

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel	
MEETING	<u>Monday 11th March</u>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Sufficiency Statement 2024	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Sufficiency Statement		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The report set out what Banes purchased for our Children Looked After and the needs in the coming years.

1.2 B&NES requirements remain similar to previous years, however, increasing numbers and complexity add further stress to the system:

- Foster placements in Central Bath and within a reasonable travelling distance of B&NES schools.
- Foster placements for children aged 14 – 17 years with complex and challenging needs including mental health and self-harm.
- Residential step-across to foster placements.
- Residential children’s homes closer in B&NES.
- Appropriate placements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
- Parent and baby foster placements.
- 16+ accommodation and support placements in B&NES, registered with Ofsted.
- A higher requirement for placements for children and young people who identify as transgender or non-binary.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

2.1 Receive the report for information.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 There has been increased pressure on the marketplace for children's placements, due to:

- Increased overall numbers of children in care regionally and nationally which adds pressure.
- Decrease in the number of fostering households, who have an aging demographic.
- 'Staying Put' legislation, allowing young people to stay in their foster placements.
- UASC children, who are 16/17-year-old males.
- A national shortage of children's home staff and carers. (One large provider has mothballed over one hundred beds and another has closed twenty-seven homes).

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Under Section 22G of The Children Act:

The Sufficiency Duty: Requires Local Authorities to have 'sufficient' accommodation in terms of the number of beds provided, to secure a range of accommodation through several providers and have accommodation that meets the needs of its Children Looked After.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 This report sets out, what was purchased for Children Looked After and the forthcoming needs.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 This is a report for information, so no EIA has been conducted.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

Wherever possible we try to place children within twenty miles of their home address, reducing the need for social workers and independent reviewing officers need to travel.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer have cleared this report.

Contact person	Ian Tomlinson – 01225 477878
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	