

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 21st March, 2024  
at 5.30 pm

## PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Committee Rooms 1 and 2 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

### Members

Councillor J Baillie  
Councillor Barnes-Andrews (Chair )  
Councillor Chapman  
Councillor Lambert (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Mintoff  
Councillor Webb  
Councillor Cox

### Appointed Members

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church  
Vacancy 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**

2023	2024
16 June	25 January
20 July	21 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 - 4)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 25 January 2024 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

## **7 THE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE IN SOUTHAMPTON** (Pages 5 - 18)

Report of the Executive Director of Children and Learning providing an overview of the performance of the Youth Justice system in Southampton.

## **8 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE** (Pages 19 - 74)

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

**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 exempt appendix to the following Item

Appendix 2 are considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 2 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

**10 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**  
(Pages 75 - 88)

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

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Director – Legal and Governance

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2024

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Present: Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Chapman, Cox, Lambert, Mrs Mintoff, Webb and P Baillie  
Appointed Members:

Apologies: Councillors J Baillie  
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders and Catherine Hobbs

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

Apologies from Mr Rob Saunders were noted. In addition, it was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor J Baillie from the Panel, the Monitoring Officer acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor P Baillie to replace them for the purposes of this meeting.

25. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Barnes-Andrews be elected as Chair and that Councillor Lambert be elected as Vice- Chair for 2024 for the remainder of the municipal year.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

27. **FURTHER EDUCATION IN SOUTHAMPTON**

The Panel considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel discuss the issue of further education provision and performance in Southampton with representatives from Post 16 providers in the city, the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers.

Cllr Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Andrew Kaye – Chief Executive, South Hampshire College Group, Alex Scott – Principal, Itchen 6th Form College, Angela Berry – Principal, Richard Taunton 6th Form College, Paul Overton - Head of 6th Form, Bitterne Park School, Jon Tucker – Assistant Headteacher, St Annes School, Claire Myers – Vice-Principal, Richard Taunton 6th Form College, and Derek Wiles – Divisional Head of Education and Learning at Southampton City Council were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel received a briefing from the leaders of the assembled education providers detailing appropriate contextual information for each college, and setting out the challenges for their colleges, and the common challenges in the provision of post 16 education in the City.

The colleges referenced their importance within the community and explained how they reached out to students, even those obtaining lower grades in their GCSEs, to ensure that comprehensive pathways to further education existed in Southampton.

It was explained that the number of students with special education needs being educated by the City's colleges had risen significantly and that the providers were able to support students to attain a wide range of academic and vocational qualifications.

It was explained that there had been a problem of perception regarding the quality of education provided by the education providers within the City. Colleges had however seen a growing number of children opting to study in Southampton, particularly from areas outside the city's eastern boundaries.

The extensive collaboration between providers was identified as a real strength of the sector in Southampton. However, it was noted that currently it was difficult to effectively measure the performance of the providers as the added value measurements were currently not available. Providers informed the Panel that, when value added performance is published, it would reflect positively on Southampton establishments and would help to address some of the negative perception currently associated with further education providers in the City.

**RESOLVED** that

1. That further education providers in the City consider working collaboratively to develop a strategy with the objective of attracting more Southampton students to remain in the City for post 16 study.
2. That, if further education in Southampton is considered by the Panel in 2024/25, the information published with the agenda includes appropriate measures of the colleges and school sixth forms respective performance.

28. **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 Rob Henderson - Executive Director, Children and Learning were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- Numbers of Children Looked After (CLA) within the City. It was noted that this number continued to slowly reduce across the City. The Panel were informed that the systems to identify and resolve potential care issues at an earlier age had continued; and
- The number of CLA who had moved placement during the year. The Panel recognised the importance of placement stability and sought additional details on the reasons for placement moves and the resolutions achieved.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Panel are provided with statistics on the number of CLA who have had 1 and 2 placement moves during the year.



2. That analysis is undertaken, and attached to the 21 March agenda, of the cohort of CLA who have had 3 or more placements during the year. The analysis should include the number of children in the cohort who returned to their birth families.

29. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

30. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendix to the following Item

The appendix is considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

31. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The Panel considered the report and confidential appendix of the Executive Director - Children and Learning, outlining the service's budget position and the developing proposals to decrease pressures over the next three years, from 2024/25.

Cllr Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and Rob Henderson - Executive Director, Children & Learning, were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- Efforts to reduce spend in the current financial year and manage the budget for future years;
- The conflict between the needs of those receiving support and rising costs and demand. The Panel noted that demand was difficult to forecast with much certainty;
- The potential to save money through the redesign of services from June 2024;
- Ongoing reductions in the numbers of agency staff through the establishment of a fixed permanent workforce and making Southampton an attractive place to work; and
- The Panel expressed concerns that the scale of the reductions required could jeopardise the improvements that had been to children's services in Southampton. The Panel committed to utilising the performance report and regular financial updates to scrutinise the delivery of the budget proposals and the impact on outcomes for children and young people in the City.

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# Agenda Item 7

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	THE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE IN SOUTHAMPTON
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	ROB HENDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director for Children and Learning.</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Rob Henderson</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 4899</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Head of Young People’s Services</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Tim Nelson</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8254 5329</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>tim.nelson@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

## **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report provides an overview of the performance of the Youth Justice system in the city. Additionally, the report provides summary outcomes of the Youth Justice Board’s Bench Marking assurance visit in February 2024 and an overview of the HMIP Pilot inspection in February 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	That the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel continue to receive annual reports regarding the performance of the Youth Justice Service.
	(ii)	An update report is considered by the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel in six months’ time to measure progress in the following areas – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of children sentenced or remanded to custody</li> <li>• Improvements in education outcomes</li> <li>• Levels of Serious Youth Violence.</li> </ul>

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	To enable the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to have oversight of the service improvement journey, including the Southampton Youth Justice Strategic Plan.
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### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2.	Not applicable
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### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

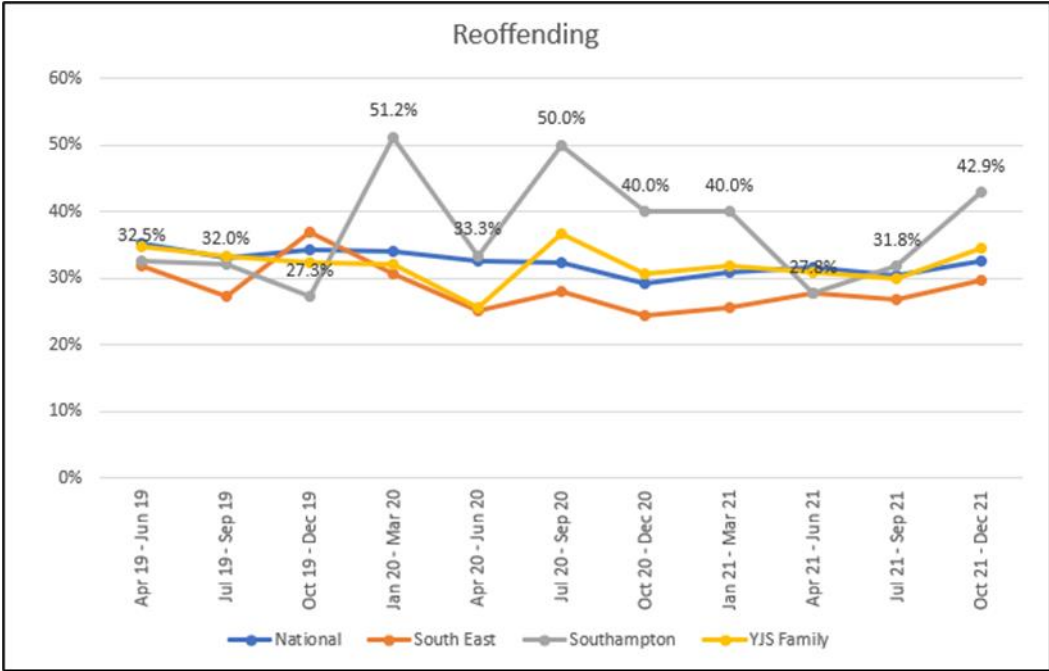
	<b>Summary of performance in the Southampton Youth Justice System.</b>
3.	Within the following analysis comparator performance has been included wherever possible to add context to the Southampton YJS outcomes. The Youth

Justic Board identify a YJS Family for each Local Authority by assigning a group of 10 similar Local Authorities. This model is based on a similar approach to the DfE Children’s Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Model but has been adapted for Youth Justice and expanded to include Wales. The Southampton YJS Family is therefore different to the DfE Statistical Neighbour Grouping and includes Bristol, Coventry, Derby, Newport, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent and Wrexham.

**Reoffending**

4. The reoffending data below was published by the Youth Justic Board within YDS publication 116 and is the latest available National data that includes reoffending up until December 2021.

The Ministry of Justice changed the methodology for measuring reoffending in October 2017 to align the measure with that used for adult reoffending. Under the new methodology, a three-month cohort rather than a 12 month cohort is used. The cohort is still tracked over 12 months. Changing from 12-month cohorts to three month cohorts results in a greater proportion of prolific offenders and hence higher reoffending rates, though both measures show similar trends over time. More information on the new measure can be found in this [link](#).



5. In terms of the binary rate there is a mixed picture across the three years. This period includes the final lockdown which we know impacted on offending rates, however, overall there is a downward trend, with our peaks of reoffending decreasing. This is positive in the sense that over time we are seeing a reduction in the rates of reoffending. Shifting our focus to a child first approach, pushing to build on strengths and work on identify shift from ‘other’, or offender’ to someone who is a child, has skills to contribute to society and expand their opportunities to build on strength helps to impact on a reduction in reoffending.

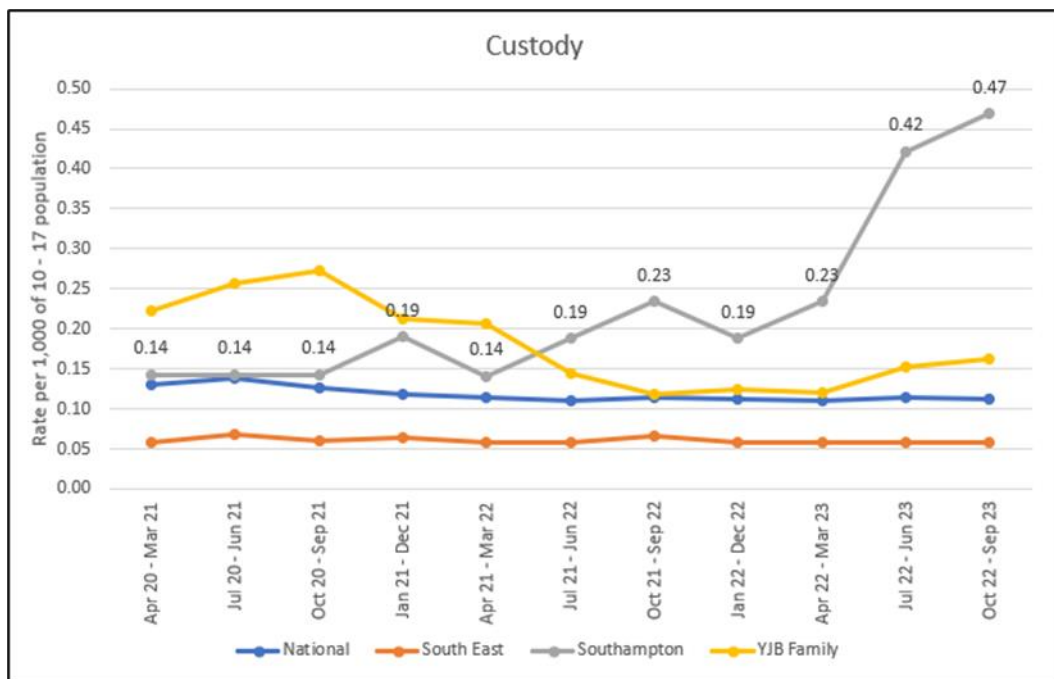
6. What this doesn’t show is our rate per child, which is high. This means that per child in the cohort the reoffending rates are higher. As the cohort gets smaller

(due to effective diversion at the lower end of the system), those that remain within the cohort are complex, have not been diverted, present with greater and more entrenched issues and behaviours and have high rates of reoffending. Those children are more isolated from communities, likely to be not attending school, likely to be presenting with behaviours that have precluded them from positive and constructive activities in the community. It is our role to support access to services, create opportunities in the hub as stepping stones into more structured use of time. Supporting both the child and services to wrap around the child. We need to continue to build on this offer so that all children have access to such opportunities.

**Custody**

7. The custody data below was published by the Youth Justice Board within YDS publication 116 and is the latest available National data that includes custody up until September 2023.

The indicator uses case level data from the YJ Application Framework (historic data – YJMIS) and is the number of custodial sentences in the period given to children with a local residence aged under 18 years on the date of their first hearing related to the outcome. Successfully appealed sentences are discounted. If a child was given the same type of custodial sentence on the same day to be served concurrently or consecutively, they will only be counted once. This data is also presented as a rate per 1,000 children in the 10 to 17 local general population.

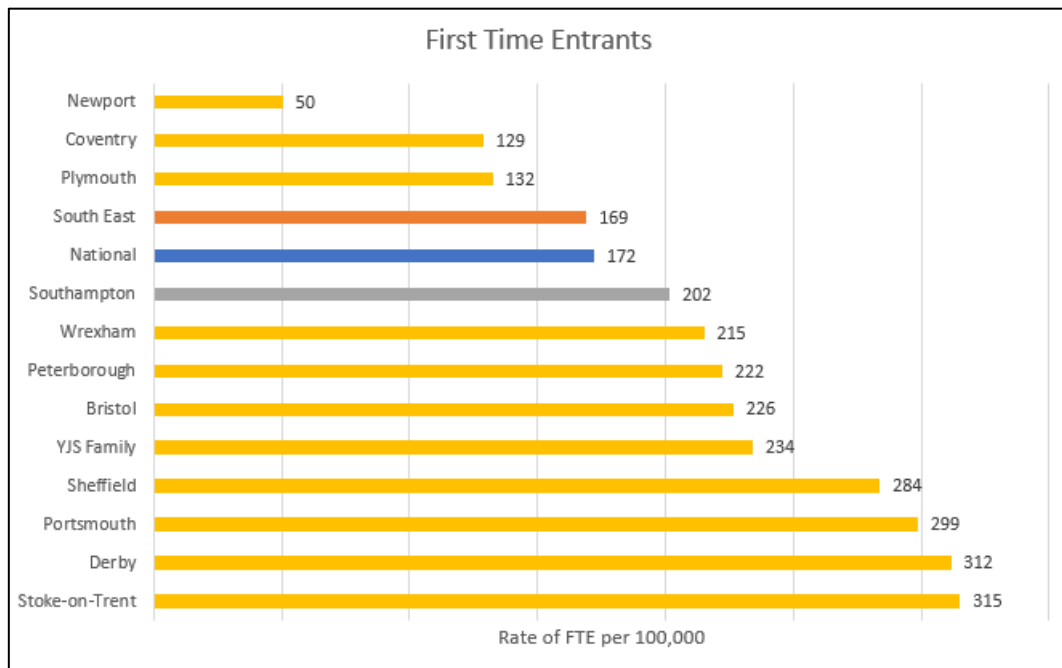


*Please note that the counts of young people included within the dataset relate to small numbers and should be treated with caution when interpreting changes in trend. The Southampton July 22 – June 2023 and October 2022 – September 2023 periods relate to 9 and 10 custodial sentences.*

8. Custodial sentences have been rising since 2022. In 2021 we were below our statistical neighbour average and over the last two years this has steadily increased to significantly above the national, and local averages.

9.	<p>These figures do not reflect remanded children, which has also steadily increased reflecting that most children who were remanded went on to receive a custodial sentence. These sentences were predominately in the Crown Court and were for very serious offences attracting lengthy sentences. Southampton has approximately 10 children in custody on average for over a year, is more than 10% of the YJS cohort and one of the highest in the country. This in the main reflected the level of violence in the city and the frequency of serious incidents that caused others serious harm. In the main these offences were against other peers.</p>
10.	<p>At the time of writing however, only three Southampton children are currently serving custodial sentences. This is due to children transitioning to Probation or being released on licence but its also because the service has successfully proposed alternatives to custody packages, with the service managing high levels of risk in the community. A significant amount of work has gone into raising the profile of alternative to custody packages, both internally in the council and with our partners. Such packages are only offered when it is assessed that risk can be effectively managed in the community.</p>
11.	<p>Whilst the most recently published data reflects what was a difficult picture in 2023, more recent data will show Southampton turning that curve. This is positive in the sense of a downward trend of children entering into the secure estate. To sustain this we need to effectively build resilience into the system to support such intensive packages in the community. A lot of this work is delivered by YJS and YPS (Young People's Service) staff but work is taking place to support other providers to work with children that represent the highest risks within the cohort. Our main area to unblock is education, training and employment opportunities for these children who tend to have been excluded from many types of provision by the time they enter the Youth Justice System. We are doing this by going into partnership with organisations such as the Princes Trust to deliver on site, bespoke and smaller group packages for YJS children.</p>
12.	<p>In addition, we need to evaluate the work delivered on alternative to custody packages and its effectiveness, to continue to drive quality of offer and provide assurances to partners on the effectiveness of this approach.</p>
13.	<p>To improve on the work already done we also need to continue to focus on addressing the causation of serious violence in the city which is in direct correlation with our custody rates. Partnership work such as the work across the council and police to address specific responses to an increase in violence in a specific area, and then our efforts to expand on this across the whole of the city reflects a preventative and proactive approach to dealing with knife enabled violence. The focus is to intervene, redirect, disrupt and offer alternatives with the aim of driving down incidences of violence in the youth cohort across the city.</p>
<b>First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System</b>	
14.	<p>From Q1 2023/24, FTE data is being sourced from the quarterly case level data submissions, as MoJ have changed the quarterly data from the PNC to an annual publication.</p> <p>First Time Entrants are children who receive a youth caution or court conviction for the first time within the period. The measure counts the first caution or court</p>

sentence given to children aged between 10 and 17 inclusive on their date of arrest or offence OR date of first court hearing depending on whether the outcome was a caution or court sentence.



15. First time entrant data is important as it's a barometer of how we are doing as a system to address offending locally and compares Southampton to the national average.

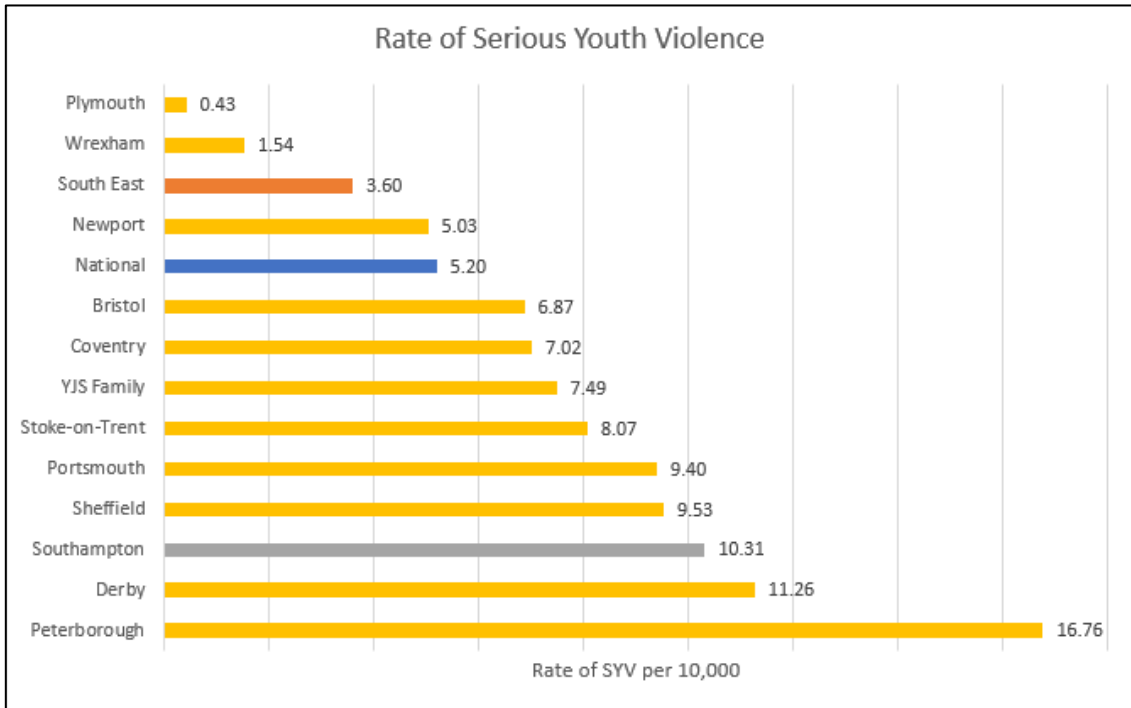
16. We are currently lower than our statistical neighbour average but higher than the national average in terms of rates of first-time entrants entering the system. This is a positive story in the sense that 3 years ago we were one of the highest in the country for FTE rates and we have over the 3 years seen a sharp decrease, and then more recently a steady maintenance of rates. This is positive as it shows a reduction and then a maintenance of the flow of children formally entering into the criminal justice system.

17. There are many reasons for this. Some being the Child First approach to Youth Justice work, with evidence suggesting alternatives to a formal sanction are more effective than bringing a child into the system (evidence suggests that labelling children and formalising their offending lengthens criminal careers rather than reducing it). There is a greater wrap around at the bottom end of the system which include a prevention of offending offer and a dedicated funding stream for children on the fringes of the system (Turnaround). In addition, locally we have a Youth Diversion Programme for those children who have committed an offence that warrants a formal outcome but considering trauma and needs an alternative offer is an option – providing the same offer and robust intervention, but without the formal police outcome. This is a partnership response to a child first approach to addressing children who are offending. This is positive as it offers a child another opportunity to address factors that led to their offending, without the formal sanction. This offer, and the assurance that the offer is a good one means it has become a more established alternative when Police/YJS are making decisions on outcomes for children.

18. To sustain or to continue to drive good performance in this area, the continued proactive preventative offer needs to remain in place, and the context of the wider work to make the city safer for children in Southampton also needs to be established and become increasingly resilient. The board needs to continue to have access to the wide ranging data to support their understanding of the causation of violence, offending in the city to effectively determine the direction of YJ services in the city. Trauma informed and child first approaches to working with children in the system to support a reduction in offending, endorsed by the Youth Justice Board and HMIP needs to continue at pace.

**Serious Youth Violence**

19. The Serious Youth Violence data below was published by the Youth Justice Board within the Serious Youth Violence Toolkit and is the latest available National data that includes Serious Youth Violence data up until quarter 4 2022/23.



*Whilst serious violence data can be problematic as its it can fluctuate depending on outcomes (a reflection that the criminal justice system is often delayed and so offences committed in 2023, may not yet have received an outcome in 2024), it does reflect where the city is benchmarked in terms of the level of violence in the city.*

20. In 2023 Southampton was above both the national average and the family average, which is also reflected in SYJS remand and custody data. This evidences that rates of serious violence are higher than our comparators based on the data from 2023. There is a mixed response needed for this issue as many children involved in such violence are not necessarily always open to the youth justice service and as such any work to address serious violence is at a partnership level across police, LA, education, health.

21. A number of workstreams, with Safe City partners, are taking place to respond to the levels of violence in our adolescent cohort. These involve responding to particular dates or periods in the year where we know there is a prevalence of violence (Halloween, summer holidays) and specific action as a result. In other

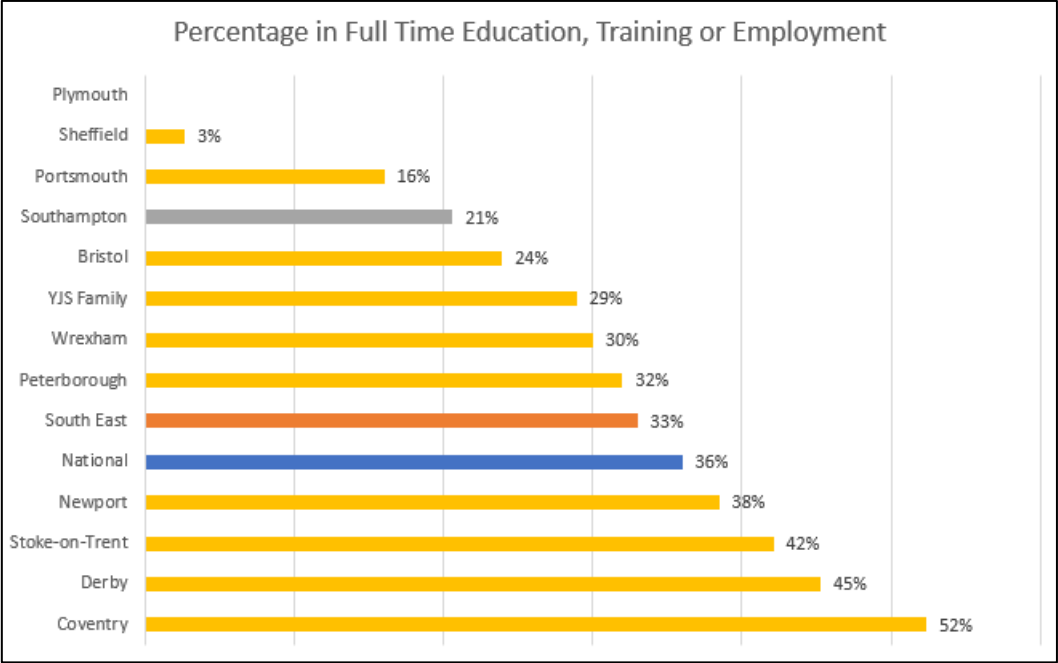


area it's a response to a series of high-level knife enabled assaults on other children, such as in the Thornhill area of the city in the early summer of 2023. This resulted in a partnership response called Operation Meero. This operation was successful and the partnership are building on the learning of that work to expand out to the whole of the city – with a specific focus on children at risk of committing a knife enabled offence. The reason it was successful was that offending dropped over the intervention period, and serious levels of knife enabled crime also fell. This was due to a partnership response of working with a set group of children at risk of offending, and working with police, the third sector, LA, education to tackle any risks with a collective response.

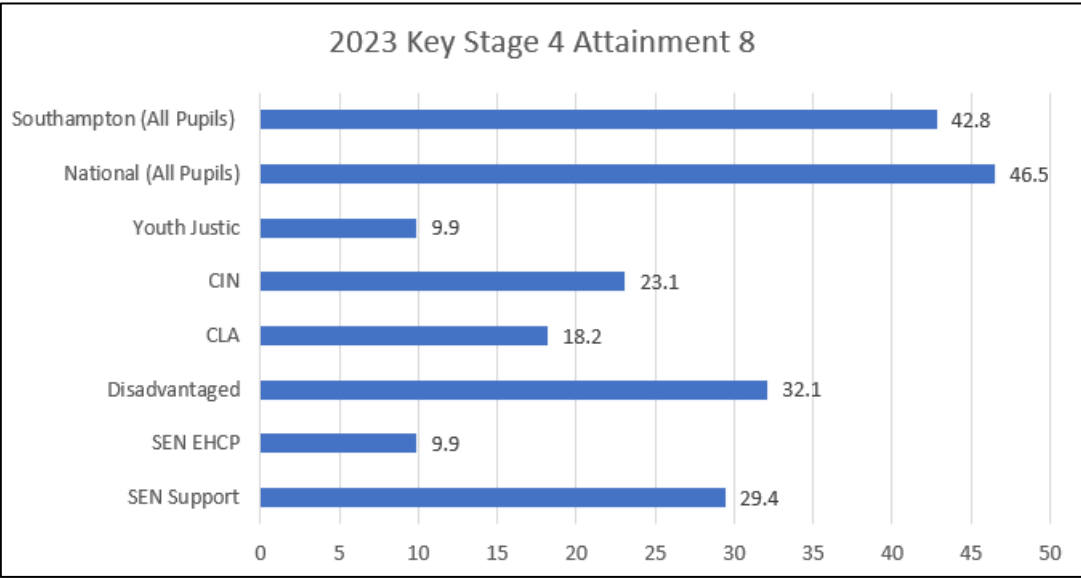
22. In addition to this we are working closely with the Violence Reduction Unit to develop a local Focus Deterrence response to serious violence which is an evidence based preventative approach to tackling risks of violence. HMIP (HM Inspectorate of Probation) pilot feedback reflected that the work to tackle serious violence in the city was a very positive example of partnership working and the city needs to build on operation Meero with a long term, more resilient solution to tackling serious violence.

**Education, Training and Employment**

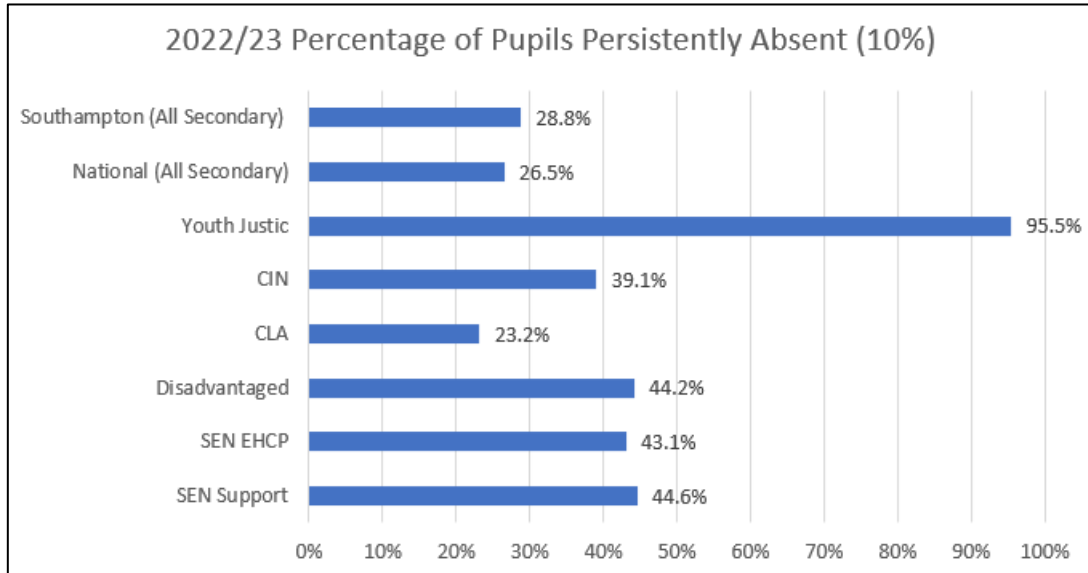
23. The Education, Training and Employment data below was published by the Youth Justic Board within YDS publication 116 and is the latest available National data that includes Education, Training and Employment data April - September 2023 for children on Referral Orders, YROs (Youth Rehabilitation Orders) or on DTO (Detention and Training Order) Licence. Please note that the Plymouth data was suppressed for this measure.



24. Whilst this shows a reasonably positive picture in the sense of being above both the regional and national average for children in full-time education, this does not necessarily provide the full picture of the challenges. Whilst children may be offered a full-time education, the picture currently is that only 3 children are attending school above 97%, the others are either absent, or not attending. Several children are offered part time timetables, which may be appropriate to their needs, however, it also means that those children can be out of structured

	education for large parts of the day. A part time timetable can vary from half of a school week, to one or two hours per week. In terms of post 16 provision currently 55% of the cohort who are post 16 are also NEET. We have 6 children attending full-time college courses and 6 who are in paid employment, but the majority of our children have limited structure, hope and aspirations for the future. As we know, the less structure, the greater the level of risk of further offending.																		
	<b>Key Stage 4 Attainment 8</b>																		
25.	Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 outcomes were matched against adolescent young people open to Youth Justice within Quarter 2 2023/24. To provide context to this performance pupil groups from Education and Social Care have been included using 2023 performance outcomes.																		
26.	<p>Attainment 8 is a way of measuring how well pupils do in key stage 4, which they usually finish when they are 16 years old. The 8 subjects which make up Attainment 8 are: English maths 3 subjects from qualifications that count towards the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), like sciences, language and history 3 more GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or technical awards from a list approved by the Department for Education. Each grade a pupil gets is assigned a point score from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest). Each pupil's Attainment 8 score is calculated by adding up the points for their 8 subjects, with English and maths counted twice.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>2023 Key Stage 4 Attainment 8</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Southampton (All Pupils)</td> <td>42.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National (All Pupils)</td> <td>46.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth Justic</td> <td>9.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CIN</td> <td>23.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CLA</td> <td>18.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disadvantaged</td> <td>32.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEN EHCP</td> <td>9.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEN Support</td> <td>29.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Score	Southampton (All Pupils)	42.8	National (All Pupils)	46.5	Youth Justic	9.9	CIN	23.1	CLA	18.2	Disadvantaged	32.1	SEN EHCP	9.9	SEN Support	29.4
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SEN Support	29.4																		
27.	This data shows a significant gap between the national and local average. It also shows a significant gap between other local vulnerable groups. YJS cohort is comparable with those children with EHCPs, and against all other marks they all well below expected attainment. The HMIP Education, training and employment thematic review published in 2022 challenged services and partnership to have a greater level of aspiration for children in the cohort, as this reflects a national picture. Children who are within the cohort tend not to be in school, have low attendance, have unmet need, have high school moves and high exclusion rates.																		
	<b>Persistent Absence (10%)</b>																		
28.	The proportion of adolescent young people open to Youth Justice within																		

Quarter 2 2023/24 who could be matched to school absence data and were Persistently Absent (10%) during the 2022/23 Academic year has been calculated. To provide context to this performance, pupil groups from Education and Social Care have been included using full academic year absence 2022/23 performance outcomes.



29. High proportions of the YJS cohort are persistently absent from school which means attendance at lower than 90%.

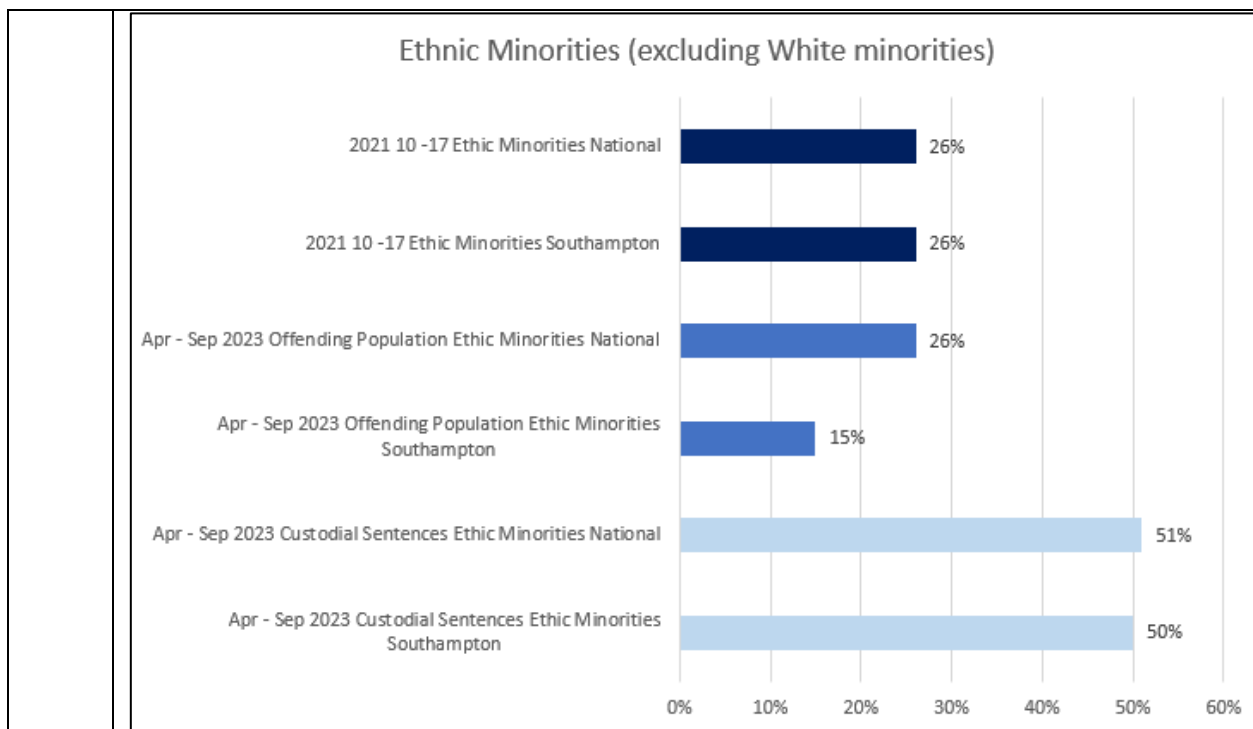
30. A huge amount of work has gone in to tackling the problem locally, with an increase in specialist input into the team (speech and language, educational psychology) and development of a skills and identity focus so that we can maximise every opportunity we can to offer children options, skills and accreditations.

31. We recognise that our children tend to have difficult experiences at school and so often by the time they enter the youth justice system have entrenched behaviours linked to formal education (not attending, poor behaviour leading to exclusions, often on part time timetable, refusing to attend school are examples), are not used to working in groups, and can be heightened in learning environments, have had experience of different settings that may not have been successful and are fearful of failure and rejection.

32. Recently we delivered a CSCS card course in partnership with Princes Trust at the young people’s hub. Six children successfully completed the course. YJS staff were in the room supporting the delivery. These children were all NEET and marked a hugely successful example of positive outcomes with tangible benefits for the future. We want to build on this and maximise every opportunity to support children in stepping back into education, training and employment in a way that achieves positive outcomes.

**Ethnic Minority**

33. Ethnic Minority data below was published by the Youth Justic Board within YDS publication 116 and is the latest available National data that includes 2021 10-17 year old Ethnic Minority data, the offending population that are an Ethnic Minority and Custodial Sentence Ethnic Minority data for Southampton and National for April to September 2023.



34. Whilst the graph shows that the YJS cohort is on par with the national population, what it doesn't reflect is the differences within each disposal type. The higher up the system you go, the greater levels of disproportionality there is. Southampton's custody and remanded data indicates that there is a significantly disproportionate number of children who are mixed heritage who are remanded and who receive custodial sentences. Those children don't feature in the lower ends of the system but are more likely to go to court and more likely to be remanded/sentenced to custody. What we know about this group of children in custody is they tend to be some of the most vulnerable children in our communities with high levels of additional needs and exposure to trauma in their childhood. Audits of this group of children also indicate high proportions of children not engaged in education, training or employment, who have experienced high levels of poverty and deprivation.

35. The Hampshire-wide decision to introduce a youth diversion programme was an acknowledgment that often children are expediated into the system due to their distrust of services and organisations and often make 'no comment' interviews in police custody. Work internally is about upskilling staff on unconscious bias and cultural competency. Externally it is a wider problem of identifying and acknowledging the experience of these children that means they feel more disenfranchised and isolated from communities, lack opportunities and hope and are more vulnerable therefore to exploitation.

36. At board level there is a disproportionality action plan to address as a partnership the issues of disproportionality in the system. This also involves the oversight and analysis of data including school exclusions and stop and search to understand the wider local issues needed to address this very complex issue.

37. Work to deliver an alternative to custody package is also relevant here, so to is ensuring that interventions offered meet the needs of all our children in the cohort. A good example of this is the barbering and hair workshops and ensuring it meets all hair types and engage all our children in intervention that

	is relevant to them. HMIP inspection for the experiences of black boys in the system indicates that this is vital to successful diversion of boys in the system from black or mixed heritage backgrounds.
	<b>HMIP Pilot Inspection of Southampton's Youth Justice Service</b>
38.	Southampton's Youth Service was last subjected to external inspection in 2019 and within this inspection they were graded good by the HIMP. Our own reflection is that this grade was overly positive and requires improvement would have been a more accurate judgement.
39.	In the Service the individual casework is self-assessed to be strong and the team is stable and experienced. In 2019 HIMP Inspection rated the direct work with young people as Outstanding. Our current self-assessment confirms that the direct work remains of this high standard. Maximising community resources such as the Saints Foundation, SOCO Music Project and No Limits for this group of young people is a real strength and opens up wide range of positive experiences for our young people. However, the city has significant challenges around youth violence and positive education outcomes for this cohort of young people. In 2023 Southampton was 3rd highest in our statistical neighbour group for serious violence outcomes and sits higher than the family average for frequency of serious violence offences. Southampton youth justice has one of the highest rates of custodial sentences within our statistical neighbour group and all of these have been for serious violence offences involving weapons and connected to post code hostilities (bar one serious sexual offence). SYJS currently have four children remanded to the care of the Local Authority with alternative to custody packages being delivered in the community. All of those children met threshold for remand due to the seriousness of those offences and it is positive that the Courts are developing assurances that we can respond effectively to those children and manage them in the community in a way that manages risks but prevents remand into youth detention.
40.	A peer review of the Youth Justice Service in the early part of 2022 highlighted a need for an increased focus on the better use of data, tackling disproportionality and for the Youth Justice Board in Southampton to hold to account all partner agencies around the key issues in the city such as serious youth violence, education outcomes and tackling disproportionality.
41.	In response to the peer review a significant amount of work has been undertaken to improve data quality. The council has increased investment in education in the Youth Justice Service including an Education Lead, Speech and Language Therapist and ring-fenced Education Psychologist capacity. A reorganisation of the Youth Justice Board was undertaken to create a Vulnerable Adolescents Board (VAB) which is accountable to the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and is tackling a wide range of adolescent outcomes. A disproportionality action plan has been developed for the Youth Justice Service and VAB.
	<b>Pilot Inspection – February to March 2024</b>
42.	Southampton Youth Justice Service was selected by HMIP to be part of their pilot for its new inspection framework, following their external consultation regarding changes to the current inspection framework. This was a positive for Southampton, and recognises the positive relationship Southampton has established with the inspectorate. As this is a pilot inspection there will be no

	published report or change in our 'good' rating but inspectors have provided feedback.
43.	<p>A team of five HMIP inspectors arrived on site on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and were with us for three days. The Head of Youth Inspection Programme was one of the lead inspectors on site with us. The new inspection guidelines can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>. The pilot inspection only focused on "Domain 2 – Work with Children", the details are as follows:</p> <p>Domain Two: <b>Assessing; planning; delivery.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resettlement</li> <li>• Community sentences</li> <li>• Out-of-court disposals</li> <li>• Bail supervision and support</li> <li>• Remand</li> </ul>
44.	In order to assess the quality of work with children, the inspection team looked at a sample of cases. They read the case records and interviewed case managers where they were available. There was one day dedicated for us to showcase our work, including areas of positive work and projects, programmes or pieces of work we were especially proud of.
	<b>Initial Feedback</b>
45.	<p>Inspectors fed back that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The staff team are so committed and wrapped around the children. The Lead Inspector, who has been an inspector for 10 years, said the commitment is as strong as she has seen anywhere. Indicating our staff are delightful to talk to.</li> <li>• The workers are really dedicated / persistent and "won't engage" is not in their vista. Unusual things happen in Southampton – giving the example of a boy in Hastings still being supported by Southampton because it is the right thing to do.</li> <li>• ROTH (Risk Outside the Home) framework is strong and staff felt held within the process.</li> <li>• HELP Pathway is positive and held in positive regard by colleagues. Inspectors suggested Physical Health input into HELP pathway.</li> <li>• The Saints Foundation provide amazing opportunities for the Youth Justice young people.</li> <li>• The Hub is a great resource – noted managing safety is challenging in terms of the mix of young people using the hub.</li> <li>• Operation Meero, and the work around serious youth violence, is a very good example of partnership work.</li> <li>• 'You know there is work to be done to prevent young people staying in Police Custody overnight. This is an important piece of work to complete.'</li> <li>• 'It would be positive if you can find a way of reaching the young people who come through Joint Decision-Making Panel earlier.'</li> <li>• The three days have provided a positive picture of Youth Justice in Southampton.</li> </ul>

<b>Youth Justice Board Validation Visit - February 2024</b>	
46.	The Youth Justice Board visited Southampton in February 2024 to validate a benchmarking exercise focused on YJS court work. Southampton had in November 2023 self-assessed itself in this area of work as Good. The outcome was that we provided an accurate account of our work, knew ourselves and what we needed to improve on, but overall were impressed with the positive work being delivered and the vision for the future.
47.	The YJB reflected on the strong working relationship across children services colleagues and how that impacted on day to day work, that reports to courts were balanced and impartial and that the service took into account victim impact.
48.	The ratings given in self-assessment completed by the service was broadly concordant with the evidence reviewed during the validation visit. The service has a clear vision of what needs to happen to provide the best outcomes for children in Southampton and the strategic placement of the service within the wider children's services will support this.
49.	The validation visit has provided assurance that the service is doing some good work with children in courts but also knows where it needs to develop areas of practice to continue to improve. It was clear to see the service wants to continue to innovate and improve practice.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
50.	Not applicable
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
51.	Not applicable
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
52.	Children Act 1989
53.	Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act, 2012
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
54.	Not applicable
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
55.	Not applicable
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
56.	Not applicable

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	None
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<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



<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	21 MARCH 2024
<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: 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>	
Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of performance for Children’s Services and Learning up to the end of January 2024. 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 January 2024 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 – January 2024
2.	Children and Learning Glossary
3.	Updated budget presentation

**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 & Learning Service Performance Report

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February 2024



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Children  
& Learning  
Making a difference



SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8  
Appendix 1

# Contents

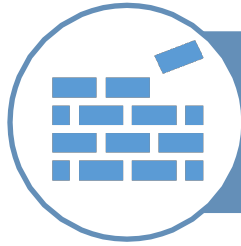
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Promote permanence and placement stability	12
Permanent & stable workforce	15
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# Purpose

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; Building for Sustainability; Building for Families, with Families



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







# Right support at the right time – Family Help

Indicator	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of referrals into Early Help	184	220	172	183	131	181	154	172	162	109	139	166	142	144		-	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals that were stepped down from CSC (no assessment required)		37	40	33	28	35	35	21	46	27	16	23	18	36		-	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of Early Help assessments started	179	112	89	110	73	74	82	119	71	66	89	91	80	80		-	→	-	-	-	-
Number of contacts in the month	1893	1839	1598	2023	1544	1828	1948	1804	1471	1532	1923	1763	1459	2015		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Rate of contacts per 10,000 population under 18 years old		4222	4240	4289	4265	4213	4229	4272	4173	4123	4166	4159	4171	4207		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals into statutory service in the month	322	343	330	433	282	301	285	310	263	267	276	315	216	309	273	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Rate of referrals per 10,000 population under 18 years old		751	753	777	780	770	762	761	760	754	747	732	720	716	647	●	↑	759.8	640.1	-	544.5
Number of C&F assessments completed	317	322	317	400	309	425	283	292	259	231	222	255	216	266	174	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Rate of assessments per 10,000 population under 18 years old		784	788	804	800	830	827	829	807	776	756	736	716	707	630	●	↑	778.4	628.5	-	557.4
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD)	27	584	538	535	639	524	493	467	462	433	388	464	449	453	-	-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (CWD)		222	227	231	233	238	244	254	243	243	237	230	228	223	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-



Children & Learning  
Making a difference



# Right support at the right time – Family Help

## Desired 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

- There is currently a waiting list for support from Early Help in the East of the city, there were 35% fewer referrals into Early Help this January, compared to January '23.
- The number of contacts in January increased by 38% from December, this was the second highest number in the last 12 months.
- The number of referrals (309) was higher than December by 43%, but this was down from January '22 (322) and January '23 (343).
- Assessments were completed for 266 children, which is below average for the last 12 months, and 21% less than January '23.
- There are 120 less children on CIN planning (including children with disabilities) in January '24 than there were in January '23.





# Right support at the right time – Family Safeguarding

Indicator	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of strategy discussions held		200	196	217	184	185	207	144	161	152	152	173	124	140	-	-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of Section 47 enquiries completed		103	158	169	138	126	124	121	86	81	131	112	101	77	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of Section 47 enquiries completed		351	353	356	360	356	355	346	336	320	323	306	301	297	260	●	↑	352.2	253.0	-	191.6
Percentage of Strategy discussions resulting in Section 47		52	81	78	75	68	60	84	53	53	86	65	81	55		-	↑	-	-	-	-
Percentage of Section 47s (not already CP or in our care) resulting in ICPC		22	22	38	34	26	43	21	45	20	20	33	12	13			↑				
Number of children subject to CP Plan at end of month	458	288	301	315	347	355	351	345	346	318	311	320	309	304	295	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of children subject to CP plans	93	58	61	64	70	72	71	70	70	64	62	64	62	61	60	●	↑	63.90	52.90	-	43.20
Number of children in our care	548	543	553	545	539	505	517	518	507	510	503	507	510	494	495	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	111	110	112	111	109	102	105	105	103	103	101	102	102	99	100	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)	2357	2363	2401	2402	2425	2326	2304	2297	2259	2112	2085	2111	2036	2069	-	-	↓	-	-	-	-
Rate of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)		478	479	492	482	455	453	448	422	414	418	423	408	415	362	●	↓	524.8	428.8	-	642.7





# Right support at the right time – Family Help

## Desired 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

- Whilst there were more strategy discussions in January than December '23, the number (140) was 30% less than January 2024 (200).
- Of those 140 strategy discussion, 55% resulted in a Section 47 enquiry. The number of S.47s (77) were the lowest in the last 12 months, reflecting the work Practice Managers have been doing to work with the professional network to carefully consider thresholds and the analysis of risk.
- Only 13% of section 47s for children not already subject to CP planning or in our care resulted in an initial child protection conference being convened.
- The number of children subject to CP planning reduced to 304, the lowest since March 2023 and closer to the target of 295.
- The number of children in our care has achieved the target (495) and the rate of children in our care is now 99. This is the statistical neighbour average, and a reduction in 49 from January 2023.

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# Strong, safe & vibrant localities

Indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23 Statistical Neighbourhood	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	<b>27%</b>	25%	28%	27%	25%	35%	26%	19%	21%	21%	32%	25%	<b>30%</b>	23%	🔴	↓	22%	20%	21%
Percentage of referrals leading to NFA	<b>6%</b>	5%	8%	7%	5%	8%	9%	10%	10%	8%	4%	5%	<b>4%</b>	7	🟢	↑	-	-	-
Percentage of children subject to 2nd or more CP plan	<b>33%</b>	32%	32%	33%	34%	33%	33%	31%	31%	32%	33%	34%	<b>37%</b>	24%	🔴	↓	33%	25%	24%
Percentage of children subject to child protection plans with recently core group held in time	<b>76%</b>	76%	78%	77%	85%	83%	79%	69%	85%	84%	89%	74%	<b>68%</b>	95%	🔴	↓	-	-	-
Percentage of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD) with NN review within last 12 weeks	<b>84%</b>	83%	83%	79%	84%	83%	86%	79%	80%	70%	76%	81%	<b>81%</b>	95%	🔴	→	-	-	-
Percentage of initial health assessments delivered within 20 working days of date child became looked after.	<b>32%</b>	10%	31%	22%	60%	50%	76%	20%	57%	9%	0%	33%	<b>50%</b>	95%	🔴	↑	-	-	-
Percentage of children in care for at least 12 months for whom health assessments are up to date.	<b>90%</b>	91%	89%	88%	86%	85%	84%	82%	80%	79%	78%	78%	<b>79%</b>	95%	🔴	↑	-	-	-



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# Strong, safe & 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

- Of the children referred to the service in January, 30% were previously known to the service. This could suggest that children and their families with higher needs are struggling to manage with support from universal or early help services, but it could also be that once families have been involved with Children Services, when further challenges arise, there is a tendency to refer them back in.
- The percentage of referrals leading to NFA was the lowest in the last 12 months at 4%.
- Core group activity dipped in December to 74% and it was linked to the Christmas holidays and expected to improve in January but has declined further to 68%. Teams report this is a recording issue and core groups are taking place, so this will be interrogated in assurance clinics with managers.
- Initial health assessments for children coming into care were achieved for 50% of the 8 children accommodated.





# Children remain within or return to their birth families

Indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of children in our care	553	545	539	505	517	518	507	510	505	504	507	510	494	495	🟢	⬆️				
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	112	111	109	102	105	105	103	103	102	101	102	102	99	100	🟢	⬆️				
Number of new CLA in month	23	19	14	3	31	17	10	17	15	13	17	21	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of new CLA in month who are UASC	4	4	5	1	2	2	2	3	4	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Ceased CLA in the month excluding UASC	10	23	18	34	15	18	13	14	17	13	10	15	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA achieved CAO or SGO	4	5	3	6	4	4	2	3	5	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA returned home as part of care planning	0	2	5	8	2	5	3	5	6	6	6	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA placed with parents at the end of the month	48	48	48	42	48	44	39	39	34	33	38	43	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of CLA placed in Connected Carer placements at the end of the month	60	56	59	54	52	50	47	40	42	41	51	56	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



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# 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 –

- The rate of children in our care has surpassed our target of 100.
- This has been achieved through significant work in the last 2 months to return children to family members and move children out of residential placements, alongside a high level of preventative work to keep children safe at home, and quickly return where safe to do so when accommodated in a crisis.
- We have 7 fewer children in residential placements than we did in October 2023.
- In January 2024, there are 54 children placed with extended family member, up from 40 in August 2023
- There are 48 children currently placed with parents whilst assessments and planning are ongoing.





# Promote permanence and placement stability

Indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of children in our care	553	545	539	505	517	518	507	510	505	504	507	510	494	495	🟢	↑				
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year	15	15	14	15	15	14	16	18	17	19	18	19	18	10	🔴	↑	13	10.5		10
Number of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	136	137	139	140	144	146	141	147	142	141	137	133	132	100	🔴	↑				
Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	24	24	25	27	27	26	27	29	28	28	27	26	27	20	🔴	↓				
Number of CLA placed in Residential placements including semi-independent	74	71	75	71	70	70	75	76	76	80	78	77	73	60	🔴	↑				
Number of CLA placed in residential - Independent Sector	42	43	42	42	43	43	42	43	43	43	38	35		30	🟡	↑				
Percentage of CLA placed in Residential placements - independent sector	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7		6	🟡	↑				
Number of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	31	29	33	30	30	36	42	42	44	48	48	49	47	20	🔴	↑				
Percentage of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	8	8	10	9	10	10	4	🔴	→				
Number of CLA placed for adoption at period end	36	30	30	20	19	19	13	15	15	17	15	13	13							
Number of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	228	230	214	202	213	206	195	193	198	201	206	205	204	285	🔴	↓				
Percentage of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	41	42	40	40	40	39	38	38	39	40	41	40	41	58	🔴	↑				



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# Promote permanence and placement stability

## Progress analysis

- Whilst our overall number of children in our care is coming down steadily and safely, our rate of children with three or more placements in a year is higher than the target. In January 2024 it reduced to 18% but was 15% in January 2023.
- 204 children are placed within our own foster placements, this is 41% of the overall cohort and up from 193 in August 2023. The ambition is for this to reach 58%, but this will depend on successful recruitment and assessment of new fostering households alongside retaining current carers. Nationally there are significant challenges to recruiting foster carers with significant competition from independent fostering agencies that are able to pay foster carers significantly more per child in their care.
- We have 43 young people in unregulated or unregistered placements. The majority (39) of these are 16 and 17 years old and all the settings we are currently using are in the process of being registered with Ofsted.





# Promote permanence and placement stability

## Education

There are 4 children in our care under 16 that are out of education, or not accessing education, all 4 have Special Educational Needs. 1 has tuition arrangements in place. 2 of these children have had a placement change which has impacted on access to education. 1 child is applying for college, and 2 have searches for specialist provisions underway. 1 child is in a crisis placement whilst a foster placement is identified.

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16 looked after young people aged 16 and 17 are not in employment, education or training. 3 of these have Special Educational Needs.





# Permanent, stable workforce

Indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Average number of children per primary caseholder (based on 1 FTE)	<b>14.92</b>	15.88	15.43	15.31	16.19	15.87	16.40	15.64	14.50	14.21	15.12	15.82	<b>16.00</b>			↓
Average number of children per qualified Social Worker (1 FTE)	<b>15.75</b>	16.65	15.80	15.66	16.38	15.76	16.67	16.46	14.98	14.76	16.33	17.92	<b>17.73</b>			↑
Total number of case holders with 20+ children	<b>47</b>	48	54	53	50	43	47	36	37	34	43	48	<b>44</b>			↑
Average number of children per worker with 20+ children (1 FTE)	<b>22.55</b>	23.27	22.72	23.15	22.76	22.65	22.74	22.88	22.30	21.53	22.16	22.54	<b>22.77</b>			↓
Average number of children per worker in top 40	<b>22.98</b>	23.93	23.68	24.05	23.45	22.85	23.23	22.40	22.05	21.15	22.33	23.05	<b>23.05</b>			→
Percentage of CLA that have been in care for 12+m, with same social worker for last 6 months	<b>54</b>	50	49	47	59	62	68	74	75	80	78	73	<b>73</b>	80	●	→
Percentage of children open for 6+ months that have had 2 or more social workers in the last 6 months	<b>38%</b>	38%	37%	36%	34%	35%	33%	32%	39%	38%	36%	37%	<b>38%</b>	25	●	↓



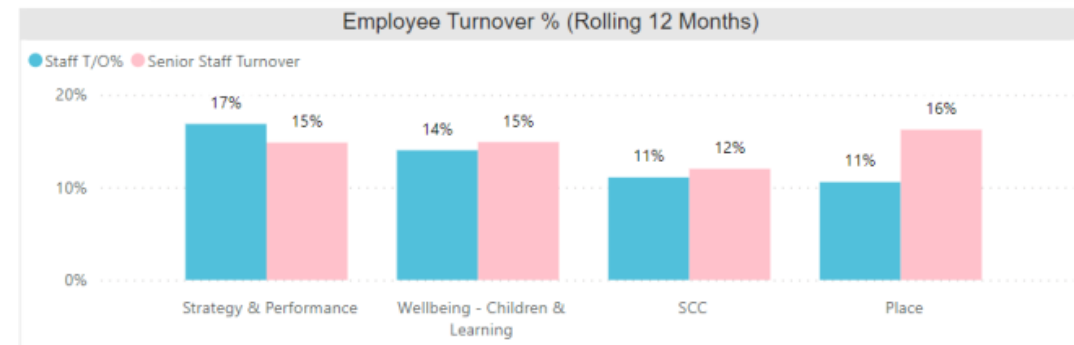
# Permanent, stable workforce

## Progress analysis

- Caseloads for social workers have increased to take into account how children with disabilities on a child in need plan are allocated. This is more representative of the caseloads being held by practitioners.
- There has been a gradual increase in the number of children being held by the 40 social workers to 23.05 for the last 2 months.
- Employee turnover has remained stable in Children & Learning. In our neighbouring local authorities, they have seen an increased reliance on agency staff, which drive up costs and create increased instability for families.
- Maintaining a stable and high-quality workforce remains a key priority for leadership, especially at a time of change and where neighbours offer higher wages to attract permanent staff. The recent launch of the re-design proposals can create uncertainty for staff and there are attractive opportunities for them within neighbouring authorities. Focussed consideration is being given to supporting staff through this process.

## 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.





# Embedding Practice Framework and Standards

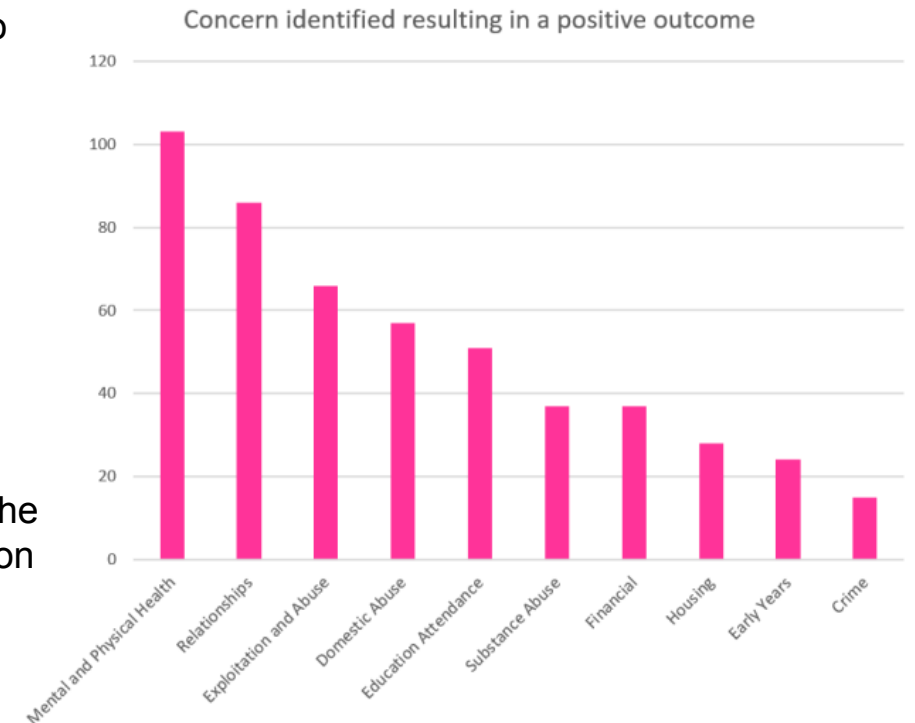
## Outcomes –

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.

## Progress analysis – December Audit overview:

- No case record audits were undertaken in December due to Supporting Families Benchmarking being prioritised.
- The benchmarking looks at specific positive outcomes for children and their families.
  - Overall, 147 benchmarking forms have been completed and recorded on Care Director
  - 74 of the forms have 3 or more unique positive outcomes, and 59 forms have 1 or 2 positive outcomes
  - The chart show the overall benchmarking activity and the number of positive outcomes for each of the 10 concerns identified, at the end of the intervention with families.
- We are evidencing positive outcomes for children and families our service work with.



# Performance - Visiting

## Progress analysis

Visits to children on Child in Need and Child Protection Plans both met or exceeded the target for statutory time scales. 3 weekly visiting to CiN children improved towards the target of 90%.

Visiting remains a key focus in assurance clinics.

Indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with a visit in the last 4 weeks	54%	66%	62%	71%	61%	60%	66%	67%	58%	71%	69%	62%	64%	95%	Red	Up
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 6 weeks	98%	98%	97%	96%	98%	95%	96%	94%	96%	96%	95%	96%	95%	95%	Green	Down
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 3 weeks	80%	81%	77%	84%	81%	74%	77%	77%	77%	86%	85%	89%	85%	90%	Yellow	Down
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (CWD) visited within agreed timescales	89%	92%	86%	85%	86%	95%	88%	77%	73%	80%	82%	77%	71%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 10 working days	95%	93%	87%	90%	92%	90%	84%	86%	90%	88%	92%	85%	92%	95%	Green	Up
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 4 weeks	99%	98%	98%	97%	98%	98%	97%	96%	98%	97%	99%	96%	98%	95%	Yellow	Up
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within agreed timescales	81%	79%	86%	89%	92%	89%	89%	83%	81%	81%	85%	83%	83%	95%	Red	Right



# Performance - Supervision

## Progress analysis

- Supervision for children with a Child in Need plan and Child Protection Plan both exceed the targets in December.
- Supervision within the Early Help service improved again towards the target.
- There was a dip in supervision within the Care Leavers service.
- Supervision is one element of management oversight and decision making for children and families.

Indicator	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with supervision in timescales	67%	87%	74%	78%	82%	72%	82%	89%	82%	81%	68%	79%	74%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of children open for assessment who had supervision in timescales	96%	93%	93%	93%	91%	91%	97%	94%	94%	98%	92%	93%	95%	95%	Green	Up
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (not CWD) who had supervision within timescales	93%	90%	89%	90%	96%	85%	79%	84%	86%	89%	91%	97%	89%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (CWD) who had their supervision within timescales	100%	99%	98%	96%	86%	84%	79%	77%	77%	83%	87%	84%	81%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and within timescales	93%	96%	86%	91%	98%	87%	85%	89%	93%	96%	94%	96%	88%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale	86%	86%	78%	85%	94%	88%	90%	78%	73%	81%	83%	83%	92%	95%	Yellow	Up
Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale	45%	86%	81%	86%	92%	92%	88%	83%	79%	83%	81%	77%	88%	95%	Red	Up



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### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GLOSSARY

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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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# Updated Budget Presentation

Southampton Children and Learning Service  
March 2024

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[southampton.gov.uk](http://southampton.gov.uk)



Children  
& Learning  
Making a difference



SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8  
Appendix 3

# Overview

Three-year budget and existing commitments

Analysis of stat neighbour budgets, spend and pressures

Strategy to meet the gap between projected spend and budget, with risk assessments

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# Destination 22 and Building for Brilliance / Building for Sustainability

As part of our service improvement journey, we:

- Have reduced agency staff from a high of 91 to 13 as of March 2024. Forecast spend for 2023/24 is £2.9m, a reduction of £3.1m compared with 2022/23 and a reduction of £4.1m compared with 2021/22. We are working to reduce further to an end of year spend of £2.5m. Next year we will target an average 16 agency staff.
- Are forecast to spend approximately £3m less on looked after children than we did in 2021/22.
- Have achieved an Ofsted judgement of 'good' with 'outstanding' leadership, mitigating financial risks associated with 'inadequate' services.
- Have the increasing confidence of staff (95% of whom are permanent), partners, Department for Education.

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# Three-year budget

	23/24	24/25	25/26
	£M	£M	£M
Children & Learning	58.44	61.83	62.58

Taken from the latest budget report :

[Annex 1 to MTFS - General Fund Medium Term Financial Forecast 2024-25 to 2027-28.pdf \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#)

Budget accountability statements are being implemented to support a high level of financial control. Further work is now taking place in respect of savings: 1. review of proposals previously RAG rated amber or red 2. exploring new ways of working to ascertain new ones.

# Pressures

Ref	Item	Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000
	<b><u>Demand and Price Pressures</u></b>					
24P24	Education Services staffing	Unrealised prior year savings	222	222	222	222
24P26	Education Psychologists staffing	Increased demand arising from increased numbers of Education & Health Care Plans (EHCP)	113	113	113	113
24P60	Jigsaw - High Cost Placement SCC (50/50 with Health)	Single high cost placement	300	300	300	300
24P255	Asset Management & Capital Strategy	Unrealised prior year savings	84	84	84	84
24P402	Looked After Children Placement spend pressure	High numbers in residential placements	4,775	4,775	4,775	4,775
24P403	Staffing pressures in Young People Service	High service demand reflecting in more resource required	280	280	280	280
24P404	Agency staff in the Quality Assurance Business Unit	Increased demand in this area	200	200	200	200
24P405	Safeguarding - Agency, Allowances and Overtime	High service demand reflecting in more resource required	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,690
24P408	Special Guardianship Order (SGO) placement spend pressure	Increased placement spend	395	395	395	395
24P63	Residential Units Revenue Pressures		730	438	0	0
	<b><u>Income Pressures</u></b>					
24P27	Education - reduced capacity for traded services	Less capacity due to increased demand on support of children with EHCP's	75	75	75	75
	<b><u>Service Improvement</u></b>					
24P3b	Care Director business process optimisation - additional posts - Children's *	Pressure relating to further support requirements for Care Director	198	198	198	198
	<b><u>Delayed or Unachieved Savings</u></b>					
24P108	Residential unit savings projections deferred (22S1)	Project delayed - one property purchased - awaiting planning permission likely operational 24/25	299	509	509	509
24P109	Fostering - savings projections deferred (22S5)	Business case in progress to make payments to carers simpler from 24/25	534	713	713	713
24P215	Merge Youth work Lead and Inclusion & Diversion Officer		111	111	111	111
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10,006</b>	<b>10,103</b>	<b>9,665</b>	<b>9,665</b>



# Analysis of stat neighbour children's services budgets, spend and pressures

## Spending 23/24 (For those that have included forecasted spends):

- **Portsmouth** are forecasting a **£2m deficit** (3%, this is following a 33% increase in budget from 22/23 - £44m to £66m). Portsmouth have a budget of £1,603 per child (population).
- **Southampton** **£7.7m deficit** (12.1% of £63.6m). Budget of £1,290 per child (population).
- **Hull** **£2.6m deficit** (3.2% of £81.5m budget) following **£6.9m deficit** in 22/23 due to agency staff, high-cost placements and SEN home/school transport. Budget of £1,316 per child (population).
- **Salford** are expecting a **£6.9m deficit** (7% of £97.6m budget) due to SEND transport and external placements for children in their care. Budget of £1,664 per child (population).
- **Bristol** **£12.1m pressure** (11% of £110.2m budget) in children's & education due to the changing complexity and mix of social care placements. Budget of £1,203 per child (population).
- **Stoke** projecting a **£12.9m deficit** (16.1% of a £80.1m budget) due to inflation/pay award, agency staff (£2.9m), SEND transport (£3.6m). Budget of £1,371 per child (population).
- **Sheffield** **£8.9m deficit** forecast (7.7% of £115.8m budget). £3m on home school transport. £3.9m of savings not achievable, key overspends are residential placements (£4.8m). Budget of £1,031 per child (population).
- Peterborough, Coventry, Derby, Plymouth – no details yet.

# Saving / spend reduction commitments

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Ref	Description	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000
	<b><u>Service Redesign</u></b>				
24S207	Virtual school, do not recruit to vacant post	(44)	(44)	(44)	(44)
24S214	Non recruitment of vacant posts within SEND	(89)	(89)	(89)	(89)
24S249	Early saving from moving to Family Safeguarding Model	(144)	(144)	(144)	(144)
24S288	Fostering and Adoption Service redesign.	(107)	(107)	(107)	(107)
24S289	BRS Service redesign.	(200)	(200)	(200)	(200)
24S292	Language Service redesign.	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)
24S363	Bring ADM (Agency Decision Maker) role in house	(7)	(7)	(7)	(7)
24S470a	VR saving excl savings already captured - Childrens and Learning	(349)	(349)	(349)	(349)
	<b><u>Income Efficiency</u></b>				
24S209	Virtual School - Utilise additional funding	(15)	(15)	0	0
24S210	Music Service income increase.	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)
24S212	Maximise impact of Family Hubs grant.	(419)	0	0	0
24S213	Maximise Supporting Families payment by results claim.	(81)	(81)	(81)	(81)
24S361	Rigorously monitor claims to Home Office to support increased number of UASC.	(211)	(211)	(211)	(211)
24S390	Increasing offset with Family Hubs grant	(27)	0	0	0
24S491	Music Service income increase.	(34)	(34)	(34)	(34)
	<b><u>Efficiencies</u></b>				
24S355	Cease outsourced contacts	(47)	(47)	(47)	(47)
24S365	Children & Learning - average 31 agency staff for the whole of 23/24	(1,821)	(1,821)	(1,821)	(1,821)
24S378	Do not appoint to PM in Contact Service	0	(53)	(53)	(53)
24S463	Education Property budget no longer needed re academisation	(120)	(105)	(45)	
	<b><u>Cost control measures</u></b>				
24S211	Not use surplus from Holiday Activities Fund.	(7)	0	0	0
24S293	Reduce music service management costs	(23)	(23)	(23)	(23)
24S294	Holiday Activities and Food efficiencies	(8)	0	0	0
24S354	Reduce No Recourse to Public Funds spend	(62)	(62)	(62)	(62)
24S356	Reduction in translation costs	(96)	(96)	(96)	(96)
24S358	Reduce Preventative spend back to budget	(225)	(225)	(225)	(225)
24S364	Reduce accommodation costs for care leavers	(180)	(180)	(180)	(180)
24S366	Cease Tripod costs (re: overseas recruitment)	(390)	(390)	(390)	(390)
24S367	Cease Consultancy costs	(176)	(176)	(176)	(176)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(4,916)</b>	<b>(4,493)</b>	<b>(4,418)</b>	<b>(4,373)</b>



# Cost reduction proposals in addition to £7M current saving / spend reduction commitments

Plan	Amount £M 24 / 25	Amount £M 25 / 26	Amount £M 26 / 27	Investment Needed	Timeframe secured	Confidence Level High is good)	Risk Level (Low is good)	Risk assessment
Demand reduction – 40 less children starting care each year, 75 less CP starting each year	1.0	5	10.9	FSM – local public health funding, alongside DFE grant award.	Q4 24 / 25	Medium	High	Principal issue is confidence – demand reductions are not achieved as forecast. £1.3M per year already factored in pre-FSM ( 4 less CLA per month and a reduction of 6 residential placements over the year) using local forecasts. The figures included here are additional, applying Hertfordshire’s logic. Mitigation: reducing trends evident, implementation of evidence-based approach (Family Safeguarding) should increase confidence, service Ofsted judgement is an enabler for more robust conversations with partners and greater tolerance of high-risk decisions. Service risk level is high due the new rates being lower than SN averages in a city with significant deprivation. Some children may be left at risk of harm. Reputation risk in terms of Ofsted.
Additional reduction to – 12 agency staff average over the year	0.4	0.4	0.4		Q4 24 / 25	Medium	High	Risk of service requiring more agency staff if recruitment and retention trajectory is destabilised. Mitigation through rapid service redesign and weekly senior leadership oversight of caseloads.
Reduce HTST costs – change from plan to save £1.5m in first year	0.0	0.8	1.6		Q4 24 / 25	Medium	High	Confidence level reflects finance calculating £800k reduction in the first year.
Reduced staffing due to rapid service redesign	1.2	1.6	1.6	Business analysis agreed as part of RSR.	Q1 24 / 25	Medium	High	Reduction of 44.95 FTE. Part current budgeted staff reduction and part no longer paying for unbudgeted posts. Addition cost reduction linked to Intensive and Complex Assessment Service review. Any further reduction to service would result in additional agency costs (evidence agency trend 2014) and / or increase in high-cost placements (Impower analysis, 2018).
Bringing Education Service into Budget	0.38	0.42	0.47		Q1 24/25	Medium	Medium	Risk of redundancies impacting on in year data, reduced staff may impact on children at a time when focus needed on exclusions and access to education
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>8.26</b>	<b>13.63</b>					

# Appendices

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- 1. Achievements**
- 2. Demand analysis**



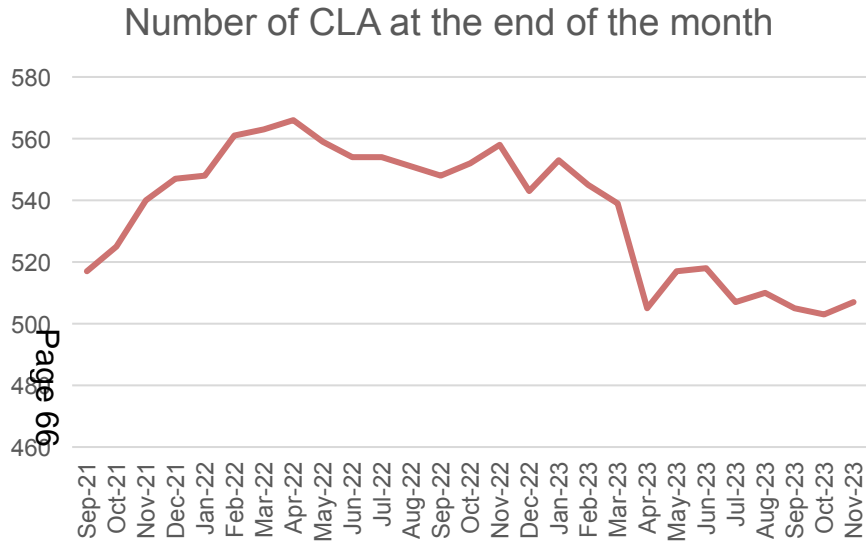
**Children  
& Learning**  
Making a difference



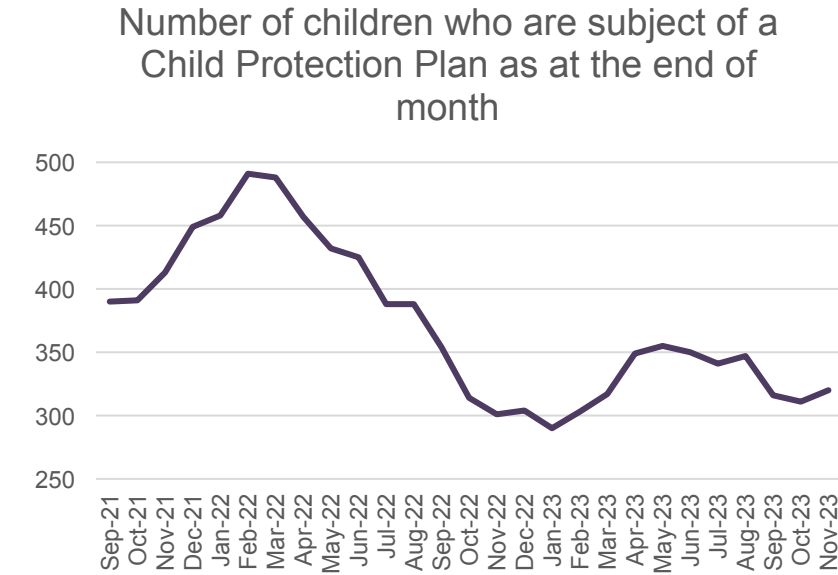
**SOUTHAMPTON**  
CITY COUNCIL

# Achievements

**Reduction in children in care:** NB this has reduced to 484 as of 8 March 2024



**Reduction in children subject to CP plans**

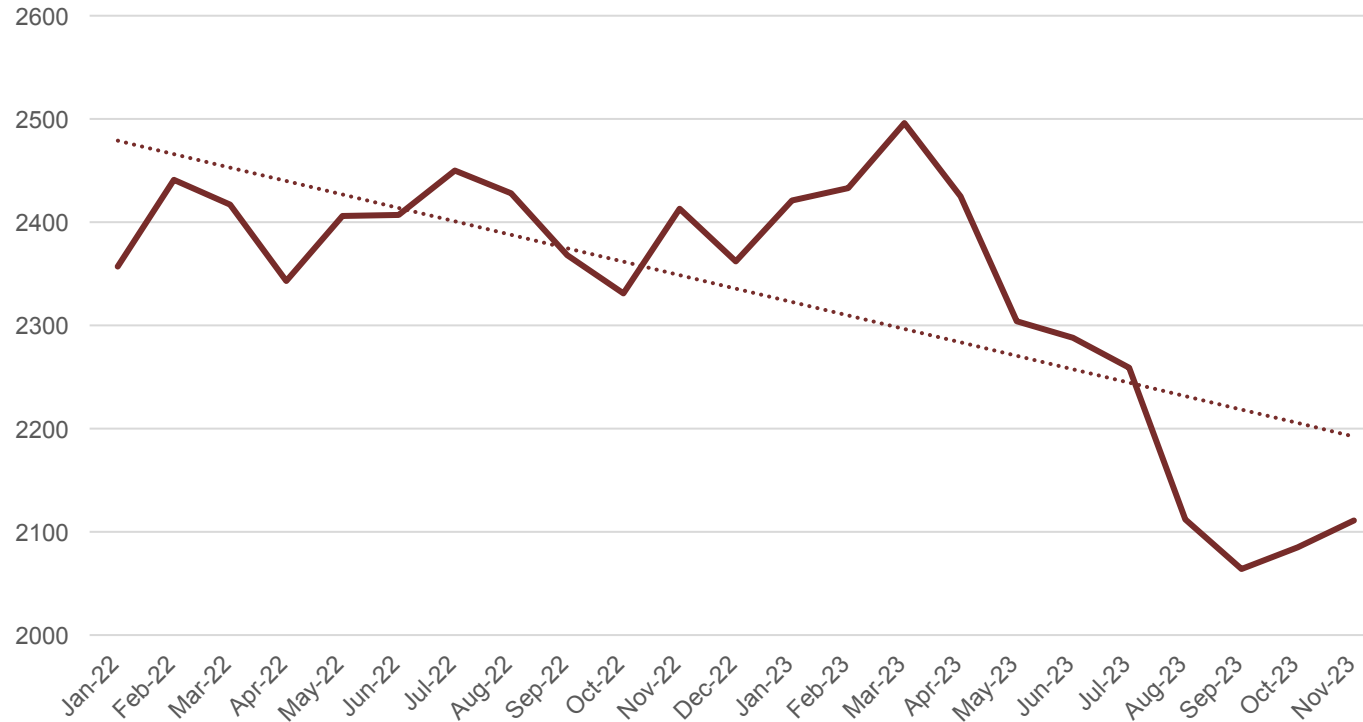




# Achievements

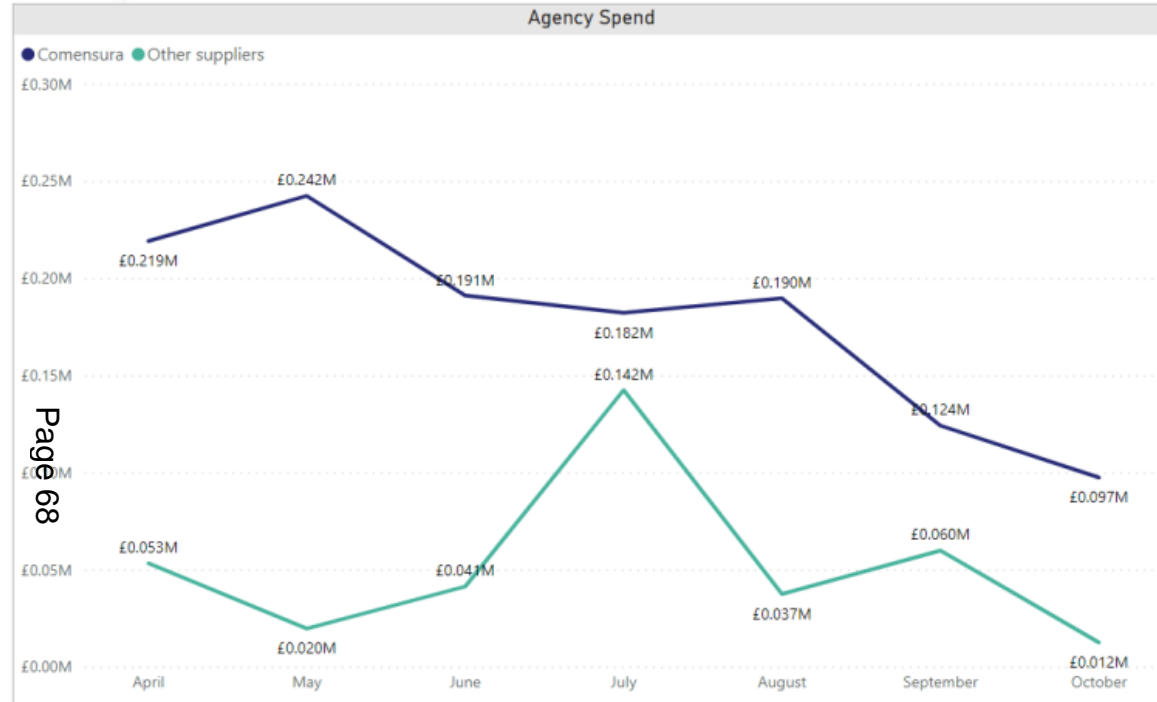
## Reduction in children open to children services:

Number of all Children in Need (CiN) (including Child Protection (CP) / Children Looked After (CLA) / And open assesment) at end of period

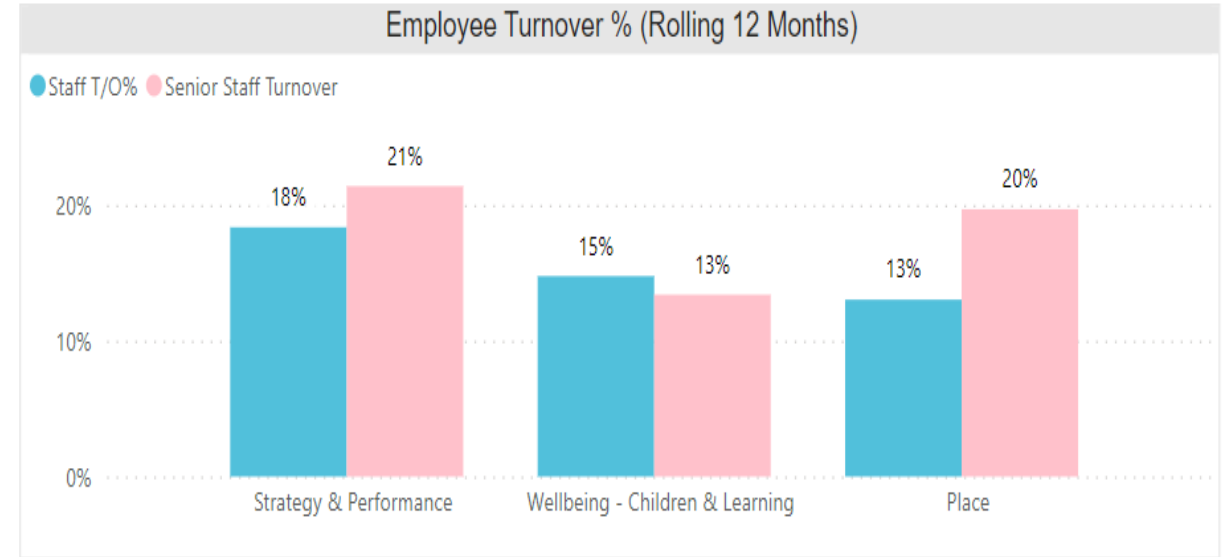


# Achievements

## Reduction in agency spend:



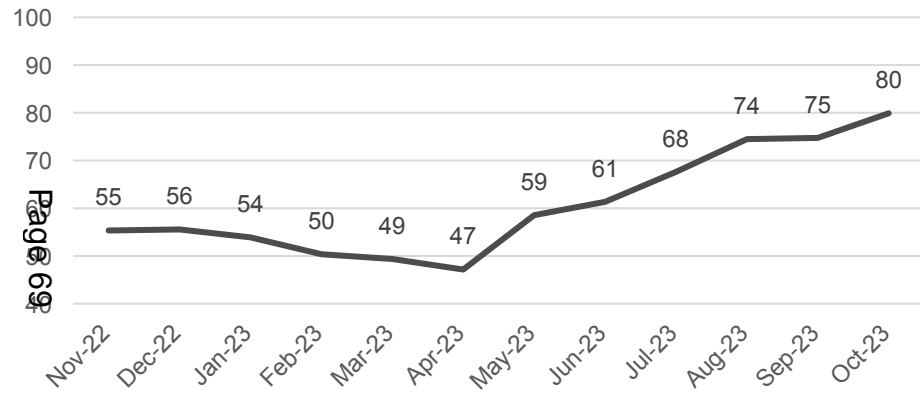
## Reduction in staff turnover:



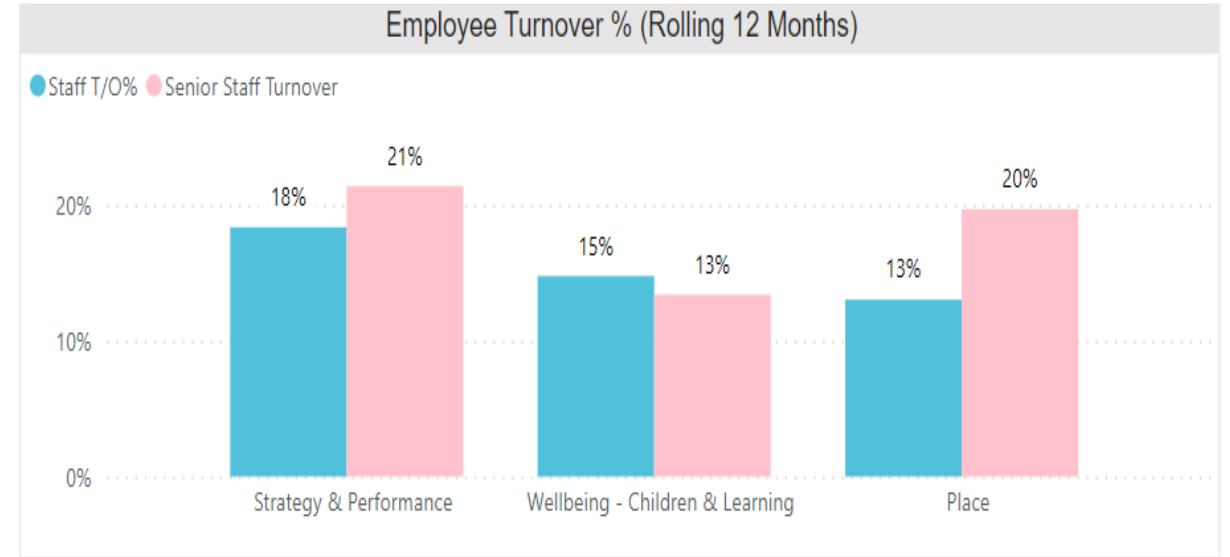
# Achievements

## Increased stability in Pathways Through Care:

Percentage of CLA that have been in care for 12+ months, that have had same social worker for last 6 months



## Reduction in staff turnover:



# Demand Reduction Analysis

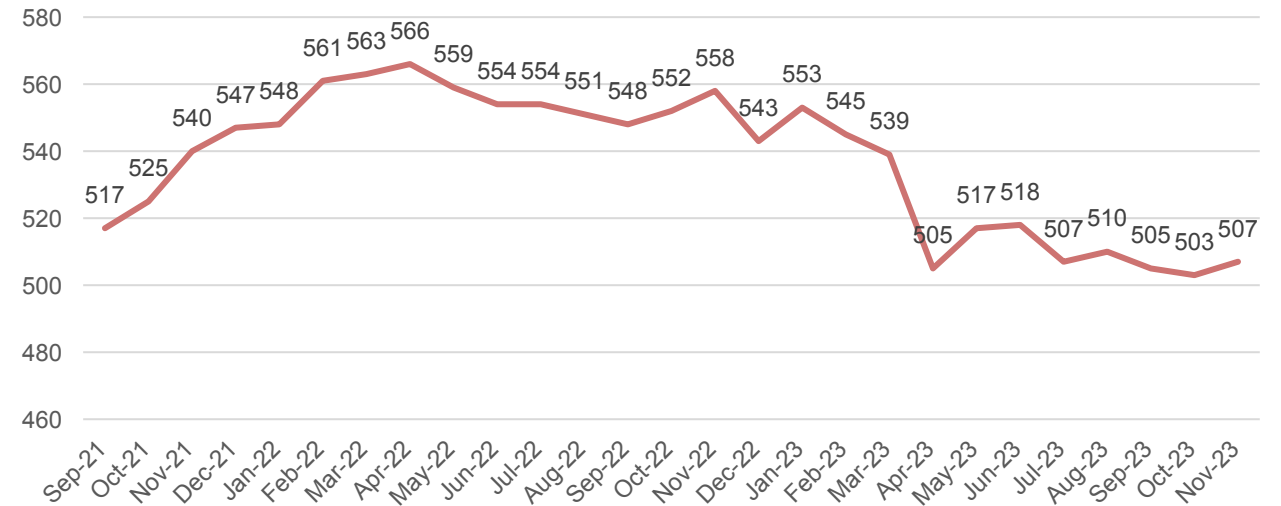
Initially, Children Services put forward £7m savings. This included a reduction in demand of 4 net children (non-residential) per month, estimated to save £664k in a year. We are proposing that we can save an additional £1m in 24/25 as a result of Family Safeguarding that will contribute to a net reduction of 6 children per month, increasing the expected savings by £516k to and there will be a one-off legal cost avoidance in 24/25 of £500k due to less children going through legal proceedings. This increases the expected savings to £1.66m.

We have forecast the following combined savings for this demand reduction (all in addition to previous savings put forward):

- 24/25 - £1m
- 25/26 – £4.2m
- 26/27 - £6m



Number of CLA at the end of the month



Since March 2022, there has been a steady and consistent reduction in the number of children in care from 566 to around 500. The average of the last 8 months (since impact of focus on returning children home keeping children at home) has been 510. NB the snapshot for 8 March 2024 is 484.

This reduction has seen a decrease in weekly spend on looked after children from £502,810 in May 2022 to a weekly spend of £442,157 Dec 2022 and £413,388 on 8 March 2024. The cost reduction has not matched the reduction in numbers due to the increasing costs of crisis and residential placements, and the complex needs of adolescents requiring care.

# Demand Reduction Analysis

**There are two Family Safeguarding forecasts:**

The first is based on 40 less children entering care in 2024/25 only.

Taking into account average time spent in care, they forecast that our cost avoidance will be:

2024/25 £1m

25/26 £2.75m

26/27 £1.9m

The second is based on recurring avoidance of care entrants of 40 a year

2024/25 £1m

25/26 £4.2m

26/27 £6m

The Family Safeguarding figures do not represent a net reduction, exits are not included. The natural exits of children alongside the predicted reduction in children entering care will result in an overall decrease in children being in our care each year:

Year	Number of children entering care	Number of children exiting care	Net difference	Total number of children in care	Rate
22/23	198	219	-21	539	108
23/24 (est. to Apr 24)	180	232	-52	487	98
24/25	140	215	-75	412	85
25/26	102	175	-73	339	72
26/27	70	125	-55	284	61

Our target of 140 entering care in 24/25 us a rate of 28 per 10,000 children, bringing us closer to the statistical neighbour average. In 25/26. reducing this further to 102 children will bring us to a rate of 20.5. which will be below average but performing in the top



# Demand Reduction Analysis

## Evidence of children exiting:

### SGO/residence order

28 children left care so far this year through SGO or CAO. Continuing the same trajectory this would be 40 by end of March 2024.

### Reunifications

42 children left care due to reunification. With same trajectory full year will be 63.

Reunifications for 24/25 remains a focus with care planning for 10 children in residential to step across into foster placements and children in foster placements to return to living with a family member.

### Children turning 18

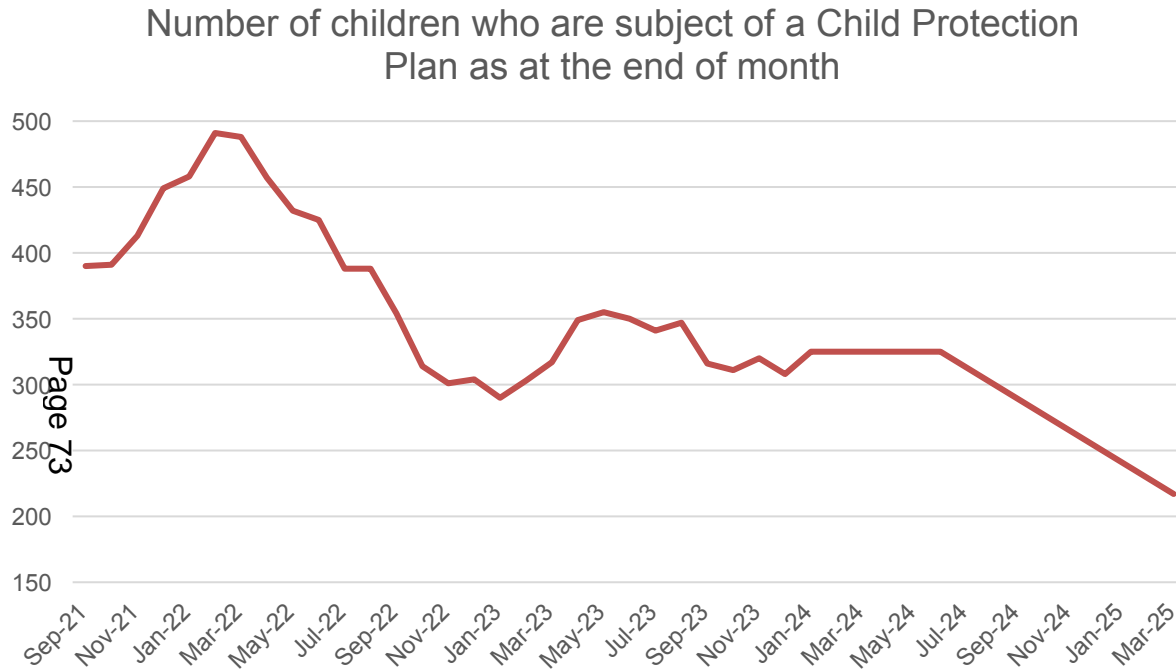
In the year 24/25, 75 children will reach 18. There will also be approximately 5, 17-year-olds accommodated during the year that will also turn 18. The majority of these young people will be entitled to care leaving support, and any reduction in resources in the Pathways Through Care service from the reduced number of children would be required to move across to Care Leaving services, so there would not be a staffing saving in this area.

### Adoption

We currently have 14 children placed for adoption with no adoption order, so still in care. Additionally, there are 16 with a placement order but not matched, and therefore in foster care. It is likely that the number of children requiring adoption will be sustained until Family Safeguarding is embedded.

# Demand Reduction Analysis

## Children subject to child protection planning



Over the last 2 years, our number of children on CP planning have reduced from a high of 491 in February 2022. They have been consistently below 355 since September 2022, over 15 months of stability in these rates.

The average of the last year is 325, which provides the basis for the planned reductions in 24/25 based on the cost/benefit analysis provided by Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire predict that the number of children on CP planning will reduce by 149 by the end of the first year (June 2025). This will result in the number of children on CP planning reaching 176 and maintaining between 150 and 200 within monthly variations.

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<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	21 MARCH 2024
<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>	
Appendix 2 to this report is confidential and exempt from publication based on Category 2 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose this because it is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	
<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
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<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 21 March 2024
2.	Placement stability presentation - Confidential

**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 – 21 March 2024

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
25/01/24	Further Education in Southampton	1) That further education providers in the city consider working collaboratively to develop a strategy with the objective of attracting more Southampton students to remain in the city for post 16 study.	This issue is being raised with the key post-16 providers at the next Secondary Education Forum which takes place in March. The proposal for a clear strategic approach to address the loss of post-16 students to colleges outside Southampton will be discussed and developed over the coming months.	Partially complete.
		2) That, if further education in Southampton is considered by the Panel in 2024/25, the information published with the agenda includes appropriate measures of the colleges and school sixth forms respective performance.	Colleges are happy to share their data, but as some of the exam results are not published until late in the autumn it will require the date of the post-16 scrutiny meeting to be held later than the usual time in January	Partially complete.
25/01/24	Children and Learning - Performance	1) That the Panel are provided with statistics on the number of CLA who have had 1 and 2 placement moves during the year.	See appended report	Complete
		2) That analysis is undertaken, and attached to the 21 March agenda, of the cohort of CLA who have had 3 or more placements during the year. The analysis should include the number of children in the cohort who returned to their birth families.	See appended report	Complete

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