

OXFORD
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institute of
public care

South West Market Position Statement

RI Network 19 June 2025

Institute of Public Care

- Part of Oxford Brookes University
- We work with central and local government, the NHS, charities and commercial organisations
- Our aim is to make a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing

Background

- Item at the online RI and Commissioners meeting on 30 April
- I presented a lot of data and posed some big questions, but there wasn't enough time to discuss them fully
- Today we'll flip that, with a little data and plenty of time for discussion, working in groups to give everyone a chance to share their thoughts

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Headline Trends

Item	2021	2024	Change
Children looked after	6260	6970	+730 (12%)
Of which, unaccompanied children	200	550	+350 (175%)
Children placed in foster care	4610	4770	+160 (3%)
Children placed in children's homes or secure	610	730	+120 (20%)
Mainstream Foster Places	3899	3465	-434 (11%)
IFA places	2295	2185	-110 (5%)
Family and friends places	931	987	+56 (1%)
Children's home places	668	685	+17(0%)
Gross spend on looked after children	£527m	£806m	+£269m (51%)

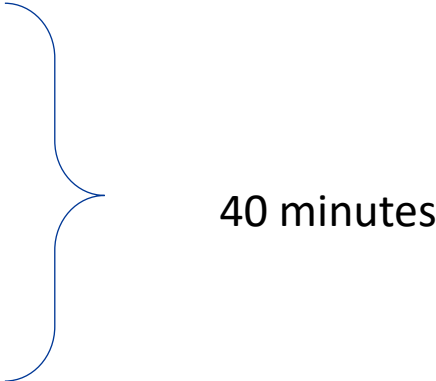
Discussion points



- How do you see the market evolving over the next few years?
- What are the barriers to increasing capacity in the South West?
- How can we tackle the issue of very high cost, often unregistered, placements?
- Are there alternatives to spot purchasing which are attractive?
- What would you like commissioners to do differently/better?



Group Work

- Carousel exercise – everyone will get a chance to discuss every question, with each table starting on a different topic.
 - First discussion 10 minutes
 - Second discussion 10 minutes
 - Third discussion 10 minutes
 - Fourth discussion 5 minutes
 - Fifth discussion 5 minutes

40 minutes
- Flip chart passes from table to table
- Whole Group 20 minutes (one or two key points per table)

Contact Us



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