Devon County Council

Our vision for children and young people in Devon

within their familes and communities

Our vision

A Devon in which young people are free from abuse and neglect, have a safe and secure home and live in an inclusive and supportive community. A Devon where they can enjoy the best possible physical, mental and emotional health and are able to make healthy life choices. A Devon where, whatever their background, children have the opportunity to succeed and achieve a good standard of education, skills and employability.

Our priorities are to offer early help to prevent problems and improve life chances; to intervene to manage the risk of harm and other poor outcomes; to make sure that supportive and loving care is available for those who need it; to ensure a good standard of education and employability; and to help children lead a healthy life.

Health

Achievement

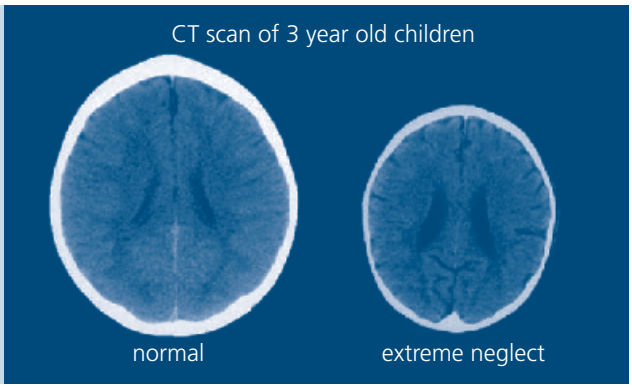
Security

Opportunity

Our priorities

Early help

We know that Early Help is the best way to make lasting improvements in people's lives, tackle risk and prevent problems becoming embedded. Our priority is to respond quickly to the needs of children, young people and their families and to enable them to fulfil their potential. By shifting resources from crisis intervention to prevention, we will deliver positive social and economic outcomes and long-term savings.



Managing Risk

Managing the risk of abuse and other adverse outcomes by targeted, intervention avoids the need for expensive (and less effective) acute interventions. Our workforce will manage risk confidently and provide targeted support at the edge of care and to others who would need a more intensive service.

Care

The family environment has a profound influence on a child's life. Where abuse or neglect necessitate alternative care, a prompt placement in a loving and stable environment is essential to ensure the best possible outcomes. We will provide and commission support for young people who need care, ensuring they have clearly planned journeys through care, have stable placements and exit the care system positively.

Learning

In a new school landscape, our role is to act as children's champion, supporting vulnerable pupils, commissioning effective improvement services, facilitating local learning partnerships, and integrating learning and skills to improve the job prospects of young people and support the Devon economy. Our aim is to improve educational outcomes, reduce gaps in attainment and promote learning about positive life style choices and wellbeing.

Wellbeing

We aim to improve the health and wellbeing of children, families and communities and encourage people to address their health needs. We will promote good uptake of screening and immunisations and ensure that children's health needs are met within their school and community.

Putting priorities into practice

Vision

A Devon in which young people are free from abuse and neglect, have a safe and secure home and live in an inclusive and supportive community. A Devon where they can enjoy the best possible physical, mental and emotional health and are able to make healthy life choices. A Devon where, whatever their background, they have the opportunity to succeed and achieve a good standard of education, skills and employability.

Long term priorities and key outcomes

Early Help

- Support positive and sustainable change for families
- Provide pathways to independence for young people
- Help to break the cycle of child poverty through early intervention

Manage Risk

- Support children & families to develop capacity, resilience and independence
- Prevent reoffending and ensure good outcomes for children who offend or are at risk of offending
- A robust workforce able to manage risk on the edge of care

Care

- Ensure children have stable placements
- Provide carefully planned journeys through care
- Permanency, helping families to stay together where possible

Learning

- Good progress and reduced gaps in attainment for vulnerable & disadvantaged children
- Effective intervention to prevent underachievement, exclusions, absence and other poor outcomes
- Access to a quality school place

Wellbeing

- Understand the health of children, families and communities and encourage people to address their health needs
- Promote good uptake of screening and immunisations
- Ensure that children's health needs are met within their school and community

Immediate Priorities 2013/14

- Keep Children & Young People safe
- Reduce our use of institutional care
- Proud motivated and skilled staff
- Commission and provide quality, safe services
- Achieve sustainable financial balance

See also: Commissioning Strategy, Performance Management & Quality Assurance Framework, Early Alert System, Data Dashboard, Joined up governance arrangements, Improvement Plan.