

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Wednesday 10 July 2024

**1. QUESTION FROM JENNY DINGSDALE (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) Referrals and
Safeguarding Children**

Devon has had one of the largest percentage increases in referrals to GIDS in England. This is due to a combination of factors, including the influence of groups like Intercom Trust. Please read our response to the KCSIE update <https://protectteach.co.uk/update-to-kcsie/>

What action are you taking to ensure that the council is able to effectively safeguard children without being influenced by extremist ideologies?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR LEADBETTER

Without understanding the source of your data, we cannot comment on the specifics. However, it is our understanding that the data is now dated and is relevant to levels of referral which won't reflect how many young people were actually assessed.

As a Council, and a Member of the Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership, we have clear safeguarding policies and procedures in place. We ensure that schools and all of our partners follow the guidance provided, including within Keeping Children Safe in Education which is published by central government.

We will respond appropriately to any changes in legislation or guidance made by the new government.

We have no evidence to suggest that any young people or their families or carer's have been subjected to the ideologies to which you refer, relating to gender in Devon. Gender reassignment is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, and gender dysphoria and reassignment is recognised under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and by the NHS.