

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 25th January, 2024  
at 5.30 pm

## **PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING**

Conference Room 3 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

### **Members**

Councillor J Baillie  
Councillor Barnes-Andrews  
Councillor Chapman  
Councillor Cox  
Councillor Lambert  
Councillor Mintoff  
Councillor Webb

### **Appointed Members**

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

### **Contacts**

Democratic Support Officer  
Ed Grimshaw  
Tel: 023 8083 2390  
Email: [ed.grimshaw@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:ed.grimshaw@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 2022-2030 sets out the four key goals:**

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

**Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year**

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

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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

**DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Other Interests**

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

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

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

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

### **Principles of Decision Making**

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

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

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

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

## AGENDA

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

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

### **2 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE- CHAIR**

To elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2023-2024 municipal year.

### **3 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.

### **4 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.

### **5 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.

### **6 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

### **7 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 23 November 2023 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

### **8 FURTHER EDUCATION IN SOUTHAMPTON** (Pages 5 - 16)

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

**9 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

(Pages 17 - 54)

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

**10 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Pages 55 - 58)

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

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

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

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

**12 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS**

(Pages 59 - 80)

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

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

Director – Legal and Governance

---

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2023

---

Present: Councillors T Bunday (Chair), Barnes-Andrews (Vice-Chair), Chapman (except minute numbers 17-19), Lambert, Mrs Mintoff, Webb and Beaurain

Apologies: Councillor J Baillie  
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders

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

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor J Baillie from the Panel, the Monitoring Officer acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor Beaurain to replace them for the purposes of this meeting.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

19. **BUILDING FOR BRILLIANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Executive Director, Children and Learning, providing an overview of the revised service improvement arrangements.

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

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- How costs were being managed and the apparent downward trend in overall cost of the service as measures already embedded take effect e.g. the stabilisation of the workforce and the reduction of agency staff;
- Potential measures that will further reduce expenditure;
- The need to mitigate the potential negative impact of budget proposals on outcomes for children and young people in the city.

**RESOLVED** that draft budget proposals for Children and Learning are appended to the agenda of the 25 January 2024 meeting of the Panel.

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

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

The appendices 3 and 4 are considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. The information is exempt from publication because it relates to the financial and business affairs of both the Council and specified third parties and is commercially sensitive.

21. **SEND AND HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The Panel considered and noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider the appended information on SEND pressures, the SEND Capital Programme and home to school transport and the approaches proposed to address the identified challenges.

Cllr Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Tammy Marks – Head of SEND, Pete Boustred – Head of Transport and Planning and Annamarie Hooper – Service Manager, Service Delivery, Performance & Compliance were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel received a presentation, attached to the papers of the meeting, setting out the various factors and considerations relating to the provision of home to school transport including potential plans to enhance and improve the service whilst attempting to address an increase in demand.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- The proposed changes to eligibility criteria in the draft policy;
- Timescales for the school travel service transformation programme;
- Opportunities to reduce the cost of the service;
- The growing demand for SEND services in the city;
- The SEND capital programme and the need to improve SEND provision and consistency within mainstream schools in Southampton.

22. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

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

Cllr Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Rob Henderson - Executive Director, Children & Learning, Steph Murray – Deputy Director, Children and Learning, and Laura Trevett – Performance Manager were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed the following issues:

- The steady improvement in performance and outcomes across Children and Learning;
- Placement stability, recognising the increase in the number of Looked After Children placed in unregulated / unregistered settings;



- Initial Health Assessments within 20 days as performance had declined following recent improvements;
- The quality of social work practice as, reflecting the prediction of the Executive Director, there had been a significant increase in October in the percentage of audits that were rated as good in comparison to those rated inadequate or requires improvement.

23. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel considered and noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel considers the responses to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 8

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	FURTHER EDUCATION IN SOUTHAMPTON
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	25 JANUARY 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

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

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
<p>Following consideration of educational attainment in Southampton at the 28 September 2023 meeting, the Scrutiny Panel requested that a discussion on the city’s further education provision and performance was scheduled for a subsequent meeting of the Panel in 2023/24.</p> <p>To provide context to the discussion, attached as Appendix 1 is a briefing paper prepared by Itchen College, City College and Richard Taunton’s College. Representatives from the Post 16 education providers in the city, and senior managers within the Council’s Education and Learning Service, have been invited to attend the meeting to present the report and to answer questions from the Panel.</p>

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">(i)</td> <td>That the Panel consider the information attached as Appendix 1, and the information presented to the Panel at the 28 September 2023 meeting relating to educational attainment, and discuss the issue of further education provision and performance in Southampton with representatives from Post 16 providers in the city, the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers.</td> </tr> </table>	(i)	That the Panel consider the information attached as Appendix 1, and the information presented to the Panel at the 28 September 2023 meeting relating to educational attainment, and discuss the issue of further education provision and performance in Southampton with representatives from Post 16 providers in the city, the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers.
(i)	That the Panel consider the information attached as Appendix 1, and the information presented to the Panel at the 28 September 2023 meeting relating to educational attainment, and discuss the issue of further education provision and performance in Southampton with representatives from Post 16 providers in the city, the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers.	

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">1.</td> <td>To enable a discussion with providers, the Cabinet Member and officers on further education in Southampton.</td> </tr> </table>	1.	To enable a discussion with providers, the Cabinet Member and officers on further education in Southampton.
1.	To enable a discussion with providers, the Cabinet Member and officers on further education in Southampton.	

<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">2.</td> <td>None.</td> </tr> </table>	2.	None.
2.	None.	

<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">3.</td> <td>At the 28 September 2023 meeting, the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel, when considering the issue of educational attainment in the city,</td> </tr> </table>	3.	At the 28 September 2023 meeting, the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel, when considering the issue of educational attainment in the city,
3.	At the 28 September 2023 meeting, the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel, when considering the issue of educational attainment in the city,	

	discussed the provisional A Level results for Southampton Colleges and 6 <sup>th</sup> Forms: <a href="#">2023 A-Level Results Day Headline Outcomes – Southampton Local Authority</a>																						
4.	<p>A separate appendix to the report presented to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel at the September 2023 meeting, identified the top 10 establishments attended by the year 11 leavers who continued in education from all Southampton Secondary Schools. An updated version of the table, with figures as at 11 January 2024, is provided below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Establishment Attended</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barton Peveril College</td> <td>527</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southampton City College</td> <td>403</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Itchen Sixth Form College</td> <td>387</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Taunton Sixth Form College</td> <td>190</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastleigh College</td> <td>163</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Symonds College</td> <td>126</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Anne's Sixth Form</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bitterne Park Sixth Form</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sparsholt College</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totton College</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Establishment Attended	Total	Barton Peveril College	527	Southampton City College	403	Itchen Sixth Form College	387	Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	190	Eastleigh College	163	Peter Symonds College	126	St Anne's Sixth Form	63	Bitterne Park Sixth Form	48	Sparsholt College	30	Totton College	30
Establishment Attended	Total																						
Barton Peveril College	527																						
Southampton City College	403																						
Itchen Sixth Form College	387																						
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	190																						
Eastleigh College	163																						
Peter Symonds College	126																						
St Anne's Sixth Form	63																						
Bitterne Park Sixth Form	48																						
Sparsholt College	30																						
Totton College	30																						
5.	To provide context to the information outlined above, Itchen College, City College and Richard Taunton’s College have developed a briefing paper on the issue of further education provision in Southampton. This is attached as Appendix 1.																						
6.	Representatives from the providers of Post 16 education in Southampton will be in attendance to present the briefing paper. They will be accompanied by the Divisional Head of Education and Learning, the Service Manager for Education Strategy, Planning and Improvement and the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning. The Panel are requested to use the information provided to discuss the issue of further education in Southampton with the invited attendees.																						
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>																							
<b><u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u></b>																							
7.	None																						
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>																							
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>																							

8.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b>Other Legal Implications:</b>	
9.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
10.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
11.	N/A

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Briefing paper – Further education provision in Southampton

**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.	<a href="#">2023 A-Level Results Day Headline Outcomes – Southampton Local Authority</a>

This page is intentionally left blank



## Further Education Provision in Southampton

### Context and Performance

January 2024

## 1. Preface

This document was first prepared three years ago following a challenge from a previous incarnation of the Scrutiny Panel. The colleges and school sixth forms questioned the validity of using the Performance Table information for a number of reasons, and eventually the Chair asked what measures should be used.

The three colleges worked together to offer a context for post 16 provision in the city, which is unusual for a number of reasons, alongside a set of measures that they use to judge the effectiveness of provision.

The Scrutiny Panel has returned to consideration of post 16 provision, as the impact of the pandemic upon data starts to lessen (but not cease). As such the contextual information has been updated, but data around performance has only been included where available. This is because validated achievement rate information is produced later in the academic year, while value added information is yet to recalibrate following the pandemic.

## 2. Introduction

The last twenty years have seen a drift of learners out of the city, both at Year 7 and at post-16. This drift accelerated in recent years at post-16, with the most able cohort specifically targeted by competitors outside of the city, assisted by an inspection regime that graded all three institutions as 'Requires Improvement' in 2017, and a funding system that rewards colleges for growth, irrespective of how they are meeting the needs of the geographical areas they are recruiting from.

While this drift has been arrested to an extent, with Richard Taunton and Itchen graded by Ofsted as 'Good' since 2021 (City College are awaiting inspection having become part of the South Hampshire Colleges Group), the impact has been to reduce Level 3 provision in the city, creating greater competition for school leavers, and generating longer journeys around and out of the city that is counter-productive and does not meet a 'green city' aspiration.

Recruiting more able students makes sense for all colleges. Such students are likely to achieve higher grade results and are more likely to remain in learning during their college career. They are more likely to have strong parental support and facilities and equipment to allow study at home. They are less likely to draw upon the support services colleges need to put in place, following withdrawal of such support by the NHS. However, where the high grade students are clustered in fewer colleges, this provides a major challenge to the city colleges which are all comprehensive and were founded on the basis of 'open access' and inclusion, with all three offering a range of courses at different levels to properly serve the community.

This data is shared to offer an insight into the context each college is operating in, and explain some of the measures that are used to judge performance at 16-18. These measures do not include the performance table judgements that allow comparison between local authority areas, and the reasons for this are highlighted below. It is hoped that a richer conversation employing a range of measures that better reflect the overall performance of post 16 provision may result in future years.

Please note all the data below relates to young people at the colleges, and not adult provision. City College served c1000 adult learners in 2022/23 through its own provision, and Richard Taunton 149. Itchen College partnered with both City College and Richard Taunton to offer courses to c900. Provision in all three colleges included courses aimed at the unemployed, sector specific training for those returning to the job market, ESOL and refugees, alongside more traditional adult education.



### 3. Contextual Information

#### a. Performance at Key Stage 4 in Southampton Schools

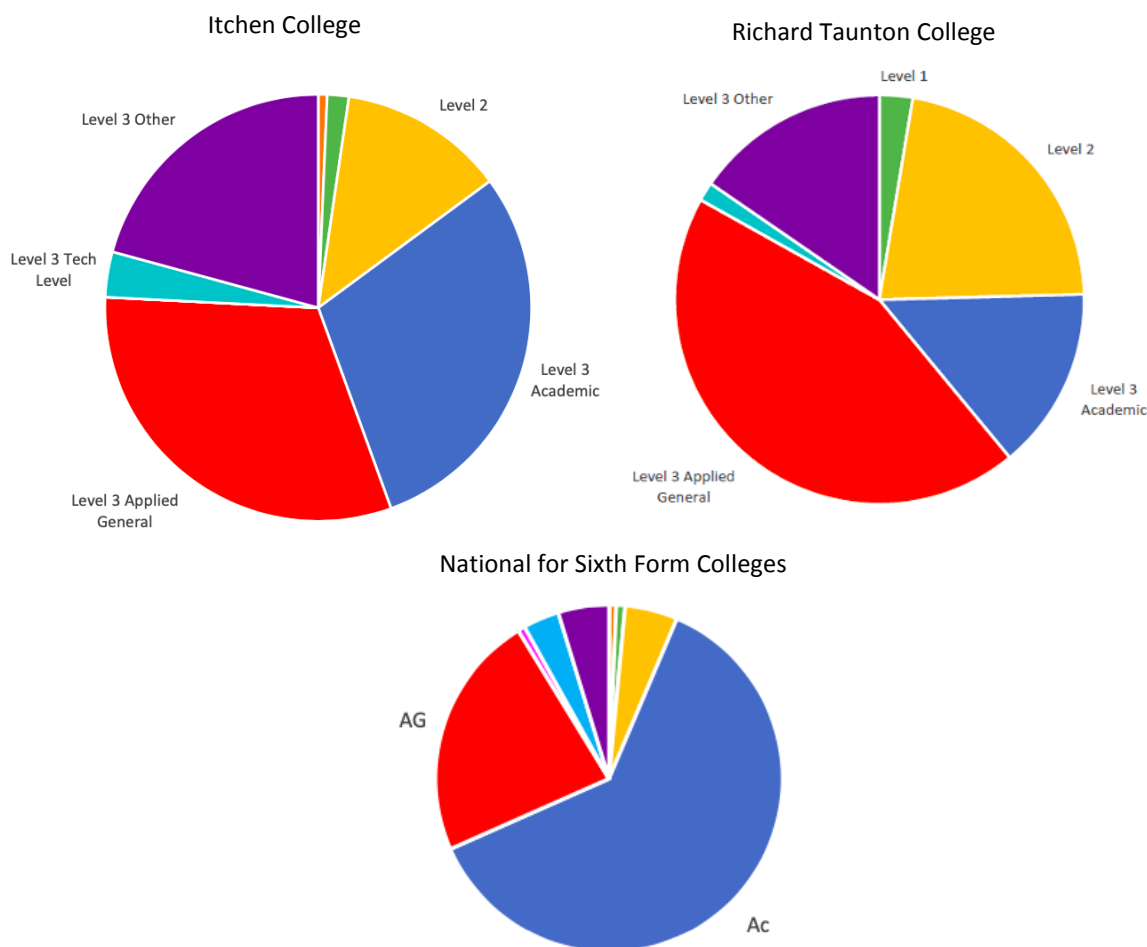
Performance in secondary schools in Southampton varies, with each school affected by its own context and patterns of deprivation across the city. This in turn drives the curriculum offer in each school, with many appropriately prioritising the needs of their students in preference to a curriculum offer that neatly matches the DFE performance tables. Both attainment and attendance are below the national average, and this is reflected in the intake of students in post 16 provision in the city.

Recruitment and retention of teachers in secondary schools has a knock-on impact upon attainment, and on progression on certain courses. If a school is struggling to recruit teachers in maths and science, this is likely to mean fewer students wishing to study these subjects at a higher level.

This impact is felt more strongly in post 16 institutions that depend upon recruitment from Southampton schools, but recruitment and retention of teachers is a nationwide issue, and is as likely to have an impact upon neighbouring Hampshire schools.

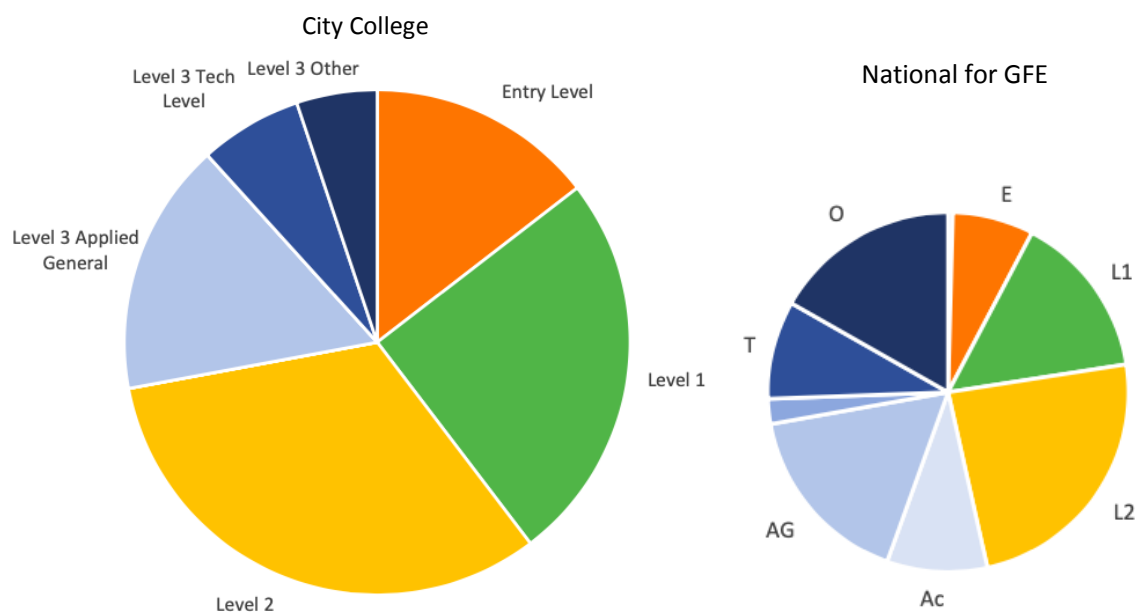
#### b. Profile of 16-19 Learners (Level of Study by Core Aim) 2022/23:

The mix of provision at Richard Taunton and Itchen are similar, and a significant minority of students will be undertaking programmes that mix courses at Level 2 and 3, with some students on GCSE re-sit (maths or English) alongside a Level 3 course or courses. The charts below represent the highest level of study a student undertakes.



For both sixth form colleges the proportion of students studying at Level 3 is significantly different to the national average, especially at 'Level 3 Academic', with this disparity even more pronounced when compared to providers in the South East region.

For City College the mix of provision is different with a greater proportion at Level 1 and 2, but it should be noted that for technical / vocational courses a student will be expected to start at Level 1 irrespective of GCSE profile, building skills to enable progression to a higher level of study. City College also has c300 apprentices currently in training at Level 2 and Level 3, who are not included in this chart.



Provision at City College sees a far higher proportion of students studying at Entry, Level 1 and Level 2 compared to the national average for General Further Education colleges.

**c. English and maths prior achievement:**

All three colleges are characterised by fewer students on entry having achieved a grade 4 in maths and English compared to national averages (NA) for sixth form colleges and GFE:

% of 16-18 students with GCSE 4+ in both, maths only, English only or neither	2022/23							
	Both	NA	Maths only	NA	English only	NA	Neither	NA
<b>Richard Taunton College</b>	<b>62%</b>	88%	<b>7%</b>	2%	<b>15%</b>	6%	<b>16%</b>	4%
<b>Itchen College</b>	<b>71%</b>	88%	<b>4%</b>	2%	<b>13%</b>	6%	<b>12%</b>	4%
<b>City College</b>	<b>22%</b>	53%	<b>6%</b>	6%	<b>11%</b>	15%	<b>61%</b>	26%

It should be noted that all three colleges have seen a significant increase in students without grade 4 in Maths and English this academic year, due to the government decision to return to normal grade boundaries, with no mitigation for the impact of the pandemic.

To illustrate this increase, using Itchen as an example:

	2022/23	2023/24	% increase
<b>Maths GCSE + Functional Skills</b>	346+49 = <b>395</b>	495+41 = <b>536</b>	<b>+36%</b>
<b>English GCSE + Functional Skills</b>	184+28 = <b>212</b>	282+126 = <b>408</b>	<b>+92%</b>

#### **d. Deprivation 2022/23:**

83% of students at City College come from households located in the most deprived parts of Southampton (IMD Bands 1 to 4 against city population of 67%). This difference is most pronounced at IMD Bands 1 and 2, with 51.6% of learners falling into these categories compared to 36.3% across the city.

At Itchen it is a slightly different picture with more 16-18 learners clustered in the middle bands, but 74.1% of learners in the most deprived parts and only 6% from the more advantaged areas (Bands 7-10, against city average of 16.1%).

At Richard Taunton, 62.6% of learners come from within the lowest 4 IMD bands (with 36% of learners falling into the IMD Bands 1 and 2) and 21% from the highest 4, which is the closest aligned out of the three colleges to the city's overall profile.

There is a direct correlation between disadvantage /deprivation and attainment at post 16. A study by the Education Policy Institute has seen the 'disadvantage gap' widen by almost a third of a grade since 2019, meaning that on average a disadvantaged student (defined as accessing free school meals during their education) achieved between three and four grades lower than a non-disadvantaged student (source: <https://epi.org.uk/disadvantage-16-19/>).

## **4. Performance Tables**

Measures used in the government Key Stage 5 performance tables do not adequately report the performance of the three colleges because of the provision mix above. However, these are the only measures that allow the city council to compare the performance of the city against other local authority areas, creating interesting dialogue at the annual Scrutiny Panel meetings. The aggregated headline performance table measures (which includes data from St Anne's and Bitterne Park) see Southampton amongst the worst performing local authority areas for Key Stage 5.

However, a measure that looks at the number of students achieving three A levels at a certain grade pre-supposes that the majority of students will be undertaking an exclusive A level programme. A significant minority of students at Itchen and Richard Taunton are on mixed programmes, incorporating at least one applied general course with an A level, thus excluding them from this measure. Similarly points score per student is a measure of volume of programme at A level and, indirectly, prior achievement at GCSE, not necessarily of quality of provision or distance travelled. With regard to prior achievement at GCSE, learners on Level 3 programmes at Richard Taunton and Itchen tend to arrive with a GCSE profile at least half a grade lower than the national average, and a full grade lower than other colleges in the Hampshire area.

For vocational courses, performance tables exclude some BTECs and other technical vocational courses that are the specialism of City College and only 62 of c1100 16-19 learners were included in the last performance tables across three different measures. For Itchen and Richard Taunton it is a similar picture with 264/402 students from Itchen and 149/270 from Richard Taunton included in the 'Applied General' measure.

## 5. Alternative Performance Measures

### a. Achievement Rates

Achievement rates are the main way post-16 provision in colleges is scrutinised by the DFE Post 16 Team, the FE Commissioner Team and Ofsted. This is the measure colleges are asked to use when considering how to self-assess performance, although the more recent inspection framework moves towards a more holistic judgement.

In essence achievement rates are the percentage of students that pass the qualification they started, including all those that dropped out or did otherwise not complete:  $\text{Achievement} = \text{Pass Rate} \times \text{Retention}$ .

Achievement rates are publicly available and published by the DFE in January/February for the year previous. When published they allow comparison to national averages for sixth form colleges (Itchen and Richard Taunton) and for GFEs (City College).

### b. Value added and measures of progress at Level 3

These measures look at the progress made post-16, specifically comparing GCSE outcomes to performance on post 16 courses. There are a number of systems that colleges can buy into, and a newer DFE measure that appeared before the interruption of the pandemic. This is a relevant method of assessment for Itchen College and Richard Taunton College and the school sixth forms, but is not appropriate for City College (value added is not calculable for the majority of technical courses or for Level 2 and Level 1 programmes).

However good value added can be prioritised over achievement, just as pass rates can be prioritised over retention. A more cynical provider with a high volume of learners may ask a student to leave or drop a subject if it looks as though their likely result would not contribute to value added performance, or may hit pass rates. Similarly, students can be counselled off courses at the end of their first year.

The Advanced Level Performance system (ALPs) provides a contextual score of progress made from Key stage 4 on a scale of 1-9 where 5 is "satisfactory to good" and 1 is equivalent to the best performing institution in the previous year. Although it is a system that is 'bought in', it is used by the vast majority of sixth form colleges and by GFEs with similar provision, as well as a growing number of school sixth forms. It broadly follows the newer measure of progress introduced by the government, which offers a score, positive or negative to indicate performance compared to the national average outcome.

Both ALPs and the DFE measure are currently deemed unreliable due to the impact of the pandemic, and the DFE measures will not be published this year. This is due to the potential inflation of GCSE results due to the Teacher Assessed Grade and Centre Assessed Grade processes that were used to determine GCSE grades in 2020 and 2021, resulting in students achieving grades that may have been higher than if they had sat regular exams.

### c. English and Maths progress

Students who did not achieve between grade 4 and 9 at GCSE in maths and English are required to study and retake the GCSE up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Progress is measured by comparing the result of their resit to their previous grade (for example a student who had achieved a Grade 3 and now achieves a Grade 4 has progress of 1; a student who achieves a Grade 3 and then another Grade 3 has made 0 progress).

<b>Level 2 Progress – English (from grade 3)</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>All Colleges</b>
Richard Taunton College	0.08	-0.25
Itchen College	0.44	
City College	-0.4	
<b>Level 2 Progress – English (from grade 2)</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>All Colleges</b>
Richard Taunton College	0.20	0.01
Itchen College	1.06	
City College	-0.29	
<b>Level 2 Progress - Mathematics (from grade 3)</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>All Colleges</b>
Richard Taunton College	-0.01	-0.31
Itchen College	0.06	
City College	-0.33	
<b>Level 2 Progress - Mathematics (from grade 2)</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>All Colleges</b>
Richard Taunton College	-0.05	-0.19
Itchen College	0.05	
City College	-0.14	

As previously noted, all three colleges have seen a significant increase in students without grade 4 in Maths and English this academic year, due to the government decision to return to normal grade boundaries, with no mitigation for the impact of the pandemic.

#### **d. Progression**

Successful progression is a key indicator of effective provision, but there is no reliable national system to report this across the full range of provision.

The table below shows progression to HE of Level 3 leavers (% of students on UCAS points bearing courses who went on to study at an HE institution through UCAS):

Richard Taunton College	37%
Itchen College	53%
City College*	56%

\* Intended destination, not actual at this stage

This is only part of the story, as for City College many of those achieving on Level 3 courses will proceed direct to the workplace, which is a better measure of success on this type of vocational course. National data regarding internal progression across levels of study sees City College broadly in line.

Southampton is an historical ‘cold spot’ regarding participation in HE, but the colleges are starting to gain traction in this regard. For example, Itchen saw 64% of students with university places coming from areas within the two lowest participation quintiles, compared to 29% nationally. The same measures for Richard Taunton sees 55% from these areas.

## **6. Shared Challenges**

Recent increases in core funding have not yet made good the decline in funding experienced by FE since 2010. Despite funding having improved over the last two years, FE is still 15% worse off in real terms compared to 2010. This difference is even greater when considering adult education provision.

A key impact of the pandemic for all education sectors is a change of public attitude towards attendance, and all post 16 institutions are not yet at pre-pandemic attendance levels. Post 16 does not have the statutory powers of schools in this regard, with the ultimate sanction being withdrawal from a course, which is entirely counter-productive.

This impact is more pronounced when educating a mix of students across levels, with attendance on Level 1 and 2 courses likely to be less strong than Level 3. The reality for many students on some lower level courses is their perception of having 'failed' to achieve the required standard for Level 3, affecting their motivation and resilience. This is further compounded by the withdrawal of NHS specialist support around mental health and wellbeing, placing a further burden upon schools and colleges to fund this support themselves.

Latest destinations data shows the drift of learners out of the city has slowed, but remains a significant challenge, especially in the west of the city. The key aspect of this challenge is retention of provision, given the difficulty of sustaining courses with very low numbers. If a course is stopped there is a reduction of choice for students, meaning some are compelled to look further afield for their post 16 education, if they can afford to do so.

Curriculum change across the post 16 sector will have a future impact, with many popular general vocational courses facing de-funding to stimulate demand for the new T Level qualifications. Richard Taunton and Itchen have begun first delivery of these new courses, City College will begin delivery in 2024. T Levels have different demands to the courses they have replaced, including a substantial examined element and work placement.

T Levels are larger qualifications than previous courses, with higher entry requirements, and in some cases they will restrict provision. The best example of this is the end of courses relating to Travel and Tourism, an essential skills need in the local area, but with no T Level equivalent. Similarly, Criminology and Uniformed Public Services are facing conclusion, both popular areas of study. This restriction of choice when combined with higher entry requirements could lead to an increase in the NEET population within the city, although the colleges will work collaboratively to ensure this risk is minimised.

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	25 JANUARY 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

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

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

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

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
----------------------	----

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
------------------------------------	------

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

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

**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



# Children & Learning Service Performance Report

Page 19

January 2024



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



Children  
& Learning  
Making a difference



SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 9  
Appendix 1

# Contents

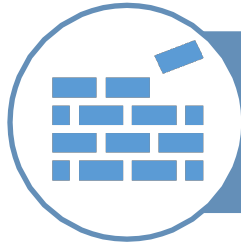
Section	Page
Purpose	3
Right support, right time	4
Strong & vibrant localities	6
Children remain within or return to birth families	10
Promote permanence and placement stability	12
Permanent & stable workforce	15
Embedding practice framework and standards	17
Performance review	18



# Purpose

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

Page 21



## Building for Brilliance; Building for Sustainability; Building for Families, with Families



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



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



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



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



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



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





# Right support at the right time

Page 22



Indicator	Dec-21	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of referrals into Early Help	164	179	220	172	183	131	181	154	172	162	109	139	166	142		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals that were stepped down from CSC (no assessment required)		61	37	40	33	28	35	35	21	46	27	16	23	18		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of Early Help assessments started	160	102	112	89	110	73	74	82	119	71	66	89	91	80		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of contacts in the month	1597	1428	1839	1598	2023	1544	1828	1948	1804	1471	1532	1923	1763	1459		-	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of contacts per 10,000 population under 18 years old		4233	4222	4240	4289	4265	4213	4229	4272	4173	4123	4166	4159	4171		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals into statutory service in the month	375	298	343	330	433	282	301	285	310	263	267	276	315	216	273	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of referrals per 10,000 population under 18 years old		749	751	753	777	780	770	762	761	760	754	747	732	720	647	●	↑	759.8	640.1	-	544.5
Number of C&F assessments completed	329	326	322	317	400	309	425	283	292	259	231	222	255	216	174	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of assessments per 10,000 population under 18 years old		783	784	788	804	800	830	827	829	807	776	756	736	716	630	●	↑	778.4	628.5	-	557.4
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD)	36	648	584	538	535	639	524	493	467	462	433	388	464	449	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (CWD)		222	222	227	231	233	238	244	254	243	243	237	230	228	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of strategy discussions held		191	200	196	217	184	185	207	144	161	152	152	173	124	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-
Number of Section 47 enquiries completed		139	103	158	169	138	126	124	121	86	81	131	112	101	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of Section 47 enquiries completed		364	351	353	356	360	356	355	346	336	320	323	306	301	260	●	↑	352.2	253.0	-	191.6
Percentage of Strategy discussions resulting in Section 47		73	52	81	78	75	68	60	84	53	53	86	65	81		-	↓	-	-	-	-
Percentage of Section 47s (not already CP or in our care) resulting in ICPC		16	22	22	38	34	26	43	21	45	20	20	33	12			↓				
Number of children subject to CP Plan at end of month	449	302	288	301	315	347	355	351	345	346	318	311	320	309	295	●	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of children subject to CP plans	91	61	58	61	64	70	72	71	70	70	64	62	64	62	60	●	↑	63.90	52.90	-	43.20
Number of children in our care	547	543	543	553	545	539	505	517	518	507	510	503	507	510	495	●	↓	-	-	-	-
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	111	113	110	112	111	109	102	105	105	103	103	101	102	102	100	●	→	-	-	-	-
Number of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)	2339	2404	2363	2401	2402	2425	2326	2304	2297	2259	2112	2085	2111	2036	-	-	↑	-	-	-	-
Rate of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)		466	478	479	492	482	455	453	448	422	414	418	423	408	362	-	↑	524.8	428.8	-	642.7



# Right support at the right time

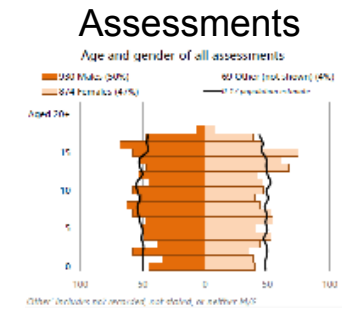
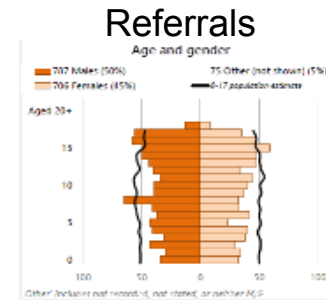
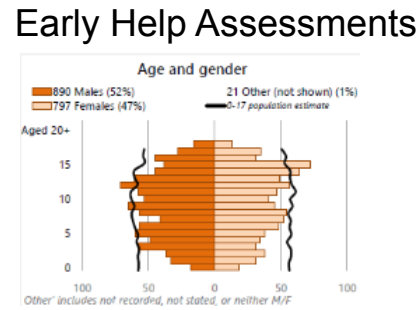
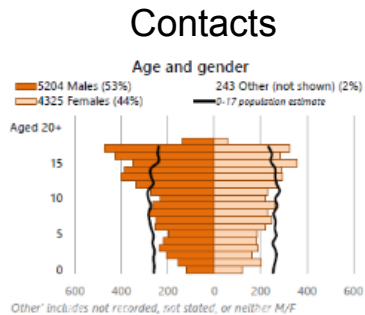
## Desired outcome

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

## Progress analysis

- The national, statistical and local statistics have now been updated from 21/22 to 22/23, so the comparisons are for the last financial year.
- Only 18 children were stepped down to Early Help in December, this is due to current capacity in the East and West (which will be addressed through the service redesign).
- Adolescent males are significantly over-represented in the contacts that we receive, of which 62% come from the police. These do not translate into Early Help interventions, or referrals in Children's Services to the same extent:

Page 23



- Due to the Christmas break, there was a reduction in referrals, assessments, strategy discussions and S.47s completed, however, these were down comparatively with December 2022 and 2021. Despite the lower number of S.47s (101), only 12% resulted in an ICPC being convened.
- The rate of children with a CP plan remains slightly higher than our target, and we currently have 303 children on a CP plan.





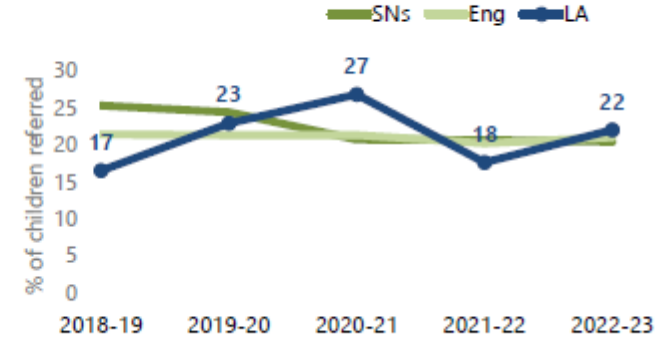
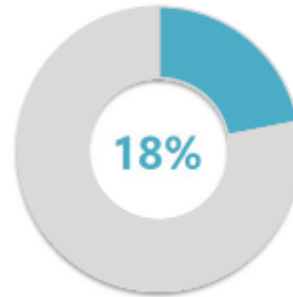
# Strong, safe & vibrant localities

## Re-referrals: children with a previous referral within 12 months of their latest referral

269 children with previous referrals within 12 months of latest referral

First referral	1,202
1 prev referral	210
2 prev referrals	51
3 prev referrals	8
4+ prev referrals	0
Not recorded	0

■ Re-referral ■ First referral □ Not recorded



\*\*Last 6 months" calculation differs slightly from national statistics, due to data structure in Annex A

Last 6 months

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



Children & Learning  
Making a difference



# Strong, safe & vibrant localities – needs updating

## Outcomes

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

## Progress analysis

- With the two-week closure of schools in December, referrals followed the annual pattern of reducing, but were lower than December 2022 and 2021.
- Re-referrals were down to 25% from 32% in November and 30% last December. The Southeast region rate is 28% with Portsmouth at 33%, Hampshire at 41%, and Isle of Wight 45%.
- The data regarding initial and review health assessments for children in our care shows improvement in comparison to the previous two months, but still needs to improve markedly.
- Core group activity reduced in December, this is linked to the availability of professionals that often have time off over Christmas, but also the busy period of meetings and visits leading up to the Christmas break.
- Whilst the number of children subject to CP planning has reduced over the last 6 months, the percentage of those on repeat CP plans has increased to 34% in December. The expectation is that the introduction of the Family Safeguarding approach and an increased focus on early interventions with families will support families experiencing difficulties to reduce the need for child protection planning by the end 2024/25.

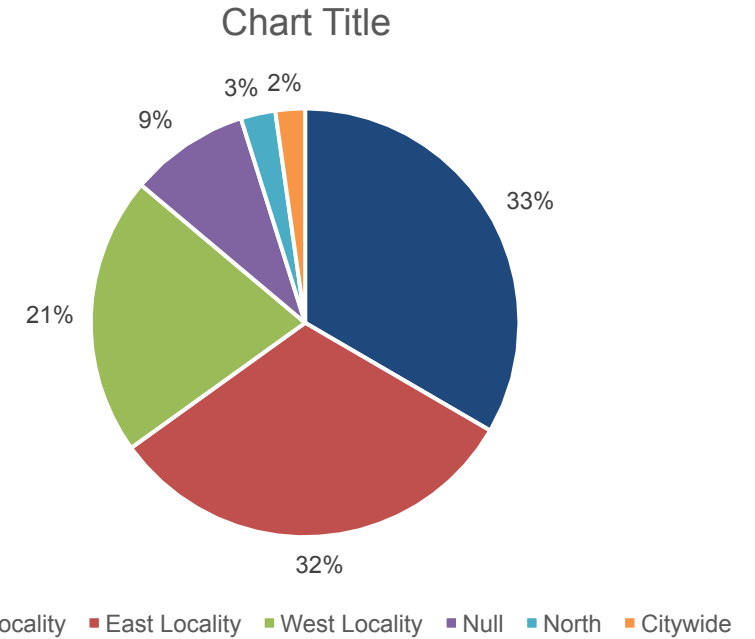


# Strong, safe & vibrant localities

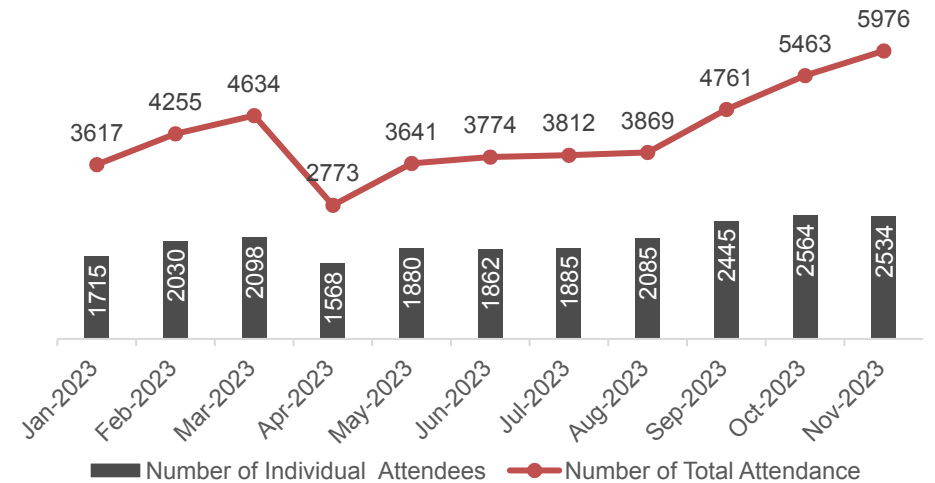
## Attendance at Family Hubs

- Family Hub attendance has been gradually increasing since April 2023, with a high of 2564 individuals attending a Hub in October 2023, and 5976 visits in November.
- A third of attendance is at the Hubs in Central, which is the smallest locality suggesting the Hubs are more widely accessed. Central has the smallest Children Services activity.
- West is under-represented in attendance with 21% of activity.
- In the Southeast region, we have a rate of 144 children per 10,000 accessing our Early Help services, this is higher than the Southeast regional average of 122.

Page 26



All Attendance by Month at Family Hubs



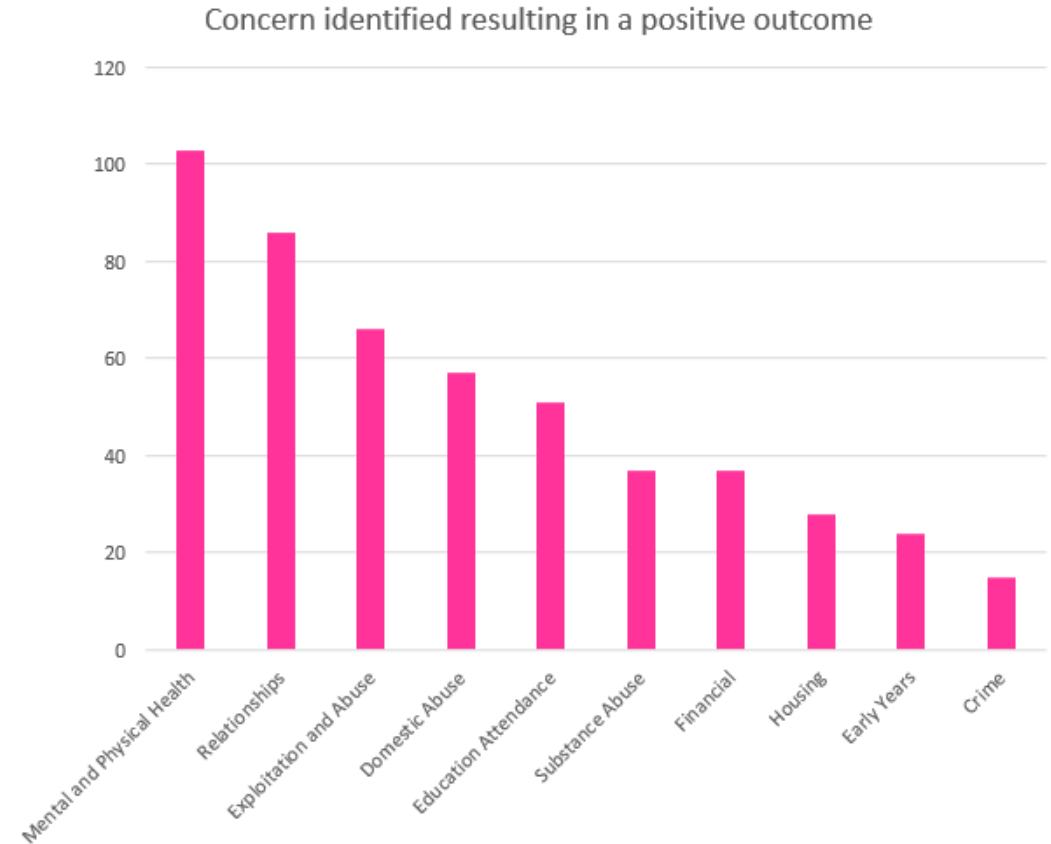


# Strong, safe & vibrant localities

## Supporting Families Benchmarking

In November and December, some audit resources were redirected to undertake Supporting Families benchmarking. The benchmarking looks at specific positive outcomes for children and their families.

- 147 benchmarking forms were completed and recorded on Care Director
- 74 have 3 or more unique positive outcomes, and 59 have 1 or 2.
- The chart here shows the overall benchmarking activity and the number of positive outcomes for each of the 10 concerns identified at the end of the intervention with families.



# Children remain within or return to their birth families

Indicator	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Number of children in our care	543	553	545	539	505	517	518	507	510	505	504	507	510	495	🔴	⬇️
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	110	112	111	109	102	105	105	103	103	102	101	102	102	100	🟡	➡️
Number of new CLA in month	16	23	19	14	3	31	17	10	17	15	13	17	21	-	-	-
Number of new CLA in month who are UASC	3	4	4	5	1	2	2	2	3	4	2	1	1	-	-	-
Number of Ceased CLA in the month excluding UASC	27	10	23	18	34	15	18	13	14	17	13	10	15	-	-	-
Number of CLA achieved CAO or SGO	5	4	5	3	6	4	4	2	3	5	3	1	1	-	-	-
Number of CLA returned home as part of care planning	5	0	2	5	8	2	5	3	5	6	6	6	5	-	-	-
Number of CLA placed with parents at the end of the month	46	48	48	48	42	48	44	39	39	34	33	38	43	-	-	-
Number of CLA placed in Connected Carer placements at the end of the month	61	60	56	59	54	52	50	47	40	42	41	51	56	-	-	-





# Children remain within or return to their birth families

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

## Progress analysis –

- The rate of children in our care is down to 102 from 110 in December 2022. We are closer to our target of 100, which is linked to the statistical neighbour average.
- During quarter 2 (July, August & September) 2023-2024, we had a rate of children subject to care applications into court of 1.8, this was below the Southeast region average of 3.1, and England 4.0. Portsmouth had a rate of 8.0, Isle of Wight 5.1 and Hampshire 3.5.
- In December, we took 21 children into our care, of those, 16 remain in our care. 4 children are placed with parents, 9 are placed with family/friends, 2 with foster carers (1 in house), and 1 is placed in a fostering for adoption placement.
- There are currently 10 children in residential care where plans are in place to move them across to foster placements or to family members.



# Promote permanence and placement stability

Indicator	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of children in our care	543	553	545	539	505	517	518	507	510	505	504	507	510	495	Red	Down				
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year	16	15	15	14	15	15	14	16	18	17	19	18	19	10	Red	Down	13	10.5		10
Number of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	134	136	137	139	140	144	146	141	147	142	141	137	133	100	Red	Up				
Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	24	24	24	25	27	27	26	27	29	28	28	27	26	20	Red	Up				
Number of CLA placed in Residential placements including semi-independent	73	74	71	75	71	70	70	75	76	76	80	78	77	60	Red	Up				
Number of CLA placed in residential - Independent Sector	42	42	43	42	42	43	43	42	43	43	39	38	35	30	Red	Up				
Percentage of CLA placed in Residential placements - independent sector	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	6	Red	Up				
Number of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	30	31	29	33	30	30	36	42	42	44	48	48	49	20	Red	Down				
Percentage of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	8	8	8	10	9	10	4	Red	Down				
Number of CLA placed for adoption at period end	36	36	30	30	20	19	19	13	15	15	17	15	13							
Number of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	224	228	230	214	202	213	206	195	193	198	201	206	205	285	Red	Down				
Percentage of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	41	41	42	40	40	40	39	38	38	39	40	41	40	58	Red	Down				



Children & Learning  
Making a difference



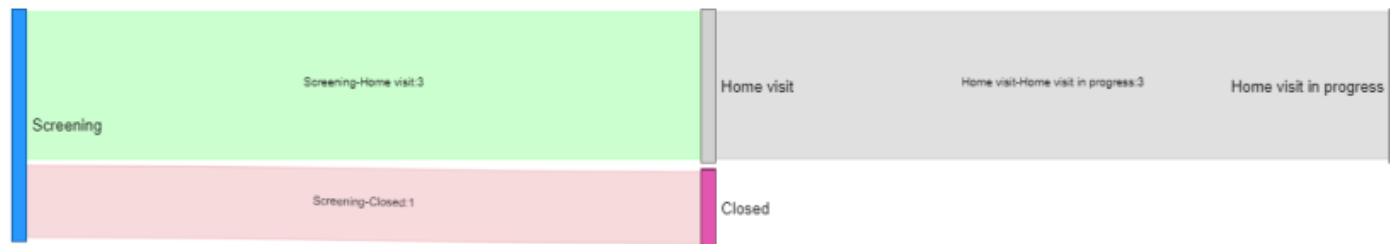


# Promote permanence and placement stability

## Progress analysis

- The net number of children in our care increased by 3 in December.
- The placement instability rate has been impacted by children returning to parents and family members, as well as 1 young person who is waiting for a matched foster placement.
- In December, 27 children changed placements. 10 went to live with a family member, 5 returned to parents, 1 was placed for adoption, 1 was placed in a fostering to adopt placement, 2 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children went to supported living arrangements. 6 children changed foster placements and 2 young people are in transitional arrangements with a view to finding long term placements near Southampton.

Applicants by Process and Outcome



## Fostering recruitment

- Following the successful months of recruitment in October and November, December typically sees a downturn in recruitment activity. 4 screenings have progressed to 3 home visits.



# Promote permanence and placement stability

## Education

There are 5 children in our care under 16 that are out of education, or not accessing education, all 5 have Special Educational Needs. 2 have tuition arrangements in place for 2 and 3 hours a day. 2 of these children have had a placement change which has impacted on access to education. 1 child is applying for college, and 2 have searches for specialist provisions underway.

22 looked after young people aged 16 and 17 are not in employment, education or training. 4 of these have Special Educational Needs.



# Permanent, stable workforce

Indicator	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Average number of children per primary caseholder (based on 1 FTE)	<b>14.92</b>	14.92	15.88	15.43	15.31	16.19	15.87	16.40	15.64	14.50	14.21	15.12	<b>15.82</b>			↓
Average number of children per qualified Social Worker (1 FTE)	<b>15.75</b>	15.75	16.65	15.80	15.66	16.38	15.76	16.67	16.46	14.98	14.76	16.33	<b>17.92</b>			↓
Total number of case holders with 20+ children	<b>45</b>	47	48	54	53	50	43	47	36	37	34	43	<b>44</b>			↓
Average number of children per worker with 20+ children (1 FTE)	<b>22.31</b>	22.55	23.27	22.72	23.15	22.76	22.65	22.74	22.88	22.30	21.53	22.16	<b>22.77</b>			↓
Average number of children per worker in top 40	<b>22.55</b>	22.98	23.93	23.68	24.05	23.45	22.85	23.23	22.40	22.05	21.15	22.33	<b>23.05</b>			↓
Percentage of CLA that have been in care for 12+m, with same social worker for last 6 months	<b>56</b>	54	50	49	47	59	62	68	74	75	80	78	<b>73</b>	80	🟡	↓
Percentage of children open for 6+ months that have had 2 or more social workers in the last 6 months	<b>36%</b>	38%	38%	37%	36%	34%	35%	33%	32%	39%	38%	36%	<b>37%</b>	25	🔴	↓



Children & Learning  
Making a difference





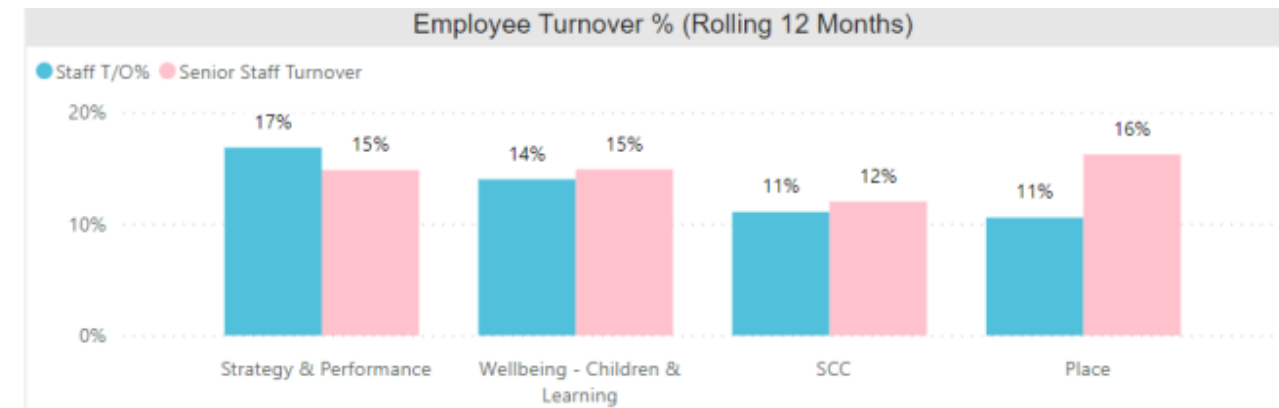
# Permanent, stable workforce

## Progress analysis

- Caseloads for social workers have increased to take into account how children with disabilities on a child in need plan are allocated. This is more representative of the caseloads being held by practitioners.
- Employee turnover has remained stable in Children & Learning. In our neighbouring local authorities, they have seen an increased reliance on agency staff, which drive up costs and create increased instability for families.
- Maintaining a stable and high-quality workforce remains a key priority for leadership, especially at a time of change and where neighbours offer higher wages to attract permanent staff. The reconfiguration of the Pathways Through Care service, to incorporate a team focused on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, may impact upon service stability performance moving forward.

## Outcomes

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







# Embedding Practice Framework and Standards

## Outcomes –

### Audits will evidence

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

## Progress analysis – November Audit overview:

- 22 audits allocated across 10 service areas, 22 (100%) completed – with 82% of auditors holding discussions with practitioners/case managers (7% increase from October).
- Outstanding (14%), Good (45%), Requires Improvement (36%), Inadequate (5%)
- Highlights of good practice:
  - CWD – Child’s lived experience captured, evidence of direct work to gain child’s views. Strength based approach evident.
  - PTC – 100% of case summaries in timescale. High quality assessment, visits gather views of child using translator and observations.
  - ICAS – Outstanding work with families, well recorded with management oversight.
  - Fostering – Evidence of engagement in placement care planning for fostered children.
  - YPS – Good quality assessments that reflect voice of the child & exploitation concerns. Plan is updated & impact considered.
  - Inclusion & Prevention – Plan goals linked to initial step down recommendations and are SMART. Good comms with school.
- Highlights of areas for improvement:
  - CWD – Completion of chronology, case summary and cultural genogram
  - PTC – Prioritise completion of chronologies, cultural genograms and visiting in statutory timescales.
  - ICAS – Use the “plan” section of visits to state aim of the next visit or further work and the date.
  - Fostering – Clear recording of mandatory training the foster carer has attended
  - YPS – Timely supervision and visiting even when children are placed at a distance / in secure units.
  - Inclusion & Prevention – Further exploration of why parents that are “reluctant to engage” and what this could represent.



# Performance - Visiting

## Progress analysis

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

Visiting remains a key focus in assurance clinics.

Indicator	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with a visit in the last 4 weeks	57%	54%	66%	62%	71%	61%	60%	66%	67%	58%	71%	69%	62%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 6 weeks	95%	98%	98%	97%	96%	98%	95%	96%	94%	96%	96%	95%	96%	95%	Green	Up
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 3 weeks	83%	80%	81%	77%	84%	81%	74%	77%	77%	77%	86%	85%	89%	90%	Red	Up
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (CWD) visited within agreed timescales	85%	89%	92%	86%	85%	86%	95%	88%	77%	73%	80%	82%	77%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 10 working days	94%	95%	93%	87%	90%	92%	90%	84%	86%	90%	88%	92%	85%	95%	Yellow	Down
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 4 weeks	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%	98%	98%	97%	96%	98%	97%	99%	96%	95%	Green	Down
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within agreed timescales	86%	81%	79%	86%	89%	92%	89%	89%	83%	81%	81%	85%	83%	95%	Red	Down



# Performance - Supervision

## Progress analysis

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

Indicator	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with supervision in timescales	72%	67%	87%	74%	78%	82%	72%	82%	89%	82%	81%	68%	79%	95%	🔴	⬆️
Percentage of children open for assessment who had supervision in timescales	96%	96%	93%	93%	93%	91%	91%	97%	94%	94%	98%	92%	93%	95%	🟡	⬆️
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (not CWD) who had supervision within timescales	86%	93%	90%	89%	90%	96%	85%	79%	84%	86%	89%	91%	97%	95%	🟢	⬆️
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (CWD) who had their supervision within timescales	99%	100%	99%	98%	96%	86%	84%	79%	77%	77%	83%	87%	84%	95%	🔴	⬇️
Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and within timescales	94%	93%	96%	86%	91%	98%	87%	85%	89%	93%	96%	94%	96%	95%	🟢	⬆️
Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale	76%	86%	86%	78%	85%	94%	88%	90%	78%	73%	81%	83%	83%	95%	🔴	➡️
Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale	60%	45%	86%	81%	86%	92%	92%	88%	83%	79%	83%	81%	77%	95%	🔴	⬇️



This page is intentionally left blank

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GLOSSARY

<i>Acronyms</i>	3
<i>Abuse</i>	4
<i>Advocacy</i>	4
<i>Agency Decision Maker</i>	4
<i>Assessment</i>	4
<i>Brief Intervention Team</i>	5
<i>CAFCASS</i>	5
<i>Care Order</i>	5
<i>Categories of Abuse or Neglect</i>	5
<i>Child Arrangement Order</i>	5
<i>Child in Need and Child in Need Plan</i>	6
<i>Child Protection</i>	6
<i>Child Protection Conference</i>	6
<i>Child Sexual Exploitation</i>	6
<i>Children and Families First</i>	6
<i>Children with Disabilities</i>	7
<i>Children's Centres</i>	7
<i>Children's Social Care</i>	7
<i>Corporate Parenting</i>	8
<i>Criteria for Child Protection Plans</i>	8
<i>Director of Children's Services (DCS)</i>	8
<i>Designated Teacher</i>	8
<i>Discretionary Leave to Remain</i>	8
<i>Duty of Care</i>	8
<i>Early Help</i>	9
<i>Every Child Matters</i>	9
<i>Health Assessment</i>	9
<i>Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)</i>	9
<i>Independent Reviewing Officer</i>	9
<i>Independent Domestic Violence Advisor</i>	9
<i>Initial Child Protection Conference</i>	10
<i>Intervention and Complex Assessment Service</i>	10
<i>Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)</i>	10

<i>Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB)</i>	10
<i>Looked After Child</i>	11
<i>Neglect</i>	11
<i>Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement</i>	11
<i>Parental Responsibility</i>	11
<i>Pathway Plan</i>	12
<i>Pathways Through Care</i>	12
<i>Permanence Plan</i>	12
<i>Personal Education Plan</i>	12
<i>Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)</i>	12
<i>Placement at a Distance</i>	13
<i>Principal Social Worker - Children and Families</i>	13
<i>Private Fostering</i>	13
<i>Public Law Outline</i>	13
<i>Referral</i>	13
<i>Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible</i>	13
<i>Review Child Protection Conference</i>	14
<i>Section 20</i>	14
<i>Section 47 Enquiry</i>	14
<i>Separated Children</i>	15
<i>SENCO</i>	15
<i>Social Work with Families</i>	15
<i>Special Guardianship Order</i>	15
<i>Strategy Discussion</i>	15
<i>Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN)</i>	15
<i>Staying Put</i>	15
<i>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children</i>	15
<i>Virtual School Head</i>	16
<i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i>	16
<i>Young Offender Institution (YOI)</i>	16
<i>Youth Offending Service or Team</i>	16
<i>Sources</i>	16

## Acronyms

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

## Abuse

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

## Advocacy

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

## Agency Decision Maker

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

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

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

## Assessment

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

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

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

## Brief Intervention Team

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



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

## CAFCASS

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

## Care Order

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

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

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

## Categories of Abuse or Neglect

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

## Child Arrangement Order

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

## Child in Need and Child in Need Plan

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

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

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

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

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

### Child Protection

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

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

### Child Protection Conference

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

### Child Sexual Exploitation

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

### Children and Families First

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

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

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

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

### Children with Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Children's Centres

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

### Children's Social Care

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

### Corporate Parenting

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

### Criteria for Child Protection Plans

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

## Director of Children's Services (DCS)

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

## Designated Teacher

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

## Discretionary Leave to Remain

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

## Duty of Care

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

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

## Early Help

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

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

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

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

## Every Child Matters

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

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

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

## Health Assessment

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

## Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

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

## Independent Reviewing Officer

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

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

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

## Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

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

## Initial Child Protection Conference

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

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

## Intervention and Complex Assessment Service

The services provided by IACS are:

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

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

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

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

### Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Looked After Child

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

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

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

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

### Neglect

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

### Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement

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

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

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

### Parental Responsibility

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

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

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

### Pathway Plan

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

### Pathways Through Care

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

### Permanence Plan

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

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

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



## Personal Education Plan

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

## Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)

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

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

## Placement at a Distance

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

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

## Principal Social Worker - Children and Families

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

## Private Fostering

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

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



## Public Law Outline

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

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

## Referral

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

## Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible

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

## Review Child Protection Conference

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

## Section 20

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

## Section 47 Enquiry

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

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

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

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

## SENCO

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

## Separated Children

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

## Social Work with Families

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

## Special Guardianship Order

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

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

## Strategy Discussion

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

## Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN)

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

## Staying Put

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

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

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

### Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children

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

### Virtual School Head

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

### Working Together to Safeguard Children

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

### Young Offender Institution (YOI)

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

### Youth Offending Service or Team

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

### Sources

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

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

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>	25 JANUARY 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER

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

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

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

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 25 January 2024

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	None

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 25 January 2024

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
23/11/23	Building for Brilliance	1) That draft budget proposals for Children and Learning are appended to the agenda of the 25 January 2024 meeting of the Panel.	A report on budget proposals is attached to the agenda for 25 January 2024 meeting.	Complete
23/11/23	SEND / Home to School Transport	1) That the presentation and draft School Travel Service and Post-16 Travel Service Policy is circulated to the Panel.	Circulated by the Scrutiny Manager – 24/11/23	Complete

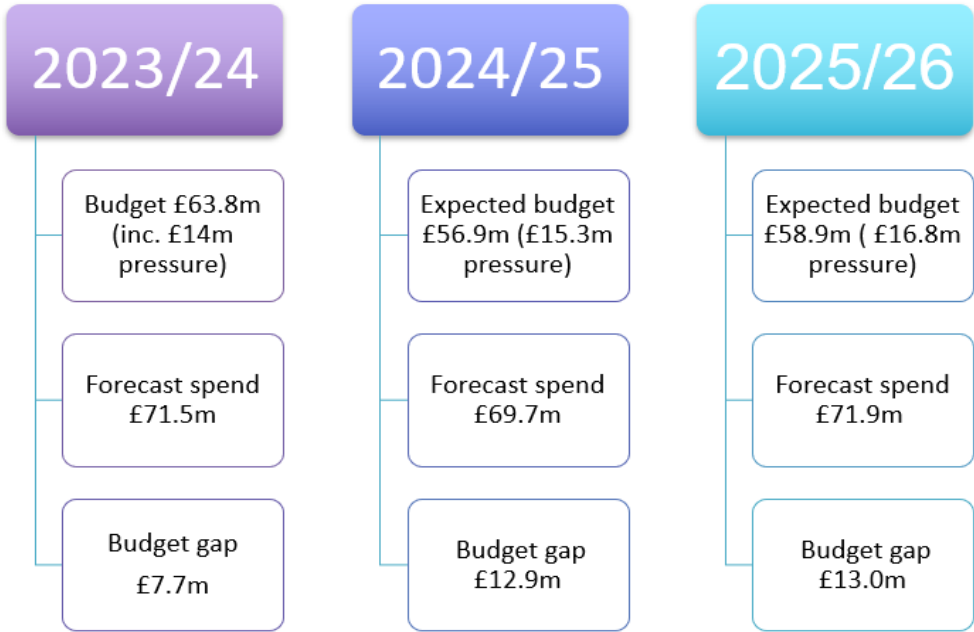
This page is intentionally left blank




<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING – DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	25 JANUARY 2024
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Children and Learning</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Rob Henderson</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>023 8083 4899</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Head of Quality Assurance</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Stuart Webb</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>023 8083 4102</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>stuart.webb@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
Appendix 1 to this report is confidential based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules. It contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
This item will outline the service’s budget position and the developing proposals to decrease pressures over the next three years, from 2024/25.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
	(i) That the Panel note and challenge the detail in the presentation, attached as Appendix 1.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	The Children and Families Scrutiny Panel provides support and challenge in relation to the service’s improvement journey and financial stability.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	Not applicable.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	<p>Since the implementation of the Destination 22 programme, Southampton’s Children and Learning Service can evidence the following key successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing agency staff from 91 (2022/23) to 20. Forecast spend is £2.9m, a reduction from £5m last year and from £7 million in 2021/22. We are working to reduce this further to an end of year spend of £2.5m. Next year we are targeting an average of 12 agency staff.</li> <li>• Forecasting to spend approximately £3m less on looked after children than we did in 2021/22.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving an Ofsted judgement of ‘good’ with ‘outstanding’ leadership, mitigating financial risks associated with ‘inadequate’ services.</li> <li>• Increasing confidence of staff (97% of whom are permanent) and partners, including the Department for Education.</li> </ul>																
4.	<p>However, pressures on the service budgets are notable, as shown below:</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="384 454 1362 1084"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Budget (inc. pressure)</th> <th>Forecast spend</th> <th>Budget gap</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>£63.8m (inc. £14m pressure)</td> <td>£71.5m</td> <td>£7.7m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td>Expected budget £56.9m (£15.3m pressure)</td> <td>£69.7m</td> <td>£12.9m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025/26</td> <td>Expected budget £58.9m (£16.8m pressure)</td> <td>£71.9m</td> <td>£13.0m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Budget (inc. pressure)	Forecast spend	Budget gap	2023/24	£63.8m (inc. £14m pressure)	£71.5m	£7.7m	2024/25	Expected budget £56.9m (£15.3m pressure)	£69.7m	£12.9m	2025/26	Expected budget £58.9m (£16.8m pressure)	£71.9m	£13.0m
Year	Budget (inc. pressure)	Forecast spend	Budget gap														
2023/24	£63.8m (inc. £14m pressure)	£71.5m	£7.7m														
2024/25	Expected budget £56.9m (£15.3m pressure)	£69.7m	£12.9m														
2025/26	Expected budget £58.9m (£16.8m pressure)	£71.9m	£13.0m														
5.	<p>In addition, there are further spending commitments that the service needs to take into account. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential project - £98,000 in 2023/24; £730,000 in 2024/25; £438,000 in 2025/26</li> <li>• Foster carer allowances – finance are still costing this element</li> <li>• UASC costs, post 18 – forecast pressure of £612,539 for 2023/24</li> <li>• Pay award 3% (additional 1% to current budget) - £333,200 each year</li> <li>• Looked after children bank accounts / savings - £40,000 in 2023/24; £72,000 in 2024/25; £72,000 in 2025/26.</li> </ul>																
6.	<p>The service’s Building for Brilliance programme has six core priorities, designed to continue to improve outcomes for children and to build a sustainable service:</p>																

	
7.	The service has identified significant cost reductions for 2024/25. The draft proposals are attached in Appendix 1. A full equality and safety impact assessment will be completed as part of the service redesign. Demand analysis which has informed the proposals is also included within Appendix 1.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
8.	The financial implications of the budget proposals are identified in Appendix 1.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
9.	Not as a result of this report.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
10.	Children Act 1989 and 2004
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
11.	N/A
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	The projects and change team support the oversight and risk analysis of the Building for Brilliance project workstreams and the Building for Brilliance governance board.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
13.	The 2022-2030 Corporate Plan includes, as one of its four goals, strong foundations for life where people can access and maximise opportunities to

	truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.
--	--

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Confidential - Draft budget presentation

**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?	Yes
--	-----

**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.	N/A

Document is Confidential

This page is intentionally left blank