

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 24th November, 2022  
at 5.30 pm

## **PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING**

Conference Room 3 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

### **Members**

Councillor Winning (Chair)  
Councillor A Bunday  
Councillor D Galton  
Councillor V Laurent  
Councillor C McEwing  
Councillor Vaughan  
Councillor Windle

### **Appointed Members**

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

### **Contacts**

Democratic Support Officer  
Maria McKay  
Tel: 023 8083 3899  
Email: [maria.mckay@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:maria.mckay@southampton.gov.uk)

Scrutiny Manager  
Mark Pirnie  
Tel: 023 8083 3886  
Email: [mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk)

# 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 2020-2025 sets out the four key outcomes:**

- Communities, culture & homes - Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities.
- Green City - Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping - Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time.

**Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year**

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
16 June	26 January
21 July	30 March
29 September	
24 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 29 September 2022, and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

### **7 CHILD FRIENDLY CITY UPDATE** (Pages 5 - 14)

Report of the Stronger Communities Manager recommending that the Panel notes progress with regard to Southampton becoming an accredited Child Friendly City.

### **8 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE** (Pages 15 - 42)

To consider the report of the Director of Legal and Business Services recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children and Learning Services in Southampton.

**9 SOUTHAMPTON'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN** (Pages 43 - 88)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel notes how corporate parenting responsibilities will be discharged in Southampton and scrutinises outcomes and developments for looked after children relating to educational attainment, mental health and placement sufficiency.

**10 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS** (Pages 89 - 92)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.

Wednesday, 16 November 2022

Director of Legal and Business Services

---

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

---

Present: Councillors Winning (Chair), Bunday, D Galton, Laurent (Vice-Chair), Vaughan, Cooper and Denness  
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders

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

It was noted that, following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillors McEwing and Windle from the Panel, the Director of Legal and Business Services, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillors Cooper and Denness to replace them for the purposes of this meeting.

13. **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Councillors Denness, Bunday and Mr Rob Sanders informed the meeting that they were Governors at schools in Southampton. This was noted but did not preclude them from engaging in the conversation.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022, be approved, and signed as a correct record.

15. **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON**

The Panel considered the provisional key stage results and the supplementary data, as detailed in the appendices, and discussed the details with Councillor Dr Paffey, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and Derek Wiles, Divisional Head of Education and Learning, educational attainment in Southampton.

The Panel and Officers' attention was drawn to two confidential appendices attached to the report. The confidentiality of Appendices 2 and 3 was based on Category 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, as they contained information which was subject to an obligation of confidentiality. Members agreed not to discuss the content of the confidential appendices in the meeting, and it was therefore determined that there would be no requirement to exclude the press or public.

In discussions with the Cabinet Member and officers the Panel noted the following:

- Concerns were raised about the 2022 KS2 outcomes for Southampton where the Expected Standards were at least 1%, and as much as 7%, below the National average across all subjects and combined indicators.
- KS4 results could not be compared with last year's figures due to the different system of testing.
- The national dip in GCSE results was not replicated in Southampton, where levels were maintained and continued the steady improvement seen over the last five years.

- The KS4 Progress 8 results anticipated in September, were expected in mid-October.
- Southampton's A level results remained well below national performance standards but had improved from 2021 to 2022.
- A city-wide solution was needed for Post-16 education due a sizable number of Southampton students attending schools outside the city and the sustainability of colleges in the city.
- Educational attainment of looked after children was to be discussed at the 24 November of the Panel.
- Local authority services provided to schools may be affected if funding currently provided to the City Council was redirected to schools.
- Many Early Years (EY) settings in Southampton were impacted by the pandemic. The majority of those operating in Southampton offer quality provision. The sufficiency of places in Southampton was to be addressed through the development of hubs following the receipt of funding.

**RESOLVED** that consideration be given to an additional meeting of the Panel to focus on educational attainment with a focus on scrutinising the use of catch up funding; the soon to be published Key Stage 4 national results, including Progress 8; and, Early Years Foundation Stage performance.

**NOTE:** Councillors Denness and A Bunday and Appointed Member Mr Rob Sanders declared an interest in the above item and remained at the meeting.

16. **POST 16 PROVISION, PARTICIPATION, NEET AND UNKNOWN**

The Panel considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Business Services, which recommended that the Panel consider the information provided and discuss the challenges raised with regards to Post-16 provision and participation in Southampton with the Cabinet Member and invited officers.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Councillor Dr Paffey and Southampton City Council Officers, Derek Wiles, Divisional Head of Education and Learning, and Clodagh Freeston, Service Manager – Education Strategy, Planning and Improvement were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the Cabinet Member and officers, the Panel noted the following:

- A reduction in NEET figures from 7.6% last year to 5.9% in 2022 (to pre-pandemic levels).
- An audit of the quality of careers guidance was being undertaken to identify risks and encourage support to be provided earlier in a young person's development.
- A reluctance to continue in long term learning had been bought about due to increased anxiety following the pandemic.
- Performance was anticipated to plateau in 2023 as a result of a decrease in school improvement officers and engagement officers.
- Work was being carried out in schools to identify the needs of young people in Years 10 and 11 to help support their progress and positive transition into KS 5.
- NEET support for Looked After Children was being prioritised. This presented a challenge when the child was placed outside the authority.
- 2022-23 NEET figures were expected to be ready in March 2023.



## **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Panel be kept informed of key developments concerning the proposed city wide solution to Post 16 provision in Southampton.
- (ii) that the NEET figures for 2022/23 be circulated to the Panel when available.

### 18. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Business Services, which recommended that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Councillor Dr Paffey and Southampton City Council Officers, Steph Murray, Deputy Director of Children and Learning; and Petra Pankova, Performance Manager, Children and Learning were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the officers, the Panel noted the following:

- A steady decrease in the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans and the number of Looked After Children.
- Following the international recruitment drive, staff capacity had improved with a positive impact on caseloads.
- Demand had increased, with a rise of 2-3% in comparison to previous months.
- Early help had been offered to children and families in an attempt to reduce the number of statutory referrals.
- 78% of referrals had been completed within the statutory 45 days, an increase on 71% in July, and a projected stable move towards the target of 90-100%.
- Families being unavailable in August impacted on children being visited within the statutory timescale.
- Data discrepancies remain as Care Director continues to bed in. Manual systems ensured all children were accounted for and issues have been resolved.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the key findings from the audit of re-referrals are summarised within, or appended to, the performance report to be considered at the 24 November 2022 meeting of the Panel.
- (ii) that Social Worker turnover data is included in the performance report analysis for the 24 November 2022 meeting.

### 18. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel received the report of the Director, Legal and Business Services, which enabled the Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.

The Panel noted that all the requested information had been provided and utilised to inform the discussion of the agenda items.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 7

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILD FRIENDLY CITY UPDATE
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 NOVEMBER 2022
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	STRONGER COMMUNITIES MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>				
<b>Director</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Robert Henderson, Executive Director Children and Learning</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>023 8083 4899</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk</b>		
<b>Director</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mary D'Arcy, Executive Director Communities, Culture &amp; Homes</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>023 8083 4611</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>mary.d'arcy@southampton.gov.uk</b>		
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Stronger Communities Manager</b>		
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Jason Murphy</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Jason.murphy@southampton.gov.uk</b>		

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None

## **BRIEF SUMMARY**

Southampton City Council has explored the potential to become a Child Friendly City since 2017, following the launch of its Restorative Charter in November 2017. The initiative has had the support of both the current and previous administrations and is referenced as a key focus within the new Corporate Plan for 2022 to 2030, as well as the Children Young People's Strategy. The Corporate Plan highlights the objectives of:

- Working towards Southampton becoming accredited as a UNICEF Child Friendly City,
- Creating a Southampton Youth Council that allows young people to influence decision making,
- Improving the condition of children's play areas within neighbourhoods and work towards introducing more play equipment within neighbourhoods,
- Supporting Southampton's Cultural Education Partnership to enhance creative opportunities for children.

In February 2022 Southampton City Council 'onboarded' with UNICEF UK as an official candidate city and this continues to be among the main priorities for the administration. UNICEF have welcomed the consensus within Southampton for the initiative.

Responsibility for pursuing a Child Friendly City is led by the Children and Young People's Participation Team within Stronger Communities working collaboratively with the Children's and Learning Service. The Executive Director for Children and Learning is the programme sponsor. The rationale for locating the initiative within Stronger Communities is to ensure that the rights of children can be promoted across the organisation as well as city wide.

A range of Ambassador organisations have now been appointed. Rights based practice for children is already starting to influence local strategies. Children’s rights are reflected for example in the current Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (in draft), the Prevention and Early Help Strategy, the Safe City Strategy and the Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy (in draft).

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 the Corporate Plan for 2021 to 2025 was approved at full council which set the objective to ‘Achieve our ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City by 2024/25’.

The plan set the following milestones:

- Acceptance onto accreditation programme by Autumn 2021 (achieved)
- Install first children’s mayor by May 2022 (achieved)
- New programmes of support and engagement involving children and young people by March 2022 (ongoing)
- Rights of children enshrined in local policy making and scrutiny processes by 2024.

The new Corporate Plan has embedded Child Friendly as a core priority. Rights based practice for children is being incorporated within other initiatives such as the Accessibility Inquiry Report Action Plan, transport initiatives, Child Centred Policing and the Southampton Cultural Education Partnerships and the Connecting Cultures Programme.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	That the Panel considers the report and notes the progress being made towards Southampton becoming accredited as a UNICEF Child Friendly City.
--	-----	--

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	The Chair requested that the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel received an update on Child Friendly Southampton.
----	---

**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

2.	Southampton City Council officially joined UNICEF UK as a candidate city on 21 February 2022. The success in joining the programme means Southampton is the first South Coast City in the UK to have joined the programme along with Aberdeen, Cardiff, Derry and Strabane, Liverpool, Nottingham, Wokingham and the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Redbridge. Joining the programme requires demonstrable commitment, ambition and the capacity to be a child friendly city.
3.	Several local partners have stepped forward to support Southampton’s Journey as Ambassadors. The main role of Ambassadors is to support the implementation of the programme and to support Children and Young People to be engaged. Ambassadors so far are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saints Foundation</li> <li>• No Limits</li> <li>• Solent NHS Trust</li> <li>• GO! Southampton Business Improvement District</li> <li>• John Hansard Gallery</li> <li>• The Mayflower Theatre Trust</li> <li>• Artswork</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Catering</li> <li>• Sound Pop Academy</li> <li>• Yellow Door</li> <li>• Southampton Cultural Services</li> <li>• West Quay</li> </ul> <p>A bi-monthly ambassadors network meeting takes place to keep ambassadors informed and engaged. Ambassadors also oversee the programme as a governance structure with links to the Executive Steering Group.</p>
4.	<p>An internal Executive Steering Group has been established, chaired by the Executive Director for Children and Learning, inclusive of representation from the following teams, who, as internal stakeholders, have been invested in supporting our ambition to become a Child Friendly City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Cultural Services (City of Culture/Cultural Education Partnership)</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Urban Design and Planning</li> <li>• Children and Learning</li> <li>• Green City</li> <li>• Strategic Skills</li> <li>• Democratic Services</li> </ul>
5.	<p>The Programme is overseen by a dedicated Project Officer who links with UNICEF UK coordinators to ensure the programme is on track and each milestone is being achieved. Investment in a project officer was a pre-requisite for acceptance on to the programme. The Project Officer links with internal and external partners to involve each of them in the many aspects of the programme. Whilst the Project Officer holds the work plan for the programme the achievement of accreditation is a Southampton wide responsibility with the governance structure being key to the movement. Without the support of the Steering Group, Ambassadors, and other key partners the programme would not be possible.</p>
6.	<p>Joining the programme supports us in achieving our vision for children and provides a clear framework to deliver improved outcomes for all children who live, are educated or visit the city. Southampton has a strong foundation upon which to build success with Southampton Connect (representing key partners including business) demonstrating a commitment to support the child friendly ambition – this is articulated in the five-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Children and Young People’s Strategy.</p>
7.	<p>Our key priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To hear the voices of children, families, and communities on an individual basis but also on all key decisions within the city.</li> <li>• To develop strong pathways for education, training and employment and post 16 education and learning pathways leading to skilled and meaningful work in our growing economy.</li> <li>• To keep children safe, tackling domestic abuse, youth crime and all forms of exploitation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support young people with emotional and mental health issues and ensuring we provide environments where young people can talk and get the support they need.</li> <li>• To ensure that as a city of culture, children are at its core, and we continue to develop and build on our initiatives for children to engage in a range of cultural activities.</li> </ul>
8.	The UNICEF programme will support Southampton City Council and its partners through a three-stage process of Discovery, Development, and Implementation. Our key priorities will be established towards the end of the Discovery stage in December 2022 following extensive engagement with stakeholders, children and young people.
9.	<p>The main aim of Discovery is to talk to Children and Young People about their thoughts and feelings. Throughout June, July and August a Children and Young People’s survey has been undertaken capturing this information. From 20<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December children and young people will be given an opportunity to vote on their key priorities, (badges), and the top 3 will be selected as part of the Development stage. The possible UNICEF UK badges from which the top 3 will become the City’s priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and Secure</li> <li>• Flourishing</li> <li>• Education and Learning</li> <li>• Participating</li> <li>• Child Friendly Services</li> <li>• Place</li> <li>• Family and Belonging</li> <li>• Healthy</li> <li>• Equal and Included</li> <li>• Innovation</li> </ul> <p>These sit alongside three mandatory badges (areas) which are Communication, Culture and Co-operation and Leadership.</p>
10.	A badge rationale report will be submitted to UNICEF UK based on the evidence from the Discovery Phase which will be written by the steering group. This will lead into the Development Phase where Southampton will write 6 action plans based on each badge which will be the main focus of the journey for the following 3-5 years (Delivery Phase). Southampton has taken the decision to extend its completion of the Discovery Phase to support a wider span of children’s input to the process, to allow children to acquire informed consent of what the proposals are they are being consulted on and to allow ambassador organisations to develop their contributions to the scheme.
11.	Southampton City Council will be marking World Children’s Day on 20 November 2022 by raising a Child Friendly/UNICEF Flag with the Children’s Mayor. The Leader and Deputy Leader have indicated that, space allowing, we should seek to fly the flag permanently as a mark of our ambition.

12.	The competition to appoint the second Children's Mayor (23/24) was launched with Primary Schools on 1 November 2022 and the closing date for competition entries is 16 December 2022.
13.	The next Youth Council meeting will take place the week commencing 11 December 2022.
14.	<p>To date we have had 2200 plus qualitative interactions with Children and Young People under the age of 18. This has been via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream online/ paper survey</li> <li>• Easy read online / paper survey</li> <li>• 5 online / paper activity sheets</li> <li>• Focus group with Looked After Children</li> <li>• Roadshow visiting youth settings through June</li> <li>• Attendance at events such as Mela, SPCA Play Day and more</li> <li>• Engagement via Ambassadors, Steering Group and Schools</li> </ul> <p>Most interactions have been in person at a range of community events and have been supported by Stronger Communities Team staff.</p>
15.	<p>Other points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst all Child Friendly activity is encouraged, UNICEF UK expect applicant cities to first focus on activity that will be recognised under the badge scheme. Early business engagement work has started, but this is a longer-term ambition to ensure accreditation is prioritised.</li> <li>• There are currently no cities in the UK that have yet been given recognition but four are expected to be by 2023.</li> <li>• We are exploring the potential to partner with other cities in the international network of accredited cities, including cities in Poland, Japan and Canada.</li> <li>• Contact has already been made with Cardiff and Barnet to support peer learning, with close connections maintained with other Child Friendly Cities as part of a bi- monthly coordinators meeting.</li> </ul>
16.	<p>Other key milestones that support our ambition include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The launch of Southampton's first Children's Mayor who was appointed at this years' 800<sup>th</sup> Mayor Making Ceremony</li> <li>• The Child Friendly Youth Board launched in September 2022. The group will work alongside existing governance structures to oversee the implementation of the programme.</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
17.	Accreditation to the programme is on a pro-rata basis determined by City size and is £35,000 per annum which is within the allocated budget for the programme. A full time Child Friendly Project Officer has been appointed to steer the programme. There are however no other resources currently budgeted for and contributions, or in-kind support from programme partners, will in time be necessary to ensure meaningful engagement with children can take place. It is likely additional resources may need to be deployed to the scheme given the intensity of inputs required by UNICEF UK.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	

18.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
19.	None
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
20.	The inclusion of, or reference to children's rights into Southampton City Council legal processes will be better understood once the city embarks on the 'Delivery Phase' of the programme.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
21.	The proposals are included within the new Corporate Plan for 2022-2030.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
22.	The process of ensuring that children's rights are embedded in local processes will require some further work to understand the implications within our constitutional and legal frameworks.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	UNICEF UK CFC Participation Criteria

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
----	------

**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	<b>No</b>
--	-----------

**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	<b>No</b>
---	-----------

**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.	Child Friendly City Update to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel – 25 November 2021: <a href="https://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/documents/s53862/Child%20Friendly%20Southampton%20-%20Progress%20report.pdf">https://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/documents/s53862/Child%20Friendly%20Southampton%20-%20Progress%20report.pdf</a>



## CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES

A global Unicef initiative



### PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

The Child Friendly Cities & Communities programme welcomes expressions of interest from councils who are ambitious in their local vision for children and young people and ready to pioneer a high-profile initiative over a minimum three-year partnership with Unicef UK. In order to join the programme, councils must be able to demonstrate political and strategic commitment to embedding children's rights across the city/community, and be willing to work collaboratively and creatively with Unicef UK, local partners and children and young people to achieve this. Unicef UK will work with councils to develop a realistic action plan and sustain momentum throughout the journey.

If you're interested in working with us, we invite you to submit a formal expression of interest outlining your reasons for wanting to join the programme and evidencing how you meet the participation criteria. Full participation criteria are below, and a formal expression of interest form accompanies this document. We will be in touch shortly after your submission to arrange a discussion before making a decision.

Formal expressions of interests are currently to be submitted by invitation only following earlier discussion with the Child Friendly Cities & Communities team at Unicef UK.

### CRITERIA

Before joining the programme it's important that both Unicef UK and the council are confident that the city or community is ready to implement an ambitious child rights programme of change. We therefore ask interested councils to confirm the following:

#### 1. MOTIVATION AND READINESS

##### **Is this the right time for your council and the wider city/community to join the programme?**

Enthusiasm to join the programme should be backed up by a readiness to implement an ambitious local programme of work. Councils will be required to benchmark local child rights outcomes, identify strengths and gaps and develop and implement new child-centred approaches and/or build on and scale existing ones. All of this will be done in collaboration with local partners, children and young people and with training and support from Unicef UK. It will require leadership, governance, imagination, sustained effort and a pioneering spirit from across the city/community. Reflecting on the full participation criteria should help councils decide whether the city/community is 'implementation ready'.

## 2. VISION

### **Do you have a clear vision of what you hope to achieve for children and young people through participation in the programme?**

Child Friendly Cities & Communities seeks to realise the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – a comprehensive human rights treaty which sets out a vision of childhood underpinned by dignity, equality, safety and participation – at the local level. Embedding children’s rights in the planning, design and delivery of local services requires a long term commitment to change, and a readiness to involve children as partners and key stakeholders.

## 3. COMMITMENT TO CHILD-CENTRED PRACTICE

### **Can you build on a pre-existing commitment to child rights and child-centred practice?**

Our programme is strengths-based. This means highlighting and building on existing good practice, as well as identifying gaps and developing new ways of working. There are many existing programmes, initiatives and embedded ways of working – from small-scale local projects to national schemes and models – that chime with a child rights-based approach. Some examples are ‘asset-based approaches’, ‘restorative practice’ and ‘co-production’. We want to ensure local authorities’ participation in the programme helps them break new ground, while maximising the impact of existing or planned initiatives.

## 4. A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION

### **Are you committed to enabling children’s ongoing, meaningful participation and forging new ways of supporting children and young people’s involvement in local decision-making?**

Central to adopting a child rights-based approach is a requirement that children be seen as capable, resourceful and competent individuals and that they are supported – through enabling structures and processes – to play an active role in shaping local services. We see this as an iterative and collaborative process; working in partnership to build on existing good practice, while identifying and tackling barriers that may prevent children and young people from participating in the life of their community. Special attention should be paid to supporting children who find it harder to have a say in matters that affect them.

## 5. COMMITMENT TO LEARNING AND REFLECTION

### **Are you prepared to take part in a learning programme which requires reflection, experimentation and ongoing data collection and monitoring?**

One of the goals of the programme is to grow the evidence base in support of child rights in practice. We are committed to continuous learning and reflective practice. Throughout the delivery of the programme we’ll be working with in-house and external evaluation partners to capture data, collect evidence and measure the impact the

programme is having on local outcomes for children. We'll enthusiastically welcome the involvement of local research partners such as universities or consultancies.

## **6. COMMITMENT AT ALL LEVELS AND CROSS-COUNCIL BUY-IN**

**Is there political commitment to the programme as well as commitment from across the wider council?**

Successful participation in the programme requires sustained commitment at all levels: from elected members through directors and heads of key services, to team leaders and frontline staff. As well as confirming that there is cabinet level support for the work, councils are asked to designate at least six "champions" whose role it will be to raise the profile of the programme and promote the work that takes place over its lifetime. Two champions must be political, while the remaining champions should represent an influential cross-cutting profile of the council. Champions should come together on a regular basis to ensure effective coordination of the programme.

## **7. GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION**

**Will there be a robust, transparent and accountable local governance and coordination structure in place to implement the programme?**

In order to effectively manage, monitor and reflect on progress, it's vital to coordinate and regularly review programme activities. We'll need to know that this has been given serious and sensible thought ahead of commencing programme activities so we'll ask for a named coordinator(s) and evidence that this person(s) will be supported by robust coordination and governance structures. This could be an existing multi-agency group, partnership board or scrutiny committee. Or it could be a brand new group bringing together programme champions who then report to an established committee.

## **8. PLACE-BASED APPROACH**

**Will you take an inclusive, collaborative, community-wide approach in your delivery of the programme?**

In order to flourish, children and young people rely on a wide range of services – statutory, voluntary and private – which is why we ask councils to take a whole community approach and reach out to key local partners, organisations and agencies to successfully implement the programme. This might include Clinical Commissioning Groups, Councils for Voluntary Services, the police, the local media etc. We'll need to know that local partners will play a substantial role in the ideation, development and delivery of the programme. You may also consider the role of the local partners in the governance of the work (see criteria 6 and 7).

## 9. COSTS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

### **Can you commit to paying the direct programme fees and ensure there are adequate resources available locally to implement the programme over three years?**

Programme fees: Unicef UK charges an annual fee (subject to review in 2019). Unicef UK is a registered charity operating on a not-for-profit basis. All income raised contributes to the administration of the programme and the delivery of services.

Indirect costs: In addition to the programme fee, councils may incur indirect costs resulting from local coordination of the programme. Indirect costs are not prescribed but could include, for example, the creation of a dedicated post or a part-time secondment, provision of training venues, releasing staff for training and planning activities, producing awareness-raising materials and outreach events etc.

## 10. STANDARDS

### **Can you explain how joining the programme will contribute to improving local standards and outcomes?**

While participation in the programme comes with the opportunity to obtain international recognition as a "Child Friendly City" or "Child Friendly Community", Unicef is not an inspectorate like Ofsted or the Care and Social Services Inspectorate. We welcome interest from and will work with councils regardless of their current inspection outcome if they are able to make a very strong case that they are ready, but we will never recognise a council with a poor or inadequate inspection outcome as 'Child Friendly'. It's therefore important that applying councils are confident that this is the right time to join the programme (see criteria 1) and are able to explain how joining the programme will contribute to and complement existing improvement plans. We'll also expect the council to engage in honest dialogue with Unicef UK about this from the outset. Councils joining the programme with a poor or inadequate outcome may take longer to gain 'Child Friendly' status, but it is our strong belief that the full adoption of a child rights-based approach will lead to improved services for children and young people.

## 11. YOUR EXPECTATIONS

### **Can you identify what support you might need from Unicef UK to ensure success in the programme?**

The Child Friendly Cities & Communities programme is collaborative by design. The success of the programme is dependent on ongoing dialogue and co-operation between Unicef UK and councils, including local delivery partners (see criteria 8) and children and young people (see criteria 4). We'd like to have a good understanding of your particular local needs and how you would best like us to support you throughout your programme journey.

# Agenda Item 8

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 NOVEMBER 2022
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mike Harris</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 2882</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mike.harris@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 October 2022. 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 October 2022 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
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Summary of performance and commentary – October 2022
2.	Glossary of terms

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
----	------

**Equality Impact Assessment**

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

**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

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

**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



# SCRUTINY PANEL

## Performance Report and Analysis November 2022

Petra Pankova  
Practice, Performance and Inspection Readiness

Page 17

Agenda Item 8  
Appendix 1



A city of opportunity where everyone thrives





# Priority Areas

	Page Number
Performance Headlines	3
Effective assessment and intervention	5
Purposeful Direct Contact	6
Management Support for better practice	7
Right service at the right time	8
Robust corporate parenting	10
Rigorous quality assurance	13
Performance Culture	14

Page 18



# Performance Headlines

- 1477 Contacts received in October 2022, drop from 1784 in September and the lowest in the last six months. This measure is showing a downwards trajectory, which is positive. This is likely to be linked to the D22 approach to providing enhanced advice and support to professionals in universal services.
- Statutory referrals have dropped to 297 from 326 in September and 298 in August. Accumulative referral figure in 2022 decreasing compared with 2021.
- Re-referral rates are under review and the values need to be validated. This will inform the scope of planned external SESLIP audit of contacts, decision making and thresholds due in December 2022.
- Sustained trend of reducing the numbers of children with child protection and child in need plans.
- CLA numbers slightly higher in October compared to September and August. 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 we cared for 554 children. The trend in the last twelve months: November 2021: 540 children in care, peak in April 2022 to 566 and steady reduction to 549 in September with 554 in October 2022. New entrants to care continues be on a downwards trajectory.

- Challenges with case supervision in October 2022, drop in performance in every area – CP, CiN, CLA, Care leavers. Varying performance in different services and teams.
- Visits: drop to 86% from 92% in September for children with CP plans and 10 working days visiting frequency.
- Sustained performance CLA visits in six weeks or less. 82% in October and September 2022. Approaching target performance.
- Visits to CiN with an active plan 90%.
- We don't yet have data regarding children in care with agreed visiting frequency above 6 weeks – this is under development. This will be adversely affecting our performance because we are measuring all CLA visits against a 6-week target.
- Care leavers consistently averaging 250 over the last four months.

# Effective Assessment and Intervention

Indicator	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Target	Southampton 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of referrals in the month	315	323	272	382	343	343	298	326	297	N/A	4092	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months UNDER REVIEW	28% (91/315)	28% (91/323)	21% (59/272)	21% (84/382)	26% (91/343)	29% (100/343)	30% (91/298)	32% (105/326)	32% (96/297)	23%	22%	28%	23%	N/A
Number of referrals into Early Help	333	355	282	270	228	174	218	205	198	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Early Help assessments completed	101	134	106	126	145	162	99	106	92	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rates of Single Assessments completed per 10,000			64	119	176	232	303	376	432	700 (accumulative)	672	637	554	518
Percentage of C&F assessments completed within 45 working days	95% (287/300)	90% (290/320)	79% (264/333)	82% (234/285)	86% (255/294)	71% (209/291)	78% (288/368)	61% (234/380)	70% (203/288)	90%	77%	74%	70%	69%

## Analysis

Drop in the number of referrals in October 2022. Month average since February 2022 is 284 and referral accumulative figure this calendar year is 2556 as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. We are predicting that if average rate continues for another two months, the number of referrals in 12-month period will be 3124, a reduction compared to 4092 referrals in 2021 (2021 data source LAIT).

Re-referral numbers are under review due to analysis of the data formula behind this measure. We will report our position to Scrutiny Panel in January 2023.

Statutory assessment timeliness has increased to 70%. It is still some way off target of 90%. Volume of completed Early Help Assessments dropped by 13% in October compared to September and almost on a par with August.

## Action/next steps

Ongoing focus on threshold application, quality of referrals from partner agencies and interface with early help. Re-referral rates are under review and the values need to be validated. This will inform the scope of planned external SESLIP audit of contacts, decision making and threshold application due in December 2022.

# Purposeful Direct Contact

Indicator	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Target	Southampton on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan for whom a visit has taken place within last 10 working days	70% (348/492)	80% (392/490)	91% (419/457)	86% (367/426)	86% (360/417)	83% (316/379)	81% (310/379)	92% (321/347)	86% (265/307)	95%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan for whom a visit has taken place within last 4 weeks (20 Working Days)	86% (425/492)	90% (441/490)	97% (446/457)	97% (414/426)	98% (410/417)	95% (363/379)	97% (370/379)	97% (340/347)	97% (300/307)	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within statutory timescales (6 weeks or less visits)	74% (418/561)	80% (456/563)	84% (479/566)	81% (457/560)	85% (474/555)	84% (470/555)	80% (447/552)	82% (454/549)	82% (458/554)	90%	TBC	97%	53%	67%
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan not allocated to CWD for whom a visit has taken place within last 6 weeks (CiN*)	79% (426/534)	84% (472/560)	85% (487/570)	88% (510/574)	88% (526/596)	89% (528/589)	90% (506/558)	92% (476/517)	90% (417/461)	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Analysis

There has been a drop in performance around visiting children with CP plans within 10 working days from 92% in September to 86% in October but not significantly different from previous months. Visiting performance for children in care is measured at statutory requirements frequency of maximum of 6 weeks. Children in more stable placements with agreed extended visiting frequency at 3 and 6 months are included in the CLA cohort and affect the overall performance. From January 2023 we will offer a breakdown report on the different agreed frequencies. We have re-defined reporting on children who have an active CiN Plan and performance since August has been 90% and above.

## Action/next steps

From September, case holding capacity should increase – due to new practitioners joining Southampton. We are also seeing a decrease in the number of children who have child protection plans – entries to CP are lower and exits from CP are higher – this should have a positive effect on capacity to visit and see children and record in a timely way.

# Management Support for better Practice

Indicator	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Target	Southampton 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of children who had their supervision and was within the timescales	62% (1608/2560)	63% (1601/2509)	74% (1796/2412)	75% (1864/2459)	70% (1720/2431)	69% (1707/2461)	70% (1709/2428)	68% (1598/2341)	66% (1523/2282)	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and was within the timescale	76% (375/492)	70% (347/490)	89% (408/457)	91% (391/426)	90% (379/417)	83% (317/379)	89% (338/379)	85% (295/347)	82% (254/307)	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale	67% (378/561)	81% (460/563)	81% (462/566)	87% (488/560)	81% (455/555)	81% (453/555)	79% (438/552)	77% (424/549)	67% (376/554)	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale	25% (52/218)	25% (57/226)	78% (165/212)	39% (86/221)	44% (90/204)	51% (128/251)	60% (152/252)	45% (115/252)	30% (76/253)	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Analysis

Case supervision performance has dropped in October 2022 in comparison to September and previous months. We are significantly underperforming for care leavers and children in care. This is the part of the service where there is most staff sickness and turnover. More precise performance reporting, with this monthly performance broken down by service and team, is highlighting significant variability between teams and is enabling senior managers to identify those who require a more focused approach to improve performance. This is a more comprehensive approach than the previous 'snapshots' we were reliant upon.

## Actions / next steps

Monthly reports will be broken down by individual managers and teams for all future assurance clinics, enabling greater focus on specific services, teams and managers.

Where there are gaps in first line management (for example, because of maternity leave) approval has been given to fill these posts with fixed term or agency managers, freeing up other managers who are covering and stretched as a result.

Monthly audits will focus on the frequency and quality of supervision as a matter of course.

Focused conversations with managers who are consistently not achieving minimum standards in supervision or recording.

# Right Service at the Right Time

Indicator	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Target	Southampton on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	28% (91/315)	28% (91/323)	21% (59/272)	21% (84/382)	26% (91/343)	29% (100/343)	30% (91/298)	32% (105/326)	32% (96/297)	23%	22%	28%	23%	N/A
Number of Early Help assessments completed	101	134	106	126	145	162	99	106	92	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rates of Single Assessments completed per 10,000			64	119	176	232	303	376	432	700	672	637	554	518
Percentage of C&F assessments completed within 45 working days	95% (287/300)	90% (290/320)	79% (264/333)	82% (234/285)	86% (255/294)	71% (209/291)	78% (288/368)	61% (234/380)	70% (203/288)	90%	77%	74%	70%	69%
Number of contacts	1511	1766	1664	2090	1859	1587	1947	1784	1477	<17K	17661	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of referrals in the month	315	323	272	382	343	343	298	326	297	N/A	4092	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rates of referrals per 10,000 of Under 18 Population			52	126	192	258	316	379	436	700	790	647	561	464
Number of CLA at the end of the month	561	563	566	560	555	555	552	549	554	540	495	615	N/A	N/A
Number of children with an active Child in Need Plan not allocated to CWD (CIN*)	534	560	570	574	596	589	558	517	461	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of children who are subject of a Child Protection Plan as at the end of month	492	490	457	426	417	379	379	347	307	406	310	406	N/A	N/A
Number of care leavers	218	226	212	221	204	249	252	252	253	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# Right Service at the Right Time

## Analysis

Volume of Contacts has decreased in October 2022 for a second month running.

Conversion rates from Contacts to Referrals was 20% in October and 18% in September 2022, an increase on August (15%).

Early Help assessments routed via CRS accounted for 6% of work processed at the CRS in October 2022 compared to 5% in September.

The number of children with child protections and child in need plans continues to steadily reduce.

CLA numbers have risen up to 554 from 549 in September, but below the highest in the last nine months in April 566.

This year (2022) there have been 6 families (13 children) who have concluded care proceedings. The average duration of these proceedings is 29 weeks. On average in 2021 it took 34 weeks to conclude proceedings.

As off 8th November 2022, 18 children have been identified with a permanency plan agreed for reunification back to their parents' care.

20 children have a plan for discharge of care order.

Page 25

## Action/next steps

Ongoing focus on intervening early and effectively to prevent unplanned entries to care. Managers and IROs to continue to review permanency plans and identify children where re-unification with family or a permanent arrangement with extended family would be an option. The Permanency tracking panel is tracking the progress of these children.

Child protection chairs and managers are tracking the progress of children who have had child protection plans for over 12 months and are developing plans for an exit strategy from the child protection process.

# Robust Corporate Parenting

Indicator	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Target	Southampton 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of CLA at the end of the month	561	563	566	560	555	555	552	549	554	540	495	615	N/A	N/A
Rate of CLA per 10,000 under 18 population	108	108	109	108	107	107	106	105	106	100	95	100	53	67
Number of CLA at the end of the month who are UASC	25	26	25	25	24	21	24	27	31	<37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within statutory timescales (6 weeks or less visits)	74% (418/561)	80% (456/563)	84% (479/566)	81% (457/560)	85% (474/555)	84% (470/555)	80% (447/552)	82% (454/549)	82% (458/554)	90%	TBC	97	53	67
Percentage of CLA children with an up-to-date review	98% (555/561)	98% (554/563)	98% (556/566)	97% (546/560)	97% (543/555)	98% (545/555)	98% (545/552)	99% (547/549)	99% (549/554)	95%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of children in care for at least 12 months for whom health assessments are up to date.	76% (304/397)	76% (308/401)	73% (294/402)	72% (298/411)	72% (293/405)	72% (300/411)	76% (313/408)	78% (334/426)	71% (311/434)	95%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of initial health assessments delivered within 10 working days of date child became looked after.	17% (3/17)	8% (2/23)	33% (3/9)	33% (7/21)	12% (1/8)	13% (3/22)	9% (1/11)	23% (3/13)	50% (4/8)	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year	26% (147/561)	24% (140/563)	23% (134/566)	23% (132/560)	23% (131/555)	22% (126/555)	21% (118/552)	18% (104/549)	17% (98/554)	<10%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of CLA allocated to CWD	31	32	32	31	31	30	29	29	30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of CLA accommodated on S20 (exc UASC) as at the end of the month	31	33	31	31	29	34	29	27	26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA with a permanence plan in place within 6 months of BLA	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Children Looked After (CLA) placed for adoption at period end	44	45	44	44	33	33	28	28	25	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	24% (138/561)	24% (138/563)	24% (139/566)	25% (142/560)	25% (144/555)	26% (145/555)	27% (150/552)	27% (150/549)	27% (153/554)	<36%	N/A	36%	38%	36%



## Analysis

We have performed well in the area of CLA Statutory Reviews over time, above our target of 95% since February 2022.

Visiting to CLA has remained stable at around 80%. A number of children are on a 3 month visiting pattern, agreed by carers, their social worker and their IRO. There is significant variability across the service, with 13 teams achieving 100%.

The percentage of children with three or more placements in 12 months is steadily reducing, from 26% to 17%. This is positive in terms of stability for children. This may be due to an increasing focus on holding placement planning meetings, stability meetings, better matching and placement support.

Four additional unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have joined Southampton as part of the national transfer scheme, bringing this cohort to 31 in October, compared to previous 8 months average of 25.

Performance around Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) has improved, but still falls short of our target. In October, we had 8 children who required an IHA; social care completed 5 referrals for the IHAs within timescales and health offered 4 appointments within timescales. Therefore, performance for October is 50% - this is an improvement since the previous month and the month before. There is a comprehensive plan in place regarding this indicator which includes close scrutiny of the data by health and social care colleagues.

## Actions / Next Steps

We need to improve on case supervision timeliness for children in care and care leavers. The exceptional arrangements panel has been re-established, chaired by Head of Service. The panel tracks looked after children placed in unregulated or unregistered placements, and also reviews visiting patterns set at a frequency less than 6-weekly.

Better tracking by managers is also a priority to ensure the completion of chronologies and case summaries, follow through on IRO challenge and outcome resolutions, more timely responses to children where SGO or reunification is the plan and a focus on children where specific aspects of life story work are needed.

For care leavers, the priorities are improving access to emotional and mental health support, links with adult services, housing pathways and commissioning arrangements, improving ETE outcomes and communicating the service offer to post 21 young people who are closed to the service. In addition, the service is going to audit and speak to the last 15 leavers in August to consider what their experience has been of leaving care and what we can learn from this to include to what extent they feel prepared, aware of their entitlements etc.

## What the data tells us

Service Area	Total Audits/Reviews
CRS	58
C&FF	33
Jigsaw	23
BIT	29
SWF	48
YPS	10
PTC	289
ICAS	32
Fostering	3
Adoption	4
Placements	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>541</b>

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
<b>Final grade after moderation</b>	2 (1%)	87 (51%)	71 (43%)	9 (5%)

### Analysis

541 audits have been completed between 1st January and 30th September 2022. The highest number of audits were completed across the Pathways Through Care service. 169 audits were moderated by the Quality Assurance Unit and the final grades indicate that although good work is increasingly evident, there is a high % of cases requiring improvement. All inadequate cases were reviewed with the relevant team manager and remedial actions agreed and tracked.

## Action/next steps

- Analysis of practice themes has been completed in annual audit report. This will be shared at Managers’ Learning and Improvement Panel in December 2022.
- Service self-evaluation is been updated, using audit information.
- Our Principal Social Worker is leading on ensuring that learning from audit is embedded through the Making the Difference practice framework.

## Analysis

- Revised and re-structured Assurance clinics have been live since September 2022
- Managers are increasingly engaged in using data intelligence to manage individual, team and service performances
- Through the Assurance Clinics, managers are driving the development of bespoke data sets and dashboards for operational day-to-day management
- Data development priorities timetable agreed for the next three months and an ongoing rolling basis
- Managers are encouraged to undertake regular dip sampling of cases within their service
- The senior leadership team is driving completion of monthly case audits
- Engagement with Heads of Service and Service and Locality Leads to co-produce service position statements and track service journey and performance against targets, outcomes and strategic plans
- Development of service delivery plans

## Action/next steps

- The newly developed function in Care Director data reporting now supports more detailed filtering of monthly performance data to service/team/locality level
- Senior managers will use this function to interrogate performance on a more granular level and create targeted actions plans for individual teams and managers
- Position statements will be routinely updated to inform our self-evaluation

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GLOSSARY

<i>Abuse</i>	3
<i>Advocacy</i>	3
<i>Agency Decision Maker</i>	3
<i>Assessment</i>	3
<i>CAFCASS</i>	4
<i>Care Order</i>	4
<i>Categories of Abuse or Neglect</i>	4
<i>Child in Need and Child in Need Plan</i>	4
<i>Child Protection</i>	4
<i>Child Protection Conference</i>	5
<i>Children's Centres</i>	5
<i>Child Sexual Exploitation</i>	5
<i>Corporate Parenting</i>	5
<i>Criteria for Child Protection Plans</i>	5
<i>Director of Children's Services (DCS)</i>	5
<i>Designated Teacher</i>	5
<i>Discretionary Leave to Remain</i>	5
<i>Duty of Care</i>	5
<i>Early Help</i>	6
<i>Every Child Matters</i>	6
<i>Health Assessment</i>	6
<i>Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)</i>	6
<i>Independent Reviewing Officer</i>	6
<i>Independent Domestic Violence Advisor</i>	7
<i>Initial Child Protection Conference</i>	7
<i>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)</i>	7
<i>Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)</i>	7
<i>Looked After Child</i>	7
<i>Neglect</i>	8
<i>Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement</i>	8
<i>Parental Responsibility</i>	8

<i>Pathway Plan</i>	8
<i>Permanence Plan</i>	8
<i>Personal Education Plan</i>	9
<i>Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)</i>	9
<i>Placement at a Distance</i>	9
<i>Principal Social Worker - Children and Families</i>	9
<i>Private Fostering</i>	9
<i>Public Law Outline</i>	10
<i>Referral</i>	10
<i>Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible</i>	10
<i>Review Child Protection Conference</i>	10
<i>Section 20</i>	11
<i>Section 47 Enquiry</i>	11
<i>Separated Children</i>	11
<i>Special Guardianship Order</i>	11
<i>Strategy Discussion</i>	11
<i>Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN)</i>	11
<i>Staying Put</i>	12
<i>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker</i>	12
<i>Virtual School Head</i>	12
<i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i>	12
<i>Young Offender Institution (YOI)</i>	12
<i>Youth Offending Service or Team</i>	12
<i>Sources</i>	12

## 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.

## 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 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 Educational 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

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.

## 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/>



<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOUTHAMPTON'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 NOVEMBER 2022
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mike Harris</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 2882</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mike.harris@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>
-------------------------------------

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
----------------------

As Corporate Parents Southampton City Council have responsibilities towards Southampton's looked after children and care leavers. Southampton's Corporate Parenting Strategic Plan 2022-2027, approved in March 2022 (link provided in background documents), outlines how these responsibilities will be discharged.

In Southampton oversight of how the Council and partners discharge their responsibilities towards looked after children and care leavers is undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Committee, Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning.

This report briefly summarises how the Southampton Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022 – 27 will ensure that corporate parenting responsibilities will be effectively discharged in Southampton, and, at the request of the Chair, provides details on key outcomes and developments for Southampton's looked after children in the following areas:

- Educational attainment
- Mental Health
- Placement Sufficiency

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
-------------------------

	(i)	That the Panel notes how corporate parenting responsibilities will be discharged in Southampton and scrutinises outcomes and developments for looked after children relating to educational attainment, mental health and placement sufficiency.
--	-----	--

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
---

1.	To enable the Panel to scrutinise outcomes and developments for looked after children in Southampton.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	Not applicable
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	<p>Corporate parenting principles are defined by the Department for Education as local authorities and partners having the following responsibilities towards looked after children and care leavers in their care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people</li> <li>• to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings</li> <li>• to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people</li> <li>• to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners</li> <li>• to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those</li> <li>• children and young people for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and</li> <li>• to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.</li> </ul> <p>Southampton's Corporate Parenting Strategic Plan identifies how these requirements will be met and was approved in March 2022.</p>
2.	Oversight of the Corporate Parenting Strategic Plan is the responsibility of the Corporate Parenting Committee, which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning. Additional scrutiny is provided by the service's improvement board and the last focused discussion took place in September 2022.
3.	A brief overview of the number of looked after children and trend data is attached as Appendix 1. The number of looked after children, although having increased during the past 12 months, is now stable. Reunification and placement stability are service priorities moving forward into 2023.
4.	<p>The Chair of the Panel has requested that specific focus is given to a number of key areas essential to enabling Southampton's looked after children to thrive. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational attainment</li> <li>• Mental health support</li> <li>• Sufficiency of Placements</li> </ul>
	<b>Educational Attainment for looked after children</b>

5.	As referenced at the September 2022 meeting of the Panel, in recognition that the theme of the November meeting is outcomes for looked after children it was agreed that educational attainment of looked after children in Southampton would not be considered in September, alongside a wider discussion on educational attainment, but would instead be a focus of the November meeting.
6.	Attached as Appendix 2 is the Virtual School Annual Headteacher report for 2022. Educational attainment data is included in the report and the 2 associated annexes.
7.	The Virtual School Headteacher will be in attendance at the meeting to present the annual report.
	<b>Mental Health Support</b>
8.	In November 2021, in light of the post-pandemic increase in demand for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the Panel considered CAMH services for Southampton's children and young people with a focus on the support for care experienced children and young people (link to 2021 briefing paper in background papers).
9.	Reflecting that a year has passed, and changes to the children looked after emotional and mental health offer were being proposed at the time, the Chair has requested that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Support for Southampton's looked after children is considered at the 24 November meeting of the Panel.
10.	To enable an informed discussion, attached as Appendix 3, is a briefing paper from Solent NHS Trust updating the Panel on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Support. The Service Manager for CAMHS will be in attendance to present the paper and answer questions from the Panel.
	<b>Placement Sufficiency</b>
11.	There is a legal duty placed upon the council to secure sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the council are looking after. The range of accommodation within the scope of the sufficiency duty includes adoption, foster care, children's homes and supportive accommodation.
12.	At previous meetings of the Panel in 2022 there have been references to foster care recruitment and the development of new residential homes in Southampton. Reflecting the focus of the agenda, and the financial pressures on the council, the Chair has requested an update on these initiatives as part of a wider discussion on sufficiency of placements for Southampton's looked after children.
13.	The Placement Sufficiency update is attached as Appendix 4. The Deputy Director for Children's Services and Learning will be in attendance to present this item.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	

14.	Where applicable details are outlined in the appended briefing papers.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
15.	Where applicable details are outlined in the appended briefing papers.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
16.	Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review and The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
17.	N/A
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
18.	Oversight of services, support and outcomes for looked after children is provided by the Corporate Parenting Committee. Additional scrutiny is provided by the service's improvement board.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
19.	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. Delivering consistently good outcomes for Southampton's looked after children will contribute to achieving this objective.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Children Looked After Demand Overview
2.	Virtual School Annual Headteacher's report
3.	Community Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) briefing paper
4.	Sufficiency Update
<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.	<a href="#">Corporate Parenting Strategic Plan 2022/27 (southampton.gov.uk)</a> – Internal document	
2.	November 2021 CFSP briefing paper - <a href="#">Appendix 1 - Briefing paper on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.docx.pdf (southampton.gov.uk)</a>	
3.	Placement Sufficiency presentation to CFSP – July 2021 <a href="#">PowerPoint Presentation (southampton.gov.uk)</a>	

This page is intentionally left blank

### **Children Looked After Demand Overview – November 2022**

#### **Care entrants, exits and proceedings**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 554 were in the care of Southampton City Council.

Compared to the same point in 2021, we have increased the number of Children Looked After (CLA) by 14 children.

The trend in the last twelve months: November 2021: 540 children in care, peak in April 2022 to 566 and steady reduction to 549 in September with 554 in October 2022.

The number of children coming into care is falling, with 30% less children coming into care April- September 22 compared with Oct 21 – March 22

The number of children leaving care is increasing, but slowly. 38% more children left care April- September 22 compared with Oct 21 – March 22

This year (2022) there have been 6 families (13 children) who have concluded care proceedings. The average duration of these proceedings is 29 weeks. On average in 2021 it took 34 weeks to conclude proceedings.

The overall trend of care proceedings is downwards in terms of demand.

#### **Rate of children in care**

Across our statistical neighbour group there has been an increasing trend in the number and rate of children looked after.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022, our statistical neighbours rate was 100 per 10,000 children. In Southampton the rate was 106 per 10,000 children.

#### **Reunification/discharge of care order**

As of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 18 children have been identified with a permanency plan agreed for reunification back to their parents' care.

20 children have a plan for discharge of care order.

This page is intentionally left blank





WORKING DOCUMENT

**The Virtual School  
Annual Headteacher Report  
September 2022**

## Contents

Introduction	1
Executive Summary	1
Virtual School Action Plan	2
Summary of Outcomes	3
Virtual School Staff	4
The remit of the virtual school	6
The virtual school roll	6
Where do our children go to school	7
Admissions	7
Exclusions	8
Attendance	9
Attainment	10
Pupil Premium plus	12
PEPs	12
Celebration Event	14
Projects and further training	14
Appendices	16
Appendix 1: Virtual School and partners	
Appendix 2: TIP Making the Difference Board Report Sept '22	
Appendix 3: Training	
Appendix 4: LA self-assessment attendance	
Appendix 5: VS at a glance	
Appendix 6: Provisional GCSE headlines	
Appendix 7: August Newsletter	
Appendix 8: September Newsletter	
Appendix 9: Youth Options Report	
Appendix 10: Primary Sports feedback	
Appendix 11: Letterbox Club	
Appendix 12: Virtual School Reading Challenge	

## Introduction

The Virtual School has been operating since June 2013, although the school does not exist as a physical entity it maintains a roll of all the children and young people of school age who are in the care of Southampton City Council, whether they continue to live within Southampton or reside elsewhere.

The school is responsible for supporting and promoting the educational achievement of all the children and young people, from the time they first enter education until they reach statutory school leaving age. The school is focussed on raising the aspirations of the young people and all the professionals involved with them so they can reach their full potential, progressing into further and higher education and moving into fulfilling and gainful employment.

The Virtual School plays a key role in developing collaborative working with colleagues locally as well as Virtual Schools and local authorities across the country, to ensure swift communication and prompt action to support our young people.

Since September 2018 the Virtual School has also operated an advisory service for previously looked after children (PLAC), in line with statutory guidance

[Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/421122/PLAC-Guidance-2018.pdf)

Since September 2021 the Virtual School has operated an advisory service for children who have (or have ever had) a social worker, in line with non statutory guidance

[Promoting the education of children with a social worker \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011122/Children-with-a-social-worker-Guidance-2021.pdf)

## Executive Summary

### What OFSTED told us

#### November 2019

- Leaders of the virtual school understand the importance of their role as advocates for children in care and work efficiently. Funding for these children is used well to improve their education experiences. Leaders provide helpful training that supports designated teachers in schools to have high expectations of children and receive useful help. Schools are effectively held to account for the impact of their work through regular reviews of children's personal education plans. Consequently, children in care in Southampton attain in line with their peers elsewhere in England

#### May 2021

- Virtual School highly committed and innovative

## Virtual School Action Plan

The Virtual School action plan for academic year 2021-2022 had the following objectives

- Support transition, the welcome back plan and the recovery curriculum post COVID19
- Establish a virtual school advisory service for children who have ever had a social worker
- Secure Attainment and Progress
- Raise Attendance
- Inclusion: Reduce Exclusions and Monitoring of Provision
- Participation
- Post-16 Transition and Progress
- Targeted Groups of Children
- SEND Support
- Training and Professional Development

## Summary of Outcomes

### What we are proud about

- Our children and young people
- Our social workers, independent reviewing officers and parents/carers who continue to promote education
- Our school colleagues who work tirelessly to support our children and young people
- EYFS GLD is better than national looked after children
- Phonics screen, Year 1 working at standard is above national looked after children
- KS1 attainment, is on an upward trajectory in Writing and Maths
- KS2 average attainment is better than national looked after children
- At KS4 we have seen the following increases –
  - 11.2% increase in 9-5 English measure
  - 15.8% increase in 9-4 English measure
  - 10.9% increase in 9-5 Maths measure
  - 10.4% increase in 9-4 English measure
  - 6.9% increase in 9-5 English and Maths measure
  - 12.6% increase in 9-4 English and Maths measure
- Move of participation into the Virtual School with increased opportunities for our children and young people
- Launch of Virtual School advisory service for children who have (or have ever had) a social worker
- Increased national presence of Virtual school in education policy
- Our relationship with the Children's Commissioner

***(Disclaimer KS4 results subject to change due to checking exercises)***

### What are the challenges going forward

- New extension to duties <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/virtual-school-head-role-extension-to-children-with-a-social-worker> - this has been further enhanced the remit of the Virtual School
- New attendance guidance - [Improving school attendance: support for schools and local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Working together to improve school attendance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- New suspensions guidance [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- Care review [The-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf \(childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk\)](#)
- Care placement changes, school moves, social worker churn and change of teams
- Requests for special school places and associated financial concerns, alongside severe drift and delay

- Out of area moves – 49% of our children are educated out of area, across 28 other local authorities. 243 children moved schools last academic year.
- Those young people who are not in education, employment or training post 16 (NEET)

### Virtual School Staff

The Virtual school for the academic year 2021-2022 was:

**The Virtual School Headteacher (VSH)** took up the full-time post in September 2018. The VSH is a statutory role and all local authorities must have a person named in this role, as outlined in statutory guidance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683556/Promoting\\_the\\_education\\_of\\_looked-after\\_children\\_and\\_previously\\_looked-after\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting_the_education_of_looked-after_children_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf).

The VSH is the lead responsible officer for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of Southampton City Councils children for whom we are all the corporate parent, including those placed out of authority. The VSH must ensure that there are effective arrangements in place to work with the broad range of professionals who have a role to play in supporting the education of our children and those previously looked after children (PLAC). Both groups are collectively referred to as care experienced children and young people (CECYP).

**The Virtual School Deputy Headteacher (VSDH)** is a full-time post and the officer plays a crucial role in negotiating, sustaining and maintaining complex school places. The VSDHT also supports and deputises for the VSH in order for the VSH to fulfil all statutory responsibilities.

**Children Looked After Officers (4)**, term time only (3), part time (1). Their remits are to monitor attendance, exclusions, completion and quality assurance of personal education plans (PEP) and SEND Support, alongside PLAC and early years responsibilities. They support with all training needs for all stakeholders involved in the education and care of CECYP.

**Specialist Educational Psychologist** to support staff with psychological advice, training for schools and direct intervention, mainly offering assessments for pupils where they have complex needs. This has been a key role in developing and delivering training. This post was successfully recruited to from November 2019. This is a 0.5 fulltime post. In addition, using grant funding for the new extension to duties, we have secured an additional day from the EP service to support the extension. This has proved to be very successful.

#### **Virtual School Officer**

The officer has developed the advisory service for children who have (or have ever had) a social worker.

### **Quality Assurance Apprentice**

This role is to scaffold admin tasks within the virtual school, including all participation activities and PEP administration.

### **Participation officer and participation apprentices**

We have 0.5 participation officer and 1 apprentice. It is planned to recruit to the post fulltime (current post holder will be completing her masters fully funded by UCL) and advertise for 2 apprentices during care leaver week.

The work of the team relies heavily on strong and supportive working relationships with staff who also have responsibilities for CECYP, or who play a role in services young people need. These include social workers, admissions teams, the placement team, SEN, the Psychology Service, IROs, BRS and many others both in and outside Southampton and, crucially, the Designated Teachers and staff in schools.

All the posts in the Virtual School, except that of the VSH and participation are funded through the retained element of the pupil premium plus grant, alongside the extended PLAC grant, as allowed under the Conditions of Grant. As a statutory role the VSH post is funded by the local authority.

In addition, we continue to host student social worker 70 and 100 day placements.

### **Feed Forward Activity**

To drive forward the importance of education for looked after children and to increase capacity within the virtual school to further support schools and social care colleagues, the part time CLA officer for PEPs has been made fulltime. This has already been of benefit as the ePEP has been revamped in advance of the new academic year. Additional training for social workers was held over the summer break and we supported the upload of PEPs to care director for social care colleagues.

## The remit of the Virtual School

The remit of the Virtual School is subject to the following guidance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683556/Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting_the_education_of_looked-after_children_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf).

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683698/Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683698/Applying_corporate_parenting_principles_to_looked-after_children_and_care_leavers.pdf)

By working closely with colleagues in social care, schools and staff in local authorities, the Virtual School supports our children promoting high expectations by:

- Attending PEP meetings and quality assuring the ePEP to ensure targets are appropriate
- Training and liaising with designated teachers, social workers, carers, independent reviewing officers and any other relevant stakeholders.
- Offering support and advice.
- Signposting to other services and programmes of work.
- Teaching on a 1:1 basis through the use of external agencies and supporting transitions between schools for targeted pupils.
- Liaising closely with social workers and admission teams to promote the allocation of school places and speedy admission.
- Attending LAC Reviews at the request of IROs.
- Attending disruption meetings (school or care placement) as requested by social workers or Designated Teachers.
- Providing an advisory service for PLAC and children with a social worker.

## The Virtual School Roll

Pupil Numbers as of August 2022 were

Year Group	No of children	% of children with an EHCP
R	12	8.3
1	22	4.5
2	20	5.0
3	24	16.7
4	25	16
5	34	23.5
6	34	20.6
7	35	40.0
8	40	32.5
9	47	34.0
10	55	25.4
11	44	22.7



Pupil numbers on the roll of the Virtual School fluctuate considerably during the year. At the time of writing this report (Aug 2022) the roll stood at 391 pupils, aged between 4 and 16. **This is an increase of 10.0% from the previous year.**

### [Where do our children go to school?](#)

Wherever possible Southampton seeks care placements within the city and children continue to attend their pre-care schools but, for many pupils, a move of school is inevitable and last academic year **49.0% of our pupils were in education outside the city boundary, (a decrease of 3 % from academic year 2020-2021).** In addition to schools in Southampton, **our children and young people attend schools in 28 other local authorities, (a decrease of 10 from last academic year).**

### [Admissions](#)

Whenever possible it is the joint policy of the Virtual School and the social care placement team that a child or young person coming into care, or changing their care placement, should maintain the school place they have, in line with statutory guidance and current research around the importance of a stable educational base. [http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2015/11/EducationalProgressLookedAfterChildrenOverviewReport\\_Nov2015.pdf](http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2015/11/EducationalProgressLookedAfterChildrenOverviewReport_Nov2015.pdf)

**During the year 243 pupils moved schools, which is a 38 % increase on the number of school moves from last year.**

In the majority of cases this is because the children and young people have moved care placement which has necessitated a school move. The Virtual School has worked with the data team and we now produce a weekly report which indicates how many school moves a pupil has needed. This information also captures changes in care placement, social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer.

The Virtual School remains the constant for the children and young people to ensure minimal disruption and delay in education.

## Feed Forward Activity

- The VSH meets with SLT and ACDS on a regular basis to report on concerns
- The VS team meet with social care colleagues on a regular basis to ensure parity of opportunity for children and young people
- The VS has a diverse menu of offsite provision to support our children and young people, if they are out of school at any time – we also work collaboratively with other LA Virtual School and SEND colleagues to ensure minimal drift and delay – **Appendix 1**
- The VSH maintains regular communication with the Children’s Commissioner to support any concerns we have around school allocations
- The VS continues to support carers and colleagues around mediation and tribunal routes
- The VSH, as chair of the SEVSHT meets regularly with the DfE to identify concerns and areas for development

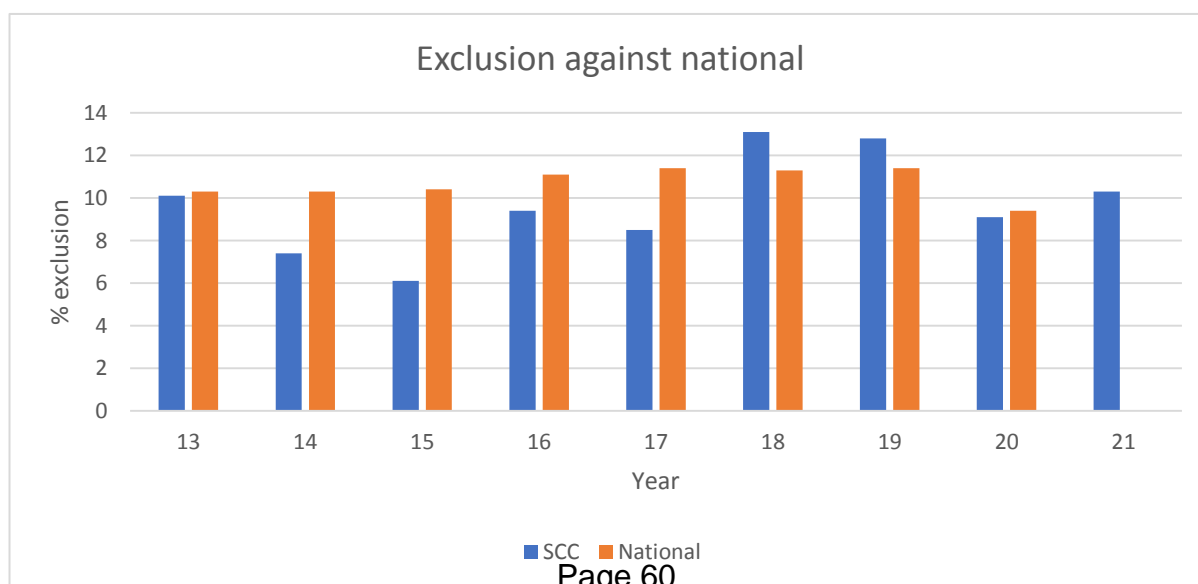
## Exclusions

For the year 2021/2022

We successfully prevented the permanent exclusion of 4 pupils.

No of pupils receiving FTE		Incidents	No of days
In area	14	25	37.5 (+24.5)
Out of area	25	80	135(+26.0)
Total	39	105	172.5(+50.5)

10.3% of children on the school roll were subject to a fixed term exclusion. **This is 2% higher than the previous year.**



## Feed Forward Activity

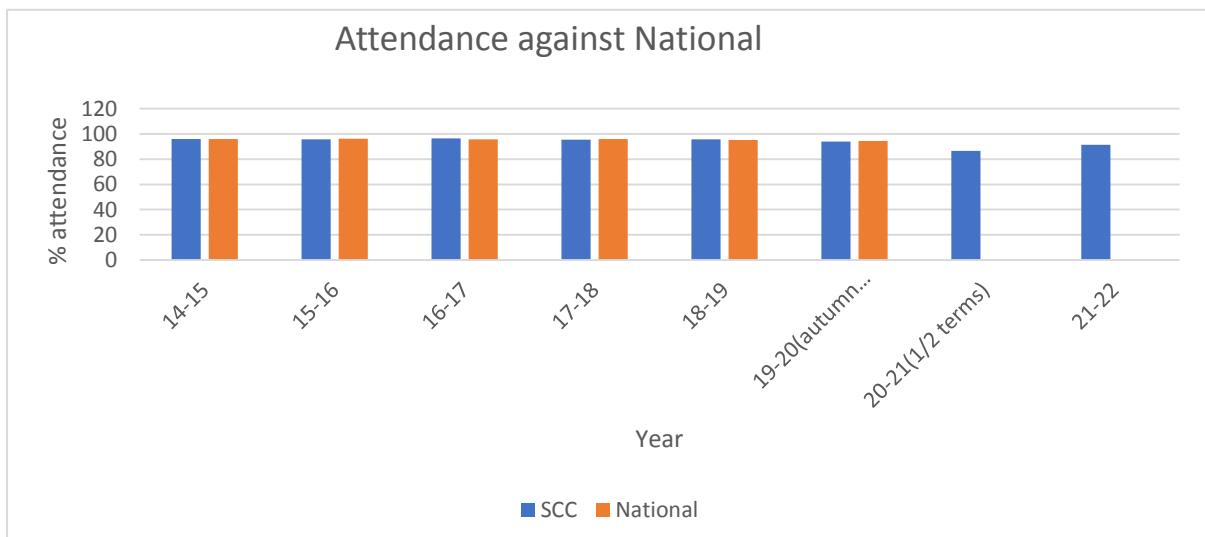
- The VS has a diverse menu of offsite provision to support our children and young people, if they have been excluded
- We continue to support our schools to consider alternatives to exclusion
- We provide a diverse menu of training in recognition that behaviour is a indication of unmet need, this is in line with national evidence around attachment, trauma informed practice and adverse childhood experiences – **Appendix 2**
- Enhanced EP continues to support colleagues navigate alternative solutions – **Appendix 3**

## Attendance

Attendance is a key issue in working to close the attainment gap. Attendance data is collected by Welfarecall.

Attendance is checked weekly to ensure it is correctly coded. Abnormal recording or absence is followed up by the Virtual School with the social worker, carer and IRO. The attendance figures are analysed monthly, supported by the Senior Education Welfare Officer. Patterns of absence are followed up directly through phone calls and emails with carers, social workers, schools and IRO's.

Year	SCC	National
2017-2018	96.0%	95.5%
2018-2019	95.8%	95.3%
2019-2020(autumn term only)	94.5%	94.5% (autumn term)
2020-2021	86.6% (+X/C codes 96.8%)	TBC
2021-2022	91.5(+X/C codes 96%)	TBC

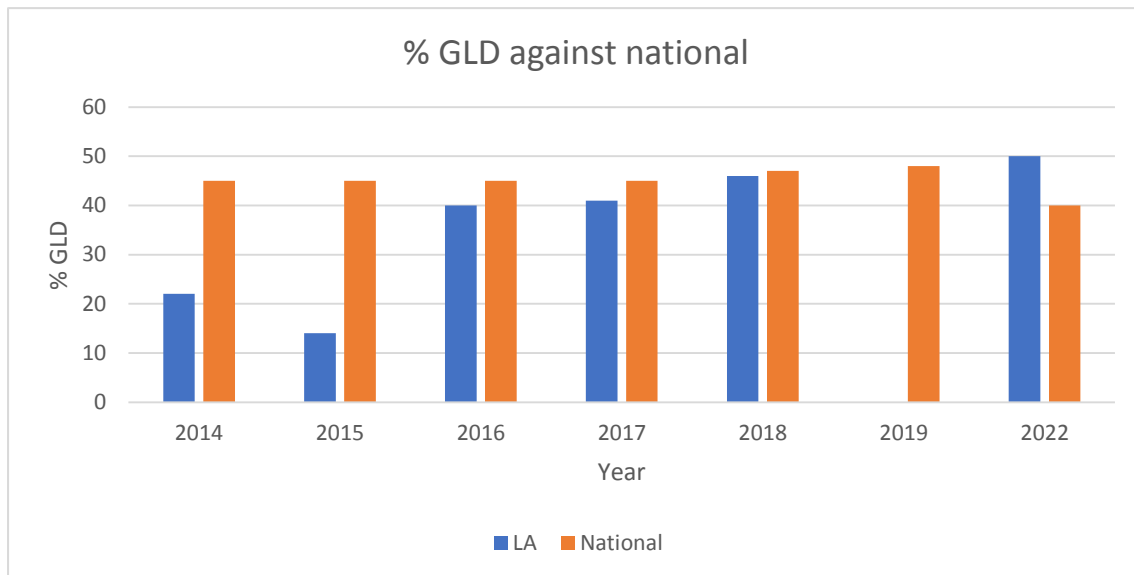


## **Feed Forward Activity**

- The VS has a diverse menu of offsite provision to support our children and young people, if attendance is of concern
- Enhanced EP offer continues to support colleagues improve attendance
- The VS continues to be audited by EWO service to ensure we prioritise good attendance for our children and young people
- The VS contributes to the LA attendance self-assessment – **appendix 4**
- In response to our extension to duties we buy in enhanced EWO support from our grant funding.

## **Attainment**

### **EYFS**



### **KS1**

Strand	% on/above target
Reading	40
Writing	50
Maths	50
RWM	46.7

### **KS2**

Strand	% on/above target
RWM	33.3

## **KS4**

Measure	% of 1yr+ pupils	% of all pupils
%9-5 English	24.0	18.2
%9-5 Maths	16.0	12.1
%9-4 English	44.0	33.3
%9-4 Maths	36.0	27.3
% 9-5 English and Maths	12.0	9.1
%9-4 English and Maths	28.0	21.2
% 5 GCSEs 3+		32.3
% 5 GCSEs 4+		23.8
% 5 GCSEs 5+		7.1

## **KS5 news**

### ***Number of Pupils 54***

Destination	Number
Education	38
Employment	3
NEET	14 (UAM, EOTAS, YOI)

### **Qualifications received**

- Health and social care pass
- Double Distinction\* in Health & Social Care and B in Geography
- A\* Science B in Psychology Maths E.
- Technical Cert in animal care (Distinction)
- Electrician course
- ESOL/Functional skills/other vocational

### **University Destinations**

AT – St Louis Uni, Missouri, soccer scholarship

LR – Winchester, Sociology

LT – Winchester, Geography

SA – Solent, Sports coaching

NB – Bournemouth, Game design

SJ– Sussex, no course detail

MK – Portsmouth, Psychology

SP – Portsmouth, Biomedical Science

## Pupil Premium Plus

The VSH has responsibility and accountability for making sure that there are effective arrangements in place for allocating Pupil Premium Plus funding to benefit children looked after by the Authority. The funding is £2410, of which the Virtual School top slices £800. It is paid termly, in arrears to schools.

The grant must be managed by the Virtual School and used to improve outcomes and “diminish the difference” as identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP) in consultation with the Designated Teacher for the school. How funding is to be spent is discussed during the child’s Personal Education Planning meeting and must be used efficiently and effectively. Due to the global pandemic discretion was given to schools to use their allocations more broadly and allocations were allowed to be carried over.

The VSH has no financial oversight of pupil premium plus for PLAC – this is paid directly to schools by central government. Schools should publish an overview of their pupil premium strategy on their website and update this annually.

### **Feed Forward Activity**

- A PEP tracker is in place with oversight from the VSH and DHT to weekly dip sample PP+ spend
- Social care team managers and IROs will be updated monthly with any concerns related to inappropriate PP+ use
- Designated teachers will be contacted individually by the VS and Head teachers will be contacted to confirm that pupil premium plus will be withheld if PEPs are not completed. This will also be communicated in the autumn term mailing sent to all designated teachers.
- Additional recovery funding has been passported to schools in line with conditions of grant [Recovery premium funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/recovery-premium-funding)
- Additional tutoring support has been put in place identified children and young people through VS specific funding [School-led tutoring for looked-after children: guidance for local authorities and virtual school heads - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-led-tutoring-for-looked-after-children-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-virtual-school-heads)

## Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

PEPs are the core means by which schools in the person of the designated teacher, social workers, carers, the young person and the Virtual School work together to ensure that they develop a PEP that reviews a pupil’s progress, identifies ongoing needs, develops targets to meet those needs and identifies the support that will be needed. Electronic PEPs were introduced in September 2017 and full training continues to be provided through the virtual school training menu of opportunity. Any school requesting additional support will have a bespoke offer tailored to their needs.

As a virtual school we have also developed a previously looked after child’s education (PLACE) plan.

This document has been produced by Southampton Virtual School as a template schools may wish to use to consolidate support for previously looked after children in line with statutory guidance

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683556/Promoting\\_the\\_education\\_of\\_looked-after\\_children\\_and\\_previously\\_looked-after\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting_the_education_of_looked-after_children_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf)

And in acknowledgement of the following

The DfE's view is that

“Many children from the groups described above will have experienced grief and loss and will have had traumatic experiences in their early lives. 72% of those adopted in 2013-14 entered care due to abuse or neglect. Their needs do not change overnight and they do not stop being vulnerable just because they are in a loving home. Their experiences in early life can have a lasting impact which can affect the child many years after adoption. We therefore believe that teachers and schools have a vital role to play in helping these children emotionally, socially and educationally by providing specific support, to raise their attainment and address their wider needs”.

<https://www.pac-uk.org/department-education-response-main-queries-adopted-children-pupil-premium/>

PEPs are mandatory and must be completed termly and recorded on PARIS. It is the expectation of the VS that the PEP is reviewed by the IRO in advance of the LAC review. During academic year 2021/2022 PEPs were completed as follows:

Term	% Completion
Autumn	99.4
Spring	99.2
Summer	98.4
Total	99.0

**This represents an increase of 1.0% from the previous academic year.**

### **Feed Forward activity**

- The VSH meets with SLT and ACDS on a regular basis to report on concerns
- A PEP tracker is in place with oversight from the VSHT and DHT to weekly dip sample quality and compliance to time frames.
- The ePEP has been adapted in response to feedback from our children and the professionals around them
- CLA officer for PEPs is now fulltime to ensure completion and quality is sustained
- Post 16 paper PEPs will be implemented alongside the Pathway plan to promote EET activity and engagement
- VSH will communicate monthly with social care managers to ensure social works understand the importance of PEPs, their role as corporate parents and ensuring their attendance.

- A rolling programme of support is in place to support all professionals
- The importance of all of our role as Corporate parent will be underpinned during Love our Children Week and in corporate parenting e learning

### Celebration Event

Over 160 children and young people received an award in the following categories

- **The Always Award** (e.g. always ready, always attends, always engages, always completes homework, classwork, always ready to learn, always tries their best, always helpful, always polite)
- **The Taking Part Award** (e.g. engagement in activities in and out of school, active participation in PEPs and target setting)
- **The Over and Above Award** (e.g. consistently goes the extra mile with academic work, friendships, extra-curricular activities)

This was the third year we have hosted the event at Paultons, this year the sun shone brightly for us, and the pop up photo booth proved a hit providing a lovely memento of the day. Hannah and Leon joined us from the participation team, alongside numerous SCC colleagues. We hope to see more nominations next year as we continue to raise the profile of participation.

### Feed Forward Activity

Participation celebratory activities will continue to be promoted through the monthly newsletter – **appendices 7 and 8**

A fulltime participation officer has been recruited to support the continued development of our Children in Care Council and care leavers (Southampton Voices Unite, SVU)

Love Our Children Week will be running 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> September



## Projects and further training

We continue to deliver bespoke projects to support learning, these include the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Youth Options, Primary Sports, Letterbox club and challenge activities (**appendices 9-12**)

We remain proud that our children receive such personal interaction from the team

### Feed Forward Activity

- The VSH is chair of SEVSHT and continues to contribute to national discussion
- The VS will continue to offer termly **DT training** using a blended approach of remote and face to face support. The training menu has been enhanced to include webinars, APPs and an electronic newsletter. A monthly forum entitled 'VS soundbites' has been added to the menu of opportunity
- The team delivered a range of training for both secondary and primary designated teachers, focussing on attachment friendly interventions – this continues to remain an ongoing priority in line with the Virtual School 2022- 2023 action plan
- Corporate parent visits will continue to be undertaken to promote a stronger strategic oversight within schools.
- All schools should have a designated **Governor** for CECYP Training was delivered to designated teachers and governors on reporting to governors and to governors by the VSHT and will continue as part of our action plan
- All new foster carers go through statutory induction training at levels 1+2. This training is supported by the Virtual School.
- Twice annually the team deliver 'Education matters'. The course runs for three days and continues to be delivered by the Virtual School team.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1

- Virtual School and partners

### Appendix 2

- TIP Making the Difference Board Report Sept '22

### Appendix 3

- Training

### Appendix 4

- LA self assessment attendance

### Appendix 5

- VS at a glance

### Appendix 6

- Provisional GCSE headlines

### Appendix 7

- August Newsletter

### Appendix 8



- September Newsletter

### Appendix 9

- Youth Options Report

## **Appendix 10**

- Primary Sports feedback

## **Appendix 11**

- Letterbox Club

## **Appendix 12**

- Virtual School Reading Challenge

This page is intentionally left blank

**Virtual School at a glance**

**Early Years**

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2022	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
% Good level of development: EY	22	45	14	45	40	45	41	45	46	47	0	48	50	40

**Key Stage 1**

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
% Expected	80	71	85	71	50	50	40	51	57	51	47	52	44	N/A	50	N/A	40	55
KS1 Reading	80	61	75	63	42	37	40	39	52	42	47	43	25	N/A	42	N/A	50	66
KS1 Writing	93	72	85	73	46	46	35	46	52	49	53	49	40	N/A	46	N/A	50	56

**Key Stage 2**

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
% Expected KS2: RWM	38	48	47	52	24	25	35	32	39	35	32	37	42	N/A	44	N/A	33.3	32.0

**Key Stage 4**

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
KS4: A8	19.6	22.8	15.5	19.3	16.8	18.8	21.0	19.1	18.6	19.1	24.1	19.1	24.1	(19.1)

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
KS4: P8	-1.42	-1.14	-1.40	-1.18	-1.39	-1.24	-1.32	-1.28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBC	TBC

Year	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Measure	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat	LA	Nat
% 9-5 English	8.0	16.0	5.6	16.0	16.7	16.0	12.2	16.0	12.8	16.0	24.0	(16.0)
% 9-4 English	12.0	27.0	13.9	26.0	33.3	27.0	24.4	27.0	28.2	27.0	44.0	(27.0)
% 9-5 Maths	4.0	11.0	2.8	12.0	10.0	11.0	9.8	11.0	5.1	11.0	16.0	(11.0)
% 9-4 Maths	12.0	23.0	16.7	24.0	20.0	24.0	17.1	24.0	25.6	24.0	36.0	(24.0)
% 9-4 (E&M)	4.0	17.0	5.6	17.0	16.7	18.0	12.2	18.0	15.4	18.0	28.0	(18.0)
%9-5(E&M)			5.6	8.0	6.7	7.0	4.9	7.0	5.1	7.0	12.0	(7.0)

**Attendance (based on children looked after for 1 year+)**

% Attendance Year	SCC	National
14-15	95.9	96.0
15-16	95.7	96.1
16-17	96.5	95.7
17-18	95.5	96.0
18-19	95.7	95.3
19-20(autumn 2019)	93.9	94.5
20-21(1/2 terms)	86.6	TBC
21-22	91.5 (provisional)	TBC

**Exclusions (based on children looked after for 1 year+)**

FTE Year	SCC	National
13	10.1	10.3
14	7.4	10.3
15	6.1	10.4
16	9.4	11.1
17	8.5	11.4
18	13.1	11.3
19	12.8	11.4
20	9.1	9.4
21	10.3 (provisional)	TBC

This page is intentionally left blank

### **Provisional Headline KS4 Results 2022 - For Pupils Look After Continuously for a Year or More (as at 31/03/2022) and all Year 11 CLA Pupils (as at 23/07/2022)**

Key Stage 4 results were released to schools and students on 18 August 2022. This briefing paper, revised based on the Official DfE results and cohort, provides an overview of Southampton's performance for CLA continuously for a year pupils (as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022) and all year 11 CLA pupils as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. National and other Local Authority data for 2022 is currently not available, therefore comparisons will be made, where available, against last year's National data for CLA pupils.

2022 is the first time since 2019 that Key Stage 4 grades are being based on exams and assessments after two years of alternative arrangements in response to Coronavirus. The DfE and Ofqual recognise that students in the 2022 cohort have had their education disrupted, and that exams and assessments taken in summer 2022 should be adjusted to take this into account. Nine ways that exams and assessments taken in summer 2022 would be adjusted were outlined by the DfE and Ofqual in September 2021. These adjustments are designed to mitigate the impacts of the disruption that students have faced during the pandemic without undermining the value of their qualifications and their ability to progress successfully to further study. The DfE outlined adjustments to accountability measures for 2022 in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Whilst headline indicators will remain unchanged, the methodology used to calculate them will be adjusted as outlined by the DfE in June 2022.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Key Stage 4 exams were not completed in the normal way in 2020 and 2021. It is important however to acknowledge that the 2020 and 2021 Key Stage 4 collections have used different methodologies. In 2020, schools were asked to provide centre assessed grades for their students. Schools were instructed that these should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grade's they believed their students would have been most likely to achieve, if they had sat their exams, whilst taking the full range of available evidence into account. In 2021, teachers were asked to assess the standard at which pupils were performing based only on what had been taught. Teachers' judgements were based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that had been delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

The focus of this 2022 briefing note will follow the 2022 accountability measures update published by the DfE in June 2022:

#### **Changes to Key Stage 4 Accountability**

The focus of this 2022 briefing note will follow the 2019 accountability measures outlined by the DfE in the Performance Tables Statement of Intent:

- Attainment 8
- Progress 8 (not available until mid-September)
- Percentage of pupils achieving a 5 or above (strong pass) in English and Maths

- EBacc Average Points Score
- Percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate

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

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

The Progress 8 indicator relies on National calculations completed by the DfE and will likely be available later in the Autumn 2022 term.

### **Headline Measures**

In advance of results day, the Data Team and Virtual School had been in contact with all schools where a CLA pupil is educated to agree that, as the corporate parent, we would receive information about the pupils' achievements.

Southampton's revised KS4 cohort of pupils consisted of 38 CLA pupils, of those 33 were included in the calculations below; while 8 pupils within the CLA cohort were either recorded as EOTAS (Education Other Than at School) or educated in provisions not included in the DfE methodology and excluded from the calculations. 25 pupils were looked after continuously for 12 months as at the 31st March 2022.

### **Looked After Children - 1 Year Continuously**

The analysis below is focused on those pupils that have been looked after continuously for 12 months as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. There were 25 pupils within this cohort and therefore each pupil counts for 4.0%.

- Southampton's 2022 average Attainment 8 outcome for children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months was 24.1. In 2021, Southampton pupils achieved an Attainment 8 average of 19.1. In 2019, the National CLA average was 19.1.
- In 2022, Southampton's average EBacc Average Points Score, for children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, was 2.10. In 2021, Southampton achieved an EBacc average points score of 1.56. In 2019, the National CLA average was 1.52.
- 24.0% (6 no.) of pupils achieved 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English Language or English Literature in 2022. In 2021, 12.8% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English Language or English Literature. In 2019, the National CLA average was 16.0%
- 44.0% (11 no.) of pupils achieved 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English Language or English Literature in 2022. In 2021, 28.2% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-4



(Standard Pass) in English Language or English Literature. In 2019, the National CLA average was 27.0%

- 16.0% (4 no.) of pupils achieved 9-5 (Strong Pass) in Maths in 2022. In 2021, 5.1% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 11.0%
- 36.0% (9 no.) of pupils achieved 9-4 (Standard Pass) in Maths in 2022. In 2021, 25.6% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 24.0%
- 12.0% (3 no.) of pupils achieved 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English and Maths in 2022. In 2021, 5.1% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English and Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 7.0%
- 28.0% (7 no.) of pupils achieved 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English and Maths in 2022. In 2021, 15.4% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English and Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 18.0%
- 16.0% (4 no.) of CLA pupils were entered for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2022. In 2021, 10.3% of Southampton CLA pupils were entered for the English Baccalaureate. In 2019, the National CLA average was 9.0%
- 12.0% (3 no.) of CLA pupils achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2022. In 2021, 0.0% of Southampton CLA pupils achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) the English Baccalaureate. In 2019, the National CLA average was 1.0%
- 12.0% (3 no.) of CLA pupils achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2022. In 2021, 5.1% of Southampton CLA pupils achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) the English Baccalaureate. In 2019, the National CLA average was 3.0%

#### **Looked After Children - All KS4**

The analysis below is focused on all included CLA pupils in Year 11 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. There were 33 pupils within this cohort, therefore each pupil counts for 3.0%.

- Southampton's 2022 average Attainment 8 outcome for all CLA was 20.7. In 2021, Southampton achieved an Attainment 8 average of 21.7. In 2019, the National CLA average was 17.9.
- In 2022, Southampton's Ebacc Average Points Score for all CLA was 1.81. In 2021, Southampton achieved an EBacc points score of 1.73. In 2019, the National CLA average was 1.0.
- 18.2% (6 no.) of pupils achieved 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English Language or English Literature in 2022. In 2021, 15.4% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English Language or English Literature. In 2019, the National CLA average was 15.0%

- 33.3% (11 no.) of pupils achieved 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English Language or English Literature in 2022. In 2021, 32.7% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English Language or English Literature. In 2019, the National CLA average was 25.0%
- 12.1% (4 no.) of pupils achieved 9-5 (Strong Pass) in Maths in 2022. In 2021, 11.5% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 10.0%
- 27.3% (9 no.) of pupils achieved 9-4 (Standard Pass) in Maths in 2022. In 2021, 26.9% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 23.0%
- 9.1% (3 no.) of pupils achieved 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English and Maths in 2022. In 2021, 9.6% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in English and Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 7.0%
- 21.2% (7 no.) of pupils achieved 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English and Maths in 2022. In 2021, 19.2% of Southampton CLA achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in English and Maths. In 2019, the National CLA average was 17.0%
- 15.2% (5 no.) of CLA pupils were entered for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2022. In 2021, 7.7% of Southampton CLA pupils were entered for the English Baccalaureate. In 2019, the National CLA average was 9.0%
- 9.1% (3 no.) of CLA pupils achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2022. In 2021, 0.0% of Southampton CLA pupils achieved a 9-5 (Strong Pass) the English Baccalaureate. In 2019, the National CLA average was 2.0%
- 9.1% (3 no.) of CLA pupils achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in 2022. In 2021, 3.8% of Southampton CLA pupils achieved a 9-4 (Standard Pass) the English Baccalaureate. In 2019, the National CLA average was 3.0%

**For further details please contact the Data Team on**

**Telephone: 023 8083 3801 / 023 8083 4987**

**E-mail: [datateam@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:datateam@southampton.gov.uk)**

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health Support

### Children Looked After

Report provided for Southampton City Council's Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

November 2022

#### Glossary of terms:

- CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- CLA – Children Looked After
- SpCAMHS – Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- MHST – Mental Health in Schools Team
- BRS - Building Resilience and Strength
- UHS – University Hospital Southampton
- HIOW ICB – Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board
- ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder
- DDP – Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy
- PTSD – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report builds on the previous summary paper provided to Southampton City Council's Children and Families Scrutiny Panel in November 2021. This previous paper outlined the CAMH Services in the Southampton system and the practice frameworks they are aligned to before moving on to provide details of the demand on services and the number of CLA accessing services. Areas of positive practice, alongside challenges in provision were also reflected and highlighted for discussion.

(November 2021 report - [Appendix 1 - Briefing paper on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.docx.pdf \(southampton.gov.uk\)](#))

1.2 For the purposes of this update this paper will assume knowledge of Southampton's local services and practice frameworks and therefore focus more on the current picture of delivery of services to CLA.

#### 2.0 Demand on Services – Current Picture

2.1 The impact of COVID on the mental health of children and young people has been well acknowledged and reported upon. It is not surprising that the demand on services across our system has increased since our report last year.

2.2 The number of referrals to SpCAMHS compared to Pre-COVID levels are still 48% higher (Q1 Financial Year 2019/2020 – 402 compared to Q1 Financial Year 2022/2023 – 595).

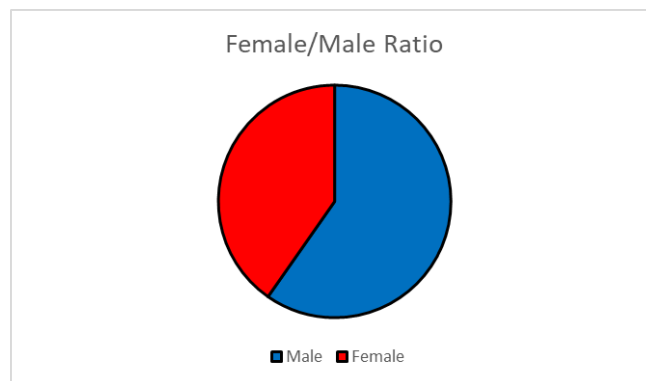
- 2.3 Within this there has been an increase in levels of risk and complexity. Over the last calendar year referrals of young people with high levels of risk have risen from an average of 24% of overall referrals to an average of 36% at the end of the year.
- 2.4 The increased level of demand within our Eating Disorder pathway, whilst starting to show signs of plateauing, has remained at a consistently higher level post COVID with the caseload starting to show as an average of 75 CYP. An increase of 114%.
- 2.5 Our CAMHS liaison team based in UHS Paediatric Emergency Department are also seeing an increase in presentations. The numbers of young people attending UHS requiring input from the liaison team are averaging 14.2 per wk (7.8 Soton and 6.1 Hants) in 2022. This is compared to avg of 8.9/wk (5.4 Soton and 3.5 Hants) for the same period last year – so a 74% increase.
- In the 12 months between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 39 CYP that were Looked after Children presented to the In House Liaison Team at UHS, accounting in total for approx. 120 presentations. Of these CYP, 22 were seen on multiple occasions.
- 2.6 Due to the increasing demand wait times for initial assessments within SpCAMHS are increasing, with a current average wait of 15 weeks. Prior to the pandemic wait times for initial assessment averaged at 8 weeks, with a reduction as low as two weeks when referrals dipped at the start of COVID.
- 2.7 There are currently 311 CYP awaiting interventions following initial assessment from the SpCAMHS team (excluding ADHD/ASC). The average wait time is just over 13 weeks from assessment. The wait time varies depending on intervention, with the longest waits within the service being attributed to prescribing input.

### **3.0 Input for Children Looked After**

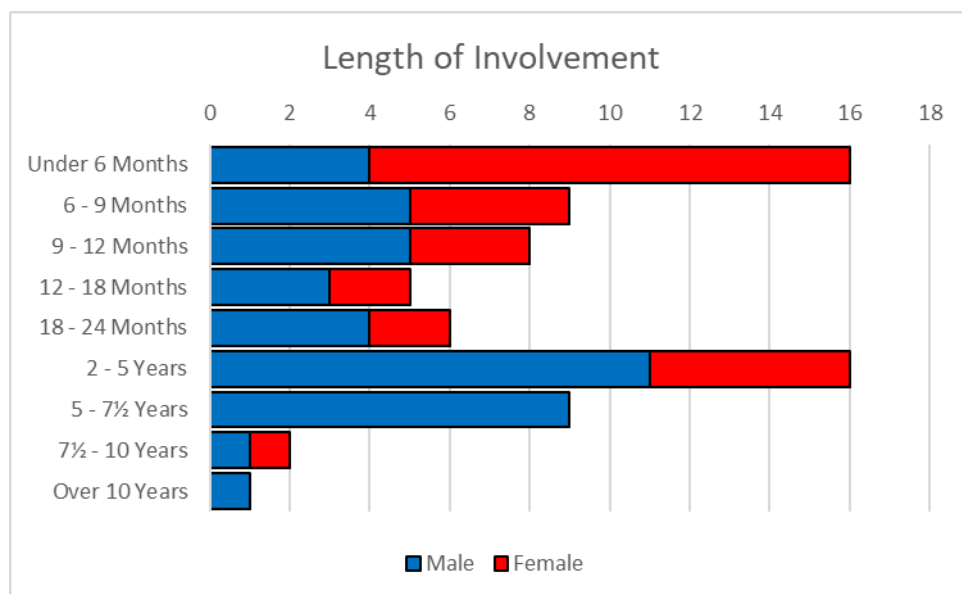
- 3.1 Within Solent NHS Trust there continues to be two key services which provide mental health input and interventions for children looked after. They are BRS and SpCAMHS. With an increasing support role played by the CAMHS liaison service who recognise that a proportion of their frequent attenders are CLA.
- 3.2 This report is able to talk to the input provided by those services, one which is delivered by Solent NHS Trust and the other which is jointly delivered by Solent NHS and Southampton City Council. However, it should continue to be held in mind that this does not reflect the full picture of emotional and mental health input for CLA provided by partner organisations across the Southampton City system. An important workstream for the NHS CAMH Services continues to be in promoting the value that wider services bring in meeting the emotional and mental health needs of children who are looked after. It is not always necessary for a specialist service to provide intervention

based on a looked after status and the roles that professionals and services outside of SpCAMHS play is not to be underestimated.

- 3.3 Since the previous report in November 2021 the number of CLA accessing SpCAMHS has increased by 30% - 55 to 72 CYP who are looked after.
- 3.4 This number continues to reflect both Southampton young people, and young people under the care of other local authorities who are living in Southampton.
- 3.5 Of these Young People under the Service, 43 identify as Male with the remaining 29 identifying as Female.



- 3.6 Length of involvement with the service continues to vary, with input ranging from initial assessment through to long term follow up and intervention.



- 3.7 Our BRS Service continues to provide a high level input to CLA. As at September 2022 the service had an open caseload of 206, of which 46% (95) are CLA.
- 3.8 The BRS continues to provide a variety of interventions for children looked after and their Foster Carers. This ranges from crisis intervention (particularly when there is risk of placement breakdown) through to consultation for professionals' networks involved in supporting CLA. The service works in partnership with clinicians across SpCAMHS and YOS to deliver the Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) pathway. This is an evidenced based treatment for young people who experience emotions intensely and which can lead them to struggle with their emotional regulation. This is a pathway which is open to all young people who would benefit, including those who are looked after.

#### **4.0 Successes**

- 4.1 Some developments and changes in services over the last 12 months have seen some positive contributions to provision and input for CLA.
- 4.2 The BRS has recently set up the consultation clinic, this is a development which benefits all CYP, as well as those who are looked after. The clinic was set up to allow professionals working with children with complex difficulties (including children in care) to access a multi-agency consultation session to develop a psychological formulation and consider appropriate next steps. Annex 1 provides the recent report on the clinic, which highlights the positive feedback received from professionals about the clinic to date. The clinic continues to evolve based on feedback from professionals who have attended the clinic. The next step being considered is to offer a follow up session including parents/carers/young people to go on to develop a collaborative formulation (a 'circle of understanding') including the family/carers.
- 4.3 Recent recruitment to 2 WTE Clinical Lead posts in the Children and Families First Team is seen as a positive contribution to increasing the clinical skill set and understanding within this team of CLA and the role early intervention can play. These are posts that sit firmly within the leadership teams of the Prevention and Early Intervention Services, with clinical supervision and strong links developing with both BRS and SpCAMHS.
- 4.4 Another success is the recent recruitment of a clinical psychologist within the Fostering Team. This as a post previously occupied, but vacant for some months. This role will be supervised by the Principal Clinical Psychologist within the BRS, maintaining close links between the BRS and the Fostering Team to ensure children in care are cared for by foster carers/residential care homes who have regular access to consultation from a clinical psychologist. The clinical psychologist will also offer training, supervision and consultation to the SSWs within the Fostering Team to increase confidence in therapeutic parenting and DDP informed approaches across the whole Fostering Team.

- 4.5 Across the BRS and SpCAMHS the services are making progress with their trauma informed approaches and ways of working. To this end the whole BRS team were recently trained in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) Level 1 and there are plans for a core group of professionals in the team to be trained up to Level 2 and beyond. In summary, DDP is a model which uses what we know about attachment and developmental trauma to help children, young people and parents/carers with relationships. Therefore, DDP is one of the central therapeutic models used by the BRS team to support children in care and their carers. Similar training is also underway in SpCAMHS to complement, with the aim being that DDP L1 becomes a core model of training for all clinicians.
- 4.6 Our BRS and SpCAMHS team have recently agreed to be part of an exciting research trial considering children in care's access to evidence based therapeutic approaches when they have experienced trauma and are presenting with symptoms of PTSD. As a result of the research trial, almost all members of the BRS team, and a handful of colleagues in the SpCAMHS Team, were recently trained in Trauma Focused CBT and will have access to a monthly supervision group on delivering Trauma Focused CBT. The team have also agreed to begin using the CRIES-8 as one of our routine outcome measures in order to ensure that children presenting with symptoms of PTSD are identified as early as possible into their work with the BRS and can be offered Trauma Focused CBT as part of their intervention plan if required.
- 4.7 SpCAMHS have continued to push on with their commitment to trauma informed ways of working for all CYP, which will have a particular benefit for CLA. To support in this the service has increased provision to do so through the appointment of a Principal Clinical Psychologist who will not only be key in inputting into clinical pathways in SpCAMHS but who, we hope, will provide a crucial skill set in pushing forward the vision of the a City wide trauma pathway as 1 day a week of this role is ringfenced to this workstream.

## **5.0 Challenges**

- 5.1 Whilst proud of the developments we have made within our services there remain some key challenges in current NHS Service delivery, which continue to lie very much in line with the national picture for CAMH Services.
- 5.2 Workforce remains our most significant challenge. This encompasses the recruitment of a suitably skilled workforce, and retention in the face of ever increasing challenges in the job roles and increasing number of opportunities elsewhere. The SpCAMHS team continues to run with an average 12-15% vacancy rate at any one time. Our BRS Service has seen some turnover with colleagues taking other opportunities within the Southampton system. Come January 2023 the service is predicted to have a 40% vacancy rate with certain posts being particularly challenging to recruit to such as Nursing, Family Therapy, and Psychiatry.
- 5.3 As referenced above in the demand on service the ability to respond in a timely fashion to all needs is increasingly compromised with increasing

referrals, increasing levels of acuity and complexity, coupled with an increasing level of staff turnover.

- 5.4 This culminates in the reality that the SpCAMHS team are not always able to prioritise children who are looked after for clinical intervention and will prioritise based on a young persons assessed levels of need based on their risk and functioning. The service are not always able to prioritise children who are looked after who may have a less acute level of need.
- 5.5 A challenge for the service in providing input for children from other local authority areas is the gap for some young people in their identified risks and assessed needs, and the support and skill set in their identified placements to meet their mental health needs effectively. The expectation comes to the SpCAMHS team to provide this consultation and input to local specialist placements and immediate input to the young person. Due to the constraints in service this can be very difficult to deliver at times. Resulting at times in frequent attendances at UHS and ultimately placement breakdown – a distressing scenario for all.

## **7.0 Summary**

- 7.1 The past year has continued to see the trend of increasing levels of demand and significant challenges in workforce recruitment and retention. These challenges are ones recognised across the HIOW ICB as well as nationally.
- 7.2 In spite of this the services reflected in this report continue to strive to improve and take up opportunities to further improve their offer.
- 7.3 Our looked after children and young people in Southampton have a range of emotional and mental health needs which we should encourage to be met by the range of services we have available in Southampton, not just our Specialist Services.
- 7.4 The adoption of trauma informed ways of working should continue to be encouraged, as a model which will have a positive impact for all CYP – as well as those who are looked after.



## **Annex 1**

### **BRS Consultation Clinic**

#### **Background**

The BRS Consultation Clinic was set up following feedback from referrers regarding BRS consultations where 53% (18 out of 34) of referrers were not aware of the consultation process, and of those who were aware of it, most were unclear on understanding what the BRS can offer. Positive aspects of the consultation were also identified, such as having a space to hypothesise, formulate with psychologists, and having an independent practitioner's view. Regarding suggestions for improvement, referrers wanted clearer information about the process, criteria and offer of direct intervention to young people/families, as well as having BRS workers arrange the consultation.

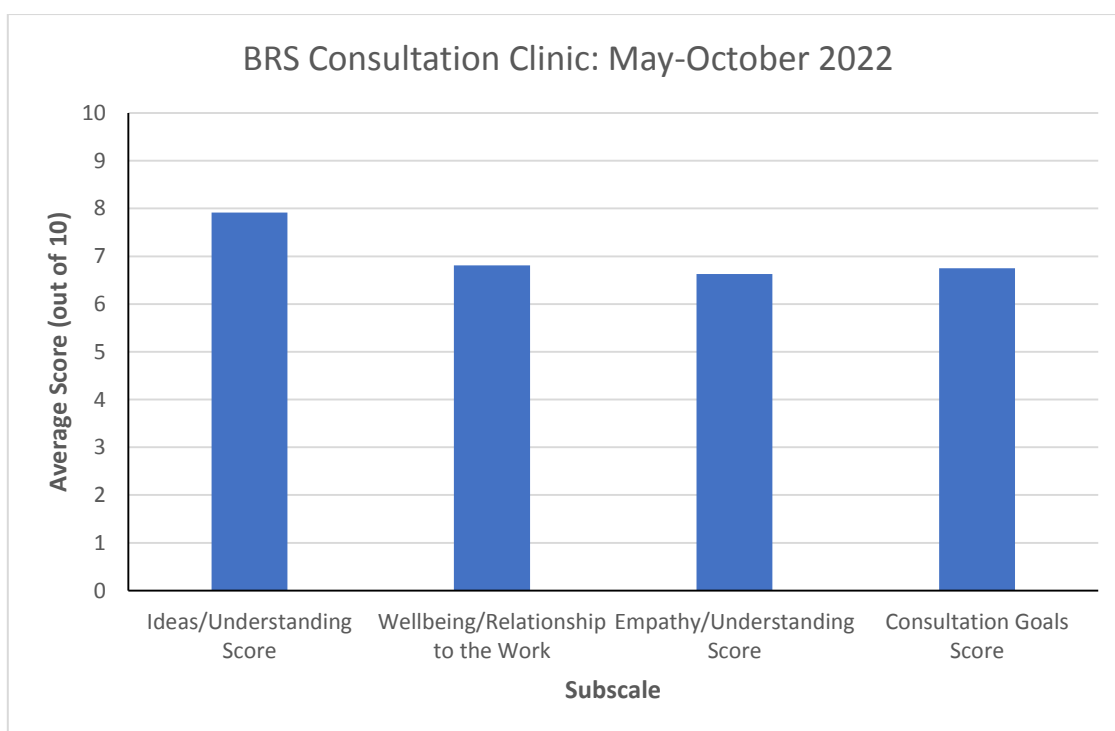
#### **Actions**

The service has utilised the skill set of Assistant Psychology (AP) in developing the BRS Consultation Clinic and procedures around this. The consultation clinic runs each week, with four time slots available for referrers. An information sheet for referrers is made available which outlines the service offered, its remits, thresholds, and outcomes. Regular BRS team members representing different disciplines (psychology, social work, family therapy, education) attend the clinic to model the integrated service the BRS offers. A 7 P's psychological formulation is completed for every consultation/young person along with conclusions and recommendations regarding closure or further involvement from the BRS. BRS Consultation Clinic team members will bring a case back to BRS MDMT for further discussion regarding further involvement and potential for any interventions offered; a process made clear to all consultees, which supports outlining the purpose and limitations of the consultation itself. A quantitative and qualitative feedback form was created to evaluate the adapted service, which has included feedback that led to changes made to the clinic (e.g., setting goals at the start of each consultation to hold in mind).

#### **Feedback to Date**

From May to October 2022, 27 consultations for 34 young people have been held; of which 19 were in person. Feedback forms were completed by 8 consultees, where out of 40 (the higher, the better) the average total score was 28.1. Average scores for specific subscales (Ideas/Understanding, Wellbeing/Relationship to the work, Empathy/Understanding, and Consultation Goals) are shown in the table and graph below:

Ideas/Understanding Score	Wellbeing/Relationship to the Work	Empathy/Understanding Score	Consultation Goals Score
7.9125	6.8125	6.625	6.75



Qualitative feedback included:

- *Professionals in the room were considerate of the pressures on me in my role and provided lots of positive feedback for the work I have already completed.*
- *Very good to unpick the family apart individually and look at things from a different perspective.*
- *I think it is a very helpful exercise as you cannot include that amount of information in a referral form.*
- *The consultation was very helpful in terms of identifying young person's lived experiences.*

### Southampton Children and Learning Service - Sufficiency Update

There is a legal duty placed upon the council to secure sufficient accommodation within the authority's area which meets the needs of children that the council are looking after.

The range of accommodation within the scope of the sufficiency duty includes adoption, foster care, children's homes and supportive accommodation.

The previous update on Placement Sufficiency was in July 2021 - [PowerPoint Presentation \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk). The briefing below provides the Panel with an update on key developments since then.

#### Sufficiency Project Board

The sufficiency project board, sponsored by Rob Henderson, now oversees the key aspects of sufficiency, including residential children's homes, the 'Step Across' project, accommodation for care leavers, reunification, and the new 'Staying Close' initiative.

The Sufficiency Strategy is in the process of being updated.

#### Residential Project Update

##### Westridge (Portswood)

This is a 6-bed home (four placements) in Portswood on which we have had an offer accepted. We have completed all the preliminary surveys, cost of building works etc and have a planning application ready for submission. There is a delay in proceedings as the vendor is yet to seek a new property for him and his family to move in to. Building works are estimated to take 6-9 months and we will start recruiting staff and get the Ofsted application in during this time. On this basis the estimate of a time for opening would be Oct/Nov '23 but this is dependent on a completion date for the sale.

##### Coxford Road (Lordshill)

We have submitted a match funding bid for the demolition of the existing site and developing a new build 6-bed home (four placements) using the plans that Hampshire CC used for their homes. The total cost is estimated at £2m and we have put in a bid for £1m. The site clearance and build timeline is estimated at 12 months. The timeline for completion depends on the practicalities of moving existing teams out. If the bid is successful, the estimate for a home opening would be Spring '24.

##### Westwood (Bitterne)

We have revised costing for re-development of the site and are proceeding to tender for building works. Timelines are similar to the Westridge site but as Solent already own the site we should be able to move on this one quicker subject to the tender process. Expectations are that we should be in a position to open in the autumn of '23. This would provide us with 3 placements as we plan to sell one to Hampshire to support with revenue costs.

## Quarterly Foster Carer Recruitment Report (mainstream foster carers):

Quarter 2 (2022/23) – July, August, September 2022

### What does the data tell us?

Indicator	2022/23	2021/22
Total number of enquires	45	58
Total number of screening calls	34	40
Total number of initial home visits	17	19
Total number of applications received	3	4
Households in assessment (at end of Q)	11	8
Approvals within the Q (ADM decision)	6	4
Mainstream resignations and/or de-registrations within the Q	2	6

### Overview of positive outcomes:

#### What's going well?

- Number of approvals in Q2 exceeded last year (both the Q2 total and the whole year total)
- New staff in the recruitment part of the service have been appointed; Senior Business Development Officer (starting Jan 2023) and full-time Recruitment Officer (started beginning of October 2022)
- At end of Q2 the overall conversion rate is 10%
- At end of Q2 we are working with an overall net gain of 3 fostering households. We are on track to have a net gain of 9 households in 22/23.
- Number of households in assessment is greater than same period last year.

#### What are we worried about?

##### Areas of concern

- Enquiries are lower than the same period last year
- Number of foster carers on-hold is increasing and may lead to resignations

##### Challenges to service delivery

- Placement instability and retention concerns are taking management time away from recruitment oversight.

### **What is our focus for next Quarter?**

- New Recruitment Officer to be embedded within the team and take the lead on responding to and tracking enquiries to point of application.
- End to End Process Review outcomes to be shared with the whole team – actions to be assigned to staff.
- Ensure all households in Stage 1 are processed by end of Q3 to ensure Stage 2 can be completed by end of year. Q3 is a key time in the assessment process as assessment not moving into Stage 2 before Christmas cannot usually be completed, presented to Panel and achieve ADM ratification, by the end of the year.
- Snr SW is undertaking a full 'stocktake' of all approved fostering households to explore:
  - Possible availability for Step-Across children/young people
  - Possible increased availability for respite/emergency
  - Children and young people moving on – can a match be made with a new placement
  - Possible scope for legal permanence via SGO or Adoption
  - Possible opportunities for reunification with birth family
  - Review all households on hold

This page is intentionally left blank

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 NOVEMBER 2022
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mike Harris</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 2882</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scrutiny Manager</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3886</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

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

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

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

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 24 November 2022
----	--

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
----	------

**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	<b>No</b>
--	-----------

**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	<b>No</b>
---	-----------

**Other Background Documents**

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

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



# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 24 November 2022

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
29/09/22	Educational Attainment in Southampton	1) That consideration is given to an additional meeting of the Panel to focus on educational attainment with a focus on scrutinising the use of catch up funding; the soon to be published Key Stage 4 national results, including Progress 8; and, Early Years Foundation Stage performance.	The Scrutiny Manager will liaise with the Chair and the Divisional Head of Education and Learning about the merits of an additional meeting of the Panel to discuss the points raised. Consideration will be given to inviting the Chairs of the Headteacher Forums in Southampton.	Partially complete
29/09/22	Post 16 Provision, Participation and NEET	1) That the Panel are kept informed of key developments concerning the proposed city wide solution to Post 16 provision in Southampton.	We have requested a comms release from the DfE (FE Commissioner) on the City-Wide Solution - some of what they have told us in our catch up meetings will be confidential. When he comes back to the service, we will share the information with the Scrutiny Panel. The relevant Cllrs and CEx are up to speed with this workstream.	Partially complete
		2) That the NEET figures for 2022/23 are circulated to the Panel when they are available.	The NEET stats for 2022/23 will not be published by the DfE until March 2023. We can share an update with the panel then.	Partially complete
29/09/22	Children and Learning Improvement Plan & Performance	1) That the key findings from the audit of re-referrals are summarised within, or appended to, the performance report to be considered at the 24 November 2022 meeting of the Panel.	This audit is being scoped with Hampshire Children's Service to begin in December 2022. Recommendation that findings are shared at the first scrutiny panel in 2023.	Partially complete
		2) That Social Worker turnover data is included in the performance report analysis for the 24 November 2022 meeting.	As of 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022, the 12-month rolling turnover for C&L Social Workers is 25.5%. This is calculated as 47 leavers between Nov 2021 to Oct 2022 / 184 headcount. Of note: there were 61 Social Worker new starters between 01/11/2021 to 31/10/2022. The service has recruited more social workers than have left.	Complete

This page is intentionally left blank