

**Report of the Cabinet Member**  
**Adult Social Care & Health Services**

I have been asked to Report on the following for Full Council on 7 October 2021:

**1. By Councillor Hannaford as follows:**

*Over 1,000 more people are urgently needed to join the care workforce in Devon. Devon's 23,000 care workers in the county council area have done an exceptional job to keep vulnerable people safe and well throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*However, with the entire health and care system at full stretch, the situation is becoming unsustainable, and more additional workers are now needed to join the care workforce, and for families and communities to do all they can help ease the pressure.*

*In Exeter around 300 care workers are needed. In North Devon and Torridge, another 300 people are needed, 300 more in care roles across Teignbridge and South Hams, 150 in both East Devon and Mid Devon areas, and around 100 in West Devon.*

*It means vulnerable people are at risk of not receiving the care they need when they need it. And that more people are finding themselves as unpaid carers, caring for loved ones and friends or neighbours, in the absence of there being enough paid care staff available.*

*Can the Cabinet Member please update Council on the work we are doing to address this vital issue and the progress that has been made so far?*

**2. By Councillor Hannaford as follows:**

*The Government has announced a 1.25% tax rise in order to increase funding for health and social care by £36bn over the next three years to help address the "catastrophic costs" for social care. This will begin as a rise in National Insurance, before becoming a separate tax from 2023. It will also apply to working people who are above the state pension age.*

*There is a widespread concern that these measures will be "much pain for very little gain". In terms of hiking up general taxation disproportionately for those on low and fixed incomes, younger people renting in expensive private accommodation, those trying to get on the property ladder, and also pensioners still in work. Whilst still not addressing the very long standing fundamental areas of concern such as high care cost thresholds, care home viability, family houses being forcibly sold off, domestic finances being ruined, and still no integration of health and social care.*

*Can the Cabinet Member please update Council on how we think these changes will generally impact on individuals, families, care providers and the wider community in Devon.*

*Specifically, what is our analysis of the following changes for Devon;*

- *It is estimated that only £5.4bn of the funding will go to social care over the initial three-year period, beginning in 2022-23.*

- *From October 2023, the government will also introduce a lifetime cap of £86,000 on care costs for individuals starting adult social care after this date.*
- *Anyone with assets of less than £20,000 will not have to make any contribution for their care from their savings or the value of their home.*
- *Those with assets of between £20,000 and £100,000 will be able to access “some means-tested support”, but will not have to contribute more than 20% of their chargeable assets per year.*
- *The upper £100,000 limit is more than four times the current limit of £23,250, but still represents a huge financial burden.*

*Lastly the Prime Minister has also promised a white paper on reforming social care and integrating it with healthcare “later this year”, is there now any indication when and how this will be achieved, and what Devon specific representations have we made to help influence this historic change?*

### **3. By Councillor Letch as follows:**

*On arrangements made by the NHS in Devon to connect the parents of babies born with additional needs or disability or difference with the relevant support organisations and charities.*

## **Response**

### **1. Care Worker Recruitment Campaign**

Devon County Council recognise the recruitment and retention challenges facing adult social care providers in Devon and across the UK. We have longstanding Proud to Care campaigns that support providers with recruitment. Members are kept informed of these campaigns and are asked to support and promote in their communities.

The latest [Proud to Care recruitment campaign](#) will run from late September 2021 until January 2022 to attract a wide variety of people to entry level roles in care. Jobseekers may also access free training via the European Social Fund (ESF) Health and Social Care Skills Accelerator Programme. This training includes an introduction of health and social care, employability courses to support candidates back to work up to Level 3 qualifications. This free training is available to people wanting to start a career in care, as well as those already working in the sector, aiming to improve both recruitment and retention.

The new Proud to Care campaign will show the range of opportunities in adult social care including working in residential care, domiciliary care, supported living and enabling services.

Through our LoveCare programme we are providing strategic leadership and influence centrally and nationally to try and improve the recruitment challenges in the long term. Part of this work will include an Appreciative Inquiry this autumn that will seek to explore what terms and conditions of employment have an impact on drawing in and keeping people in the caring workforce.

### **2. Health & Social Care Levy and Integration Proposals**

The recent announcement by the government on the planned reforms to adult social care is the start of process that will lead to new legislation commencing in October 2023, some two years away. The government has given this timeframe to allow local authorities sufficient time to understand, analyse and prepare for the complex undertaking.

At the moment we have more questions than the government has answers for, but we expect this to change with the pending consultation documents that will set out the detail behind the headline announcements and figures. It is at this point that we will have a better understanding of the requirements and the local impact and action required.

What we do know is that there will be a financial impact on DCC from the 1.25% NIC tax rise; both as an employer and as a commissioner of adult social care providers.

The consultation document is the White Paper that the question refers to. This is different to the [Health and Care White Paper](#) that was published earlier this year and concerns the integration of Health and Care.

### **3. Babies with Additional Needs**

#### **1.0 Background**

Devon County Council and the NHS in Devon, commission and provide a number of children's services which ensure that parents with babies who are born or children who are identified as having any additional needs or disabilities are offered the support they require and connected to the relevant support organisations and charities. The report outlines the range of services, support organisations and charities.

#### **2.0 DCC commissioned services**

##### **2.1 Public Health Nursing**

Health visitors are specialist community public health nurses (SCPHN). They specialise in working with all families with a child aged 0 to five to identify health needs as early as possible and improve health and wellbeing by promoting health, preventing ill health and reducing inequalities. They are in a unique position whereby they assess all families with local communities to identify health needs from the antenatal period. The health visiting service has a neurodevelopmental pathway that ensures that all babies who are born with complex health needs are supported and referred into specialist services in a timely way.

Support and referral includes: -

- Referral into the NHS 0-19 services provided by Children & Families Health Devon (CFHD) Audiology, Ophthalmology & Rehabilitation Officer for Visually Impaired Children (ROVIC).
- PHN to signpost families to Devon Information & Support Service (DIAS) <https://www.devonias.org.uk/>
- PHN complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA) and in conjunction with the family, develop a family plan and Team around the family to provide help and support from a range of services.
- PHN request for Specialist Child Assessment Team (SCAT) & Early Years Complex Needs Team (EYCN) assessment group.
- Children Centres support families in managing their children's condition prior to formal diagnosis of SEND or disabilities.
- The Early Years and Complex Needs Team (EYCN) provide support for families and children at transition into an Early Years setting.

## 2.2 SEND local offer

The SEND local offer gives children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families information to help them find the right help and support in their area. It has two main purposes:

1. To provide clear, comprehensive, and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available.
2. To make provision more responsive to local needs.

The Local Offer brings together information about education, health and care services, voluntary agencies, leisure activities and support groups in one place. It includes:

- Education – support in early years, schools and college, including transport.
- Health – specialist clinics, support and advice for children and young people with medical needs.
- Social care – support for personal care and practical assistance, short breaks and personal budgets.
- Transitions – moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood.
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) – the statutory EHCP process explained, including applying for a plan, transfers and reviews.
- Information, advice and support – where to get impartial and confidential information, advice and support.

## 2.3 Disabled Children's Service

On receipt of a contact about a baby with additional needs, the service will review the request and consider with the family whether short breaks assessment, or a statutory single assessment to meet need is appropriate. The family are also supported with further signposting to other organisations and charities.

Following an assessment, it would be determined whether the threshold for further support applied and there would then be discussion regarding the potential offer of support. This is in accordance with the needs identified, but for many families in Devon may include access to short break support (activities, enabling or direct payments), or a more focused intervention with the family.

## 2.4 Devon Early Years Complex Needs Service (Previously Portage)

Devon Early Years Complex Needs Service is a year-round education service for children aged 0-5 and their families with the most severe and complex developmental needs. The service supports children to achieve success using a small-steps, play-based, child-centred approach.

The service works in the home and in community settings with parents and partner agencies to promote inclusive practice and to build confidence and resilience.

The service is registered with the National Portage Association (NPA) which is identified in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice as an early intervention service for children with significant and complex needs aged 0-5 and their families.

What does the service do?

- Works with families to help them develop a quality of life and experience, for themselves and their young children, in which they can learn together, play together, participate and be included in their community in their own right.
- Plays a part in minimising the disabling barriers that confront young children and their families.

- Supports the development of inclusive services for children.

## 2.5 Children Centres

Devon Children Centres deliver a number of 'Step by Step' groups across Devon which are support groups for parents/carers and children who have additional needs that require extra help and support to their pathway of development progression. Predominantly the support is for the 0-5 age group but there are occasionally children of school-age that also attend. This group provides parents/carers with the opportunity to develop peer support networks with others in a similar situation to themselves. It also enables them to receive support through shared strategies, sign posting and emotional comfort and a reduction in the feeling of isolation.

### Other services

- The Incredible Years programme specifically for children on the autistic spectrum or with language delay. This programme is offered to parents/carers of young children aged 2-5 years who have a significant indicator of being on the Autism spectrum with language delays in order to promote children's emotional regulation, social competence, language skills, school readiness, and relationships with others.
- Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) to parents/carers in relation to enabling them to develop an understanding of communication and provides a process for building communications and interaction skills using a strength-based approach.
- Childrens Centres in Devon are an integral part of Early Help providing support to families that require additional support and Children Centres attend daily Early Help triage meetings.

## 2.6 Pinpoint Devon

Pinpoint Devon is a searchable online directory of community services available in Devon. This online directory is a resource for your requirements, services and community groups including, Young people, Parents and Families and Carers across Devon.

Website: <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/>.

## 3.0 Specialist Children's Community Nursing Service, Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD)

The Community Children's Nursing Service supports children with a wide range of complex health conditions who require expert and specific nursing advice and support. They facilitate the promotion of health needs and the delivery of medical care and treatments for children with complex health needs. Referrals into the service come from hospital, GP, or direct from families.

By working with children and young people within their usual environment, they are able to reduce the number of hospital stays/visits. This helps towards ensuring that the child or young person has access to the same care opportunities as those without additional needs.

## 4.0 Support Organisations and Charities

There are a number of local and national support organisations and charities that are available to support families, carers, children and young people - the organisations listed below is not exhaustive but contains the sites which are commonly signposted to by services across Devon.

- NHS 0-19 services provided by **Children and Family Health Devon** - information about the services provided, includes a wide range of helpful toolkits, factsheets, guides and videos including the Good Referral Guide. <https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/>

- **Quids for Kids (Q4K)** – This service is funded by Devon County Council and delivered by the Citizens Advice Bureau. You can call for a free entitlement check and confidential advice Tel: 0300 5000 404, Website: <https://www.cabdevon.org.uk/quids-for-kids/>
- **Devon Information & Support Service Devon Information, Advice and Support Service (DIAS)** - a dedicated team supporting children and young people with SEND, and their parents and carers. The service is impartial and confidential. offering legally-based and easily accessible information and advice about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). A free, confidential and impartial service which is funded by Devon County Council Tel: 01392 383080 <https://www.devonias.org.uk/>
- **SW Hospice: Little Bridge House** <https://www.chsw.org.uk/our-care/our-hospices/little-bridge-house>
- **Pinpoint Devon** A searchable database of activities, services and support groups in Devon <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/>
- **Parent Carer Forum Devon** - Parent Carer Forum Devon is an organised group of parents and carers of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within Devon local authority. Their aim is to make sure that the services provided from education, health and care meet the needs of children with SEND and their families. Email: [Admin@parentcarerforumdevon.org](mailto:Admin@parentcarerforumdevon.org) Tel: 07307237720. Website: <https://parentcarerforumdevon.org>
- **Turn2Us** has grant search and benefits checker facilities on their website: <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>
- **Family Fund** accept grant requests for essential items for families with disabled or seriously ill children. Once a grant has been awarded families can reapply every 12 months: <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/faqs/how-do-we-apply>
- Contact for Families with Disabled Children have a wide range of information and resources on their website, they also have a free parent helpline, Tel: 0808 808 3555, Website: <https://contact.org.uk/>
- **My Family Our Needs** This website offers a wide range of information including supporting yourself and your family. Aimed at parents and carers of children with additional needs, there are sections such as: Ask the experts, events, latest updates and a directory of local and national organisations on hand to offer help. They also provide a monthly newsletter that you can sign up for. To find out more go to: <https://www.myfamilyourneeds.co.uk>
- **SCOPE** The disability equality charity in England and Wales. We provide practical information and emotional support when it's most needed, and campaign relentlessly to create a fairer society. <https://www.scope.org.uk/>
- **Down Syndrome Association** <https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/>
- **Cerebra** The charity dedicated to helping families with children with brain conditions. Working wonders for children with brain conditions and their families <https://cerebra.org.uk/>
- **Contact** We are Contact, the charity for families with disabled children. We support and bring families together and help them take action for others. <https://contact.org.uk/>

- **Unique** Provides support, information and networking to families affected by rare chromosomal and gene disorders. <https://rarechromo.org/>

**James McInnes**

Cabinet Member

Adult Social Care and Health Services