

# Sufficiency & Commissioning Placements



- Strategic links
- The challenges – locally and nationally
- Our needs and demand
- Our sufficiency work – locally, sub-regionally and regionally
- What else do we need to do

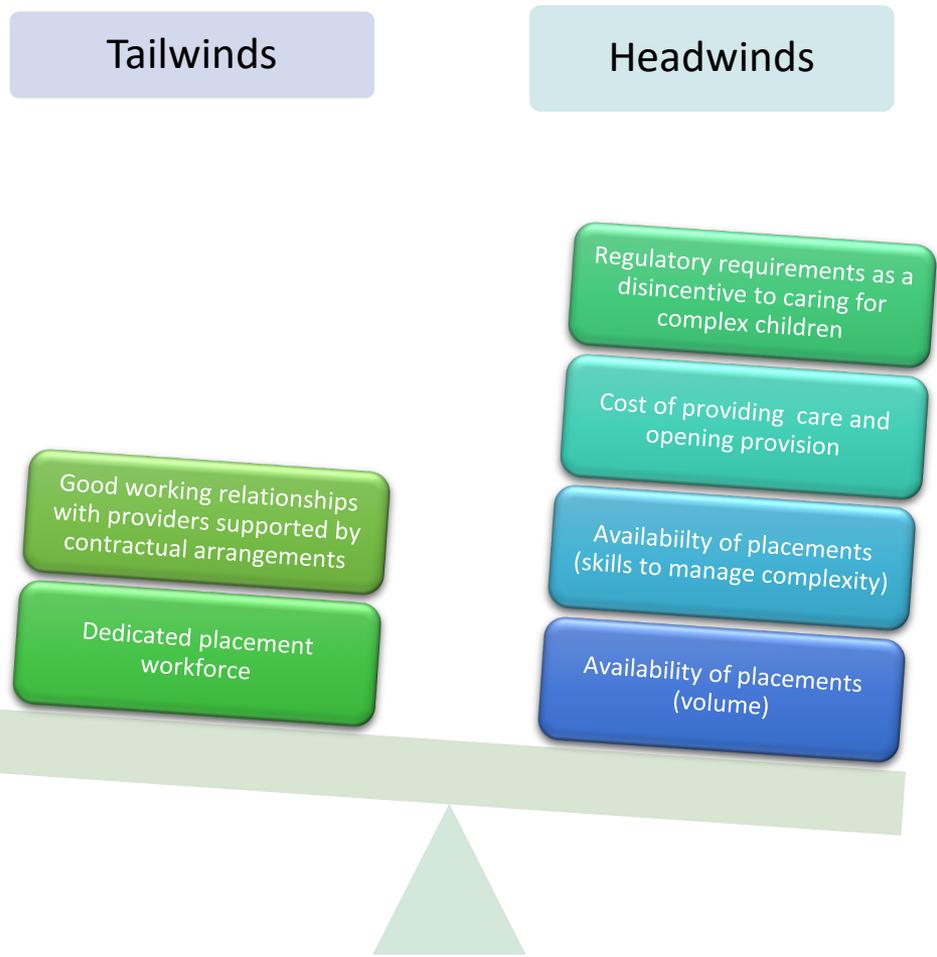
# Strategic links



## Bright Future priorities and aspirations:

- Reduce the number of adolescents coming in to care
- Actively grow the number of foster placements available in the city, and the range and number of other types of provision locally, including children's homes and semi-independent support and accommodation
- Fewer children and young people are placed at distance from the city

# The challenges



# A strained system



# Placement trends



**Lower** number of children placed in in-house foster placements:

- April 2014: 222
- April 2022: 125

**Rising** use of independent fostering agency placements (IFAs):

- April 2014: 60 IFA placements
- April 2022: 156 IFA placements

**Rising** number of children's home placements:

- April 2014: 26
- April 2022: 52

# Placement Demand – commissioned placements



## Residential children's homes:

- 10.6% of children in care
- 34% of children in residential care are placed in-city or within 20 miles
- Children with more complex needs, 24 hour staffing in small homes, £1m investment to set up a new home

## Independent fostering placements:

- 32% of children in care
- Average of 100 referrals for every vacant foster placement
- Agencies seeing an increase in younger children with complex trauma and behaviours

## 16+ placements:

- 6.3% of children in care
- Young people with support rather than care needs, due to be regulated by Ofsted

# Unregistered arrangements



- September 2021 – change to legislation: *The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021* outlawed the use of unregistered provision for under 16's.
- Small number of children and young people with complex needs in these unregistered arrangements.
- Plymouth notifies Ofsted when children are in unregistered arrangements and the steps to address this.
- Wider issues:
  - Lack of welfare secure children's homes beds (60 referrals for 1 bed)
  - Lack of Tier 4 mental health beds (or safe alternatives for those with complex mental health issues)
  - Use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
  - Provider reluctance to manage this level of risk including fear of Ofsted
- Provider framework for agencies providing care and support for families, including in unregulated arrangements.

# Sufficiency – regional, sub-regional and local



## **Regional:**

- 14 LAs, Regional Market Position Statement, working on regional recommendations

## **Sub regional:**

- Peninsula Commissioning Partnership with Devon, Somerset and Torbay, focus on fostering and residential children's homes

## **Local:**

- Residential block contract – Caring in Partnership
- 16+ framework and block contract, Complex Lives Alliance
- Development of crisis care models
- Development of new models for fostering

# Caring in Partnership – growing local residential beds for Plymouth children



2012:  
2 framework  
contracted beds, in  
one home



2017:  
12 framework  
contracted beds, 3  
providers



2022:  
17 block contract  
beds, plus 8 beds in-  
city on  
framework/spot

# Caring in Partnership – growing local residential beds



- “Our children”
- Good outcomes: low placement breakdown, stabilisation, return to the city, step forward to fostering, 16+, independent living and return home
- Focused Caring in Partnership meetings – Providers, Camhs, Social Care, Commissioners, Virtual School
- Problem solving together and regular dialogue – relational rather than transactional
- Children’s Home Manager Forums for the city, regardless of contract/provider
- Ofsted performance: South West 64% Good or above, Plymouth block contract (Keys) 100% Good or above

# What more do we need to do?



- Refresh of Plymouth Sufficiency Plan 2022
- Refocus on who is coming into care and why and what could make a difference, including redesign of the Front Door and development of Family Hubs/Early Help offer
- Caring in Partnership – recommissioning of residential block contract
- Fostering – how do we innovate rapidly, locally and as a regional and national response?
- Housing – more options, greater tolerance of complex needs and trauma
- Transitions and improved options to support complex disability
- Bespoke/unregistered placements – framework to launch autumn 2022, but reduction in use over time
- Health and Social Care Skills Partnership – support for providers as employers
- Awaiting government response to the Independent Review of Social Care – wholesale recommendations for changes to how placements are commissioned and supplied