

Email response from Cllr Spence to Cllr Mackrory, sent on 25 May 2022.

Dear Mike,

I understand you asked a question at cabinet yesterday regarding the complex needs residential framework paper, and seeking confirmation of what this would be for the number of out-of-county placements.

I would just like to confirm that a key focus of this decision is to enable closer proximity between adults with complex needs and their families and home environment. The framework will ensure we can build on the existing positive relationships with providers within Essex, providing the market with clarity around funding, demand and our own expectations with regards to quality and outcomes. It's one of our strategic ambitions – to reduce the number of citizens with complex needs who require care at some distance from the families and home neighbourhoods.

We would argue against a zero target for out-of-county placements. Our focus should be on distance from home, and some individuals will live close to the county borders where the best provision is just a few minutes away but in another county. By distance from home, we also seek to reduce situations where an individual's family home is at one end of the county but their provision is at another.

I am copying in democratic services to this response and would ask that this answer is included with the minutes when they are circulated.

Many thanks,

John

Cllr John Spence CBE
Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care

Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford