

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 28th November, 2024
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Conference Room 3 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Barnes-Andrews (Chair)
Councillor Allen
Councillor Beaurain
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Kaur
Councillor G Lambert
Councillor Webb

Appointed Members

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

Contacts

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Ed Grimshaw
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Scrutiny Manager
Mark Pirnie
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PUBLIC INFORMATION

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Terms Of Reference:-

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

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

Public Representations

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

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

MOBILE TELEPHONES:- Please switch your mobile telephones or other IT to silent whilst in the meeting.

Business to be Discussed

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

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

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

Rules of Procedure

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

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

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

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key goals:

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

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year

| 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|------------|
| 18 July | 30 January |
| 08 August | 27 March |
| 26 September | |
| 28 November | |
| | |
| | |

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Interests

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

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

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

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

Principles of Decision Making

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

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

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

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

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

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

2 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

3 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

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

4 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

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

5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

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

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 26 September 2024 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

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 appendix to the following Item

The report's appendix 2 is considered to be exempt from general publication based on Category 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

8 EDUCATION OUTCOMES AND CONTEXT

(Pages 5 - 64)

Report of the Executive Director - Children and Learning, providing an overview of education outcomes at Key Stages 2 and 4 in Southampton in 2023/24 and associated education issues.

9 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE AND TRANSFORMATION

(Pages 65 - 102)

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

10 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

(Pages 103 - 114)

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

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Director – Legal and Governance

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Present: Councillors Barnes-Andrews (Chair), Webb (Vice-Chair), Chapman, Allen, G Lambert, Beaurain and Y Frampton
Appointed Members:

Apologies: Appointed Members: Rob Sanders and Catherine Hobbs

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

16. **THE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE**

The Panel considered the report of the Executive Director - Children and Learning providing an update on the performance of the Youth Justice Service in Southampton.

Councillor Winning - Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Rob Henderson - Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning, Tim Nelson - Head of Young People's Services and Anna Harbridge - Youth Service Manager were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- The improving picture regarding youth offending outcomes in Southampton and the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Service.
- The reduction in the number of children and young people from Southampton in custody compared to 2023.
- The positive impact of the alternative to custody packages and its impact on court decisions regarding offenders being remanded to custody.
- The reduction in caseloads for Youth Justice Service case holders following the appointment of additional case managers.
- The increasing effectiveness of the Safe City Partnership's response to serious incidents in the city.
- That, despite the cohort of the Youth Justice Serving having the worst attainment outcomes and attendance outcomes of young people in Southampton, the Panel noted some encouraging and welcome actions and approaches being delivered to support improved education outcomes for young offenders in the city.
- The data lag that exists for Youth Justice performance indicators.

RESOLVED That, reflecting current poor outcomes and the actions being undertaken to improve performance, the Panel is provided with the updated education outcomes for young people in Southampton involved with the Youth Justice System once the national comparator data is available.

17. **SOUTHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (SSCP) ANNUAL REPORT**

The Panel considered the report of the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) outlining the activity of the Safeguarding Children Partnership during 2023 - 2024 in response to the strategic priorities 2023 – 2026.

Scott Mackechnie, Independent Scrutineer of the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership, Councillor Winning - Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and Rob Henderson - Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel explored a number of issues including:

- Performance against the 5 strategic priorities of the Safeguarding Partnership, particularly:
 - Confidence that the Youth Justice Service and partners are working effectively to reduce levels of serious youth violence in Southampton.
 - What the increase in cases of neglect tells us about the effectiveness of the work of the Partnership's approach to neglect.
 - The profile of the issue of education participation amongst partners and if there is now a greater recognition by partners of the impact that school attendance has on a range of outcomes across the city.
 - Partners enthusiasm about the Family Safeguarding Model.
- The merger of the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, the advantages and risks of this decision, and whether the Independent Scrutineer was aware of other local authorities that have combined their safeguarding boards.

RESOLVED that following the creation of the Southampton Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SCASP), the Panel invite the Independent Scrutineer to a meeting of the Panel in 2025/26 to consider the effectiveness of the new safeguarding partnership arrangements.

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

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

Laura Trevett - Strategic Performance Manager, Councillor Winning - Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and Rob Henderson - Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- The potential reasons for the increase in re-referrals during August.
- The reasons for the majority of visiting and supervision targets being missed in August and for much of 2024/25.
- The number of foster carers, the drive to recruit new foster carers, and the role Newton (Europe) are playing in facilitating an increase in the number of SCC foster carers with an expectation that the number will rise from January 2025.

RESOLVED That, reflecting the reported increase in the rate of re-referrals in August 2024, the audit that is currently being conducted on re-referrals is circulated to the Panel upon completion.

19. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel received and noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider the responses to recommendations from previous meetings.

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Agenda Item 8

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|--------------------------|--|
| DECISION-MAKER: | CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL |
| SUBJECT: | EDUCATION OUTCOMES AND CONTEXT |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 28 NOVEMBER 2024 |
| REPORT OF: | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND LEARNING |

| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Children and Learning | |
| | Name: | Robert Henderson | Tel: 023 8083 4899 |
| | E-mail | robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Head of Education Services | |
| | Name: | Clodagh Freeston | Tel: 023 8083 3681 |
| | E-mail | Clodagh.freeston@southampton.gov.uk | |

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Appendix 2 is confidential 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 2023/24 Key Stage 2 and provisional KS4 performance outcomes for Southampton and a number of associated educational issues. To help facilitate the discussion, appended to the report is an analysis of Southampton's KS2, provisional KS4 outcomes, as well as attendance and exclusions data.

Reflecting that attainment is not achieved in isolation, information relating to a range of issues that contribute to attainment is also attached to this report. The appendices cover the following issues:

- Attendance
- Exclusions and Suspensions

There will also be the opportunity to discuss Elective Home Education and School Improvement services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

| | | |
|--|-----|---|
| | (i) | That the Panel consider the provisional key stage outcomes and supplementary information, as detailed in the appendices, and discuss with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and invited officers, educational context in Southampton. |
|--|-----|---|

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | To enable a discussion with the Cabinet Member and officers on educational performance in Southampton. |
|----|--|

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

| | |
|----|-------|
| 2. | None. |
|----|-------|

| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | |
|---|---|
| 3. | Key Stage 2 outcomes for Southampton have been published. Appendix 1 provides context and high-level analysis of the data |
| 4. | Provisional Key Stage 4 outcomes have been attached as confidential Appendix 2. |
| 5. | To provide context to the Key Stage outcomes as well as further contextual information and strategic priorities for education in Southampton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendices 3, 4 and 5 detail data and actions being undertaken to improve school attendance in Southampton. • Appendix 6 outlines the trends and activity relating to exclusions and suspensions in Southampton. |
| 6. | The Head of Education Services, alongside colleagues, will present an overview of the outcomes at the meeting and the contextual information. The Panel are requested to use the information provided to discuss education in Southampton with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and the Head of Education Services. |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u> | |
| 7. | None |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 8. | 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> | |
| 9. | None |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 10. | None |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 11. | N/A |
| KEY DECISION? | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | None |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | 2024 Key Stage 2 Outcomes |
| 2. | CONFIDENTIAL – 2024 Key Stage 4 Outcomes Provisional |
| 3. | Attendance Data and Summary |
| 4. | Attendance Support Case Studies |
| 5. | Southampton is ALL IN – Summary |

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 6. | Exclusions and Suspensions – Summary |
|----|--------------------------------------|

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 |

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An aerial photograph of Southampton harbor and the surrounding city. The harbor is filled with various ships, including a large cruise ship and a ferry. The city is built on a peninsula, with a mix of residential and commercial buildings. The surrounding area includes green fields and a road network.

Key Stage 2 Outcomes

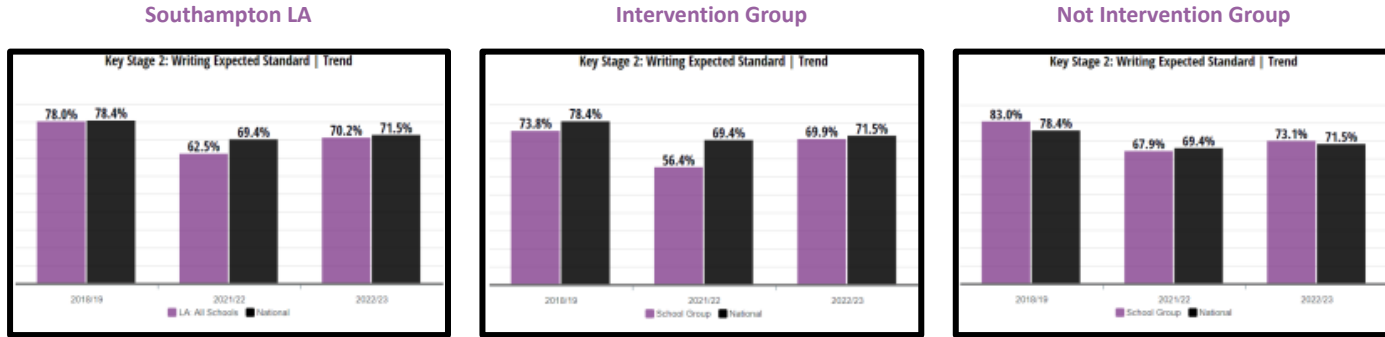
Education Data Team

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Agenda Item 8
Appendix 1

2023 KS2 Writing Intervention

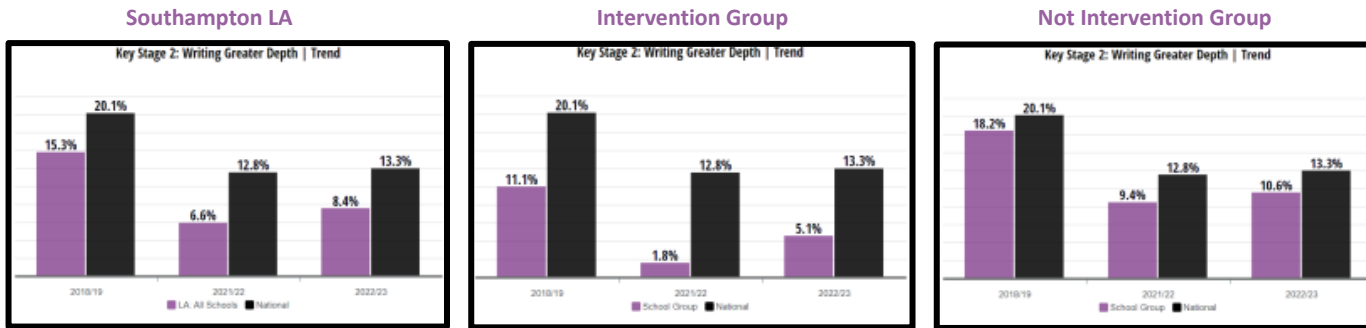
2023 KS2 Writing Intervention – Expected Standard



- In 2022, **KS2 schools in Southampton** (62.5%) were 6.9% below the National average (69.4%) for the **Expected Standard in Writing**. Southampton schools **improved by 7.7%** between 2022 (62.5%) and 2023 (70.2%). This was **5.6% more than the National average** improvement between 2022 (69.4%) and 2023 (71.5%).
- In 2022, **KS2 Writing Intervention Schools** (56.4%) were 13.0% below the National average (69.4%) for the **Expected Standard in Writing**. KS2 Writing Intervention Schools **improved by 13.5%** between 2022 (56.4%) and 2023 (69.9%). **This was 11.4% more than the National average** improvement between 2022 (69.4%) and 2023 (71.5%).
- In 2022, **KS2 Non-Writing Intervention Schools** (67.9%) were 1.5% below the National average (69.4%) for the **Expected Standard in Writing**. KS2 Non-Writing Intervention Schools **improved by 5.2%** between 2022 (67.9%) and 2023 (73.1%). **This was 3.1% more than the National average** improvement between 2022 (69.4%) and 2023 (71.5%).

Both Intervention and Non-Intervention Schools improved at a faster rate than the National average between 2022 and 2023. The rate of improvement within Intervention Schools was much faster (13.5%) than Non-Intervention Schools (5.2%).

2023 KS2 Writing Intervention – Greater Depth

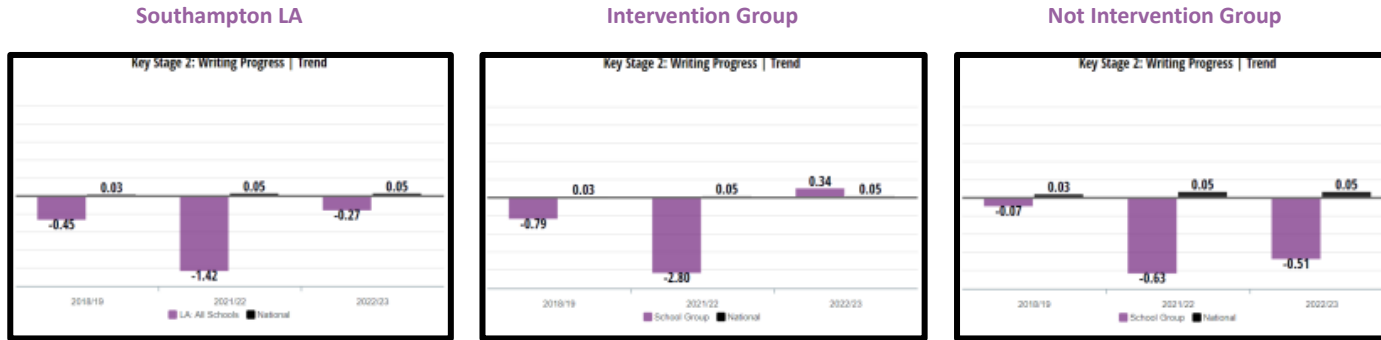


Page 2

- In 2022, **KS2 schools in Southampton** (6.6%) were 6.2% below the National average (12.8%) for a **Greater Depth in Writing**. Southampton schools **improved by 1.8%** between 2022 (6.6%) and 2023 (8.4%). This was **1.3% more than the National average** improvement between 2022 (12.8%) and 2023 (13.3%).
- In 2022, **KS2 Writing Intervention Schools** (1.8%) were 11.0% below the National average (12.8%) for a **Greater Depth in Writing**. KS2 Writing Intervention Schools **improved by 3.3%** between 2022 (1.8%) and 2023 (5.1%). **This was 2.8% more than the National average** improvement between 2022 (12.8%) and 2023 (13.3%).
- In 2022, **KS2 Non-Writing Intervention Schools** (9.4%) were 3.4% below the National average (12.8%) for a **Greater Depth in Writing**. KS2 Non-Writing Intervention Schools **improved by 1.2%** between 2022 (9.4%) and 2023 (10.6%). **This was 0.7% more than the National average** improvement between 2022 (12.8%) and 2023 (13.3%).

Both Intervention and Non-Intervention Schools improved at a faster rate than the National average between 2022 and 2023. The rate of improvement within Intervention Schools was much faster (3.3%) than Non-Intervention Schools (1.2%).

2023 KS2 Writing Intervention – Writing Progress



- In 2022, **KS2 schools in Southampton** (-1.42) were 1.47 below the National average (0.05) for **Writing Progress**. Southampton schools **improved by 1.15** between 2022 (-1.42) and 2023 (-0.27).
- In 2022, **KS2 Writing Intervention Schools** (-2.80) were -2.85 below the National average (0.05) for **Writing Progress**. KS2 Writing Intervention Schools **improved by 3.14** between 2022 (-2.80) and 2023 (0.34).
- In 2022, **KS2 Non-Writing Intervention Schools** (-0.63) were 0.68 below the National average (0.05) for **Writing Progress**. KS2 Non-Writing Intervention Schools **improved by 0.12** between 2022 (-0.63) and 2023 (-0.51).

Both Intervention and Non-Intervention Schools improved between 2022 and 2023. The rate of improvement within Intervention Schools was much faster (3.14) than Non-Intervention Schools (0.12).

BUT.....

How does our improvement compare to other LAs

2023 KS2 Writing – Expected Standard

6

with suppressed results due to small numbers or no comparable performance due to LA reorganisation

11

-3% to 0% change between 2022 and 2023

124

1-4% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

3

5% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

3

6% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

2

7% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

2023 KS2 Writing – Expected Standard

6

with suppressed results due to small numbers or no comparable performance due to LA reorganisation

11

-3% to 0% change between 2022 and 2023

124

1-4% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

3

5% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

3

6% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

2

7% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

1

9% Improvement between 2022 and 2023

Southampton

227 Extra Pupils

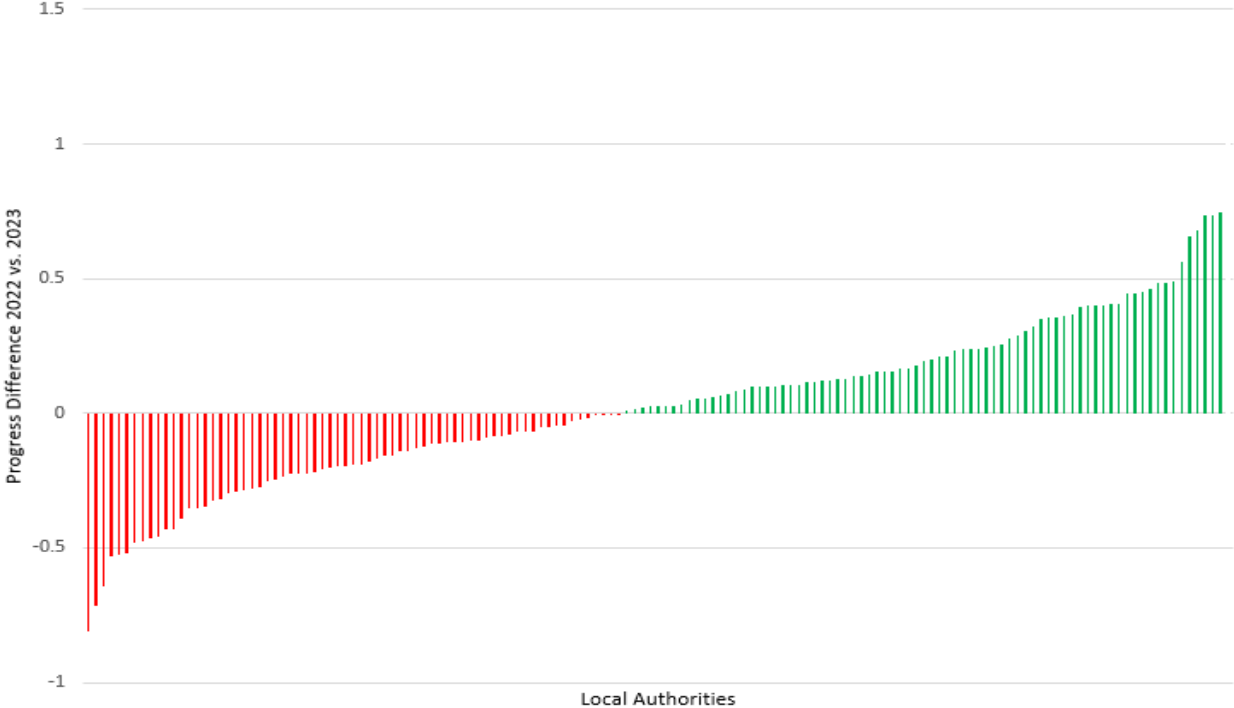
2.5 pupils per class

BUT.....

What about Progress

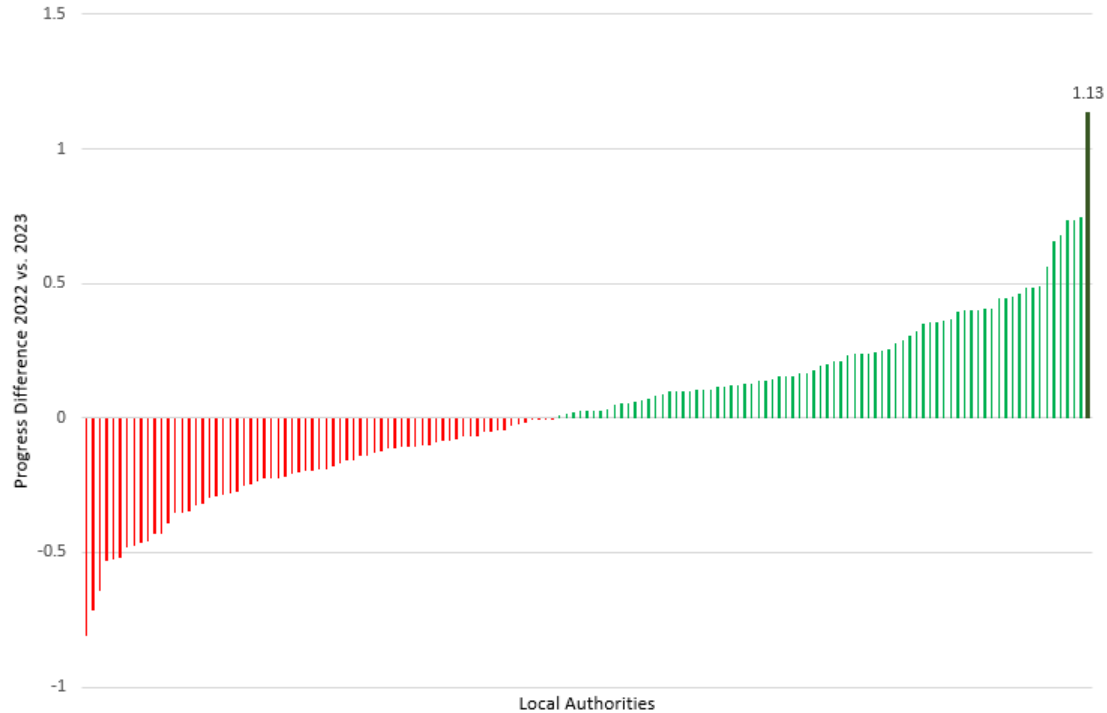
KS2 Writing Progress Difference Between 2022 & 2023

Progress Difference between 2022 and 2023 by Local Authority



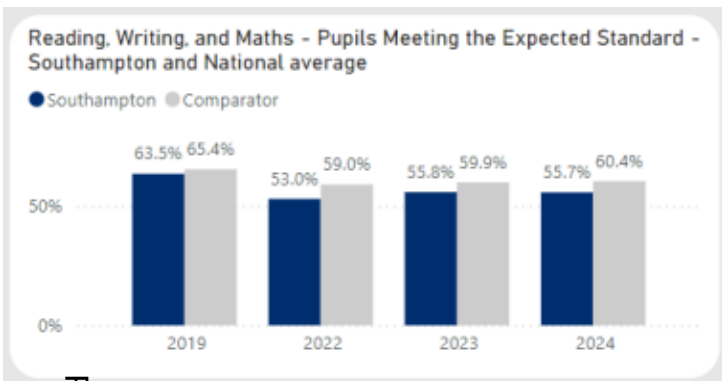
KS2 Writing Progress Difference Between 2022 & 2023

Progress Difference between 2022 and 2023 by Local Authority

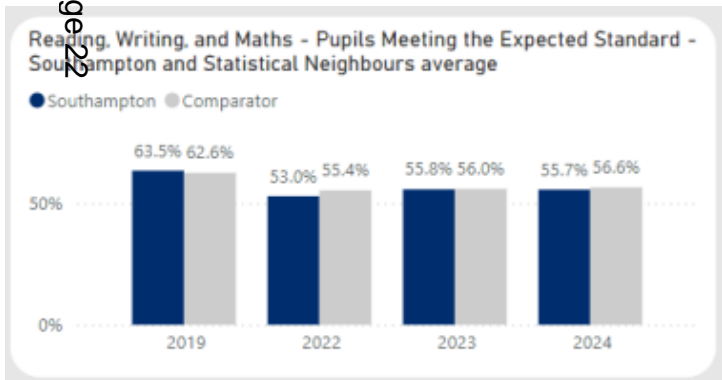


2024 Key Stage 2 Outcomes

Key Stage 2 – Reading, Writing and Maths Combined



In 2024, **KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths** performance at the **Expected Standard** (55.7%) was **4.7% below the National** average (60.4%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -6.0% and -4.1% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 136 pupils** would have needed to achieve Reading, Writing and Maths at the Expected Standard to be in line with National performance.

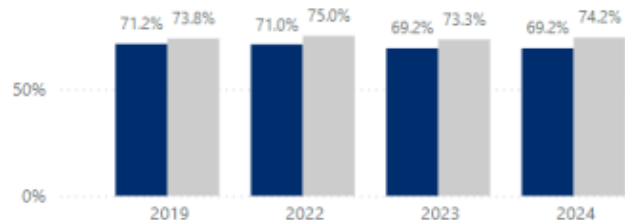


In 2024, **KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths** performance at the **Expected Standard** (55.7%) was **0.9% below the Statistical Neighbour** average (56.6%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and the Statistical Neighbour average was -2.4% and -0.2% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 26 pupils** would have needed to achieve Reading, Writing and Maths at the Expected Standard to be in line with Statistical Neighbour performance.

Key Stage 2 – Expected Standard in Reading

Reading - Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard - Southampton and National average

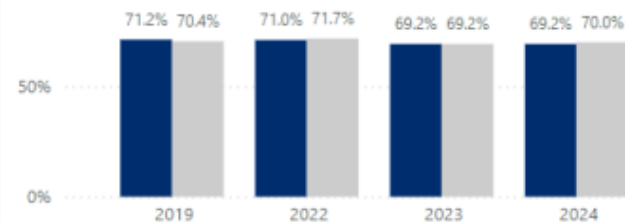
● Southampton ● Comparator



In 2024, **KS2 Reading** performance at the **Expected Standard** (69.2%) was **5.0% below the National** average (74.2%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -4.0% and -4.1% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 145 pupils** would have needed to achieve Reading at the Expected Standard to be in line with National performance.

Reading - Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard - Southampton and Statistical Neighbours average

● Southampton ● Comparator

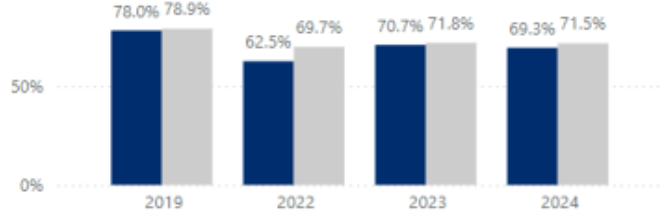


In 2024, **KS2 Reading** performance at the **Expected Standard** (69.2%) was **0.8% below the Statistical Neighbour** average (70.0%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and the Statistical Neighbour average was -0.7% and 0.0% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 23 pupils** would have needed to achieve Reading at the Expected Standard to be in line with Statistical Neighbour performance.

Key Stage 2 – Expected Standard in Writing

Writing (TA) - Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard - Southampton and National average

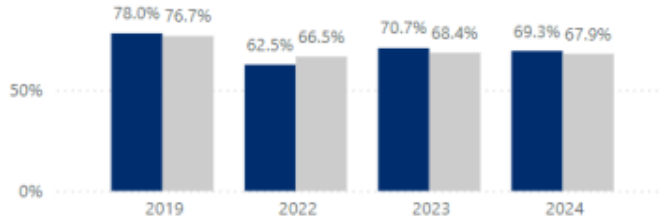
● Southampton ● Comparator



In 2024, **KS2 Writing** performance at the **Expected Standard** (69.3%) was **2.2% below the National** average (71.5%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -7.2% and -1.1% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 64 pupils** would have needed to achieve Writing at the Expected Standard to be in line with National performance.

Writing (TA) - Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard - Southampton and Statistical Neighbours average

● Southampton ● Comparator

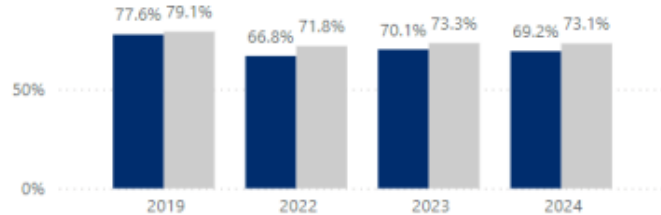


In 2024, **KS2 Writing** performance at the **Expected Standard** (69.3%) was **1.4% above the Statistical Neighbour** average (67.9%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and the Statistical Neighbour average was -4.0% and +2.3% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 40 pupils** achieved the Expected Standard in Writing compared to the Statistical Neighbour average.

Key Stage 2 – Expected Standard in Maths

Maths - Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard - Southampton and National average

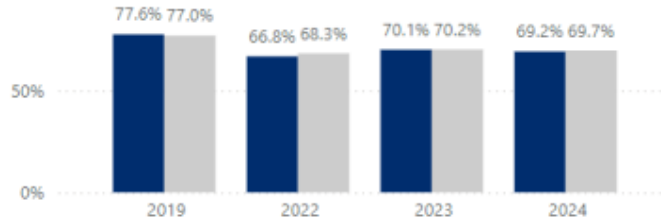
● Southampton ● Comparator



In 2024, **KS2 Maths** performance at the **Expected Standard** (69.2%) was **3.9% below the National** average (73.1%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -5.0% and -3.2% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 113 pupils** would have needed to achieve Maths at the Expected Standard to be in line with National performance.

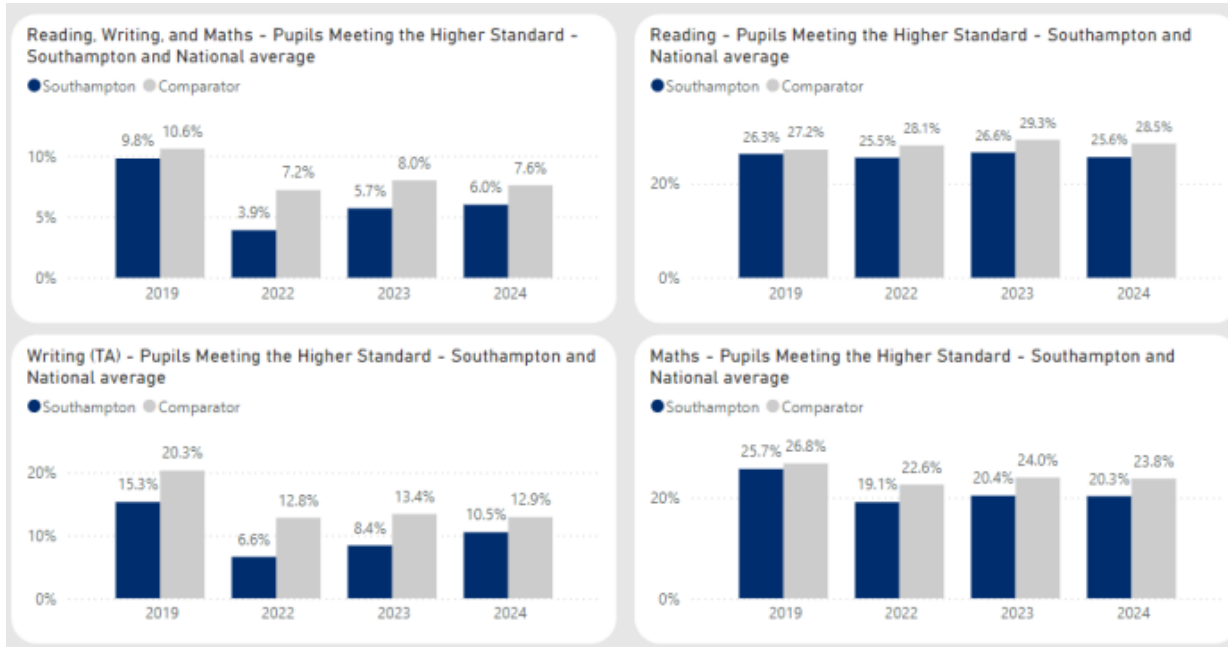
Maths - Pupils Meeting the Expected Standard - Southampton and Statistical Neighbours average

● Southampton ● Comparator



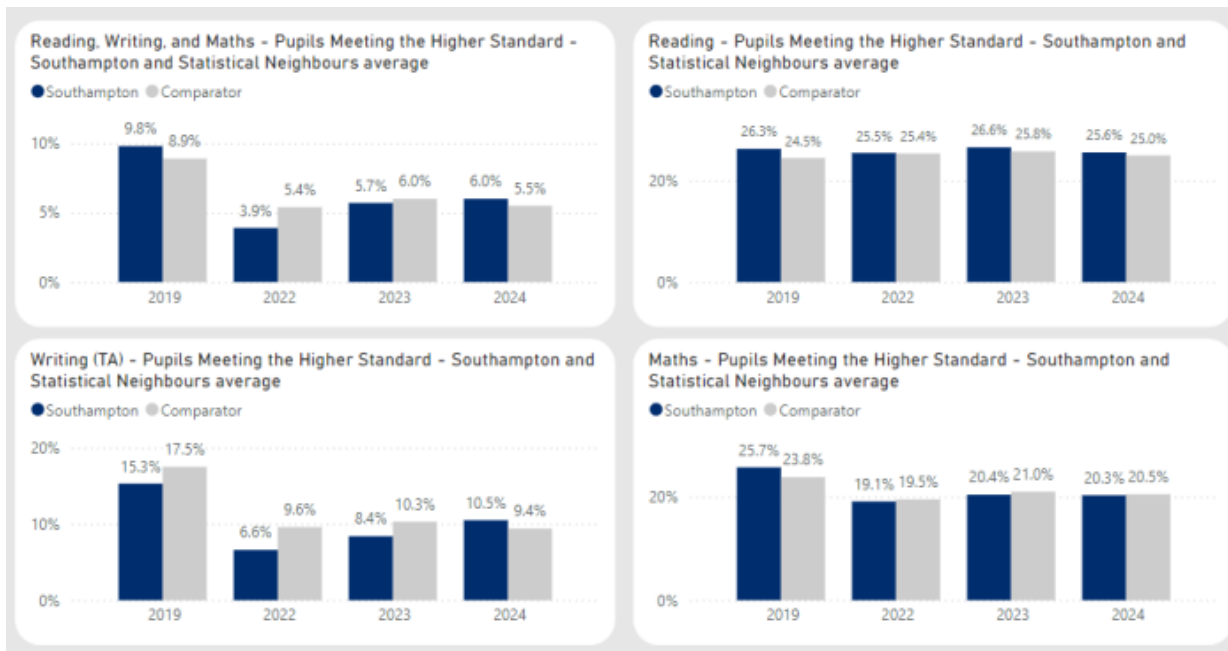
In 2024, **KS2 Maths** performance at the **Expected Standard** (69.2%) was **0.5% below the Statistical Neighbour** average (69.7%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and the Statistical Neighbour average was -1.5% and -0.1% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 15 pupils** would have needed to achieve Maths at the Expected Standard to be in line with Statistical Neighbour performance.

Key Stage 2 – Higher Standard vs. National



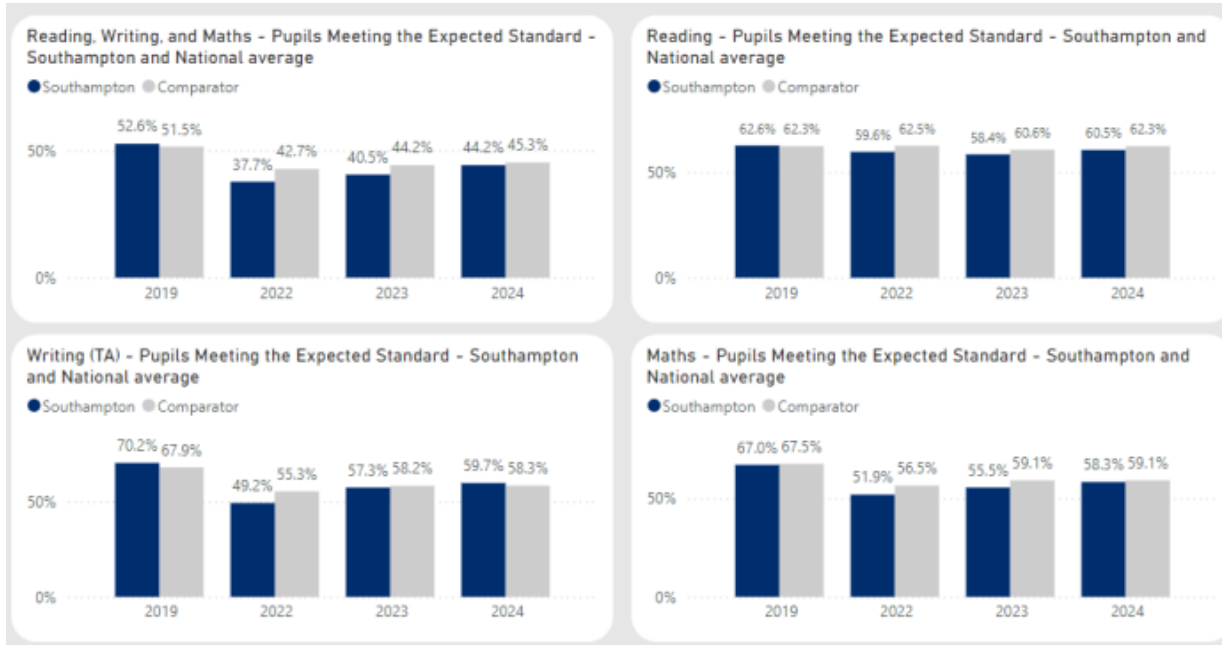
In 2024, **KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths** performance at the **Higher Standard** (6.0%) was **1.6% below the National** average (7.6%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -3.3% and -2.3% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 46 pupils** would have needed to achieve Reading, Writing and Maths at the Higher Standard to be in line with National performance.

Key Stage 2 – Higher Standard vs. Statistical Neighbours



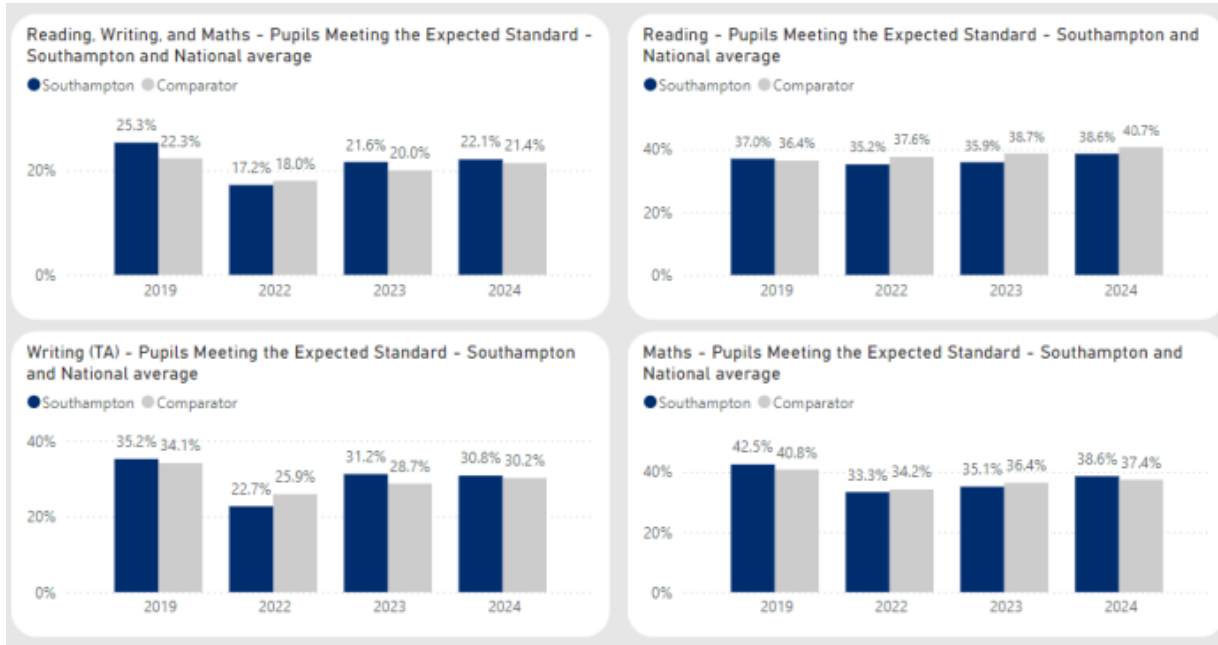
In 2024, **KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths** performance at the **Higher Standard** (6.0%) was **0.5% above the Statistical Neighbour** average (5.5%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and the Statistical Neighbour average was -1.5% and -0.3% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 15 pupils** achieved the Higher Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to the Statistical Neighbour average.

Key Stage 2 – Disadvantaged Performance



In 2024, **KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths** performance at the **Expected Standard for Disadvantaged pupils (44.2%)** was **1.1% below the National** average for Disadvantaged pupils (45.3%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -5.0% and -3.7% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 13 Disadvantaged pupils** would have needed to achieve Reading, Writing and Maths at the Expected Standard to be in line with National performance. Nationally 67.1% of Non-Disadvantaged pupils achieved the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Key Stage 2 – SEN Performance



In 2024, **KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths** performance at the **Expected Standard for SEN pupils (22.1%)** was **0.7% above the National** average for SEN pupils (21.4%). In 2022 and 2023 the gap between Southampton and National was -0.8% and +1.6% respectively. In 2024, **an additional 5 pupils** achieved the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to the National average.

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Document is Confidential

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Scrutiny

28th November 2024

Kerica Hunt – Service Manager

School Attendance Support Service

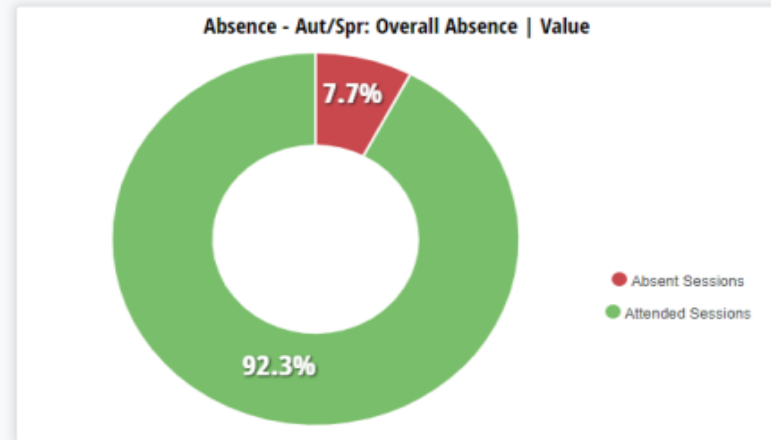
Latest data overview Autumn/Spring 2023/2024

Opportunities and Challenges

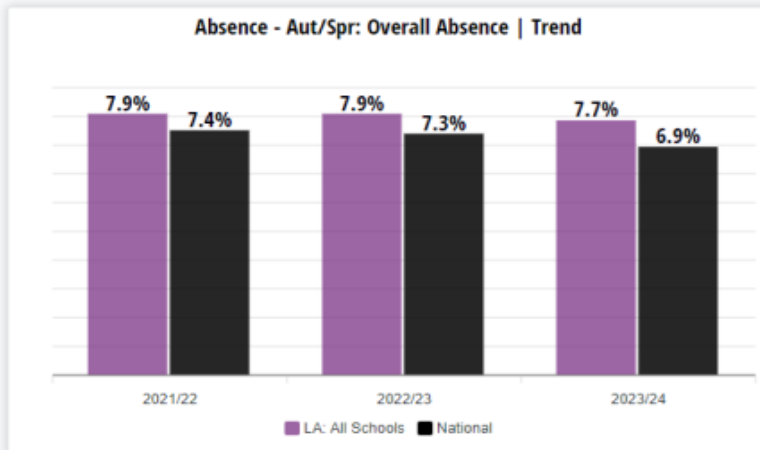
From a cohort of **32,144 enrolments** in your LA, you had an Overall Absence of **7.7%**, this is based on **579,683 sessions** being missed out of a possible **7,515,215**.

Your Overall Absence rate equates to an average of **18.0 sessions** missed by each pupil.

10.8% of your cohort have no Overall Absence sessions, a total of **3,456 pupils**.



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Your LA's Overall Absence has **decreased by 0.2%** from **7.9%** in 2022/23 to **7.7%** in 2023/24.

Your LA's average for the last 3 academic year(s) is **7.8%**.

Latest data overview Autumn/Spring 2023/2024

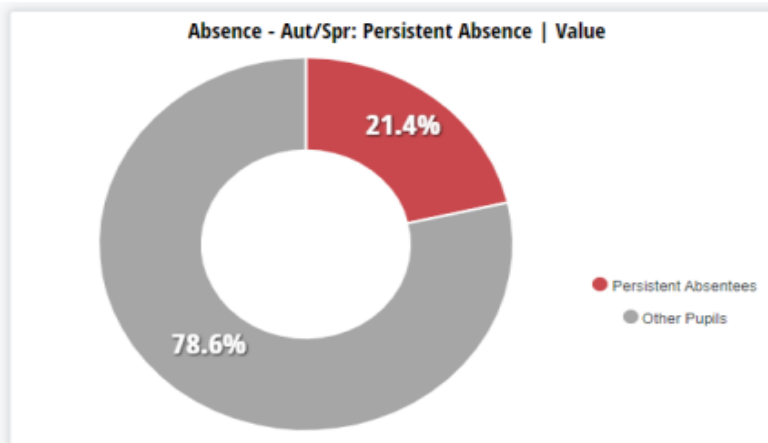
Opportunities and Challenges

From a cohort of **32,144 enrolments** in your LA, **21.4%** were Persistently Absent, this was **6,885 enrolments**.

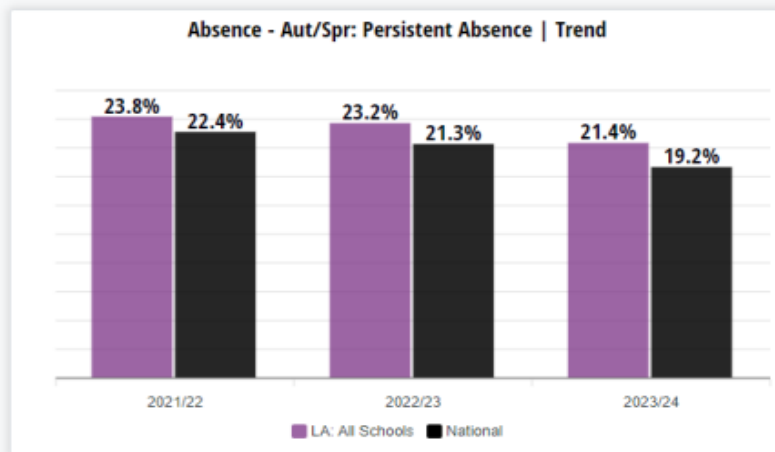
This is based on **186,040 missed sessions** due to authorised absence and **184,596 missed sessions** due to unauthorised absence, out of a possible **1,536,341 sessions**.

Your persistent absence rate equates to an average of **46 more** sessions missed compared to your cohort that were not persistently absent.

If your persistent absence cohort is removed from absence calculations your overall absence would be **3.5%**.



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Your LA's persistent absence has **decreased by 1.8%** from **23.2%** in 2022/23 to **21.4%** in 2023/24.

This is equivalent to **572 fewer** pupils being persistent absentees in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23.

Your LA's average for the last 3 academic year(s) is **22.8%**.

Latest data overview Autumn/Spring 2023/2024

Opportunities and Challenges

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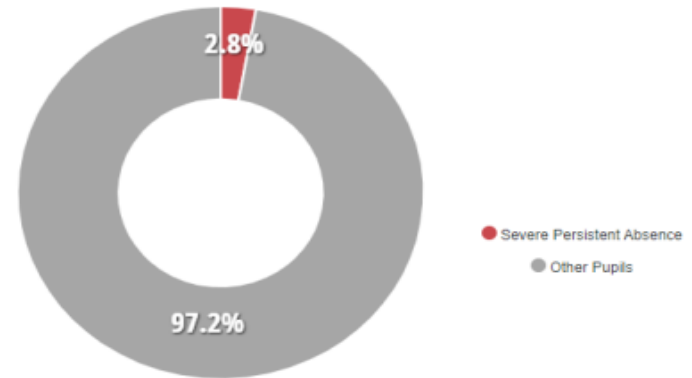
From a cohort of **32,144 enrolments** in your LA, **2.8%** were severely persistently absent, this was **893 enrolments**.

This is based on **41,625 missed sessions** due to authorised absence and **77,288 missed sessions** due to unauthorised absence, out of a possible **161,513 sessions**.

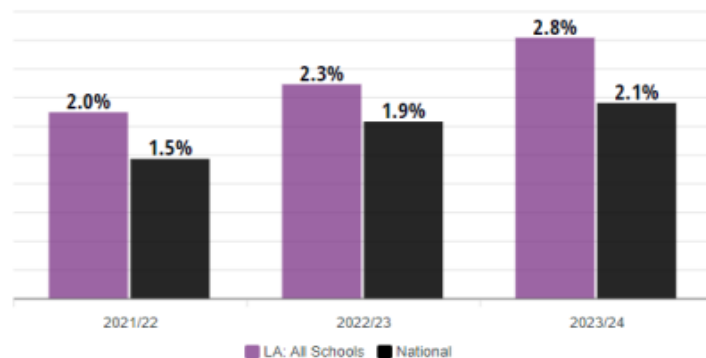
On average, your severely persistently absent pupils missed **133.2 sessions**.

If your severe persistent absence cohort is removed from absence calculations your overall absence would be **6.3%**.

Absence - Aut/Spr: Severe Persistent Absence | Value



Absence - Aut/Spr: Severe Persistent Absence | Trend



Your LA's severe persistent absence has **increased by 0.5%** from **2.3%** in 2022/23 to **2.8%** in 2023/24.

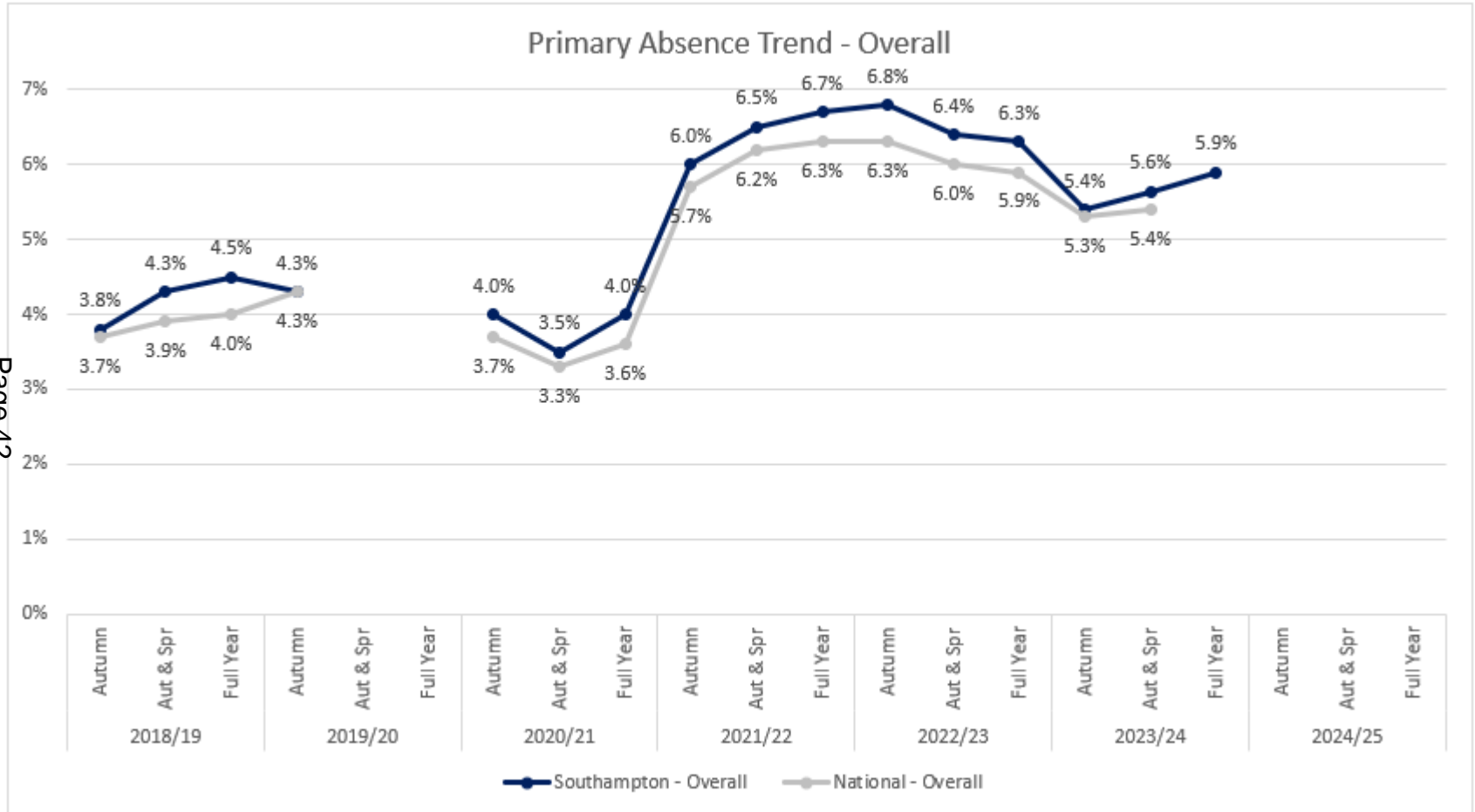
This is equivalent to **154 more** pupils being severe persistent absentees in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23.

Your LA's average for the last 3 academic year(s) is **2.4%**.

Trend Over Time

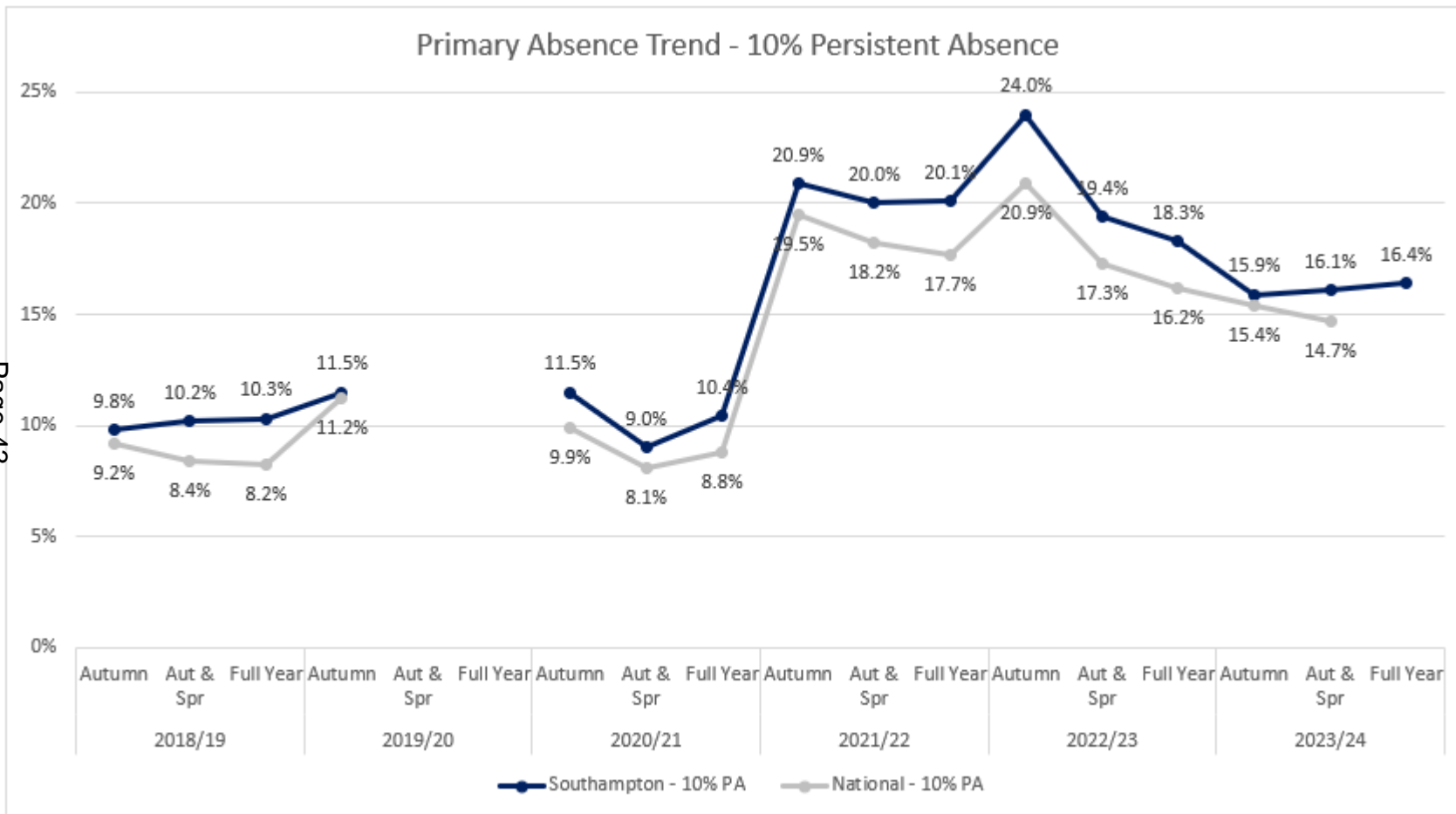
Trend – Primary Overall Absence

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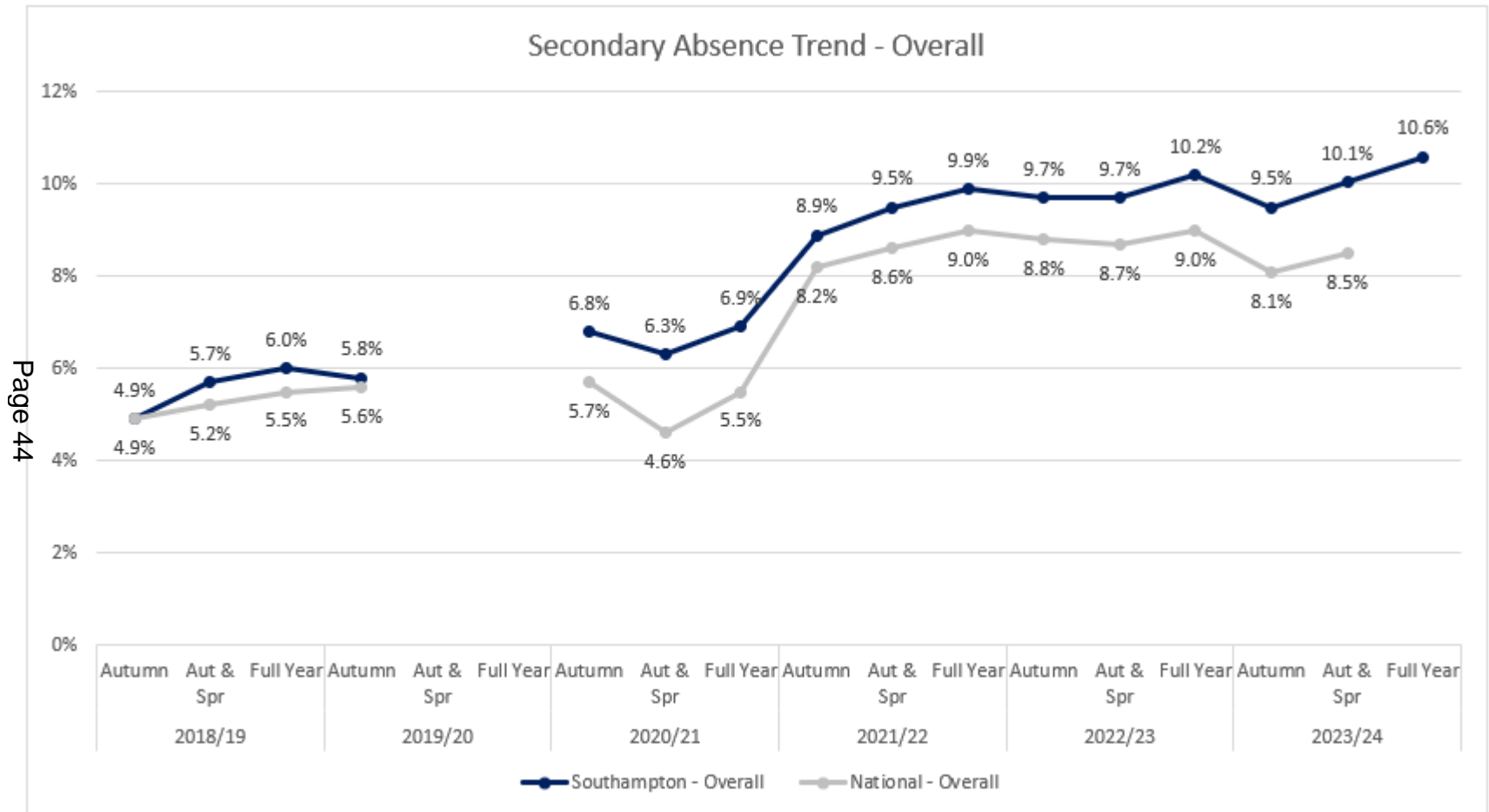


Trend – Primary 10% Persistent Absence

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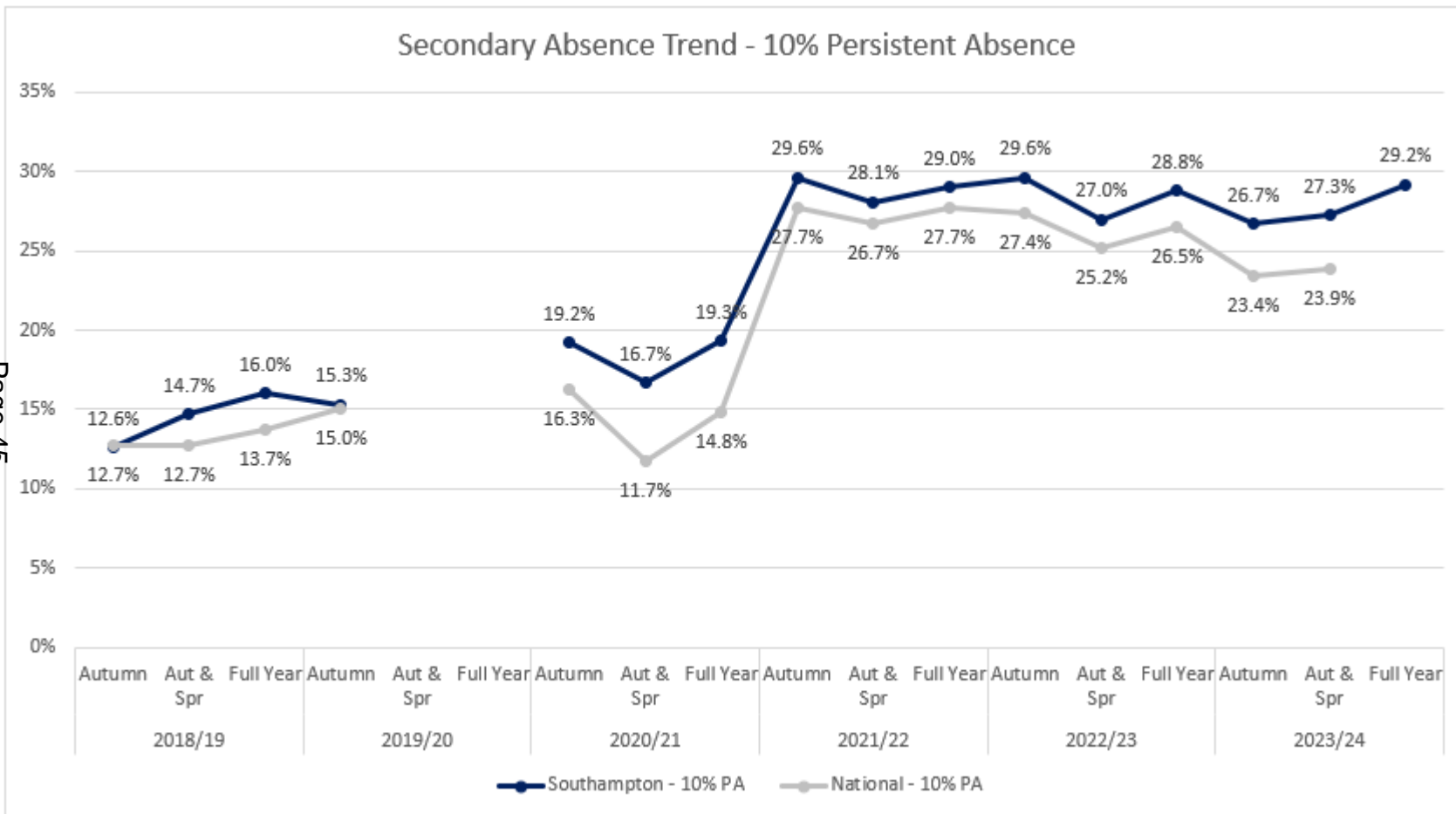


Trend – Secondary Overall Absence



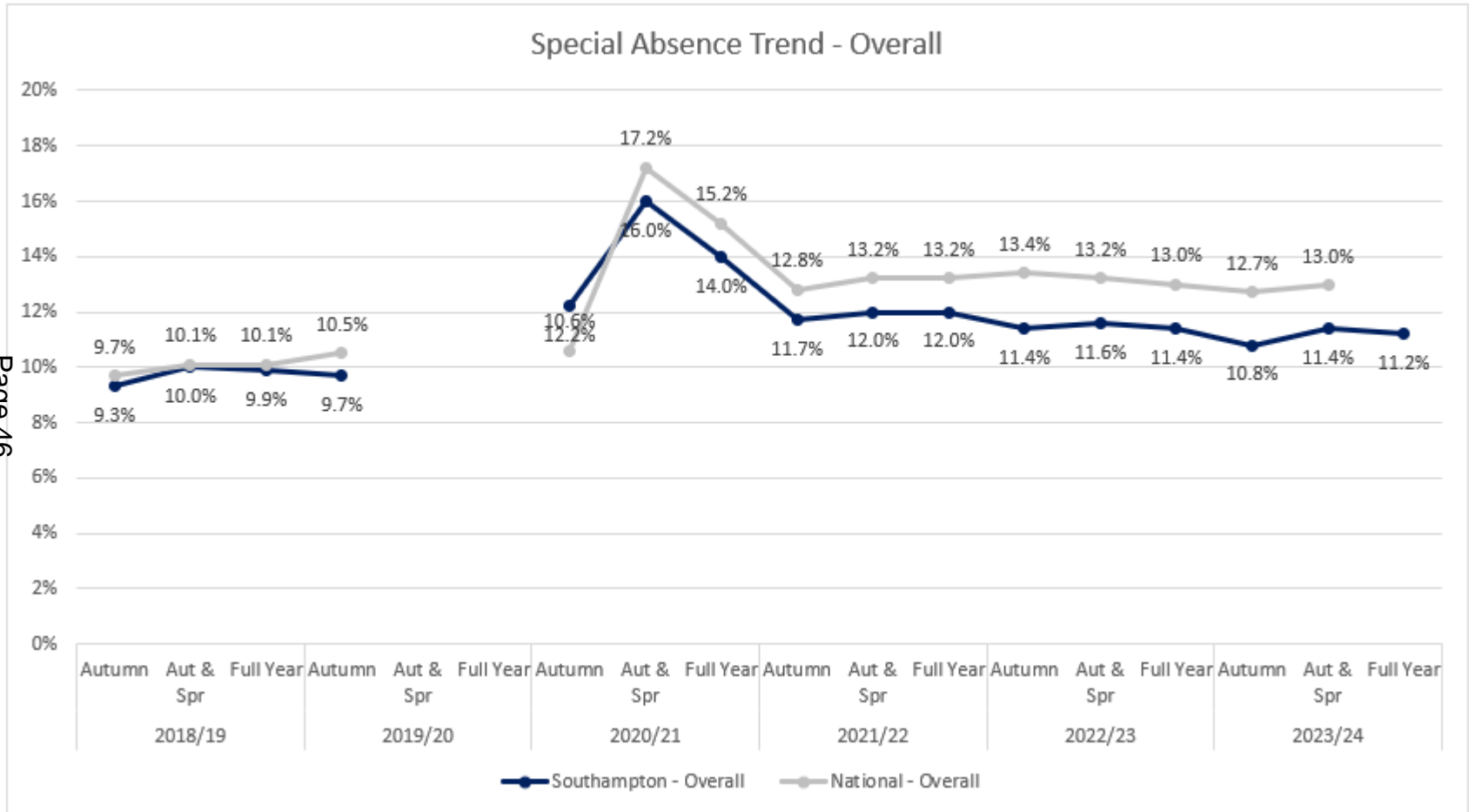
Trend – Secondary 10% Persistent Absence

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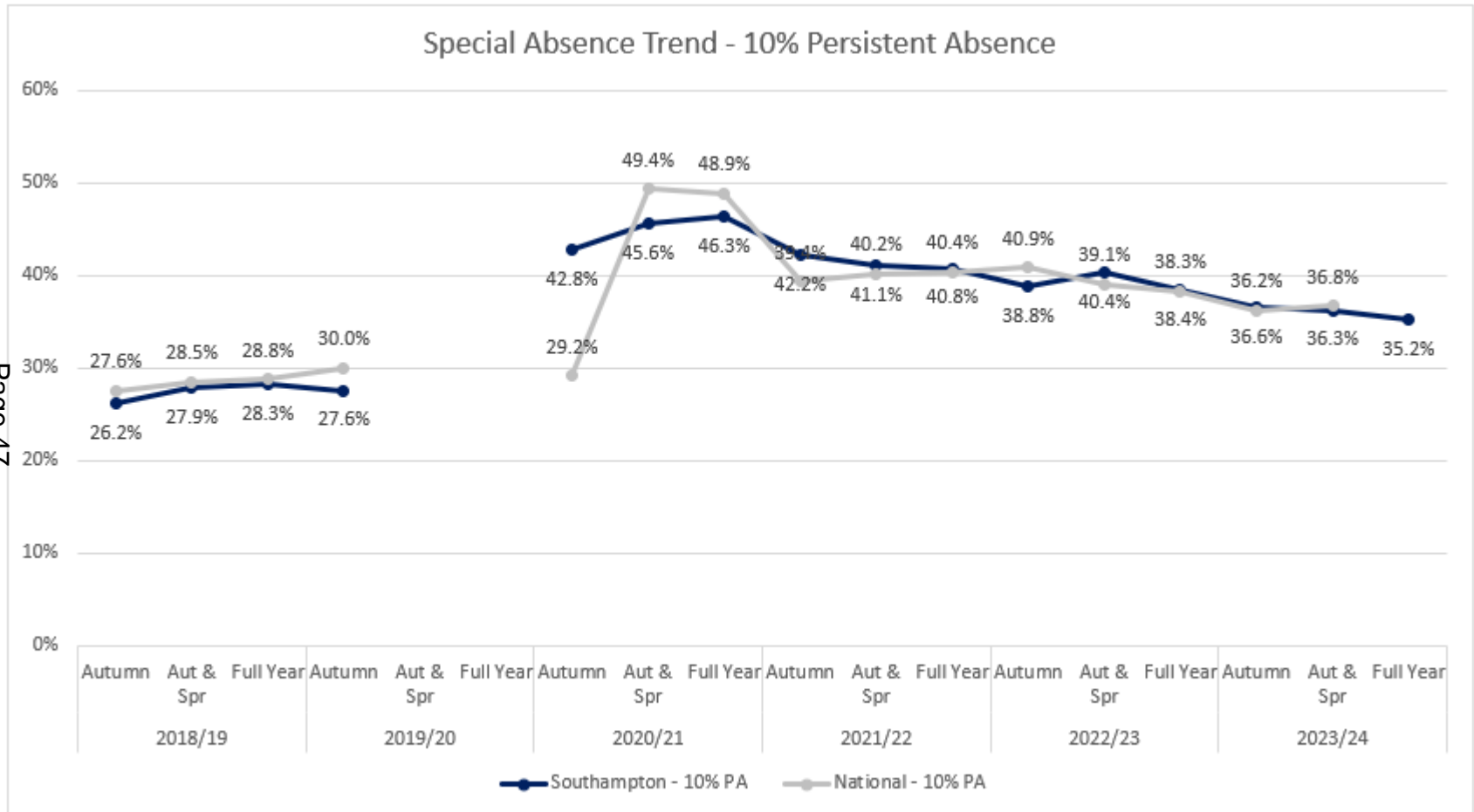
Trend – Special School Overall Absence

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Trend – Special School 10% Persistent Absence

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Working Together to Improve School Attendance Expectations on Local Authorities

- **Rigorously track local attendance data to devise a strategic approach to attendance that prioritises the pupils, pupil cohorts and schools on which to provide support and focus its efforts on to unblock area wide barriers to attendance.**

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Have a **School Attendance Support Team** which provides the following core functions free of charge to all schools (regardless of type):

- **Targeting Support Meetings: hold regular conversations with schools, using their attendance data to identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils.**

Working Together to Improve School Attendance Expectations on Local Authorities

- **Communication and advice: regularly bring schools together to communicate messages, provide advice and share best practice between schools and trusts within the area.**

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School Attendance Action Group (SAAG) Meetings

Dear Colleagues,

The School Attendance Support Service would like to invite you to the School Attendance Action Group Meetings for the 2024/25 Academic Year. These meetings will continue to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. All details are set out below.

All Senior Attendance Champions of the school's leadership team are invited to attend, as well as any other key members of staff within your settings who have oversight for improving and promoting school attendance. Key issues relating to attendance will be discussed, with the agenda for each meeting being sent out prior to the session.

You will have an opportunity to gain updates, advice and guidance and ask representatives from not only the School Attendance Support Service but other Southampton City Council colleagues, around best practice in dealing with barriers to school attendance. There is also an opportunity for you to share your good practice – don't be shy please get in touch if you want to talk about the impact you are having on reducing pupil absence in your setting. Finally, there is always an opportunity to hear the latest position regarding pupil absence from our Principal Analyst in the Data Team and the opportunities and challenges we face and need to address together in the future.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Please see dates and joining details below.

Dates for the 2024/2025 academic year:

- Tuesday 19th November 2024
- Tuesday 29th April 2025
- Tuesday 17th June 2025

All sessions will be held from 10am – 12pm via Microsoft Teams.

The same joining link will be used for all three sessions, therefore please ensure you add these links to your calendar.

Working Together to Improve School Attendance Expectations on Local Authorities

- **Multi-disciplinary support for families:** provide access to early help support workers to work intensively with families to provide practical whole-family support where needed to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance.
- **Legal intervention:** take forward attendance legal intervention (using the full range of parental responsibility measures) where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.
- Working together to improve school attendance guidance
[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](#)

Multi-disciplinary support for families: Impact: Case studies

- **The benefits of multi-agency working and how SASS work:**
- **Case study – Child A (see attached)**
- **Case Study – Child B (see attached)**
- **Case study – Child C (see attached)**

Evidence based practice

The EWO Project and the SPIRAL principles:

1. Supporting parents and carers
2. Promoting CYP's sense of belonging and safety
3. Including and informing parents
4. Raising awareness of non-attendance
5. Accessing external professionals
6. Lessons learnt from COVID-19

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“It was helpful to share the issues within a 'stuck' family and collaborate to conclude with increased understanding and an action plan.”

[CotN_Attendance_Report_10.pdf](#)

And finally.....DFE Attendance Advisor Feedback 2024

A huge thank you for all the work you have done over the last couple of years - veritable mountains have been moved. You have now reached a point where you are deemed to be “green “ on your self-assessments and so no further individual sessions will be provided by me as a matter of course. A testament to your successes.

We know that there are likely to be changes in LAs and ongoing developments as we find things out, embed further and develop and improve practice and skills. That is to be expected and reflects how we work in LAs by always striving for excellence.

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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICE

CASE STUDIES

Child A – secondary phase

- **Involvement Start Date and Primary Reason:** The involvement with Child A began on 23/02/2024, primarily due to attendance issues. Point of referral 31%. Current attendance is now 92.22% with no absence from school for 7 weeks.
- **Subject Information:** Child A is registered at a Secondary School in year 9.
- **Challenges in Engagement:** Engaging with Child A's mother proves challenging due to her reluctance to attend meetings and inconsistent communication.
- **Communication Logs:** Various communications between education welfare officers and Child A's family detail attempts to arrange meetings and address attendance issues.
- **Home Visit and Meeting Arrangements:** Efforts were made to conduct home visits and arrange meetings, often hindered by family circumstances such as the presence of Child A's brother who had additional needs.
- **Family Dynamics:** Child A's family dynamics, including her parents' separation and her brother, impact her attendance and well-being.
- **School and Home Issues:** Issues at home, such as poor living conditions and financial difficulties, as well as Child A's reluctance to attend school, are recurring themes.
- **Parental Concerns and Actions:** Both parents express concerns about Child A's well-being and attendance, leading to various actions such as involving tutors and setting up meetings with school officials.
- **Support and Interventions:** Interventions include arranging attendance-focused meetings, providing parenting support, and exploring respite care for the brother.

- **Attendance-Focused Meetings:** Initial Attendance Focused Meetings (AFM) were arranged to address Child A's attendance issues. These meetings involved both parents and school.
- **Home Visits:** Home visits were conducted to discuss actions from previous meetings and to provide support directly to the family.
- **Parenting Support:** One-on-one parenting support sessions were arranged for Child A's mother, to help her manage Child A's attendance and behaviour.
- **School Interventions:** Various school-based interventions were implemented, such as changing Child A's seating in science class, allowing her to wear ear buds in class, and providing access to the breakfast club and the Wellbeing hub.
- **Respite Care:** The possibility of respite care for Child A's brother, was explored to alleviate some of the family's stress.
- **Communication and Honesty:** Emphasis was placed on honest communication between parents and the school regarding the reasons for Child A's absences.
- **Summer Activities:** Plans were made for Child A to participate in summer activities, such as cycling to school and practicing bus routes with her brother.

- These interventions were designed to provide comprehensive support to Child A and her family, addressing both educational and personal challenges.
- **Professional Meetings and Updates:** Regular professional meetings are held to discuss Child A's situation, involving school staff and education welfare officers, to coordinate support efforts. The FEW has been consistent in offering parenting support, financial budgeting support and emotional support to the family.

Child B - Secondary phase

- **Involvement Initiation:** The involvement with the family of Child B began on March 16, 2023, due to concerns about school attendance. Point of referral 73%
- **Subject Information:** Child B is registered in Year 10 at a Southampton Secondary School.
- **Family and School Interactions:** Numerous communications between school representatives, the family, and medical professionals were documented, addressing various concerns and actions taken. For instance, there were discussions about the family's shop and how the children would sometimes accompany their parents to work. This was discussed with the Child Employment officer.
- **Medical Concerns:** Frequent medical issues were reported by the family, leading to consultations with healthcare providers to verify the legitimacy of these claims. The school and education welfare officers were concerned about the number of illnesses reported and the amount of time spent at the GP surgery. There were also concerns about Child B's appearance, including her looking unhappy, lack of motivation, and potentially being underweight. Attendance information shared with GP – the GP invited parent and Child B to a consultation. Confirmed to parent/Child B and professional network that her medical/illness would not prevent her from attending school on a regular basis.
- **Parental Engagement:** The parents frequently did not attend scheduled meetings, which complicated the intervention efforts. For example, the mother attended only two of the Fast Track meetings, while the father did not attend any.
- **Child's Perspective:** Child B appeared withdrawn and unhappy during interactions, raising concerns about her emotional well-being and the need for additional support. During a conversation with an education welfare officer, Child B rated her happiness at school as 7 out of 10 and at home as 8 out of 10. However, she was not forthcoming with information and seemed quiet and withdrawn.
- **Attendance Improvement:** By November 1, 2024, Child B's attendance had significantly improved to 100%, which was acknowledged as a significant improvement from the initial 73% at the point on SASS involvement.
- **Legal Considerations:** Due to prior attendance issues, legal proceedings were considered but were reconsidered after the notable improvement in attendance. The decision to close the case was discussed, and it was noted that no court papers had been submitted at that point and so it would be possible to do so.

- **Reward and Acknowledgment:** The significant improvement in attendance was outlined to the parents, and there were discussions about the school acknowledging and offering a reward to Child B.
- **Continued Monitoring:** The expectations of continued improvement were outlined, and it was emphasised that the improvement must be sustained for the service to withdraw.
- **Case Closure:** Once all actions were completed, the case was agreed to be closed and handed back to the school to support and review.

Child C – Year 5 Primary School pupil

- **Initial Involvement and Attendance Issues:** Child C's case began on February 15, 2023, due to concerns about his school attendance, which was initially at 66% and later dropped to 39% before improving to 93.75%.
- **Support and Communication:** Various professionals, including the School Attendance Support Service (SASS), social workers, and school staff, communicated frequently through emails, phone calls, and text messages to support Child C and his family.
- **Challenges and Strategies:** Child C faced challenges due to his autism, including fixation on routines and anxiety about school. Professionals suggested strategies like visual timetables, reward charts, and consistent routines to help Child C.
- **Parental Involvement:** Child C's mother was actively involved in the process, communicating with professionals, attending meetings, and implementing suggested strategies to improve Child C's attendance and well-being.
- **Professional Meetings and Reviews:** Regular meetings and reviews, including core group meetings and RCPCs, were held to discuss Child C's progress and plan further support. These meetings often involved multiple professionals and focused on various aspects of Child C's life.
- **School's Role:** Primary School played a significant role in supporting Child C, providing additional learning support, catch-up sessions, and maintaining regular communication with other professionals involved in Child C's case.
- **Health and Well-being:** Child C's health and well-being were also addressed, with referrals to CAMHS and other health services to manage his anxiety and other related issues. Professionals emphasised the importance of a healthy sleep routine and consistent attendance.
- **Positive Outcomes:** By October 2024, significant improvements were noted in Child C's attendance and overall well-being, leading to the closure of the case with SASS. Child C's mother expressed gratitude for the support received.

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Southampton Is All In: Educational Engagement Project

'Southampton Is All In' is our project to raise the profile of educational engagement across the city, with the goal of seeing all of our young people engaged in appropriate education, employment or training, to set them up for successful adult lives.

The aim of the project is to ensure educational engagement across not only children and young people directly, but with parents and carers, communities, businesses and charity organisations. We aim to ensure that 'All In' is an inescapable idea across the city, with partners pledging to support, whether this is through direct work with children, young people and families, or by being able to signpost and build awareness of the project more generally.

The project hinges on principles linked to the 'All In' branding, supporting the ideas of children, young people and families feeling:

- INcluded
- INvested
- INformed
- Inspired
- INnovative

From an internal position, we then hope to see the above public-facing work result in:

- Children and young people IN education, employment or training that is right for them, where attendance/engagement is strong.
- Children and young people having opportunities IN Southampton, and not feeling that they must leave the city to access highest quality opportunities or be losing out to commuters into the city.

The project will launch publicly in January, but work is already being undertaken to create the brand identity and assets, alongside work with involved partners to build the appropriate bank of resources, support packages and common ideology.

Involved partners within SCC include Education, Social Care, Stronger Communities, Public Health and HDRC, Transport and members.

Alongside schools and colleges, both universities are on board to support the project, as well as alternative provision providers and colleagues in the NHS and police.

External partners from other spheres include Saints Foundation, West Quay, groups such as Artwork, Youth Options and No Limits, the Council of Faiths, MTCP and MTAG and the Southampton Voluntary Service.

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| MEETING: | Children and Families Scrutiny Panel |
| DATE: | 28.11.2024 |
| AUTHOR | Bryn Roberts, Service Manager for Inclusion |
| SUBJECT: | Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions - Current Position and Action Plan |

1. Summary

This report provides an overview of the status of school suspensions and permanent exclusions within Southampton. This progress is aligned with the local authority's broader goals of promoting inclusion, reducing school suspensions and exclusions, reducing school absence and raising educational attainment for all students.

Summary Data

Nationally available data for suspensions and permanent exclusions is available annually but will be up to 2 academic years prior. The data we have used for the academic year 2022/2023 comes from this statistical data release from the DfE.

To benchmark against more recent data, we use a variety of local information and the use of NCER data, which is shared information by local authorities to a centralised record on a termly basis. Whilst this is not nationally confirmed data, it has proven to have a high level of accuracy in predicting performance nationally. This has been used for the purpose for the 2023/2024 data provided below.

For the purposes of measuring exclusions and suspensions, being 'below' national is positive.

DfE Statistical Data Release – Academic Year 2022/2023

The academic year 2022/2023 saw a significant rise in suspensions and permanent exclusions nationally and in Southampton. Suspensions rose in Southampton by 4.91% against a national increase of 2.53%. This equates to 3,623 suspensions for Southampton.

For the number of pupils with more than 1 suspensions, Southampton had an increase of 1.19% against a national of 0.61%. The equates to 1,359 pupils.

In 2022/23 Southampton maintained its record of being below the national level of 0.08% to that of 0.07%, equating to 41 permanent exclusions. Southampton has been below the national level for permanent exclusions for over 3 successive years.

Summary Headline Data (2023/2024)

Permanent Exclusions: Against the latest NCER available (Autumn and Spring 2023/24) Southampton remains below the national for permanent exclusions. This remains 0.07% against a national level of 0.08%, putting us in the 40th percentile of local authorities.

Suspensions: In line with national trends, Southampton has experienced a rise in suspensions. Our Autumn and Spring 2023/24 data demonstrates a suspension level 1.94% above national.

2. **Contextual information**

In Southampton we have seen our suspensions and permanent exclusion rates follow the same path as the national trends, albeit at a higher rate. The reason for this rise is complex and considers many aspects of both societal and economic impacts. Simply requesting schools not to exclude or suspend would be misjudged and must be a collective response across all organisations to tackle the problem. This is not unique to Southampton, and our performance against statistical neighbours remains relatively positive.

In the academic year 2023/2024 we have seen the following trends and patterns, which informs our priorities and next steps.

- The highest ethnicity group for suspensions was White British.
- The highest excluding year groups were for year 6 and year 10.
- Pupils with SEN K (SEN Support) and FSM (Free school meals/pupil premium) had a disproportionate number of suspensions.
- The main reasons cited for suspensions was 'verbal abuse towards an adult' for the primary phase and 'disruptive behaviour' for secondary.
- There was evidence of improvement from some of the highest suspending schools in the summer term, owing to partnership working and (in some cases) new leadership.
- There has been an overall reduction in the number of permanent exclusions compared to 22/23, although we have seen a rise in the primary phase.
- We have also seen a reduction in the number of permanent exclusions from Hampshire schools for Southampton residents. This has reduced from 9 in 2022/23 to 1 in 2023/24.

Academic Year 2024/2025

Current Update

So far this year, we have seen some of our highest excluding schools continue to make significant progress in addressing their use of suspensions and exclusions. The 4 schools identified in 2023/2024 have seen a 53% reduction compared to the same period in the previous year.

We have also seen a significant reduction (62%) in the number of permanent exclusions compared to the same period.

What are we doing now?

As part of our focussed work on reducing suspensions and permanent exclusions, an action plan is in place. Areas of focus for delivery are:

- Begin developing the 5-year exclusions strategy with school leaders and key stakeholders. This focusses on not only schools' input, but also the voluntary sector and health colleagues.
- Earlier identification of pupils who are receiving high levels of suspension or multiple suspensions.
- Identification of key priority schools to offer support through a multi-agency response to develop practice.
- To increase the links between school improvement and reducing exclusions, with joint visits.
- Increase reporting tools to enable us to be more preventative.
- Early intervention aligned with the proposed SEND Cluster Models programme.
- Establish a new 'Front Door' solution for schools to access support and advice quicker. This will also include an escalation process where schools can refer

critical cases to a regularly met team of professionals as well as a centralised hub of information, explicitly for schools.

- Regular sharing of data with schools and working with school leaders to have collective responsibility, enabling them to not only look at their own school performance, but the impact across the city.
- Improve our offer of training for school leaders and governance around processes, expectations and how governors can have an impact on reducing suspensions.
- Improve the oversight of pupils who are on long-term waiting lists for CAMHs to be prioritised where there are adverse educational experiences to prevent long term issues.
- Continue to use our Awards for All programme to support those who are eligible for Free School Meals to be identified and increase the funding capability for schools to support disadvantaged learners.
- To explore through our HAF programme, how our summer pilot that focussed on transition for years 6-7 can be city wide.
- Provide improved guidance documents on key areas of Inclusion to empower schools to be more secure in the delivery of inclusive education.
- More direct work in schools to support earlier intervention and mediation.

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Agenda Item 9

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| DECISION-MAKER: | CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL |
| SUBJECT: | CHILDREN AND LEARNING – PERFORMANCE & TRANSFORMATION |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 28 NOVEMBER 2024 |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER |

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

| | |
|--|--|
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | |
| None | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | |
| Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of performance for Children’s Services and Learning up to the end of October 2024. At the meeting the Cabinet Member and senior managers from Children’s Services and Learning will be providing the Panel with an overview of performance across the directorate. | |
| 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 October 2024 is attached as Appendix 1. An explanation of the significant variations in performance has been included. |
| 5. | The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and representatives from the Children’s Services and Learning Senior Management Team, have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the performance overview. |
| 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 2024 updated Corporate Plan includes the following strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and stable home environments • Accessible education and skills pathways. <p>By delivering consistently good outcomes for the city's children and young people, Southampton's Children's Services and Learning Directorate will contribute to achieving these objectives.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| KEY DECISION? | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | None |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | Summary of performance and commentary – November 2024 |
| 2. | Children and Learning Glossary |

Documents In Members' Rooms

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

Equality Impact Assessment

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

Data Protection Impact Assessment

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

Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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

Children's Social Care Performance Report

November 2024

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Agenda Item 9
Appendix 1

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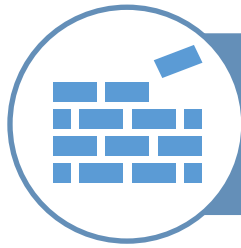


Purpose

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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





Right support at the right time – Family Help

| Indicator | Oct-22 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel | So'ton 22/23 | So'ton 23/24 | 22/23 Stat Neighbours | 23/24 Stat Neighbours | South East 22/23 | South East 23/24 | England 22/23 | England 23/24 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of referrals into Early Help | 183 | 139 | 166 | 142 | 144 | 129 | 90 | 87 | 127 | 113 | 182 | 94 | 100 | 196 | | - | ↑ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Number of referrals that were stepped down from CSC (no assessment required) | 48 | 16 | 23 | 18 | 36 | 24 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 33 | | - | ↑ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Number of Early Help assessments started | 118 | 89 | 91 | 80 | 79 | 86 | 65 | 71 | 71 | 83 | 113 | 47 | 63 | 128 | | - | ↑ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Number of contacts in the month | 1488 | 1923 | 1763 | 1459 | 2018 | 1818 | 1780 | 1705 | 1714 | 1675 | 1845 | 1491 | 1804 | 1928 | | - | ↓ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of contacts per 10,000 population under 18 years old | 4266 | 4166 | 4159 | 4171 | 4207 | 4251 | 4201 | 4233 | 4206 | 4151 | 4161 | 4168 | 4221 | 4233 | | - | ↓ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Number of referrals into statutory service in the month | 276 | 276 | 315 | 216 | 308 | 197 | 202 | 191 | 185 | 207 | 254 | 156 | 305 | 403 | | - | ↓ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of referrals per 10,000 population under 18 years old | 772 | 747 | 732 | 720 | 715 | 691 | 645 | 627 | 603 | 588 | 576 | 555 | 562 | 588 | 581 | ● | ↓ | 759.8 | 614.2 | 640.1 | 669.1 | 654.6 | | 544.5 | 518.3 |
| Number of R&F assessments completed | 289 | 222 | 255 | 216 | 266 | 200 | 233 | 186 | 229 | 203 | 195 | 162 | 151 | 274 | | - | ↓ | - | - | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of assessments per 10,000 population under 18 years old | 775 | 756 | 736 | 716 | 707 | 685 | 651 | 627 | 588 | 573 | 550 | 530 | 515 | 525 | 580 | ● | ↓ | 778.4 | 633.1 | 628.5 | 667.5 | - | | 557.4 | 536.0 |
| Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days | | 87 | 92 | 81 | 89 | 90 | 85 | 83 | 88 | 85 | 80 | 82 | 67 | 84 | 81 | ● | ↑ | 81.6 | 88.1 | 81.1 | 80.6 | 83.0 | | 82.5 | 84.5 |
| Number of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD) | 621 | 388 | 464 | 449 | 480 | 453 | 396 | 377 | 372 | 329 | 334 | 317 | 301 | 319 | - | - | ↓ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Number of children with Child in Need Plan (CWD) | 223 | 237 | 230 | 228 | 221 | 222 | 212 | 213 | 209 | 209 | 212 | 222 | 223 | 202 | - | - | ↑ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |



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Right support at the right time – Family Help

Desired outcome

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

Progress analysis

- The new dataset for 23/24 comparisons has now been released. I have included the 22/23 figures alongside the new 23/24 figures to show our progress in comparison to Stat Neighbours and the England average. The new figures for the South East region are not yet released.
- October saw a significant increase in activity across the service. Early Help had a 96% increase in referrals, the highest number in the last 13 months. Similarly, there was a 32% increase in referrals into statutory service, with a year high of 403 received. Our rate of referrals jumped from 562 to 588. In 22/23, our rate was 759.8; this reduced to 614.2 in 23/24 and we have continued to decrease to near our target of 581. Out stat neighbour average increased from 22/23 to 23/24 from 628.5 to 667.5.
- The percentage of assessments completed within 45 days increased from 81.6% in 22/23 to 88.1% in 23/24, this is in contrast to the stat neighbour average reduction of 0.5% from 81.1% to 80.6%. The England average increased by 2% overall to 84.5%. In October, we achieved 84%.

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Right support at the right time – Family Safeguarding

| Indicator | Oct-22 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel | So'ton 22/23 | So'ton 23/24 | 22/23 Stat Neighbours | 23/24 Stat Neighbours | South East 22/23 | South East 23/24 | England 22/23 | England 23/24 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of strategy discussions held | 164 | 152 | 173 | 124 | 147 | 97 | 144 | 121 | 120 | 98 | 147 | 109 | 135 | 126 | - | - | ↑ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Number of Section 47 enquiries completed | 114 | 131 | 112 | 101 | 77 | 86 | 90 | 75 | 84 | 49 | 98 | 67 | 90 | 134 | - | - | ↓ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of Section 47 enquiries completed | 360 | 323 | 306 | 301 | 297 | 285 | 274 | 261 | 251 | 238 | 239 | 234 | 235 | 234 | 247 | ● | ↑ | 352.2 | 262.0 | 253.0 | 287.8 | 216.1 | | 191.6 | 187.1 |
| Percentage of Strategy discussions resulting in Section 47 | 70 | 86 | 65 | 81 | 52 | 89 | 63 | 62 | 70 | 50 | 67 | 61 | 67 | 106 | - | - | ↓ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Percentage of Section 47s resulting in ICPC | | 19 | 30 | 13 | 25 | 20 | 18 | 23 | 20 | 22 | 16 | 20 | 14 | 28 | 31 | ● | ↑ | 23.9 | 28.4 | 31.1 | 30.6 | - | | 33.0 | 32.2 |
| Number of children subject to CP Plan at end of month | 315 | 311 | 320 | 309 | 304 | 307 | 276 | 257 | 256 | 249 | 221 | 234 | 214 | 227 | - | - | ↓ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of children subject to CP plans | 64 | 62 | 64 | 62 | 61 | 60 | 56 | 52 | 51 | 50 | 44 | 47 | 43 | 46 | 49 | ● | ↓ | 63.90 | 54.80 | 52.90 | 59.80 | 42.9 | | 43.20 | 41.60 |
| Number of children in our care | 548 | 503 | 507 | 510 | 494 | 492 | 490 | 488 | 488 | 479 | 473 | 470 | 473 | 468 | - | - | ↑ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of children in our care per 10,000 | 111 | 101 | 102 | 102 | 99 | 99 | 98 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 95 | 94 | 95 | 94 | 87 | ● | ↑ | 114.00 | 108.00 | 100.90 | 100.30 | 57.0 | | 70.00 | 71.00 |
| Number of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL) | 2362 | 2085 | 2111 | 2036 | 2069 | 1986 | 1973 | 1905 | 1865 | 1763 | 1742 | 1713 | 1789 | 1782 | - | - | ↑ | - | | - | | - | | - | - |
| Rate of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL) | 474 | 418 | 423 | 408 | 415 | 396 | 396 | 382 | 374 | 354 | 349 | 347 | 359 | 357 | 350 | ● | ↑ | 524.8 | 408.8 | 428.8 | 436.8 | 335.6 | | 642.7 | 332.9 |



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Right support at the right time – Family Safeguarding

Desired outcome

Improved shared understanding of thresholds around strategy discussions and section 47 enquiries alongside focused and effective interventions with families during assessments and child in need plans. This will result in less children subject to CP planning and coming into our care.

Progress analysis

- Whilst a similar number of strategy discussions were held in October, 49% more Section 47 enquiries were undertaken. Our rate of S.47s remains below target. In 23/24, we reduced our rate of S.47s by 26% from 22/23. During the same period, the stat neighbour average increased by 13.7%
- Page 73 The rate of children subject to CP remained below our target, despite a small increase. In 23/24, we reduced our rate by 14% from the previous year. Stat neighbours, on average, increased 13%.
- The number of children in our care has decreased to 468 with a rate of 94. From 23/24, the rate of children in our care reduced by 5.3% whilst stat neighbours remained constant at a rate of 100 and nationally the rate increased by 1.5% from 70 to 71.
- The rate of children open to the service overall decreased slightly to 357 towards our target of 350. In 23/24, we reduced our rate by 22% to 408.8, we are currently a further 12.7% lower. The average rate of children open in Stat neighbours increased in 23/34 by 1.8%.





Strong, safe & vibrant localities

| Indicator | Oct-22 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel | So'ton 22/23 | So'ton 23/24 | 22/23 Stat Neighbours | 23/24 Stat Neighbours | South East 22/23 | South East 23/24 | England 22/23 | England 23/24 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months | 27% | 21% | 32% | 25% | 30% | 24% | 28% | 26% | 20% | 26% | 21% | 24% | 14% | 19% | 20% | ● | ↓ | 22.0% | 23.2% | 21.3% | 21.0% | 27.9% | | 22.4% | 21.0% |
| Percentage of referrals leading to NFA | 3% | 8% | 4% | 5% | 4% | 2% | 4% | 5% | 9% | 13% | 21% | 5% | 16% | 4% | 7 | ● | ↑ | 14.3% | 8.6% | 7.6% | 5.8% | 11.9% | | 7.1% | 6.3% |
| Percentage of children subject to 2nd or more CP plan | 31% | 32% | 33% | 34% | 37% | 35% | 36% | 38% | 38% | 37% | 38% | 38% | 34% | 36% | 25% | ● | ↓ | 33.1% | 29.3% | 25.1% | 26.8% | 25.1% | | 24.0% | 24.7% |
| Percentage of children subject to child protection plans with recent core group held in time | 84% | 84% | 89% | 74% | 88% | 89% | 93% | 88% | 87% | 88% | 96% | 80% | 98% | 90% | 95% | ● | ↓ | - | | - | | - | | | - |
| Percentage of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD) with CIN review within last 12 weeks | 80% | 70% | 76% | 81% | 70% | 70% | 87% | 87% | 83% | 91% | 92% | 88% | 84% | 73% | 95% | ● | ↓ | - | | - | | - | | | - |
| Percentage of initial health assessments delivered within 20 working days of date child became looked after. | | 9% | 0% | 33% | 92% | 67% | 80% | 71% | 92% | 100% | 60% | 67% | | | 95% | ● | → | - | | - | | - | | | - |
| Percentage of children in care for at least 12 months for whom health assessments are up to date. | | 79% | 78% | 78% | 83% | 87% | 88% | 94% | 95% | 92% | 100% | 97% | | | 95% | ● | → | 90% | - | 90% | - | 88% | - | 89% | - |



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Strong, safe & vibrant localities

Outcomes

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

Progress analysis

- Despite the very high number of referrals in October, we remained below our target for re-referrals. Similarly, the percentage of referrals leading to NFA was also below our target at 4% for the month. In 23/24, we reduced by 5.7% from the year previous whilst the stat neighbour average reduced by 1.8% and 0.8% nationally.
- Page 75 Child in Need review meetings dropped to 73% from 84%. Managers' report this is linked to the recording of these meetings on the system rather than them not taking place. With the increase in demand around assessments, and Section 47s, these more urgent activities linked to children at risk of significant harm would take priority.
- At the time of writing this report, the health information for September and October were not yet shared with the local authority.



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Children remain within or return to their birth families

| Indicator | Oct-22 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------|
| Number of children in our care | 552 | 504 | 507 | 510 | 494 | 492 | 490 | 488 | 489 | 479 | 474 | 470 | 473 | 468 | - | - | ↑ |
| Rate of children in our care per 10,000 | 112 | 101 | 102 | 102 | 99 | 99 | 98 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 95 | 94 | 95 | 94 | 87 | ● | ↑ |
| Number of new CLA in month | 17 | 13 | 17 | 21 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 8 | 24 | 9 | 11 | ● | ↑ |
| Number of new CLA in month who are UASC | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | - | - | ↑ |
| Number of Ceased CLA in the month excluding UASC | 12 | 13 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 9 | 17 | 15 | 9 | 20 | 13 | - | - | ↓ |
| Number of CLA achieved CAO or SGO | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3.5 | ● | ↑ |
| Number of CLA returned home as part of care planning | 0 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 6.5 | ● | ↓ |
| Number of CLA placed with parents at the end of the month | 59 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 49 | 49 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 37 | 32 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 25 | ● | ↑ |
| Number of CLA placed in Connected Carer placements at the end of the month | 59 | 41 | 51 | 56 | 54 | 57 | 65 | 73 | 68 | 65 | 68 | 64 | 60 | 56 | - | - | ↑ |



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Children remain within or return to their birth families

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

Progress analysis –

- The rate of children in our care has remained below our statistical neighbour average target of 100 since January 2024. In 23/24, our rate had reduced by 5.3% from the previous year, this was greater than the statistical neighbour average reduction of 0.6%.
- In October, 9 children came into care, none of whom were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. 2 children were police protected and placed with a relative, 5 were accommodated under Section 20 (with parental agreement) and of these 4 returned home in a planned manner within 2 weeks. 2 were accommodated in a planned way through an interim care order, 1 of whom was placed with their parent following birth.
- We had 13 non-UASC children leaving care in September. This includes the 6 children that were returned home as part of care planning, 3 that achieved permanence with extended family.
- We are currently assessing and working with children and families to explore reunification for 23 looked after children, and to secure permanence through special guardianship for an additional 8 children.

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Promote permanence and placement stability

| Indicator | Oct-22 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------|
| Number of children in our care | 552 | 504 | 507 | 510 | 494 | 492 | 490 | 488 | 489 | 479 | 474 | 470 | 473 | 468 | - | - | ↑ |
| Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year | 18 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 10 | ● | → |
| Number of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month | 131 | 141 | 137 | 133 | 132 | 131 | 131 | 129 | 127 | 119 | 118 | 116 | 117 | 115 | 91 | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month | 23 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 20 | ● | → |
| Number of CLA placed in children's homes | 44 | 39 | 38 | 35 | 34 | 33 | 35 | 35 | 36 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 30 | 31 | 31 | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of CLA placed in children's homes | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | ● | ↓ |
| Number of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month | 26 | 48 | 48 | 49 | 46 | 47 | 46 | 43 | 42 | 45 | 44 | 26 | 24 | 22 | 20 | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month | 5 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | ● | → |
| Number of CLA placed for adoption at period end | 41 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 18 | 20 | - | - | ↓ |
| Number of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers) | 229 | 201 | 206 | 205 | 204 | 200 | 202 | 212 | 219 | 218 | 215 | 204 | 202 | 197 | 285 | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers) | 41 | 40 | 41 | 40 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 43 | 45 | 46 | 45 | 43 | 43 | 42 | 58 | ● | ↓ |



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Promote permanence and placement stability

Progress analysis

- Placement stability remained at 14% in October, this is 26% less than October 2023.
- The number of children placed in independent fostering agencies has reduced to 115, down 18.4% from 141 in October 2023; this remains the lowest for the last 24 months.
- 197 children are placed within our own foster placements, this is 42% of the overall cohort, down from 46% in June 2024. The ambition is for this to reach 58%, but this will depend on successful recruitment and assessment of new fostering households alongside retaining current carers. Nationally there are significant challenges to recruiting foster carers, with significant competition from independent fostering agencies that are able to pay foster carers significantly more per child in their care. With the support of Newtons we are continuing to focus on the recruitment of in-house carers, and maximising capacity within our fostering households.
- There are currently 31 children living in children's homes, down 20.5% from 39 in October 2023, and 29.5% from October 2022. We have reached our target for March 2025.
- We have 22 young people in unregulated or unregistered placements, down from 49 in December 2023. This is due to a number of 16+ settings becoming registered with Ofsted. The remaining settings are going through the registration process. Only one setting had not applied for registration before the Ofsted deadline. Tight scrutiny of these arrangements remains in place.



Promote education, employment and training

Education

- There are 5 children in our care who are waiting for school places due to a change in placement. All five have SEND. 3 have had their EHCP updated and have schools identified to meet their needs. 1 child is about to move placement, an education placement will be sought once their new address is confirmed. Another child is in a temporary placement and waiting for a permanent placement before an education placement can be sought. In the interim, tutoring is being offered.
- 20 young people aged 16 and 17 in our care are not in education, employment or training. 5 of these are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- The employment support team (EST) are supporting three 16- and 17-year-olds alongside 102 18–25-year-olds. The service were successful in supporting 26.5% into paid work, 4% into voluntary work/work trials, and 8% into training.



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Permanent, stable workforce

| Indicator | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel |
|---|--------------|--------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|-----|---------------------|
| Total number of children held by social worker | 1166 | 1261 | 1398 | 1365 | 1332 | 1293 | 1228 | 1210 | 1170 | 1127 | 1147 | 1097 | 1111 | | | ↓ |
| Average number of children per qualified Social Worker (1 FTE) | 14.76 | 16.33 | 17.92 | 17.73 | 17.76 | 17.47 | 16.59 | 15.71 | 14.63 | 13.26 | 14.34 | 13.06 | 14.24 | | | ↓ |
| Total number of children open to statutory teams | | | | 2138 | 2110 | 2087 | 2033 | 1989 | 1920 | 1816 | 1812 | 1809 | 1854 | | | ↓ |
| Average number of children per primary caseholder (based on 1 FTE) | | | | 16.00 | 15.93 | 15.72 | 15.26 | 14.81 | 13.94 | 13.11 | 12.91 | 12.73 | 13.19 | | | ↓ |
| Total number of case holders with 20+ children | 34 | 43 | 48 | 44 | 44 | 41 | 41 | 32 | 23 | 27 | 35 | 43 | 42 | | | ↑ |
| Average number of children per worker with 20+ children (1 FTE) | 21.53 | 22.16 | 22.54 | 22.77 | 22.84 | 22.76 | 22.56 | 22.75 | 24.00 | 23.26 | 22.66 | 22.09 | 22.00 | | | ↑ |
| Average number of children per worker in top 40 | 21.15 | 22.33 | 23.05 | 23.05 | 23.05 | 22.83 | 22.63 | 22.00 | 21.75 | 21.80 | 22.20 | 21.98 | 22.25 | | | ↓ |
| Percentage of CLA that have been in care for 12+m, with same social worker for last 6 months | 80 | 78 | 73 | 73 | 73 | 71 | 56 | 54 | 58 | 60 | 60 | 59 | 71 | 75 | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of children open for 6+ months that have had 2 or more social workers in the last 6 months | 38% | 36% | 37% | 38% | 38% | 32% | 33% | 34% | 35% | 32% | 33% | 36% | 36% | 25 | ● | → |



Children & Learning
Making a difference



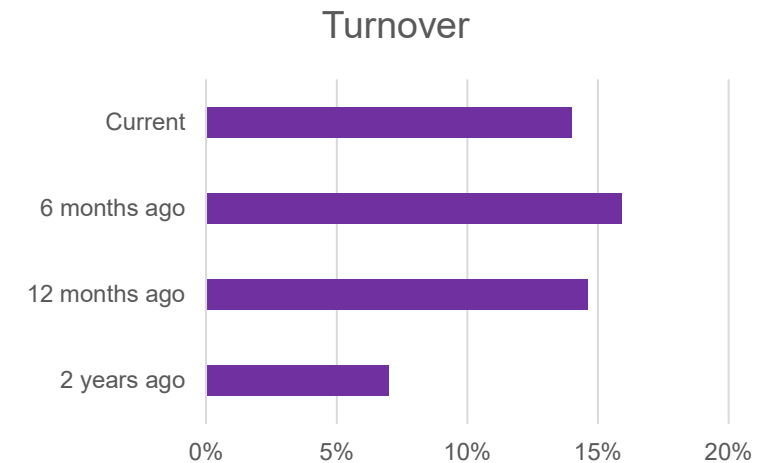
Permanent, stable workforce

Progress analysis

- The total number of children being held by social workers has reduced 5% from 1166 in October 2023 to 1111 in October 2024.
- While caseloads appear to be low, they are distributed unevenly throughout the service. For the specialist Young Peoples Service, where interventions are more intensive, caseloads are set as no more than 10 where possible. First and second year post qualifying social workers have protected caseloads that start at 8 and increase to 15. At present, the caseload average does not take into account part time workers and is therefore not fully reflective of the caseloads across teams. A fix is being worked on to report on this in the next month.
- The number of case holding workers with 20 or more children on their caseload reduced to 38. Of these, 18 are social workers, 11 are personal advisors, and 9 are family practitioners.
- Employee turnover has remained stable in Children & Learning. In our neighbouring local authorities, they have seen an increased reliance on agency staff, which drives up costs and create increased instability for families. There was an increased level of staff sickness in July; the majority of these staff members are back at work now.

Outcomes

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





Embedding Practice Framework and Standards

Outcomes

Audits will evidence:

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

Progress analysis

August '24 Audit overview (Child sexual abuse and risk outside the home):

Family Help

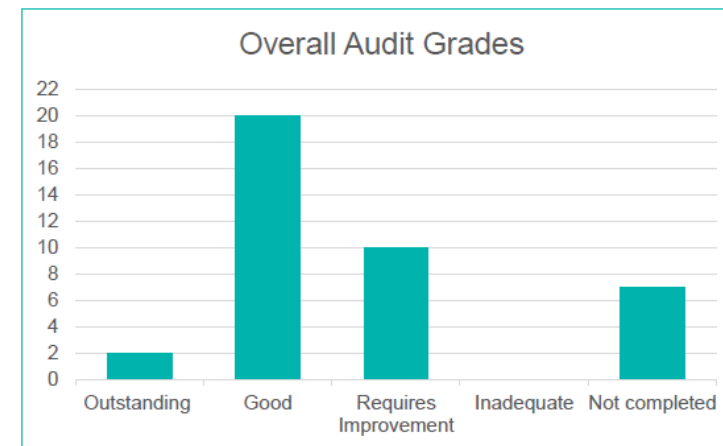
- 7 audits were good, 1 requires improvement. All audits were discussed with the practitioner.
- In Early Help, genograms and chronologies were previously updated at closure. The new system will see these updated within 10 days of allocation and every 4 weeks.
- Evidence of good multi-agency working with families, good quality of assessments leading to proportionate and relevant recommendations.
- One child could have transferred from CRS to Family Safeguarding given the history of similar concerns. The threshold guidance for transferring to Family Safeguarding is being finalised at present.

Family Safeguarding

- Of the 7 audits completed, 3 were good and 4 were requires improvement. Feedback was received by 2 families. A young person at risk from harm outside of the home said *"Things are a lot better. I would rather have social services because if not I would be far worse now, or maybe would have been kidnapped"*. Grandparents for a different family said *"Our lovely social worker has worked hard, tirelessly to sort out my dysfunctional family. What can I say, she's kind, organised, fair and helpful."*
- All children received timely visits, the majority were purposeful and linked towards outcomes on the plans. There was evidence of relational approaches with all families and transparency regarding concerns.
- Some actions on plans need to be more specific so they can be measured, and it would be beneficial for all assessments to provide more detail regarding the child's trauma, history with Children Services and impact of previous interventions.

Jigsaw

- 2 audits were completed, both graded good.
- Timely response to disclosure of sibling sexual abuse, good quality, balanced assessment.
- Young person's views clearly reflected in recordings.
- Ensure siblings views are included in assessments. CIN plan reviews should take place every 3 months.
- Social worker had experienced several changes in manager resulting in a delay in some supervisions.



- 69% of audits were graded good or outstanding, 31% of audits were graded requires improvement.
- 70% of auditors held a discussion with the allocated practitioner or manager.
- Feedback was gained from 5 families.
- 86% of audits were moderated, the majority highlighted good quality audits which were robust, linked to the impact on the child and practice standards. For some audits it was identified that it would be helpful to provide a clearer rationale for the grading. Some good audits had issues with out-of-date chronologies or genograms.



Performance - Visiting

Progress analysis

- We are reaching our target in all statutory measures aside from visits to looked after children.
- Visits to children in our care are impacted by the current social worker vacancies, and the proportion of children placed out of the local area. Managers have a clear understanding of the children that are not being seen in timescales, the risks assessments around this, and where children have been seen but the records not updated.
- Visits within Early Help have been difficult due to the increase in families in October and 2 Family Practitioner vacancies in the East, which are due to be filled in the next 2 months. Service Managers in Family Help have weekly meetings with team managers. Team managers have good oversight of the children that are not seen in timescales, or where they are and the records are not updated, this is reflected in the high levels of supervision.

| Indicator | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel |
|---|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|-----|---------------------|
| Percentage of children open to Early Help with a visit in the last 4 weeks | 71% | 69% | 62% | 66% | 62% | 74% | 81% | 77% | 77% | 84% | 91% | 86% | 83% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 6 weeks | 96% | 95% | 96% | 95% | 97% | 97% | 98% | 99% | 98% | 99% | 95% | 97% | 98% | 95% | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 3 weeks | 86% | 85% | 89% | 85% | 87% | 88% | 90% | 94% | 90% | 91% | 86% | 85% | 92% | 90% | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (CWD) visited within agreed timescales | 80% | 82% | 77% | 73% | 74% | 84% | 81% | 79% | 85% | 97% | 92% | 99% | 97% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 10 working days | 88% | 92% | 85% | 93% | 94% | 91% | 92% | 91% | 90% | 89% | 90% | 94% | 95% | 95% | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 4 weeks | 97% | 99% | 96% | 99% | 98% | 95% | 98% | 99% | 95% | 98% | 97% | 99% | 98% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within agreed timescales | 81% | 85% | 83% | 83% | 79% | 83% | 80% | 85% | 87% | 84% | 85% | 89% | 84% | 95% | ● | ↓ |

Performance - Supervision

Progress analysis

- Early Help met the target for supervision, even in the context of a higher level of demand.
- At least 94% of children open for assessment, with a Child in Need Plan, within the Jigsaw service and those subject to a Child Protection Plan were discussed within supervision within timescales.
- There were improvements in the percentage of care leavers with their supervision recorded, however, it was identified that the timeliness measure was incorrect, therefore the performance will improve next month.
- For children in care, managers are having discussions and oversight of children within their service, but the formal supervisions are not all recorded. This remains a focus for the assurance clinics.

| Indicator | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24 | Jun-24 | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Target | RAG | Direction of travel |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|---------------------|
| Percentage of children open to Early Help with supervision in timescales | 81% | 68% | 79% | 74% | 87% | 79% | 79% | 78% | 74% | 87% | 89% | 86% | 95% | 95% | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of children open for assessment who had supervision in timescales | 100% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 97% | 97% | 96% | 92% | 96% | 95% | 96% | 95% | 96% | 95% | ● | ↑ |
| Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (not CWD) who had supervision within timescales | 89% | 91% | 97% | 88% | 90% | 94% | 88% | 97% | 93% | 93% | 86% | 97% | 94% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of children open to the Children with Disabilities team who had their supervision within timescales | 99% | 99% | 99% | 98% | 99% | 97% | 94% | 93% | 99% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 99% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and within timescales | 96% | 94% | 96% | 91% | 96% | 92% | 93% | 96% | 93% | 95% | 84% | 97% | 94% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale | 81% | 83% | 83% | 94% | 88% | 81% | 77% | 81% | 81% | 88% | 77% | 84% | 82% | 95% | ● | ↓ |
| Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale | 83% | 81% | 77% | 90% | 91% | 87% | 87% | 88% | 89% | 86% | 76% | 78% | 83% | 95% | ● | ↑ |



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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GLOSSARY

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Acronyms

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

Abuse

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

Advocacy

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

Agency Decision Maker

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

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

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

Assessment

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

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

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

Brief Intervention Team

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

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

CAFCASS

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

Care Order

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

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

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

Categories of Abuse or Neglect

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

Child Arrangement Order

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

Child in Need and Child in Need Plan

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

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

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

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

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

Child Protection

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

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

Child Protection Conference

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

Child Sexual Exploitation

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

Children and Families First

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

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

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

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

Children with Disabilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children's Centres

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

Children's Social Care

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

Corporate Parenting

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

Criteria for Child Protection Plans

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

Director of Children's Services (DCS)

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

Designated Teacher

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

Discretionary Leave to Remain

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

Duty of Care

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

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

Early Help

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

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

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

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

Every Child Matters

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

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

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

Health Assessment

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

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

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

Independent Reviewing Officer

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

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

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

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

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

Initial Child Protection Conference

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

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

Intervention and Complex Assessment Service

The services provided by IACS are:

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

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

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

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

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

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

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

Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

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

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

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

Looked After Child

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

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

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

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

Neglect

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

Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement

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

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

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

Parental Responsibility

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

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

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

Pathway Plan

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

Pathways Through Care

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

Permanence Plan

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

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

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

Personal Education Plan

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

Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)

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

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

Placement at a Distance

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

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

Principal Social Worker - Children and Families

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

Private Fostering

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

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

Public Law Outline

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

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

Referral

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

Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible

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

Review Child Protection Conference

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

Section 20

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

Section 47 Enquiry

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

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

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

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

SENCO

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

Separated Children

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

Social Work with Families

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

Special Guardianship Order

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

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

Strategy Discussion

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

Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN)

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

Staying Put

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

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

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children

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

Virtual School Head

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

Working Together to Safeguard Children

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

Young Offender Institution (YOI)

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

Youth Offending Service or Team

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

Sources

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

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

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| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DECISION-MAKER: | CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL |
| SUBJECT: | MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 28 NOVEMBER 2024 |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER |

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

| | |
|--|---|
| 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 – 28 November 2024 |
| 2. | Re-referrals and Assessments Audit |
| 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 – 28 November 2024

| Date | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|----------|---|---|--|-----------------|
| 08/08/24 | Repeat Child Protection Plans | 1) That, to reinforce the message about the value of good practice, the analysis of repeat child protection plans is circulated to all social workers. | Completed - the Lead Independent Reviewing Officer is scheduled to present at the October 2024 practice forum. | Complete |
| | | 2) That, reflecting concerns raised in the analysis relating to the impact of changes in social worker, the service undertakes an audit on the quality of handovers provided by social workers. | In progress - recommendation that this is presented in January 2025. | In progress |
| | | 3) That the scheduled follow up analysis of repeat child protection plans is provided to the Panel when it is available. | In progress - recommendation that this is presented in January 2025. | In progress |
| 08/08/24 | Annual conversation with Ofsted | 1) That an all-members briefing is scheduled to inform councillors about the changes that have been undertaken across Children's Services and Learning. | Briefing has been scheduled for 13 th February. Floor walks have included: fostering, supported accommodation and a finance briefing. | Complete |
| 26/09/24 | Youth Justice Service | 1) That, reflecting current poor outcomes and the actions being undertaken to improve performance, the Panel is provided with the updated education outcomes for young people in Southampton involved with the Youth Justice System once the national comparator data is available. | Youth Justice Service have confirmed that data will not be available before January 2025. | In progress |
| 26/09/24 | Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual report | 1) That, following the creation of the Southampton Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (SCASP), the Panel invite the Independent Scrutineer to a meeting of the Panel in 2025/26 to consider the effectiveness of the new safeguarding partnership arrangements. | This update will be programmed into the scrutiny panel forward plan. | In progress |

| Date | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|----------|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 26/09/24 | Children & Learning – Performance and transformation | 1) That, reflecting the reported increase in the rate of re-referrals in August 2024, the audit that is currently being conducted on re-referrals is circulated to the Panel upon completion. | Information attached as Appendix 2. | Complete |

Children Services Performance Spotlight Report – Re-referrals & Assessment

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November 2024



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Children
& Learning
Making a difference



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 10
Appendix 2

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| Assessment commentary and remedial action | 6 |

Re-referrals audit summary

In August & September 2024, managers across Children Services undertook audits for children who had been referred in through CRS within 12 months of a previous referral. A group of auditors met with the Director of Children's Social Care to review the findings. 39 audits were allocated, 85% were completed.

In summary, 39% of families were referred for new circumstances or needs that were not present or concerning during the previous period of intervention. 61% families were re-referred for similar concerns.

Of these, 59% were due to domestic abuse, 35% for risk outside of the home, and 6% due to neglect.

A similar audit was undertaken in February 2024 that identified the emerging positive impact of the Safe and Together model. We now have adult facing domestic abuse workers within each locality team in Family Safeguarding.

The findings identified the following areas for focus:

1. Working with perpetrators and survivors of domestic abuse.
 - Seeing incidents and behaviours described in contacts to the CRS as a pattern of behaviour rather than isolated incidents. Understanding that retractions of allegations is not reduction in risks or evidence.
 - Working with survivors when they initially deny any concerns or do not agree to an assessment or intervention
 - Ensuring assessments with families where a perpetrator of domestic abuse is within the family environment are informed by the Safe and Together approach, including post-separation risk assessments.
2. Working with children at risk outside of the family home
 - Gaining consent from the family when initially referred, how can this be overcome when referrals are from police, or based on intelligence
 - Timeliness of initial visits and assessments
3. Quality of closure of records
 - Ongoing plan for meeting remaining needs should be clear, including extended network and lead professional
 - Clarity of decision making and professional network views and engagement
 - Updating case summaries, chronologies and genograms

Re-referrals action plan

Domestic Abuse

- Staff training needs analysis to be undertaken by the Workforce Academy
- Identification of good practice examples of the Safe and Together(S&T) model in practice to be used to support practice development.
- Domestic Abuse practice month is being planned for early 2025
- S&T champions to support practice within teams alongside IDVA and male engagement workers.

Risk Outside the Home

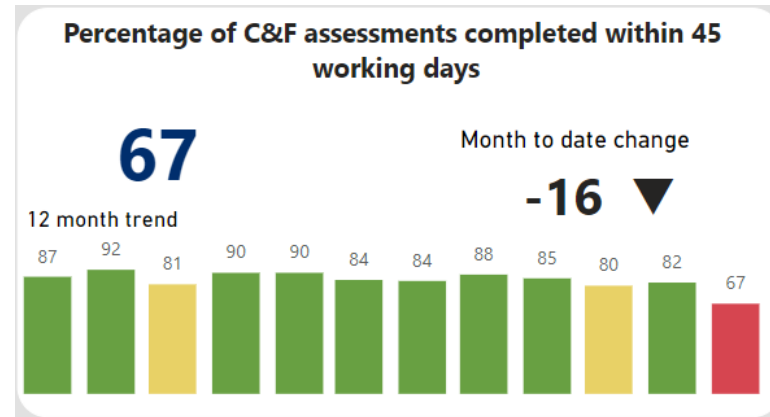
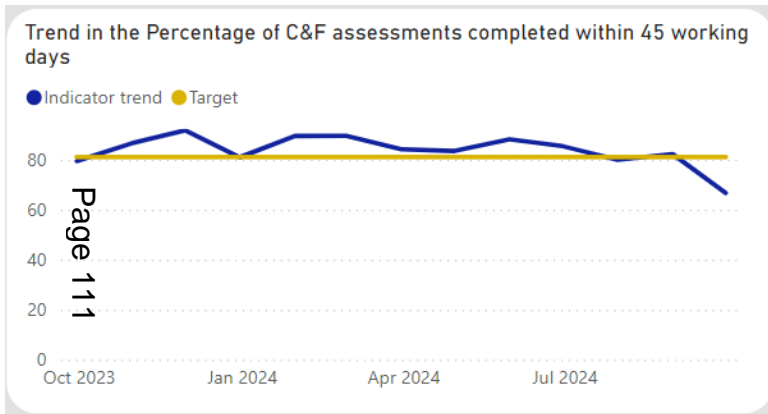
- New team has been created within the Youth Justice Service to deliver the ROTH context approach and focussed deterrent work. This is led by Laura Tanner, a context experienced manager who has been leading the ROTH approach to child protection conferences.

Closure Records

- Updated guidance will be drafted and shared with Managers and Staff. Follow up sessions will be held with teams to review the expectations.
- A follow up audit on the quality of closure records will be held three months after the training concludes.

Assessment data for September

Statutory assessments of families open to children services are expected to be completed within 45 working days. This measure is reported on monthly and comparable nationally and with statistical neighbours. Our current target is 81%, in line with the statistical neighbour average.

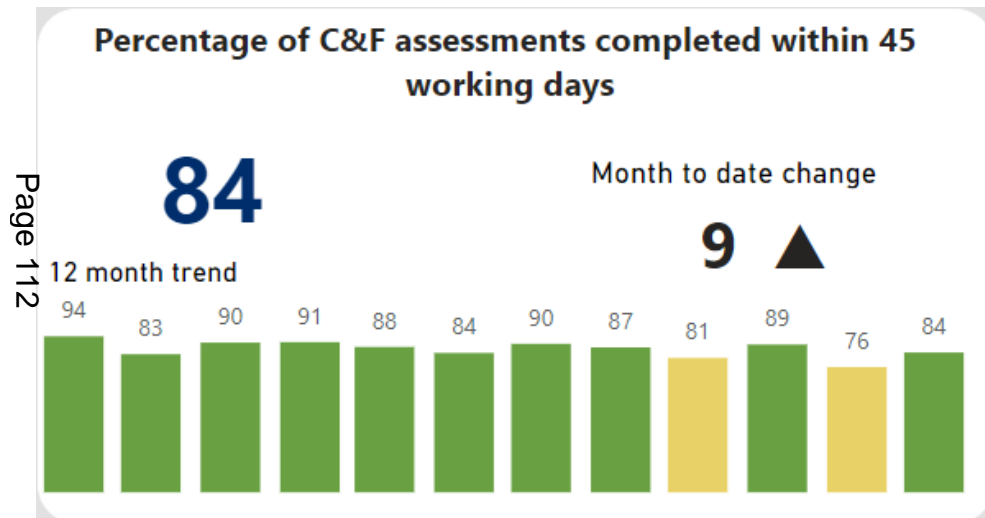


Usually, Southampton achieve at or above the target for this measure, but in September we dipped to 67%. Assessment timeliness was discussed in assurance clinics with every part of the service. It was identified that the data was incorrectly counting assessments completed on the final day as being out of time, and this improved performance to 76%. However, Senior Leadership requested specific focus on this issue with the management teams to identify any underlying issues.

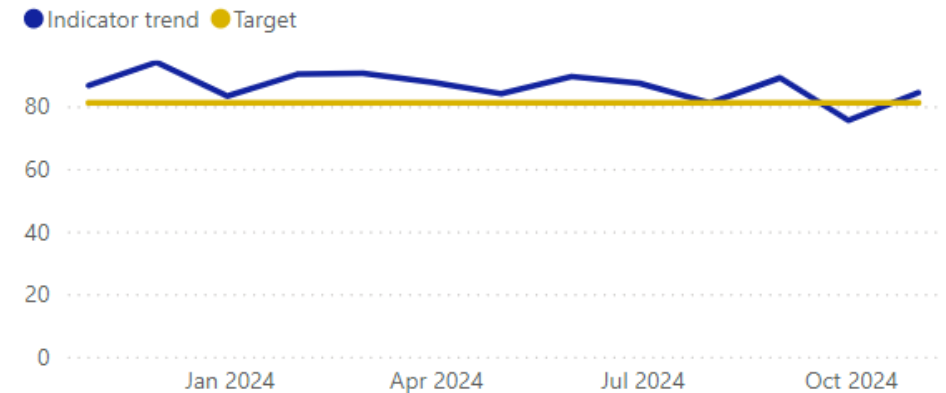
| Team/Locality | Denominator | Numerator | % |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Children in Care 1 | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |
| Children in Care 2 | 3 | 2 | 66.7% |
| CRS | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| Family Help Central 1 | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| Family Help Central 1 - CA | 18 | 14 | 77.8% |
| Family Help Central 2 - CA | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| Family Help East 1 | 4 | 2 | 50.0% |
| Family Help East 1 - CA | 11 | 1 | 9.1% |
| Family Help East 2 - CA | 6 | 3 | 50.0% |
| Family Help West 1 | 4 | 4 | 100.0% |
| Family Help West 1 - CA | 17 | 17 | 100.0% |
| Family Help West 2 | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| Family Help West 2 - CA | 13 | 4 | 30.8% |
| Family Safeguarding Central | 5 | 5 | 100.0% |
| Family Safeguarding East 1 | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| Family Safeguarding East 2 | 8 | 8 | 100.0% |
| Family Safeguarding West 1 | 17 | 4 | 23.5% |
| Family Safeguarding West 2 | 3 | 3 | 100.0% |
| Jigsaw 1 | 8 | 8 | 100.0% |
| Jigsaw 2 | 7 | 5 | 71.4% |
| Jigsaw 3 | 6 | 6 | 100.0% |
| Young People Team 1 | 7 | 6 | 85.7% |
| Young People Team 2 | 3 | 1 | 33.3% |
| Total | 150 | 100 | 66.7% |

Assessment commentary and remedial action

In October, the data shows an improvement to 84% of assessments completed within 45 days. It also reflects the correction in the calculation for September, increasing to 76%. Given the increased activity in October due to the high number of referrals, this demonstrates managers focus on assessment timeliness.



Trend in the Percentage of C&F assessments completed within 45 working days



As assessment activity increases, we expect to see a higher number of assessments completing in November, managers are focussed on the quality and timeliness of these to ensure that the needs of children and families are identified, risks are assessed, and plans address needs and reflect the strengths of the family and wider network.

We are also looking carefully at the impact of the new service design through purposeful management meetings. One was held in November, with further scheduled for December and January.



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