

Homes for children, high needs fostering and therapeutic education

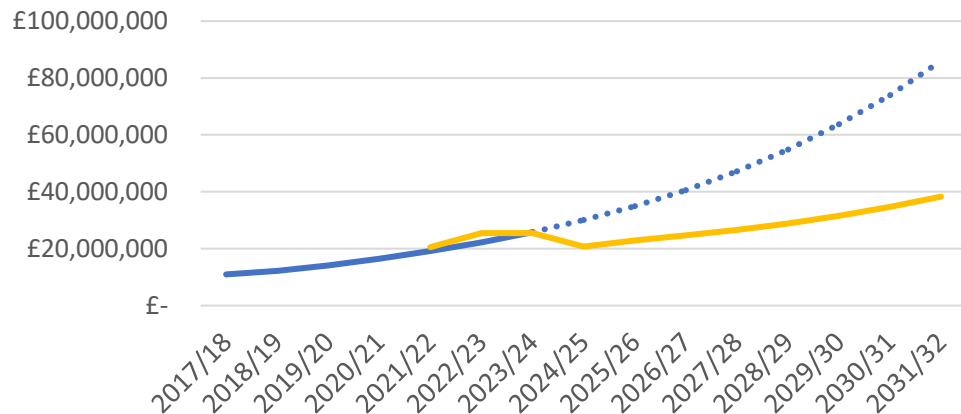
Update to Scrutiny Committee

- February 2022



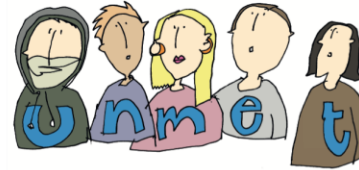
Why are we doing this?

- Demand for good quality, small, local homes outstrips supply for our most vulnerable young people
- Costs are rising, outcomes aren't improving – this cohort continues to have very poor outcomes and life chances
- Local market segmentation suggests reliance on bigger providers – no reason to commit to Somerset children
- Lack of choice results in children living far away from home, family, friends and school
- Need to do something different

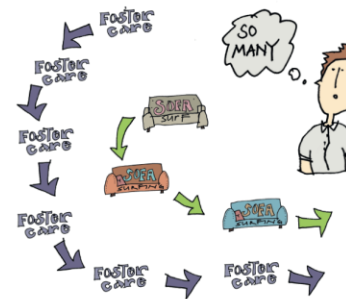


Ensuring lived experience is at the heart of our thinking

WHAT THE STORIES TOLD US ABOUT THE YOUNG PERSON'S EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEY CAME TO THEIR CURRENT HOME

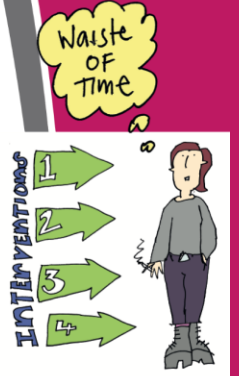


Young people present with a whole range of unmet needs and trauma experiences



Many different 'placements' (which may have been with different foster carers or on different people's sofas)

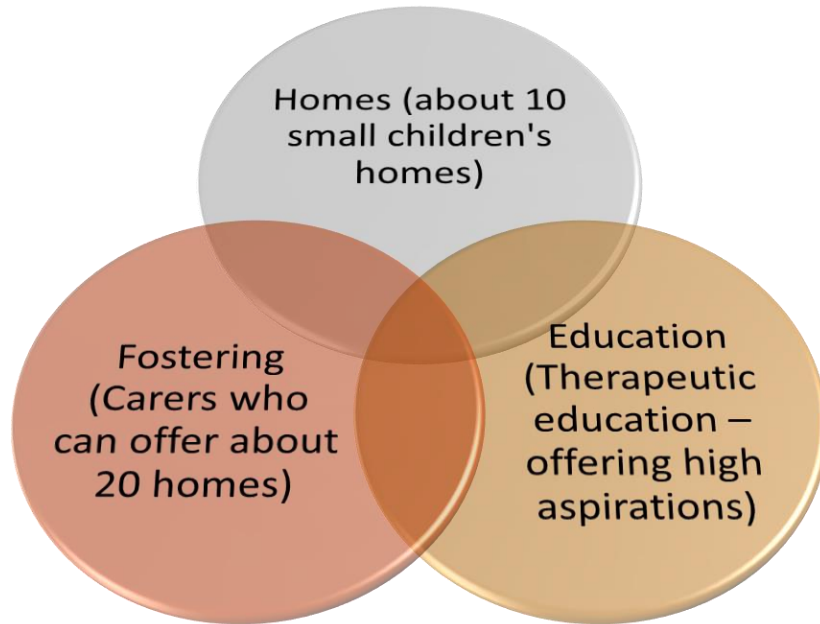
Life had felt very fragmented



Many of the interventions they had received to date had not worked

DESMOND TUTU: "THERE COMES A POINT WHERE WE JUST NEED TO STOP PULLING PEOPLE OUT OF THE RIVER. WE NEED TO GO UPSTREAM AND FIND OUT WHY THEY ARE FALLING IN."

We started with this concept.....

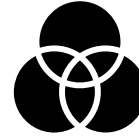


Supported by....

- Revenue start up funding of £2.7million (covid recovery)
- Capital investment of £3million to purchase the first houses for children's homes



High standards and ambitions for young people



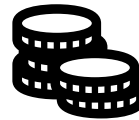
Blended care



Agile and responsive service



Shared workforce aims and integrated management systems



Investment to create jobs in Somerset



Good platform for joint developments



What happened?

- 13 organisations put in initial bids – we took 8 through to the dialogue phase (asked what have you changed as a result of listening to children)
- Dialogue phase involved a wide range of interested people! Senior NHS (CCG and provider trusts), finance, operational social care, police MISPER rep
- Care experienced group changed fully involved in dialogue then evaluation (12%) – undertook visits to homes
- Following dialogue phase received 5 tender responses – very strong field
- Strengthened relationships across the system
- Generated a lot of interest from other councils
- Appointed Homes 2 Inspire, Fostering2Inspire and Shaw Education Trust (all part of The Shaw Trust)



Homes2Inspire (H2I) including Fostering to Inspire, part of the Shaw Trust Group (STG) (including Shaw Trust, Shaw Education Trust, Ixion and Prospects)

- H2I deliver 30 Ofsted registered residential homes
 - Deliver Trevone House in Gloucester
 - Block contract with Nottingham
- Fostering to inspire – Independent fostering agency
- Shaw Trust – deliver employment services across the UK
- Shaw Education Trust (SET)
 - Manage 26 schools/academies that range from nursery, primary, secondary, specialist (SEND) and alternative (Pupil referral units)
 - Wigan down to Birmingham and across from Merseyside to Derby
 - Support a total of 10,715 pupils
 - 1,276 with EHC Plans
 - 2,010 requiring SEND support
 - 167 CLA
- Ixion – Training provider for adults getting in employment
- Prospects
 - Careers information, advice and guidance, supported traineeships
 - Provides education within Young Offenders Institutes
 - Manage 2 large leaving care services and YOT
- Shaw Trust Foundation – charitable purpose and activity

shaw trust



 **Fostering to Inspire**



ixion
part of Shaw Trust

prospects
Inspiring People: Developing Potential

Where are we now?

- Agreeing and adjusting the partnership agreement
- Almost secured home one, looking for home two
- Successful in bidding to the DfE for capital funding (£1.026 million) – feedback on the bid included
 - The approach to innovation and the realisation of improved outcomes for children was exceptional as we had clearly evidenced that we had consulted closely with young people to identify their needs, they were actively involved in the procurement.
 - It evidenced a clear and significant need of provision - sufficiency
 - Provided an innovative approach which addressed the different needs of children in residential care.
 - Value for money was evidenced through the implementation of a competitive procurement exercise.
- Institute of Public Care (Oxford Brooks) are evaluating
 - Talking to everyone involved
 - What worked well and lessons to be learnt



To Summarise

- Innovative approach – led to significant level of interest from providers – very good field
- Children and young peoples involvement, views and thinking were central – providers liked our values based approach
- Will offer a different experience of homes and support – more stable relationships with the people who can help them - aspirational for them
- Will offer better value for money – Controlling spend, blending care to make effective use of resources.
- Secured an experienced, diverse and good not for profit provider – making significant investment themselves
- Supporting lots of councils to do something similar – interest has been huge



"It really felt like they were trying to get the best out of everybody, and it showed commitment and passion that they want to get this right for young people" – Bidding organisation

"We all got together a week after with the commissioners and we all shared what we thought, and I really felt my views were heard. We definitely felt listened to, 100%." - Young person

"I said I wanted to stay in one of the homes as it was so good" – Young person