

Hadlow Down Report Sept 2024

Foster Parents

We are continuing the programme to recruit additional foster parents and want to encourage potential foster carers to register with ESCC rather than register through an agency. If ESCC have to use agency links the cost to the council is significantly higher.

In July ESCC joined with other LA's to form Fostering South East. This shares the cost of recruiting across the region and is funded by the DfE.

This centralises advice to prospective foster parents.

With 11k children in care across the SE with only 3000 approved carers the need for additional carers is clear

Highways

The extra £1m authorised for highway patching is being spent and this doubling of the patching programme means there will be 400 patching upgrades over the next 12 months.

Hailsham Roadways taking over as lead sub-contractor has I believe improved the quality of repairs.

Whilst budget does not necessarily mean quality the additional £22.5m over the past 3 years has to be a benefit.

Ofsted Classification

The single word Ofsted assessments have been abolished with immediate effect and a new system will be introduced from Sept 25

Early Years Placements

The new 15hrs of government funded early years from 9 months started on the 2nd September. With this being expanded to 30hrs from Sept 25 there will be pressure on available places and ESCC working with DfE to plan sufficient capacity.