

# WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

15 March 2017



**PLYMOUTH**  
CITY COUNCIL

## Residential Placements – Briefing on Supply of Placements

### CURRENT PROVISION IN PLYMOUTH

Over the last five years residential providers have been supported to open children's homes in Plymouth, with the aim of ensuring there is a good supply of placements for local children; reducing the need to place out of area. Providers have been willing to work in partnership with Plymouth to do this, citing the positive relationships they have with the local authority and the quality of wrap-around support for placements as reasons to invest in the city.

This process has been incremental, to ensure that provision is sustainable and would meet local needs.

- 2012: One children's home in Plymouth offering two beds. This was operated by an adult LD specialist and rarely offered placements which met the needs of Plymouth children. This home was deregistered as a children's provision.
- Spring 2013: Phoenix Learning and Care opened two two-bedded homes in the city (one home has since been scaled back to a solo home on Ofsted advice).
- December 2013: Cambian Group opened two solo homes in Plymouth.
- 2014: period of stabilisation for the new homes.
- Spring 2015: South West childcare opened a solo home in Plymouth.
- Summer 2016: South West Childcare opened a two bedded home in Plymouth.
- December 2016: South West Childcare opened a two bedded home in Plymouth.

As a result of this work there are currently ten children's home beds within the city boundary, spread over a mixed market of three residential providers. At the present time nine Plymouth children are placed, representing 90% occupancy of local beds by local children.

Cambian and South West Childcare also have 16+ provision within Plymouth, run by staff with children's home experience so that this enables a step-down from residential care

### FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

South West Childcare are opening another 2 bedded home in Plymouth in early summer 2017. Discussions are already taking place to consider which children would be suitable for these beds, including considering whether any child currently placed at distance from Plymouth could be brought back to live locally.

Beaufort Care, a provider with homes in the south of England, is expanding into the south west. The provider plans to open two 3 bedded homes in the Ivybridge area during 2017. Regular meetings are taking place to discuss plans to ensure these homes will meet Plymouth needs. The provider has also met with Devon and Cornwall commissioners, as well as CCG and Virtual School representatives for Plymouth.

Therefore it is expected that during 2017 two more beds in Plymouth will be available, with six more within commutable distance of the city.

All children's home beds are currently commissioned via a framework contract, which gives no guarantee of business to the providers. Plymouth commissioners are currently considering how best to secure the local children's home beds for Plymouth children for the future, in a way which gives the providers security in order to invest in and maintain the provision at a good standard and a fair price.

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