

# Innovation, Impact and Learning from Somerset's Strategic Partnership for Children in Care

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# **Homes and Horizons**

## **The Problem:**

- × An increase in the number and complexity of needs presented by children we care for.
- × Insufficient placement provision. Unsustainable costs. Excessive profit making. Market instability.
- × Too many children placed far from home, away from support networks, achieving poor outcomes.

## **The Solution:**

- ✓ A system-wide strategic partnership
- ✓ Co-produced, joint funded and truly integrated
- ✓ Shared resources and expertise delivering a seamless care, health, and education experience

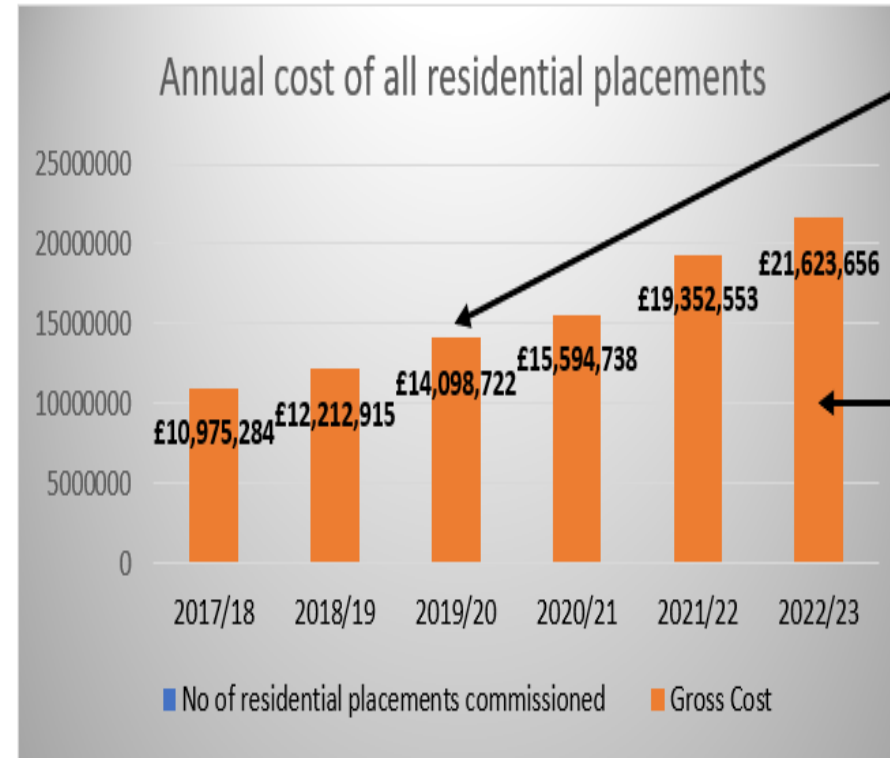


## 2019/20:

- 25-30 children in homes outside of Somerset
- Children in unregulated provisions
- Poor outcomes
- Escalating costs

## Our children with the most complex needs:

- At risk of inpatient CAMHS provision
- In unregistered provision
- In expensive out-of-county provision, a long way from family and professional support



The figures used in the previous business case – **spend has increased by 156% since** (including unregistered under 16 costs)

Does not include £15.5m additional costs for unregistered provision for under 16-year olds which have developed since the original business case



**Competitive dialogue procurement  
(externally evaluated)**

**Bringing together internal and external  
stakeholders**

**Management and governance structure**



As well as External Partners, key support and stakeholders include:

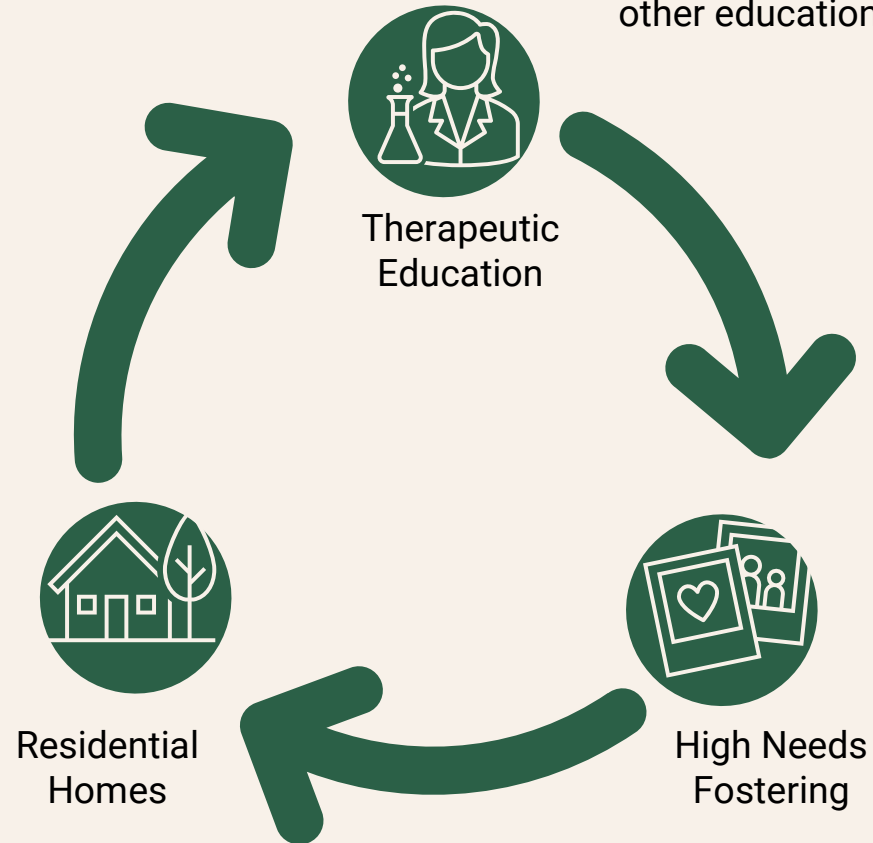
- Property (both for capital works and ongoing maintenance)
- Commissioning and procurement
- Finance
- Communications Team
- Data and project Teams



- Monthly finance and delivery groups
- Quarterly Quality and Impact group
- Quarterly Steering Group oversight



Focused on therapeutic care with a curriculum constructed by specialists. This provision will run for 50 weeks in a year and have links to other education provisions.



Small homes, for 1, 2 or 3 children. Directly linked into our school, CAHMS, and high needs fostering service, ensuring that children are in the right place, with the right support at the right time

High Needs Foster Carers who will link with our homes and school, providing every opportunity to help our children can thrive within a loving home environment

# Progress to date



**Homes and  
Horizons**



7 homes purchased (planning and building work complete at 5)



8 young people in the first 5 homes



2 DfE Innovation Capital and Staying Close grants secured (£4.3m)



74 staff recruited. 67 staff trained through joint model



5 Foster carers assessed or in assessment, with 3 further potentials



Therapeutic education staff in place and all young people engaged in education activity



1 MJ Award win for Innovation in Partnerships

1 National Voice Collaboration Award for Somerset young people



Circa £2m savings for children's social care  
£2.7m total system savings



ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2023  
THE MJ

Innovation in Partnerships  
**WINNER**



**Homes and  
Horizons**

## What our young people say













# Therapeutic Education

- Misterton site – 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 planned locations
- Multi-disciplinary Team and joint funding
- Trauma informed principles
- Provides therapeutic interventions (including CAMHS) and education
- The expectation is for all our young people to attend education full time
- Tight daily structure & timetable





**Homes and  
Horizons**

# Partnership working with CAMHS



Proud to be part of



**Somerset  
Integrated  
Care System**





## Before Homes & Horizons

- 4.5 months on a paediatric ward, and 1 month on a CAMHS ward
- Unregistered provision broke down after the second self-harm event

# Rose



**Homes and Horizons**

Initially, similar challenges were faced in Rose's Homes & Horizons home, however, after:

- Joint working with CAMHS and Homes2Inspire, sharing risk management across the home;
- Robust, nurturing support from the staff team to support Rose around good eating and exercise routines;
- Support from a tutor to engage Rose back into education;
- And, most importantly: a stable and loving home environment;

Rose has now seen considerable positive developments: her self harm has significantly reduced, reintegration into a mainstream school began in September, and Rose has stated that she sees the Homes & Horizons home as her home, which she wants to stay at.







**Social value of children in homes with better outcomes for our children**

One child had 14 placement moves in the previous 12 months before moving into a H&H home in April

**Improved education and lifelong learning impacts**

All our children were not engaged in education before moving to us, and now all engage with at least some education provision.

**Social Impact**

**Social Impact Fund**

Fund set up, focused on improved outcomes for children leaving care (estimated value £1.7m)

**Savings and Sector Impact**

Financial sustainability of partners and changing the sector through OFSTED and DfE engagement

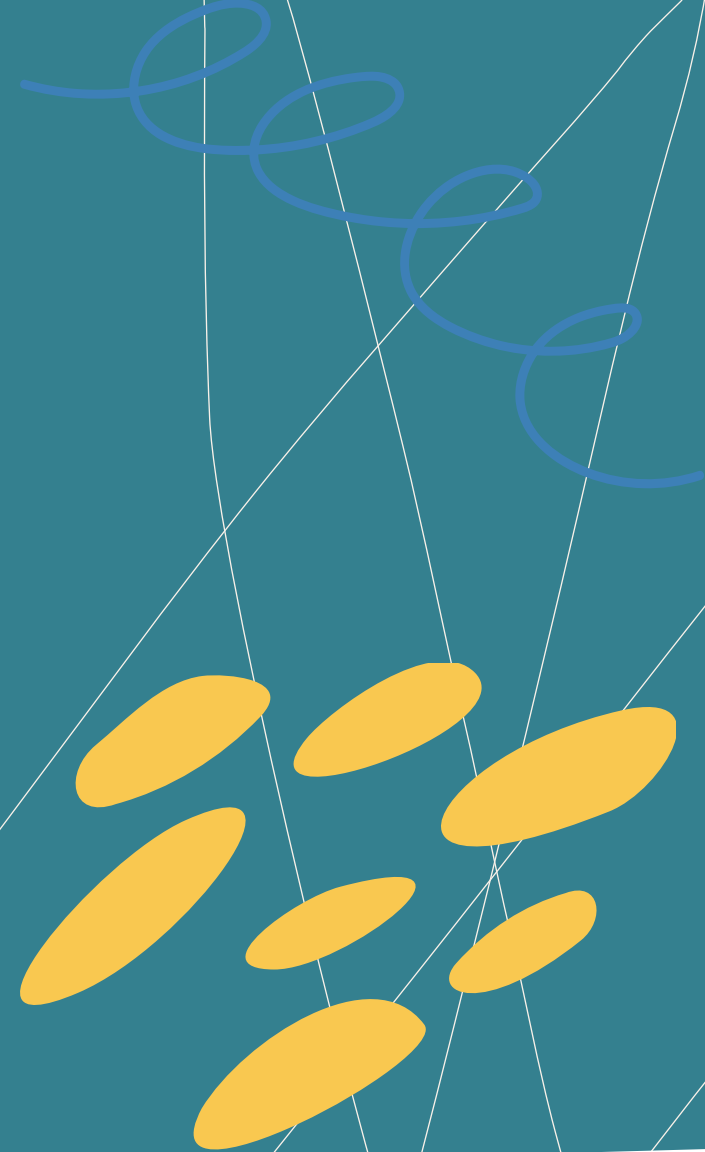


## What else?

- Children living within unregistered settings reduced from 14 to 2
- No children looked after placed on pediatric wards due to mental health
- Reduction in children living in excessively high-cost placements

## What next?

- Higher needs fostering and education pathways for progression out of homes after two years
- Development of crisis pods and annexes on existing homes sites
- Further integration of our young people's voice through Youth Quality Assurers
- Apprenticeship opportunities with our suppliers/contractors





**Homes and  
Horizons**

# Questions?

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