

# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 7th November, 2019  
at 5.30 pm

## **PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING**

Conference Room 3 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

### **Members**

Councillor Taggart (Chair)  
Councillor Mitchell  
Councillor J Baillie  
Councillor Chaloner  
Councillor Guthrie  
Councillor Laurent  
Councillor Mintoff  
Catherine Hobbs  
Rob Sanders

### **Contacts**

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# PUBLIC INFORMATION

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

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

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

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

### **Public Representations**

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

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

**Mobile Telephones:-** Please switch your mobile telephones to silent whilst in the meeting

**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.

### **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.

### **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

The Southampton City Council Strategy (2016-2020) is a key document and sets out the four key outcomes that make up our vision.

- Southampton has strong and sustainable economic growth
- Children and young people get a good start in life
- People in Southampton live safe, healthy, independent lives
- Southampton is an attractive modern City, where people are proud to live and work

#### Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year

2019	2020
6 June	23 January
25 July	26 March
26 September	
7 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 the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Other Interests**

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

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

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

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

### **Principles of Decision Making**

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

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

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

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

# AGENDA

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

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

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

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

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST**

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

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

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

## **5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

## **6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 26 September 2019 and to deal with any matters arising.

## **7 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PERFORMANCE** (Pages 5 - 26)

Report of the Director, Legal and Governance providing an overview of performance across Children and Families Services since August 2019.

## **8 THE VIEWS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTHAMPTON** (Pages 27 - 112)

Report of the Director, Legal and Governance enabling the Panel to develop their understanding of the views of looked after children and young people in Southampton.

## **9 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS** (Pages 113 - 116)

Report of the Director, Legal and Governance enabling the Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.

Wednesday, 30 October 2019

Director of Legal and Governance

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

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Present: Councillors Taggart (Chair), Mitchell, Chaloner, Guthrie, Laurent and Mintoff (except for items 16 and 17)

Apologies: Councillor J Baillie, Catherine Hobbs and Rob Sanders

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

The apologies of Councillor J Baillie and also of Appointed Members Rob Sanders and Catherine Hobbs were noted.

12. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair informed the panel that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation had carried out an inspection of the Youth Offending Team and the Inspection report would be published in November.

**RESOLVED** that the Youth Offending Team Inspection would be considered by the Children and Families Scrutiny panel at a meeting in 2020.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Chair moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, to exclude the press and the public from the following item, having applied the public interest test it was not appropriate to disclose the information in the exempt appendices as it was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

15. **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON**

The Panel received the report of the Director, Legal and Governance which requested that the Panel considered the provisional 2018/19 key stage exam results in Southampton and the educational attainment of Looked After Children.

Councillor Paffey, Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Children and Lifelong Learning;  
Hilary Brooks, Service Director, Children and Families Services; Derek Wiles, Service

Lead, Education and Early Help; and Maria Anderson, Head of Virtual School; were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel. In discussions with the officers the Panel noted the following:

- For key stage 2 there had been a focus on the implementation of robust measures to address under performance for two schools in the City.
- For key stage 4 there was good peer to peer support among schools and a lot of peer challenge that was driving improvement. This included topic support groups that provided challenge and promoted better ways of teaching in schools.
- There were only two quality assurance officers for the City when there used to be thirty.
- Schools had made a decision to ensure that the curriculum offered met the needs of the students and therefore not every student followed a GCSE pathway at key stage 4.
- Fewer children were school ready at entry to key stage 1 than four years ago.
- The high percentage of students that speak English as a second language in the City made literacy attainment difficult to achieve.
- Elective home education and off rolling of students was a concern.
- Overall the exam results have improved.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Panel would be provided with 'off-rolling' figures for Southampton schools.
- (ii) That, reflecting concerns about the number of children that are entering primary school without being 'school ready', the Panel would be provided with an overview of the actions that have been taken, or are planned to be taken, that would ensure the children who required additional support were targeted and supported to access good early years education.

## 16. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Director, Legal and Governance which provided an overview of performance across Children and Families Services since June 2019.

Councillor Paffey, Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Children and Lifelong Learning; Hilary Brooks, Service Director, Children and Families Services; Sharon Hawkins, Interim Service Lead, Children's Social Care; and Phil Bullingham, Service Lead, Safeguarding, Improvement, Governance and Compliance; were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel. In discussions with the officers, the Panel noted the following:

- There had been an increase in cases into the service and peripatetic teams have been utilised to assist with the management of this increase as cases progress through the system
- Research into the increase in contacts had been commissioned and a presentation of the findings could be made at the next meeting.
- The recruitment of extra practitioners as well as a focus on management oversight of cases and reducing the high caseloads had contributed to the allocation of all cases within the service.



- The manager of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had worked on resolving some ambiguity about the different criteria for different tiers of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board’s continuum of needs.
- The new website system for making referrals to the Children and Families services had helped to ensure appropriate allocation of families to either the Early Help Hub or MASH.
- There was a need to build our intelligence base around Missing, Exploited and Trafficked children (MET) in order to understand more about hotspots and county lines and map risk.
- Funding had been received from the Department of Education to increase the family group conference offer, which would be utilised by Early Help and Edge of Care to prevent problems from escalating.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That a breakdown of Looked After Children that are not placed with in-house foster carers or independent fostering agencies would be circulated to the Panel.
- (ii) That the 23 January 2020 agenda would include consideration of the issue of child exploitation in Southampton.

17. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

The Panel noted that the analysis undertaken to identify where service demand is coming from would be presented at 7 November meeting of the Panel. They also noted that work on anonymised case studies showing examples of completed Education, Health and Care Plan assessments were in progress and would be distributed to the panel in advance of the meeting in November.

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<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PERFORMANCE		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	7 NOVEMBER 2019		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 3886
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<b>Director</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Richard Ivory</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 2794
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
<p>Attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are the key data sets for Children and Families up to the end of September 2019. At the meeting the Cabinet Member and senior managers from Children and Families will be providing the Panel with an overview of performance across the division since August 2019.</p> <p>In addition, as requested by the Panel, the Service Director for Children, Families and Education will present the key findings from the analysis undertaken to develop understanding of the increase in demand for safeguarding services experienced in Southampton during 2019.</p>			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	That the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children and Family Services in Southampton.	
	(ii)	That the Panel note and consider the findings from the analysis undertaken to improve understanding of the increased demand for safeguarding services in Southampton in 2019.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of children and family services 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 appropriate performance information on a monthly basis and an explanation of the measures.		
4.	Performance information up to 30 September 2019 is attached in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. An explanation of the significant variations in performance will be provided at the meeting.		
5.	The Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Children & Lifelong Learning and representatives from the Senior Management Team, Children and Families		

	have been invited to attend the meeting and provide the performance overview.
6.	At the 25 July 2019 meeting the Panel were informed that the Council's Intelligence and Strategic Analysis Team had been commissioned to help develop our understanding of the factors that had caused the surge in demand for children's safeguarding services in Southampton in 2019.
7.	At the request of the Panel the Service Director for Children, Families and Education will present the information at the meeting.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
8.	None.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
9.	None.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
10.	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>	
11.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
13.	Improving the effectiveness of the political scrutiny of children's safeguarding will help contribute to the following priorities within the Council Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people get a good start in life</li> </ul>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Children and Families Monthly Dataset – September 2019
2.	Early Help Dataset – September 2019
3.	Glossary of terms
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (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>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	

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Qualitative measures:			Key to direction of travel:					
Positive	Similar	Negative	Increase 10% or more	↑	Similar	⇒	Decrease 10% or more	↓

Benchmarking			
(Updated Mar-19, using 17-18 data)			
Stat. Neighbour	England	SE region	

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Monthly Data												% change from previous month	% change from same month prev. yr	DoT	12 month average	12-mnth max value	Percentage?	Benchmarking			Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Sep-19):				
					Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19							Aug-19	Sep-19	Stat. Neighbour				England	SE region		
M1	Number of contacts received (includes contacts that become referrals)	Sharon Hawkins	Regina Schofield	There is an effective 'front door' with which anyone with a concern about a child can engage and receive appropriate advice, support and action.	1754	1441	1620	1871	1598	1715	1463	1704	1572	1747	1660	1861	1377	1514	↑	10%	⇒	5%		1642	1871	-	Local	Local	Local			This figure is below the 12 monthly average. The Early Help Hub is gaining traction and this will mean a steady reduction with work diverted to Early Help services. MASH has a 90% compliance rate for contact to referral within 24 hours for the month of September. Partner agencies continue to work together to ensure information is shared and children receive the appropriate service to meet their needs. We have a recently established 'Drop-In' session the first Tuesday of every month for Partner agencies to come along and discuss how we work together and build on our working relationships. It is also an opportunity to discuss any issues which may have arisen and support can be provided for professionals working with children and YP in the community under Universal services.
M2	Number of new referrals of Children In Need (CIN)	Sharon Hawkins	Regina Schofield	Referrals for children in need of help and support are accepted appropriately by the service.	262	226	235	240	192	286	378	577	488	522	542	612	459	558	↑	22%	↑	147%		424	612	-	383	359	468			The rate of referrals remains high compared to statistical neighbours and regional average. It is significantly higher than the same month last year. Every month a sample of contacts/referrals are audited to ensure that thresholds are consistently applied.
M3	Percentage of all contacts that become new referrals of Children In Need (CIN)	Sharon Hawkins	Regina Schofield	Children and families receive the help they need at the right time, and from the best possible resource - in line with the established continuum of need.	14.9%	15.7%	14.5%	12.8%	12.0%	16.7%	25.8%	33.9%	31.0%	29.9%	32.7%	32.9%	33.3%	36.9%	↑	11%	↑	135%		26.0%	36.9%	P	Local	Local	Local			The conversion rate of contacts to referrals is higher this month, and this might be expected due to the return of schools following the Summer holiday. This rate is up 135% on the same month last year. Audits in the service over the past few months have confirmed that thresholds are being appropriately applied. these audits will continue.
M2-NI	Number of new referrals of Children in Need (CIN) rate per 10,000 (0-17 year olds)	Sharon Hawkins	Regina Schofield	Referrals for children in need of help and support are comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	52	45	47	48	38	57	75	115	97	104	108	122	90	110	↑	22%	↑	144%		84	122	-	58	46	46			-The rate of CIN per 10000 is twice that of statistical neighbours and has remained high. The Council has invested in additional temporary staff to ensure that these children's needs are met. We remain confident in relation to our thresholds.
M8-QL	Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less	Sharon Hawkins	Regina Schofield	The safety of children is supported by referrals being dealt with in a timely manner.	78.0%	98.0%	76.0%	98.0%	89.0%	99.0%	89.0%	59.0%	83.0%	94.0%	93.0%	86.0%	90.0%	95.0%	⇒	6%	⇒	-3%	▲	87.6%	99.0%	P	Local	Local	Local			The percentage of contacts dealt with with 24 hours has increased in September despite a higher rate of referrals. The figure is higher than the 12 monthly average. These figures demonstrate the effective response from Mash for children and their families who are referred for a statutory service.
M6-QL (val)	Number of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	Sharon Hawkins	Sarah Ward	The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.	34	24	13	13	5	7	24	29	40	32	32	17	8	20	↑	150%	↓	-17%	▼	20	40	-	Local	Local	Local			The increase from last month is likely to be linked to the start of the new term and increased oversight from education. On looking at individual cases there are a mixture of cases with a significant safeguarding issue and also cases where the stepdown/early help offer has not been in place, robust or clear. As the improvement journey continues I would want to review these cases and ensure the appropriate step down plan is in place so that re referrals are only for safeguarding issues.
M6-QL	Percentage of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	Sharon Hawkins	Sarah Ward	The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.	13.0%	11.0%	6.0%	5.0%	3.0%	2.0%	6.0%	5.0%	8.0%	6.0%	6.0%	3.0%	2.0%	4.0%	↑	100%	↓	-64%	▼	4.7%	8.0%	P	23.9%	21.9%	26.2%			As above.
M4	Number of new referrals of children aged 13+ where child sexual exploitation (CSE) was a factor	Sharon Hawkins	Simon Denison	The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	1	8	9	9	2	6	↑	200%	↑	100%		6	9	-	Local	Local	Local			12 month average rate - this indicator is dependent on accurate identification at front door - MET lead routinely reminding. This represents just over 1% of all new referrals.
M5	Number of children receiving Early Help services who are stepped up for Children In Need (CIN) assessment	Sharon Hawkins	Brian Holdhouse	The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.	1	2	0	3	2	3	0	2	5	-	5	7	8	7	↓	-13%	↑	250%		4	8	-	Local	Local	Local			This month's figure is one child less than last. Improved data, analysis of the cohort and embedding of practice standards are expected to support an increase in numbers of cases stepping up. Interface between Early Help and Social Care has been strengthened through the development of the Early Help Hub and a nominated EH manager attending the Assessment Improvement Board.
EH2	Number of Children In Need (CIN) at end of period (all open cases, excluding EHPs, EHAs, CPP and LAC)	Sharon Hawkins	Sarah Ward	Children in need of help and support receive a consistent and effective service.	984	1087	1099	1068	1050	998	1083	1355	1431	1543	1783	1948	1864	1798	⇒	-4%	↑	65%		1418	1948	-	Local	Local	Local			The overall increase, as stated last month, is linked to the high increase of referrals to the service. As part of the improvement journey support has been offered to social workers to allow for review of the open cases and to support the progression of the cases. This should enable cases to move forward in a more timely way and ensure families are receiving appropriate support from the correct teams/agencies and prevent any drift which tends to increase following an increase in volume of work. This particularly applies to the cases open as child in need without the structure of child protection and Looked After Children.
EHS-QL	Number of children open to the authority who have been missing at any point in the period (count of children)	Sharon Hawkins	Simon Denison	The needs and safety of children who have been missing are responded to robustly.	45	54	38	48	51	45	54	52	63	80	100	80	56	62	↑	11%	↑	15%	▼	61	100	-	Local	Local	Local			Increased number of missing children reported in September higher than previous month but more importantly higher than same month previous year. Overall 71 episodes/62 children. Separate data reporting improved RHI offer rate (3 month report June-august)

Agenda Item 7 Appendix 1

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	% change from previous month	% change from same month prev. yr	DoT	12 month average	12-mth max value	Percentage?	Stat. Neighbour	England	SE region	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Sep-19):
EH3	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Children receive a comprehensive assessment of their needs; with strengths and areas of risk identified to inform evidence-based planning.	198	112	158	184	139	266	182	196	286	267	192	363	428	393	➔ -8%	⬆️ 251%		255	428	-	183	346	448			
EH3a%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 10 days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	10.1%	8.0%	7.6%	9.8%	7.9%	6.8%	7.7%	11.2%	4.2%	7.9%	14.1%	9.6%	9.6%	5.6%	⬇️ -42%	⬇️ -30%	▲	8.5%	14.1%	P	Local	Local	Local			
EH3b%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 11-25 days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	15.7%	19.6%	28.5%	26.6%	26.6%	15.8%	24.2%	34.7%	29.7%	30.3%	14.1%	16.8%	16.1%	9.4%	⬇️ -42%	⬇️ -52%	▲	22.7%	34.7%	P	Local	Local	Local			
EH3c%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 26-35 days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	14.6%	7.1%	14.6%	13.0%	10.1%	11.3%	14.3%	14.3%	26.2%	9.0%	11.5%	9.4%	10.3%	12.0%	⬆️ -16%	⬆️ -67%	▲	13.0%	26.2%	P	Local	Local	Local			
EH3d%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 36-45 days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	22.7%	31.3%	24.1%	16.3%	16.5%	23.3%	19.2%	29.6%	21.7%	27.0%	18.2%	12.1%	22.4%	18.8%	⬇️ -16%	⬇️ -40%	▲	20.8%	29.6%	P	Local	Local	Local			
EH3e%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed over 45 days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	36.9%	33.9%	25.3%	34.2%	38.8%	42.9%	34.6%	10.2%	18.2%	25.8%	42.2%	52.1%	41.6%	54.2%	⬆️ -30%	⬆️ -60%	▼	35.0%	54.2%	P	79.9%	82.7%	82.9%			
EH4 (val)	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	125	74	118	121	85	152	119	176	234	198	111	174	250	180	⬇️ -28%	⬆️ -143%	▲	160	250	-	273	286	372			
EH4-QL	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	63.0%	66.0%	75.0%	66.0%	61.0%	57.0%	65.0%	90.0%	82.0%	74.0%	58.0%	48.0%	58.0%	46.0%	⬇️ -21%	⬇️ -30%	▲	65.0%	90.0%	P	79.9%	82.7%	82.9%			
CP1	Number of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Where there are concerns about a child's safety, there is a robust assessment of risk.	71	87	115	99	66	96	106	152	101	124	156	182	101	103	➔ 2%	⬆️ 18%		117	182	-	96	97	126			
CP1-NI	Rate of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started per 10,000 children aged 0-17	Sharon Hawkins	Karin Courtman	Safeguarding investigations undertaken by the service are at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	14	17	23	20	13	19	21	30	20	25	31	36	20	20	➔ 0%	⬆️ 18%		23	36	-	16	12	12			
CP6B	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of the month, excluding temporary registrations	Sharon Hawkins	Shant Webb	Child Protection Plans are in place for children where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep them safe.	310	272	262	268	262	258	275	294	328	326	367	403	456	446	➔ -2%	⬆️ 64%		329	456	-	324	354	473			There has been a small reduction in the number and rate of children subject to child protection planning; corresponding with a smaller number of new registrations and an increase in plans ending. The number of sec.47 enquiries appears to be stabilising and the CPC team is appropriately resourced to support consultation activity with the operational teams and case tracking. The Child Protection Advisor's weekly report is routinely considered by the assessment and Protection and Court (PACT) improvement boards, ensuring operational and senior management line of sight of child protection planning. The Service Delivery Plan is being informed by analysis of particular groups of children in the cohort (vulnerable adolescents, unborn babies, children subject to planning for >15 months). We continue to work with Daybreak and the DfE as we move to implement our extended Family Group Conferencing offer.
CP6B-NI	Rate of children with Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 (0-17 year olds) at end of period	Sharon Hawkins	Shant Webb	The number of children who require Child Protection Plans is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	62	54	52	53	52	51	55	58	65	65	73	80	90	88	➔ -2%	⬆️ 63%		65	90	-	53	45	46			There has been a small reduction in the number and rate of children subject to child protection planning; corresponding with a smaller number of new registrations and an increase in plans ending. The number of sec.47 enquiries appears to be stabilising and the CPC team is appropriately resourced to support consultation activity with the operational teams and case tracking. The Child Protection Advisor's weekly report is routinely considered by the assessment and Protection and Court (PACT) improvement boards, ensuring operational and senior management line of sight of child protection planning. The Service Delivery Plan is being informed by analysis of particular groups of children in the cohort (vulnerable adolescents, unborn babies, children subject to planning for >15 months). We continue to work with Daybreak and the DfE as we move to implement our extended Family Group Conferencing offer.
CP2	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs), excluding transfer-Ins and temporary registrations	Paul Bullingham	Shant Webb	Where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep a child safe, the case is progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference.	29	20	40	37	25	22	37	37	46	55	71	64	81	17	⬇️ -79%	⬇️ -15%		44	81	-	40	44	54			There has been a notable reduction in the number and rate of ICPCs this month, to a level comparable with September 2018. We know that the activity in the assessment service is stabilising, but a more sustained trend is required.. What we do know is that the rate of conversion from ICPC to plan is broadly in line with SN, national and regional averages.
CP2-NI	Rate per 10,000 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)	Paul Bullingham	Shant Webb	The rate of Initial Child Protection Conferences is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	6	5	8	7	5	5	8	8	9	12	14	13	16	4	⬇️ -76%	⬇️ -24%		9	16	-	6	6	5			There has been a notable reduction in the number and rate of ICPCs this month, to a level comparable with September 2018. We know that the activity in the assessment service is stabilising, but a more sustained trend is required.. What we do know is that the rate of conversion from ICPC to plan is broadly in line with SN, national and regional averages.

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Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	% change from previous month	% change from same month prev. yr	DoT	12 month average	12-mnth max value	Percentage?	Stat. Neighbour	England	SE region	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Sep-19):
CP4 (val)	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	28	18	37	29	19	17	33	30	36	32	54	53	59	14	↓ -76%	↓ -22%	▲	34.42	59.00	-	35	38	38			There has been a notable reduction in the number and rate of ICPCs this month, to a level comparable with September 2018. We know that the activity in the assessment service is stabilising, but a more sustained trend is required.. What we do know is that the rate of conversion from ICPC to plan is broadly in line with SN, national and regional averages.
CP4	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	96.6%	90.0%	92.5%	78.4%	76.0%	77.3%	89.2%	81.1%	78.3%	58.2%	76.1%	82.8%	72.8%	82.4%	↑ 13%	→ -8%	▲	78.7%	92.5%	P	86.2%	86.5%	85.8%			There has been a notable reduction in the number and rate of ICPCs this month, to a level comparable with September 2018. We know that the activity in the assessment service is stabilising, but a more sustained trend is required.. What we do know is that the rate of conversion from ICPC to plan is broadly in line with SN, national and regional averages.
CP2b	Number of transfer-ins	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	0	6	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	0	1	1	3	↑ 200%	↓ -50%		1	3	-	Local	Local	Local			There were three transfers in this month. Cases are being checked with the CPC team to ensure that transfer processes have been adhered to.
CP2b %	Percentage of transfer-ins where child became subject to a CP Plan during period	Sharon Hawkins	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	-	33.0%	100.0%	-	-	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	100.0%	-	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	→ 0%	↑ 203%		87.5%	100.0%	P	Local	Local	Local			There were three transfers in this month. Cases are being checked with the CPC team to ensure that transfer processes have been adhered to.
CP3-QL (val)	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) which were held within timescales (excludes transfer-ins)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	21	7	27	26	15	15	22	31	21	26	32	35	38	7	↓ -82%	→ 0%	▲	25	38	-	30	34	40			Timeliness deteriorated this month because the assessment service had not stabilised. Staffing levels have improved and to support rigorous line of sight the CP advisor has started reported to the improvement boards on those 'amber' cases at risk of falling outside of time limits.
CP3-QL	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	72.4%	35.0%	67.5%	70.3%	60.0%	68.2%	59.5%	83.8%	45.7%	47.3%	45.1%	54.7%	46.9%	41.2%	↓ -12%	↑ 18%	▲	57.5%	83.8%	P	78.2%	76.9%	75.0%			Timeliness deteriorated this month because the assessment service had not stabilised. Staffing levels have improved and to support rigorous line of sight the CP advisor has started reported to the improvement boards on those 'amber' cases at risk of falling outside of time limits.
CP8-QL	Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 working days.	Sharon Hawkins	Beriah Ward	The service is in regular contact with children subject to Child Protection planning to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	83.0%	85.0%	79.0%	72.0%	88.0%	84.0%	85.0%	81.0%	88.0%	69.0%	65.0%	63.0%	67.0%	68.0%	→ 1%	↓ -20%	▲	75.8%	88.0%	P	Local	Local	Local			This is an area of work which the teams have been addressing, to ensure that all visits are recorded in a timely way. Following the steep increase of referrals and therefore volume of work the evidencing of cp visits fell. The social work teams are being supported to evidence their work in a timely manner. This is vital to ensure the safety of these vulnerable children and to ensure their CP plans progress and move forward.
CP5-QL (val)	Number of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	9	2	1	6	6	0	8	5	16	2	11	14	15	4	↓ -73%	↑ 100%	▼	7	16	-	8	8	10			The four children subject to repeat planning this month are siblings. They were last subject to planning two years previously, under a different category.
CP5-QL	Percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	32.1%	10.5%	2.6%	20.7%	31.6%	0.0%	23.5%	13.9%	41.0%	5.7%	19.3%	26.4%	24.6%	18.2%	↓ -26%	↑ 73%	▼	19.0%	41.0%	P	21.9%	20.2%	22.6%			The four children subject to repeat planning this month are siblings. They were last subject to planning two years previously, under a different category.
CP9	Number of children subject to Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) in the month	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where children are subject to Child Protection planning, their cases are reviewed regularly to identify progress and any barriers.	60	98	85	74	63	74	56	47	75	88	77	91	53	122	↑ 130%	↑ 24%		75	122	-	Local	Local	Local			The increase in review conferences is explained by a large number of the cases registered earlier in the year now coming to review. The CPC team is appropriately resourced to meet the demand. The number of closures has increased, but significantly. As case tracking embeds it is assessed that this will assist with case progression and ultimately cases stepping down / out of planning safely.
CP7	Number of ceasing Child Protection Plans (CPP), excluding temporary registrations	Sharon Hawkins	Stuart Webb	Where it is assessed that risks to a child have reduced there is a review of risk and the case is stepped down effectively.	29	57	52	26	27	23	21	23	16	40	20	19	23	39	↑ 70%	↓ -32%	▲	27	52	-	36	36	42			The increase in review conferences is explained by a large number of the cases registered earlier in the year now coming to review. The CPC team is appropriately resourced to meet the demand. The number of closures has increased, but significantly. As case tracking embeds it is assessed that this will assist with case progression and ultimately cases stepping down / out of planning safely.
LAC1	Number of Looked after Children at end of period	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Where it is assessed that there is no safe alternative, the local authority will take children into its care for their welfare and protection.	514	499	490	485	475	472	481	475	490	502	500	509	512	516	→ 1%	→ 3%	▼	492	516	-	41	41	44	495	420	There has been a further increase of 4 in our looked after cohort in the past month. The number and rate continues to be higher than SN, regional and national averages. Rigorous oversight continues to ensure the right children are being bought into care at the right time. Those on the dge of care are monitored through Legal planning and a tracker. Recent audit of children's entry into care has shown that our decision making is correct.
LAC1-NI	Looked after Children rate per 10,000	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	The level of children in care is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	102	99	97	96	94	94	96	94	97	100	99	101	101	102	→ 1%	→ 3%	▼	98	102	-	81	64	51			See above.
LAC2	Number of new Looked after Children (episodes)	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Where children meet the threshold and there are no alternatives, they will be safe and have their welfare needs addressed through accommodation by the local authority.	4	11	8	11	7	13	17	19	20	24	13	19	10	13	↑ 30%	↑ 18%	▼	15	24	-	18	18	19			3 more children bought new into care in Southampton in comparison to the previous month but that remains below SN, regional and national averages. Rigorous oversight continues to ensure the right children are bought into care at the right time and children on the dge of care are equally monitored through legal planning and a senior manager tracker. Recent audit of children's entry into care has shown that our decision making is correct.
LAC3	Number of ceasing Looked after Children (episodes)	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Children will leave care in a planned way with clear networks of support around them.	15	27	16	17	17	15	11	24	11	16	14	14	11	10	→ -9%	↓ -63%	▲	15	24	-	16	16	19			There has been a further reduction of 1 young person ceasing to be looked after in September in comparison with August. There is an ongoing focus on permanence tracking which should support improvements in this area.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	% change from previous month	% change from same month prev. yr	DoT	12 month average	12-month max value	Percentage?	Stat. Neighbour	England	SE region	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Sep-19):
LAC6 (val)	Number of adoptions (E11, E12)	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	3	4	6	5	3	2	2	10	3	4	1	0	4	3	↓ -25%	↓ -25%		4	10	-	2	2	2			The number of adoption orders granted this month is relatively consistent with the 12 month average.
LAC6 (%)	Percentage of adoptions (E11, E12)	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	20.0%	14.8%	37.5%	29.4%	17.6%	13.3%	18.2%	41.7%	27.3%	25.0%	7.1%	0.0%	36.4%	30.0%	↓ -18%	↑ 103%		23.6%	41.7%	P	17.1%	13.0%	12.0%			The percentage of adoptions is consistent with previous months.
LAC12 (val)	Number of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	2	5	2	4	6	7	4	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	- n/a	↓ -100%		2	7	-	-	-	-			This is now a further month where no orders have been granted. There are twenty applications waiting to be heard by the court either as part of care proceedings or private applications. As with applications for adoption orders, SGO applications not linked with care proceedings experience a period of awaiting a court hearing depending on current demand for the judiciary - we have 5 cases currently.
LAC12 (%)	Percentage of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	13.3%	18.5%	12.5%	23.5%	35.3%	46.7%	36.4%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	- n/a	↓ -100%	▲	15.9%	46.7%	P	10.1%	12.0%	10.0%			
LAC7-QL	Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	The service is in regular contact with Looked after Children to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	83.0%	79.0%	79.0%	76.0%	80.0%	75.0%	80.0%	82.0%	77.0%	74.0%	76.0%	83.0%	80.0%	80.0%	→ 0%	→ 1%	▲	78.5%	83.0%	P	Local	Local	Local			This headline reporting measure is currently set to measure six weekly contact. Individual children's visiting patterns are dependent on length of time in placement, care plan and the associated statutory requirements. No change in performance in the past month.
LAC10 (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA plan	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	94.9%	96.0%	96.5%	96.1%	97.3%	97.0%	96.0%	95.4%	94.9%	93.4%	92.8%	92.3%	95.1%	94.4%	→ -1%	→ -2%	▲	95.1%	97.3%	P	Local	Local	Local			Performance in this area remains quite steady. Improvement activity has focused on management oversight and tracking by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) team.
LAC10-QL	Number of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA Plan	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	488	479	473	466	462	458	462	453	465	469	464	470	487	487	→ 0%	→ 2%	▲	468	487	-	Local	Local	Local			Performance in this area remains quite steady. Improvement activity has focused on management oversight and tracking by the IRO team.
LAC13	Number of current Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after at end of period	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	12	13	12	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	16	15	14	15	→ 7%	↑ 15%		14	16	-	2	2	4			In the past quarter our numbers of unaccompanied asylum seekers have fluctuated between 14 and 15, currently we have 15. Practice is supported by our practice guidance reviewed earlier in the year.
LAC14	Number of new unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	- n/a	↓ -100%		0	2	-	Local	Local	Local			There are no new unaccompanied asylum seekers this month. Practice is supported by our practice guidance reviewed earlier in the year.
LAC11-QL	Number of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.	164	169	172	172	173	171	175	173	174	167	167	168	166	166	→ -1%	→ -2%	▲	171	175	-	Local	Local	Local			The number of care leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan has decreased by two young people this month. Outcomes are being monitored by our LAC and Care Leavers Improvement Board. A Practice Assurance Stocktake was completed over the summer, informing our improvement activity. Extra Personal Adviser capacity has been agreed which will help with capacity issues with our growing number of care leavers.
LAC11-QL (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.	98.0%	99.0%	99.0%	98.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	98.0%	98.0%	97.0%	→ -1%	→ -2%	▲	98.6%	99.0%	P	Local	Local	Local			The percentage of plans has reduced slightly to 97%, but is at a consistently high level. Outcomes are being monitored by our LAC and Care Leavers Improvement Board. Extra Personal Adviser capacity has been agreed which will help with capacity issues with our growing number of care leavers.
NI147	Percentage of Care Leavers in contact and in suitable accommodation	Sharon Hawkins	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers are in accommodation that is safe and secure.	91.0%	86.7%	89.5%	90.7%	88.4%	86.8%	86.4%	87.7%	86.2%	85.9%	84.3%	84.9%	82.6%	81.2%	→ -2%	→ -6%	▲	86.2%	90.7%	P	81.9%	-	-	93.0%	94.0%	We have reviewed the data behind this stat and due to some misrecording by personal advisers I can confirm that actual performance is that we are in touch with 160 of our cohort of 164 care leavers (97%) and that 90% are in suitable accommodation. This therefore remains above the benchmark figure of 81.89% but below our target of 94%. However we are seeking to implement a more robust Care planning meeting process for young people in supported accommodation and use of Staying Put is being reviewed which will help meet the needs of some young people, thus adding to an improvement in the suitable accommodation available.
LAC9 (val)	Number of Looked after Children (LAC) placed with IFAs at end of period	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	138	133	135	136	138	137	143	147	144	144	146	146	153	157	→ 3%	↑ 18%	▼	144	157	-	Local	Local	Local	TBC	TBC	The use of IFA remains stable, but the total number continues to be high - reflecting the need to identify placements for children who present with complex profiles. We have also seen an increase in the use of in-house foster care in this period. The profile of in-house carers remains restrictive in terms of the cohort of children that would be deemed a suitable match. Recruitment and retention of in house foster carers is a priority area for 2019/20
LAC9	Percentage of IFA placements (of all looked after children)	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	26.8%	26.7%	27.6%	28.0%	29.1%	29.0%	29.7%	30.9%	29.4%	28.7%	29.2%	28.7%	29.9%	30.4%	→ 2%	↑ 14%	▼	29.2%	30.9%	P	Local	Local	Local			As above (LAC9 (val)).
LAC16	Number of in-house foster carers at the end of period	Sharon Hawkins	Martin Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	171	173	168	167	168	171	172	172	tbc	tbc	167	166	169	169	→ 0%	→ -2%		169	172	-	-	-	-	190	200	The number of in house mainstream foster carers has remained stable. A recent recruitment campaign achieved limited enquires with no prospective carers progressing to the assessment stage. We know we need to move away from traditional marketing approaches. A business case has been approved to enhance the reward and support offered to in house carers to make fostering a more attractive option for those looking to give up work.

Qualitative measures:			Key to direction of travel:			
Positive	Similar	Negative	Increase 10% or more	Similar	Decrease 10% or more	
			↑	→	↓	

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Monthly Data												% change from prev. period	% change from same period prev. yr	DoT	12 month average	12-mnth max value	Percentage?	Benchmarking (Updated Mar-19, using 17-18 data)			Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Sep-19):							
					May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19							May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19					Aug-19	Sep-19	Stat. Neighbour	England	SE region		
EH1a	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) started in the month	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from an early help offer that is rooted in a good understanding of their needs.	37	19	42	18	17	20	9	21	14	81	270	60	57	144	96	126	41	↓	-67%	↑	141%				Local	Local	Local				Improvement work is continuing to achieve standards in recording compliance within the direct delivered early help teams. This has significantly increased the recording of completed EHAs on all open individuals. NB. EHAs completed by the Solent NHS delivery teams within the Integrated Early Help & Prevention Service are recorded on Solent's S1 & therefore not included in this measure presently. The new Early Help Hub has been in operation since mid June which has further streamlined the Early Help pathway. Decrease in EHAs started in September following reduction in referrals from schools during summer school holidays.	
EH1c	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed in the month INCLUDING adults aged 21+	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for adult family members where a need for support is identified.	14	19	12	12	22	9	21	28	22	193	898	159	163	237	217	232	168	↓	-28%	↑	664%				Local	Local	Local	288	336	TBC	As above improvement work being implemented. The increased volume of EHAs completed on all open individuals is an accurate record of work flow in the direct delivery EH teams recording on Paris.	
EH1b	Number of Early Help Plans (EHPs) opened in the month (includes EHPs completed, and those still open at end of period)	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from early help plans that meet their presenting needs.	104	80	69	63	53	66	67	88	94	329	519	124	176	223	245	180	128	↓	-29%	↑	142%				Local	Local	Local				As above on improvement work. The majority (>90%) of EHAs outcome is to continue to EH planning. A number of plans will also end as cases close after an average of 6 months family support engagement.	
EH14b	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed, EXCLUDING adults aged 21+	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for a children where a need for early help support is identified..	-	-	22	25	36	74	43	89	56	166	560	104	110	165	138	161	111	↓	-31%	↑	208%				Local	Local	Local				As improvement work is implemented. The increased volume of EHAs completed on all open individuals is an accurate record of work flow in the direct delivery EH teams recording on Paris.	
CIN5	Number of all Children in Need (CIN) (including Child Protection (CP) / Looked after Children (LAC) / Care Leavers	Sharon Hawkins	Stuart Webb	Children and families receive support safely, at the right threshold and in a timely manner; supported by the interface between Early Help and Social Care.	-	-	1999	1967	1920	1957	1937	1900	1859	1975	2252	2384	2522	2778	2976	2945	2874	→	-2%	↑	50%				Local	Local	Local					
LSCB17a	Percentage of 16-17 year olds NEEET or whose activity is not known	Denise Edgill	Debbie Blythe	Young people benefit from an effective work to engage them in education, training and employment.		5.9%			6.2%			7.8%			7.0%			6.8%			-	-	n/a	-	n/a	▼	7.2%	7.8%	P	6.1%	6.0%	6.4%				
YO2	Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17 year olds in period	Denise Edgill	Debbie Blythe	Young people are appropriately diverted from entry into the criminal justice system through the local diversion / prevention offer.		434			439			399			397			357			-	-	n/a	-	n/a	▼	-	0	-	417	327	256				
FM011	Families attached per quarter	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Families benefit from a robust local Troubled Families offer. (Families Matter)		116			97			155			125			110			-	-	n/a	-	n/a	▲	130	155	-	Local	Local	Local				In the last year our performance plateaued, whilst other areas improved, meaning we were in the lowest decile of performers in the country for 2018/19. Additional internal resource has been secured & a multi-disciplinary FM Health Check Group established to increase the recording of the families being worked with and evidencing improved outcomes with increased PbR claims. An additional 27 families have been attached last month (171 for the year) which brings our total above the 2,230 national TF programme target to 2,401 total families worked with. NB. We will receive attachment income to the 2,230 target only, therefore 122 of the 171 will be financially eligible as 2,108 attached by the end of 2018/19 (£122,000).
FM012	Payment per result (PBR) claims attached per quarter	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Family engagement in the Families Matter programme translates into PBR, for further investment into the programme.		57			0			38			16			85			-	-	n/a	-	n/a	▲	46	85	-	Local	Local	Local				For quarter 2 (July - September) 85 claims submitted 10/07/19 with a further 68 audited to be claimed 30/08/19 giving a cumulative 153 families successfully worked with, which is a 337% increase on the previous 12 month average of 35 per quarter & equates to £122,400 PBR income. We have made a total of 765 PBR claims out of a target of 2,230 families worked with (32% conversion rate). We are currently tracking 747 families and require additional families to be attached to meet our local target 40-45% conversion rate. We are working to include the Enhanced Child Health Visiting Offer cohort within the programme (~300 families). Rolling annual target is >450 PBR to be claimed by 31 March 2020. Total programme total >1,216 (55% conversion rate of 2,230).

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## Abuse

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

## Advocacy

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

## Agency Decision Maker

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

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

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

## Assessment

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

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

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

## CAFCASS

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

## Care Order

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

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

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

## Categories of Abuse or Neglect

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

## Child in Need and Child in Need Plan

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

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

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

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

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

## Child Protection

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

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



## Child Protection Conference

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

## Children's Centres

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

## Child Sexual Exploitation

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

## Corporate Parenting

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

## Criteria for Child Protection Plans

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

## Director of Children's Services (DCS)

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

## Designated Teacher

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

## Discretionary Leave to Remain

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

## Duty of Care

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

- Always act in the best interest of individuals and others;

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

### Early Help

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

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

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

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

### Every Child Matters

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

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

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

### Health Assessment

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

### Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

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

### Independent Reviewing Officer

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

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

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

### Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

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

### Initial Child Protection Conference

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

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

### Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Looked After Child

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

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

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

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

### Neglect

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

### Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement

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

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

### Parental Responsibility

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

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

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

### Pathway Plan

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

### Permanence Plan

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

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

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

### Personal Education Plan

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

### Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)

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

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

### Placement at a Distance

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

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

### Principal Social Worker - Children and Families

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

### Private Fostering

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

fostering arrangement, the parent still holds Parental Responsibility and agrees the arrangement with the private foster carer.

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

### Public Law Outline

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

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

### Referral

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

### Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible

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

### Review Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Review Conferences (RCPC) are convened in relation to children who are already subject to a Child Protection Plan. The purpose of the Review Conference is to review the safety, health and development of the child in view of the Child Protection Plan, to ensure that the child continues to

be adequately safeguarded and to consider whether the Child Protection Plan should continue or change or whether it can be discontinued.

### Section 20

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

### Section 47 Enquiry

Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is taken into Police Protection, or is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order, or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Section 47 Enquiry is initiated. This enables the local authority to decide whether they need to take any further action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This normally occurs after a Strategy Discussion.

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

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

### Separated Children

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

### Special Guardianship Order

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

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

### Strategy Discussion

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

### Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

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

## Staying Put

A Staying Put arrangement is where a Former Relevant child, after ceasing to be Looked After, remains in the former foster home where they were placed immediately before they ceased to be Looked After, beyond the age of 18. The young person's first Looked After Review following his or her 16th birthday should consider whether a Staying Put arrangement should be an option.

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

## Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker

A child or young person under the age of 18 who has been forced or compelled to leave their home country as a result of major conflict resulting in social breakdown or to escape human rights abuse. They will have no adult in the UK exercising Parental Responsibility.

## Virtual School Head

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

## Working Together to Safeguard Children

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

## Young Offender Institution (YOI)

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

## Youth Offending Service or Team

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

## Sources

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

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



<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	THE VIEWS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTHAMPTON		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	7 NOVEMBER 2019		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3886</b>
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<b>Director</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Richard Ivory</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 2794</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
<p>The Bright Spots Programme helps local authorities better understand the well-being of their children and young people in care (aged 4-18) and care leavers.</p> <p>Each year local authorities opt into the survey. Attached as Appendix 1 is a report outlining the findings from the Bright Spot survey of the views of looked after children and young people aged 4-18yrs in Southampton.</p>			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	That the Panel notes the key findings from the Bright Spots survey and discusses with the Children and Families Senior Management Team the actions taken in response to the areas for improvement identified.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	To enable the Panel to develop their understanding of the views of looked after children and young people aged 4-18yrs in Southampton and the improvements planned following the publication of the findings.		
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>			
2.	None.		
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>			
3.	Currently official statistics provide only a partial picture of the lives of children in care. Data focuses on areas such as where children live, how many moves they have and how they are doing in terms of education and employment. None of this information tells us about the experience of care from children's own viewpoints: are they happy, safe and feel they are doing well?		
4.	The Bright Spots programme, developed by Coram Voice and the University of Bristol (now University of Oxford), directly addresses these gaps in our knowledge through the use of a set of well-being indicators to allow services		

	to design their work around what children and young people say is important to them.
5.	The Bright Spots programme aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the care experience for all looked after children;</li> <li>• Give children a voice on their own well-being; and</li> <li>• Highlight the 'Bright Spots' of practice that contribute to children flourishing in care.</li> </ul>
6.	Each year a number of local authorities opt into the surveys and commission work, commit to disseminating the results, and producing action statements on how they will respond to the feedback from their children.
7.	Attached as Appendix 1 is a report outlining the findings from the Bright Spots survey of the views of looked after children and young people aged 4-18yrs in Southampton.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
8.	None.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
9.	None.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
10.	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>	
11.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
13.	None
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	
	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	
	None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Your Life, Your Care: a survey of the views of looked after children and young people aged 4-18yrs in Southampton
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None

<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (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>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	

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# **Your Life, Your Care:** *a survey of the views of looked after children and young people aged 4-18yrs in Southampton*

*April 2018*

*Levana Magnus, University of Bristol*

# About this research

## Bright Spots

This research is part of the Bright Spots programme: a partnership between the University of Bristol and Coram Voice.

The programme aims to:

- improve the care experience for all looked after children;
- give children a voice on their own well-being; and
- highlight the 'Bright Spots' of practice that contribute to children flourishing in care.

The project was funded by the Hadley Trust and the DfE Social Care Innovation Fund.

- Through the programme we developed the *Bright Spots Well-Being Indicators*, which put children's experience and voices at the heart of how we measure subjective well-being.
- The indicators are measured by the '*Your Life, Your Care*' survey – a tool grounded in research and comparable to national data sets.
- The survey was developed from literature reviews, roundtable discussions with professionals and from focus groups and individual interviews with 140 looked after children and young people living in nine different local authorities.
- The survey identifies the areas where children appear to be flourishing and where things could be improved, providing an evidence base of children's experience and well-being to inform service improvements.

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# **Section 1: Summary: Key Findings**



# Key findings

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- The survey was completed by 245 children and young people. The response rate was 83%. More than four in five looked after children and young people in Southampton were supported to have their views heard: more than 3 times the response rate (26%) last year.
- Given the large increase in sample size, comparisons between last year's and this year's survey should be treated with caution.



The majority (83%) of children and young people felt their lives were improving.



Almost all children (8-11yrs) and young people (11-18yrs) had a trusted adult in their lives.

## Placements and carers



- Children and young people in Southampton appeared happy and settled in their placements.
- The vast majority trusted their carers and liked their bedrooms.
- Several children and young people used the text comments to say how much they liked their carers.
- However, one in five of the youngest did not feel the people they lived with noticed how they were feeling



# Key findings (2)



## Social workers

- Overall 88% of children and young people in Southampton knew who their social worker was.
- Compared to last year, there had been an improvement in the proportion of children and young people who know their social worker.
- However, 19% of children aged 4-7yrs still did not know the identity of their social worker
- The majority of children and young people trusted their social worker, although a lower proportion in the older age group (11-18) trusted their social worker compared to the younger children.

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The majority of children (89%) and young people (87%) felt included in decisions made about their lives.



## Family time

- 39% of children and 44% of young people saw their mothers 'just the right amount' and around half were happy with contact arrangements with siblings.
- The majority of text comments were about wanting more contact with family members.
- 18 (24%) children (8-11yrs) and 20 (19%) young people (11-18yrs) had no face to face contact with either parent.

# Key findings (3)

## Bullying

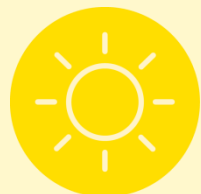


- 21 children and 22 young people reported that they were afraid to go to school because of bullying.



- All but five (12%) children and young people felt that they were supported with dealing with bullying, an improvement since last year.

# Key findings (4)



On the four well-being scales, approximately 2 in 5 (40-47%) young people had very high scores (scoring 9-10).

- This is a larger proportion compared to averages in 13 other LAs and to peers in the general population

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Around 10% had low scores on the scales suggesting that whilst most looked after children and young people are flourishing in Southampton, there is a sub-group who need additional support and interventions.



Similar to results from our 2017 surveys, girls were more likely to be unhappy with their appearance compared to boys and this was linked to overall low well-being.



## Low Well-Being

- Five children (**4-7yrs**) gave responses suggesting low well-being. These children tended to not know why they were in care, not know who their social worker was and did not trust their carers.
- Six children (**8-11yrs**) were identified as having low well-being. 5 of these children were afraid to go to school because of bullying, 4 did not like school, and 4 were worried about their feelings or behaviour.
- 12 (11%) young people (**11-18yrs**) reported low well-being. These young people were more likely to be unhappy with their appearance, did not like school and felt that their carers did not notice how they were feeling or show an interest in their education



# Section 2: Methodology

# Methodology

- Three online surveys were used to capture looked after children and young people's views on their own well-being. The three versions were for:
  - a) children aged 4-7yrs (16 questions);
  - b) children aged 8-11yrs in primary school (31 questions); and
  - c) young people of secondary school age 11-18yrs (46 questions).
- There was a common set of 16 core questions.
- Paper surveys were also available and used in cases where no Internet was available, or when the young person preferred this method.
- In Southampton at the time of the survey 294 children and young people aged 4-18yrs were looked after and able to complete the survey.
- Children and young people completed the survey anonymously: individual identifiers such as name, school etc. were not collected in order to allow responses without fear of consequences.
- If children recorded names or any identifying information on the survey these were removed by the researchers.

# Methodology (2)

- The survey was distributed through the virtual school to head teachers and designated teachers in schools. Social care staff, including foster carers and social workers, were asked to encourage children and young people to complete the survey. Regular reminders were sent to head teachers and designated teachers and some schools were followed up directly. The survey was promoted in training sessions for designated teachers.
- Most children and young people were asked to complete the online survey in school in February and March 2018, with a trusted adult present. The trusted adult was usually the designated teacher, learning mentor or SENCO.
- Several other professionals also acted as trusted adults, including Advanced Practitioners, key workers in supported accommodation and Independent Reviewing Officers.
- Additional hours were funded for one IRO to visit children specifically for the purpose of supporting with responding to the survey.

# Methodology (3)

## Subjective well-being:

### Are children flourishing?

- Subjective well-being in this survey refers to children's own evaluations of how they feel about their lives.
- There are questions in the surveys about affect (e.g. how happy a child feels now), cognitive judgements (e.g. evaluations of relationships) and the inner world (e.g. life having meaning).
- All these elements help us understand whether children are flourishing.

- Where possible, LA data are compared to data on children in the general population, and to the average responses from 13 local authorities.
- Data were weighted and tests run for significant difference between LAs.
- In addition to questions that measure overarching well-being indicators (happiness, life satisfaction etc.) the questions cover four domains that are important to children and young people: Relationships, Resilience, Rights and Recovery. The report covers each of these.



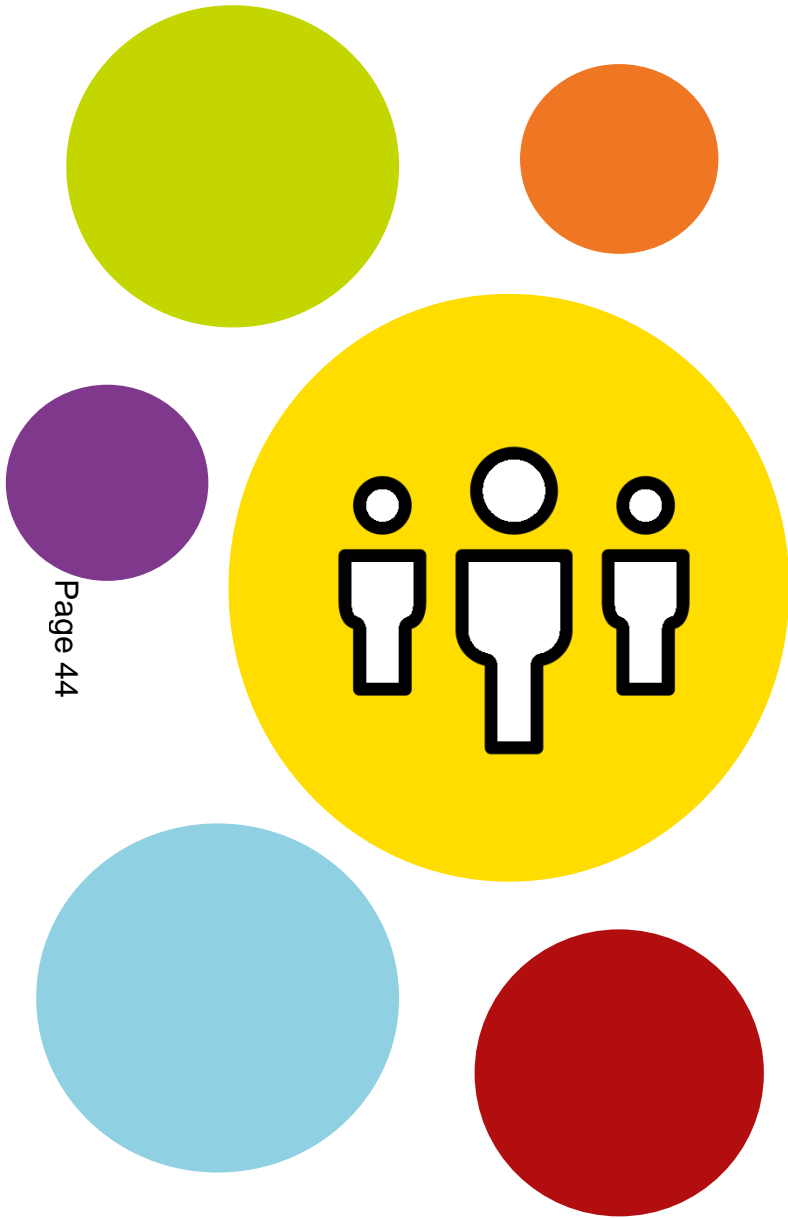
On some pages of this report you will see a '**Bright Spots**' icon (shown left). This indicates a 'good news' story – a positive aspect of practice in your local authority.

This is where children and young people are doing significantly better than children in care in other local authorities or report the same or higher well-being than their peers in the general population.





# Section 3: Survey results



# 1. Demographics

- Sample sizes
- Age and gender
- Ethnicity
- Placements
- Length of time in care

# Sample sizes

Although the sample size must be borne in mind when considering the representativeness of the data, the response rate was significantly better than in some similar surveys. *The State of Nation: Children in Care 2015*, for example, had a response rate of 3%.

- 245 children and young people responded to the surveys from an eligible looked after population of 294.
- The overall response rate was 83%, a considerable increase compared to last year's response rate of 26%.
- There was a particularly good response rate from young people, where 96% of looked-after young people in Southampton were encouraged to have their views heard.

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Age	Care population <i>n</i>	Responses <i>n</i>	Response rate %
4-7yrs	69	53	77%
8-11yrs	106	78	74%
11-18yrs	119	114	96%

# Age and gender

- In Southampton, 54% of the looked after population were boys. (DfE, 2017)
- Boys were under-represented in the survey responses for the 8-11yrs and 11-18yrs age groups.

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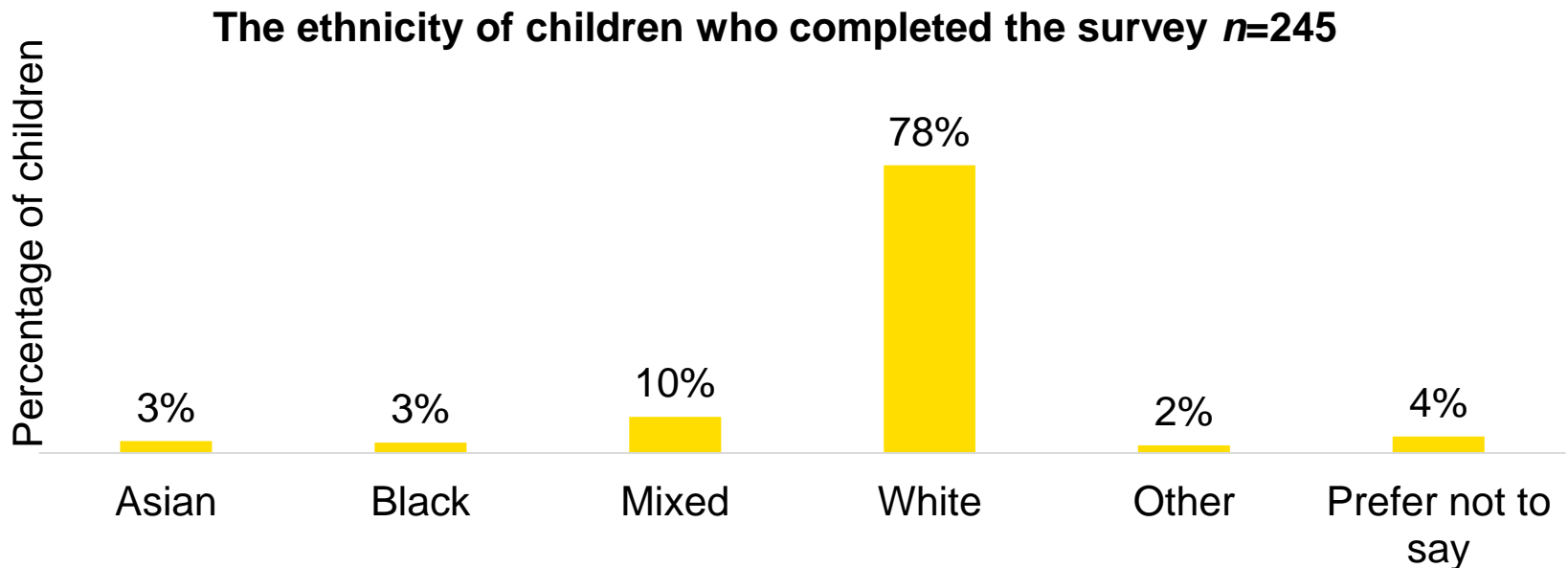
Age group	Girls <i>n</i> (%)	Boys <i>n</i> (%)	Prefer not to say/no reply <i>n</i> (%)
4-7yrs	18 (34%)	35 (66%)	0 (0%)
8-11yrs	48 (61%)	28 (36%)	2 (3%)
11-18yrs	55 (48%)	58 (51%)	1 (1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121 (49%)</b>	<b>121 (49%)</b>	<b>3 (2%)</b>

# Ethnicity

Children of Asian, black, mixed and other ethnicities were slightly over-represented in the survey as they made up 18% of the care population in Southampton's statistical return to the DfE (2017) compared to 21% in our sample.

- The majority (78%) of children and young people who completed the survey were white.

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# Placements

Placements in our sample broadly mirror the overall pattern in Southampton where 76% are placed with foster carers and a very small number live in residential care. (DfE, 2017)

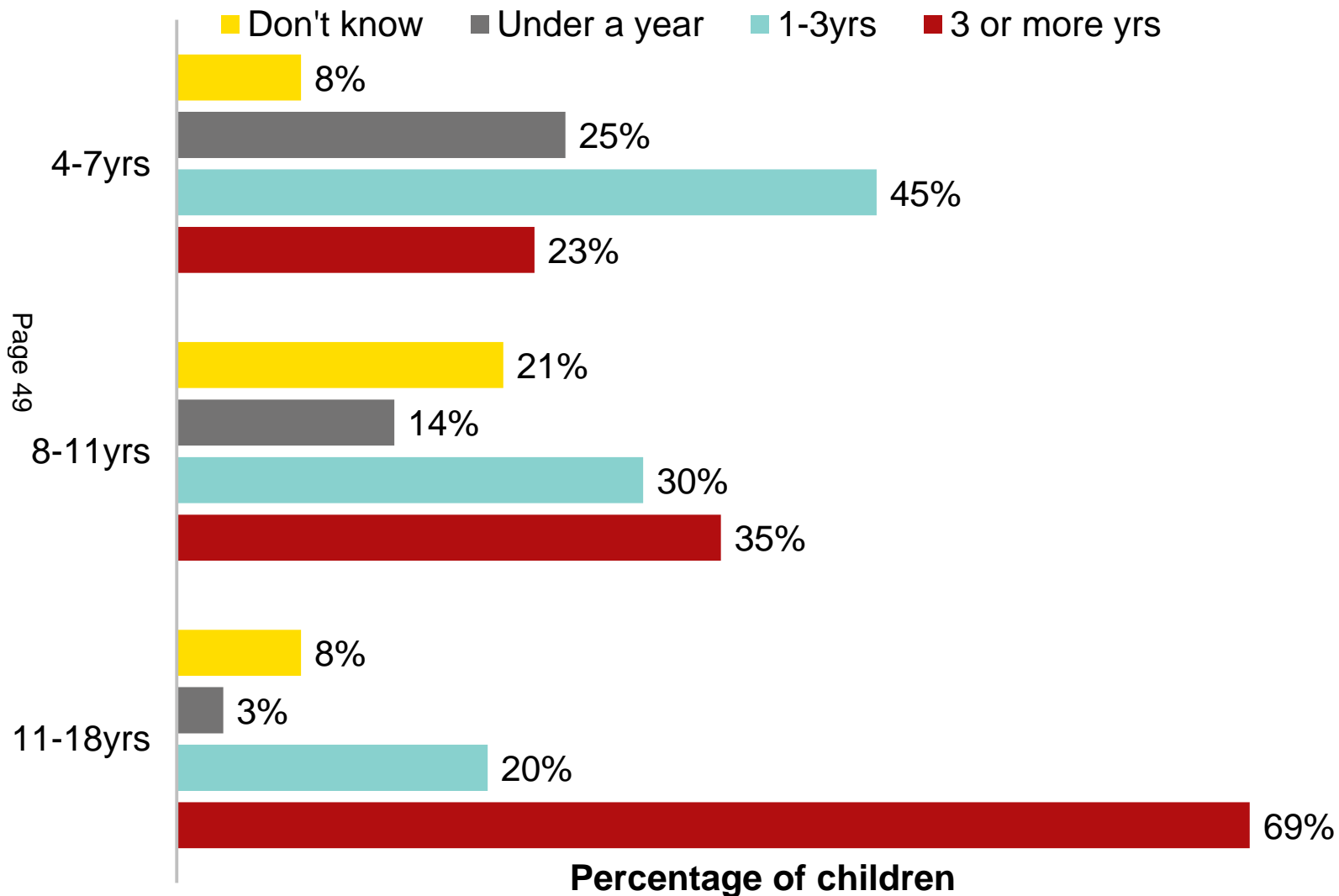
- The majority (73%) of children and young people were living in foster care.

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Age group	Foster care %	Family or friends care %	Residential care %	With parents %	Somewhere else %	Prefer not to say %
4-7yrs	68%	26%	2%	4%	0%	0%
8-11yrs	76%	14%	3%	7%	0%	0%
11-18yrs	74%	10%	3%	11%	1%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>

# Length of time in care

How long have you been in care?



## 2. Relationships

- Family contact
- Good friends
- Pets
- Adults you live with:  
Continuity and trust
- Social worker:  
Continuity and trust



# Family contact

The youngest children (4-7yrs) were not asked questions about family contact, as it was thought that they might become distressed or anxious.






Children and young people (8-18yrs) were asked whether they were *content with the frequency of contact that was taking place with their mother, father, and siblings.*

- 18 (24%) children (8-11yrs) and 20 (19%) young people (11-18yrs) had no face to face contact with either parent.
- Around a third of children and young people saw their dads 'just the right amount'. Nearly half were unable to see their fathers.

- 39% of children (8-11yrs) and 44% of young people (11-18yrs) saw their mothers 'just the right amount'. Just over a quarter (28%) felt that they saw their mothers 'too little'.
- A smaller proportion of children and young people felt happy with maternal contact arrangements compared to the results in last year's survey.
- Around half of children and young people were happy with sibling contact arrangements.
- In the majority of cases, children and young people used the text comments to say they wanted more contact. Several wanted to see siblings who had been adopted. Others worried about their parents or wrote about difficulties such as parents who were inconsistent.

# Family contact

Family member	Age group	Too much	Just right	Too little	I am unable to see them	Don't have any siblings
 Mother	8-11yrs <i>n</i> =72	2 (3%)	28 (39%)	20 (28%)	22 (30%)	-----
	11-18yrs <i>n</i> =105	6 (6%)	46 (44%)	30 (28%)	23 (22%)	-----
 Father	8-11yrs <i>n</i> =72	4 (5.5%)	22 (30.5%)	15 (21%)	31 (43%)	-----
	11-18yrs <i>n</i> =106	4 (4%)	32 (30%)	25 (24%)	45 (42%)	-----
 Siblings	8-11yrs <i>n</i> =70	8 (12%)	32 (46%)	19 (27%)	10 (14%)	1 (1%)
	11-18yrs <i>n</i> =106	7 (7%)	50 (47%)	32 (30%)	15 (14%)	2 (2%)

# Family contact: 8-11yrs

Children were also given the option of providing *comments about contact*.

- 39 children wrote about their thoughts and feelings about contact. Most wanted more contact, particularly with their mums and siblings. Several wrote about how they could not see some of their siblings because they had been adopted. Six children were happy with contact arrangements, whilst a few wanted their parents to be more consistent or accept the help they needed. Example quotes are shown below.

*I feel happy and excited about seeing mum and dad.*

*I want to see my Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters a lot more. And doggy.*

*It's not fair that I don't get to see my sister because she has been adopted. I would like to see my brother and my mum some more. I feel a bit angry about it most of the time.*

*Sometimes I go to visits with my Mum and Dad, but sometimes I don't want to see them. Sometimes they shout at me and my sisters and sometimes they are really kind. If I go to contact then I decide to go home at any point, which I like.*

*I need to see [mum] and see if [she] is safe and getting help because I really wanna see her and convince her to get help and try and listen to people who can help her become a loving mother again.*

# Family contact: 11-18yrs

- 33 young people wrote about their thoughts and feelings about contact. The majority wanted more contact with their family members. Several young people were happy with current arrangements or described who they lived with. Some young people wrote about barriers to having contact. Example quotes are shown below.

*I am happy with the contact I get.*

*I want to see my little brother and sister but not allowed because they're adopted.*

*Is it possible to have help with budgeting to see my family?  
11-18yrs*

*I think that I should have more contact with my family.  
11-18yrs*

*We might see our mum but only if she answers our text and phone calls, but my social worker is in touch with her.  
11-18yrs*

# Good friends



A lack of friendships is associated with loneliness and anxiety. All children and young people were asked whether they *had a really good friend*.

**General population:** *The Millennium Cohort Study (2015)* of young people aged 14yrs found that 3% of young people did not have a good friend.

- Most of the children and young people stated that they had at least one good friend but 10 (4%) did not.
- This was similar to their peers in the general population, where 3% did not have a good friend.

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Age group	Yes I have a really good friend <i>n (%)</i>	No, I don't have a really good friend <i>n (%)</i>
4-7yrs	48 (94%)	3 (6%)
8-11yrs	73 (96%)	3 (4%)
11-18yrs	108 (96%)	4 (4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229 (96%)</b>	<b>10 (4%)</b>

# Pets



Pets were important to children in all the focus groups we ran.

Children and young people said that pets are non-judgmental – they love you no matter what and are always pleased to see you. They can also give children an opportunity to take responsibility. Children and young people aged between 8-18yrs were asked if they *had a pet in the home they lived in.*

Page 56

- 78% of the 8-11yrs children lived in a household with a pet.
- In the older (11-18yrs group), 72% of young people had a pet where they lived.
- 19 children and 15 young people wanted to have a pet where they lived.

*I like watching TV with my carers and taking the dog for a walk...*  
4-7yrs

# Adults you live with: Continuity & trust

## Placement moves



Young people (11-18yrs) were asked *How many placements have you had since coming into care?*



Children and young people were asked whether they *trusted the adults they lived with (i.e. carers, parents).*

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Number of placements	Percentage
1 placement	42%
2-4 placements	32%
5-7 placements	15%
8-10 placements	5.5%
11+	0%
Don't know	5.5%

## Trust

- Positive responses
- 92% of children (4-7yrs)
  - 96% of those aged 8-11yrs and
  - 98% of young people (11-18yrs) trusted their carers.

*My foster family make me feel like one of their own children ... and are fun but fair.  
11-18yrs*

# Social worker: Continuity & trust

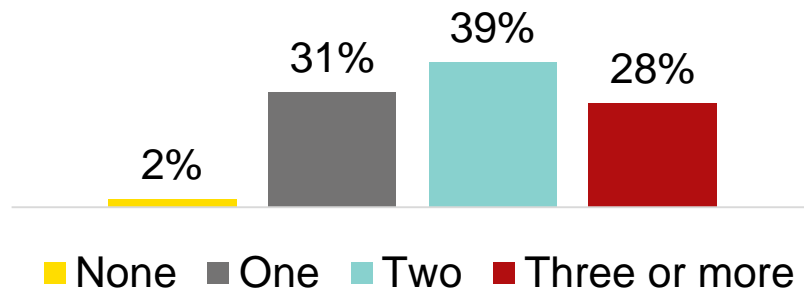
## Changes in social workers



11-18 year olds were asked:  
*How many social workers have you had in the past 12 months?*

- 67% answered that they had had three or more social workers in the previous year.

**How many social workers have you had in the last 12 months?**



## Trusting social worker



Children & young people ( $n=211$ ) who knew who their social worker was, were asked whether they *trusted their social worker*.

The level of trust in social workers was high.

- 93% of the youngest children (4-7yrs);
- 96% of children aged 8-11yrs; and
- 88% of young people (11-18yrs) trusted their social worker.



# Changes since last survey

4-7yrs

8-11yrs

11-18yrs



Contact with mother just right

39% - 12%

44% - 8%



Contact with father just right

30.5% - 9.5%

30% = - 3%



Contact with siblings just right

46% - 5%

47% = + 3%



Have a good friend

94% - 6%

96% + 5%

96% = - 2%



Have a pet

78% - 6%

72% - 8%



Trust the adults they live with

92% = - 4%

96% = - 4%

98% = 0%



Trust social worker

93% = - 3%

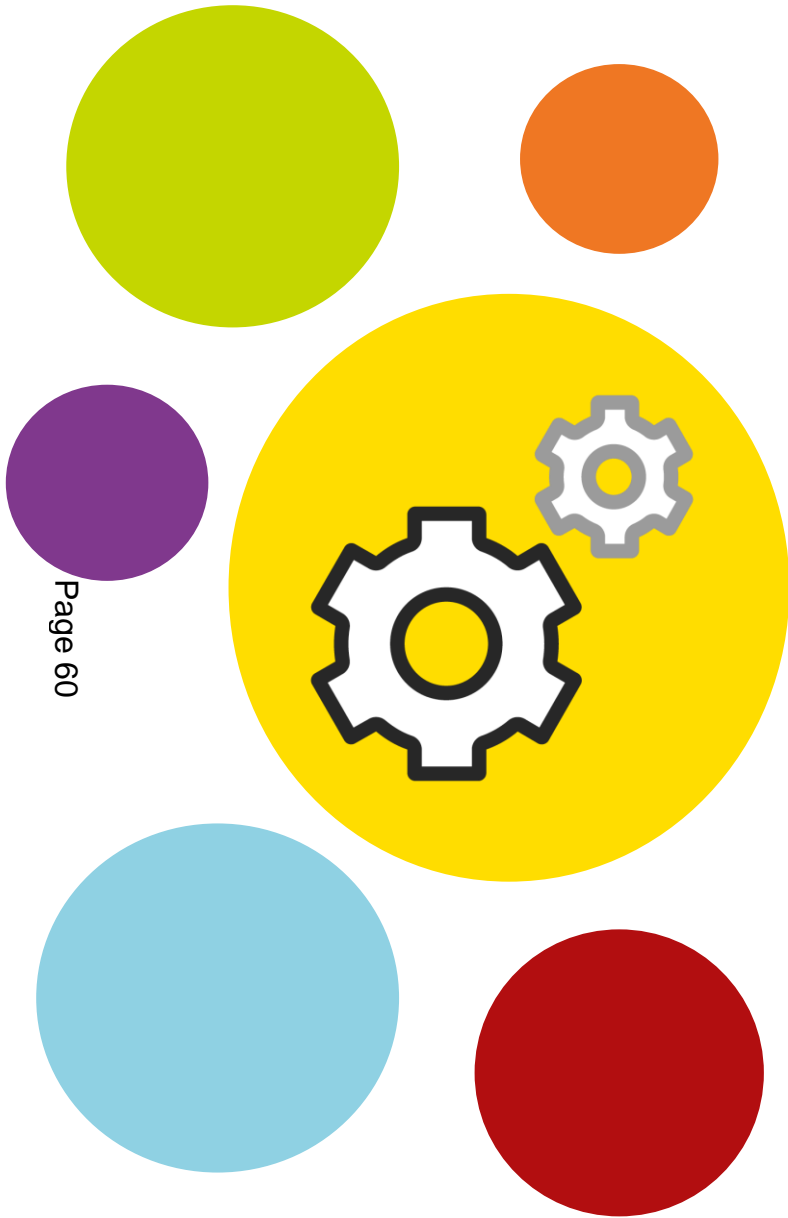
96% = - 4%

88% = - 2%



1 social worker in last 12 months

31% = 0%



### 3. Resilience

- Trusted adult
- Being trusted & helping out
- Liking school
- Adults you live with:  
Support for learning
- Having fun & hobbies
- Access to nature
- Second chances
- Life skills
- Access to Internet at home

# Trusted adult

Children and young people aged between 8-18yrs were asked *Do you have an adult who you trust, who helps you and sticks by you no matter what?*



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The availability of one key adult has been shown to be the turning point in many looked after young people's lives. (Gilligan, 2009)

Having a trusted adult has been shown to be the main factor in helping children recover from traumatic events.

- Most children and young people wrote that they had a trusted adult in their lives:
  - 97% of children (8-11yrs) and
  - 95% of the 11-18yrs young people.
- 8 looked after children and young people had no such adult in their lives.

# Being trusted & helping out

Younger children (8-11yrs) were asked if they *got the chance to help the teacher*. Children had said in the focus groups that they were never trusted to show visitors around school or deliver a message because they were looked after.



We asked young people: *How often do you get the chance to show you can be trusted?*

Having trusting relationships and being trusted were key issues raised by the children in the focus groups that underpinned the development of this survey.

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- 27% of children (8-11yrs) responded that 'all or most of the time' they were asked to help and 51% answered 'sometimes'.
- 22% wrote 'hardly ever' or 'never'.
- 57% of young people (11-18yrs) thought they were given opportunities 'all or most of the time' to show they could be trusted and 35% given them 'sometimes'.
- 5% 'hardly ever' and 3% 'never'.

# Liking school



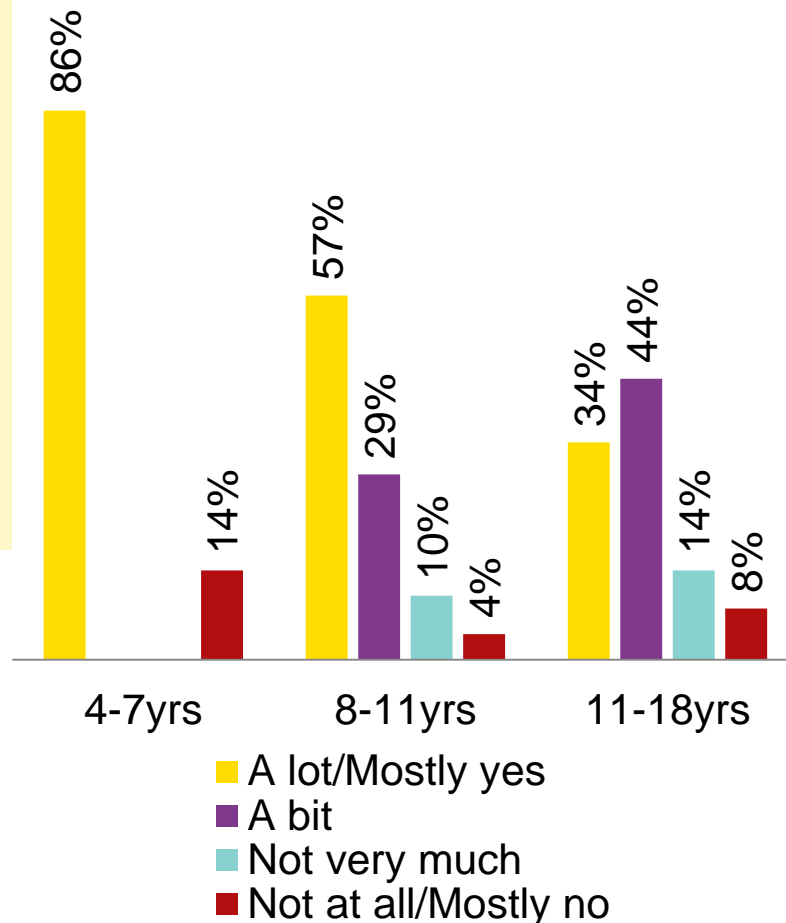
All the children and young people were asked how much they *liked school or college*.

## General population: Liking school

The *Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children Survey* (2015) of 5,335 young people (11-15yrs) reported that 80% liked school 'a lot' or 'a bit' and 20% 'not very much' or 'not at all'. Liking school decreased with the child's age and girls were more likely to say they enjoyed school 'a lot' in comparison with boys.

- 78% of the 11-18yrs group liked school or college 'a lot' or 'a bit', which is comparable to the general population.

## Do you like school?



# Adults you live with: Support for learning

bright spots



Children in the 8-11yrs and 11-18yrs surveys were asked whether the adults they lived with (e.g. carers, parents)

*showed an interest in what they were doing in school or college.*

- 96% of 8-11yrs and 97% of 11-18yrs recorded that the adults they lived with showed an interest in their education 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'.
- A bigger proportion of young people felt that their carers were interested in what happened at school compared to their peers (90%) in the general population. This is a Bright Spot of practice.

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## **General population: Support with learning**

In comparison the *Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children Survey* (11-15yrs) reported that 90% of children in England said their parents were interested in what happened at school.

# Having fun & hobbies

Children aged 4-11yrs were asked if they had *fun at the weekend*.



The 11-18yrs survey asked young people if they were able to *spend time on their own hobbies or activities outside of school*.

- Having fun was very important to children (4-11yrs). 16 children wrote about playing, having fun with friends and doing activities when asked what would make care better.
- All of the youngest children (4-7yrs) and the majority (75%) of children (8-11yrs) and young people did have fun and were active.

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*It has been really good in [name]'s house. We do art. Nothing would make it better.*  
4-7yrs

Age group	Yes, I have fun/take part in activities <i>n (%)</i>	Sometimes I have fun/take part in activities <i>n (%)</i>	No, I don't have fun or take part in activities <i>n (%)</i>
4-7yrs	51 (100%)	-	0 (0%)
8-11yrs	52 (69%)	21 (28%)	2 (3%)
11-18yrs	75 (67%)	30 (27%)	7 (6%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178 (75%)</b>	<b>51 (21%)</b>	<b>9 (4%)</b>

# Access to nature



Contact with nature can reduce stress and improve mental health. (Play England, 2012)

We asked whether children and young people had opportunities to *explore the outdoors*, such as visiting parks, beaches, fields and forests. Some of the children in our focus groups said safeguarding fears limited their opportunities.

## General population:

About 11% of children (6-15yrs) had not visited the natural environment in the last year. (Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey 2016)

- 96% of children (8-11yrs) and 94% of young people (11-18yrs) answered that they did have access 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'.
- A higher proportion of children and young people had opportunities to explore the outdoors, compared to their peers in the general population. This is a Bright Spot of practice.

## What would make care better?

*I wish it could be sunny every day.*  
4-7yrs

*I can be in a mood if I am bored and I never get a chance to go out.*  
11-18yrs



# Second chances

All children make mistakes and need a second or many more chances. It is part of learning and growing up. Many children involved in the focus groups stated that looked after children were too readily refused a second chance.



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Young people aged 11-18yrs were asked if they felt they *got a second chance if they did something wrong.*

- 48% responded 'all or most of the time';
- 47% answered 'sometimes'; and
- 5% thought they 'hardly ever' or 'never' got a second chance.

# Life skills



We asked the young people in the 11-18yrs group, *how often do you get to practice life skills like cooking healthy food, washing clothes or going to the bank?*

This question was asked as many young people in the focus groups thought that they had been insufficiently prepared for independence.

- 85% of young people answered that they were taught independence skills 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes' but 15% said this was 'hardly ever' or 'never' true.

*Being in care you should go for life skills otherwise your life could go off track, in bad ways. Being in care can make your life better.*

11-18yrs

**What would make care better?**  
*If they let me do cooking at the foster care home.*  
11-18yrs

# Access to the Internet at home



Young people 11-18yrs were asked *if they could connect to the Internet from home.*

## General population: Access to the Internet

- In the UK, 98% of households with children have an Internet connection. (ONS 2017)
- The *Millennium Cohort Study* of children aged 11yrs old found that children who never used the Internet outside school had a high probability of low well-being. (The Children's Society, 2014)

- The *majority* (94%) of young people reported that they did have access to the Internet.
- 7 (6%) young people 'hardly ever' or 'never' had access.

# Changes since last survey

4-7yrs

8-11yrs

11-18yrs



Have a trusted adult

97% -1%

95% -3%



Asked to help at school /  
chance to be trusted

78% +1%

92% -1%



Like school

86% -7%

86% 0%

78% -6%



Adults interested in  
education

96% -2%

97% +4%



Have fun / Do own  
hobbies & activities

100% +4%

97% +13%

94% -4%



Access to nature (parks,  
beaches, woods)

96% +12%

94% +1%



Get a second chance

95% 0%



Practice life skills

85% -4%



## 4. Rights

- Included in decision-making
- Stigma of being in care
- Feeling safe in placement
- Bullying
- Knowing identity of social workers
- Contact with social workers

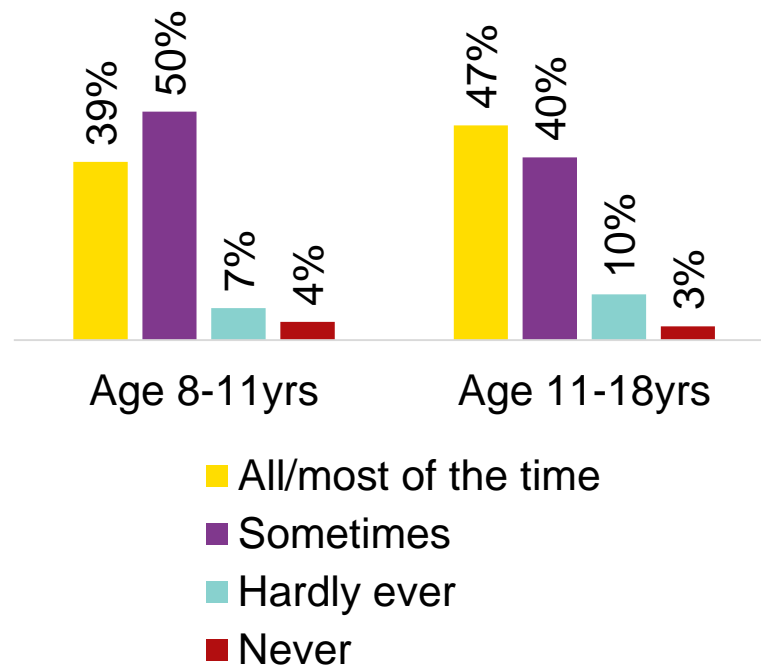
# Included in decision-making



Children aged 8-18yrs were asked, *do you feel included in the decisions that social workers make about your life?*

**Do you feel included in the decisions that social workers make about your life?**

- 89% of 8-11yrs 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes' felt included.
- 87% of 11-18yrs 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes' felt included.
- 10 young people wrote comments on wanting to be more included in decisions and 2 young people wrote about how they felt included by their foster carers.



*They changed my social worker I liked without asking me if I was okay with it.*  
11-18yrs

# Stigma of being in care



The 11-18yrs age group were asked a question in the survey about feeling different: *do adults do things that make you feel embarrassed about being in care?*

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Younger children were not asked these questions, as the focus groups suggested that being made to feel different was of much greater concern in adolescence.

- 12 (10.5%) of young people recorded that adults did things that made them feel embarrassed about being in care.
- 7 young people took the opportunity to write about what made them feel embarrassed. The comments varied:

*[My carers] are a lot older than most of my friends' parents and it always looks weird when I am with them and people think they are my grandparents and it's a bit embarrassing.*

11-18yrs

*I don't like people coming into school with badges on.*

11-18yrs

*Still treat me like a little kid (e.g. respite carer) - child based activities etc.*

11-18yrs

*I don't like people saying I'm in care as I count it as just living with grandparents.*

11-18yrs

# Feeling safe in placement

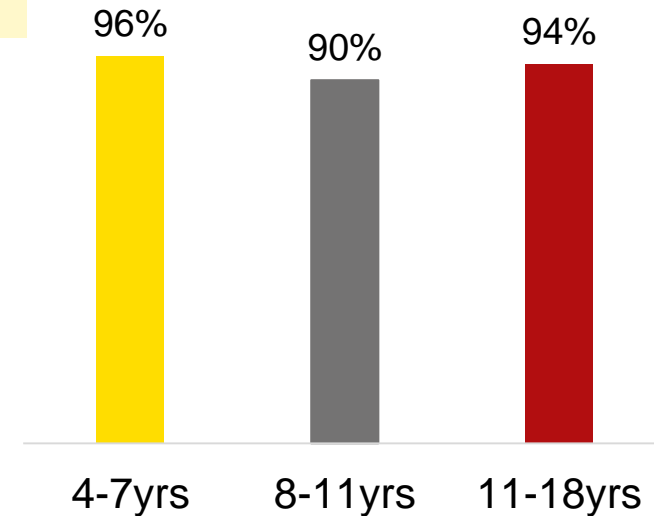
bright spots



All children were asked whether they *felt safe in the home they lived in now*. It is difficult to know what children were thinking about when answering, but feeling secure is about how the world *feels*, not necessarily how it is.

- Overall, 93% of children and young people reported that they ‘all or most of the time’ felt safe in their placements.
- 2 (4%) of the 4-7yrs group answered ‘mostly no’. These 2 children responded negatively to questions about their carer.
- 8 (10%) of the 8-11yrs group and 7 (6%) of the 11-18yrs group ticked the ‘sometimes’, ‘hardly ever’ or ‘never’ boxes.

## I feel safe in the home I live in all or most of the time



### General population:

*The Children's Worlds* survey found that 75% of children (8-13yrs) in the general population felt ‘Totally safe’ at home. (Rees *et al.*, 2014) Not feeling safe is associated with raised cortisol levels and difficulty in learning and concentration. (Harvard University, 2012)



# Bullying

Our question asked whether *children felt afraid of going to school because of bullying* and if they were bullied were they *getting support from an adult*.

## General population: Bullying

- The analysis of the *Children's Worlds surveys* in 22 countries has shown that being free from bullying is one of the most important factors in children's well-being. (Rees *et al.*, 2010)
- About 12% of children in England say they are regularly bullied at school. (ONS 2016b)

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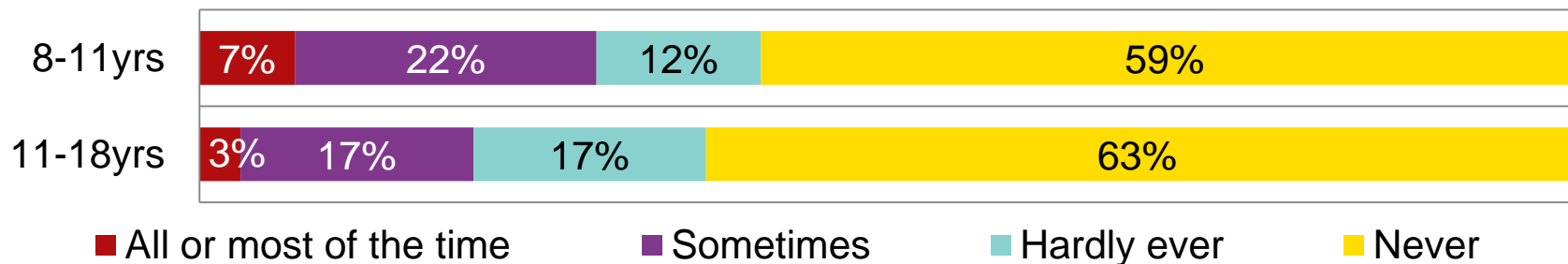
## What would make care better?

*Helping me when people bully me and take the mick out of me when they say, 'Where is your mum?'*

11-18yrs

- 21 (29%) children (8-11yrs) were 'sometimes' or 'all or most of the time' afraid to go to school because of bullying. All but one of these children felt they were getting support.
- 22 (20%) young people reported that they were afraid to go to school because of bullying. But 18 (86%) of them felt that they were getting support from an adult.
- Compared to last year, there has been an improvement in the proportion of children and young people who felt they were getting support to cope with bullying.

## Do you ever feel afraid of going to school or college because of bullying?



# Knowing identity of social workers



All the children and young people were asked if they *knew their current social worker*.

- Overall 88% did know who their social worker was.
- 29 (12%) children and young people did not know who their social worker was.
- Compared to last year, a **higher proportion** of children and young people in Southampton knew their social worker.

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Age group	Know social worker <i>n</i> (%)	Don't know social worker <i>n</i> (%)
4-7yrs	43 (81%)	10 (19%)
8-11yrs	68 (89%)	8 (11%)
11-18yrs	100 (90%)	11 (10%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211 (88%)</b>	<b>29 (12%)</b>

# Contact with social workers



Children and young people (n=211) who knew their social worker were asked *how easy it was to contact them*.

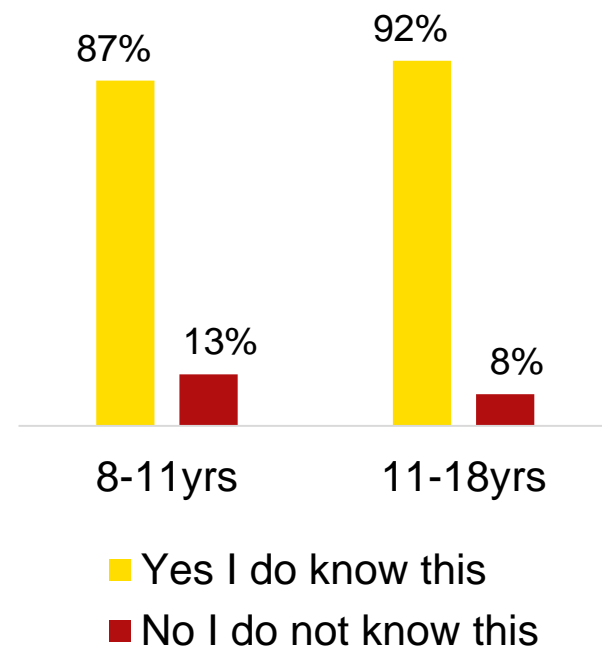


Children (8-11yrs) and young people (11-18yrs) were also asked whether *they knew they could speak to their social worker on their own*.

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- A high proportion (82.5%) of young people (11-18yrs) reported that they could easily get in touch with their social worker 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'. However, 17 (17.5%) could 'hardly ever' or 'never' get in touch with their social worker.
- The majority of children (8-11yrs) and almost all of those aged over 11yrs knew they could ask to speak to their social worker on their own.

**Do you know you have the right to speak to a social worker on your own?**



# Changes since last survey


4-7yrs

8-11yrs

11-18yrs



Included in decision making

89%  0%

87%  -3%



Embarrassed by adults bringing up care

10.5%  -3.5%



Feel safe where they live

96%  +3%

90%  -1%

94%  +1%



Afraid to go to school because of bullying

29%  +6%

20%  0%



Supported with bullying

95%  +25%

86%  +8%



Know their social worker

81%  +6%

89%  +7%

90%  +1%



Easy to contact social worker

82.5%  -9.5%



Know they can speak to social worker alone

87%  -1%

92%  +1%



## 5. Recovery

- Knowing reason for being in care
- Feeling settled in placement
- Liking bedrooms
- Adults you live with:  
Sensitive parenting
- Adults you live with:  
Sharing confidences
- Support with worries
- Parity with peers
- Happiness with appearance

# Knowing reason for being in care

Having a coherent account of one's history and understanding the reasons that led to becoming looked after are important in the development of an integrated identity and in recovery from abuse and neglect.

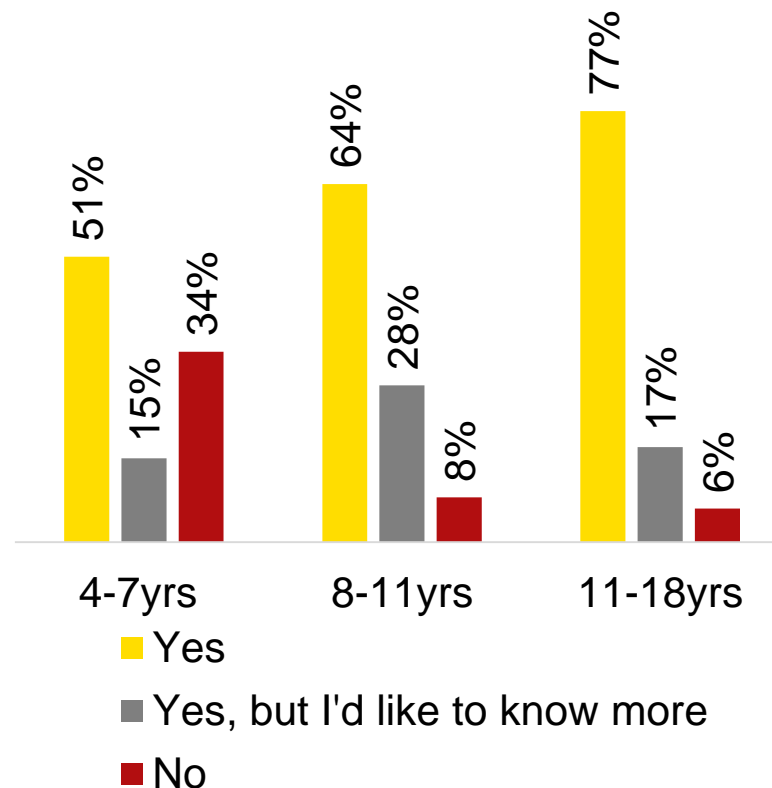
(Adshead, 2012; Adler, 2012)

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All the children and young people were asked if *someone had explained why they were in care.*

## Has someone explained why you are in care?



- Half of the youngest children (4-7yrs) wanted to know more about why they were in care.
- A higher proportion of the older children (64%) and young people (77%) knew why they were in care.
- 53 children (8-11yrs) and young people (11-18yrs) wanted more information about what had led them to being in care.

# Feeling settled in placement



bright spots

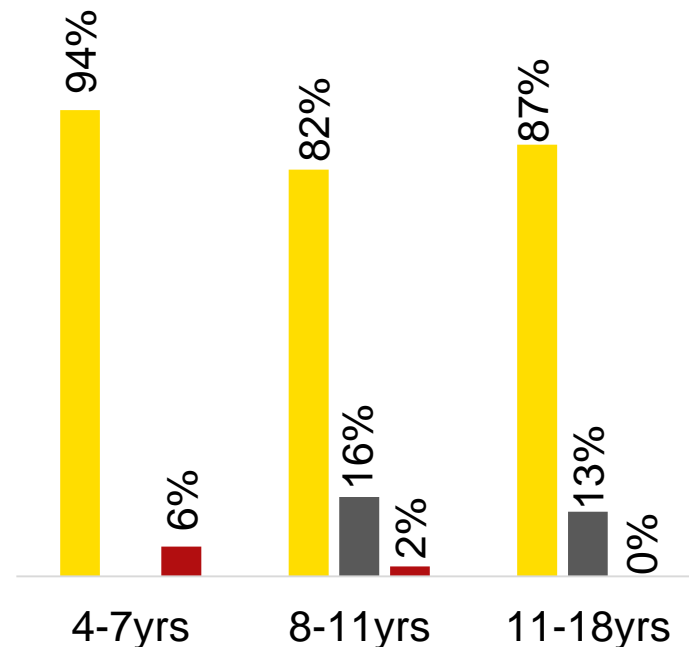


The surveys aimed to capture whether children felt a sense of belonging and felt at ease in their placements. Based on the advice from our focus groups, children and young people were asked, *do you feel settled in the home you live in now? (Do you feel comfortable, accepted and at ease?)*

Children (4-7yrs) could answer 'mostly yes' or 'mostly no'. Children (8-11yrs) and young people (11-18yrs) could answer: 'all or most of the time', 'sometimes', 'hardly ever', or 'never'.

- The majority of children and young people felt settled in their homes.
- For young people (11-18yrs), a significantly higher proportion felt settled in their placements compared to looked-after young people (78%) in 13 other LAs. This was also an improvement on last year, where 77% felt settled. This is a Bright Spot of practice.

## Feeling settled



- All or most of the time/Mostly yes
- Sometimes
- Hardly ever/Never/Mostly no

# Liking bedrooms

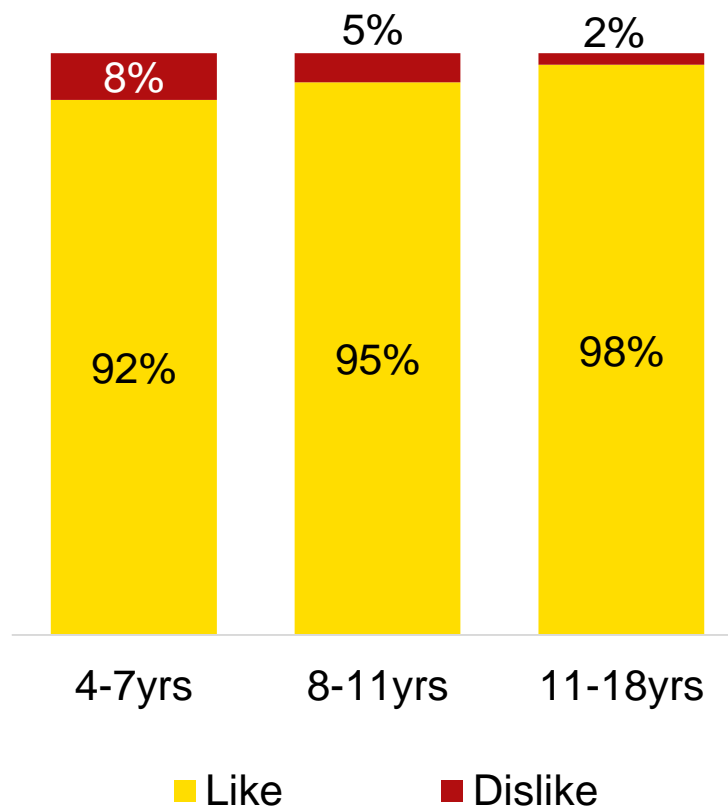


Liking your bedroom was an important feature for the focus groups we ran.

Young people reflected that their bedrooms were a place for being on your own in busy homes. It is linked to safety, sense of identity and feeling a sense of belonging.

- The majority of children and young people liked their bedrooms. Some wrote:
  - *I want to have my own bedroom and have my toys in my room.* (8-11yrs)
  - *I would like a new bed.* (11-18yrs)

## Do you like your bedroom?





# Adults you live with: Sensitive parenting



All children were asked whether the adults they lived with *noticed how they were feeling*.

- 80% of children (4-7yrs) thought their carers noticed how they were feeling.
- However 10 (20%) did not. This was a significantly higher proportion compared to other LAs, where 9% of children (4-7yrs) felt that their carers did not notice how they were feeling.

*They are kind, helpful  
and they make me  
smile a lot.  
11-18yrs*

- 92% of children (8-11yrs) and 95.5% of young people (11-18yrs) thought their carers noticed how they were feeling 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'.
- Several children and young people used the text boxes to write that they felt their carers looked after them.

# Adults you live with: Sharing confidences

bright spots



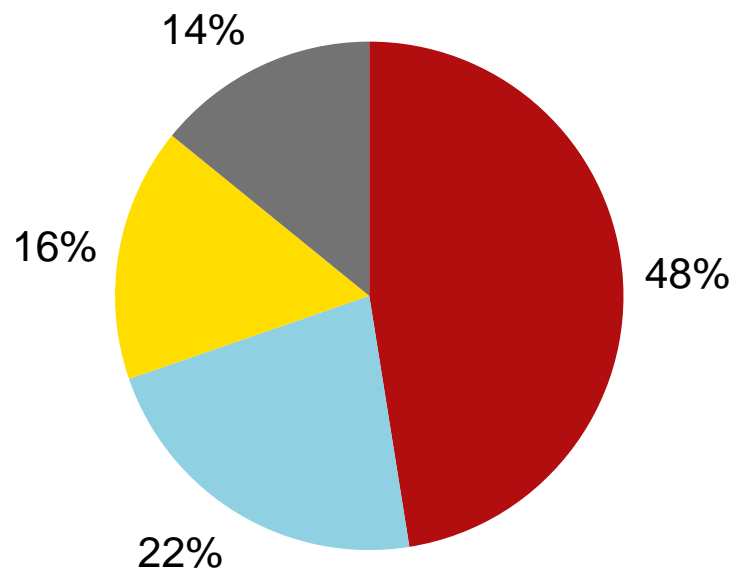
Young people were asked how frequently they *talked to the adults that they lived with about the things that mattered to them.*

## General population

The *Understanding Society* survey (2017) found that 66% of children (10-15yrs) talked regularly to a parent.

- 70% of young people talked regularly with their carers/parents about things that mattered to them.
- A greater proportion of young people talked to their carers regularly than their peers in the general population. This is a Bright Spot of practice.

## Speaking to adults about things that matter



- Most days
- More than once a week
- Less than once a week
- Hardly ever

# Support with worries



Children and young people (8-11yrs and 11-18yrs) were asked if they *worried about their own feelings or behaviour* and, if they *did have concerns, were they receiving support*.

## General population & other comparative data: Mental health

- Studies of looked after populations show that children's level of difficulties are much higher, ranging from about 45% of children in foster care to 75% of those in residential. (Ford *et al.*, 2007)
- In the general population, 13.5% of children have SDQ scores that suggest they have a clinical level of mental health difficulties. (ONS, 2016b)

- 14% children (8-11yrs) worried 'all or most of the time' and 40% 'sometimes'.
- 95% of children who reported worrying thought they were getting help.
- 8% young people (11-18yrs) worried 'all or most of the time' and 45% 'sometimes'.
- 78% of young people who reported worrying thought they were getting help.

*I think adults need to be stricter with me, so that I can be better with my behaviour.*  
11-18yrs

# Parity with peers



Young people (11-18yrs) were asked if they *got the chance to do similar things to their friends.*

- 86% of young people reported that 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes' they did do similar things to their friends.
- 16 (14%) young people reported that they could 'hardly ever' or 'never' do similar things to their friends.
- Compared to last year, a smaller proportion of young people felt that they got to do similar things to their friends.

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## What would make care better?

*To be more independent and do things what my other friends are allowed to do, like go shopping with mates.*

11-18yrs

# Happiness with appearance



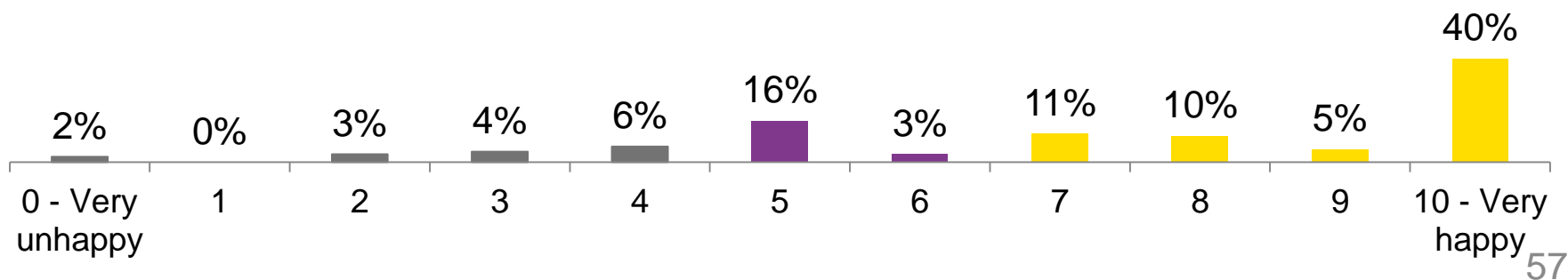
Studies have shown that poor body image is associated with low self-esteem, depression and self-harm. (Cash and Smolek, 2011)

## General population: Happiness with appearance

























- 10% of 10-17 year olds in the general population are unhappy with their appearance. Girls are more likely to have a lower opinion of their appearance than boys. (The Children's Society, 2017)

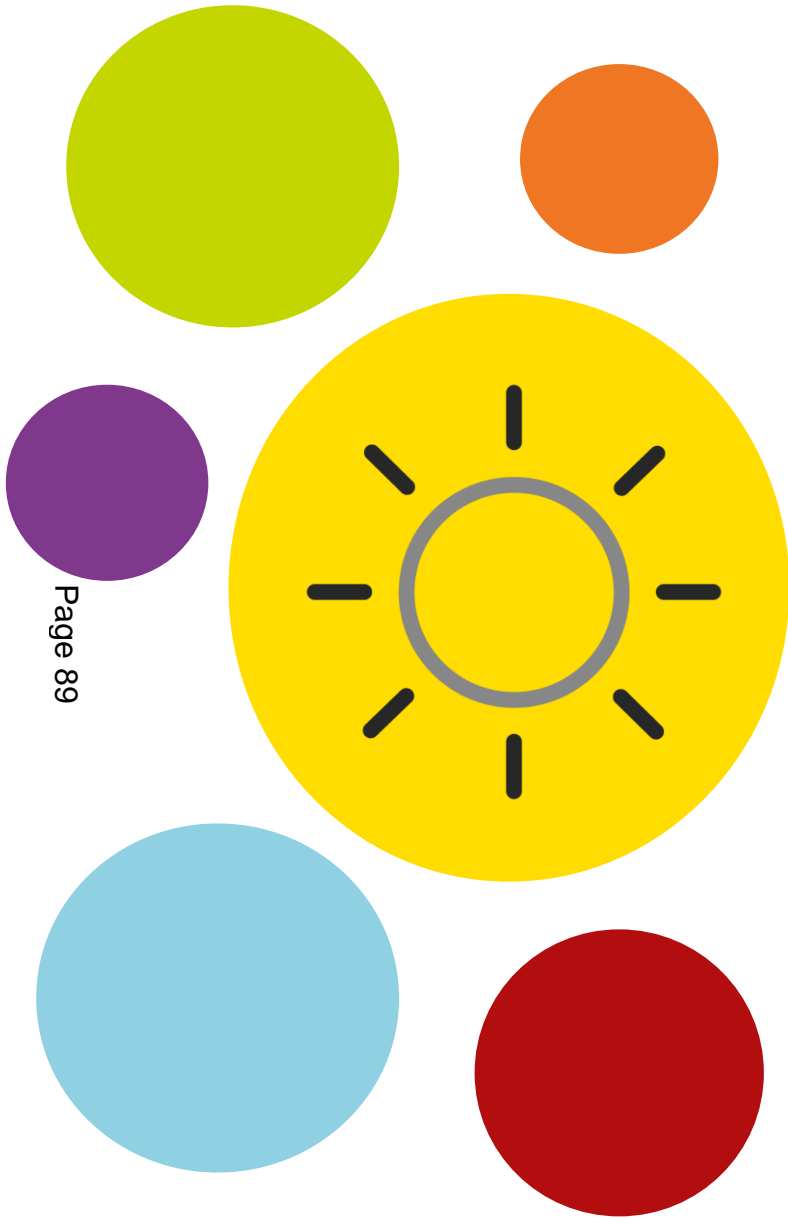
- Two-thirds (66%) of young people had high scores and were happy or very happy with their appearance.
- 15% disliked their appearance.

## How happy are you with the way you look?



# Changes since last survey

	4-7yrs	8-11yrs	11-18yrs
 Reason for care fully explained	51%  + 5%	64%  - 9%	77%  0%
 Feel settled where they live	94%  - 2%	82%  - 4%	87%  + 10%
 Like their bedrooms	92%  - 4%	95%  + 2%	98%  + 2%
 Adults they live with notice feelings	80%  - 9%	92%  - 4%	95.5%  0%
 Worry about feelings/behaviour		54%  - 6%	53%  - 6%
 Supported with worries		95%  + 1%	78%  0%
 Same opportunities as friends			86%  - 10%



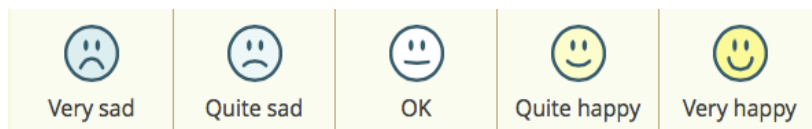
## 6. Well-being

- Happiness yesterday – affect
- Life satisfaction – overall evaluation
- The things you do in life are worthwhile – psychological/ eudemonic well-being
- Positivity about the future
- Comparisons – overall well-being
- Life is improving
- Gender differences – 11-18
- Low well-being

# Happiness yesterday

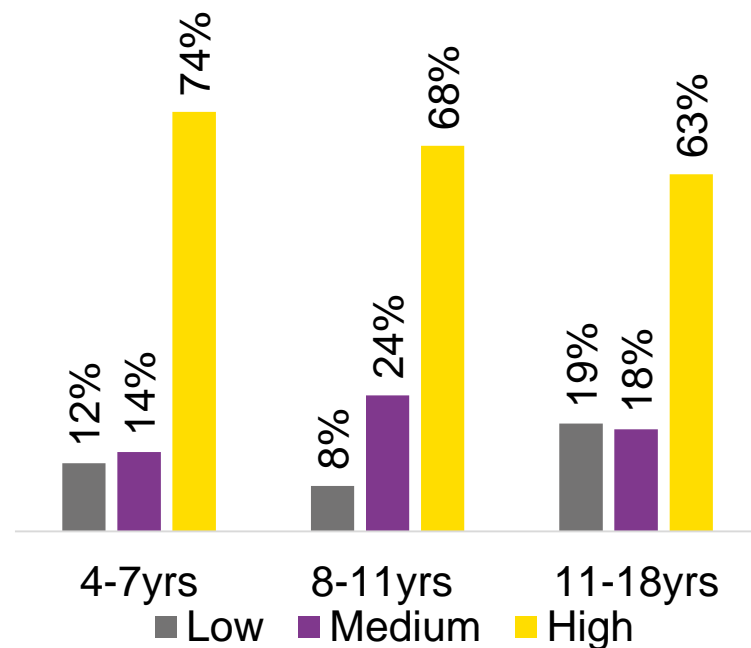
The decrease in happiness with age occurs in all surveys. Well-being decreases from school year 5 onwards with age 14-15yrs being the lowest point. It then starts to rise again. (Rees *et al.*, 2010)

- Children (4-7yrs & 8-11yrs) were asked to rate *how happy they were yesterday* on a five-point scale, from 'very sad' to 'very happy'.



- Young people (11-18yrs) selected a point on a 0-10 scale with 0 being 'very sad'.
- The majority of children and young people had been happy the previous day.
- 12 (10%) children (4-11yrs) and 21 (19%) young people (11-18yrs) reported that yesterday they had been 'quite sad' or 'very sad'.

## Happiness yesterday





# Life satisfaction



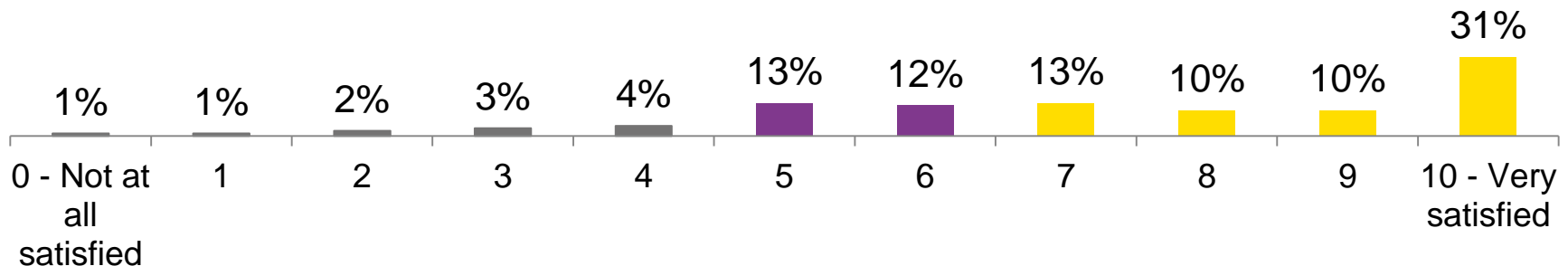
Young people (11-18yrs) were asked *how satisfied they were with their life* on a 0-10 scale.

This question exactly replicates The Children's Society survey question. A score of 7 or more is considered to be high life satisfaction. (The Cabinet Office, 2012)

- 64% of young people had very high or high life satisfaction scores.
- Like the general child population in England there was a positive correlation between high life satisfaction scores and being happy at school.

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## How satisfied are you with your life?



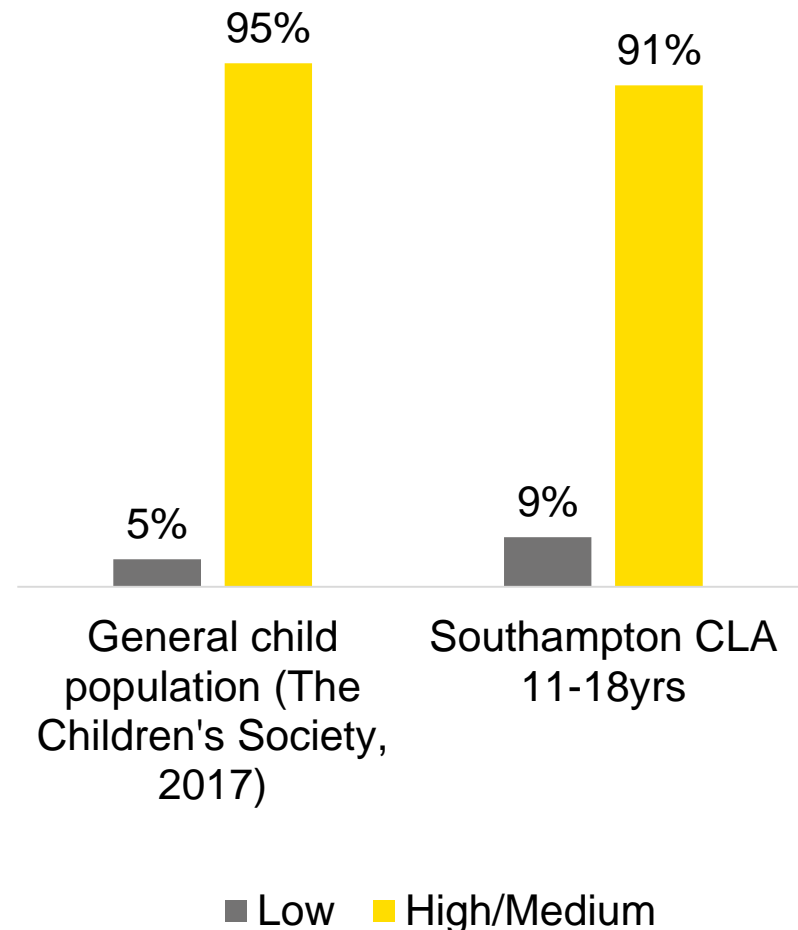
# Are the things you do worthwhile?

Having a meaning or a purpose to life is strongly associated with well-being. (ONS, 2014)

Young people (11-18yrs) completed the same 0-10 scale as used by The Children's Society (2017) in their household survey with 3,000 young people aged 10-17yrs.

- 67% of young people scored high or very high
- 24% medium
- 9% low.

**Overall, to what extent do you think the things you do in your life are worthwhile?**



# Positivity about the future

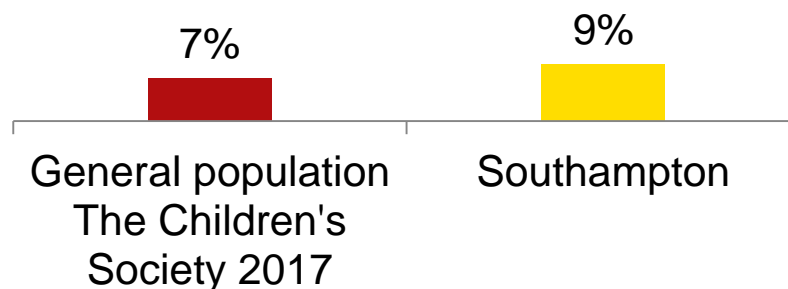


Optimism about the future is linked with happiness and resilience (Conversano et al., 2010) Young people were asked on a scale of 0-10 *how positive they were about the future*

**Young people who were pessimistic about their future: comparison of Southampton's (11-18yrs) looked after children with the general child population**

- 74 (69%) were positive about their future.
- 10 (9%) had low scores and felt pessimistic about their future.

*Going into care has really helped me, as I got a fresh start in life to do good things with my future, so I appreciate it.*  
11-18yrs



# Comparisons

Levels of well-being – Southampton’s looked after young people (11-18yrs) compared to peers (10-17yrs) in the general population (The Children’s Society, 2017) and to the average scores of looked after young people in 13 other LAs.

	Scores	Southampton %	2018 average in 13 LAs %	Peers in general population (10-17yrs) %
Life satisfaction	Very high (score 9-10)	41%	34%	27%
	Low (score 0-4)	12%	15%	5%
Happiness yesterday	Very high (score 9-10)	47%	39%	26%
	Low (score 0-4)	20%	19%	8%
Things done are worthwhile	Very high (score 9-10)	42%	36%	29%
	Low (score 0-4)	9%	12%	6%
Positive about future	Very high (score 9-10)	44%	35%	19%
	Low (score 0-4)	9%	11%	7%

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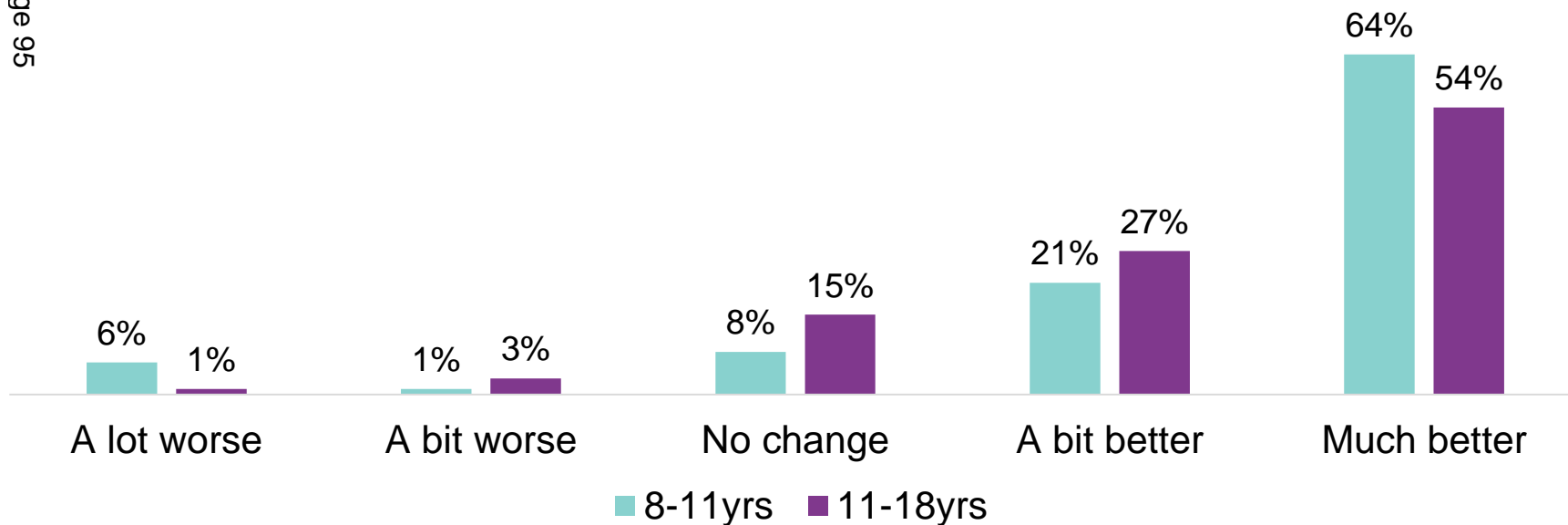
# Life is improving

Children aged 8-18yrs were asked whether they thought their *life was getting better*, and could choose from a five point scale ranging from 'A lot worse' to 'Much better'.

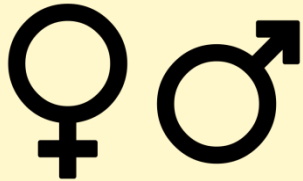
- The majority (83%) of children in Southampton felt that their lives were improving.
- Four children (8-11yrs) felt that their lives were getting much worse.

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## Is your life improving?



# Gender differences 11-18yrs



The Children's Society (2017) reported that in the general

population one in seven (14%) girls (10-15yrs) were unhappy with their lives as a whole as were one in ten boys.

Examining gender differences in our surveys in 2017, we found no gender difference in the surveys for 4-7yrs and 8-11yrs but girls aged 11-18yrs were more likely to report low well-being. Girls were four times more likely to be unhappy with their appearance and this contributed to gender differences in well-being.



- Girls were more likely to report low well-being compared to boys.
- Similar to the results from our 2017 surveys, girls were twice as likely to be unhappy with their appearance compared with boys.

# Low well-being: 4-7yrs



- 6 (11%) of the children in the 4-7yrs group described themselves as 'very sad'. One child responded positively to all the other questions: 5 children were identified as having low well-being.
- Children with low well-being also tended to report that they:
  - did not have an understanding of why they were in care.
  - did not know who their social worker was.
  - did not trust their carers.

**What would make care better?**

*It would be better if I could see my brother more.*

4-7yrs

# Low well-being: 8-11yrs



- 6 (8%) of the children in the 8-11yrs group described themselves as 'very sad'. Examining their responses to other questions:
  - 5 children were 'sometimes' afraid of going to school because of bullying and 4 children did not like school.
  - 4 children wanted to know more about why they were in care.
  - 4 children worried about their feelings or behaviour 'all or most of the time' or 'sometimes'.
  - 4 children were unhappy with the frequency of maternal contact and wrote about missing their families when asked, 'What would make care better?'

## **What would make care better?**

*To see mummy more if children do not live with their mummy.*

8-11yrs

## **What would make care better?**

*I think children should be given photos of their birth family.*

8-11yrs



# Low well-being: 11-18yrs



- 12 (11%) young people had low well-being (i.e. scored 4 or less on two or more of the 0-10 well-being scales).
- Young people with low well-being also tended to report that they:
  - Disliked their appearance.
  - Did not like school.
  - Did not feel that their carers noticed how they were feeling or showed an interest in their education.
  - Did not talk regularly to their carers about things that mattered to them.
  - Did not trust their social worker and found it difficult to get in touch with them.
  - Were afraid to go to school because of bullying.

# Changes since last survey

4-7yrs

8-11yrs

11-18yrs



Happy yesterday

74% -5%

68% -7%

63% -4%



Satisfied with life as a whole

64% -13%



Things they do are worthwhile

67% -19%



Positive about the future

69% -12%



Life is getting better


85% 0%

81% -4%



Low overall well-being

11% 0%



## **Section 4: Children and young people's comments**

*Is there anything else you would like to tell us? What would make being in care better for you?*

# Comments: 4-7yrs

- 22 (51%) children (age 4-7yrs) gave text responses on: *What would make care better/ anything else you want to say?*
- 8 children wrote about games and activities they enjoyed and wished they could do more of.
- 5 children wrote that they were happy. 5 children wrote about their placements, saying, for example:
  - *I would like to live with my forever carers as my carers isn't the right place for me because of my foster brothers and sisters. And I am not sure about their grandkids because one is very bossy.*
  - *I am going to stay there forever.*
- 3 children missed their families.
- Other children wrote:

*I. Am. Happy. Living.  
With. Nan. And.  
Grandad.*

## **What would make care better?**

*Going to the water parks and the park where there is a water slide.*

*I am happy and have lots of toys and see Mum and Dad and Gan Gan after school sometimes.*

*Seeing mummy in contact more. Seeing her every Saturday now but want to see her Saturday and Sunday.*

# What could make care better and other comments: 8-11yrs

- 28 (36%) children gave text responses on: *What would make care better/ anything else you want to say?*
- 11 children wanted more contact with their birth families, particularly their mothers.
- 7 children wrote about the games they wanted to play with their friends.  
6 children wrote that they liked being in care.
- 3 children felt unsettled or that they did not have control over their lives.
- Other children wrote:

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*I would love to move back with my mum because it will make my life really happy.*

*Every thing is better. I have lots of friends.*

*I feel loved and much better when I am with [name]!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

*I love it in care.*

*I wish that I didn't have to be moved around so much because when you think I have not got the right home I have actually liked the home. Moving around a lot makes me feel upset and a bit worried.*

*My social worker could tell us when she is coming around because sometimes it's only me and my brother at home and she lets herself in without asking. If I don't talk that may mean I'm either shy or I do not want to talk to [name], so I would like her to lay off.*

# What could make care better and other comments: 11-18yrs

- 26 (23%) young people gave text responses on: *What would make care better/ anything else you want to say?*
- Several young people expressed some frustration around being in care, such as not liking meetings or not knowing why they were in care.
- 7 young people recorded that they were happy or there was nothing they wanted to change.
- 4 young people wanted more independence or less rules.
- 3 young people wanted more contact with family members
- Other young people wrote:
  - *I like being in the care council.*

*I don't want to be in care. I want to see my mum more!*

*There is nothing I can change - just the whole idea of being in care makes life difficult.*

*It's all calm.*

*More freedom.*

**[What would make care better?]**  
*To know why I am in care. If they let me do cooking at the foster care home.*

*Nothing because I have wonderful carers.*

*It's ok, people in care need to be reminded that they are not alone and there are so many others in the same circumstances as them.*



# **Section 5: Positive aspects of practice and areas for improvement**

# What's working well

- In Southampton, 6 areas stood out as Bright Spots of practice.
- The majority (93%) of children and young people felt safe in their placement.
- A greater proportion of young people (11-18yrs) felt settled compared to looked after young people in 13 other LAs.
- Children (8-11yrs) and young people (11-18yrs) felt supported in their education, with 96% feeling that their carers showed an interest in what happened at school. This compares favourably to 90% of children in the general population.

A greater proportion of young people (11-18yrs) spoke regularly to their carers about things that mattered to them, compared to the general population: 70% in Southampton compared to 66% of peers.

- All of the youngest children got to have fun at the weekends.
- A larger proportion of the the 8-11yrs and 11-8yrs groups felt they were given opportunities to explore the outdoors compared to their peers in the general population. For 8-11yrs, there had been an improvement on last year, with a higher proportion of children having opportunities to explore the outdoors.



# What could be improved

- **Provide additional training for carers on therapeutic parenting.** Whilst the majority of those aged 8-18yrs felt that their carers noticed how they were feeling, it is concerning that 10 (20%) of the youngest children (4-7yrs) did not feel that their carers noticed their feelings. Not trusting their carers was also associated with low well-being for the youngest children.
- **Regularly review contact plans** and ensure that children and young people's wishes and feelings are taken into account and to ensure that they understand the reasons for contact decisions. The majority of text comments were about wanting more contact with family members.
- **Help children understand why they are in care** and revisit their life stories. Nearly half (49%) of 4-7yrs and 36% of 8-11yrs did not know why they were in care.
- **Ensure that all children and young people know who their social worker is.** 19% of the youngest children (4-7yrs) did not know their social worker and this was associated with low well-being.
- **Provide opportunities to build self esteem** and help young people with their confidence and positive body image. 54% of children (8-11yrs) and 53% of young people were 'all/most of the time' or 'sometimes' worried about their feelings or behavior.
- **Continue to work with schools to identify and help children who feel bullied at school.** 21 children and 22 young people reported that they were afraid to go to school because of bullying.



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Understanding Society <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/>

**For enquiries about the Bright Spots project see:**  
<http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/professional-zone/bright-spots>

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<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>		CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>		MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>		7 NOVEMBER 2019	
<b>REPORT OF:</b>		DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE	
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Mark Pirnie	<b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 3886
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<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 summaries of any 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</u></b>			
5.	None.		

<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
6.	None.
<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.	None
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 7 November 2019
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (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>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None



# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 7 November 2019

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
25/07/19	Children and Families Performance	1) That the analysis undertaken to identify where service demand is coming from is presented to the 26 September meeting of the Panel.	The analysis is scheduled to be presented to the 7 November meeting of the Panel.	
25/07/19	Education, Health and Care (EHC) Assessments – Performance	1) That, to aid understanding of the issues, anonymised case studies showing examples of completed EHC assessments are circulated to the Panel.	To be circulated to the Panel prior to the 7 November meeting.	
26/09/19	Educational Attainment	1) That the Panel are provided with ‘off-rolling’ figures for Southampton schools.	Briefing paper on off-rolling circulated to the Panel on 17/10/19	Completed
		2) That, reflecting concerns about the number of children that are entering primary school without being ‘school ready’, the Panel are provided with an overview of the actions that are being taken, or are planned, to ensure that children requiring additional support are targeted and supported to access good early years education.	<p>The proposed model of early years SEND provision will include an Early Years Panel which will have oversight of the assessment, planning, provision and outcomes of children aged 0-5, and will include problem solving, support and challenge, as well as allocating the early years SEND funding.</p> <p>It is expected that this panel will ensure that children’s needs are identified at an early age and will help coordinate the support offered by various agencies.</p> <p>The proposed model also includes plans for 3 integrated early years settings across the city which will provide early education and childcare for children who present with challenging behaviour, significant communication disorders and autism who as a result are experiencing discontinuous early years placements, or where early years placements are breaking down due to the complexity of the child’s needs and/or lack of sufficient funding. It is expected that these integrated settings will provide support and advice to the parents and that there will be access to on-</p>	

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
			<p>site health and education professionals. Referrals to these settings will be via the Early Years Panel.</p> <p>Alongside this, Public Health are currently looking into why the proportion of children with challenging behaviours and autism in early years is increasing.</p> <p>The Early Years Advisory Teachers will be delivering the level 3 SENDCo training to SENDCos within early years group settings, which will increase understanding of needs of children with SEND and how better to support them.</p> <p>However the Nursery Education Funding rate has remained static over the past 2 ½ years, and whilst the Spending Review included a £66 million increase across the country this equates to only 1.8 percent. Our providers are really struggling to cover costs, with the increase in business rates, the introduction of pensions for all staff, the minimum/living wage increase, cost of living rises, and recruitment issues. Offering a place to a child with SEND is very costly and the funding does not cover the costs by any means.</p>	
26/09/19	Children and Families Performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That a breakdown of Looked After Children that are not placed with in-house foster carers or independent fostering agencies is circulated to the Panel.</li> <li>2) That the 23 January 2020 agenda includes consideration of the issue of child exploitation in Southampton.</li> </ol>	<p>To be circulated to the Panel prior to 7 November meeting.</p> <p>This item is on the provisional agenda for 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 meeting of the Panel.</p>	