

Strategic Director's Briefing for Children's PDS, 17 January 2017

Pressures on Children's Social Care

The children's social care service is experiencing an increased workload, and this is evidenced through a rise in Child Protection Plan numbers and numbers of Looked After Children. The number of CP Plans has gone back up to 150 (the level we had 12 months ago) having fallen as low as 123 in June. The number of Looked After Children has risen to 170 from 149 a year ago. This is our highest number for 3 years and reflects a national trend, although we remain below the average for statistical neighbours and the national average per 10,000 children.

Bath Community Academy (BCA)

Since the last meeting of the panel, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the Department for Education announced that ministers had 'approved in principle' the proposal from the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) to close BCA. The RSC offered a period of 2 weeks, subsequently extended to 4 weeks, for interested parties to express views on the proposal. We await news of a final ministerial decision on the future of the school.

New Schools

- Abbot Alphege Church of England Primary School, the new school being built at Ensleigh in Bath, reached a milestone last week with a 'topping out' ceremony as the roof was added to the building. The school is on track to open in September 2017.
- The building for the new primary school at Somerdale in Keynsham is not as far advanced, but nonetheless on track to open in September 2017.
- The process to appoint a sponsor for the new primary school at Mulberry Park in Bath is proceeding, with proposals having now been submitted to the RSC to determine the sponsor. This school will open in September 2018.

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