

Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon, said: "Starting or returning to school is an exciting time for all children. But as they will be mixing with lots of other children, making sure they are up to date with their routine immunisations gives them the best protection from what can potentially be very harmful infections."

Relevant immunisations are

- Pre-school Boosters, offered to children from age three years and four months, are: The four in one pre-school booster (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio)
- The MMR (measle, mumps, rubella) vaccine is given at one year (first dose) and at three years and four months (second dose)

Annual flu vaccinations are also available to all school children from reception age to year 11, and these are usually given at school. The vaccine for children is a nasal spray. Vaccinating your child protects them, but also others who are vulnerable to flu, such as babies and older people.

"Look out for a message from the school immunisation team and please allow them your consent to give the vaccination," says Steve Brown.

The NHS has information online to help parents and carers know how long their child should be kept off school when they are ill. Further guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources#exclusion-table>

More than 140 properties are thought to have been flooded across Devon during last Sunday's flash floods.

Officers have been on the ground visiting the worst affected areas to investigate the extent of the damage caused by the torrential rainfall. City and district authority "street scene" teams have also been clearing debris from affected areas.

Residents are being advised to check if their property is at risk of flood at: Check the long term flood risk for an area in England – GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) and find out if they are eligible to sign up for a FREE flood warning: Sign up for flood warnings – GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)). Follow @EnvAgencySW on X (formerly Twitter) for the latest flood updates or visit: Check for flooding – GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has produced an information leaflet in partnership with the Environment Agency on what to do before, during and after flooding. The UKHSA website also has health advice and guidance for anyone cleaning up after a flood.

As part of the ongoing flood recovery effort, Devon are working with Teignbridge District Council and the Environment Agency to organise community engagement events. The drop-in sessions will be held at the Victory Hall, Kenton and Matthews Hall, Topsham

Devon County Council have agreed to give care leavers – young people who have been in the care of the local authority – protected characteristic status. It's recognition that young people's experience of being in the care system can be a potential source of discrimination similar to other protected characteristics such as race or disability.

A Notice of Motion put to members of our Councillor, made the case. It said that a study has shown that 70 per cent of care experienced people die early; that more than half of the people who are in custody up

to the age of 21 years old have been in care; and that a quarter of the homeless population is care experienced.

County Councillors unanimously supported the Motion, which means that we will do more to ensure that care experienced young people are not discriminated against.

It means, for example, that Devon will make sure that the experiences of young people in care and care leavers will be considered in all of its decisions. But it is also a foundation on which to develop better support across Devon as whole, not just in the services that we are responsible for.

Officers will therefore work with partners to improve support for care experienced people in all aspects of their lives including housing and accommodation, health, employment, as well as education.

Young people with care experience attended the meeting and spoke passionately to councillors about the importance of the Notion of Motion to all children in care and people who have been in care.

At the same meeting it was agreed that the Council would support Parish Councils who wished to pay for a 20 mph speed limit, or extension to one, if they so wished in their community.

This is a significant move by the Council and I have written to the Chief Highway Officer asking for details as to how this will be effected and I can report to you that the Chief Officer for Climate Change has promised to bring proposals to the November meeting.

There have been numerous calls for 20 mph speed limits in the villages I represent and due to the restrictions currently in place I have not been able to progress this important safety measure.

Devon County Council's Cabinet has been asked to re-consider its previous decision to decommission the council's mobile library service.

The Cabinet took the decision in July to decommission the mobile library service. But I "called in" that decision to allow for further scrutiny in the committee I chair.

Last Thursday (28<sup>th</sup> September), in a majority vote, members of the council's cross-party Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee agreed new recommendations that Cabinet will now consider when it meets on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Those recommendations are that the Cabinet:

- Reconsiders the decision to decommission the mobile library vehicles and looks again at continuing to provide the mobile library service
- Gets precise figures on leasing vehicles to review opportunities to continue to provide a cost effective service
- Looks into opportunities to reduce cost of delivery including commercial sponsorship opportunities on vehicles, crowdfunding and or support from Parish Councils and community groups
- Develops alternative library provision before taking the decision to remove services

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