



# DEVON CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPECIFICATION

## Our approach

At the heart of our approach in Devon are three key ways of working:

- An unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person
- An emphasis on working restoratively with families through support and challenge, to achieve sustainable change in their lives
- A focus on creating the conditions that enable young people to thrive as they grow up in the context of significant adversity or challenging family circumstances.

To know how best to support them, we need to hear the voices of children, young people and their families. We must listen to their lived experience and understand their individual story, needs and aspirations for the future. The children, young people and families we serve are at the centre of everything we do.

We know that no one organisation has all the solutions for children and families, so, each and every day, we work collaboratively with key partner agencies, in particular schools, health services and the police. On top of this, we also work alongside each other as different specialist teams within children's social care. Our restorative practice model values the diversity of the services we provide and the role that each team and each practitioner plays. Rather than being 'one size fits all', our practice model sets out the common underpinning practice principles to ensure a common approach, while enabling each service area to have their own styles and interventions which are specific to the work they do.

Ultimately, through our open, honest and trusting relationships, and a shared vision for Devon's children and families, we function as one Team and one Organisation.

The following pages describe the specialist areas of Devon Children's Social Care, including what they do and how they work.

## Children and young people's journey through our services

### Principles

The following principles inform how the teams and services within Devon County Council make decisions on the journey that each child and their family take through our service.





- The needs, interests and ambitions of children and young people will always be at the centre of all decision-making and planning.
- We work restoratively with children, young people and families to 'do with, and not to or for, them'. This builds trusting relationships which enable lasting positive change to be possible.
- We are solutions and outcomes-focused, seeking to meet needs without having to intervene unnecessarily.
- The vast majority of children and young people are best brought up by their families, with the support of extended family and community networks. We work proactively to build on family and community strengths to enable children to live safely within them.
- For a very small number of children and young people, it is in their best interests to come into our care. For the vast majority of them, they still benefit from growing up in a local family environment.

## Children's Social Care Directorate

### Early Help and Partnerships

Through **Early Help**, practitioners, from a range of agencies, work with families who need additional support to improve their situation. While Early Help itself is not a specific team, there are dedicated practitioners who help co-ordinate the provision of Early Help to children and families. There are Early Help practitioners based within the MASH, who offer advice, guidance and support to partner agencies, and support lead professionals who are experiencing difficulties with early help plans and interventions. Working closely with voluntary organisations, locality teams undertake targeted early help assessments and family plans through dedicated lead workers, co-ordinate services around the family and deliver targeted help to them.

**Bridges** is an innovative multi-disciplinary service with a clear aim: to safely prevent and reduce the number of children and young people entering care in our county.

Our commitment is to keep families safely together as a unit by strengthening and improving relationships. We are made up of a team of specialists including:

- Adolescent Workers
- Family Workers
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Clinical Psychologists
- Education Psychologist
- Education Inclusion Workers
- Adult Workers
- Systemic Family Therapists





The service is available to young people aged 11-17 who are open to social care as a result of relationship breakdown at home.

By delivering tailored structured and evidence-based interventions, we aim to support families to develop their own problem-solving skills, build resilience and achieve sustainable change. Families tell us they do not want to be in 'services' – they wish to be supported by their own friends, families and communities to manage the day-to-day challenges.

Our aim is to therefore provide a rapid response to address multiple complex issues across our families and support them to overcome difficulties which are contributing to the risk of relational breakdown.

We work to a maximum of 6 months and the initial stages are focused upon the development of a support agreement with the whole family. This is then reviewed every 6 weeks to identify areas of progress and to look at potential ongoing support at the point of closure.

**REACH** is Devon's specialist missing and exploitation team: **R**educing **E**xploitation and **A**bsence from **C**are or **H**ome will prioritise offering and completing RHC's within a 72-hour period of the young person or child being located.

REACH is the in-house service offering and completion of Return Home Conversations (RHC) has been reviewed to support the wider organisational improvement plan and to ensure that both vulnerable children subject to statutory interventions and those not subject of statutory intervention who go missing from home or care are seen in a timely and purposeful manner.

REACH will prioritise and aim to undertake all RHC's face-to-face with young people following a missing episode. This is due to the potential that REACH may be the only agency that is involved or in a position to have 'eyes on' the young person.

In extreme circumstances where face-to-face visits cannot the RHC will be offered by either telephone, WhatsApp or Facetime. The completion of RHC's by telephone or video calling will only ever be done in exceptional circumstances. Are recorded on the child's file on Eclipse.

In circumstances where the RHC is declined by the young person or their parent/carer, details about the missing episode and further analysis will be recoded on the missing notification form within Eclipse

**Family Intervention Team (FIT)** are part of DCC's targeted EH offer. Funded from the EH budget (currently sitting in Education & Learning). Developed from the Targeted/Troubled Family national agenda – working with parents/carers to make links, learn skills to improve outcomes for their children. FIT works in tandem services as Locality Funding; Job Centre Advisors; YSMART; REACH; YIT; FGC Plus (in part) – often co-working/joint visiting. We have similar working links with other targeted Early Help services commissioned separately, such as \*SPACE; Children Centres; Young Carers. The Family Intervention Service support can make an impact on the targeted end of early help – supporting families 'at the edge' of more intensive and/or statutory services. Staff work whole family.





FIT works with families at setting own goals. Making big impact changes in practical and supportive ways. They support families to develop tools and strategies to build stronger relationships to reduce conflict and tension. FIT will support families to access support for situations such as; debts, health issues and unemployment and further specialist support such as housing help, advice and support. FIT will support parents to encourage children to return to school. FIT will help create and support families to access a safe, encouraging space to meet with other parents in a similar situation and discuss tools, tips and strategies.

**Family Group Conferencing Service (FGCs)** are at the heart of our restorative approach to supporting families where there is a safeguarding issue. They aim to help families develop their own solutions to the difficulties they are facing. Devon County Council have an experienced accredited team of Senior FGC coordinators, managing teams of coordinators. Our nationally accredited Family Group Conference Service has been established for over ten years.

Family Group Conferences are family-led meetings where families can come together to discuss and agree what needs to happen to support positive change in a child's life. The Family Group Conference provides a supportive and structured space for this to happen.

Situations where a request to the Family Group Conference Service can be made include:

- preventing entry into care
- at the point of a pre-birth assessment starting
- where families are already involved in court processes
- prior to consideration of court involvement as promoted in the pre-proceeding's checklist
- where there are child protection concerns, and it is felt the family would benefit from using our services to help support the required changes
- at the point of child in need to prevent further escalation or support a step-down to early help
- exploring the wider family and friend's network to ensure all the potential strengths of the family are known
- improving communication between family members for the benefit of their children
- sharing accountability for the care and safety needs of children with the wider family group
- issues of conflict between the adults where the child/ren are significantly affected

FGCs are an 'opt in' offer, and so families can choose whether they want to explore that option for them. Every family is different in their needs, circumstance and goals, as well as what works for them. Early engagement with them is therefore important to ensure FGCs are appropriate and effective. FGC teams undertake visits to families to explain what they can offer and explore if they would want to engage.

**Y-SMART** provide support and advice for young people, parents, families and professionals and also deliver multi-agency training across the county. We provide targeted education in schools for those who are vulnerable to substance misuse; this may include children out of mainstream education, those receiving alternative education provision and other education





centres such as secure units. We also provide support for young people whose lives have been impacted by parental, carer or sibling substance use.

We work with young people who experiment with drugs and alcohol; with those who have more complex needs and whose drug and alcohol use may be beginning to affect other parts of their lives; also with young people whose lives may be severely impacted and may need pharmacological interventions and support.

**Youth Justice Service (YJS)** is a multi-agency service that aims to prevent offending and re-offending by children. Support around education, training, and employment (ETE) is a key focus within the service and children working with the YJS have access to commissioned ETE re-engagement provision, The Skill Mill employment scheme and specialist ETE mentors.

The YJS provides a range of services, including Appropriate Adults to children in police custody where another adult in their system is either unable or unwilling to fulfil this responsibility. The Service provides support and intervention to children diverted away from the formal youth justice system, reducing the number of children becoming a first-time entrant. For those who do go to court, the service works closely with the Courts, providing pre-sentence reports to inform sentencing options, and works with children and their families where a statutory court order is made. Where children are remanded or sentenced to Youth Detention Accommodation (custody) the Service works collaboratively with the Youth Custody Service and other professionals involved to safeguard children.

## Single Front Door

**The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** is a confidential environment within CASS where key partner agencies have access to their own information systems, and where information is shared to support decision making. Whenever a child is believed to be suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, MASH will ensure the information is triaged and where required MASH'd. This will then be passed on to the assessment teams within a 4-hour period. The MASH working closely with the Assessment and Intervention team; supports a consistent response to strategy meetings, safety planning and thresholds.

**Assessment and Intervention Teams** will undertake initial investigations, single assessments, and brief interventions with families to clarify the type of plan a child requires before transfer. They must organise an appropriate meeting so that handover can take place with an identified plan in place. These plans include, an Early Help Plan, a Child in Need Plan, a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Care Plan.

This service was remodelled in the recent restructure in November 2022 this has positively impacted how we are protecting children within Devon at the start of their social care journey. Receiving referrals from our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, we undertake assessments including CIN, Child Protection enquiries and those at immediate risk. Our remit is very simple; we want to make timely interventions with our children and families and ensure they receive the right services from the right part of the service at the right time. Quite simply, we work collaboratively with our colleagues to ensure continuity of service to avoid family breakdowns





wherever possible. It's something we're immensely proud of, and our determination to make a difference to the lives of those who need us most is reflected by every hard-working Assessment and Intervention worker.

**Emergency Duty Team (EDT)** provides an out-of-hour service (evenings, weekends, and bank holidays) for when a child is referred to or already open to Children's Services with urgent matters that cannot wait until the next working day. EDT's remit is to respond to crises that cannot safely wait until the next working day. The work undertaken with families by this team is handed over to either the worker who is already allocated to the family or is sent through to MASH to progress to a social work team, who will continue the work with the family. Specific tasks needed to be undertaken by EDT on Area's behalf are considered on a case-by-case basis. EDT liaises with partner agencies to ensure the most appropriate response. A DCC senior leader is always available to support complex decision making.

### **Children and Families Social Work**

**Children and Families Teams** provide longer-term and more intensive intervention to children in need and their families. Typically, these are children subject to Child in Need, Child Protection or Care Plans. The teams also undertake child welfare reports for the Court and pre-proceedings work, including prepare statements and evidence and initiating pre-proceedings and care proceedings. This includes supporting children and sign-posting parents for advice until the first Court hearing. They are also responsible for children who are looked after under section 20 until permanent decisions about their care have been made.

Our Children and Families teams work with children and families whose needs are so complex or significant that intervention is necessary to prevent risk of harm. Focussed on positive outcomes, they work in challenging yet supportive and collaborative ways, making use of Child Protection Plans and Child in Need Plans. The teams have strong links with the Bridges Service, Permanency and Transition Teams, Education Services, Fostering and Adoption, and the Leaving Care Service. We work closely with a range of partners including the Health Service, Schools Service and our own Independent Reviewing Service to ensure the voices of children and young people are always central to our practice.

**Social Work in Schools (SWiS)** are a team of 7 Social Workers supporting in some of our schools across Devon. They offer staff in schools to recognise and understand the impact of neglect and other trauma on children – thinking about outcomes and risk indicators.

Their work can offer support to education staff who are working with vulnerable children; who are not open to Social Care to prevent escalation. With this team being based in high referring schools means more children and young people seek early support from the social worker.

They work closely with pastoral teams including Heads of Year, Pupil Coaches, Designated Safeguarding Leads for case discussions, consideration of risk (including mitigating factors). SWiS is DfE funded until August 2023 upon which we will consider how we can continue to support schools in this vital work.

**Case Progression Officers** they work under one leadership structure to track the progress





of plans for children throughout their journey with our services. This includes those children and young people in pre-proceedings, care proceedings, accommodated under Section 20 (Children Act 1989), living at home under care orders, in adoption and post-adoption proceedings and unborn children.

The Case Progression Officers aim to improve consistency in the timeliness and quality of planning for children throughout their journey by improving the overall Public Law Outline (PLO) process, including pre-proceedings, the timeliness of court proceedings and post proceedings through to final permanence. This to help ensure that children receive the right help at the right time.

## Disabled Children's Service

**The Disabled Children Teams** is a locality-based specialist service which offers social care assessment and support for children and young people with a complex and substantial disability aged 0-18 and their families where the primary need is related to their disability. Disabled Children's teams work with the multi-disciplinary team around the child to provide timely and focused assessment and planning to help disabled children and young people be safe, healthy, engage in education, achieve their aspirations and have as independent a life as possible with a view to moving into adulthood.

Families with a disabled child may require additional support from social care services. Our Disabled Children's Service (DCS) offers support as well as advice and practical help. The type of support families could receive depends on the individual needs of your child and family. We identify needs through an assessment. This just means that we talk to you to gather information about your child and family to make sure you get the right help, at the right time and in the right place.

If an assessment of your child's needs shows your child is eligible for targeted support, your child's social worker or community care worker will work with you to put together a support plan. They will discuss what you think would make the most difference to your child and family and how best to access that support.

This level of support can include short breaks, which give disabled children and young people an opportunity to enjoy different experiences, meet new people through social and leisure activities to help them form friendships, feel part of the community, and build skills in preparation for adulthood while giving their families a break from their caring responsibilities.

## Corporate Parenting and Transitions

**Permanence and Transition Teams** Our Children in Care services are spread across the locality areas across Devon in line with the Children and Families teams. They work with children in Care and care experienced young people. Children range from 0 to 18 years of age – some of whom are vulnerable and have complex, challenging needs.

18+ Care Leavers and care experienced young people are also supported in this service as they progress from care to independence. The service works with each care leaver who is 18 years and up to 21, and for some young adults this will be up to 25 and beyond dependent,





on their individual circumstances. Support provided includes helping young people to secure and remain in suitable accommodation, including through Staying Put arrangements, up to the age of 21. The team also supports care leavers to progress to higher education and/or preparation for training and employment, and with life skills such as budgeting, relationships, health, including emotional wellbeing, and for some securing nationality and permanency of residence. The Service works proactively with the children in care service to identify the right time for a young person to be introduced to the Personal Advisor.

Also sitting under this service is the Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Age Assessment team. This works with young people coming through the National Transfer Scheme but also those entering the UK through other supported organisations.

Working closely with a range of partners including the Health Service, Schools Service and our own Independent Reviewing Service to ensure the voices of children and young people are always central to our practice. We also work closely with the courts where children are subject to care proceedings. This involves working closely with Cafcass, legal services and other partner agencies.

The **Virtual School** works as any school to provide support and interventions to help each child achieve their best and thrive on their educational journey.

We work with our young people, designated teachers in schools, social workers, carers, families and other professionals to ensure high aspirations and targeted support is the shared goal of everyone involved with the young person.

We provide:

- training for school staff, carers and social workers
- support for children and young people in care to Devon to achieve their best in school
- additional tuition where gaps are identified
- support for children, schools and carers at transition points in the education journey eg. moving from year 6 to 7
- advice and guidance for schools and families/carers of previously looked after and adopted children and those under Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs)
- each child with a high quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) which is a central record of their educational achievement and progress, including clear targets for improvement while capturing the young person's voice
- summer holiday activities for our children in care
- an area learning advocate for every child in care to get the best education offer possible
- a smooth, supported transition and admission to school

The **Participation team** works with children and young people to amplify their voice and experience and help them hold decision-makers to account. The team runs regular groups and activities, as well as one-off thematic events with decision-makers. The team supports care-experienced children and young people, children and young people with SEND, and members of the Youth Parliament.

**Mind of my Own** is an app for young people to feed back on the services they receive. Their professionals are able to see what young people think and feel about the support they receive and what could be different for them.







## Children's Health and Wellbeing Directorate

### Academy, Quality Assurance and Practice

Under this service sit the Social Work Academy, Quality Assurance, Principal Social Worker, LADO, Child Protection and Independent Reviewing services, with teams of professional staff ensuring standards and performance targets are understood and met or exceeded.

The service works to lead and implement the quality assurance framework and ensure that the impact and learning are communicated to bring about improved practice that achieves positive outcomes for children and families. QARSS address changes in legislation and ensure best practice is followed across the service. They monitor progress through activities such as audits, thematic reviews, feedback dip sampling, feedback from children and young people, and evaluations from training courses. Information gathered through these activities inform wider service development and improvement.

The **Social Work Academy** is the center for practice. Led by the Head of Service for QARSS and Principal Social Worker (PSW), the Academy contains all DCC's services that support and deliver learning about practice and practice improvement.

The Academy's work includes:

- Developing and promoting Restorative Practice
- Driving practice improvement, and servicing statutory and regulatory reporting requirements through the provision of performance management information and analysis
- Providing assurance of the quality of practice through quality assurance, practice evaluation and audit
- Growing and supporting DCC's workforce by putting our learning into practice delivering learning and development and the Social Work Academy.
- Developing and delivering a clear Employee Practice Support Offer that takes into account the impact of social work and social care practice on front-line practitioners and leaders and provides a framework for a stable workforce.
- Maintaining DCC's policies and procedures in line with national requirements and reflecting practice changes

**Child Protection & Independent Reviewing Service** organises and chairs Child Protection Conferences when we are concerned that a child or young person may be suffering significant harm.

The service keeps children's individual experiences of family life at the heart of its work, ensures children's views are represented in conference and that children are kept informed of how things are going and next steps. The Child Protection Chairs who chair the meetings meet with parents beforehand, answering any queries and discussing how meetings will be held so parents know what to expect. During the conference we use a Restorative Practice





approach making sure the family feels part of the meeting and planning.

The Chairperson take responsibility for making sure meetings focus on the children and that everyone has a chance to give their views. They also coordinate everyone's views in the written plan from conference – sometimes this is a Child in Need Plan and sometimes a Child Protection Plan. They also follow up between conferences to see how things are progressing and chase up any delays, helping to resolve things where possible. The service also looks at trends in the children who are being helped through child protection plans and reports on those.

**The Independent Reviewing Service** provides independent oversight of planning for children in care, to ensure that the child's interests and needs are central and effectively addressed in the care planning and review process. The service is committed to ensuring children's involvement and participation in the process and their care planning, so they are involved with the formulation of their plan and influence decision-making.

A named IRO is allocated to a child or young person within 72 hours of them coming into care. Wherever possible the IRO remains allocated to the child/ young person throughout their time in care, and changes are kept to a minimum. They chair all their Child in Care (CIC) reviews which endorse and confirm their care plan.

Between reviews the IRO monitors the progress of the plans and decisions by communicating closely with the Social Worker, including where needed meeting with the child/young person to plan their next review.

For those young people in care aged 16 and 17 years the IRO continues to monitor and review their Care Plan through the pathway planning process up to 18 years of age, ensuring there is a final CIC Review before their 18th Birthday. For young people leaving care before their 18th birthday, the IRO has a key role in making sure that they only move to other arrangements where this is in their best interests.

The majority of plans for children/young people progress well, but on the occasions where the IRO believes that the proposed plan is not meeting the child's needs or there is significant delay in its implementation, the IRO can initiate the local dispute resolution process.

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** service (as set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*) is responsible for managing concerns and allegations against people who work with children who are paid, unpaid volunteers, casual agency staff or anyone who works in a self-employed capacity.

The function of the LADO Service is co-ordinating information sharing between agencies, and providing management and overview of cases where there are allegations against staff who work with children. The LADO will liaise with other Local Authorities where there are cross-boundary issues.

## Fostering and Kinship Care





**Fostering Devon** provides in-house fostering placements that offer a stable and consistent experience of family life to Devon's looked after children and young people. The service aims to train and develop foster carers to deliver therapeutic parenting to heal traumatised children and young people. The fostering service supports and contributes to this mission by providing an effective, efficiently managed, high quality foster care service within available resources. It meets the needs of children identified through the stages of assessment planning and review and aims to ensure the best possible outcomes for children in foster care. The fostering service has a key role in supporting Devon County Council as corporate parent for children who cannot live with their own families and for whom it shares parental responsibility. Devon County Council upholds the right of every child to grow up in a stable and loving family environment. We recognise that a child's best interests are usually met within their birth family or extended family.

**Mockingbird** is an evidence-based innovative approach to fostering which seeks to imitate an extended family. At the centre of the 'constellation' are Home Hub carers, who are experienced and skilled foster carers. Around them are several 'satellite' foster carers nearby who provide homes to children and young people in care. The hub carers provide respite, peer support, joint planning and activities for the satellite homes. This model supports relationship-building between children and young people, carers and professionals in a mutually-supportive community. As a result, the stability of home life for children and young people is improved and foster carer resilience.

**Private Fostering** is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is looked after for a period of 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. They can be a friend of the child's family or someone who is willing to care for the child of a family they do not know.

Common situations are:

- children and young people living apart from their families
- children with parents overseas
- children living with host families for a variety of reasons
- children on holiday exchanges which last more than 27 days

People involved in private fostering arrangements must, by law, inform Devon County Council. Any child separated from their parents is potentially vulnerable and we have a responsibility to make sure the alternative care they receive is suitable.

The child's parents, private foster carers, and anyone else involved in the arrangement are **legally required** to inform us immediately.

Many people don't know that they must do this, which means the necessary arrangements to ensure the child or young person is safe are not being made.





**CPAT: The Child & Parent Placement and Assessment Service** is a Devon County Council Children's Service provision that is independent of the Children & Families Teams. We provide evidence-based parenting assessments. Assessments are undertaken either within child and parent arrangements in a fostering household or in the community.

The aims of the service are:

To keep children and parents together during assessment and provide the opportunity for parents to experience caring for their child in a family-based environment

To support families to develop the skills, experience, and knowledge to safely parent their children. - To enable and encourage parents to develop a better understanding of their child's needs and meet these independently

To support families in building a network of support and maintain parents and their children close to their local community. - To work with families in a trauma informed way, which includes the use of a strengths-based framework, and includes trauma awareness, providing safety through positive working relationships and clear boundaries, encouraging self-efficacy and service user involvement, with a focus on developing skills required for future living

To provide evidence-based parenting assessments which will inform care planning decisions for children and families and reduce delay in the achievement of permanency.

**The Kinship Assessment and Support Teams** undertake kinship carer assessments, special, special guardianship assessments and connected carer assessment. Support is offered to special guardians once the special guardianship order is made.

**Adopt South West** is the Regional Adoption Agency which recruits, trains, assesses and supports prospective adopters, seeks matches for children with adoptive parents and supports adoptive families on their life long journey across the South West peninsula.

The Prospective Adoption Report (PAR) is completed sequentially in two stages taking up to 8 months, and support is provided to approved adopters through the matching process and right until an Adoption Order is granted by the Court.

Family Finders prepare profiles for children with a plan of long-term fostering or adoption, and work with their social workers to seek permanent carers for them. Their aim is to ensure that children who cannot return to live with their birth family are matched with a new permanent family within 9 months after coming into care if possible.

The Post-Order Support Team **(which includes a psychologist and educational psychologist)** works with adoptive families any time from approval until the young person is 18, and beyond that age if they wish to access their birth records.

The **Placements Team** searches and secures all external placements for young people and works closely with other services to find suitable placements for children entering care or who need an external placement change that matches their needs. This includes external foster care, residential care, and supported accommodation. The team will try to find the best match for the child/ young person, based on an assessment of their needs.





The **Commissioning Team** develops and shapes DCC's approach to how services are procured and delivered, how we work with partners and which services we purchase externally to meet the needs of children. This includes:

- a commissioning strategy about how we will work with partners to develop the right mix of services to meet children's needs
- Sufficiency Plan to ensure we have the right range of services to meet the needs of children in our care and care leavers.
- Placement sufficiency strategy

Commissioning also provides a contract monitoring function to ensure the service offer meets the expected quality and the terms of the contract.

**Atkinson Secure Children's Home** is the only secure children's home in the South West. It is a welfare-only home accommodating up to 10 young people aged 10 – 17. The home has over 30 years' experience of specialising in the welfare of young people. Atkinson is no longer a provision for young people who have been sentenced through criminal court proceedings.

Children and young people are placed at Atkinson by their local authority and the courts because they are a risk to themselves and others and abscond from their care placements – foster care, children's home, or sometimes from their biological or adopted family. Some could be victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), or, at serious risk of abuse, or be victims of actual abuse. Children come from all over the country and stay for a minimum of 72 hours; although most young people stay for longer.

Each child has a key worker who works one to one with them, gaining trust and giving intensive support. They also have a personal tutor and a case manager. Each member of staff is trained in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) this is a therapeutic parenting approach/model and is used across the home looking at what young people can do for themselves.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) staff are based on site, they help young people reduce their risk behaviour and return to a positive lifestyle in the community. They support staff in looking after the very complex and often challenging everyday care needs of each young person.

**Devon Public Health Nursing** provides health visiting and school nursing services across Devon. They lead and deliver the Healthy Child Programme providing universal child and family health services and ongoing additional services for vulnerable children and families. The team is made up of health visitors, school nurses, staff nurses and community health workers. Health visitors and school nurses are qualified nurses or midwives with post-registration experience with additional experience and training and education in child health, health promotion, public health and education.

Sitting under the Legal Services Directorate of Devon County Council, the **Children's Legal Team** is a specialist team which provides legal advice and representation to DCC. The





Team specialises in Childcare Law, Adoption Law, and Children's Social Services Law.

The team's main area of work is providing advice and representation in safeguarding work under the Public Law Outline (PLO) in pre proceedings and court work in the Family Court, in particular in Care Proceedings and Adoption and other Public Law applications.

