

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 9 October 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: jemima.laing@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: How many Asylum seeker children do we have on our books? Where is the funding coming from to pay for them if we have them? How many are in the City boundary and for those not in the boundary where are they living if we have them? What is the cost of social worker time spent on visits to these children if we do in fact have any?

Answer:

In Plymouth we use the term Separated Young People rather than UASC or Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and young People as this is the language that they have told us they would like us to use.

Separated young people may be seeking safe asylum in the UK for a range of reasons, often fleeing war or persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality or political views. These young people will have fled their country and travelled on often long and dangerous journeys to seek safety in another country.

Plymouth City Council has legal responsibility for separated young people seeking asylum who arrive in Plymouth or who are allocated to the local authority by the Home Office on a mandatory basis. Separated young people are children in care and the Local Authority has a legal duty to care for them, we are their Corporate Parents.

On 30/09/2025 Plymouth City Council had 25 Separated Young People in Our Care.

Where Plymouth City Council are the responsible Local Authority for a separated young person, they will place the child or young person in a suitable registered home, which may be foster care, supported lodgings or regulated supported accommodation. Some of our 25 separated young people in care live within Plymouth, some in the wider Devon area and some live elsewhere in the country depending on availability and suitability of home to meet their needs.

Social Workers have a range of duties to support children in care, visiting them is one of those duties. All of our children in care who are Separated Young People are allocated in our Permanence Service and we have two dedicated social workers who have a specialism in supporting our separated young people.

Home Office funding is received for each separated young person.

Signed: Cllr J Laing

Date: 21/10/2025