

Buckerell 19th November 2025

Cabinet decisions

A Strategic Advisor for Inclusion has been appointed to lead the implementation of Devon's Inclusion and Learning Strategy and SEND Local Area Strategy.

Councillor Julian Brazil, Leader of Devon County Council and Cabinet Member for Education, welcomed the appointment:

“We have been failing our most vulnerable children for far too long. Mark’s extensive expertise and passion for inclusive education will be instrumental in transforming outcomes across Devon. Together, we will ensure our education system prioritises equity, collaboration, and the highest standards for all.

“The only way we can deliver the services the public need and deserve is to work with our partners – from schools to community groups. Devon must be more outward-looking and inclusive; this appointment reflects that commitment.”

[Council commissions first Independent Strategic Advisor for Inclusion](#)

From April Devon's foster carers will benefit from improved fees and allowances for looking after a child.

Cabinet approved a £2million investment into the Authority's fostering service.

Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Cllr Richard Jefferies, said:

“Foster carers are the backbone of our care system. We must ensure they feel valued, supported and fairly compensated for the vital role they play in children's lives. This package is about restoring confidence in our service and making Devon a place where carers want to stay and where new carers feel welcome.”

[Cabinet backs £2m boost for Fostering Service](#)

Devon County Council to bring in transformation partner to help shape the future of adult social care

Cabinet approved the procurement of an external partner to support a major transformation programme aimed at making adult social care more sustainable, person-centred, and focused on promoting independence.

Councillor Richard Keeling, Cabinet Member with responsibility for adult social care, said:

“We are entering a new phase of service improvement and transformation in integrated adult social care, focused on designing care that is sustainable, person-centred, and responsive to people’s needs.

“To support this work, we want to partner with Newton Consulting – an organisation with a strong track record in health and care transformation.

“As our strategic transformation partner, Newton will be expected to work alongside us to co-design and implement changes over the next two years to improve outcomes for people and identify opportunities to deliver financial savings.

“We are committed to working collaboratively with providers, local authorities, and system partners to ensure that improvements are meaningful, achievable, and aligned with our shared goals.

“It is important to us that any transformation partner we work with is also committed to this approach.”

[Devon County Council to bring in transformation partner to help shape the future of adult social care - News](#)