

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/	Children & Young People Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	26th March 2019	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Sufficiency Statement: Looked After Children, Placements – Annual Report	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: The report is attached as Appendix 1.		

1 THE ISSUE

The Sufficiency Statement (SS) is a public document, distributed to independent foster agencies, residential children's homes and independent and non-maintained special schools in order for them to gain a better understanding of the marketplace in Bath and North East Somerset.

It also forms part of the Ofsted inspection.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The object of the Sufficiency Statement is to ensure there are sufficient services within Bath and North East Somerset to provide quality services for our looked after population and for those children who are described as having complex needs and funded through the children's pooled budget.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

This report notes the increased spend relating to children's placements and the actions taken within the team to manage spend.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') requires local authorities to take steps to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority's area to meet the needs of children that the local authority are looking after, to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority's area ('the sufficiency duty').

5 THE REPORT

Headlines

- The numbers of children in care are at an all-time high. Currently the figure is 186 as at 20th December 2018.
- There has been a significant increase in placements and spend on Residential Children's Homes
- B&NES has seen an increase in placements with 16+ providers and increased spend.

B&NES Requirements:

B&NES requirements remain similar to previous years:

- Foster placements in Bath city and within a reasonable travelling distance of B&NES schools.
- Foster placements for children aged 14 – 17 year with challenging needs.
- Residential step down placements within B&NES.
- Residential children's homes closer to B&NES who accommodate children with very challenging behaviour.
- Increased local market capacity for 16 - 25 accommodation and support.
- Appropriate placements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).
- Solo/specialist foster and residential placements

6 RATIONALE

The Sufficiency Statement is for information only.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None – this report is for information only.

8 CONSULTATION

Ruth Todd – Placement Officer

Alexandra Hughes – Placement Officer

Mary Kearney Knowles – Director Children's Social Care

Rachael Ward – Service Manager – Children in Care

Rosemary Pickering – Team Manager, Family Placement Team.

Caroline Holmes – Acting Director of Integrated Health and Social Care Commissioning.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 9.2 One purpose of this report is to inform the market place of the needs of B&NES looked after children in order for them to respond to future recruitment campaigns to ensure there are sufficient placements.

Contact person	Ian Tomlinson, Commissioning Manager, Children's Placements
Background papers	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	