

Cabinet - Thursday, 11 January 2018

Written question from Mr Richard Hards of Whippingham to the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services

'On 16th October last year Hampshire County Council approved a proposal to reduce the number of Children Looked After in Hampshire to a figure of 31 per 10,000 children in the general population; a reduction of 410 children in care overall, representing a cash saving of some £17million in a full year.

Hampshire's Director of Children's Services, Mr Crocker, is also the Director of Children's Services for the Isle of Wight. Island children and families are worth every bit as much as Hampshire children and deserve the best service possible, so it stands to reason that he would advocate the same reduction, pro rata, in the number of children in care on the Island.

So, my question is, "Mr Crocker anticipates that the target of 31 children looked after per 10,000 children in the general population will be achieved in Hampshire by 2021, can the Cabinet confirm this target will also be achieved by 2021 on the Island (in time for the next Council elections), and what cash saving will achievement of this target generate for the Island?"

RESPONSE

"Under the terms of the partnership Hampshire County Council's and the Isle of Wight Council's Children's Service have separate governance and accountability mechanisms through the respective lead members and cabinets. It is not for me to comment upon Hampshire County Council's context and plans. The Isle of Wight Council has made no provision for a reduction in children looked after numbers in its budget for 2018/19 and its circumstances and context are entirely different."