

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 30th September,
2021
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Conference Room 3 and 4 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Guthrie (Chair)
Councillor Bell
Councillor Laurent
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Paffey

Appointed Members

Nicola Brown, Primary Parent Governor
Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor
Claire Rogers, Secondary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

Contacts

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Terms Of Reference:-

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

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

Public Representations

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

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

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

Business to be Discussed

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

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

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

Rules of Procedure

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

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

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

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2020-2025 sets out the four key outcomes:

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

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year

2021	2022
17 June	27 January
22 July	31 March
30 September	
25 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 17 June 2021 and to deal with any matters arising.

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

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

Appendices 2, 3 and 5 are considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 7(a) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose these because doing so would prejudice information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.

8 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON (Pages 5 - 22)

Report of the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations setting out the provisional 2020/21 Key Stage exam results in Southampton.

9 POST 16 PROVISION, PARTICIPATION AND NEET (Pages 23 - 36)

Report of the Service Director - Legal and Business Operations, requesting that the Panel consider issues related to Post 16 education, skills and training in Southampton.

10 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE (Pages 37 - 56)

Report of the Service Director - Legal and Business Operations, recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children and Learning Services in Southampton.

11 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 57 - 60)

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

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

Service Director – Legal and Business Operations

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2021

Present: Councillors Guthrie (Chair), Bell, Laurent, Mitchell and Dr Paffey
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders

Apologies: Appointed Members: Catherine Hobbs, Nicola Brown, Francis Otieno and Claire Rogers

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

The apologies of the appointed members, Nicola Brown, Catherine Hobbs, Francis Otieno and Claire Rogers were noted.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor Mitchell as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

3. **STATEMENT FROM CHAIR**

The Chair requested that all attendees noted the Covid-19 meeting protocol that had been applied to the meeting.

The Chair shared a message from the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Councillor P Baillie, who was not in attendance at the meeting.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Director, Legal and Business Operation which recommended that the Panel considered and challenged the performance of Children and Learning Services in Southampton.

Councillor J Baillie, Cabinet Member for Education, Robert Henderson, Executive Director Wellbeing (Children and Learning), Southampton City Council; and Phil Bullingham, Head of Service: Children's Social Care, Southampton City Council; 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 a significant increase in contact and referrals since February 2021.
- A move away from enforcement and legal action and towards supporting families to make a difference early was required to improve the referrals into the Early Help service.
- The impact on services and the budget pressure associated with the increase in demand

- The risk averse culture resulted in too many assessments of children being completed which concluded with no further action required.
- The recruitment challenges had improved with the recruitment of a number of new Social Workers.
- There had been activity nationally and regionally regarding the anticipated increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children to be looked after by Southampton City Council.

RESOLVED that the Panel would be provided with a report from the Executive Director Wellbeing (Children and Learning) which detailed the key actions, developments and milestones that were fundamental to the delivery of the stated ambition to realign the focus of our services from assessment to intervention.

6. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

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

The Chair moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt report and appendices to the following item. It was not appropriate to disclose this information based on Categories 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the council's Access to Information Procedure Rules as the information was subject to an obligation of confidentiality.

RESOLVED that having applied the public interest test, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

8. **OFSTED - SOUTHAMPTON FOCUSED VISIT**

The Panel considered the report of the Executive Director for Children Learning which briefed the Panel on the Ofsted Focused Visit Inspection that was undertaken between 20 April and 6 May 2021.

Councillor J Baillie, Cabinet Member for Education, Robert Henderson, Executive Director of Children and Learning, Southampton City Council; and Phil Bullingham, Head of Service: Children's Social Care, Southampton City Council; were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

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

- Ofsted noted an improvement in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, Child Protection Conferences and court work.
- Ofsted also noted that the Virtual School and Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children's team were a strength.

- Ofsted identified that there needed to be improvement in face to face or virtual contact with children placed with connected carers, with those placed in non-registered children's homes and with Care Leavers.
- The provision of quality reflective supervision would help to manage caseloads and the relevance of referrals.
- The audit process required improvement so that managers can monitor performance and manage capacity issues more effectively.
- Improvements to the Early Help service and better planning and assessment work would enable the Court and Protection Teams to focus on those children whose needs are the most acute.
- The service provided would be based on what a child needs and not which threshold they've got to meet to receive a service.
- The number of children who are eligible for free school meals and are home educated is disproportionately high and, with regard to safeguarding and raising attainment, the authority would like to be able to assess and monitor the provision of education by parents who have elected to home educate.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) That the Cabinet Member for Education would lobby the Government, on behalf of the Council, to give local authorities additional powers with regards to the oversight of elected home educated children.
- (ii) That the Panel would be provided with an update on the implementation of the Priority Action Improvement Plan in advance of the 22 July 2021 meeting of the Panel.

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DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN SOUTHAMPTON
DATE OF DECISION:	30 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

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

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
There are three confidential appendices attached to this report. The confidentiality of Appendices 2,3 and 5 is based on Category 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It contains information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality.	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
At the meeting the Panel will be considering provisional 2020/21 Key Stage exam results in Southampton. The Panel will also be focussing on the educational attainment of Looked After Children.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Panel note the provisional key stage results and supplementary data, as detailed in the appendices, and discuss educational attainment in Southampton.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To enable a discussion with the Cabinet Member and officers on educational attainment in Southampton.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	Provisional 2020/21 key stage exam results for Southampton have been published. The attached appendices provide a breakdown of the Key Stage provisional results.
4.	The Divisional Head of Education and Learning will present an overview of the results at the meeting. The Head of the Virtual School will present the results for Southampton's Looked After Children.

5.	The Panel are requested to discuss with the Cabinet Member for Education and the invited officers the information provided.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
6.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
8.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
10.	N/A

KEY DECISION?	No
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WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	2021 Provisional Headline KS4 GCSE Results for Southampton
2.	Confidential - Southampton Provisional KS4 GCSE Results 2021
3.	Confidential – KS4 Southampton Provisional GCSE results 2021 Trends
4.	2021 Provisional Headline A Level Results for Southampton
5.	Confidential – Provisional Southampton College and Sixth Form A Level Results
6.	Off rolling - Update

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

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

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

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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

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2021 Provisional Headline KS4 GCSE Results for Southampton Local Authority

Key Stage 4 GCSE results were released to schools on 12th August 2021. Southampton schools agreed to inform the Local Authority of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated. The short briefing note below, based on early provisional data, provides an overview of Southampton's performance.

Three Principles have informed the Local Authority that they will not be sharing information about headline outcomes externally. As a result, this summary does not include data from Oasis Academy Mayfield, Oasis Lordshill and Oasis Academy Sholing.

The Department for Education (DfE) [announced on 25th February 2021](#) that an alternative approach to Key Stage 4 exams would be followed for the second successive year in 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The DfE confirmed that school, college or multi-academy trust (MAT) level performance data based on summer 2021 exams would not be published. This includes the performance tables that were due to be released in December 2021, and March 2022. Schools and colleges should not be held to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2021 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account.

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

The current indication is that National and Local Authority data will not be published by the DfE in October 2021, as is usually the case. It will therefore not be possible to issue a further briefing note outlining Southampton's performance compared to Statistical Neighbours, Core Cities and National in 2021.

The focus of this 2021 briefing note will follow the 2019 accountability measures outlined by the DfE in the Performance Tables Statement of Intent:

- Progress 8 (not available from the DfE in 2021, a provisional figure will be published by Nexus based on Local Authority responses nationally but will not be available until mid-September)
- Attainment 8
- The percentage of pupils achieving a 5 or above (strong pass) in English and Maths
- EBacc Average Points Score
- The percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate
- The percentage of students staying in education or employment after Key Stage 4 (destinations)

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

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

The Progress 8 indicator relies on National calculations completed by the DfE and is currently unavailable at either School or Local Authority level. The current indication is that 2021 Progress 8 figures will not be published by the DfE.

Headlines – Based on 9 Schools for 2021, 2020 figures are based on all Southampton schools as reported by the DfE Statistical Release (additional indicators will be released as schools resolve outstanding management information systems issues).

- **In 2021, Southampton pupils achieved an Attainment 8 score of 47.3 whereas in 2020, the Southampton Attainment 8 score was 46.4, an increase of 0.9. The 2020 National average for Attainment 8 was 50.2.**
- In 2021, 66% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths GCSE, which was 3% higher than the 63% of Southampton pupils who achieved a 9-4 in English and Maths GCSE in 2020 and 8% above the 2019 performance of 58%. The latest available National average for percentage achieving 9-4 in English and Maths was 71% in 2020.
- In 2021, 45% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE, which was 4% above the 41% of Southampton pupils who achieved a 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE in 2020 and 9% above the 2019 performance of 36%. The latest available National average for percentage achieving 9-5 in English and Maths was 50% in 2020.
- In 2021, 61% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-5 and 78% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in GCSE English.
- In 2021, 51% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-5 and 71% of Southampton pupils achieved a 9-4 in GCSE Maths.
- Southampton's 2021 Attainment 8 score in English, Maths, EBacc elements and Open elements were 9.9, 9.0, 13.4 and 15.0 respectively.

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2021 Provisional Headline A-Level results for Southampton Local Authority – Results Day

A-Level results were released to Colleges and students on 10th August 2021. Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms have agreed to inform the LA of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated.

The Department for Education (DfE) [announced on 25th February 2021](#) that an alternative approach to Key Stage 5 exams would be followed for the second successive year in 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The DfE confirmed that school, college or multi-academy trust (MAT) level performance data based on summer 2021 exams would not be published. This includes the performance tables that were due to be released in December 2021, and March 2022. Schools and colleges should not be held to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2021 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account.

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

During the period between 2017 and 2020, a phased introduction of reformed A-Level qualifications warrants a cautious approach to year-on-year comparisons. These reforms include more rigorous and challenging qualification content, courses being assessed through final exams at the end of Year 13 and the decoupling of AS-Levels which means that they no longer contribute to A-Level grades.

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

Southampton A-Level Provisional Results

- Southampton pupils achieved an Average Points Score per A-Level Entry of 38.8 in 2021. This is 3.3 above the 2020 Southampton performance of 35.5. No National data is available for Average Points Score per A-Level Entry on results day.
- In 2021, 31.8% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* or A grade which was an improvement of 5.4% from the 2020 percentage achieving A*-A provisional results day outcome (26.4%). A challenge still remains to meet National performance as A-Level A*-A grades are 44.3%, a gap of 12.5% between Southampton and National in 2021.

- Out of 1107 A-level entries within Southampton, 62.3% achieved an A*-B grade. Nationally a pass rate of 69.8% was achieved resulting in a gap of 7.5% with Southampton (62.3%). Southampton pupils had 690 A-Levels at grade B or above and required an additional 83 A-Levels to have surpassed the B grade threshold to have equalled the National average.
- In 2021, 87.2% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade C or above. The National performance for A*-C was 88.2%, a gap of 1.0% when compared with the Southampton average (87.2%).
- In 2021, 99.5% of Southampton A-Level entries achieved an A*-E grade at College or Sixth Form. This is in line with the National performance that saw 99.5% of A-level results achieve an A*-E grade.
- Southampton's 2021 A-Level provisional results day outcomes have improved in all areas from Southampton's 2020 A-Level provisional results day outcomes.
 - The average points score per A level within Southampton increased by 3.3 from 35.5 in 2020 to 38.8 in 2021.
 - The percentage of A*-A grades within Southampton increased by 5.4% from 26.4% to 31.8%.
 - The percentage of A*-B grades within Southampton increased by 6.8% from 55.5% to 62.3%.
 - The percentage of A*-C grades within Southampton increased by 2.6% from 84.6% to 87.2%.
 - The percentage of A*-E grades within Southampton increased by 0.1% from 99.4% to 99.5%.
- This progression has also seen Southampton's 2021 A-Level provisional results day performance improve the Local Authority's position relative to the National average by 2.4% for %A*-B (4.8% over 2 years) and by 1.8% for %A*-C (9.4% over 2 years), although a challenge still remains to close the gap to National levels of performance.

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Off-Rolling Update - September 2021

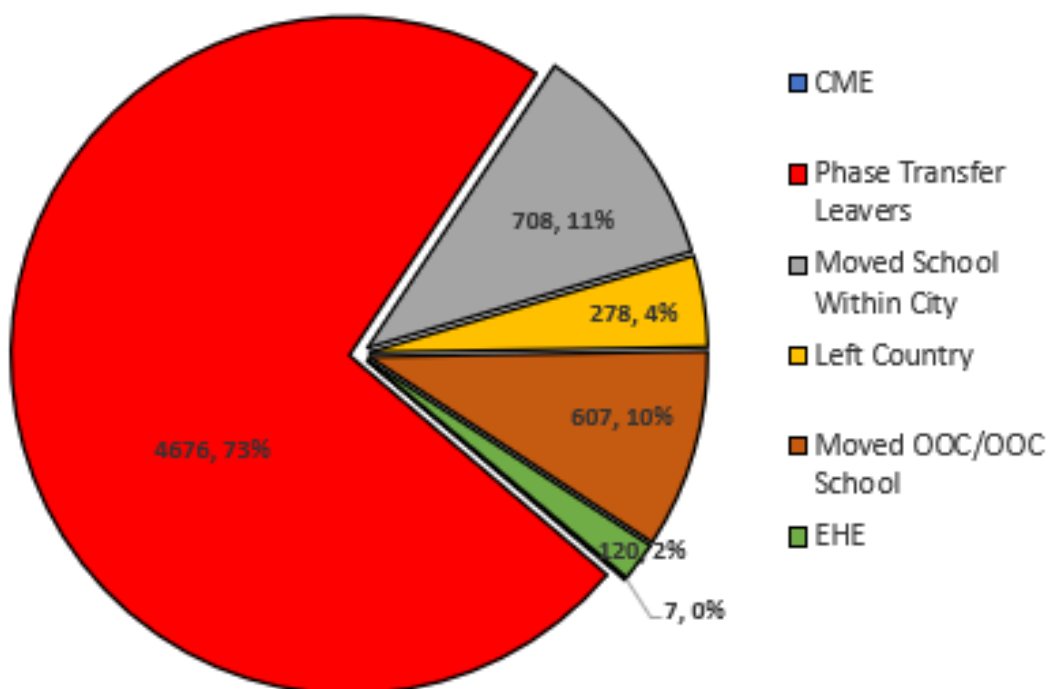
DEFINITION

There is no legal definition of off-rolling but it is defined by Ofsted as *“The practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil.*

SOUTHAMPTON RESIDENT LEAVERS FROM SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS IN 2021\21

The pie chart below shows that:

- 73% of our leavers last year were phase transfer leavers. This is not off-rolling.
- 4% of leavers left the country. This is not off-rolling.
- 10% of leavers left the city, or, moved to an out of city school. There is potential for off-rolling in this group.
- 11% moved within the city. There is potential for off-rolling in this group.
- 2% became electively home educated. There is potential for off-rolling in this group.
- 7 children were CME i.e. at the end of the academic year their whereabouts or forwarding destination was yet to be established or confirmed. This is normal at the end of an academic year because schools are closed by the time the data comes through so not all cases can be cleared. These children will be captured this academic year if they remain outstanding and will not slip through the net. Until reasons are established it is not possible to determine whether off-rolling could have been a factor.



OBSTACLES TO ACCURATELY MEASURE OFF-ROLLING

- It takes place through legitimate channels e.g. pupils may be excluded lawfully, parents have the right to home educate their child if they wish to do so and parents have the right to change their child's school.
- Many of those believed to be affected (YouGov 2019 survey on behalf of Ofsted *Exploring the issue of off-rolling*) are reported to be vulnerable, sometimes causing them to be reluctant to complain, fearful of the school, or simply unaware that the actions are unlawful.
- There are a wide range of circumstances that may lead to a child leaving one setting and moving to another e.g. a house move, new school is more suitable or has a better Ofsted rating, or a place becomes available at a parental preference school.

Off-rolling can occur as a result of a series of conversations that schools have with parents, resulting in:

- The suggestion that an alternative school may be more suited to their child's particular needs, particularly in the case of SEND or vulnerable children.
- A worst case scenario being painted of their child's future if they remain at the school.
- The suggestion that an application to another school is the only way to avoid a permanent exclusion on their child's records.
- The suggestion that the best thing for their child is a fresh start.
- The suggestion that the only other option open to parents is to home educate.

If parents follow any of the above advice and exercise their right to change their child's schools, removal from roll is lawful and it is impossible for the LA to know when applications have been submitted under duress.

Please note that none of the subsequent analysis, covering 2020/21, can precisely identify off rolling, but it will enhance our local understanding and may be able to give possible indicators of areas of concern.

PRO-ACTIVE STRATEGIES IN PLACE

- Reported or suspected cases or off-rolling are challenged directly with Headteachers.
- The Schools Monitoring Group takes a 360° view of all schools in the city and categorises them against the level of concern, LA support/oversight needed. Pupil turbulence forms part of this process.
- The CME Officer gatekeeps removal from roll to ensure that every removal from roll is compliant with relevant legislation.
- We raise concerns with schools who have a high number of EHE (Electively Home Education) leavers.
- School Improvement Officers request during annual visits information for pupils having left the school to be home educated and general turbulence data.
- Off-rolling is covered at DSL training for schools.
- Our EHE literature and EHE page on the council website reinforces that a school cannot request or advise parents to de-register their child to electively home educated.

- The SCC Practitioner Guidance Document– Educational Neglect (May 2021) includes a specific focus on off-rolling.
- Our local EHE process holds schools to account for engaging with parents at the first mention of EHE and requires them to offer a discussion to parents. The purpose for these discussions includes the exploration of any issues that could be resolved and to ensure that the parent has not been pressurised in any way to withdraw their child from school.
- The Ofsted School Inspection Handbook addresses off-rolling under the leadership and management judgement *“Leaders aim to ensure that all pupils successfully complete their programmes of study. They provide the support for staff to make this possible. They create an inclusive culture and do not allow gaming or off-rolling.”*
- Our EHE guidance for schools states that for all pupils with an EHCP, schools should notify the SEND Case Officer immediately to call an early Annual Review at the first mention of EHE to ensure that:
 - A review can take place of the needs of the child.
 - A baseline can be established against which progress can be measured at the next annual review.
 - Parents can explain how they will ensure they will meet the needs of the child as written in the EHCP, but also how they will meet their wider duty under s7 of the Education Act 1996.
 - The school can be satisfied that off-rolling is not a factor where the parent feels they are left with no option other than EHE because of a lack of support for their child’s needs.
- The Education Welfare Service work directly with families and mediate between schools and families to try and remove barriers to attendance and hopefully maintain placements.
- A working group of Educational Psychologists has been set up to look at Emotionally Based School Avoidance policy and practices.
- We have a well-embedded Fair Access Protocol which identifies school places for pupils who meet the criteria.
- We have an Inclusion Officer for Pupils with medical needs whose role is to facilitate/promote provision for pupils with medical needs and to provide advice and support to schools to help them maintain placements.
- Our managed moves protocol is in place to support pupils who are in need of a fresh start at a new school, whilst protecting their enrolment status at their current school.
- A local authority ‘School Causing Concern’ group meets to discuss issues raised by professionals and to agree actions.
- We work with schools to problem solve through officer support and inclusion panels, in situations where children display challenging or complex behaviours.
- When making an on-line application for a school place via the Citizen Portal parents are asked to provide the reason for their application, enabling us to monitor reasons of particular concern.

INCLUSION SERVICES - SPECIFIC OFF-ROLLING CASES DURING 2020/21

Removing a non-attender from roll following a house move

One sibling was able to be offered an alternative place at an infant school close to their new address and transferred successfully in July. The older child was not immediately offered a place at the

corresponding junior school close to their new address and stopped attending their current school. The Headteacher therefore removed the older child from roll with a reason of EHE.

- A part of our Inclusion Services process we contacted the school to request the appropriate EHE paperwork and discovered that this was not an EHE withdrawal. The parent had not expressed an intention to EHE. The Headteacher felt that removal from roll was a better option for the parents than being issued with a fine for non-attendance at school so just provided EHE as a reason. He also felt that the new junior school could and should have enrolled this child prior to the summer holidays to prevent non-attendance.
- The parent had been advised that her older child needed to continue attending but refused to comply.
- The CME Officer advised the Headteacher to reinstate the pupil because removal from roll had been unlawful. This advice was complied with.
- The child subsequently successfully transferred to their new junior school in September.

This was felt to be off-rolling because removal from roll was unlawful and because this action benefitted the school because it impacted in a positive way on their attendance figures.

Two EHE withdrawals from the same education provider

These cases were alerted to the Cross Phase advisor for school improvement and lead for safeguarding in education settings because:

- Neither student was offered a referral to Early Help despite both pupils displaying challenging and disruptive behaviours
- Despite meeting with pastoral staff neither parent was offered outside agency support, such as Springwell, EP or Early Help.
- In one of the cases the pupil was working with the SENCO but there was no evidence of an application for EHCP, despite the parent requesting this. There was also no evidence of additional support being provided from the SEN budget.
- One parent met with the Deputy Head, where she discussed EHE and alleges that she was told that this would be a good option to keep her child safe.
- One parent reported that the lack of pastoral care was the main reason for her decision to EHE and she felt that the provider did little to support her child's mental health.
- Neither parent wanted to EHE - they both wanted support from the school, which they both felt was wanting.

These cases were felt to be off-rolling because the parents were left feeling that they had no alternative other than to EHE their children and these outcomes benefitted the education provider rather than the pupils.

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	POST 16 PROVISION, PARTICIPATION AND NEET
DATE OF DECISION:	30 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Deputy Chief Executive	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

At the meeting the Panel will be considering issues related to Post 16 education, skills and training in Southampton. Attached as Appendix 1 is an overview of Post-16 education in Southampton. Attached as Appendix 2 is a summary of Post 16 participation, including those who are NEET (not in education, employment or training).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	That the Panel note the information provided in the appendices and discuss the challenges raised with regards to Post-16 provision and participation in Southampton with the Cabinet Member and invited officers.
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REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	To enable a discussion with the Cabinet Member and officers on Post 16 provision and participation in Southampton.
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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2.	None.
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3.	Attached to this report as Appendix 1 is an overview of Post-16 provision in Southampton. The appendix references the review commissioned by the DfE Post-16 commissioner designed to identify solutions to the challenges outlined in the briefing paper. The Panel will be provided with an update on developments relating to this review at the meeting.
4.	Attached as Appendix 2 is a briefing paper outlining the position in Southampton with regards to Post-16 participation in the city and the work

	being undertaken to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training.
5.	The Panel are recommended to consider and discuss the information provided in the attached appendices with the Cabinet Member for Education and invited officers.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
6.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
8.	Local Authority statutory duties relating to Post-16 participation and provision is outlined in Appendix 2.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
9.	Action to increase Post-16 participation is outlined in Appendix 2.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
10.	A priority within the 2021-2025 Corporate Plan is to Improve the quality of learning opportunities including a viable post-16 provision in the city that meets the needs of learners.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Overview of Post-16 Education
2.	Post-16 Participation, NEET and Unknown

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

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

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

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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

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Overview of Post-16 Education

Education – Children & Families

Overview of Post-16 Education

There are 7 Post 16 providers in the city. Five mainstream, and 2 specialist provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Establishment	Type	Ofsted Grading
Itchen College	Sixth Form	Requires Improvement (expected to be graded Good in its next inspection)
Richard Taunton Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Requires Improvement
City College	General Further Education	Requires Improvement
Bitterne Park Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Good
St Anne’s Sixth Form	Sixth Form	Outstanding
Great Oaks College	Special	Good
Rosewood Post-16	Special	Outstanding

For the purposes of this paper, the focus is on the three colleges who require improvement. They are currently in competition with each other and there is overlap in the curriculum offer. Richard Taunton and Itchen College offer A Levels and ‘soft’ vocational qualifications, they do not offer highly technical vocational qualifications. City College does not offer A Levels but does offer vocational qualifications in all curriculum areas except land based. It also has an extensive offer for 3000+ adult students. However, City College and Richard Taunton Sixth Form are not financially viable and are in receipt of emergency funding from Government.

Since 2015 there have been several merger attempts between City College and other providers, all of which have fallen through due to the associated financial risk – the most recent being with Itchen College in September 2020, and Eastleigh College in 2021. Despite there being a clear need for vocational provision in the City, its future beyond this academic year is not known. 75% of the students at City College come from disadvantaged backgrounds and their life outcomes are at risk as a result.

These current complexities are negatively impacting on the outcomes of young people in the city and the sector now requires synergy across the curriculum offer. The aim of developing centres of excellence in different curriculum areas / A level subjects across the three institutions, should lead to efficiency savings for the colleges, and improved outcomes for young people.

Provision

Although the Council does not have specific responsibility regarding inspection or quality assurance of Post 16 provision it does see its role as a strategic partner to address under-

performance. This has not been addressed in the past. If the local provision and curriculum offer is not of an acceptable quality to meet the needs of its young people, we would not be fulfilling our statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training for all young people in our area who are over compulsory school age. There is a clear need to ensure that the skills mix supports growth and productivity in the city to engage our most vulnerable groups and prevent young people from becoming NEET.

Participation

Increased participation in education, training and employment will feed into the hands of NEET prevention and achieve best outcomes for young people. There is a gap in provision for young people with SEND. We propose to strengthen bespoke Post 16 pathways by creating opportunities for young people while they are still in school. Work experience, quality careers guidance and college tasters will be key to addressing this. It will be vital for bespoke pathways to be developed to suit the needs and interests of all young people (especially those with SEND, care experienced young people and young offenders). We aim for a seamless progression from school into further education, training or employment.

City Wide Solution

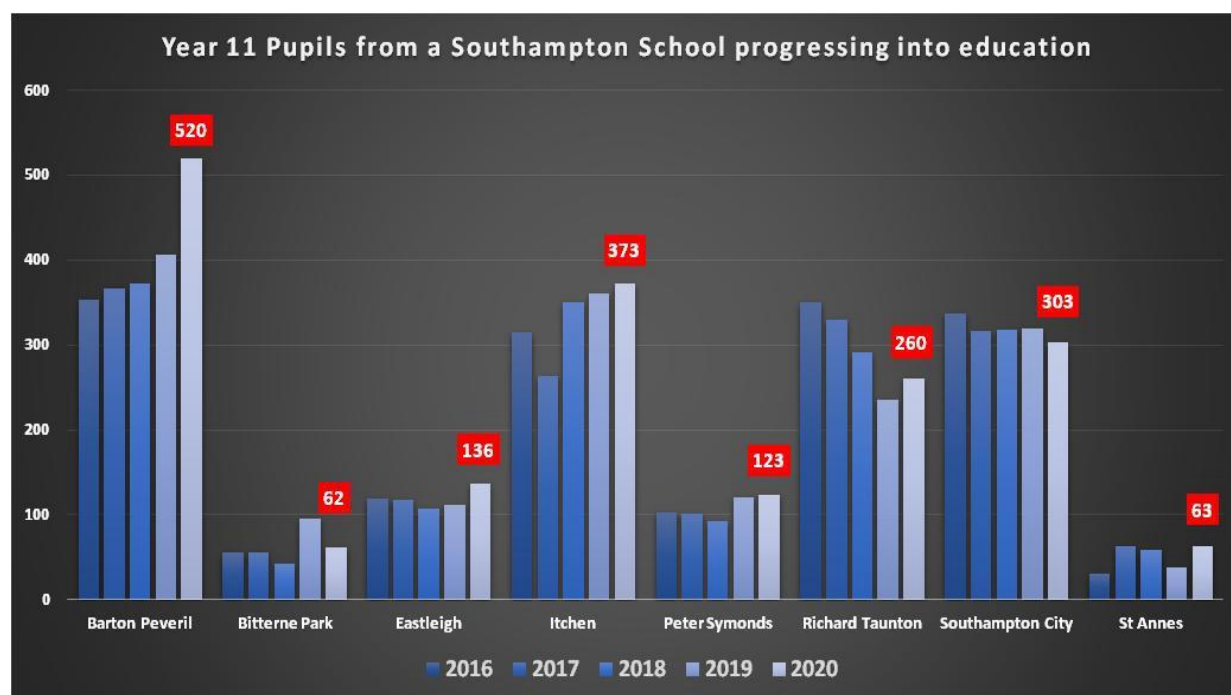
The DfE Post-16 commissioner is leading on any future proposals and they are keen to resolve the situation. Deloitte has been commissioned to undertake a detailed review which will result in recommendations being made to the Minister. Deloitte and members of the DfE will be presenting their findings and proposals to Council leaders in September 2021, at which point we will have a better understanding of the potential 'City Wide Solution'. (It should be noted that this review includes eight colleges across the region. They are Richard Taunton Sixth Form, City College Southampton, Itchen College, Eastleigh College, Barton Peveril Sixth Form, Fareham College, Totton College and Brockenhurst College).

Annex 1 - Further Education Establishments Attended in 2020

The table below shows the top 10 establishments attended by the Year 11 leavers who continued in education from all Southampton Secondary Schools, as of 1st November 2020.

Establishment Attended	Total	Male	Female
Barton Peveril College	520	280	240
Itchen Sixth Form College	373	167	206
Southampton City College	303	185	118
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	260	127	133
Eastleigh College	146	90	56
Peter Symonds College	123	44	79
St Anne's Sixth Form	65	3	62
Bitterne Park Sixth Form	64	31	33
Sparsholt College	35	10	25
Totton College	30	16	14
Fareham College	25	17	8

Trend data for the 5 years up to 2020 for students starting at an FE College, Sixth Form College or Sixth Form School after progressing from year 11 to Post-16 Learning.



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POST 16 PARTICIPATION, NEET AND UNKNOWN STATUTORY DUTIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

STATUTORY DUTIES

Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. These are:

- To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained.
- To make available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those between 20 and 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of ESA 2008.

Tracking young people's participation is a key element of these duties. Local authorities are required to collect information about young people so that those who are not participating, or are NEET, can be identified and given support to re-engage. Robust tracking also provides the local authority with information that will help to ensure that suitable education and training provision is available and that resources can be targeted effectively.

- Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
- Local authorities must make arrangements – i.e. maintain a tracking system (CCIS – Client Caseload Information System)- to identify 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating in education or training (NEET and Unknowns)
- DWP have a duty to support all 18-25 young people not in education, employment and training.

N.B. This duty is relevant to young people aged 16 and 17 years old who live within Southampton City Council authority area only. Any young person living in another authority will be tracked and supported by the LA they live in.

STATUTORY RETURNS

Local authorities are also required to submit a number of statutory returns that support and underpin the duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate. These include:

- Monthly MI (Management Information) return of data including years 16 and 17 year old NEETs (up to 25 years for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP))
- Year 11 fixed cohort (May MI return) which includes all year 11s attending a Southampton school, Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) or Electively Home Educated (EHE)
- Year 11 Intended Destinations (non-statutory since 2020 but local collection encouraged to support participation tracking)

- Year 11 and year 12 September Guarantee (September MI return) all offers of learning given to young people in cohort
- Year 11 Activity Survey (November) covering Post-16 progression - destinations of year 11 leavers
- New academic year 12 and 13 tracking (September to December)
- DfE nationally published NEET/Unknown data (an average of the Dec, Jan and Feb MI returns)
- Post-16 participation in learning data (March MI return)

NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

All young people in year 12 and 13 (age 16 and 17) living within the Southampton City Council boundary are tracked and recorded, the cohort is approximately 4500. Those that are recorded as NEET are divided into 2 categories;

- NEET – available for work, including

Working not for reward
Not yet ready for work or learning
Start date agreed
Seeking employment, education or training

- NEET – not available for work, including

Carer
Teenage parents
Illness
Pregnancy
Religious grounds
Unlikely to be economically active

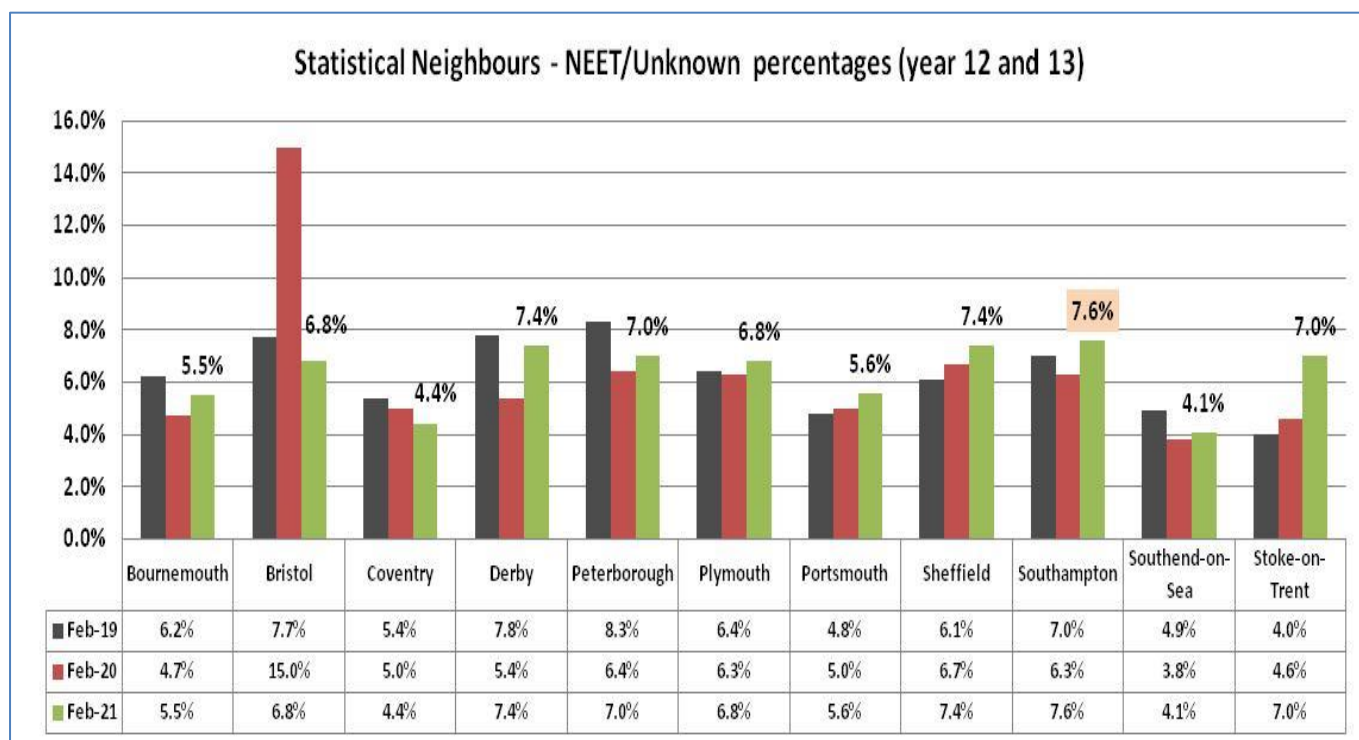
N.B. Young people in year group 14 and above (18+) who are NEET sign on and are the responsibility of the DWP to support into work. In Southampton, the Employment Support Team take a supporting role to achieve this.

The Post 16 Team is not funded to undertake work beyond the statutory duties set out above.

Southampton Participation, NEET and Unknown (Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)

- The combined NEET and Unknown data is based on **Southampton residents only** in the academic year groups 12 and 13 (academic age 16 and 17).
- The cohort is approximately 4500 young people.
- The percentage of those participating in EET (Education, Employment and Training) is 90% (4050).
- The combined NEET/Unknown percentage for 2021 was 7.6% (DfE published data as an average of the months Dec, Jan and Feb).
- NEET = 4.4% (average of 196 young people).

- Unknowns = 3.2% (average of 136 young people).
- Looked after = 44 of which 9 were NEET in Feb 2021
- Care Leavers = 1 who was NEET in Feb 2021
- SEND (EHCP) aged 16-17 = 158 of which 17 were NEET in Feb 21
- 12 of the NEET young people in February 2021 were working with the Youth Offending Service at the time.



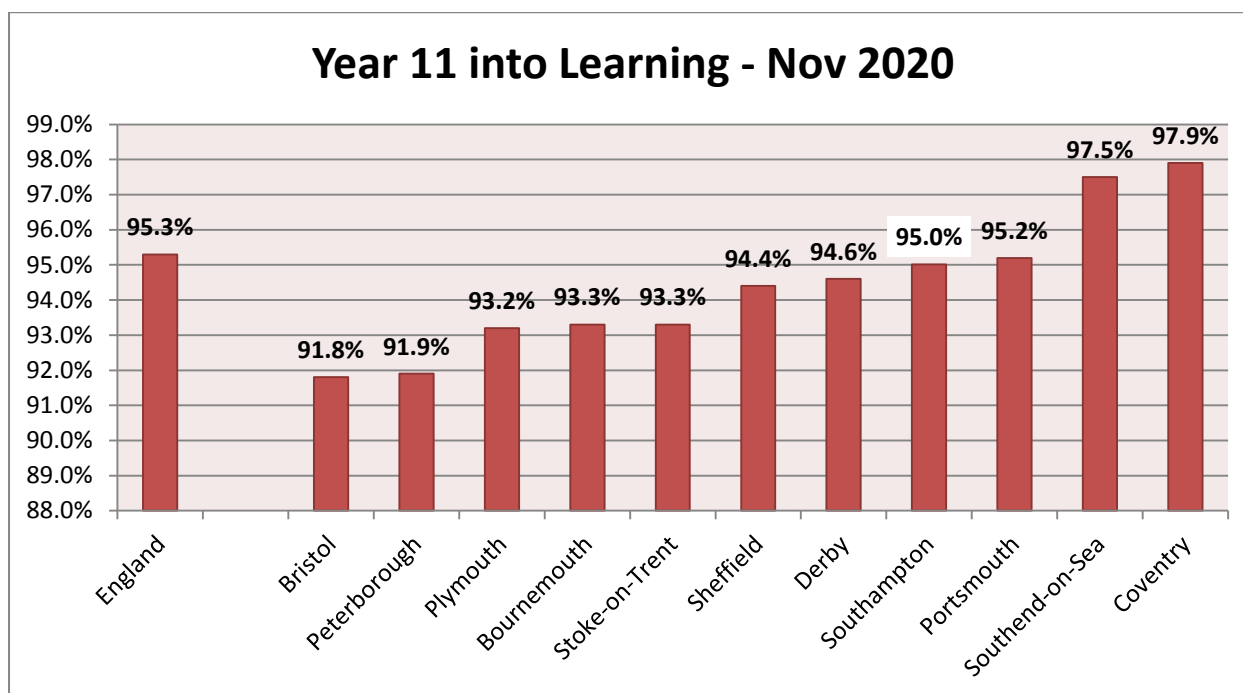
- Although Southampton's NEET/Unknown figure has risen this year, so have 8 of the 10 Statistical Neighbours, with Stoke on Trent with the biggest rise.
- The largest increase is Stoke-on-Trent with 2.4%, Southampton had a rise of 1.3%.
- Southampton have the highest NEET percentage in 2021 of all statistical neighbours
- The pandemic has exacerbated the issue. For example:
 - Limited face to face contact and support with NEET group
 - Limited late entry college places
 - Limited new apprenticeship starts
 - Limited new employment opportunities.

YEAR 11 PROGRESSION INTO LEARNING

The post-16 destinations of all year 11 leavers from a Southampton School are tracked, recorded and submitted to the DfE in December each year. The following data is the percentage of the pupils that progressed into a Learning Opportunity, that is either college or sixth form, an apprenticeship, a full-time training opportunity or fulltime employment with accredited training.

	November 2018	November 2019	November 2020
Year 11 Progression into Learning	92.65%	93.81%	95.01%

Statutory Neighbour comparisons



YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13 NEET COMPARISON

	Year 12	Year 13
2019	82 (44.6%)	102 (55.4%)
2020	78 (42.2%)	106 (57.6%)
2021	67 (34.2%)	129 (65.8%)

- Year 12 NEET % is reducing year on year, while Year 13 is increasing.
- Possible reasons:
 - Students struggle with college learning environment
 - Several moves between courses, students not settling
 - Level 2 to Level 3 transition is a big jump academically
 - Introduction of exam element in vocational courses
 - Not meeting entry requirements to progress
 - Lack of student engagement
 - Poor attendance in Maths and English courses
 - Students suffering with poor mental health, low resilience

ACTION ALREADY TAKEN TO ADDRESS 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD NEETS

- Moved the Post 16 Team into the Education Team
- Strengthened relationships with Post 16 providers
- Southampton NEET / Participation is a standing agenda item on Southampton Education Forum (SEF). Schools and colleges supporting and holding each other to account.

- Development of Individual Pathways in mainstream secondary schools – funding for schools to develop bespoke pathways for students at risk of permanent exclusion.
- Windmills iCan Training – in schools and in SCC
- Improved information sharing and Year 11 transition arrangements – taster days, open days, independent careers information, advice and guidance.
- Strengthened partnership working with outside agencies – National Citizenship Service, Itchen STEP, Saints Foundation etc.
- Development of Flying Start website – information for young people moving from school to positive Post 16 destinations.

LONGER TERM PLANS

- Employed 3 FTE Engagement Officers (starting on 27th September 2021) to support and reengage young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, or who are NEET.
- The Post 16 team is currently scoping out the possibility of employing a Kickstarter to resurrect the SCC Work Experience offer to young people in schools.
- Development of Care Leavers Guarantee – in progress.
- Audit the current quality of Careers Information Advice and Guidance in schools
- Establish a traded Careers Information Advice and Guidance service for schools and colleges.
- We have been successful in a bid for £200K to address the educational inequalities as a result of Covid-19. Some of this funding will be used to enhance existing NEET prevention initiatives in schools and colleges.

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DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE
DATE OF DECISION:	30 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Deputy Chief Executive	
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Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
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	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
Attached as Appendix 1 are the key datasets for Children’s Services and Learning up to the end of August 2021. At the meeting the Cabinet Member and senior managers from Children’s Services and Learning will be providing the Panel with an overview of performance across the division since July 2021.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children’s Services and Learning in Southampton.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of Children’s Services and Learning in Southampton.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	To enable the Panel to undertake their role effectively members will be provided with monthly performance information and an explanation of the measures.
4.	Performance information up to 31 August 2021 is attached as Appendix 1. An explanation of the significant variations in performance will be provided at the meeting.
5.	The Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care, and representatives from the Children’s Services and Learning Senior Management Team, have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the performance overview.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	

6.	None directly as a result of this report.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
8.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
10.	<p>The 2021-2025 Corporate Plan sets out the following regarding wellbeing in the city: <i>“We want a city in which people can start well, live well, age well, and live happy and fulfilling lives. We will be a city that prevents and intervenes early, promotes wellbeing, and allows people to live independently for longer, enjoying their lives and all our great city has to offer.”</i></p> <p>Aligned to this, priorities in the Corporate Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of children looked after • Achieve our ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City by 2024/25.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Children and Families Monthly Dataset – August 2021
2.	Glossary of terms

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

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

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

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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

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

Benchmarking 2019-20		
SN	ENG	SE region

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	% change from Jul-21	% change from Aug-20	Preferred DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Commentary (Aug-21):
M1	Number of contacts received (includes contacts that become referrals)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>There is an effective 'front door' with which anyone with a concern about a child can engage and receive appropriate advice, support and action.</i>	1297	1886	1630	1801	2080	1894	1616	↓ -15%	↑ 20%		1677	2080	Local	Local	Local	The number of Contacts received during August 21 has reduced by 15%. This is likely to be a direct result of the schools being on Summer break.
M2	Number of new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Referrals for children in need of help and support are accepted appropriately by the service.</i>	244	460	334	442	339	353	287	↓ -19%	→ 9%		355	460	368	353	502	The number of Children needing an assessment during Aug 21 decreased by 19% which correlates with the number of Contacts that were received into MASH.
M3	Percentage of all contacts that become new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>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.</i>	19%	24%	20%	24%	16%	18%	17%	→ -5%	↓ -11%		21%	25%	Local	Local	Local	The percentage of Contacts that converted into referrals of children in need has remained fairly consistent over the past 3 months. Audits are regularly undertaken to ensure that MASH consistently apply the threshold for statutory services.
M2-NI	Number of new referrals of Children in Need (CiN) rate per 10,000 (0-17 year olds)	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Referrals for children in need of help and support are comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.</i>	48	90	66	87	67	69	56	↓ -19%	→ 8%		70	90	Local	Local	Local	The number of new referrals of children in need per 10,000 0-17 yr olds has reduced which correlates with a decrease in Contacts and referrals throughout August.
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	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>The safety of children is supported by referrals being dealt with in a timely manner.</i>	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	97%	100%	→ 3%	→ 1%	▲	98%	100%	Local	Local	Local	MASH achieved 100% for the working together 24 hour decision making on all Contacts that are received into the service.
M6-QL (val)	Number of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	Julian Watkins	Sarah Ward	<i>The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.</i>	10	28	17	38	20	31	15	↓ -52%	↓ -21%	▼	24	38	Local	Local	Local	This is a significant decrease but is likely to be due to the school holidays and therefore reduction in referrals from education professionals
M6-QL	Percentage of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	Julian Watkins	Sarah Ward	<i>The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.</i>	4%	6%	5%	9%	6%	9%	5%	↓ -44%	↓ -29%	▼	6%	9%	27%	23%	26%	As above
M4	Number of new referrals of children aged 13+ where child sexual exploitation (CSE) was a factor	Julian Watkins	Stuart Webb	<i>The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.</i>	2	1	3	1	1	3	3	→ 0%	↓ -57%		3	15	Local	Local	Local	A more sophisticated data report will be part of the overall KPI suite. The MET manager provided a report for Scrutiny Panel in June 2021.
M5	Number of children receiving Early Help services who are stepped up for Children In Need (CiN) assessment	Julian Watkins	Sean Holthouse	<i>The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.</i>	5	10	5	8	4	12	3	↓ -75%	↓ -25%		7	17	Local	Local	Local	The number of 'step up' cases in August was below average with 3 recorded.
EH2	Number of Children In Need (CiN) at end of period (all open cases, excluding EHPs, EHAs, CPP and LAC)	Julian Watkins	Sarah Ward	<i>Children in need of help and support receive a consistent and effective service.</i>	1109	1218	1151	1217	1140	1145	1004	↓ -12%	↓ -19%	▼	1,190	1,348	Local	Local		This figure has reduced and is likely to have been impacted by school holidays and a reduction in referrals from education. In addition Pact now have an ATM for each of the six teams and it is anticipated that the ATM's will be able to support in progressing cases to closure, step down or out of the team as appropriate. NQSW's have also been recruited to the team and will be able to support with progressing CIN cases from September.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	% change from Jul-21	% change from Aug-20	Preferred DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Commentary (Aug-21):
EH5-QL	Number of children open to the authority who have been missing at any point in the period (count of children)	Julian Watkins	Stuart Webb	<i>The needs and safety of children who have been missing are responded to robustly.</i>	69	75	64	77	86	87	77	↓ -11%	↑ 31%	▼	71	87	Local	Local	Local	Service is well sighted on the case detail behind the performance. Consultation in respect of the young people's service is scheduled to start next month.
EH3	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Children receive a comprehensive assessment of their needs; with strengths and areas of risk identified to inform evidence-based planning.</i>	304	288	293	321	327	277	278	→ 0%	↑ 12%		306	410	354	365	485	The number of single assessments completed in Aug 21 remains consistent with July 21. This is lower than statistical neighbours, SE Region and England and is therefore an area to explore further. A lower figure would suggest that our Early Help services are working well to prevent risk within families escalating or professionals are not aware of some families in need and are therefore not referring into the service.
EH3a%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 10 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	12%	15%	13%	13%	6%	10%	6%	↓ -41%	↑ 34%	▲	11%	16%	11%	12%	13%	The number of single assessments completed with 10 days is 6%. You would expect this figure to be low and is likely to be assessments where the risk/need for a child referred has not been substantiated during assessment.
EH3b%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 11-25 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	35%	26%	43%	33%	30%	34%	28%	↓ -16%	↓ -13%	▲	31%	43%	Local	Local	Local	The number of single assessments completed within 11-25 days is 28% for Aug 21 lower than July 21 and the 12 month average. Assessments within this cohort will include Section 47 assessments
EH3c%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 26-35 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	13%	28%	20%	19%	29%	24%	28%	↑ 16%	→ -2%	▲	21%	29%	Local	Local	Local	The number of single assessments completed within 26-35 days is 28% for Aug 21 in line with the 12 month average. this figure is not particularly significant.
EH3d%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 36-45 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	14%	14%	14%	22%	23%	27%	23%	↓ -14%	→ -5%	▲	22%	30%	Local	Local	Local	The number of single assessments is 23% for Aug 21. This figure is not particularly significant.
EH3e%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed over 45 days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	26%	16%	10%	14%	13%	6%	15%	↑ 175%	↑ 41%	▼	15%	26%	15%	16%	15%	The percentage of single assessments completed over 45 days has increased to 15%. Although this is in line with statistical neighbours, it is disappointing to see an increase and needs some exploration.
EH4 (val)	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	226	241	263	285	284	271	243	↓ -10%	↑ 10%	▲	263	366				The number of single assessments completed in 45 days is 243 for Aug 21 a decrease on both June and July. This is in line with a decrease in referrals during the summer holidays.
EH4-QL	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.</i>	74%	84%	90%	86%	87%	94%	85%	↓ -10%	→ -4%	▲	85%	94%				The percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days has reduced by 10% and sits at 85% for Aug 21. This is disappointing and will be further explored.
CP1	Number of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Where there are concerns about a child's safety, there is a robust assessment of risk.</i>	91	174	117	158	93	141	59	↓ -58%	↓ -27%		124	174	119	110	155	The number of section 47s completed during Aug 21 has decreased by 58%. This will be partly due to less Contacts into the service, but also a piece of joint work with the police looking at reducing the number of children being subject to a section 47 which results in NFA.
CP1-NI	Rate of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started per 10,000 children aged 0-17	Julian Watkins	Jacqui Schofield	<i>Safeguarding investigations undertaken by the service are at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.</i>	18	34	23	31	18	28	12	↓ -57%	↓ -25%		24	34	19	14	15	The rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 children aged 0-17yrs has reduced by 57% compared with July. This will be partly due to less Contacts into the service, but also a piece of joint work with the police looking at reducing the number of children being subject to a section 47 which results in NFA.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	% change from Jul-21	% change from Aug-20	Preferred DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Commentary (Aug-21):
CP6B	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of the month, excluding temporary registrations	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>Child Protection Plans are in place for children where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep them safe.</i>	358	313	337	355	381	383	420	↑ 10%	→ 1%		377	420	350	339	427	The increase in the number and rate of CPP is explained by the holiday period and the reduction in the number of RCPCs due to statutory partner availability. This in turn has impacted upon the number of cases stepped down or out of planning. See indicators CP7 and CP9 below.
CP6B-NI	Rate of children with Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 (0-17 year olds) at end of period	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>The number of children who require Child Protection Plans is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.</i>	70	62	66	70	75	75	83	↑ 11%	→ 1%		74	83	53	43	41	The increase in the number and rate of CPP is explained by the holiday period and the reduction in the number of RCPCs due to statutory partner availability. This in turn has impacted upon the number of cases stepped down or out of planning. See indicators CP7 and CP9 below.
CP2	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs), excluding transfer-Ins and temporary registrations	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>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.</i>	20	38	45	49	58	54	43	↓ -20%	↑ 95%		45	58	43	42	53	Small reduction in number and rate of ICPC, which again is to be expected due to the holiday period. Southampton remains an outlier and commentary from last month regarding the SSCP still applies.
CP2-NI	Rate per 10,000 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>The rate of Initial Child Protection Conferences is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.</i>	4	8	9	10	11	11	10	→ -7%	↑ 117%		9	12	7	5	5	Small reduction in number and rate of ICPC, which again is to be expected due to the holiday period. Southampton remains an outlier and commentary from last month regarding the SSCP still applies.
CP4 (val)	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>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.</i>	18	31	40	45	54	52	42	↓ -19%	↑ 147%		41	54				Conversion remains high compared to SN and continues to suggest that some families are subject to CPP planning unnecessarily.
CP4	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>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.</i>	90%	82%	89%	92%	93%	96%	98%	→ 1%	↑ 26%	▲	91%	98%	90%	87%	86%	Conversion remains high compared to SN and continues to suggest that some families are subject to CPP planning unnecessarily.
CP2b	Number of transfer-ins	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.</i>	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	- n/a	↑ 600%		2	7	Local	Local	Local	There were seven transfers in this month. This is high and is explained by xxx In all cases, the service manager checks that local processes were complied with.
CP2b %	Percentage of transfer-ins where child became subject to a CP Plan during period	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.</i>	-	0%	100%	100%	-	-	86%	- n/a	- n/a		83%	100%	Local	Local	Local	
CP3-QL (val)	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) which were held within timescales (excludes transfer-ins)	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.</i>	14	23	20	42	36	40	34	↓ -15%	↑ 113%	▲	27	42	34	33	40	Performance is closer to SN average for the past two months. However, there is still a risk of deteriorating performance, particularly if the assessment service experiences an increase in demand after the summer holiday period.
CP3-QL	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales (based on count of children)	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	<i>Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.</i>	70%	61%	44%	86%	62%	74%	79%	→ 7%	→ 9%	▲	62%	86%	81%	78%	76%	Performance is closer to SN average for the past two months. However, there is still a risk of deteriorating performance, particularly if the assessment service experiences an increase in demand after the summer holiday period.
CP8-QL	Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 working days.	Steph Murray	Sarah Ward	<i>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.</i>	89%	88%	100%	83%	88%	83%	74%	↓ -11%	↓ -13%	▲	85%	100%	Local	Local	Local	This figure has decreased which is impacted by both staff leave and families holidays out of area. Capacity and high caseloads are still an issue in Pact and this also impacts. The number of visits undertaken is higher than recorded as workers, due to capacity issues, have not been able to ensure their recording is completed in a timely way.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	% change from Jul-21	% change from Aug-20	Preferred DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Commentary (Aug-21):
CP5-QL (val)	Number of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Steph Murray	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.	0	5	7	6	14	25	12	↓ -52%	↑ 500%	▼	12	25	9	8	11	12m average continues to broadly align with SN average.
CP5-QL	Percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Steph Murray	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.	0%	16%	17%	13%	26%	48%	25%	↓ -48%	↑ 113%	▼	26%	48%	24%	22%	23%	12m average continues to broadly align with SN average.
CP9	Number of children subject to Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) in the month	Steph Murray	Stuart Webb	Where children are subject to Child Protection planning, their cases are reviewed regularly to identify progress and any barriers.	95	173	45	65	72	125	33	↓ -74%	↓ -55%	▼	93	173	Local	Local	Local	Summer holiday period has impacted upon capacity to convene quorate RCPC and this has impacted upon the number of conferences and step downs.
CP7	Number of ceasing Child Protection Plans (CPP), excluding temporary registrations	Steph Murray	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.	61	74	19	28	27	49	16	↓ -67%	↓ -36%	▲	42	74				Summer holiday period has impacted upon capacity to convene quorate RCPC and this has impacted upon the number of conferences and step downs.
LAC1	Number of Looked after Children at end of period	Julian Watkins	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.	507	495	490	499	497	511	508	→ -1%	→ 3%	▼	500	511	496	527	550	A slight decrease of 3 children in our care, from 511 at the end of July to 508 at the end of August. The last 6 months have shown little variation for this indicator with 490 being the minimum in that period and last month at 511 being the highest.
LAC1-NI	Looked after Children rate per 10,000	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	The level of children in care is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	100	97	96	98	98	101	100	→ -1%	→ 3%	▼	98	101	89	67	53	With so little change from July to August the rate has moved from 101 per 10,000 of population to 100 - which means it remains significantly higher than all our comparators.
LAC2	Number of new Looked after Children (episodes)	Julian Watkins	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.	13	6	8	15	15	16	18	↑ 13%	↑ 100%	▼	15	25	47	44	46	Numbers of children coming new in to our care have risen again month on month with 18 new in to care in August compared to 16 in the previous month. This is 100% higher than the number coming in to care in the same month in 2020, although all this activity should be seen in the context of the pandemic.
LAC3	Number of ceasing Looked after Children (episodes)	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	Children will leave care in a planned way with clear networks of support around them.	21	17	15	6	13	5	16	↑ 220%	↓ -33%	▲	14	21	16	16	19	A significant increase in the number of children leaving our care in the month of August, going from 5 in July to 16 in August - this puts our performance on a par with comparators but it warrants further analysis to understand the reasons for these young people leaving our care.
LAC6 (val)	Number of adoptions (E11, E12)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	10	1	3	1	2	0	2	- n/a	↓ -50%	▲	3	10				
LAC6 (%)	Percentage of adoptions (E11, E12)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	48%	6%	20%	7%	15%	0%	13%	- n/a	↓ -25%		17%	48%				
LAC12 (val)	Number of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	1	4	3	0	2	1	3	↑ 200%	↓ -50%		3	5	Local	Local	Local	
LAC12 (%)	Percentage of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	5%	24%	20%	0%	15%	20%	19%	→ -6%	↓ -25%		19%	36%	1%	1%	1%	

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	% change from Jul-21	% change from Aug-20	Preferred DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Commentary (Aug-21):
LAC7-QL	Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>The service is in regular contact with Looked after Children to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.</i>	90%	88%	69%	80%	80%	80%	76%	→ -5%	→ 5%	▲	80%	90%	Local	Local	Local	A 4% decrease in August in the % of visits completed within statutory timescales in August, which may well be holiday related. Assurance meetings are due to start this month and our visiting performance will be an initial priority target for scrutiny - if we have seen 76% of our children 6 weekly, what about the remaining 24%, how many of those are late 6 weekly visits and how many have other frequencies agreed.
LAC10 (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.</i>	94%	96%	96%	96%	95%	96%	94%	→ -1%	→ -2%	▲	96%	98%	Local	Local	Local	A slight decrease of 2% from July to August in the care plan indicator but this may also be holiday related as August saw high levels of staff on leave and high levels of sickness in the LAC teams. This will be a focus area for September to get this back to 96%+.
LAC10-QL	Number of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA Plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.</i>	477	477	470	478	471	489	480	→ -2%	→ 1%	▲	479	489	Local	Local	Local	489 care plans were completed by end of July, falling to 480 in August, hence the 2% decrease in performance.
LAC13	Number of current Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after at end of period	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.</i>	21	20	20	18	18	21	26	↑ 24%	↑ 136%		18	26	25	21	35	A further increase of 5 asylum seeking minors in our care population in the past month - we would expect to see further increases in this number as the potential allocation for this LA is for up to 36 UASC in total to be part of our overall population of children in our care.
LAC14	Number of new unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.</i>	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	↓ -50%	- n/a		1	3	Local	Local	Local	See commentary above.
LAC11-QL	Number of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.</i>	179	188	187	187	192	197	198	→ 1%	↑ 16%	▲	184	198	Local	Local	Local	August has seen a further increase of 1 in the number of authorised Pathway Plans, taking the total to 198 at the end of the month. This is a 16% increase on the numbers in August 2020.
LAC11-QL (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.</i>	97%	96%	94%	94%	96%	96%	97%	→ 1%	→ 3%	▲	96%	98%	Local	Local	Local	As above.
NI147	Percentage of Care Leavers in contact and in suitable accommodation	Julian Watkins	Mary Hardy	<i>Care Leavers are in accommodation that is safe and secure.</i>	84%	82%	85%	85%	85%	84%	81%	→ -4%	→ -3%	▲	84%	85%	85%	94%	91%	August has seen a further decrease for this indicator so this will also need to be a priority for further exploration in the Assurance meeting discussions - it is crucial that we understand the nuances of this indicator to ascertain if it is the contact element or the "suitability" element that are the current concern so we can focus on remedial work.
LAC9 (val)	Number of Looked after Children (LAC) placed with IFAs at end of period	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	160	156	151	154	158	162	165	→ 2%	↑ 16%	▼	154	165	Local	Local	Local	
LAC9	Percentage of IFA placements (of all looked after children)	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	32%	32%	31%	31%	32%	32%	32%	→ 2%	↑ 13%	▼	31%	32%	Local	Local	Local	
LAC16	Number of in-house foster carers at the end of period	Julian Watkins	Martin Smith	<i>Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.</i>	153	155	156	155	155	0	0	- n/a	↓ -100%	▲	130	161	Local	Local	Local	

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	% change from Jul-21	% change from Aug-20	Preferred DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Commentary (Aug-21):
EH1a	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) started in the month	Steph Murray	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from an early help offer that is rooted in a good understanding of their needs.	125	190	199	138	173	182	135	→ -6%	→ 2%		146	199	-	-	-	The number of EHA's started was lower than the rolling average reflecting a reduction in new referrals.
EH1c	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed in the month INCLUDING adults aged 21+	Steph Murray	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for adult family members where a need for support is identified.	352	381	416			400	308	- n/a	↑ 17%		312	416	-	-	-	The number of EHA's completed is slightly below the rolling monthly average with 308 recorded.
EH1b	Number of Early Help Plans (EHPs) opened in the month (includes EHPs completed, and those still open at end of period)	Steph Murray	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from early help plans that meet their presenting needs.	376	315	433	317	319	412	245	- n/a	↓ -13%		307	433	-	-	-	The rate of EHP's is lower than rolling monthly average with 245 recorded, the lowest since January.
EH14b	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed, EXCLUDING adults aged 21+	Steph Murray	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for a children where a need for early help support is identified..	231	255	267	208	220	261	221	- n/a	↑ 25%		212	267	-	-	-	See above
CIN5	Number of all Children in Need (CiN) (including Child Protection (CP) / Looked after Children (LAC) / Care Leavers	Steph Murray	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.	2101	2159	2119	2206	2158	2178	2070	- n/a	→ -8%		2196	2367	-	-	-	8% reduction in numbers. D22 consultation has been postponed. However, temporary social work team are starting, which should have an impact on CIN case management.
LSCB17a	Percentage of 16-17 year olds NEET or whose activity is not known	Derek Wiles	Debbie Blythe	Young people benefit from an effective work to engage them in education, training and employment.								- n/a	- n/a	▼	-	0	-	-	-	
YO2	Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17 year olds in period	Steph Murray	Debbie Blythe	Young people are appropriately diverted from entry into the criminal justice system through the local diversion / prevention offer.								- n/a	- n/a	▼	-	0	417	327	256	
FM011	Families attached per quarter	Steph Murray	Sean Holehouse	Families benefit from a robust local Troubled Families offer. (Families Matter)								- n/a	- n/a	▲	29	36	-	-	-	Pending QTR 2 data return
FM012	Payment per result (PBR) claims attached per quarter	Steph Murray	Sean Holehouse	Family engagement in the Families Matter programme translates into PBR, for further investment into the programme.								- n/a	- n/a	▲	51	51	-	-	-	Pending QTR 2 data return

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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/>

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE OF DECISION:	30 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

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

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
5.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
6.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
7.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
8.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None
KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 30 September 2021
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 30 September 2021

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
17/06/21	Children's Services - Performance	1) That the Executive Director provides the Panel with an overview of the key actions, developments and milestones that are fundamental to delivering the stated ambition to realign the focus of our services from assessment to intervention.	The recommendation is that the overview is shared with the Panel in November 2021, alongside the refreshed improvement plan. ** The revised improvement plan is scheduled for discussion at Improvement Board on 20 th September 2021. So, presentation to Scrutiny Panel in November will be achievable.	Recommend presentation at Panel in November 2021.
17/06/21	Ofsted Focused Letter	1) That the Cabinet Member for Education lobbies the Government, on behalf of the Council, to give local authorities additional powers with regards to the oversight of elected home educated children.	The Cabinet Member has received a briefing from the Head of Education and Early Years on Elected Home Education.	Partially complete
22/07/21	Placement Sufficiency	1) That, following the identification of a suitable property to accommodate a children's home, ward councillors and planning officers are engaged prior to the start of the planning application process to help facilitate a positive discussion with the local community.	A cross departmental process for acquiring and adapting properties is in place. This requires the property service design team to consult with the planning department early in the process and prior to the planning application being made. The cabinet member is advised and consulted on the identification of a property to facilitate early conversations with ward councillors on any property acquisition.	COMPLETE
		2) That data relating to the number and percentage of looked after children aged 16+ accommodated in semi-independent provision is circulated to the Panel.	As of 30.8.21 there were 21 looked after children aged 16+ placed in semi-independent provision. This equates to 4% of our looked after children cohort. Regarding quality assurance, the majority of provision is quality assured through the local and regional commissioning frameworks.	COMPLETE
22/07/21	CareDirector	1) That, following the CareDirector system going live, the Panel are provided with the following information:	Care director implementation is being put back until the beginning of 2022, for the following reasons:	Recommend presentation to Panel in May 2022.

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of Children's Services and Learning staff who have undertaken training on CareDirector, where it is deemed appropriate for them to do so. • Staff satisfaction levels with the new system 	<p>We need to take a later version of Care Director to fix some issues found in testing. These fixes will improve key processes and the quality of printed versions of forms.</p> <p>We need to carry out additional work so our supplier, Advanced, can monitor the performance of CareDirector once we go live.</p> <p>We've also been asked to review some of the changes identified for Phase 2 to see whether these can be included without significantly delaying go live.</p> <p>The Panel will be updated on training roll out and staff satisfaction, as per the request once implementation has been successfully achieved.</p>	
22/07/21	Children's Services - Performance	1) That commentary for CP8-QL, the percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 days, includes additional detail on the reasons why visits are not at 100%.	<p>Recorded contact within 15 days, with children subject to child protection plans, has reduced to 74% in August. We know that the protection and court (PACT) service has been particularly affected by staff shortages during this period. This is being proactively addressed and new starters are joining the service.</p> <p>The service is launching assurance clinics in September 2021 which should help to improve performance. Chaired by the Deputy Director and supported by the Performance Manager and Head of Service for QA, the clinics will scrutinise performance at team and individual level. Managers from PACT will attend to discuss performance in their teams.</p>	COMPLETE
		2) That, reflecting concerns about the increase in numbers and the associated risks to the children, the Panel consider in detail the position with regards to missing children at the 31 March 2022 meeting.	Issue scheduled for consideration at 31 March 2022 meeting of the Panel.	Recommend presentation to panel in March 2022.