



Children in Care Placements Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy

2025 – 2028

Children and Young People Integrated Commissioning

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If you are a provider and would like more information or considering provision in Derby, please contact: ChildPlacementsTeam@derby.gov.uk on 01332 64 2699



1. Purpose

The Derby 2025 -2028 Placement Sufficiency Strategy details how Derby City Council intends to meet the 'Sufficiency Duty' set out in Section 22G of the Childrens Act 1989 and the Children and Young Peron Act 2008. It requires local authorities to implement the sufficiency duty, securing suitable accommodation for children within their care stating:

*“the Local Authority must take steps to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the Authority’s area boundaries which meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority’s area”.
(the sufficiency duty).*

This strategy:

- sets out the Council’s vision and approach to meeting its responsibilities, as a corporate parent, to provide secure, safe, and appropriate accommodation to children in need, children in care and care leavers over the next three years.
- Is informed by current and anticipated sufficiency requirements, market changes, gaps, and opportunities, drawing on a wide range of available national, regional, and local data, and
- identifies key challenges that may be faced in achieving sufficiency and our approach to overcoming them.

Consideration has been given to The Care Planning Placement and Case Review (England) (Amendment) regulations 2021 and more recently The Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023, The Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation Children’s Social Care Reform 2023 (February 2023) which recommends the implementation of 6 pillars to transform children’s social care. *Appendix 1*

The strategy looks to prevent relationship breakdowns, strengthen family ties, and, whenever feasible, allow children and young people to receive consistent care at home. It outlines the steps that will be taken over the following three years to enhance the impact, quality, and availability of placements as well as to build a strong understanding of and response to factors that may contribute to the placement of children and young people in local authority care. Our Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy will connect to the planning and preparation for Families First Partnership Programme (FFP) new national programme.

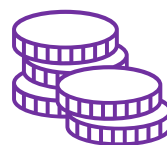
2. About Derby

Derby City is built on science and industry, a diverse, compact city of 30 square miles in the East Midlands. It is a culturally diverse city with a population of 266,500 which includes 60,100 children and young people under the age of 18 (ONS Population Estimates 2023). Derby represents many different nationalities and languages, 34% of Derby residents identified with an ethnic minority group at the 2021 Census and 13% did not speak English as their main language (ONS, Census 2021).

The city is divided into 18 wards and is ranked as the 67th most deprived local authority in England, with some pockets of very high levels of deprivation. 34% of neighbourhoods in the city are within the most deprived 20% nationally (MHCLG, IMD 2019).



The population of Derby is younger than the England average with higher rates of fuel and child poverty and a higher inequality in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas of the city.



261,100
Population of
derby

Ranked best
place to live for
young people
under 30
Jan (2020)

£46,100
Gross Value
Added per
worker

£36,415
Average
earnings
of residents

59th of 317
authorities
Deprivation

2.1 Vision for the City

Our Council Plan 2022- 2025 outlines our vision for Derby. For children and young people this is about providing the ambition and opportunity to succeed, be healthy and happy.

GREEN CITY

For a compact city we have a lot of green spaces. In the face of climate change we will lead communities and partners to make a difference. We must work together as a city to tackle the climate change emergency, promoting more sustainable ways of living.



CITY OF GROWTH

Our city is home to some significant employers, and we have a strong history of manufacturing and innovation. We want to diversify and grow. Our ambition is to be a smart, super connected city that has the right skills, jobs and space for the future.



VIBRANT CITY

Derby is a historic city and a UNESCO world heritage site. We are putting culture at the heart of the city, reinvigorating our city centre and developing our cultural offer.



© Graham Whitmore

RESILIENT CITY

There are over 4,000 community and voluntary groups in Derby. Building on our strong sense of pride and community, we're determined to reduce inequalities and improve health and wellbeing across the city; unlocking the potential within our communities.



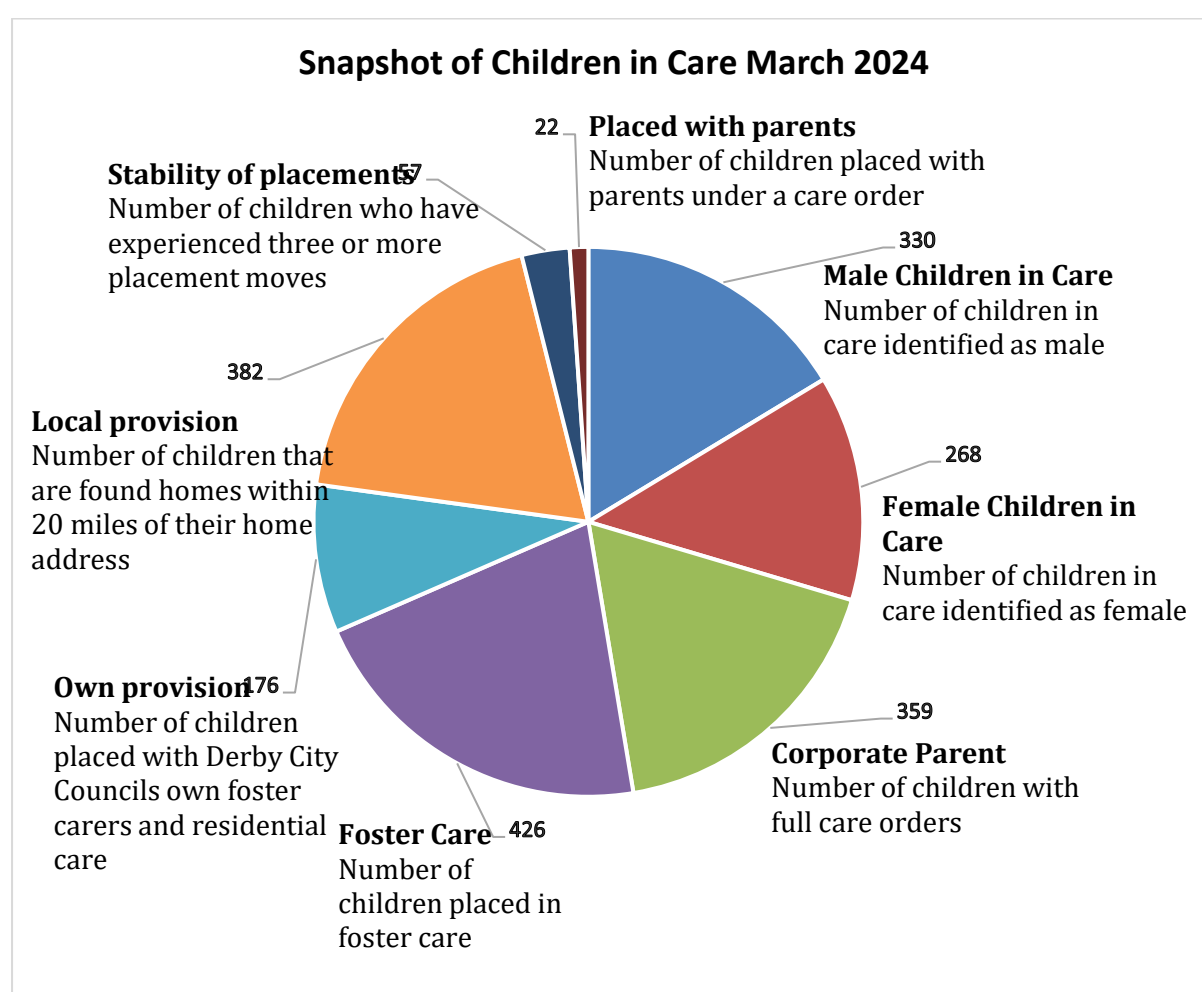
Derby City Council

2.2 Vision for Children

Derby's Children and Young People Plan 2022-25 sets out the wider context for working in partnership in children's services in Derby City, with a vision of 'Healthy children and young people, thriving families' with the key outcomes of:

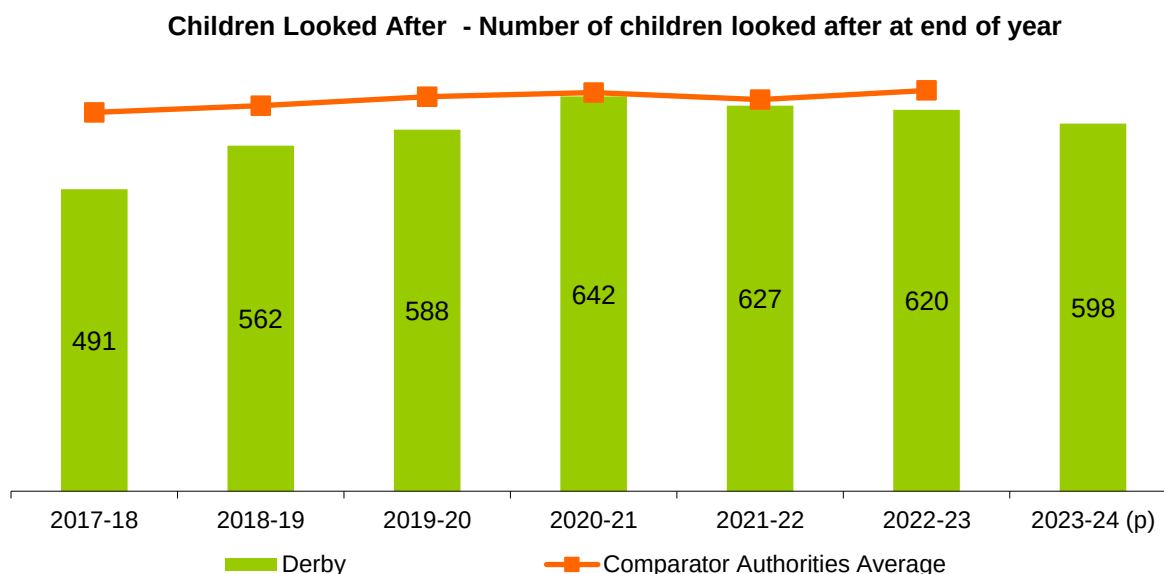


Corporate Parenting is the collective responsibility of the local authority to actively promote the life chances and outcomes of children in care and care leavers to provide them with the best possible care and protection. Effective corporate parenting requires a commitment to demonstrate the children in care should be cared about, not just cared for.



The number of children in care in Derby has seen a reduction since March 2021 to March 2024. The most current data of Children in Care and their placements will be available in the Market Position Statement. This live document will be made available to all stakeholders, providers and partners. The current data set included in this document is the latest published data set.





At year end 31 March 2024 Derby had 598 children in care. This was a decrease from 598 children seen at the previous year's end. This is a reduction of 22 children and equates to a 3.5% decrease.

2.3 Key challenges

- Derby is a small, culturally diverse city with a population of 261,136 representing 180 nationalities and over 70 languages.
- The population of Derby is younger, and more deprived than the England average and there are some significant gaps between the health and well-being of residents across the different wards of the city and pockets of diverse communities.
- Unemployment, domestic abuse, alcohol and substance misuse, and immigration all impact on the volume and complexity of needs presented by children and young people.
- Increases in the number of children and young people requiring placements and changes in the needs of those young people, combined with a shrinking public sector, legislative changes (particularly from welfare reform) and local factors have all impacted upon local sufficiency requirements.
- Improving outcomes for children in care, particularly those highly complex children and young people, who often have multiple needs and display highly challenging behaviours which lead to placement instability and escalating care needs, is a challenge.
- The cost of living is negatively impacting on the physical and mental health of people and families, coupled with rising energy prices pushing people into fuel poverty. This has resulted in people struggling to access essentials or consume sufficient food.



3. Commissioning Direction

We aspire to provide every child and young person with the best possible local placement (where appropriate), which meets their needs, wishes and feelings and provides them with the opportunity to thrive

There is a need to rebalance children's social care away from costly crisis intervention to more meaningful and effective help for families, so that it achieves the outcomes children deserve.

This will be delivered through our commissioning intentions:

Reduce high-cost placements through increased local sufficiency by developing a wider range of placements

Place a minimum of 75% of all children within 20-mile radius of the city centre. Ensure equality of service offers for those outside.

Secure the best possible placement for every child and young person, considering their needs and wishes.

Improve pathways and outcomes for children and young people with complex needs and mental health concerns by maximising integrated services

Monitor children and young people's progression across all placements, reviewing strengths and challenges and implementing change if and when required.

Listen actively to children and young people and use their feedback to inform and influence services

Continually review our offer, practice, and commissioning activity in line with changing demographics, demand, feedback, and constraints.

To execute, via joint commissioning with local partners, the Derby vision and strategy for integrated care, providing every child and young person with the best facility, providing wrap around support, giving them the opportunity to be the best



4. Key challenges

- It is expected that the number of children with complex needs will increase in the coming years.
- Traditional commissioning presents greater challenge to meet the needs of children with complex requirements.
- The number of children and young people requiring placements has reduced by 13.7% since 2023. However, with a shrinking public sector, foster carer population, legislative changes (particularly from welfare reform) and local factors have all impacted upon local sufficiency requirements.
- Securing and acquiring local foster and residential placements, for young people with complex and challenging behaviour and needs, principally teenagers, and for households which reflect the background of our children. This impacts on the social care, education and health needs being consistently delivered.
- Improving outcomes for children in care, particularly highly complex children and young people with multiple needs and highly challenging behaviours leading to placement instability and escalating care needs.
- Insufficient residential placements allowing providers to be selective, which impacts children with complex needs making placements much harder to achieve.
- More placements are required for large sibling groups, and specialist placements for those with complex needs such as risk of:
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Offending behaviours
 - Physical and learning disabilities and
 - Mental health issues such as self-harm, and drug use.
 - Reducing numbers of 'in-house' fostering households.
- Competing pressures for placements with independent agencies within Derby from bordering local authorities and further afield.
- The system is struggling to cope with the demand for emotional health and mental wellbeing support and there is a particularly negative impact on looked after children.

5. Commissioning Strategy

Derby City Council has an all-age brokerage team where referrals are routed through a single point of access for any placement. In-house provision is sought, prior to considering external providers for residential homes, foster placements, and supported accommodation.

We work closely with our in-house provision to determine local availability: The Council operates children's homes which are focussing on supporting young people to achieve independence to adulthood via other services and volunteering networks and supporting transitioning into the community where relevant. The Corporate-wide initiative is to increase the number of in-house foster carers through attracting and retaining carers.



5.1 Listen to the voice of the child

We work directly with service users, the Children in Care Youth Council¹ and network for Care Leavers when undertaking commissioning or development activity to ensure their views are central to decision making. We seek the views from relevant professionals in social care to better understand the individual needs, wishes and feelings of children and young people when sourcing individual placements.

The Derby City Councils [Children and Young People's Partnership Participation Strategy 2023-26](#) is to embed co-production both with the individual and collective voice of children and young people in decision making across all areas of the partnership. It has to become part of everyday practice in all aspects from policies and strategies, recruitment, service development, evaluation through to supporting individual children and young people.

A dedicated website² has been set up allowing children and young people to submit their view anonymously. The majority stated a homely and friendly place is what makes a good placement.

They were clear that they want to be listened to and have a say in their care, emphasising the importance of having a robust health and safety in place at the placement. They want a supportive and nurturing environment, where they feel safe and cared for and be able to talk to their foster carers and residential staff confidentially about their problems. For their cares to be encouraging, thoughtful and provide good, tailored advice.

5.2 Ensure consistent, quality, and cost-effective provision

Our focus is to ensure the best outcomes - best value, driving up quality and ensuring early intervention leading to de-escalation of need and greater placement stability for better outcomes for our children and young people. We recognise that partnerships and collaboration with providers is key to achieving these aims. Quality assurance visits are regularly conducted to ensure high standards and regulations are being delivered within the placement. Derby City Council manages monthly monitoring contract meetings with providers, whilst working closely with Ofsted to support its providers.

A monthly Residential Panel reviews and explores care plans for step down for children/young people in Residential Care and have recently produced guidance for staff in relation to unregulated placements (Unregulated Placements Guidance). To ensure we are working to deliver quality provisions and review these regularly.

5.3 Apply a range of commissioning approaches

We continue to work with internal and external provision and commission through a range of mechanisms (such as frameworks, Dynamic Purchasing Systems, block, and spot contracts) to ensure availability, quality and best value of services locally.

Commissioning approaches are council specific and/or via regional/sub-regional partnerships addressing common needs and challenges. All commissioning is strategic and needs-led, with

¹ www.derby.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-voice-children-young-people/

² www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-family-care/children-in-care/children-in-care-council/



robust procurement and contracting. There is a drive for collaboration between partners, commissioners, the market and children and young people, to develop an outcomes focused market.

5.4 Partnership working

We work closely in partnership and form part of the D2N2, one of the largest enterprise partnerships comprising of Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council. We work in collaboration to strengthen, sustain, and execute the delivery of services maximising the positive impact on the lives of our young people and children.

Derby City has led the delivery of the D2N2 framework for supported accommodation for 16–17-year-olds which further transpired into a joint response to the DfE on the National Care Review. We also led on the Decent and Safe Homes accredited scheme, working meticulously with providers to ensure housing standards were met in line with legal requirements.

DfE response to the National Care Review in 2023 and the Competition and Markets Authority's study, has backed

'the care review's proposal to transfer responsibility for the commissioning of care placements from individual councils to regional groupings of authorities, regional care co-operatives (RCCs), which will initially be tested in two pathfinder areas before being rolled out. It has also accepted the CMA's proposal to commission a national body to provide help for authorities/RCCs in forecasting demand and procurement. It said these measures would address the insufficiency of placements for children in care, improve outcomes and tackle the excess profit-making identified by the CMA among the largest providers.'

Derby City are part of the D2N2 consortia and have been jointly commissioning frameworks and placements with a forward-thinking vision for several years with further joint work being planned between the four Local Authorities. Support is being received regionally via the DCS's for continuous working together on joint commissioning approaches for CIC with more recent emphasis on commissioning with Health. We are undertaking joint commissioning with our Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Boards to create innovative schemes for our more complex cohorts.

We understand that our commissioning approach may be difficult for providers at times, and by active market engagement we want to work better together. We hold jointly, D2N2 regional and local provider events/ forums, engaging providers, updating on the current position and demand across the D2N2 footprint. This provides a platform to listen and respond to each sector's needs. The D2N2 framework has been developed in partnership, with a vision to work collaboratively, to continue to jointly commission services for children in care, working to develop innovative schemes to meet the needs and demands that each LA faces.



Derby & Derbyshire Model Joint Commissioning Strategy

Principles and Priorities

A shared ambition to improve pathways and outcomes for children and young people with complex needs and mental health concerns by maximising the utilisation of wrap around integrated services.



Derby City is working and developing internally and externally to co-produce pathways to ensure our children are supported by an underpinned behaviours and values, governed by our joint principles and priorities. Our pledge to provide innovative homes for our children based on their needs with greater provision within the local footprint. In doing so we aim to:

Young people and children	CIC Services
Have a Child centered assessment and delivery, shaped according to individual aspirations and needs.	Services will be joined up, consistent and designed around needs.
Jointly and swiftly assess needs and identify new ways to deliver outcomes together.	
Allow children and young people to move easily between services.	
Increase positive outcomes for children and young people with complex multiple need.	Service providers will recognise the multiple needs of individual children and find sensitive ways of listening, enabling, empowering, and supporting them to flourish and live their best life.
Support and deliver effective education, health and care provision for all children and young people with complex multiple needs in Derby City.	
Enhance a positive experience for young people as they move from childhood into adulthood with increasing independence.	Services will be easy to understand, access and navigate.
Allow young people with multiple needs to feel empowered in contributing towards their community.	



Allow young people with multiple needs to access provision locally with fewer placement moves.	Reduce duplication through recognition and sharing of assets and resources.
There will be stronger partnerships and integrated teams.	
Use data and evidence to inform planning, need, impact, outcomes, and satisfaction.	

Deliver the STARS programme across DN2. An outcome-based initiative supporting and stabilizing children and young people within their residence.

Derby City Council is constantly striving to improve its offer to children and young people in care, to support them in achieving their best possible outcomes. STARS – Supporting children and young people To Achieve Resilience. The aspiration is to provide every child with a local placement (where appropriate), which meets their needs, wishes and feelings and provides them with the opportunity to thrive and achieve. STARS provides placement interventions for:

- Step down from residential care to foster homes.
- Stabilisation of foster placements.
- Re unify looked after children with their birth or primary carers.
- Support children on the “edge of care” to remain safely at home with their families or primary carers.

Sourcing IFA and Children Homes Placements through the D2N2 CiC Framework

In line with the local authority's vision for its accommodation strategy (appendix 3). Derby City Council's ambition is to increase the provision of small children's homes across the local authority area, and to develop more flexible and intensive wraparound services that can support young people with what they need, where and when they need it.

Key Partner in D2N2 Regional Adoption Agency accepting adopters across East Midlands

Where appropriate, the aim is for children and young people to remain living locally, taking into consideration maintaining a young person's educational, health, social and cultural connections, and access to resources. The ambition is for a minimum of 75% of all children and young people in care to be placed locally, i.e. within 20 miles of the centre of Derby.

We continually seek to joint plan and commission across Health, Education and Social Care, sharing accountability, driving efficiencies, outcomes and preventing duplication

Derby had 598 children in care at 31 March 2024 and of these 382 were placed within 20 miles of the child's home address. This equates to 60.4% which is lower than the figure seen in the previous year (61.6%). Nationally, in 2022-23, the percentage was 70% whilst the comparator authority average was higher with 77%.

We will continue to build upon strategic relationships within and across other local authorities to achieve greater regional and sub-regional collaboration for future commissioning. We aim to



inform, share intelligence, derive learning and best practice, achieve economies of scale and consistency from activity and develop a strong collaborate market position.

Local authorities deploy significant resources on placements for a small number of the most complex children and young people and we envisage being better able to meet these needs by working collaboratively.

Our Integrated Commissioning Strategy and SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy outlines our Priorities, Commissioning Principles, and joint commissioning governance across local area to achieve this.

Working in Partnership with D2N2 developing:

- > **Specialist provision supporting young people with complex needs**
 - > **Block contracts to deliver specialist, high need placements**
 - > **Supported accommodation provision**

Foster for East Midlands

Following a bid process which began in June 2023, Foster for East Midlands (FfEM) went live in March 2024 with £1,254,388 DfE grant funding.

FfEM is currently the central point for all enquiries from prospective foster carers interested in fostering for Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, and Derby City Council. FfEM also supports prospective carers through their assessment process, which remains the responsibility of each partner LA:

The D2N2 LAs agreed to pool fostering recruitment staffing resource, as well as marketing budgets and has delivered:

- A collocated recruitment team drawn from existing and new staff,
- New recruitment pathways for prospective foster carers,
- New processes and forms (enquiry/initial visit/application),
- A regional collaborative allocations process,
- A new regional fostering recruitment website, with all D2N2 LAs redirecting traffic to this,
- A regional marketing package including website, social media channels and physical resources,
- Enhanced peer support to prospective foster carers undergoing assessment with their allocated LA,
- Collaborative legal and data protection agreements.

Derby City Council is the lead authority for D2N2 delivery of the DfE Fostering Recruitment & Retention Programme, with a regional board offering the project governance monthly.

In addition the DfE funded the setting up of 4 Mockingbird support hubs, a scheme which is managed by the Fostering network, with one hub set up for each LA, with the intention of offering an extended family style of support for up to 10 fostering families, which is evidenced to improve retention of foster carers.

Funding has now been extended by the DfE for a further year with LA's committing to match funding the FfEM recruitment hub and Mockingbird schemes until the end of March 2026.



Specialist complex home

D2N2 (Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council) has worked together for some time in relation to our provision of fostering and residential placements for Children in Care. Through this connection D2N2 recognised shared challenges, gaps in provision and common needs amongst the collective Children in Care population, and the need of a combined approach and closer coordination across our area. D2 are working in collaboration with D2 ICB to procure a specialist provision to support step down from Tier 4 CAMHS and prevent escalation into hospital.

Our overall aim is to work towards developing robust provision that can offer support for health, therapeutic, care and education needs, and for this to be jointly commissioned so that we are providing seamless holistic care with good outcomes for these young people. Investing to save, to avoid the long-term impact on young people's lives and high lifetime cost financially.

It is widely acknowledged in national forums that sufficient provision required for these young people does not currently exist, we need to reduce disjointed and disrupted experiences for young people, creating clearer joint processes and escalation routes through Health and Social care. By agreeing and developing appropriate pathways for care and support we intend to offer the right support, at the right time and in the right place.

We want to increase provision of small children's homes across D2N2 within each local authority area, and to develop more flexible and intensive wraparound services that can support young people with what they need, where and when they need it.

In addition to the statutory Children in Care oversight there will be an enhanced level of support including more regular multi-agency meetings where placement and young person outcomes will be regularly reviewed.

Where it is not possible to secure a local placement, the remaining matching criteria will be prioritised, and we will evidence that it has done all that is reasonably practicable to secure a suitable placement.

Small children's residential homes

The Small Children's Residential Homes project has provided 2 homes and will provide a series of homes for young people in partnership with an external provider. The focus will be on those who require a greater level of staff and professional support. Therefore, the Council are seeking to co-create homes that our looked after children and young people will experience as safe, homely, and comfortable, with consistent staff who care about and support them within a nurturing environment.

Demand on placements for looked after children and young people is increasing both nationally and locally and this is presenting significant challenges around securing local residential placements, particularly for those children and young people with more complex behaviour and needs.

Given the complex needs and behaviours of children and young people requiring care, Derby City Council understands that better outcomes are achieved for children and young people when they are placed in smaller numbers.



Derby City Council is committed to innovation in the development of specialist residential provision to support our most vulnerable children by developing strategic partnerships with Service Provider(s), as outlined in the Council's Children's Accommodation Strategy.

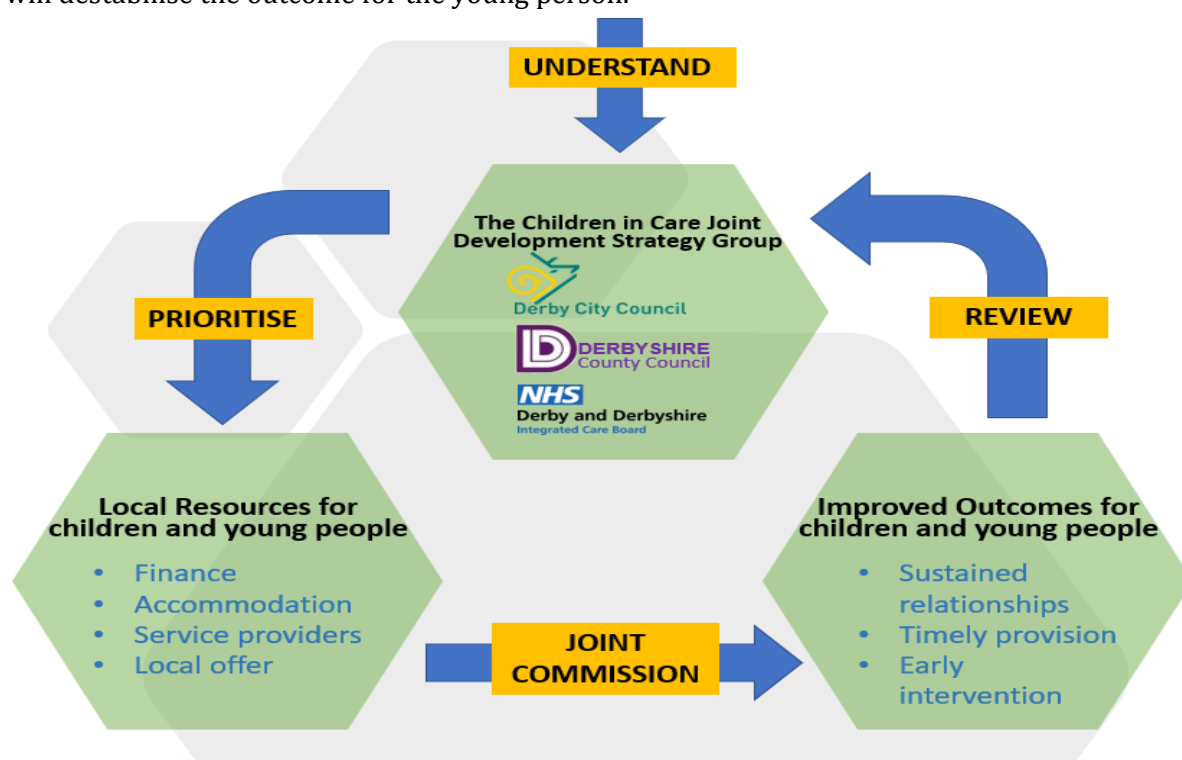
Review and reform our strategies and practices in line with demands and change

Derby City seeks to promote a joint commissioning and delivery approach between ICBs (Integrated Care Boards) and LAs (Local Authorities) across the D2N2 Footprint, to provide services for children with challenging behaviour and/ or complex mental health needs so we can significantly improve outcomes for this group within the boundaries of the D2N2 footprint.

Derby city is the lead local authority for the development of the Derby & Derbyshire model. The formation of the Children in Care Joint Strategy Development Group (CIC JSDG), who have agreed the principles and priorities for joint commissioning.

Children with complex needs commonly appear to fall between the gaps of services, because their individual specific needs do not meet service thresholds. This approach to assessment, focusing on individual service thresholds, misses the additional vulnerability of children with multiple needs.

By practicing the Derby & Derbyshire Model of joint commissioning the local authorities and the ICB will build upon the foundations of social care, health care, service providers, education, youth offending service, and the child/young person's family to secure a nurturing environment to proactively promote outcomes for the young person. Any fracture to any of the foundations will destabilise the outcome for the young person.



We will continually review the needs across our areas and consider commissioning differently, different services or in a different way. We have been successful in applying for social investment funding for a SIB with DN2 partners, which focuses on social funding and outcome-based commissioning. The small children's residential homes project began with one property



in phase 1 extending to a second property within phase 2 and review of needs throughout the contract.

We are reviewing our approach to providing inhouse accommodation, focussing on a range of provision. We have undertaken a full review of our approach to fostering recruitment, resulting in a corporate priority focus.

D2N2 recognise the shared challenges, gaps in provision and common needs amongst the collective Children in Care population, and the need of a combined approach and closer coordination across our area. D2N2 Children in Care Framework strategic partnership forums are committed to innovation in the development of specialist provision to support our most vulnerable children.

6. Recommendations to continuously improve sufficiency

6.1 Local placements for local children.

- > Support delivery of outcome-based initiatives for children in care and on the edge of care (i.e. remain with family, reunification to family, stabilisation with carers, step down from residential), working with partners through a social impact bond.
- > Work with local providers on local provision for Derby's young people.
- > Work with our inhouse residential provision to maximise opportunities or placing by better placement matching plans.
- > Review current model of Supported Accommodation, ensuring it best meets need considering the new regulation and Ofsted requirements.
- > Evidenced based therapeutic model will be embedded throughout the placement, the staff team, operational and strategic management, and the wider organisation.
- > Increased provision through the small children's homes.
- > Increased provision for children with complex health needs through the Specialist children's homes across the D2 footprint.

6.2. Maximising our existing provision.

- > Reconfigure inhouse Children's Homes to best meet needs, demands and matching, including small children's homes, small specialist children's homes and homes supporting transition to adulthood.
- > Make best use of inhouse availability and occupancy information.
- > Increase the availability of in-house foster carers through Foster for East Midlands, Corporate Fostering Recruitment approach, payments for Skills and holistic packages of support (Foster Plus Scheme).
- > Develop specialist inhouse foster carers (Permanency scheme).
- > Development of in-house semi-independent provision.

6.3 Consistent, quality, and cost-effective value for money provision.

- > Regular review of placements (ongoing).
- > Improvement in efficiency of contracting, quality assurance and supporting processes (ongoing).
- > Undertaking Quality Assurance visits, working with D2N2 to ensure a quality market across the footprint. Working with providers to deliver quality, safe provisions.



6.4 Working with providers

- > Improvements to payment systems (ongoing).
- > Regular provider forums and meetings (ongoing).
- > Partnership working with providers to deliver the outcomes for our CiC.

6.5 Joint Commissioning

- > Assess the impact of the D2N2 framework for CiC placements to improve access to local placements. Review and create a new commissioning approach with the market.
- > Supporting the needs of UASC by regional recruitment of UASC-specific carers.
- > For D2N2 (phase 2) to meet the needs of CiC with block contracts for emergency provisions for fostering and residential placements.
- > Consider join-up of local sufficiency availability data.
- > Consider emerging health needs for UASC.
- > Assess the impact of the recently joint commissioned Emotional health and wellbeing service for CiC, supporting placement stability.
- > Continue to work with partners in health to commission and fund appropriate placements for children in care who have complex health needs with supportive joint funding arrangements, piloting a pooled budget approach for 2025/26 as part of a s75 agreement.
- > Working with D2N2 established multidisciplinary team – Health – Education – Social care will be key to providing a holistic therapeutic approach that is supportive of both young people and the staff team.
- > Progressing the Derby & Derbyshire model strategy into the Children in Care Joint Development Strategy Group (CiC JSDG).

6.6 Applying a range of commissioning approaches

- > Consideration of block contracts for provision in the local area.
- > Assess the impact of the Outcomes based STARs model.
- > Spot purchase from specialist provision.

6.7 Innovation

- > Use of more targeted early help interventions for edge of care.
- > Use of Social investment for outcome-based commissioning.
- > Consider further benefits from leveraging a D2N2 approach.
- > Undertake a LEAN review of the placements process.

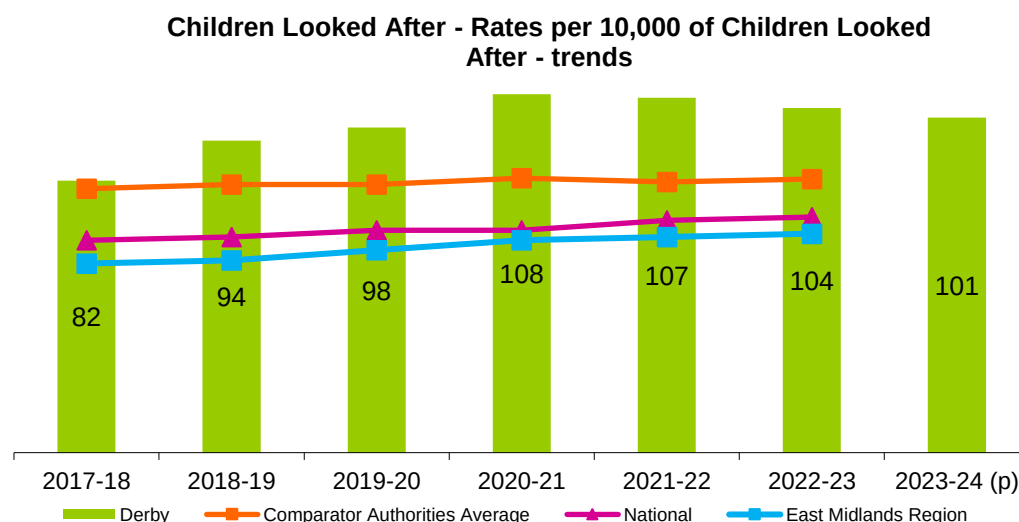


Appendix 1: Children in Care (as of 31 March 2024, data is the m) Derby City

1.1 Children in Care

1.1.1 Rates per 10,000 under 18 population

At year end 31 March 2024 Derby had 101 children in care per 10,000 people aged under 18.

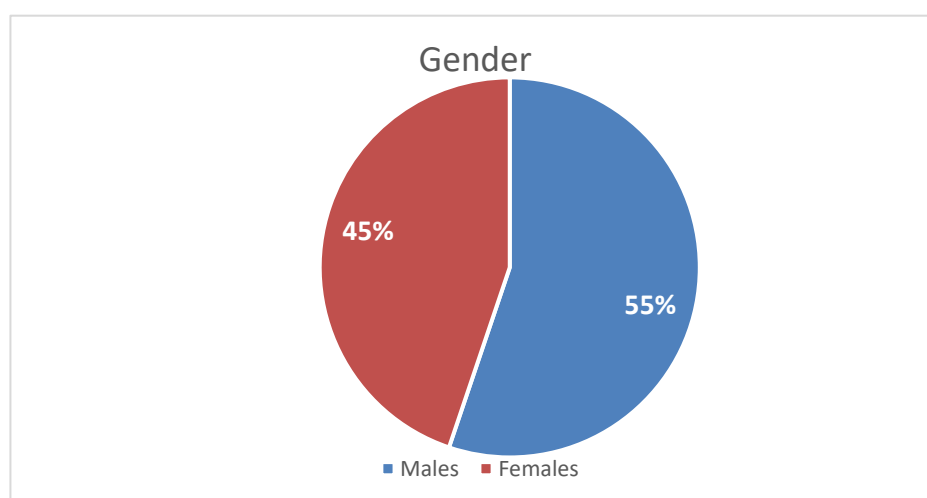


- > Derby's rate of 101 is well above the 2022-23 comparator authority rate of 80 per 10,000, above the national rate of 71 per 10,000 and above the East Midlands rate of 66 per 10,000.
- > The rate of Derby's children in care per 10,000 people aged under 18 is reducing over time dropping from 108 in 2020-21 to 101 in 2023-24.
- > In 2022-23, Derby had the second highest rate per 10,000 in our comparator group.

1.1.2 Gender

Derby had 598 children in care on 31 March 2024 of which:

- > 330 were male
- > 268 were female



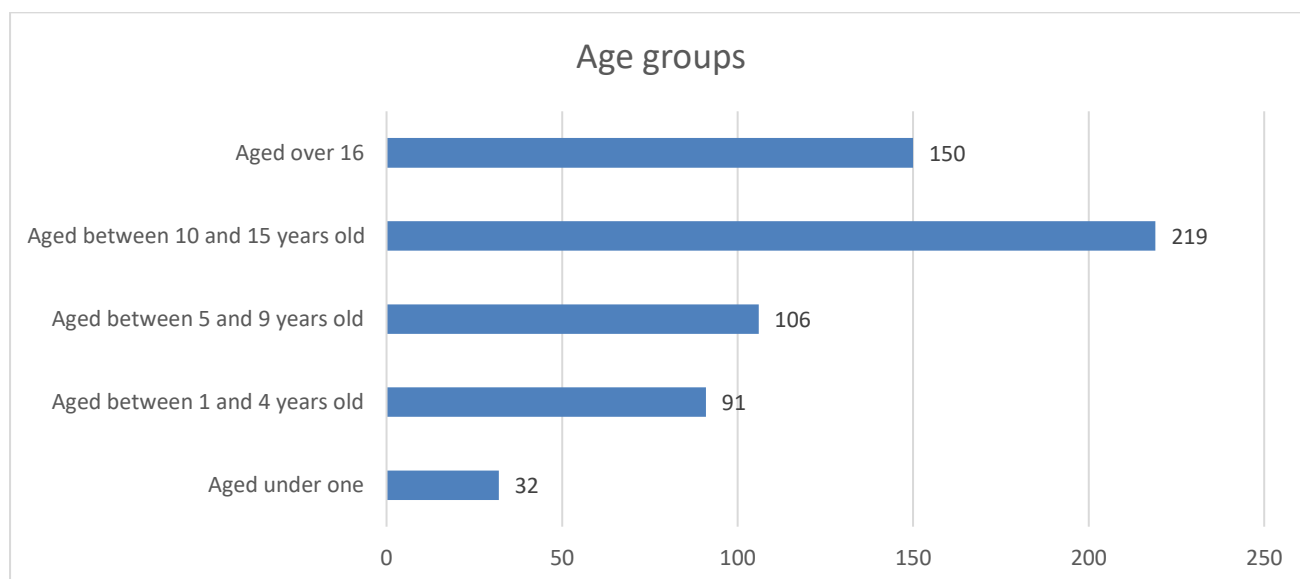
Derby had a slightly higher percentage of females in care compared to the 2022-23 national averages of 57% for males and 43% for females.

1.1.3 Age

Derby had 598 children in care at 31 March 2024 and of these 32 were aged under 1, 91 were aged 1 to 4 years old, 106 were aged 5 to 9 years old, 219 were aged 10 to 15 years old and 150 were aged 16 and over.

Derby had 25.1% of children in care who were aged 16 and over. This is slightly lower than the 2022-23 national average of 26%.

Derby had 15.2% of children in care who were aged 1 to 4 years old. This is slightly higher than the 2022-23 national average of 13%.



1.1.4 Ethnic Groups

Derby had a lower percentage of children in care from a White ethnic group (65.6%) compared to the 2022-23 national average of 71%. The East Midlands region had a higher percentage of children in care from a White ethnic group with 75%.

Derby had a higher percentage of children in care from a Mixed ethnic group (18.1%) compared to the 2022-23 national average of 10%.

Derby also had a higher percentage of children in care from an Asian ethnic group with 7.9% compared to the 2022-23 national average of 5%.

1.2 Placement Types

Derby had 598 children in care at 31 March 2024 and of these 426 were in Foster placements which equates to 71.2%. This is similar to the previous year's figure of 71.1%.

The percentage of children in care in Foster Placements in Derby was higher than the 2022-23 national average of 68% and the East Midlands average of 65%.

Derby had a similar percentage of children in care who were in Secure Units and Children's Homes & Hostels with 17.7% compared to the 2022-23 national average of 17%. The comparator authority average was also 17%.



1.2.1 Placement Provision

Derby had a higher percentage of placements using Private Provision (53.3%) compared to the national average of 40%.

The percentage of Private Provision placements in Derby increased slightly from 52.1% in 2022-23 to 53.3% in 2023-24.

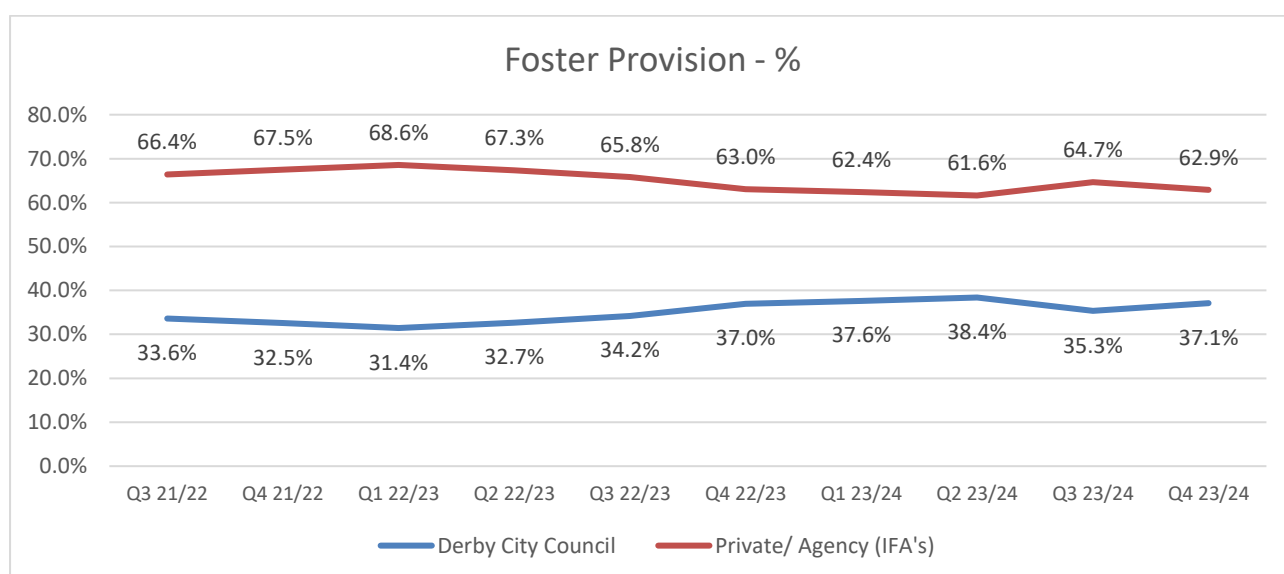
Of the 598 active placements at 31 March 2024 176 were classed as Own Provision (29.4%). This is a slight decrease compared to 29.8% seen in the previous year.

Derby had a significantly lower percentage of Own Provision placements when compared to the national average (44%), our comparator authority average (48%) and the East Midlands region (35%).

Derby's strategy will be to continue to increase provision locally for children both through Own Provision and a greater uptake from private provision for Derby children to remain where possible local.

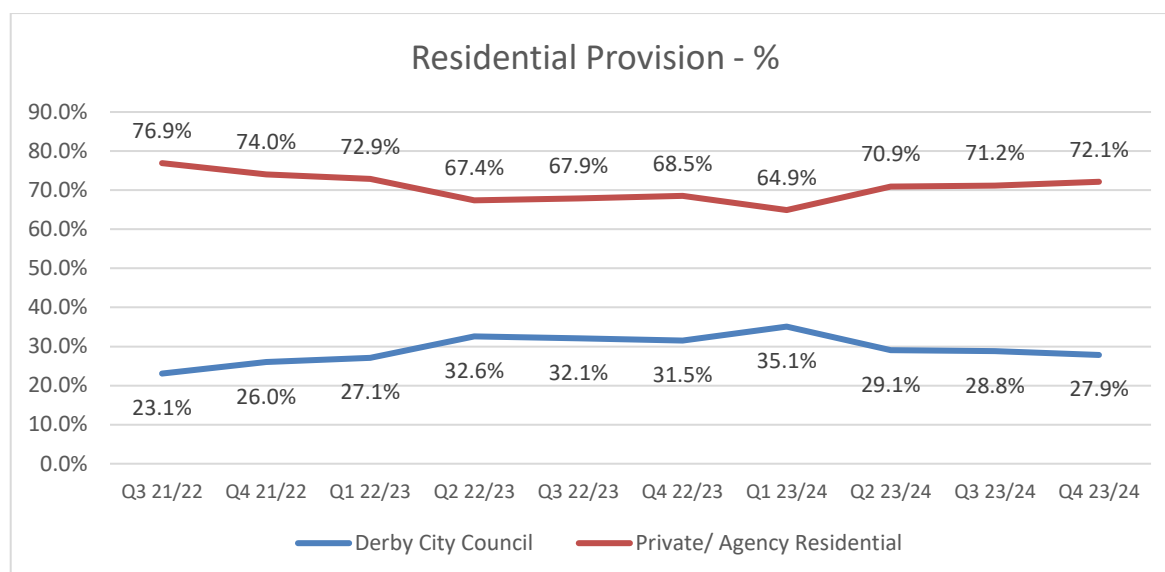
Out of the 598 children in care as of 31st March 2024:

- > 382 children were placed within 20 miles of their home address (60.4%)
- > 426 children were in foster placements (71.4%), higher than the national average of 68%
- > 62.9% of these foster placements are with independent fostering agencies



2.7% of the children were placed for adoption, a decrease from 4.4% the previous year and 3.7% of the children were placed with parents compared to the national average of 7%. 72.1% of all residential placements were agency provision with 27.9% being Derby residential provision.





Derby had a similar percentage of children in care who were in Secure Units and Children's Homes & Hostels with 17.7% compared to the 2022-23 national average of 17%. The comparator authority average was also 17%.

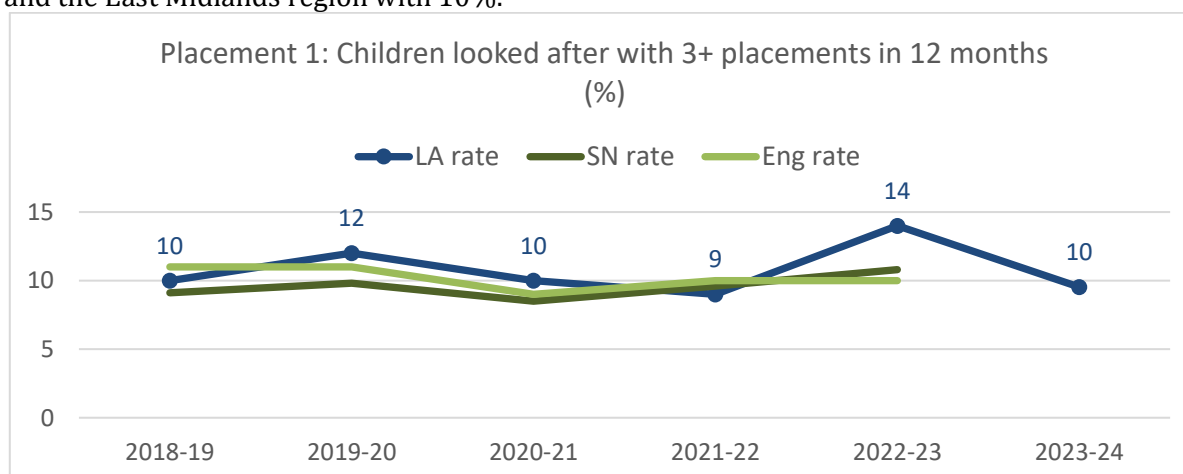
More local placements are needed for:

- > Child Sexual Exploitation
- > Offending behaviours
- > Physical and learning disabilities
- > Mental health issues such as self-harm, and drug use.
- > adolescents with challenging behaviour
- > young people at risk of CSE,
- > teenagers with complex mental health problems

1.2.2 Stability of Placements – Three or more placements

Derby had 598 children in care at 31 March 2024 and of these 57 had three or more placements moves during the year. This equates to 9.5% which is an improvement in performance compared to the previous year's figure of 13.4%.

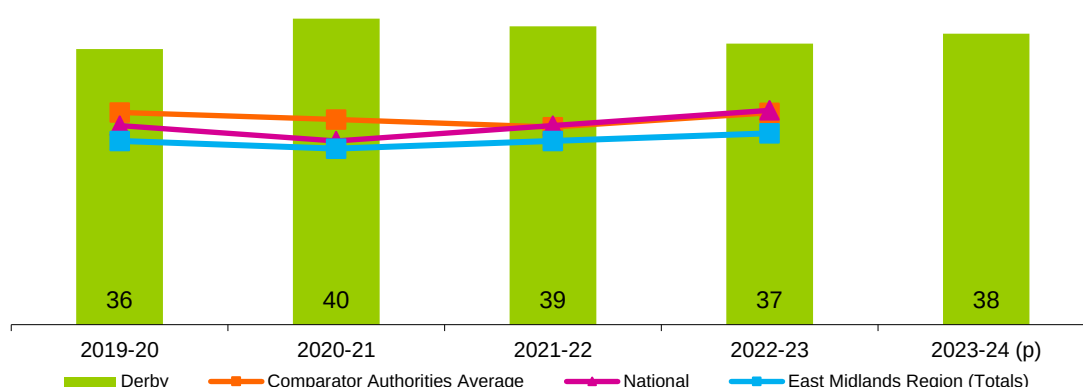
Derby is below the 2022-23 national average of 10%, the comparator authority average of 11% and the East Midlands region with 10%.



1.2.3 Number of New Placements Made

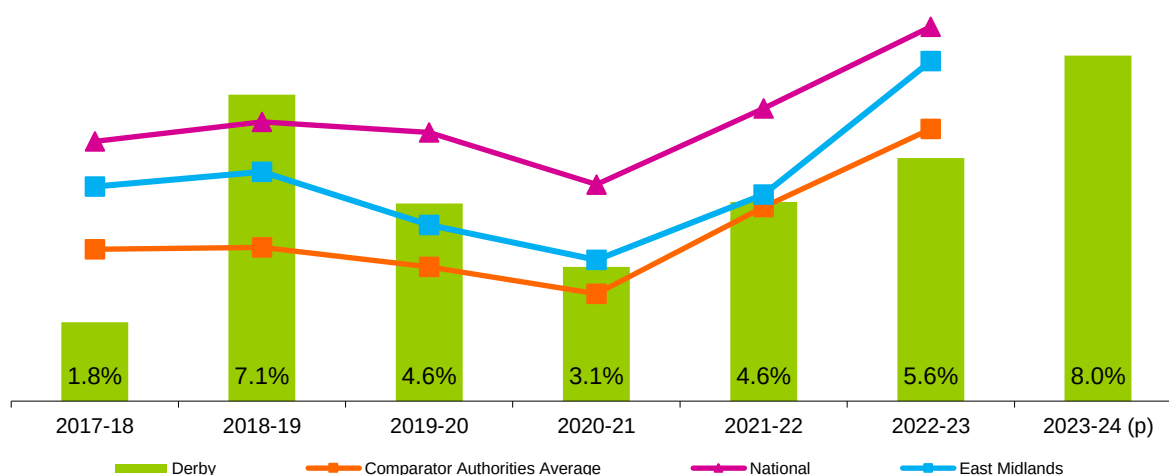
- During 2023-24 Derby had 226 children who started to be looked after. This is an increase of seven children compared to the previous financial year. It equates to an increase of 3.2%.
- The rate of children per 10,000 who started to be looked after increased in Derby from 37 per 10,000 in 2022-23 to 38 per 10,000 in 2023-24.
- The latest national rate per 10,000 of children who started to be looked after was 28 per 10,000. Derby remains higher than the national average in 2023-24 with 38 per 10,000.

Rates per 10,000 of children who started to be looked after



The number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) increased in Derby during 2023-24. On 31 March 2024 Derby had 48 UASC in care. This compares to 35 at the previous year end and equates to a 37% increase. This is the largest number of UASC recorded in Derby over the past seven years.

Percentage of UASC children looked after at end of year



1.3 Special educational needs (data from Spring School Census January 2024)

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. An Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan details the education, health and social care support that is to be provided to a child or young person who has Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a disability.





Special educational needs can significantly contribute to the increasing number of children entering the care system. Children with special needs often require additional support and accommodations to meet their educational and developmental needs. However, when adequate resources and services are not available, these children may face significant challenges in accessing appropriate education and support systems.

The lack of specialized educational provisions can lead to academic struggles, social isolation, and a sense of frustration and exclusion for both the child and their family. Moreover, parents of children with special needs may experience increased stress, financial burdens, and a lack of respite care, which can further strain their ability to provide adequate care.

In some cases, the complex needs of these children may overwhelm families, particularly if they lack the necessary support networks and resources. As a result, the care system may become involved to ensure the well-being and provision of specialized care for children with special needs. It is crucial to address and improve the availability and accessibility of appropriate educational and support services to reduce the number of children entering the care system, ensuring that families receive the necessary support to meet the unique needs of their children.

40,628 young people in the city are school aged, with 3,431 Education, Health and Care Plans maintained by Derby City Council alongside 6,375 children and young people receiving SEN Support.

Appendix 2: The local and national context

The strategy has been developed to encompass the changing landscape for children and young people in care. As the cost of living rises as does the demand for social care and health services, which continues to grow with increasing complex needs, pressure, and costs upon the local authority, whilst it ensures suitable and sufficient placement provisions are made available.

The Care Planning Placement and Case Review (England) (Amendment) regulations 2021 and more recently **The Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023**, have stated that any placement of a child under the age of 17 in an unregulated and inadequate provision will be unlawful. Increasing the volume of regulated care, with higher quality and standards that are monitored has allowed for greater protection for vulnerable children.

The **Stable Homes, Built on Love: Implementation Strategy and Consultation Children's Social Care Reform 2023 (February 2023)** which contains actions across six pillars to transform children's social care as every child deserves to grow up in a safe and loving home.



The purpose of social care is to:

- give support to children, young people and families who need extra help
- protect children and young people from harm
- give care and a home to children and young people when needed.

Nationally there is a clear relationship between children experiencing complex needs and experiencing a range of poor outcomes. Derby has seen a 1.3% increase in the proportion of people who were economically inactive because they are looking after their family or home. Local intelligence ensures we continually review our approach to meet the needs of children and young people, as there is a growing trend in the rise of children with complex needs.



Appendix 3: Accommodation Strategy

The Corporate Delivery Group: Accommodation Strategy project began in September 2021, as part of the Demand Management Programme within the Working Smarter Portfolio.

Several workstreams were established as a joined-up corporate response to understand the range of accommodation requirements, the needs of the children, different approaches to provision, and deliver the Childrens Accommodation Strategy aims outlined below:

Aims	Right placement, right time, right child	Value for money, good quality provision	Voice of the child	Best use of resource	Local sufficiency – 65% in Derby/75% <20miles	Maximise occupancy & stability – 80% occupancy
Principles	Mix of provision from public, independent and third sector providers	Mitigate risk & maximise occupancy through a mix of provision which is able to meet a range of needs	Market & cost management through being a local yet single commissioner	Leverage capital and value through hybrid/ partnership models and opportunities	Maximize use of existing local providers where feasible (rather than attract new)	Use of data to inform timely decision making and planning across the range of placements and provision
How	Deliver planned internal specialist provision - Cluster and Annex	Review the size/mix of internal mainstream Childrens Homes estate to increase occupancy % informing future planning	Establish Derby block contracts with D2N2 link, moving towards risk sharing and single commissioner arrangements		Explore Partnership & hybrid model opportunities	Deliver Data Dashboard covering all placement types, finances and Preventative impact
	Extend the Transition Homes pilot, considering recommendations	Consider: • Optimal size • Costs of small homes/ multiple dimensions of care • Refurbishment/ changes timelines for internal provision	Establish emergency, specialist, mainstream and flexible provision	Start small, with multiple flexible arrangements allowing scale up	Review Support & Accommodation housing options for YP 16/17 yrs	
	Deliver planned UASC homes pilot				Deliver the planned Collaborative Specialist home (via DFE Capital) Test and deliver a hybrid model - 3 rd party provider operating Derby-leased premises	



Appendix 4: References

In developing this Strategy and on-going plan for sufficiency, Derby City Council is mindful of the regulatory and legislative requirements. These include:

- Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations 2011
- Fostering Regulations (2011) and Minimum Standards (2011)
- Adoption Regulations (2014) and Minimum Standards (2011)
- Children's Homes Regulations 2001, amended 2013
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Staying Put guidance, Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers, 2014
- The State of the Nation Children in Care and Care Leavers Survey 2015
- The Children Act 1989 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- The Care Standard Act 2000
- The Children's Home's (England) Regulations 2015, including the Quality Standards (2015)
- Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 12)
- The National Standards for The Provision of Children's Advocacy Services 2003
- Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2015
- Promoting the education of looked after children 2014
- Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children 2015
- [DfE care review response: key points - Community Care](#)



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Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.

Prosimy o kontakt:

Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666

Punjabi

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Slovakian

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Urdu

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Derby City Council

Derby City Council The Council House Corporation Street Derby DE1 2FS
www.derby.gov.uk



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