.78
1	95.19	95.76	97.02	97.51	97.27	93.71	98	96.02
2	96.2	96.81	96.11	97.6	96.86	97.52	97.78	97.68
3	95.98	97	96.9	97.58	97.24	97.71	97.14	97.29
4	98.95	96.46	96.77	96.77	96.77	97.83	96.25	96.92
5	94.97	94.56	99.08	96.87	97.98	96.84	94.63	95.32
6	97.11	93.96	96.82	95.83	96.33	98.58	96.69	97.3
7	94.74	97.42	97.76	96.99	97.38	96.56	96.71	96.67
8	95.11	95.95	97.09	96.81	96.85	94.51	96.33	95.45
9	87.61	95.7	90.45	94.18	92.32	88.37	94.16	92.33
10	89.7	92.02	90.95	91.47	91.21	87.67	92.4	90.12
11	89.56	83.72	87.73	91.7	89.72	80.15	78.66	79.37

Primary (Yr R - 6)	96.45	95.55	97.13	96.92	97.03	96.97	96.57	96.72
Secondary (Yr 7 -11)	91.34	92.96	91.5	94.01	92.76	87.71	90.98	89.6

The table below looks at attendance data across a wider cohort of Looked After Children and again shows a reduction in attendance for Devon however the reasons for this are complex.

Average % Attendance of all Children in Care	2014/15		2015/16			2016/17		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All
All Children: includes those open to Devon County Council and those open to other Local Authorities but attending Devon schools	92.31	93.49	93.58	95.18	94.38	91.32	93.38	92.54
All Children In Care to Devon	92.04	93.51	94.93	96.23	95.52	91.23	93.33	92.48
All Children open to other Local Authorities but attending Devon Schools	93.09	94.44	92.96	94.78	93.87	92.02	93.79	93.03

iii) Waiting lists for CAMHS

The current position with wait times in Children's Mental Health Services

- 92% of children and young people should receive their first definitive treatment within 18 weeks of referral (this reflects Referral to Treatment (RTT) a national expectation).
- May 2018 data shows 64% of children and young people have been seen within 18 weeks of referral.
- Performance from March 2018 to May 2018 has remained between 64-65% for the period, with no further decline in performance.
- The last briefing note to Members in May set out that RTT was at 84% (February 2018 data). A deep dive undertaken by NEW Devon CCG since then has identified that performance data during 2017/18 was affected by a data/system error. Therefore, February 2018's performance was actually 69%. Accurate performance is now being reported but below the RRT threshold.

Urgent referrals and urgent cases are reported separately to the Referral to Treatment data. May 2018 data indicates: -

- 100% of urgent referrals were seen within 24 hours.
- 84% of children with urgent need were seen within one week.

The currently jointly agreed action plan agreed between NHS Commissioners and Provider

In response to the outcomes of the deep dive CCG commissioners and the provider have agreed a joint action plan focused on achieving improvements in five key areas. These include the Single Point of Access; timely access to services; exception reporting, reporting accuracy and workforce. This process will gain the required assurances needed and ensure the safety of children and young people.

The action plan also includes a requirement for the Provider to confirm how they will improve access to and performance across CAMHS and how they will measure and monitor the delivery of what is proposed using SMART targets, measures and objectives.

Progress against the action plan has been reviewed on a weekly basis. Many of the actions have now been concluded but some further action will be required during July 2018.

Fiona Fleming, Devon County Council Children's Commissioning
Sharon Matson, Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

iv) Schools Funding in Devon

Devon has a total of 366 schools. A significant proportion of Devon schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and educational performance overall remains above the national average. The schools vary significantly in size, from primary schools with fewer than 20 pupils to one of the largest secondary schools in the country. Schools also vary in governance with, at the time of writing, approximately 60% of schools maintained by the Local Authority.

At a national level, schools with 210 pupils or less are considered small. However, Devon has 34 very small schools (fewer than 50 pupils) and 238 with a rural school designation serving our extensive rural areas. The smallest school in Devon has 16 students on roll as at autumn 2016.

The County Council supports the principle of local schools for local children for community and environmental reasons. There are good partnerships among many schools who work together in Local Learning Communities. There are 37 federations, totalling 100 schools within federations, 14 in management partnerships and 104 schools in multi-academy trusts and co-operative trusts.

National Funding

Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, funding per pupil fell by just over 4% in real terms. (source: Institute of Fiscal Studies). However, this probably does not take account of:

- Ending of contracting out from State Second Pension in April 2016 which increased National Insurance Contributions (10.1% to 13.8%);
- Increases in employer contributions to teacher pension scheme in April 2015 (14.1% to 16.5%);
- Increases in employer contributions to NJC pension scheme in April 2017 (19.75% to 23.3%);
- Upward pressure on public sector pay levels;
- The impact of the new national living wage which came into effect in April 2016
- Apprenticeship Levy (0.5%) and
- General inflationary pressures on non-staffing spending.

Up until July 2017, school funding per pupil was due to fall further in real terms between 2017/18 and 2019/20. However, the DfE allocated an additional £900m to school funding in 2019/20 from other budgets (the much-quoted headline figure of £1.3 billion is the combination of the additional in both 2018/19 and 2019/20). As a result, school funding per pupil is now expected to be frozen in real terms between 2017/18 and 2019/20, albeit at a level about 4% below its recent high-point in 2015/16 and about the same level as in 2011/12.

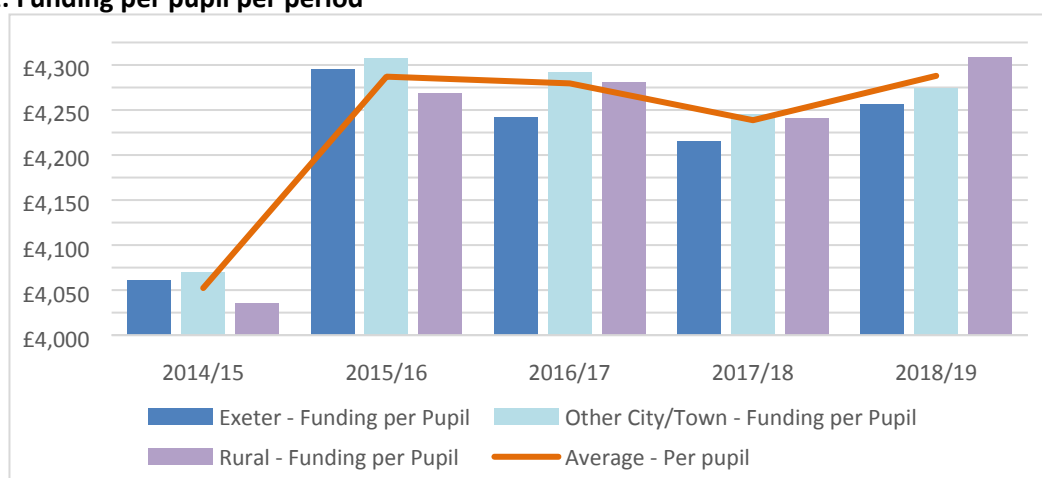
Under the new illustrative National Funding Formula, Devon will receive increased funding of 3.5% (£13.2 million) when fully implemented in 2020. There is additional funding of 1.9% (£7.5 million) in 2018/19 for Devon schools, but this falls far short of the funding required to meet even the non-inflationary factors such as 0.5% apprenticeship levy; uplifted pensions 4%; the, to date, unfunded 1% to 2% teacher pay increase; and the 2% increase in pay for NJC employed staff. In total, funding to support Devon pupils remains at £268 per pupil below the national average.

In addition to these pressures, schools and providers across the whole education community will need to assess the changes in local demographics. New providers are also coming on stream offering greater choice and diversity for parents and pupils.

Local Funding Formula

The table 1 shows Devon has received an average funding per pupil of £4,287 in 2015/16 since the introduction of the additional £15 million to schools funding. This varied between those schools based in rural areas, where on average it was £4,268 per pupil, whilst in Exeter city this rose to £4,295 and towns at £4,306 on average.

Table 1: Funding per pupil per period



From 2018/19, with the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF), Devon took the opportunity to consult with schools to move as quickly as feasibly possible to the NFF. This gave a lump sum of £101,105 to each primary school and £110,000 to every secondary. Schools also receive an element per pupil with the Age Weighted Pupil Unit which is £2,747 for KS1 & KS2, £3,863 for KS3 and £4,386 for KS4. There is also a tapered amount up to £25,000 in terms of sparsity based on where the child lives rather than the location of the school,

up to a maximum cohort of 60 for primary schools. In secondary schools the tapered amount is £65,000 for those schools with less than 600. In a federation each school is treated independently in terms of its finances. Schools also receive extra funding for SEN/pupil premium children. Schools of a similar size may therefore have very different funding streams. School funding formula is no longer about protecting institutions, but is centred around the type of child a school has and where they come from.

Funding for 2019/20 is not yet finalised but based on previous information from the DfE Devon can expect a further £5.7 million within school funding.

Taking into account these main factor differences and an additional £7.5 million from the introduction of the NFF in 2018/19 Devon has seen the overall funding per pupil remain static at £4,288. However, with the primary lump sum increase and AWPU reduction across all pupils the average per pupil funding has seen a move, depending on where the school is situated. For rural schools the average has risen by £41 per pupil to £4,306, Exeter city has seen a reduction of £39 to £4,256 and towns have reduced by £33 to £4,274.

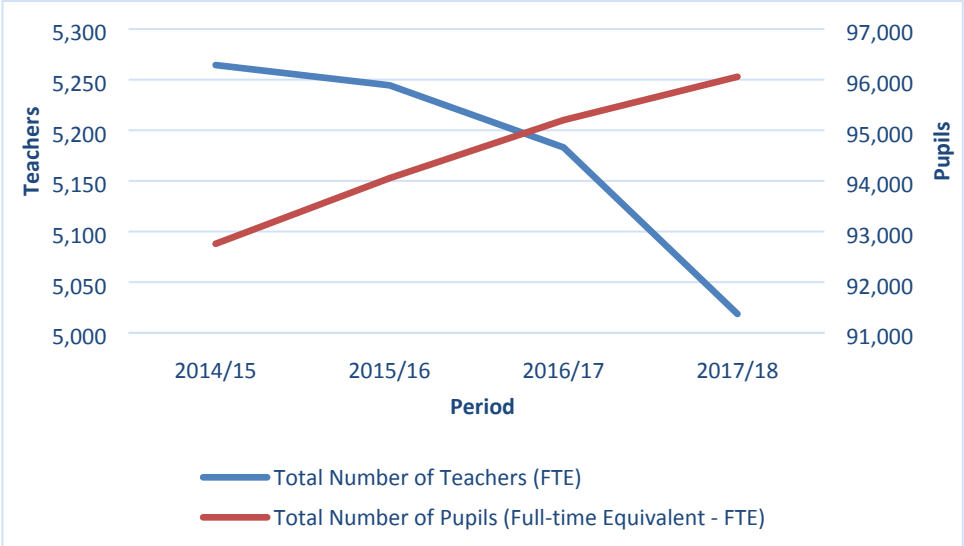
Of the 34 small rural schools 9 have seen a reduction in their overall school funding since 2015/16, which has been predominantly due to a fall in their pupil numbers rather than the change in funding formula factors.

Similarly, only 5 show a reduction in their per pupil funding since 2015/16, but overall have seen an increase in their budget share. This is due to the change in the NFF funding factors giving them greater funding within the school lump sum, which is greater than the reduction received from the drop in the AWPU rate. This variance means that no school has the same funding characteristics and can vary depending on formula factors and/or the cohort within the school.

Teachers

Devon has challenges in terms of leadership and recruitment due to its coastal and rural nature. Recruiting to small primary schools in isolated areas has become difficult for several reasons. Staff in small schools typically have a lot of responsibility, teach across year groups and have less opportunity for professional development. Often the uncertainty over the viability of the school discourages applications; there may be a dislike of working in isolation, with little opportunity to get out of the school, because of pressure on supply budgets.

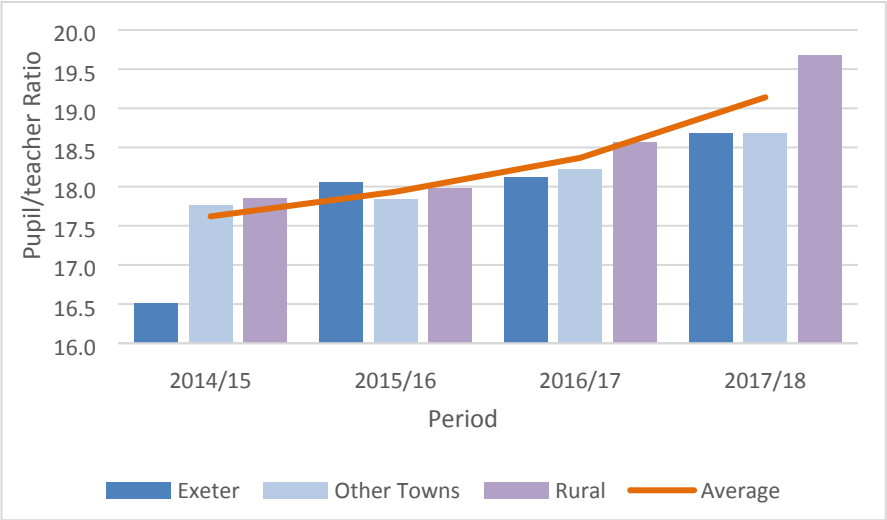
Table 2: Teacher vs Pupils per period



In 2014/15 Devon had 5,264 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) teachers, which consisted of 4,583 classroom teachers and 681 teachers in leadership roles. Based on the Spring 2015 census there were a total of 92,758 pupils meaning that the pupil/teacher ratio was 17.62.

The current data available from the Department for Education (DfE) shows that in 2017/18 the number of teachers reduced to 5,019 teachers (4,331 classroom teachers and 688 teachers in leadership). Whilst pupils rose to 96,057 giving a pupil/teacher ratio of 19.14.

Table 3: Pupil/teacher ratio per period by area



In 2015/16 the pupil to teacher ratio for Exeter schools (considers both primary and secondary schools) was 18.06 compared to 17.98 in rural schools and has risen to 18.69 and 19.68 respectively in 2017/18.

Summary

Funding per pupil within Devon remains significantly below the national average and is failing to keep pace with rising costs. Each year this continues, it becomes harder to maintain good standards of education, particularly for children who have additional educational needs. Devon also struggles with the ability to recruit and retain teachers within the county.

We will continue to campaign for fairer funding for our schools and secure adequate funding for the children of Devon to enable them to get the best start in life.

James McInnes
Cabinet Member
Children's Services and Schools