

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 28th September,  
2023  
at 5.30 pm

## **PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING**

Conference Room 3 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

### **Members**

Councillor A Bunday(Chair)  
Councillor J Baillie  
Councillor Barnes-Andrews  
Councillor Chapman  
Councillor Lambert  
Councillor Mintoff  
Councillor Webb

### **Appointed Members**

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church  
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor  
Vacancy - Secondary Parent Governor  
Rob Sanders, Church of England

### **Contacts**

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# PUBLIC INFORMATION

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

**Role of this Scrutiny Panel:** To undertake the scrutiny of Children and Families Services in the City, including the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Early Help, Specialist & Core Service, looked after children, education and early years and youth offending services, unless they are forward plan items. In such circumstances members of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel will be invited to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting where they are discussed.

### **Terms Of Reference:-**

Scrutiny of Children and Families Services in the City to include:

- Monitoring the implementation and challenging the progress of the Council's action plan to address the recommendations made by Ofsted following their inspection of Children's Services in Southampton and review of Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in July 2014.
- Regular scrutiny of the performance of multi-agency arrangements for the provision of early help and services to children and their families.
- Scrutiny of early years and education including the implementation of the Vision for Learning 2014 – 2024.
- Scrutiny of the development and implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy developed by the Youth Offending Board.
- Referring issues to the Chair of the LSCB and the Corporate Parenting Committee.

### **Public Representations**

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

**Access** – access is available for the disabled. Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

**MOBILE TELEPHONES:-** Please switch your mobile telephones or other IT to silent whilst in the meeting.

### **Business to be Discussed**

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

**QUORUM** The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 3.

**Use of Social Media:-** The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting. By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so. Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

### **Rules of Procedure**

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

**Smoking policy** – the Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

**Fire Procedure** – in the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound, and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take

**Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key goals:**

- Strong Foundations for Life.- For people to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.
- A proud and resilient city - Southampton’s greatest assets are our people. Enriched lives lead to thriving communities, which in turn create places where people want to live, work and study.
- A prosperous city - Southampton will focus on growing our local economy and bringing investment into our city.
- A successful, sustainable organisation - The successful delivery of the outcomes in this plan will be rooted in the culture of our organisation and becoming an effective and efficient council.

**Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year**

<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
16 June	25 January
20 July	28 March
28 September	
23 November	

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any “Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” or “Other Interest” they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

**DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession, or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

(iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

(v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

(vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council, and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

(vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
- b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

### **Other Interests**

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

### **Principles of Decision Making**

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability, and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

## AGENDA

### **1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

### **2 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST**

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

### **4 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP**

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

### **5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

### **6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 6 July 2023 and 20 July 2023 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

### **7 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE** (Pages 7 - 36)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.

### **8 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS** (Pages 37 - 42)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel considers the responses to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.

### **9 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the following Item.

The report is considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

**10 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON** (Pages 43 - 72)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider the provisional key stage results and supplementary information, as detailed in the appendices, and discuss with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers, educational attainment in Southampton.

Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Director – Legal, Governance and HR

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2023

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Present: Councillors T Bunday (Chair), J Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Chapman, Mrs Mintoff and Webb

Apologies: Councillors Lambert, Quadir  
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders

38. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The Panel noted the apologies of Councillors Lambert and Quadir and Appointed Member Rob Sanders.

39. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor A Barnes-Andrews be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

40. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

41. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING POSITION STATEMENT**

The Panel received the report of the Executive Director for Children and Learning outlining the context in which the service was working for children and families in Southampton; successes, challenges, and service priorities for the coming year.

Rob Henderson, Executive Director of Children & Learning was in attendance and with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel noted and considered the content of the presentation, in particular:

- The post-pandemic impact on mental health issues, substance abuse, domestic abuse, and other family relationship issues, which had continued to increase referrals locally and nationally.
- The number of children in need was predicted to rise from 85K to 100K by 2025 in England.
- Foster Care shortages were a local and national challenge.
- School non-attendance and exclusions had increased nationally and was prevalent in Southampton. SCC was working in partnership with the police and multiple agencies to address this.
- The increase in permanence of SCC social care workforce (90%) and senior leadership team (95%).
- The Hertfordshire Family Safeguarding Model would be launched in Southampton in September 2023.
- In September 2023, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was set to become the second region in the UK to benefit from England's largest youth-centred

wellbeing programme. 'BeeWell' was founded to improve wellbeing support available to young people and training for teachers to identify mental health issues. It would be funded by CAMHS and the Integrated Commissioning Board.

- The Neglect Toolkit, which replaced MASH, provides the framework for good practice around the early identification and signs of neglect and was undergoing tracking, improvement, and self-evaluation.

The Panel noted and considered the content of the Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting letter. In particular:

- New Audit Framework: Talking to children, social workers, and partners.
- Ofsted stated that the Council's new audit framework was one of the best they had seen.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That, to help develop understanding of the locality working model in Southampton, the presentation detailing the key elements of the Southampton approach is circulated to the Panel.
- 2) That, reflecting the high prevalence of cases of neglect in Southampton, the feedback provided by schools on the use of the Neglect Toolkit and how it is supporting decision making is circulated to the Panel.

### 42. **CHILDREN'S RESOURCE SERVICE AUDIT AND SERVICE RESPONSE**

The Panel received the report of the Executive Director for Children and Learning, recommending that the Panel consider and note the findings of the Children's Resource Service audit and the service response.

During the discussion the Panel noted the following:

- That the Service had responded robustly with vigorous activity in place.
- That the evidence around improved practice and the Improvement Board would be validated by the publication of the Ofsted report later in the month.
- That audit activity was to move forward toward partnership audits.
- That several well attended training sessions had taken place. Training had focussed on first line managers as a core group for consistent practice.
- Good timeliness in screening strategy discussions had resulted in fewer referrals to child protection.
- That safeguarding activity had the best engagement within the service. As a critical part of the service and its ongoing decision making, it was a critical area for continual focus to scrutinise continuing practice.
- That the service will review quality across three audits: 1. Managers Audit, 2. Re-referrals, 3. Safeguarding Children's partnership. Audits will resume taking account of Ofsted's findings. The three audits will give assurance that the audit process is working.
- Re-referrals were still at 21%, so above the national average.

**RESOLVED** that the service would report the findings of the three audits to the Panel.



43. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel received the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.

Laura Trevett – Performance Manager and Stuart Webb – Head of Quality Assurance were in attendance and with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel noted a number of points within the report including:

- That the number of children looked after and children with children in need plans had reduced.
- That Intervention teams had worked well to provide support, following assessment, and had reduced the escalation to referral.
- Children in our care:
  - The number of asylum seekers in our care was likely to increase despite the drop in April.
  - The service was working hard at getting children safely back into family homes and was able to discharge children once they were back in family homes.
- Challenges in CLA: Staff absences had led to supervisions not taking place. Managers have oversight, so child are seen by other members of the team, so not to lose sight of children if the social worker is not at work.
- Multi-agency teams looked at how performance was measured. Where performance was down it was due to poor record keeping rather than meetings not taking place.
- Health Assessments performance needed to improve.
- SCC is an improving authority in terms of children's services. The dip in placements during April was the result of Court judgements. No Placement Orders could be made until the Orders were resolved. Twenty-four children were placed for adoption in April. Children remain in care until the court discharges the Care Order, even if the child is back living at home.
- The No Further Action (NFA) trend was increasing. There is currently no measure of outcomes of assessment, even though children will have had intensive support. That data needs to be separated.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the report be approved.

44. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel received and noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager, which enabled the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2023

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Present: Councillors T Bunday (Chair), Barnes-Andrews (Vice-Chair), Chapman, Lambert, Mrs Mintoff and Webb

Apologies: Councillors J Baillie

45. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The Panel noted the apologies of Councillor J Baillie and that Councillor Webb had formally replaced Cllr Quadir on the Panel.

46. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.

Councillor Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and Robert Henderson - Executive Director Wellbeing (Children & Learning) were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- The increase in referrals over a period of time. Conversations are being held with partners to ensure referrals are appropriate and data is being interrogated.
- The number of assessments is high compared to Southampton's statistical neighbours. An audit is being undertaken to understand this and why 50% of referrals currently result in no further action.
- Levels of re-referrals are too high questioning whether cases are being closed too early, plans are not working effectively, or social work professional have been too optimistic in their decision making. A deep dive audit of re-referrals is being undertaken.
- The potential effect of the recent Ofsted inspection on the latest performance figures.
- How longer term data would enable the Panel to identify trends more effectively in performance, especially when the results may be affected by a seasonal issues.
- The Service's use of a forward plan schedule for internal audit to identify areas in need of improved performance.

**RESOLVED**

1. That, to enable trends to be identified, performance data outlining the rate of re-referrals over a longer time period is circulated to the Panel.
2. That, to enable key issues to be identified, a highlight report is attached to the monthly performance dataset presented to the Panel.

3. That the Children's Services forward plan of audit activity is circulated to the Panel to help plan future agendas of the Panel.

47. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel received and noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Children and Families and Scrutiny Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.

48. **OFSTED ILACS STANDARD INSPECTION OF SOUTHAMPTON'S CHILDREN'S AND LEARNING SERVICE**

The Panel considered the confidential report of the Head of Quality Assurance outlining the outcomes of the Ofsted standard inspection of Southampton's Children and Learning Service in June 2023 and the service response.

Councillor Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and Robert Henderson - Executive Director Wellbeing (Children & Learning) were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- General improvement across the Service;
- The Panel's gratitude for the hard work of officers and previous Cabinet Members;
- The points identified by the inspection that required attention that form part of the action plan in response to the Ofsted report;
- The requirement to reduce expenditure, particularly in 3 key areas – Children Looked After; Agency costs, Home to school transport.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Panel requested that the Cabinet Member and the Executive Director express its thanks and congratulate officers for their hard work in improving the Service;
2. That the Panel prioritises scrutiny of the Children's Services transformation programme - Building Brilliance: Building Sustainability 2023, and the service's financial plans for the 2023/24 municipal year.
3. That scrutiny of the Ofsted Improvement Plan is incorporated within the Panel work programme.

# Agenda Item 7

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	28 SEPTEMBER 2023
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Corporate Services</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mel Creighton</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>023 8083 3528</b>
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<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scrutiny Manager</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>023 8083 3886</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of performance for Children’s Services and Learning up to the end of August 2023. At the meeting the Cabinet Member and senior managers from Children’s Services and Learning will be providing the Panel with an overview of performance across the division.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
(i)	That the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children’s Services and Learning in Southampton.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of Children’s Services and Learning in Southampton.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	None.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	To enable the Panel to undertake their role effectively members will be provided with monthly performance information and an explanation of the measures.
4.	Performance information up to 31 August 2023 is attached as Appendix 1. An explanation of the significant variations in performance has been included.
5.	The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and representatives from the Children’s Services and Learning Senior Management Team, have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the performance overview.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u></b>	
6.	None directly as a result of this report.

<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
8.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
9.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
10.	The 2022-2030 Corporate Plan includes, as one of its four goals, strong foundations for life where people are able to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.  By delivering consistently good outcomes for the city's children and young people, Southampton's Children's Services and Learning Department will contribute to achieving this objective.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
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<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Summary of performance and commentary – September 2023
2.	Children and Learning Glossary

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Other Background Documents**

<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	None

# Children & Learning Service Performance Report Scrutiny Panel

September 2023

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Children & Learning  
Making a difference



SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7  
Appendix 1

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# Purpose

In order to evidence that Children & Learning Services are making a positive difference for children in the city, we consider our monthly performance data that is linked to the key outcomes of our governing strategy, Building for Brilliance 2023.

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## Building for Brilliance 2023 Key Priorities:



Ensure that children get the **right support at the right time**, meeting need early, reducing demand and spend on statutory services



Develop **strong, vibrant localities** where families can receive the help they need and practitioners can share their knowledge and expertise



Support children to **remain within, or return to, their birth families**, seeking out and reuniting family members, reducing care costs and freeing up placements for other children.



Promote **permanence and placement stability**, creating strong forever families and reducing increasingly costly alternatives



Build a **permanent, stable, energised workforce**, increasing consistency for children and reducing agency spend



Embed our **practice framework and practice standards** across the whole service, doing the basics brilliantly and being ambitious in our practice expectations



**Children  
& Learning**  
Making a difference



# Right support at the right time

**Outcome** – Improved shared understanding of thresholds resulting in less contacts a month, an increase in referrals and assessments for Early Help, a reduction in statutory referrals and assessments and children open to statutory services. This will result in more focused and intensive work with families requiring statutory services resulting in less children subject to CP planning and coming into our care.

**Progress analysis** - The number of children open to the service has reduced by 12.6%. The rate of children in our care has reduced from 112 to 103 towards our target of 100. The rate of children on child protection planning is down from 79 to 70. Having previously been an outlier of Section 47s, the reduction is positive. August is a difficult month as a benchmark due to schools (our highest referrers) being closed.

Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbourhoods	South East	England
Number of referrals into Early Help	196	183	131	181	154	172	161		-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of contacts in the month	1959	2023	1544	1828	1948	1804	1467		-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals into statutory service in the month	286	433	282	301	285	310	260	273	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of C&F assessments completed	369	400	309	425	283	292	255	274	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD)	618	535	639	524	493	467	457	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of strategy discussions held	183	217	184	185	207	144	148	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Section 47 enquiries completed	134	169	138	126	124	121	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of Strategy discussions resulting in Section 47	73	78	75	68	60	84	47							
Number of children subject to CP Plan at end of month	389	315	347	355	351	345	347	295	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Rate of children subject to CP plans	79	64	70	72	71	70	70	60	●	→	-	-	-	-
Number of children in our care	551	539	505	517	518	507	510	495	●	↓	497	640	10480	80850
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	112	109	102	105	105	103	103	100	●	→	96	100	53	67
Number of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)	2417	2425	2326	2304	2297	2259	2112	-	-	-				



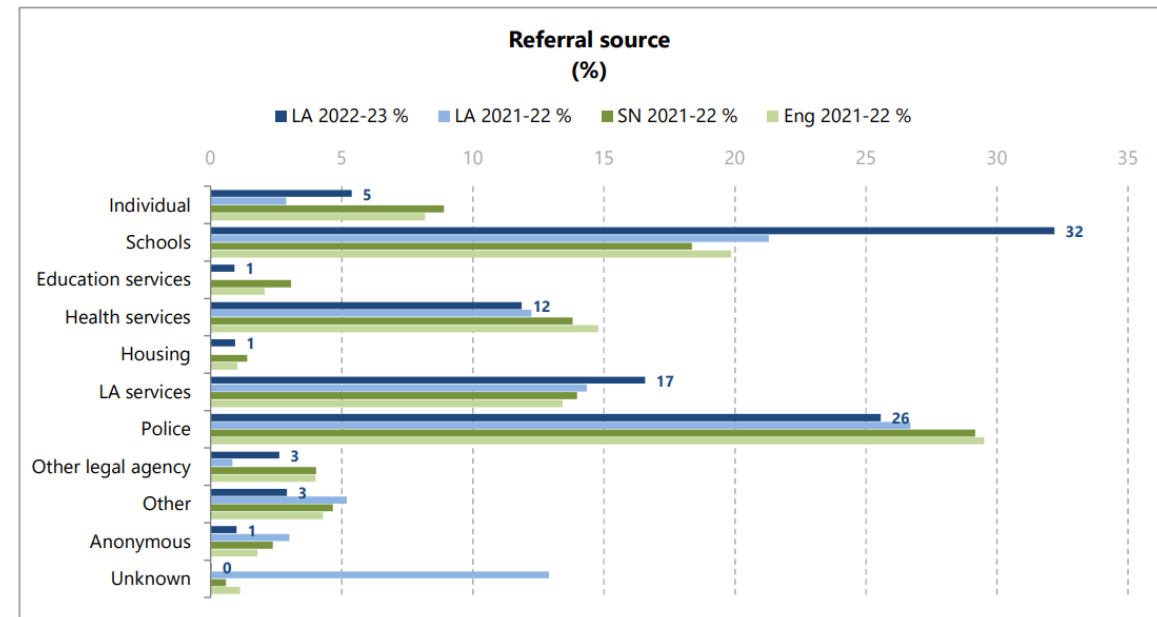
**Children & Learning**  
Making a difference



# Strong & vibrant localities

**Outcomes** – Stronger partner relationships will lead to a better understanding of referral thresholds. Multi-agency plans will be effective at increasing the safety and wellbeing of children. This will lead to a reduction in the referrals from schools, increase in partner agency led Team Around the Family plans, timeliness of Core Group activity, decrease in children with more than one period of CP planning, and increase in Child In Need Plans concluding within 6 months.

**Progress analysis** – The Child in Need Census for 2022/23 highlighted that referrals from schools accounted for 32% of all referrals received. This is significantly higher than the previous year and above the statistical neighbours. In August, when schools were closed, only 3 referrals were received, which has resulted in a lower number overall. Schools are key partners in multi-agency meetings, which impacts upon reviews for CP and CIN plans taking place during the summer. The Safeguarding Children Partnership Education Sub-group have started to engage schools regarding the referral trend.



Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	28%	28%	27%	25%	35%	26%	18%	23%	●	↑	27%	21%	26%	21%
Percentage of referrals leading to NFA	1%	8%	7%	5%	8%	9%	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of children subject to 2nd or more CP plan	28%	32%	33%	34%	33%	33%	31%	24%	●	↑	24%	24%	24%	23%
Percentage of children subject to child protection plans with recent core group held in time	73%	78%	77%	85%	83%	79%	62%	95%	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD) with CIN review within last 6 weeks		63%	54%	67%	62%	64%	37%	95%	●	↓	-	-	-	-



# Children remain within or return to their birth families

**Outcomes** – Children in our care return to live with their birth families, and more children are enabled to remain with their birth families so we bring less children into our care through intensive working with families at child in need and child protection.

**Progress analysis** – On average, we are achieving 5 reunifications for children with their families each month. This is up from 0 in August 2022. We have also achieved an average of 4 children finding permanence within their extended family, an improvement from 1 in August 2022. As a result, fewer children are in placements with parents and connected carers.

Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of children in our care	551	539	505	517	518	507	510	495	●	↓	497	640	10480	80850
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	112	109	102	105	105	103	103	100	●	→	96	100	53	67
Number of new CLA in month	14	14	3	31	17	10	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of new CLA in month who are UASC	3	5	1	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Ceased CLA in the month excluding UASC	18	18	34	15	18	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA achieved CAO or SGO	1	3	6	4	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA returned home as part of care planning	0	5	8	2	5	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA placed with parents at the end of the month	50	48	42	48	44	39	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA placed in Connected Carer placements at the end of the month	67	59	54	52	50	47	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Our brief intervention hub continue to work with families where risks are significantly high to prevent children coming into care in the first place, and the young peoples' service work intensively with young people for the same goal. Both services have contributed to the reduction in children coming into care.





# Promote permanence and placement stability

**Outcomes** – Children remaining in our care will have long term, stable placements with less children in residential and unregulated placements. Children will be placed with in house carers rather than independent fostering agency placements as we grow our resources.

**Progress analysis** – Fewer children are in our care, but more are placed with independent fostering agencies, semi-independent, and unregulated placements. Numbers of children in residential placements have reduced but have plateaued since the initial reduction. Placement stability is down from this time last year, but up from the last 3 months. Placements for children with our own foster carers have reduced by 50 in the last year; a continued downward trend. In the last few months, there has been an increase in foster carer applications and assessments, which should filter through to an increase in capacity in the next year. The Placement Action Plan is being re-launched with targeted workstreams to focus on increasing resilience in vulnerable placements.

Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 21/22	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of children in our care	551	539	505	517	518	507	510	495	●	↓	497	640	10480	80850
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year	19	14	15	15	14	16	17	12	●	↓				
Number of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	126	139	140	144	146	141	147	100	●	↓				
Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	22	25	27	27	26	27	28							
Number of CLA placed in Residential placements including semi-independent	66	75	71	70	70	75	76	60	●	↓				
Number of CLA placed in residential - Independent Sector	47	42	42	43	43	42	43	41	●	↓				
Percentage of CLA placed in Residential placements - independent sector	9	8	8	8	8	8	8							
Number of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	23	33	30	30	36	42	42	20	●	→				
Percentage of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	4	6	6	6	7	8	8							
Number of CLA placed for adoption at period end	45	30	20	19	19	13	15							
Number of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	241	214	202	213	206	195	192	285	●	↓				
Percentage of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	44	40	40	40	39	38	38							
Percentage in touch with the authority from 17th to 18th birthday	85	76	80	85	87	86	87							
Percentage in touch with the authority from 19th to 21st Birthday	92	92	92	92	92	92	92							





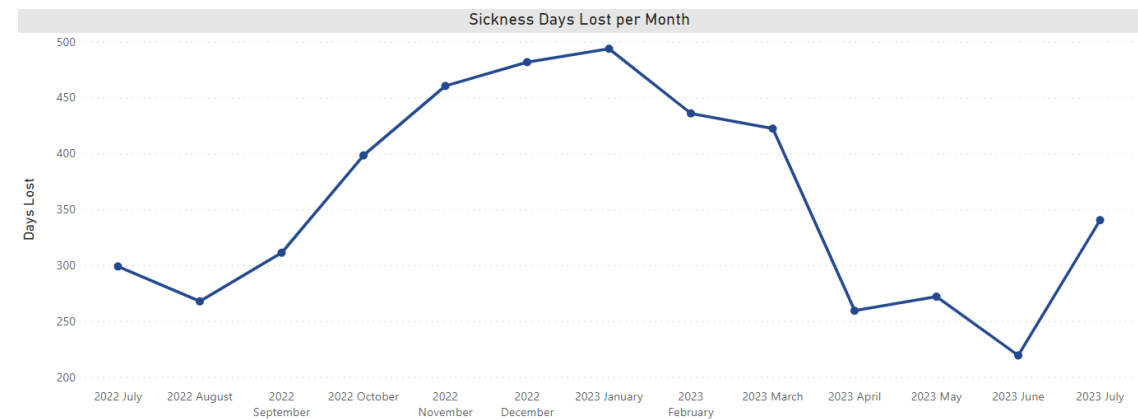
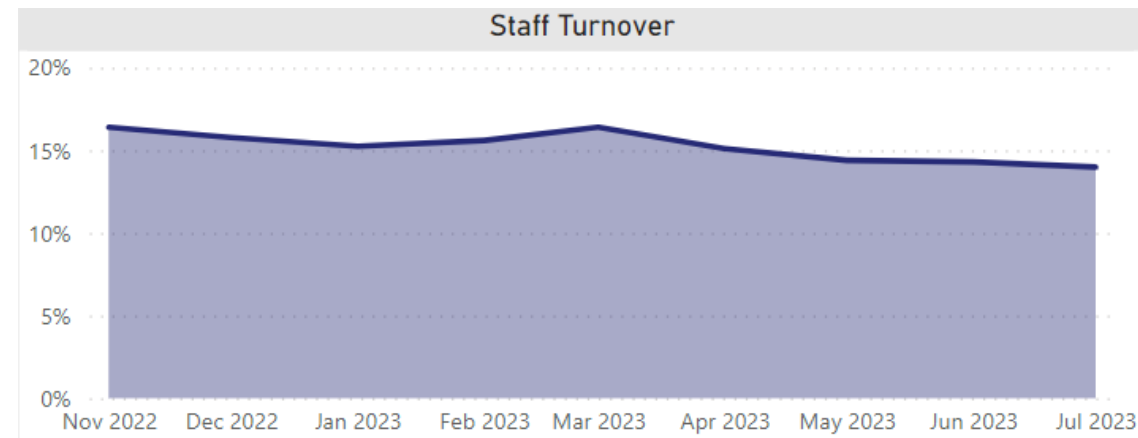
# Permanent, stable workforce

**Outcomes** – Children and families maintain working relationships with consistent practitioners, who benefit from stable management support and oversight. Agency staff numbers will reduce contributing towards financial responsibility.

**Progress analysis** – The number of agency staff has continued to reduce and is on track to meet the target of 21 in September 2023. Staff turnover has been gradually reducing since March 2023. During Ofsted, we had 94% staffing for managers and social workers. There is further recruitment ongoing following the Good outcome from the Ofsted visit. The number of sick days lost per month has reduced since the peak in January 2023, but spiked in July.

Staff stability within the pathways through care service has resulted in the consistent increase in duration of relationships for children in care with their social workers.

Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of CLA that have been in care for 12+m, with same social worker for last 6 months		49	47	59	62	68	74	80	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>



# Embedding Practice Framework and Standards

## Outcomes –

Audits will evidence

- An improved quality of supervision and standard of practice.
- Contingency planning will be clear in all plans from the beginning of interventions and involvements.
- Systemic practice will be evidenced in care recording audits of visits, assessments, plans, supervisions, chronologies.
- Safe & Together will be evident in work with families increasing involvement of perpetrators, partnering with survivors and achieving long term safety for children.

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## Progress analysis – July Audit overview:

- 40 audits allocated across 9 service areas, 33 (85%) completed.
- Outstanding (6%), Good (42%), Requires Improvement (53%), Inadequate (0%)
- Highlights of good practice:
  - 100% of Children & Family First - the interventions matched the needs of the family
  - 100% of BIT audits – Case Summary present on child’s record, all visits were in timescales.
  - 83% of SWwF assessments contained robust analysis
  - CWD – Purposeful and effective direct work with children, independent skills of child observed
  - YPS - Effective multi-agency work articulated
  - PTC – Children being enabled to understand their care Journey
- Highlights of areas for improvement
  - Children & Family First – 50% evidenced taking the views of CYP into account.
  - Direct tools to be used more consistently along with neglect toolkit.
  - BIT – increase consistency in the timeliness and quality of recorded visits, ensure plans outline specific actions to address attendance.
  - SWwF – Focus on clear structure of interventions to avoid drift and delay.
  - CWD – Completion of chronology, case summary and cultural genogram
  - YPS – Quality reflective supervision with clear detail, analysis and action plan
  - PTC – More evidence of parents input and views and comprehensive care planning meetings.



# Performance - Visiting

## Outcomes

Children and their families receive regular visits and case holder supervision that result in robust assessments, direct work and increased safety for children. Plans and interventions are timely and effective resulting in CIN plans and CP plans concluding within 12 months, and re-referrals reducing.

Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with a visit in the last 4 weeks	52%	62%	71%	61%	60%	66%	67%	95%	●	↑
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 6 weeks	95%	97%	96%	98%	95%	96%	94%	95%	●	↓
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (CWD) visited within agreed timescales	84%	86%	85%	86%	95%	88%	76%	95%	●	↓
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 10 working days	82%	87%	90%	92%	90%	84%	86%	95%	●	↑
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 4 weeks	98%	98%	97%	98%	98%	97%	96%	95%	●	↓
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within agreed timescales	81%	86%	89%	92%	89%	89%	82%	95%	●	↓

## Progress analysis

Visiting patterns to children with disabilities with a Child in Need Plan has reduced to 75% in August. This was linked to unforeseen management absence over the month alongside a number of practitioners contracting Covid.





# Performance - Supervision

**Outcomes** – Social workers receive regular, reflective supervision regarding children and families they are working with to identify patterns, risks, progress, and agree a work plan. With quality management oversight, plans for children will progress and escalate or step down in a timely way resulting in children being open to the service for a shorter period of time, 80% of assessments will complete within 30 working days, CIN plans and CP plans lasting less than 9 months, more children exiting pre-proceedings, and less children entering legal proceedings.

Indicator	Aug-22	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with supervision in timescales	75%	74%	78%	82%	72%	82%	<b>88%</b>	95%	●	↑
Percentage of children open for assessment who had supervision in timescales	<b>88%</b>	93%	93%	91%	91%	97%	<b>91%</b>	95%	●	↓
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (not CWD) who had supervision within timescales	80%	89%	90%	<b>96%</b>	85%	79%	<b>80%</b>	95%	●	↑
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (CWD) who had their supervision within timescales	99%	98%	96%	86%	84%	79%	<b>77%</b>	95%	●	↓
Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and within timescales	89%	86%	91%	<b>98%</b>	87%	85%	<b>87%</b>	95%	●	↑
Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale	81%	78%	85%	<b>94%</b>	88%	90%	<b>74%</b>	95%	●	↓
Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale	78%	81%	86%	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	88%	<b>83%</b>	95%	●	↓

## Progress analysis –

Supervisions in the CWD team were impacted by the unplanned manager absence and staff sickness following a number contracting Covid.

The decline in supervision timeliness since May is being reviewed with team managers and service leads in assurance clinics this month.



Children  
& Learning  
Making a difference



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## Acronyms

<b>ADM</b>	Agency decision maker
<b>ASYE</b>	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
<b>BIT</b>	Brief Intervention Team
<b>C&amp;FF</b>	Children and Family First (Early Help service)
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
<b>CiC</b>	Children in Care
<b>CLA</b>	Children Looked After
<b>CP</b>	Child Protection
<b>CRS</b>	Childrens Resource Service
<b>CYP</b>	Children and Young People
<b>EH</b>	Early Help
<b>FEW</b>	Family Engagement Worker
<b>HoS</b>	Head of Service
<b>ICAS</b>	Intervention and Complex Assessment Service
<b>ICAT</b>	Intervention and Complex Assessment Team
<b>Jigsaw</b>	Children with Disabilities Team
<b>KCSiE</b>	Keeping Children Safe in Education (safeguarding legislation and guidance for education settings)
<b>ROTH</b>	Risk Outside the Home
<b>PM</b>	Practice Manager
<b>PTC</b>	Pathways through Care
<b>SL</b>	Service Lead
<b>SW</b>	Social Worker
<b>SWF/SWWF</b>	Social Work with Families
<b>YJS</b>	Youth Justice Service
<b>YPS</b>	Young Person Service

## Abuse

Abuse is the act of violation of an individual's human or civil rights. Any or all types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence, or ignorance. Different types of abuse include Physical abuse, Neglect/acts of omission, Financial/material abuse, Psychological abuse, Sexual abuse, Institutional abuse, Discriminatory abuse, or any combination of these.

## Advocacy

Advocacy helps to safeguard children and young people and protect them from harm and neglect. It is about speaking up for children and young people and ensuring their views and wishes are heard and acted upon by decision-makers. LAs have a duty under The Children Act to ensure that advocacy services are provided for children, young people and care leavers making or intending to make a complaint. It should also cover representations which are not complaints. Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) should also provide a child/young person with information about advocacy services and offer help in obtaining an advocate.

## Agency Decision Maker

The Agency Decision Maker (ADM) is the person within a fostering service and an adoption agency who makes decisions on the basis of recommendations made by the Fostering Panel (in relation to a fostering service) and the Adoption Panel (in relation to an adoption agency). The Agency Decision Maker will take account of the Panel's recommendation before proceeding to make a decision. The Agency Decision Maker can choose to make a different decision.

The National Minimum Standards for Fostering 2011 provide that the Agency Decision Maker for a fostering service should be a senior person within the fostering service, who is a social worker with at least 3 years post-qualifying experience in childcare social work and has knowledge of childcare law and practice (Standard 23).

The National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2011 provide that the Agency Decision Maker for an adoption agency should be a senior person within the adoption agency, who is a social worker with at least 3 years post-qualifying experience in childcare social work and has knowledge of permanency planning for children, adoption and childcare law and practice. Where the adoption agency provides an inter country adoption service, the Agency Decision Maker should also have specialist knowledge of this area of law and practice. When determining the disclosure of Protected Information about adults, the Agency Decision Maker should also understand the legislation surrounding access to and disclosure of information and the impact of reunion on all parties (Standard 23).

## Assessment

Assessments are undertaken to determine the needs of individual children; what services to provide and action to take. They may be carried out:

- To gather important information about a child and family;
- To analyse their needs and/or the nature and level of any risk and harm being suffered by the child;
- To decide whether the child is a Child in Need (Section 17) and/or is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm (Section 47); and
- To provide support to address those needs to improve the child's outcomes to make them safe.

With effect from 15 April 2013, Working Together 2013 removes the requirement for separate **Initial Assessments** and **Core Assessments**. One Assessment – often called Single Assessment - may be undertaken instead.

## Brief Intervention Team

Brief Intervention Service undertakes S47 Child Protection Investigations and S17 Single Assessments. They work towards five different outcomes for families.

1. If there are no identified concerns then the case can close.
  2. If the family require ongoing support at an early help level then the social worker will present the case at Step Down Panel in order to access Children and Families First and Universal Services.
  3. Children who require ongoing support with social worker intervention can be made subject to a Child In Need Plan.
  4. Children considered to be at risk of significant harm can be made subject to a Child Protection Plan.
  5. The service are also active in some initial court proceedings.
- The Brief Intervention Service do not hold cases long term therefore when a plan is identified that case will transfer to the appropriate team. All CIN plans and CP plans transfer to the Social Work with Families Service.

## CAFCASS

**Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)** is the Government agency responsible for Reporting Officers, Children's Guardians and other Court officers appointed by the Court in Court Proceedings involving children. Also appoints an officer to witness when a parent wishes to consent to a child's placement for adoption.

## Care Order

A Care Order can be made in Care Proceedings brought under section 31 of the Children Act if the Threshold Criteria are met. The Order grants Parental Responsibility for the child to the local authority specified in the Order, to be shared with the parents.

A **Care Order** lasts until the child is 18 unless discharged earlier. An **Adoption Order** automatically discharges the Care Order. A **Placement Order** automatically suspends the Care Order, but it will be reinstated if the Placement Order is subsequently revoked.

All children who are the subject of a Care Order come within the definition of Looked After and have to have a Care Plan. When making a Care Order, the Court must be satisfied that the Care Plan is suitable.

## Categories of Abuse or Neglect

Where a decision is made that a child requires a Child Protection Plan, the category of abuse or neglect must be specified by the Child Protection Conference Chair.

## Child Arrangement Order

Child Arrangements Orders replace residence orders and contact orders. Child Arrangements Orders are governed by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A Child Arrangements Order decides where a child lives, when a child spends time with each parent and when and what other types of contact take place (phone calls, for example). Each Child Arrangements Order is decided on the circumstances of the individual family and on what is in the best interests of that particular child.

## Child in Need and Child in Need Plan

Under Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989, a child is a Child in Need (CiN) if:

- He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- He/she is disabled.

A **Child in Need Plan** should be drawn up for children who are not Looked After but are identified as Children in Need who requiring services to meet their needs. It should be completed following an Assessment where services are identified as necessary.

Under the Integrated Children's System, if a Child is subject to a Child Protection Plan, it is recorded as part of the Child in Need Plan.

The Child in Need Plan may also be used with children receiving short break care in conjunction with Part One of the Care Plan.

### Child Protection

The following definition is taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010, paragraph 1.23.:

Child protection is a part of Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, Significant Harm.

### Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Conferences (Initial – **ICPC** and review – **RCPC**) are convened where children are considered to be at risk of Significant Harm.

### Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

### Children and Families First

Parents or professionals can referral for Children and Families First case holding services through the Children's Resource Service. Families can access our family hubs by contacting us directly in the community. The Children and Families First Case holding locality teams provide the right support to families, at the right time, to achieve change that lasts. It can be provided at any stage in a child or young person's life, from pre-birth through to teenage years.

The service provide targeted intervention using a multi-disciplinary approach that can be delivered to parents, children, or whole families, but the focus is to improve outcomes for children and help prevent any situation from escalating, or further problems arising.

Families should be enabled and supported to have the right conversations, with the right people and at the right time about their needs or concerns, so that statutory interventions can be avoided where this is appropriate. Intervening as early as possible, regardless of the age of the child or young person, can positively improve their outcomes.

Targeted support through Children and Families First is voluntary and consent from children, young people, and their families to work with them should always be sought.

### Children with Disabilities

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), children with disabilities "include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis".



JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities Team) is a specialist and statutory multi-agency health and social care service in Southampton that undertakes assessments and provides services at the complex level of needs.

The Team supports disabled children, young people and their families whose main need for service arises from their disability or their intrinsic condition, and where these conditions have a complex impact on the quality of the child's life or/and the lives of their families.

The Service intervenes where their needs cannot be fully met by universal and targeted services alone.

Children are defined as 'children in need' by the Children Act 1989 because of their disability. Some of those children are also assessed as having complex needs that may require specialist support from JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities Team), in addition to universal and targeted services, because they have disabilities or illnesses that are severe and enduring, including one or more of the following;

- Learning disabilities within the moderate, severe or profound range.
- A severe physical (including visual and hearing) health condition or impairment which is life limiting, or significantly affects, or is predicted to affect, everyday life functioning or a child's access to education (e.g. in a wheelchair, has adapted living, requires total personal care support, requires communication aids) and their ability to achieve outcomes appropriate to their age related potential. These children are likely to be subject to Children's Continuing Care Arrangements because of the complexity of their health needs or an Advance Care Plan. They may also have Autism, and their behaviour is likely to present a serious risk of harm to self or others.

Other disabled children may have additional needs but the impact of their disability on their day to day living arrangements means that they do not require specialist statutory support and their needs can be met appropriately with additional support from universal and targeted services, including mainstream Children's Services.

### Children's Centres

The government is establishing a network of children's centres, providing good quality childcare integrated with early learning, family support, health services, and support for parents wanting to return to work or training.

### Children's Social Care

Children's services used to be called 'social services'. Children's services/social care are responsible for supporting and protecting vulnerable children. This includes providing children and their families with extra help. Where children are thought to be at risk of harm, children's services will take steps which aim to make sure they are kept safe. The 2004 Children Act made local authorities responsible for ensuring and overseeing the effective delivery of services for children, working closely with others. They must also promote children's welfare and well-being as defined by the five outcomes. In Southampton all services for children come under the umbrella of the Children and Learning Service.

### Corporate Parenting

In broad terms, as the corporate parent of looked after children, a local authority has a legal and moral duty to provide the kind of loyal support that any good parent would provide for their own children.

### Criteria for Child Protection Plans

Where a decision is made that a child requires a Child Protection Plan, the Conference Chair must ensure that the criteria for the decision are met, i.e. that the child is at continuing risk of Significant Harm.

## Director of Children's Services (DCS)

Every top tier local authority in England must appoint a Director of Children's Services under section 18 of the Children Act 2004. Directors are responsible for discharging local authority functions that relate to children in respect of education, social services and children leaving care. They are also responsible for discharging functions delegated to the local authority by any NHS body that relate to children, as well as some new functions conferred on authorities by the Act, such as the duty to safeguard and protect children, the Children and Young People's Plan, and the duty to co-operate to promote well-being.

## Designated Teacher

Schools should all appoint a Designated Teacher. This person's role is to co-ordinate policies, procedures and roles in relation to Child Protection and in relation to Looked After Children.

## Discretionary Leave to Remain

This is a limited permission granted to an Asylum Seeker, to stay in the UK for 3 years - it can then be extended or permission can then be sought to settle permanently.

## Duty of Care

In relation to workers in the social care sector, their duty of care is defined by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) as a legal obligation to:

- Always act in the best interest of individuals and others;
- Not act or fail to act in a way that results in harm;
- Act within your competence and not take on anything you do not believe you can safely do.

## Early Help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help;
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.

Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children.

## Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters is the approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19, which is incorporated into the Children Act 2004. The aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy;
- Stay safe;
- Enjoy and achieve;
- Make a positive contribution and;
- Achieve economic well-being.

This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children are teaming up, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life.

## Health Assessment

Every Looked After Child (LAC or CLA) must have a Health Assessment soon after becoming Looked After, then at specified intervals, depending on the child's age.

## Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

When an Asylum Seeker is granted ILR, they have permission to settle in the UK permanently and can access mainstream services and benefits.

## Independent Reviewing Officer

If a Local Authority is looking after a child (whether or not the child is in their care), it must appoint an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) for that child's case.

From 1 April 2011, the role of the IRO is extended, and there are two separate aspects: chairing a child's Looked After Review, and monitoring a child's case on an ongoing basis. As part of the monitoring function, the IRO also has a duty to identify any areas of poor practice, including general concerns around service delivery (not just around individual children).

IROs must be qualified social workers and, whilst they can be employees of the local authority, they must not have line management responsibility for the child's case. Independent Reviewing Officers who chair Adoption Reviews must have relevant experience of adoption work.

## Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) are specialist caseworkers who focus on working predominantly with high risk victims (usually but not exclusively with female victims). They generally are involved from the point of crisis and offer intensive short to medium term support. They work in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies and mobilise multiple resources on behalf of victims by coordinating the response of a wide range of agencies, including those working with perpetrators or children. There may be differences about how the IDVA service is delivered in local areas.

## Initial Child Protection Conference

An Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) is normally convened at the end of a Section 47 Enquiry when the child is assessed as either having suffered Significant Harm or to be at risk of suffering ongoing significant harm.

The Initial Child Protection Conference must be held within 15 working days of the Strategy Discussion, or the last strategy discussion if more than one has been held.

## Intervention and Complex Assessment Service

The services provided by IACS are:

The Brief Intervention Hub is a team who work intensively with children, young people and their families to support them in making and sustaining positive change, so that needs are met, children and young people are safe and to prevent children needing to enter local authority care unnecessarily.

The Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) is a multi-disciplinary team who work with families whose issues with substance abuse has led to the local authority issuing Care Proceedings. FDAC is an alternative approach to proceedings, with a problem-solving focus, working intensively with parents to try and tackle their substance addictions and have children safely in their care.

The Specialist Assessment Team works with parents to complete complex assessments, interventions and reunification work, in particular when families are involved in Care Proceedings, Public Law Outline (PLO) or Child Protection.

The Phoenix Team is working in collaboration with Pause, a National Charity and are the Phoenix Team @ Pause Southampton. This is a multidisciplinary team of professionals which support mothers post Care Proceedings who have had their children (two or more of) permanently removed from their care within the past two years. The team work intensively with women and support them in all areas of their lives. The ultimate aim is to prevent recurrent removals of children and subsequent Care Proceedings.

### Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

A designated officer (or sometimes a team of officers), who is involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people that work with children.

Their role is to give advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations; liaise with the Police and other agencies, and monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible consistent with a thorough and fair process. The Police should also identify an officer to fill a similar role.

### Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

LSCBs have to be established by every local authority as detailed in Section 13 of The Children Act 2004. They are made up of representatives from a range of public agencies with a common interest and with duties and responsibilities to children in their area. LSCBs have a responsibility for ensuring effective inter-agency working together to safeguard and protect children in the area. The Boards have to ensure that clear local procedures are in place to inform and assist anyone interested or as part of their professional role where they have concerns about a child.

The functions of the LSCB are set out in chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

See <http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/> for Southampton LSCB.

### Looked After Child

A Looked After Child is a child who is accommodated by the local authority, a child who is the subject to an Interim Care Order, full Care Order or Emergency Protection Order; or a child who is remanded by a court into local authority accommodation or Youth Detention Accommodation.

In addition where a child is placed for Adoption or the local authority is authorised to place a child for adoption - either through the making of a Placement Order or the giving of Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement - the child is a Looked After child.

Looked After Children may be placed with family members, foster carers (including relatives and friends), in Children's Homes, in Secure Accommodation or with prospective adopters.

With effect from 3 December 2012, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 amended the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to bring children who are remanded by a court to local authority accommodation or youth detention accommodation into the definition of a Looked After Child for the purposes of the Children Act 1989.

### Neglect

Neglect is a form of Significant Harm which involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect can occur during pregnancy, or once a child is born.

### Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement

Parental consent to a child's placement for adoption under section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 must be given before a child can be placed for adoption by an adoption agency, unless a Placement Order has been made or unless the child is a baby less than 6 weeks old and the parents

have signed a written agreement with the local authority. Section 19 requires that the consent must be witnessed by a CAFCASS Officer. Where a baby of less than 6 weeks old is placed on the basis of a written agreement with the parents, steps must be taken to request CAFCASS to witness parental consent as soon as the child is 6 weeks old. At the same time as consent to an adoptive placement is given, a parent may also consent in advance to the child's adoption under section 20 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 either with any approved prospective adopters or with specific adopters identified in the Consent Form.

When giving advanced consent to adoption, the parents can also state that they do not wish to be informed when an adoption application is made in relation to the child.

### Parental Responsibility

Parental Responsibility means all the duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which a parent has by law in relation to a child. Parental Responsibility diminishes as the child acquires sufficient understanding to make his or her own decisions.

A child's mother always holds Parental Responsibility, as does the father if married to the mother.

Unmarried fathers who are registered on the child's birth certificate as the child's father on or after 1 December 2003 also automatically acquire Parental Responsibility. Otherwise, they can acquire Parental Responsibility through a formal agreement with the child's mother or through obtaining a Parental Responsibility Order under Section 4 of the Children Act 1989.

### Pathway Plan

The Pathway Plan sets out the route to the future for young people leaving the Looked After service and will state how their needs will be met in their path to independence. The plan will continue to be implemented and reviewed after they leave the looked after service at least until they are 21; and up to 25 if in education.

### Pathways Through Care

The Pathways Through Care team complete statutory duties on behalf of the Local Authority as pathways Through Care to looked after children and care leavers. For looked after children, the aim of the social workers is to establish trusting relationships with the children in order to gain their wishes and feelings so that their voice is heard in their future planning. The aim is for children to be in stable placements, to be achieving academically, to have consistent contact with significant others that is right for them, for them to have support with their past traumas and to understand their journey in to and through care. Where appropriate, we aim to reunite children with their birth families. We also work with care experienced young people and adults up to the age of 25 years old.

### Permanence Plan

Permanence for a Looked After child means achieving, within a timescale which meets the child's needs, a permanent outcome which provides security and stability to the child throughout his or her childhood. It is, therefore, the best preparation for adulthood.

Wherever possible, permanence will be achieved through a return to the parents' care or a placement within the wider family but where this cannot be achieved within a time-scale appropriate to the child's needs, plans may be made for a permanent alternative family placement, which may include Adoption or by way of a Special Guardianship Order.

By the time of the second Looked After Review, the Care Plan for each Looked After Child must contain a plan for achieving permanence for the child within a timescale that is realistic, achievable and meets the child's needs.

## Personal Education Plan

All Looked After Children must have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which summarises the child's developmental and educational needs, short term targets, long term plans and aspirations and which contains or refers to the child's record of achievement. The child's social worker is responsible for coordinating and compiling the PEP, which should be incorporated into the child's Care Plan.

## Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)

This term replaced the term of 'Schedule One Offender', previously used to describe a person who had been convicted of an offence against a child listed in Schedule One of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

'Person Posing a Risk to Children' takes a wider view. Home Office Circular 16/2005 included a consolidated list of offences which agencies can use to identify those who may present a risk to children. The list includes both current and repealed offences, is for guidance only and is not exhaustive - subsequent legislation will also need to be taken into account when forming an assessment of whether a person poses a risk to children. The list of offences should operate as a trigger to further assessment/review to determine if an offender should be regarded as presenting a continued risk of harm to children. There will also be cases where individuals without a conviction or caution for one of these offences may pose a risk to children.

## Placement at a Distance

Placement of a Looked After child outside the area of the responsible authority looking after the child and not within the area of any adjoining local authority.

This term was introduced with effect from 27 January 2014 by the Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013.

## Principal Social Worker - Children and Families

This role was borne out of Professor Munro's recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection (2011) to ensure that a senior manager in each local authority is directly involved in frontline services, advocate higher practice standards and develop organisational learning cultures, and to bridge the divide between management and the front line. It is typically held by a senior manager who also carries caseloads to ensure the authentic voice of practice is heard at decision-making tables.

## Private Fostering

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) who is cared for by an adult who is not a parent or close relative where the child is to be cared for in that home for 28 days or more. Close relative is defined as "a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent". A child who is Looked After by a local authority or placed in a children's home, hospital or school is excluded from the definition. In a private fostering arrangement, the parent still holds Parental Responsibility and agrees the arrangement with the private foster carer.

A child in relation to whom the local authority receives notification from the prospective adopters that they intend to apply to the Court to adopt may have the status of a privately fostered child. The requirement to notify the local authority relates only to children who have not been placed for adoption by an adoption agency. On receiving the notification, the local authority for the area where the prospective adopters live becomes responsible for supervising the child's welfare pending the adoption and providing the Court with a report.

## Public Law Outline

The Public Law Outline: Guide to Case Management in Public Law Proceedings came into force on the 6th April 2010. An updated Public Law Outline (PLO) came into effect on 22nd April 2014, alongside the statutory 26-week time-limit for completion of care and supervision proceedings under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Public Law Outline sets out streamlined case management procedures for dealing with public law children's cases. The aim is to identify and focus on the key issues for the child, with the aim of making the best decisions for the child within the timetable set by the Court, and avoiding the need for unnecessary evidence or hearings.

## Referral

The referring of concerns to local authority children's social care services, where the referrer believes or suspects that a child may be a Child in Need, including that he or she may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. The referral should be made in accordance with the agreed LSCB procedures.

## Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible

- **Relevant Young People** are those aged 16 or 17 who are no longer Looked After, having previously been in the category of Eligible Young People when Looked After. However, if after leaving the Looked After service, a young person returns home for a period of 6 months or more to be cared for by a parent and the return home has been formally agreed as successful, he or she will no longer be a Relevant Young Person. A young person is also Relevant if, having been looked after for three months or more, he or she is then detained after their 16th birthday either in hospital, remand centre, young offenders' institution or secure training centre. There is a duty to support relevant young people up to the age of 18, wherever they are living.
- **Former Relevant Young People** are aged 18 or above and have left care having been previously either Eligible, Relevant or both. There is a duty to consider the need to support these young people wherever they are living.
- **Eligible Young People** are young people aged 16 or 17 who have been Looked After for a period or periods totaling at least 13 weeks starting after their 14th birthday and ending at least one day after their 16th birthday, and are still Looked After. (This total does not include a series of short-term placements of up to four weeks where the child has returned to the parent.) There is a duty to support these young people up to the age of 18.

## Review Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Review Conferences (RCPC) are convened in relation to children who are already subject to a Child Protection Plan. The purpose of the Review Conference is to review the safety, health and development of the child in view of the Child Protection Plan, to ensure that the child continues to be adequately safeguarded and to consider whether the Child Protection Plan should continue or change or whether it can be discontinued.

## Section 20

Under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, children may be accommodated by the local authority if they have no parent or are lost or abandoned or where their parents are not able to provide them with suitable accommodation and agree to the child being accommodated. A child who is accommodated under Section 20 becomes a Looked After Child.

## Section 47 Enquiry

Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is taken into Police Protection, or is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order, or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Section 47 Enquiry is initiated. This enables the local authority to



decide whether they need to take any further action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This normally occurs after a Strategy Discussion.

Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Neglect are all categories of Significant Harm.

Section 47 Enquiries are usually conducted by a social worker, jointly with the Police, and must be completed within 15 days of a Strategy Discussion. Where concerns are substantiated and the child is judged to be at continued risk of Significant Harm, a Child Protection Conference should be convened.

## SENCO

A SENCO, or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, is a qualified school teacher who is responsible for assessing, planning and monitoring the progress of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They are a key point of contact for colleagues and can offer support and advice for the identification of needs and suitable provision to meet those needs.

## Separated Children

Separated Children are children and young people aged under 18 who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents, or their previous legal/customary primary caregiver. Some will be totally alone (**unaccompanied**), while others may be accompanied into the UK e.g. by an escort; or will present as staying with a person who may identify themselves as a stranger, a member of the family or a friend of the family.

## Social Work with Families

The Social Work with Families Service is a frontline service which supports vulnerable children. They work closely with children, families and different agencies to undertake assessments and intervention and work with children subject to child in need plans, child protection plans and court proceedings.

## Special Guardianship Order

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) is an order set out in the Children Act 1989, available from 30 December 2005. Special Guardianship offers a further option for children needing permanent care outside their birth family. It can offer greater security without absolute severance from the birth family as in adoption.

Special Guardianship will also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option. Special Guardians will have Parental Responsibility for the child. A Special Guardianship Order made in relation to a Looked After Child will replace the Care Order and the Local Authority will no longer have Parental Responsibility.

## Strategy Discussion

A Strategy Discussion is normally held following an Assessment which indicates that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer Significant Harm. The purpose of a Strategy Meeting is to determine whether there are grounds for a Section 47 Enquiry.

## Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN)

From 1 September 2014, Statements of Special Educational Needs were replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans. (The legal test of when a child or young person requires an Education, Health and Care Plan remains the same as that for a Statement under the Education Act 1996).

## Staying Put

A Staying Put arrangement is where a Former Relevant child, after ceasing to be Looked After, remains in the former foster home where they were placed immediately before they ceased to be Looked After,



beyond the age of 18. The young person's first Looked After Review following his or her 16th birthday should consider whether a Staying Put arrangement should be an option.

It is the duty of the local authority to monitor the Staying Put arrangement and provide advice, assistance and support to the Former Relevant child and the former foster parent with a view to maintaining the Staying Put arrangement (this must include financial support), until the child reaches the age of 21 (unless the local authority consider that the Staying Put arrangement is not consistent with the child's welfare).

### Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children

A child or young person under the age of 18 who has been forced or compelled to leave their home country as a result of major conflict resulting in social breakdown or to escape human rights abuse. They will have no adult in the UK exercising Parental Responsibility. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority.

### Virtual School Head

Section 99 of the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes upon local authorities a requirement to appoint an officer to promote the educational achievement of Looked After children - sometimes referred to as a 'Virtual School Head'.

### Working Together to Safeguard Children

Working Together to Safeguard Children is a Government publication which sets out detailed guidance about the role, function and composition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), the roles and responsibilities of their member agencies in safeguarding children within their areas and the actions that should be taken where there are concerns that children have suffered or are at risk of suffering Significant Harm.

### Young Offender Institution (YOI)

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for the commissioning and purchasing of all secure accommodation for under 18-year-olds ('juveniles'), whether sentenced or on remand. Young offender institutions (YOIs) are run by the Prison Service (except where contracted out) and cater for 15-20 year-olds, but within YOIs the Youth Justice Board has purchased discrete accommodation for juveniles where the regimes are specially designed to meet their needs. Juvenile units in YOIs are for 15-17 year-old boys and 17-year-old girls.

### Youth Offending Service or Team

Youth Offending Service or Team (YOS or YOT) is the service which brings together staff from Children's Social care, the Police, Probation, Education and Health Authorities to work together to keep young people aged 10 to 17 out of custody. They are monitored and co-ordinated nationally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

### Sources

Tri.x live online glossary: <http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/> - a free resource, available to all which provides up to date keyword definitions and details about national agencies and organisations.

Southampton Local Safeguarding Board <http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/>

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<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	28 SEPTEMBER 2023
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Corporate Resources</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mel Creighton</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3528</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scrutiny Manager</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3886</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
This item enables the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
	(i) That the Panel considers the responses to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	To assist the Panel in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	None.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made at previous meetings of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel. It also contains a summary of action taken in response to the recommendations.
4.	The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Panel does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Panel accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	

<b><u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u></b>	
5.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
6.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
7.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
8.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
9.	None

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 28 September 2023
2.	Audit schedule

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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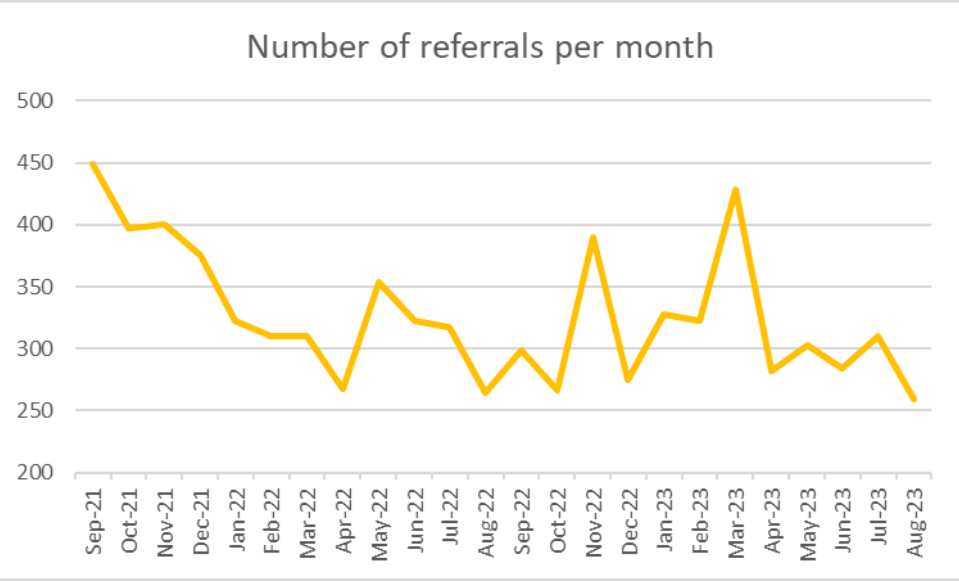
**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 28 September 2023

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status																																																		
20/07/23	Children and Families Performance	1) That, to enable trends to be identified, performance data outlining the rate of referrals over a longer time period is circulated to the Panel.	Attached.   <table border="1" data-bbox="943 419 1899 1002"> <caption>Number of referrals per month</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Referrals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Sep-21</td><td>450</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-21</td><td>400</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-21</td><td>400</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-21</td><td>380</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>320</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb-22</td><td>310</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar-22</td><td>310</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-22</td><td>270</td></tr> <tr><td>May-22</td><td>350</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-22</td><td>320</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-22</td><td>320</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-22</td><td>270</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-22</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-22</td><td>270</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-22</td><td>390</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-22</td><td>280</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>330</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb-23</td><td>320</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar-23</td><td>430</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-23</td><td>280</td></tr> <tr><td>May-23</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-23</td><td>280</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-23</td><td>310</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-23</td><td>260</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Referrals	Sep-21	450	Oct-21	400	Nov-21	400	Dec-21	380	Jan-22	320	Feb-22	310	Mar-22	310	Apr-22	270	May-22	350	Jun-22	320	Jul-22	320	Aug-22	270	Sep-22	300	Oct-22	270	Nov-22	390	Dec-22	280	Jan-23	330	Feb-23	320	Mar-23	430	Apr-23	280	May-23	300	Jun-23	280	Jul-23	310	Aug-23	260	Complete
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2) That, to enable key issues to be identified, a highlight report is attached to the monthly performance dataset presented to the Panel.	Highlight report provided	Complete																																																				
3) That the Children's Services forward plan of audit activity is circulated to the Panel to help plan future agendas of the Panel.	Attached as Appendix 2	Complete																																																				

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
20/07/23	Ofsted ILACS report	1) That the Panel prioritises scrutiny of the Children's Services transformation programme - Building Brilliance: Building Sustainability 2023, and the service's financial plans for the 2023/24 municipal year.	Provisionally included within the 23 November 2023 agenda of the CFSP.	
		2) That scrutiny of the Ofsted Improvement Plan is incorporated within the Panel work programme.	Provisionally included within the 28 March 2024 agenda of the CFSP.	

**Audit Schedule – 2023**

Audit framework 2023	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>AUDIT FOCUS &amp; THEMES</b>  <b>Q&amp;A Unit to Lead Audit Allocation and Analysis and Co-ordination of Audits</b>	<b>1. Contextual Safeguarding Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work teams and Early Help)	<b>1. Neglect Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work teams and Early Help)	<b>1. Physical Abuse Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work teams and Early Help)	<b>1. Sexual Abuse Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work teams and Early Help)	<b>1. Emotional Abuse Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work teams and Early Help)  SEND Partnership audit	<b>ILACS Inspection</b>	<b>1. EHCP / SEN K Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work teams and Early Help)	<b>1. Cases stepped down and stepped up</b>  (To be completed by managers from Social Work Teams and Early Help Teams) .	<b>1. Reunification Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work and Early Help Teams)	<b>1. Missing Children Audits</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work and Early Help Teams)  <b>2. Section 47 Audits</b> (To be completed by Service Leads across social work teams  <b>3. Supervision Audits</b> (To be completed by Q&A)	<b>1. Children with Disabilities &amp; Radicalization Audits (including radicalisation in gangs)</b>  (To be completed by managers across social work and Early Help Teams)  Family Safeguarding Audit	<b>1. Annual Fostering Audits</b> (To be completed by Q&A/ Fostering/External Partners)  <b>2. Supervision Audits</b> (To be completed by Q&A)
<b>Moderation Panels</b>	19th 15:00-17:00	16th 15:00-17:00	16th 15:00-17:00	20th 15:00-17:00	18th 15:00-17:00	15th 15:00-17:00	20th 15:00-17:00	17th 15:00-17:00	21st 15:00-17:00	19th 15:00-17:00	16th 15:00-17:00	21st 15:00-17:00
<b>Children &amp; Families Surveys</b>										Survey		
<b>CRH Audits</b>									13 Dec 1330-1630			23 March 1330-1630
<b>Safeguarding Children's Partnership Thematic</b>			MET / CCE /CSE			Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements				Neglect		
<b>Practice Week</b>			March 6-10			6-10 June			26 -30 Sept			5-9 Dec
<b>Reports / reviews</b>	Monthly report	Monthly report	Quarterly report	Monthly report	Monthly report	Quarterly report	Monthly report	Monthly report	Quarterly report	Monthly report	Annual report	Monthly report

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<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	28 SEPTEMBER 2023
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Corporate Resources</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mel Creighton</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3528</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scrutiny Manager</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3886</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

There are three confidential appendices attached to this report. The confidentiality of Appendices 1, 3 and 5 is based on Category 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules. It contains information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality.

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

At the meeting the Panel will be considering provisional 2022/23 Key Stage exam results in Southampton and a number of associated educational issues. To help facilitate the discussion, appended to the report is an analysis of Southampton’s schools provisional Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and A-level exam results in 2022/23.

Reflecting that attainment is not achieved in isolation, information relating to a range of issues that contribute to attainment is also attached to this report. The appendices cover the following issues:

- School attendance
- Elective Home Education
- Post 16 participation, NEET and unknown

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	That the Panel consider the provisional key stage results and supplementary information, as detailed in the appendices, and discuss with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers, educational attainment in Southampton.
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**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	To enable a discussion with the Cabinet Member and officers on educational attainment in Southampton.
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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2.	None.
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**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3.	Provisional 2022/23 key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and A-Level exam results for Southampton have been published. Appendices 1- 5 provides a breakdown of the provisional results with some high-level analysis.
4.	To provide context to the provisional Key Stage 2, 4 and A-Level results, attached as confidential Appendices 1, 3 and 5, is a breakdown of provisional results by schools/colleges in the city.
5.	To provide context to the exam results, attached as appendices are a number of briefing papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 6 details actions being undertaking to improve school attendance in Southampton.</li> <li>• Appendix 7 outlines the trends and activity relating to elective home education in Southampton.</li> <li>• Appendix 8 informs the Panel about Post 16 participation and NEETS.</li> </ul>
6.	The Divisional Head of Education and Learning will present an overview of the results at the meeting and the contextual information. The Panel are requested to use the information provided to discuss educational attainment in Southampton with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and the Divisional Head of Education and Learning.

#### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Capital/Revenue/Property/Other**

7.	None
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#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

8.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
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##### **Other Legal Implications:**

9.	None
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#### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

10.	None
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#### **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

11.	N/A
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<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
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<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
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#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

##### **Appendices**

1.	Confidential – Key Stage 2 Summary
2.	KS4 Headline Results for Southampton Local Authority 2023 – Provisional
3.	Confidential - Southampton Schools Provisional GCSE Results 2023
4.	A-Level Results Day Headline Outcomes 2023 – Southampton

5.	Confidential - Southampton Schools/Colleges Provisional A-Level Results 2023
6.	Working Together to Improve School Attendance
7.	Elective Home Education
8.	Post 16 Participation, NEETs and Unknown

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

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### 2023 KS4 Headline Results for Southampton Local Authority – Provisional

#### Introduction

Key Stage 4 GCSE results were released to schools on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Southampton schools agreed to inform the Local Authority of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated. The short briefing note below, based on early provisional data, provides an overview of Southampton's performance.

2023 is the second time since 2019 that Key Stage 4 grades are being based on exams and assessments after two years of alternative arrangements in response to Coronavirus. Unlike last year, students have not been given advanced information about topics they are likely to be tested on. Grades are expected to fall back in line with results in 2019, with England's exam regulator calling 2023 results a "step back to normal". However, some of the adjusted measures from last year remain in place. Exams were spaced out more than they were prior to the pandemic, allowing for rest and revision. In addition, some subjects provided formulae and equations, and students will not be expected to confront unfamiliar words in language exams.

The focus of this 2023 briefing note will follow Secondary accountability measures published by [the DfE](#):

- Progress 8 (not available until mid-September)
- Attainment 8
- The percentage of pupils achieving a 5 or above (strong pass) in English and Maths
- EBacc Average Points Score
- The percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate
- The percentage of students staying in education or employment after Key Stage 4 (destinations) [not available on results day]

In addition to the headline indicators above, the DfE also focus on the following measures:

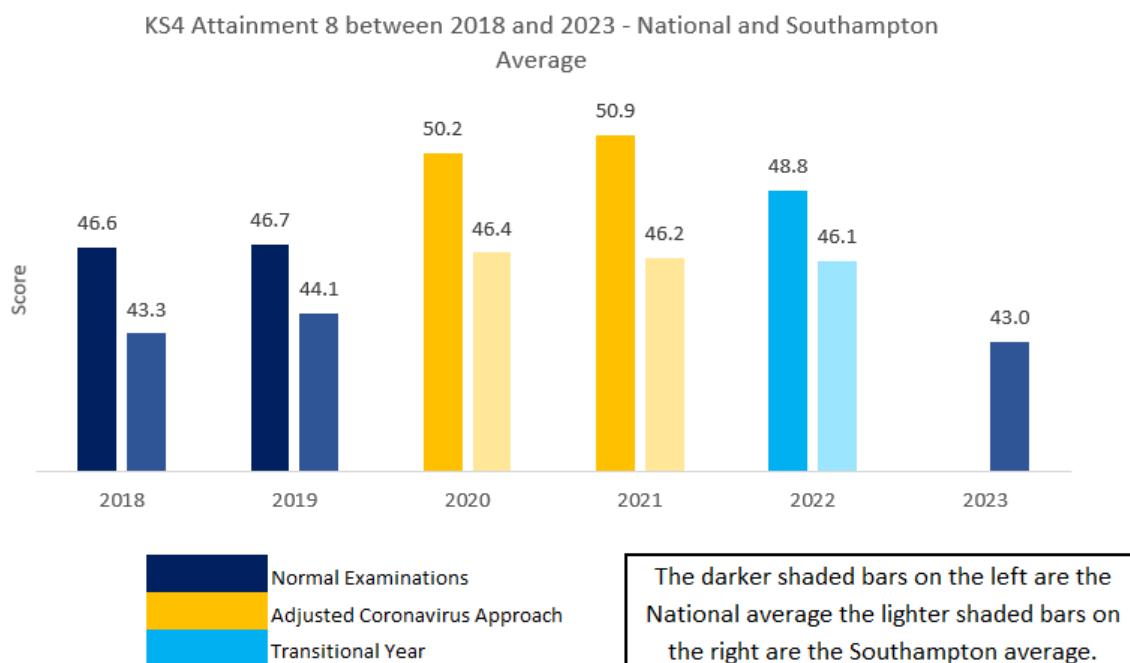
- The proportion of pupils achieving a standard pass in English and Maths – grade 4 or above
- The proportion of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in all Ebacc subject
- The proportion of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in all Ebacc subject areas

The Progress 8 indicator relies on National calculations completed by the DfE and is currently unavailable at either School or Local Authority level. The current indication is that 2023 Progress 8 figures will be published by the DfE in late September.

Due to the changes in methodology between results years, it is important that outcomes are considered within the context of that specific year. Comparisons between years should be treated with caution.

## Headlines

- In 2023, Southampton pupils (9 out of 12 schools) achieved an Attainment 8 score of 43.0; whereas in 2022, the Southampton Attainment 8 score was 46.1, a decrease of 3.1. The 2022 National average for Attainment 8 was 48.8, a 2023 National average will not be available until the end of September 2022.



- In 2023, 59% of Southampton pupils (11 out of 12 schools) achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths GCSE, which was 3% lower than the 62% of Southampton pupils who achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths GCSE in 2022. The latest available National average for percentage achieving 9-4 in English and Maths was 69% in 2022.
- In 2023, 39% of Southampton pupils (11 out of 12 schools) achieved a 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE, which was 3% lower than the 42% of Southampton pupils who achieved a 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE in 2022. The latest available National average for percentage achieving 9-5 in English and Maths was 50% in 2022.
- In 2023, 54% of Southampton pupils (11 out of 12 schools) achieved a 9-5 and 69% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in GCSE English.
- In 2023, 45% of Southampton pupils (11 out of 12 schools) achieved a 9-5 and 65% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in GCSE Maths.
- Southampton's 2023 Attainment 8 score in English, Maths, EBacc elements and Open elements were 9.1, 8.3, 12.3 and 13.2 respectively (11 out of 12 schools).
- In 2023, 30% of Southampton pupils (11 out of 12 schools) entered the English Baccalaureate. An English Baccalaureate Average Points Score of 3.67 was achieved by Southampton pupils.
- In 2023, 12% of Southampton pupils (11 out of 12 schools) achieved a 9-5 and 17% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in the English Baccalaureate.



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### **2023 A-Level Results Day Headline Outcomes – Southampton Local Authority**

A-Level results were released to Colleges and students on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms have agreed to inform the LA of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated.

2023 is the second time since 2019 that A level grades are being based on exams, after two years of alternative arrangements in response to Coronavirus. [Ofqual](#) have stated that they want to get back quickly to the pre-pandemic standard but won't do so in one jump. Instead, 2022 will be a transition year to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted. "In 2022 we will aim, therefore, to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. In 2023, we aim to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years."

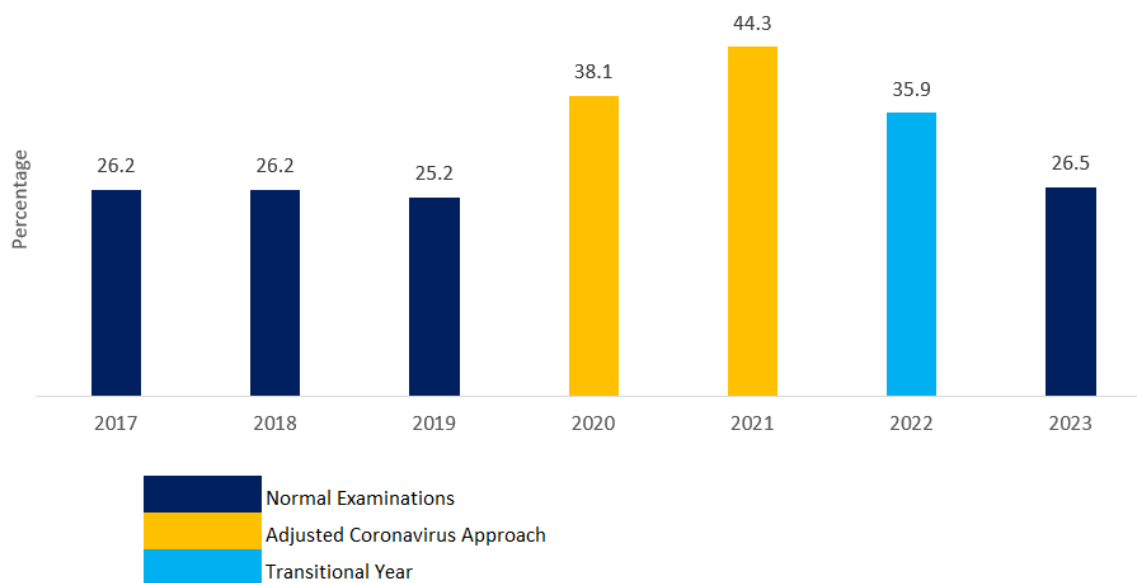
Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Key Stage 5 exams were not completed in the normal way in 2020 and 2021. It is important to acknowledge that the 2020 and 2021 Key Stage 5 collections have used different methodologies. In 2020, colleges and sixth forms were asked to provide centre assessed grades for their students. Colleges and sixth forms were instructed that these should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades colleges and sixth forms believed their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams and should take into account the full range of available evidence. In 2021, teachers were asked to assess the standard at which pupils were performing based only on what has been taught. Teachers' judgements were based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that had been delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Only A-Level outcomes are included in this provisional analysis of Southampton performance, therefore do not include results from Southampton City College or for those students at other city schools/colleges who did not study an A-Level curriculum.

#### **National Context**

The chart below identifies the percentage of A-Levels that were awarded an A\* or A grade between 2017 and 2023. For the three years prior to the pandemic, the A\*-A pass rate remained stable, at 26.2% in 2017, 26.2% in 2018 and 25.2% in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, a modified approach to A-Levels was used in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. This resulted in an increased proportion of A-Levels receiving A\*-A grades in both 2020 (38.1%) and 2021 (44.3%). Ofqual stated that 2022 would be a transitional year aiming for a midpoint between 2019 and 2021. In 2022, the proportion of A\*-A grades decreased to 35.9%. Ofqual identified that 2023 should return to pre-pandemic levels of attainment, similar to 2019. In 2023, the proportion of A\*-A grades decreased to 25.2%.

Percentage of A\* or A Grades between 2017 and 2023 - National Average



A similar pattern can be seen in the table below for the other A-Level grades awarded between 2017 and 2023.

Percentage of A Level Grades Between 2017 and 2023 - National Average

A Level Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2017-2023 Trend
A*	8.3	8.0	7.7	14.3	19.1	14.5	8.6	
A	26.2	26.2	25.2	38.1	44.3	35.9	26.5	
B	52.9	52.7	51.1	65.4	69.8	62.2	52.7	
C	77.3	76.8	75.5	87.5	88.2	82.1	75.4	
D	91.9	91.4	90.8	96.8	96.2	93.4	89.9	
E	97.9	97.6	97.5	99.7	99.5	98.4	97.2	

Due to the changes in methodology between results years, it is important that outcomes are considered within the context of that specific year. Comparisons between years should be treated with caution.

### Southampton A-Level Provisional Results

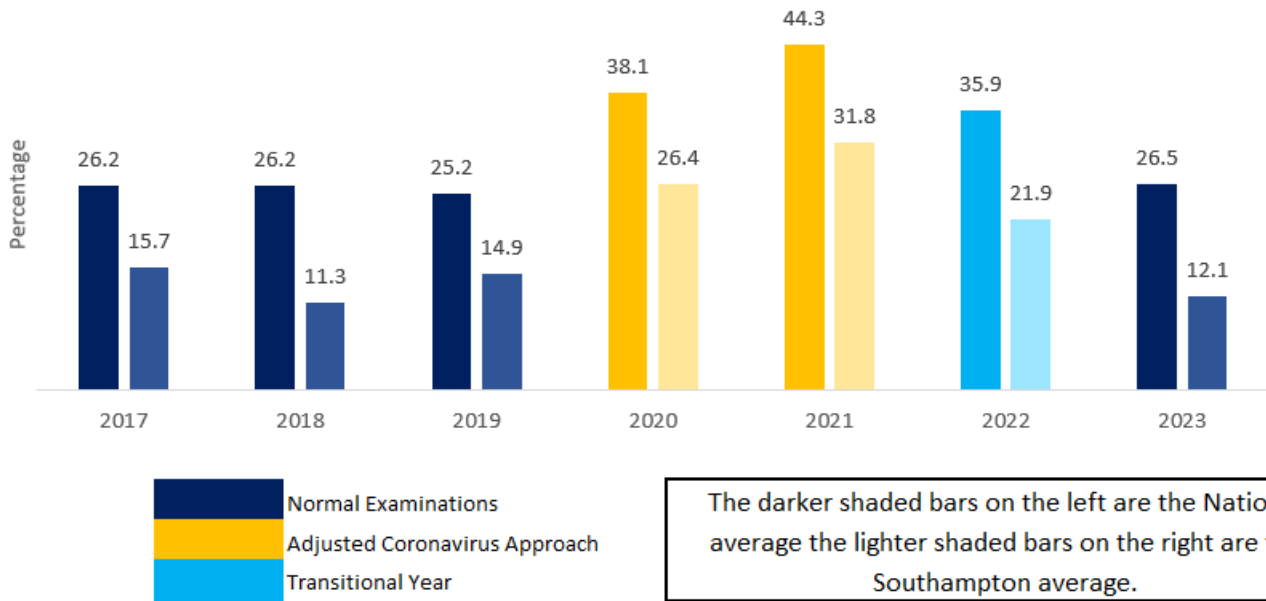
- In 2023, 12.1% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade A\* or A. The National performance for A\*-A was 26.5%, a gap of 14.4% when compared with the Southampton average (12.1%).

- Out of 1136 A-level entries within Southampton, 32.6% achieved an A\*-B grade in 2023. Nationally a pass rate of 52.7% was achieved resulting in a gap of 20.1% with Southampton (32.6%). Southampton pupils had 370 A-Levels at grade B or above and required an additional 229 A-Levels to have surpassed the B grade threshold to have equalled the National average.
- In 2023, 59.4% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade C or above. The National performance for A\*-C was 75.4%, a gap of 16.0% when compared with the Southampton average (59.4%).
- In 2023, 93.4% of Southampton A-Level entries achieved an A\*-E grade at College or Sixth Form. This is 3.8% below the National performance that saw 97.2% of A-level results achieve an A\*-E grade.
- Southampton pupils achieved an Average Points Score per A-Level Entry of 28.2 in 2023. This is 4.8 below the 2022 Southampton performance of 33.0. No National data is available for Average Points Score per A-Level Entry on results day.

Southampton College and Sixth Form A Level Results 2023 (Provisional)											
	Number of A Levels completed in 2023	A Level A*-A		A Level A*-B		A Level A*-C		A Level A*-E		Average Points Score per A Level entry	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number of A level entries at the end of Key Stage 5 (16-18 only)	APS
Southampton 2023	1136	137	12.1%	370	32.6%	675	59.4%	1061	93.4%	1117	28.2
National 2023			26.5%		52.7%		75.4%		97.2%	-	-

- The chart below identifies the percentage of A-Levels that have been awarded an A\* or A grade between 2017 and 2023. The darker shaded bars on the left are the National average, the lighter shaded bars on the right are the Southampton average. For the three years prior to the pandemic, the gap between the Southampton and National average was 10.5%, 14.9% and 10.3% below for 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. In 2020 and 2021, a modified approach to A-levels was used in response to the Coronavirus pandemic resulting in a gap of 11.7% and 12.5% below the National Average. In 2022, the gap between the proportion of A\*-A grades within Southampton compared to the National average was 14.0%. In 2023, the gap between the proportion of A\*-A grades within Southampton compared to the National average was 14.4%.

Percentage of A\* or A Grades between 2017 and 2023 - National and Southampton Average



- Due to the changes in methodology between results years, it is important that outcomes are considered within the context of that specific year. Comparisons between years should be treated with caution.
- The 2023 performance has seen Southampton's relative position to the National average between 2022 and 2023 decline by 0.5% for A\*-A, by 1.1% for A\*-B, by 4.5% for A\*-C and by 2.9% for A\*-E.

	2021			2022			2023			Relative change in Southampton / National Gap 2021 to 2022	Relative change in Southampton / National Gap 2022 to 2023
	Southampton (Provisional Results Day)	National	Gap to National	Southampton (Provisional Results Day)	National	Gap to National	Southampton (Provisional Results Day)	National	Gap to National		
A*-A	31.8%	44.3%	-12.5%	21.9%	35.9%	-14.0%	12.1%	26.5%	-14.4%	-1.4%	-0.5%
A*-B	62.3%	69.8%	-7.5%	43.2%	62.2%	-19.0%	32.6%	52.7%	-20.1%	-11.6%	-1.1%
A*-C	87.2%	88.2%	-1.0%	70.7%	82.1%	-11.4%	59.4%	75.4%	-16.0%	-10.4%	-4.5%
A*-E	99.5%	99.5%	0.0%	97.5%	98.4%	-0.9%	93.4%	97.2%	-3.8%	-0.9%	-2.9%
Average Points Score	38.7	40.4	-1.7	33.0	37.9	-4.9	28.2	-	-	-3.2	-

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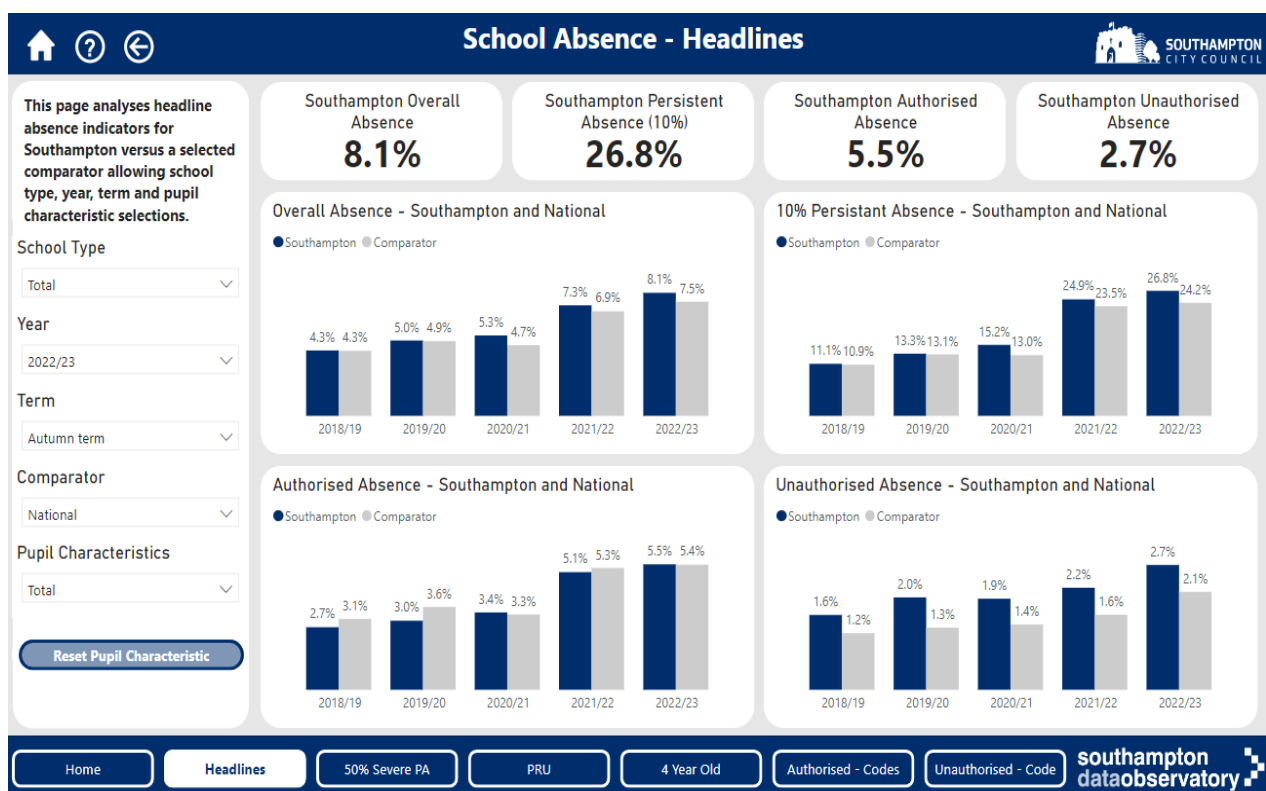


### Working Together to Improve School attendance.

Author: Kerica Hunt – Service Manager for the Education Welfare Service

#### 2022/23 Autumn Term – Pupil Absence Data – Total

- Southampton’s 2022/23 Autumn Term Overall Absence for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (Total) was 8.1%, 0.6% above the National comparator of 7.5%.
- The Autumn Term performance for 2022/23 (8.1%) is in line with the Southampton performance for the 2021/22 full academic year (8.1%).
- Internal data for the Autumn and Spring term 2022/23 indicates that Southampton’s Overall Absence for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (Total) was 7.9%, a 0.2% decrease from the Autumn Term 2022/23 performance (8.1%).



#### Strategic and Operational

- Southampton City Council has been working with the DfE Attendance Advisor support between February 2022 to March 2023.
- DfE LA self-assessment and action plan complete to ensure continued focus to reduce barriers to attendance across the city.
- Deep dive has taken place by DfE Key Strengths identified and *‘Overall, there is a high level of knowledge, expertise and skill within the LA and a high commitment strategically and operationally to the delivery of high-quality attendance work to improve outcomes and safeguard children. Continuation of current strategy and development to be continued with any amendments to deliver against new guidance.’*

- DfE informal catch up/closure meeting to be arranged October 2023 at request of DfE.
- Southampton City Council are on track with implementation of the LA expectations within [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)
- Delivery of core offer targeting support meetings, to track severe (50%) and persistent absentees (90%), communication, and advice, multi-agency working and legal intervention.
- All schools have a single point of contact (Education Welfare Officer) including all academies and independent schools to provide support, advice and guidance on all matters relating to absence.
- Southampton Safeguarding Childrens Partnership - Education sub-group formed to discuss areas of safeguarding in education but now including pupil absence to further raise the need to work together to reduce pupil absence across the city with particular focus on those pupils that are deemed severely absent.
- Attendance and reducing pupil absence a key priority for Southampton Education Forum – membership all secondary schools, primary representative, post 16 colleges and universities.
- Service Manager Participation in DfE Action Learning Sets nationally - engagement and facilitation to support implementation of new guidance.
- Southampton Attendance Action Group – all schools/educational settings/partners/ children and learning services invited to termly meeting with dates already communicated for the academic year which:
  - Updates on current pupil absence position against national comparator.
  - Aims to develop a citywide shared purpose and vision, outline expectations to improve school attendance and raise attainment throughout our schools.
  - Purpose is to co-ordinate a consistent, collaborative approach to improve school attendance within the city.
  - A vehicle for sharing good practice with others, discussing, and exploring current issues that are affecting absence.

### Elective Home Education - EHE

Author: Bryn Roberts – Service Manager for Inclusion

#### **Brief Summary**

Elective Home Education continues to be an ongoing priority within Children and Learning. Following significant development in recent years against an ever changing landscape. The recent ILAC inspection stated that:

*Robust processes and systems are in place to track and safeguard children educated at home or missing from education. There is effective & close working between officers to safeguard children when concerns are identified and to ensure that children are not lost from sight.*

The service has continued to work exceptionally hard to maintain its focus on priority cases (those who are on child protection plans, child in need plans, pupils with EHCP's and those involved within the criminal justice system) as well as annual contacts for over 450 cases. The service, comprised of 2 term time only Home Visitors, have significantly increased the number of home visits and contacts with families to support them either to ensure the education of their child/children is of satisfactory quality or to support them return to mainstream schooling.

It is a testament to their commitment that over 170 children have returned to mainstream schooling over the past 2 years, often with substantial challenges and poor life experiences. This has resulted in staff members being recognised by 'Educating Otherwise' a national charity that supports EHE families and recognises professionals where the EHE community have nominated them for their excellent practice.

Despite the proposals in the white paper to introduce a 'Register' for children not in school, this has since been shelved. This appears to still have political support, however, it is unlikely that it will be made statutory for some years. Since the white paper, the service has taken its recommendations and began implementing them out of good practice. A review of the team structure as well and changes to the information we collect has enabled us to improve our reporting capability. The implementation of a 'Children Not In School' Panel is also to be in place in the autumn term, which brings in other services from the directorate to have a broader oversight of the multiple monitoring streams.

#### **Data – Numbers (As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023)**

In Southampton we have seen an increase in the number of pupils who have gone Electively Home Educated. In the academic year 2021/2022 the percentage of the school population who were registered as EHE was 1.21%, in 2022/2023 this rose to 1.46% (Approx 490 children). The pattern of data appears to suggest that since the pandemic, where there was a spike of increased cases, we are seeing a steady increase, year on year of new cases in Southampton.

We have seen the similar patterns of data around EHE for the last few years in terms of a breakdown of needs and age groups. The secondary phase continues to be the area of highest new cases, whilst year 7 remains the year group with the largest number of cases across the academic year group. Around 22% are registered as SEND K and only 4.7% have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

It is not compulsory for parents and families to inform us of their reasons for going EHE, however, where appropriate we always try to establish these and this remains part of our monthly monitoring. The highest reason for parents choices continues to be that of mental health and wellbeing of their child/children. With the second highest reason being, waiting for a school of their choice.

### **Strengths of Council approach**

- Policies and processes remain effective and allows for the tracking and identification of priority cases. Staff are able to identify the suitability of education and can establish examples within their caseloads.
- Annual contact is managed remotely in line with guidelines and families are aware of expectations and timelines.
- Staffing is well established and relationships with the EHE community is good.
- Allocation and review of cases is good and enables a larger reach of cases per staff member.
- Relationships with schools is good and the number of cases where perceived 'off rolling' is significantly reduced. Schools are happy to work with us on cases where possible, and audits for schools with high numbers of EHE is in place if required. Schools have actively requested an internal review of their processes and remain keen to keep an open dialogue with the LA.
- Partnership working with other teams and professionals such as Early Help and Social Care.
- Through partnership with Hampshire County Council, we have established a very good working relationship and regularly meet as a service and share challenges and good practice. One aspect that has come from these meetings is a joint plan to write a Re-integration guidance for schools when they support new EHE pupils back into mainstream education.

### **Challenges**

- Pupil numbers continue to rise year on year, whilst the number of pupils returning to school remains the same.
- Caseloads remain at capacity and are largely taken up with priority cases, resulting in less available capacity for preventative work.
- The impact of the pandemic has had a huge impact on the school age population and shows significantly higher levels for some families.
- School of choice spaces in the secondary phase continue to prevent some families returning to mainstream education, but further discussions and options are always presented to families before continuing with their EHE journey.
- Due to the high numbers of priority cases, it reduces the capacity for further early intervention and pro-active work within schools.

## **Next Steps**

The focus on the service is to continue to ensure that all priority cases are allocated and that allocation is swift and as early as possible. We are currently working on the following areas to improve the service:

- Children Not In School Panel – multi-agency panel to oversee different streams of monitoring and increase visibility and accountability.
- Annual review of processes and guidance documents
- Writing a cross border guidance on reintegration of EHE pupils
- We are working hard to develop a robust legal framework around the legislation where there are cases that cannot evidence suitable education and that meet the threshold for school attendance orders.

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### POST 16 PARTICIPATION, NEET AND UNKNOWN Academic Year 2022/2023

Author: Clodagh Freeston - Service Manager for Education Strategy, Planning & Improvement

#### STATUTORY DUTIES

Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people aged 16 and 17 (up to 25 for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan) to participate in education or training.

These duties are:

- To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area.
- To make available, support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training.
- To promote the effective participation in education and training.
- To maintain a tracking system to identify young people who are not participating in education or training (NEET and Unknowns).

These duties are relevant to young people aged 16 and 17 who live within Southampton City Council authority area only. Any young person living in another authority will be tracked and supported by the LA they live in.

N.B. The Department for Work and Pensions have a duty to support all 18+ not in education, employment and training.

HEADLINES	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Cohort size	4410	4682	4959
% of those participating in Education, Employment and Training	89.3%	89.2%	88.6%
Count of those participating in Education, Employment and Training	3938	4176	4394
% NEET	4.4%	3.8%	4.1%
Count of NEET	194	178	203
% Unknown	3.2%	2.2%	3.2%
Count of Unknown	141	103	159
Combined NEET and Unknown % (DfE published data as an average of the months Dec, Jan and Feb.	7.6%	6.0%	7.3%
Count of NEET and Unknown (DfE published data as an average of the months Dec, Jan and Feb.	335	281	362

The table below shows the top 10 establishments attended by the year 11 leavers who continued in education from all Southampton Secondary Schools, as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

Establishment Attended	Total	Male	Female
Barton Peveril College	642	294	348
Itchen Sixth Form College	368	175	193
Southampton City College	352	201	151
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	243	106	137
Eastleigh College	113	66	47
Peter Symonds College	130	33	97
St Anne's Sixth Form	43	1	42
Bitterne Park Sixth Form	56	28	28
Brockenhurst College	25	4	21
Sparsholt College	49	21	28
Totton College	39	22	17

#### **ACTION TAKEN TO ADDRESS 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD NEETs THIS YEAR**

- We have established a weekly drop in for NEET young people in the Young People's Hub & marketing to all professionals to support YPs to attend. This includes Level 6 Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) within the Hub for those not attending school. Further, young people can access this advice with the support of their families and professionals involved etc.
- To work more preventatively, there is targeted marketing of the above sessions to Year 11 leavers identified as 'risk of NEET' – early intervention.
- Training of champions across education in the use of the Bodyswaps Virtual Reality Programme & access to the VR headsets. This is a tool used to build confidence, trial mock interviews and much more.
- Continued upskilling of the Engagement Team to support young people with vulnerabilities. For example, Neurodiversity assessment, mental health first aid.
- Reintroduction of face to face partnership with NEET providers. This ensures the system wide offer for young people is strategically well planned and delivered.
- Continued use of the Learning Hub (this is an online forum for all internal and external teams / providers who are working with young people. The Learning Hub provides advice and guidance for practitioners and external providers can market their offer to engage young people).
- Continued development of Individual Pathways in mainstream secondary schools – funding for schools to develop bespoke pathways for students at risk of permanent exclusion.



- Windmills iCan Training (resilience tools available for staff in schools and SCC).
- Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance quality monitoring and support in secondary schools.
- Improved information sharing and Year 11 transition arrangements – taster days, open days, independent careers information, advice and guidance.
- Strengthened partnership working with outside agencies – Local careers hub (within the LEP), British Marine, UoS.
- Support to enterprise events and school access to them – Sell My Place, Get Inspired, STEM roadshows and Marine careers events.
- Continued employment of 0.5 FTE Enterprise Coordinator - shared role with Solent LEP Careers Hub and SCC.
- Your Future event attended by 1500 at the Saints stadium showcasing the full range of the Post 16 offer (SEND, Apprenticeships, Colleges & personal development)
- Re-refresh of Flying Start website – information for young people moving from school to positive Post 16 destinations.
- Care Leavers Guarantee – SCC bolstering support for Care Leavers seeking employment at SCC.
- Support to young people open to the Youth Justice Service including advice to colleagues working with them including – hair workshops in The Hub, access to barista training in The Hub, bespoke packages of support for young people as necessary.
- Access for all secondary and colleges to the Global Bridge platform for recording achievements. This is an online record of achievement which link to Labour Market Information.
- Pilot work experience for year 10 young people within council teams to build resilience under the cornerstone employer badge.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2023 - 2024**

- Sold service in 2 mainstream secondary and 1 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities enabling direct access to year 11s to support with transition and report timely Risk of NEET and intended destinations.
- FE retention face to face meetings reinstated to track the early leavers with reasons for leaving to better prepare future year 12 & 13s.
- Recruitment of a fixed term post for home visiting of the unknown year 12 & 13s for engagement.
- Bid for Careers Hub funds to research and develop a dynamic Risk of NEET indicator tool to enable live data to be used to inform transition planning for those at risk.
- Use of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support those identified as Risk of NEET from year 11 summer term through to Spring of year 12.
- Pilot the Careers Matter Thrive program utilising the platform created to best support those with lived experience through to Education, Employment or Training.
- Developing the global bridge platform to enable students to record digital badge achievement in their records of achievement.
- Expand the work experience offer with priority to our identified cohorts from Risk of NEET Indicator recording.

\*Please see accompanying spreadsheet for further data summary analysis.

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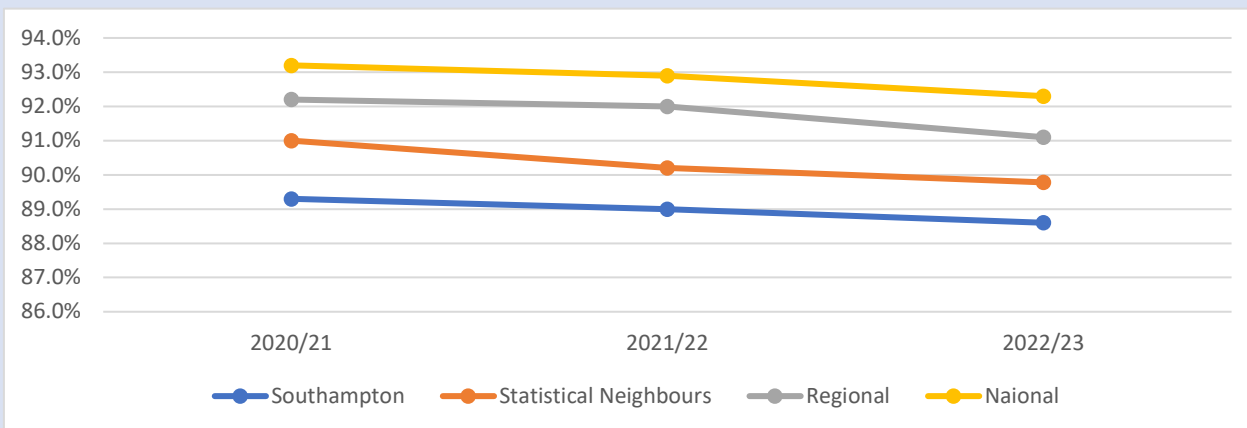
# NEET DATA

### Participation in Education, Training and NEET Age 16 to 17

% of those Participating in Education , Employment and Training

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Southampton	89.3%	89.0%	88.6%
Statistical Neighbours	91.0%	90.2%	89.8%
Regional	92.2%	92.0%	91.1%
National	93.2%	92.9%	92.3%

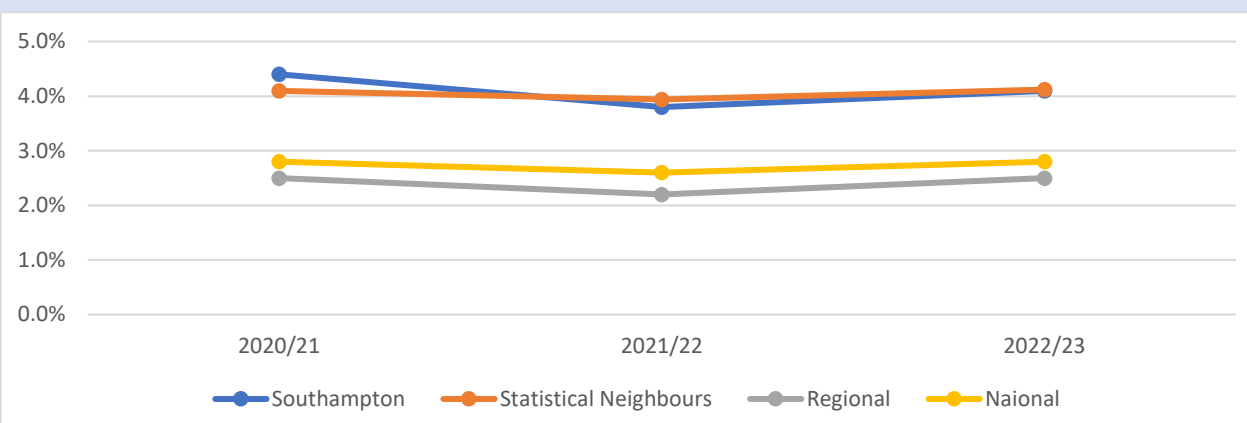
Gap Southampton vs Statistical Neighbours	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>
Gap Southampton vs Regionals	<b>-2.9%</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>
Gap Southampton vs National	<b>-3.9%</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>



### % NEET

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Southampton	4.4%	3.8%	4.1%
Statistical Neighbours	4.1%	3.9%	4.1%
Regional	2.5%	2.2%	2.5%
National	2.8%	2.6%	2.8%

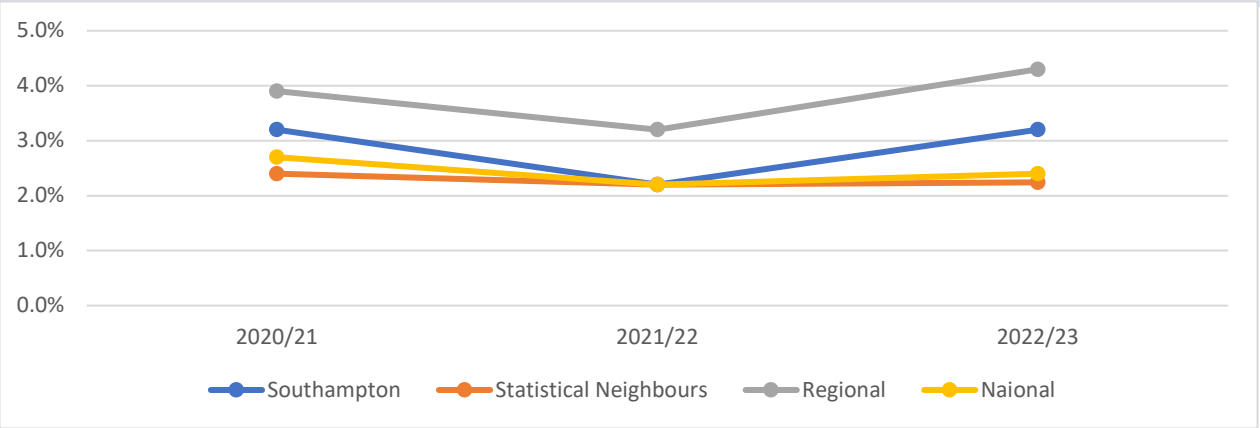
Gap Southampton vs Statistical Neighbours	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Gap Southampton vs Regionals	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Gap Southampton vs National	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>



### % Unknown

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Southampton	3.2%	2.2%	3.2%
Statistical Neighbours	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%
Regional	3.9%	3.2%	4.3%
National	2.7%	2.2%	2.4%

Gap Southampton vs Statistical Neighbours	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Gap Southampton vs Regionals	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
Gap Southampton vs National	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>



### Combined NEET and Unknown %

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Southampton	7.6%	6.0%	7.3%
Statistical Neighbours	6.5%	6.1%	6.4%
Regional	6.4%	5.4%	6.8%
National	5.5%	4.8%	5.2%

Gap Southampton vs Statistical Neighbours	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Gap Southampton vs Regionals	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Gap Southampton vs National	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

