

**Oversight and Governance**

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EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Friday 9 December 2022

11.00 am

Warspite Room, Council House

Members:

Councillor Laing, Chair

Councillor Mrs Pengelly, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Mrs Beer, Briars-Delve, Cree, Cresswell, Deacon, Harrison, Loveridge, Partridge, Poyser and Tofan.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf. For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - [Get Involved](#)

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect to items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 12)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 September and 13 October 2022.

4. Chair's Urgent Business

To receive reports on business which in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. Tracking Decisions: (Pages 13 - 18)

6. Education and Children's Social Care Policy Brief: (Pages 19 - 24)

7. Plymouth Education Board: (Pages 25 - 30)

8. Inclusion Briefing: Children Missing out on Education: (Pages 31 - 42)

9. Plymouth Education Improvement: (Pages 43 - 50)

10. School Attainment: (Pages 51 - 54)

11. Regional Schools Commissioner: (Verbal Report)

12. Performance Scorecard: (To Follow)

13. Financial Monitoring Report - Month 7: (To Follow)

14. Risk Management Monitoring Report: (Pages 55 - 62)

15. School Uniform - Presented by Plymouth's Youth Parliament: (To Follow)

16. Work Programme: (Pages 63 - 66)

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 14 September & Thursday 13 October 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor Laing, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Pengelly, Vice Chair.

Councillors Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Harrison, Hulme, Poyser, Salmon and Tippetts.

Also in attendance: Sharon Muldoon (Director of Children's Service), Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families), Jane Anstis (Head of Service), Emma Crowther (Strategic Commissioning Manager), Karl Knill (Head of Service), John Clements (Independent Scrutineer), Louise Jenkins (Finance Business Partner for schools and learning), Helen Slater (Principal Technical Accountant) Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) and Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor)

The meeting started at 13:00 on 14 September and was adjourned at 12:01. The meeting reconvened on 13 October at 12:00 and finished at 15:10.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

98. **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Minute Number	Reason
Councillor Laing	102 – Education and Children's Social Care Policy Brief	Governor for Horizon Multi-academy Trust

99. **Minutes**

The minutes from 15 June 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

100. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business from the Chair.

101. **Tracking Decisions**

Members discussed the action log and its progress and received updates on actions that had not been marked complete.

102. Education and Children's Social Care Policy Brief

Sarah Gooding, Policy and Intelligence Advisor introduced this item to members and advised that since the reports had been published Kit Malthouse had been appointed as the new Education Secretary.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) Data of Plymouth's looked after children that had been placed more than 20 miles from the city would be circulated to the Committee;
- b) Members of the Committee would be advised how Plymouth responded to the Department for Education's consultation on Early Years Funding Formula;
- c) The sufficiency and quality of early year's providers had either been good or outstanding;
- d) Plymouth had continued discussions with the Department for Education on ensuring that the quality and safety of children in Early Years settings continued even if the ratio changed from its current 1:4 format into 1:5;
- e) An Early Years setting which closed in the City, had done so due to not having a registered person which had been a legal requirement. Plymouth City Council informed OFSTED who ordered the setting to close immediately. The Council had been in close contact with parents and other providers in the city to respond to the closure;
- f) Plymouth City Council did not use the alternative registered provision register and alternative provision could only be used as a supplementary to education in school and children should not be removed from their registered setting to attend an unregistered setting. Plymouth did not have any pupils attending unregistered provision and due to this had not responded to the consultation.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

103. Josh MacAlister's Independent Review of Children's Social Care - Briefing

Councillor Carlyle, Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) and Jane Anstis (Head of Service for Children, Young People and Families) and Emma Crowther (Strategic Commissioning Manager) presented this item to members and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The Independent review had 72 recommendations of which two thirds required a government response either through legislation, updating statutory guidelines or whether additional financial resource was required. Josh MacAlister's report recommended additional funding of £2.6 billion and a five year plan to put those changes into action;

- b) The report would transform what had been a succession of incremental changes over 30 years since the Children's Act 1991. The review had 7 key themes from early help through to children, young people and families within Social Care systems;
- c) Changes were unable to take place until legislation had been passed;
- d) The review had highlighted Plymouth's commitment to its care experienced young people and many of the recommendations that hadn't required government involvement had already been or was being implemented in Plymouth;
- e) It was acknowledged that Plymouth had a recruitment and retention issue, but this had also been a national problem. Plymouth did not have an experience of this being more than other local authorities;
- f) Plymouth had experienced placement sufficiency challenges which had led to children being placed outside of the city boundaries and also into residential and Independent Sector foster care placements;
- g) Plymouth had been experiencing difficulties in recruiting foster carers and within the review, Josh MacAlister recommended the recruitment of 9,000 foster carers in three years;
- h) 'A Bright Future' set out Plymouth's ambitions for its children in care. This had included the ambition to increase the number of local foster placements and to increase the skills and expertise of foster carers locally. Plymouth wanted children to remain in Plymouth so that they remained in their schools and maintained important links with family and friends;
- i) There had been a challenge in opening new children's homes in Plymouth and it had been reported that it would cost £1 million to set up a new home due to associated costs. There had been a challenge in the availability of placements in managing need, particularly for children and young people with complex needs and in relation to the volume of placements required;
- j) Whilst OFSTED did provide good quality assurance on current placements, it was recognised that the organisation could provide a disincentive due to the risk and fear of receiving an inadequate rating. It was noted that it could end a care home managers career if those inspections had been poor;
- k) Foster carers had been leaving the profession in greater numbers due to a number of factors including; an aging population, health vulnerabilities and due to COVID many foster carers reflected on their own lifestyles. This current climate had led to children who required foster placements being placed within residential placements and in turn led to less residential beds and in turn led to more use of emergency, short term, unregulated

placements;

- l) Plymouth had a lack of suitable housing provision within the city which would allow young people to move on;
- m) There had been 100 referrals for one vacant bed for foster placements. There had been further reports from those foster care placements of a rise in complexity for children, usually seen in teenagers;
- n) Plymouth had used unregistered placements sparingly, it was acknowledged that Plymouth did not want to use these provisions and would proactively find suitable provision quickly. These arrangements are illegal but Plymouth worked with OFSTED to notify them of these occurrences. There were a number of factors as to why these placements were used which included welfare secure beds seeing a large volume of referrals for one vacant bed, challenges in accessing tier 4 mental health beds or alternatives where children/young people had significant mental health needs. Providers become worried in taking on children who present that level of risk and the longer a child/young person stayed in an unregistered placement the more difficult it had been to place that child in a more suitable provision. Because of this, Plymouth has had to use deprivation of liberty placements due to the staffing ratios being very high. Plymouth ensured that for those children in those placements they had significant oversight with legal safeguards in place due to the restriction of their liberty;
- o) Plymouth had been working to provide a framework for staffing agencies contractually to ensure that they provided a quality provision for Plymouth's children;
- p) Plymouth had worked hard to bring more providers to the City since 2012. Currently Plymouth had 17 block contract beds with a further 8 coming online. Those placements had brought positive national attention in providing positive outcomes for children with a reduction in placement breakdowns, providing stable placements, children being able to come back to the City/to stay in the city and also to either go to fostering placements or being able to return home. OFSTED ratings on these homes had a 100% rating of being graded good;
- q) Plymouth needed to :
 - i. refresh its placement sufficiency plan
 - ii. intervene at earlier points to prevent children and young people coming into the care of the Local Authority,
 - iii. recommission the block contract for provisions within the city,
 - iv. grow the number of local foster carers;
 - v. commission a significant piece of work in relation to housing within

the city

- vi. complete work around transitions and how Plymouth could support children/young people with complex disabilities live independent and happy lives
 - vii. reduce the use of bespoke and unregistered placements
 - viii. seek staff for the social care system through the Health and Adult Social Care skills partnership
-
- r) 69% of social workers would leave the profession within the first five years. Plymouth's vacancy rate climbed in 2020 with a peak in the summer of 2021. The Council invested in 9 new qualified social worker posts and when discounted from the data, Plymouth had a vacancy rate of 16.8% which followed the national average;
 - s) Plymouth had struggled with the recruitment and retention of social workers particularly in teams where families required medium to longer term responses;
 - t) There had been an emergence of a digital market which had seen social workers being able to work across the country but separate to this base. This has disrupted the market nationally and Plymouth had been trying to adapt;
 - u) Plymouth had recruited project teams as an interim solution which had just started to exit from and would move to overseas recruitment as part of the exit plan;
 - v) Social workers nationally experienced a high degree of trauma impact and Plymouth would be addressing this in a robust way to support its staff;
 - w) Plymouth had been in the middle of a recruitment process for overseas workers and had moved into an interview and selection phase;
 - x) Plymouth had retained staff well and although two teams had signalled high throughput, many social workers remained in Plymouth but moved teams within the service;
 - y) Plymouth had been working on a new recruitment and retention strategy that would be available at the end of November subject to final checks. There would be new and supported pathways to support retention;
 - z) Plymouth launched its Ask Jan service for care experienced young people

18 – 25 and gave 24 hour access to a range of services including counselling, free at the point of access;

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- aa) The prevalence of children with more complex needs had been due to a combination of factors which included more understanding of the way in which adverse childhood experiences had impacted their development, this trend had been seen locally and nationally. Fostering agencies had transformed the way in which they responded to children and young people and employ therapists, clinicians and others to respond fully to the child;
- bb) The Committee would write to Kelly Tolhurst MP, Minister of State (Education) to request no more drift on the government's response to the review and requested a response no later than the end of 2022. The letter would also endorse the recommendations from the review and endorse the calculations of £2.6 billion of required funding;
- cc) Plymouth had been putting a number of things in place if children/young people wanted to stay in their placements which included staying put foster placements. A new 5 bed home for 18+ young people had opened with a provider in the city which had been designed specifically for those young people that are ready to move into something more independent but not entirely to enable planning for their next steps;
- dd) Plymouth City Council would be unable to directly market to foster carers currently operating for Independent sector foster care agencies (IFA) and would not look to do this either as they provided an invaluable service for the city and Plymouth would not want to unsettle or undermine the relationship;
- ee) Plymouth used agency staff to cover posts to ensure that Plymouth safeguarded children appropriately. The creation of posts had been covered by agency workers but it had always been the intention to replace agency workers with in house workers. The Council wanted to reduce caseloads to allow social workers to work with families in a more engaged way and to reduce risks;
- ff) There had been very few staff that had been on long term sickness. It was acknowledged that there had been an issue in the profession due to the stressful nature of the work carried out by social workers that would be a reason for social workers to be on long term sickness. In those instances cases would be reallocated to ensure Plymouth fulfilled its statutory duties to children;
- gg) Plymouth had been looking into ways in which social workers could be supported with the amount of admin required, to ensure social workers could spend more time working with families;

- hh) Plymouth had been working to introduce a guarantor scheme for care experienced young people to reduce risks of homelessness;

The Committee agreed to note the report.

104. **Risk Monitoring Report**

Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) presented this item to the Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- a) One risk had been identified as a red risk for the continued demand on Children's Social Care with two amber risks concerning school improvement and the fulfilment of statutory duties. One further risk had been identified as green concerning early intervention and prevention.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) Plymouth monitored its pressures in relation to financial risk consistently, there had been an increase in the number of children in care which was being managed through early help and intervention.
- b) Following a deep dive of the Children's Social Care budget at the Performance, Customer Focus and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 30 November, the deep dive may be something that the Committee would want to have a focus on and therefore would go on the work programme.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

105. **Financial Monitoring Report - Month 4**

Louise Jenkins (Finance Business Partner for schools and learning) and Helen Slater (Principal Technical Accountant) presented the item to the Committee and highlighted the following key points in relation to month 5:

- a) The Children's budget had been showing a gross pressure 3.843 million with mitigations of £1.951 million which left a net pressure of £1.928 million at month 5;
- b) The pressure had been due to a number of reasons but mainly a £1.4 million increase for high cost placements for children with complex needs and disabilities. £634,000 for an increase in home to school transport costs. An adverse variation of £370,000 for short break services due to the additional needs and volume of children accessing services. There had also been additional costs associated with legal and specialist assessments;
- c) Children's services had a delivery plan target of £3.942 million with the majority of those savings being achieved or on track to be achieved.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) Within the mitigating actions for the budget there had been £500,000 from the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) with negotiations taking place. For every new entrant into Care there had been a panel looking at all aspects of care and there would be respectful challenges to the ICS to ensure a fair contribution was in place;
- b) As part of the deep dive into the finances, Councillors requested a breakdown of associated high cost placement to better understand the spend;
- c) A financial analysis had been completed against Plymouth's statistical neighbours and England and Wales local authorities that are good or outstanding to benchmark Plymouth's spending. The majority of that review demonstrated that Plymouth was a low/medium spending authority and had not been an authority that had been commissioning highly;
- d) The Committee agreed to write a letter to the Secretary of State for Education requesting more money within the government settlement to help with the costs of inflation.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

106. **Performance Scorecard**

Councillor Carlyle, Paul Stephens (Performance Advisor) and Hannah Daw (Performance Advisor) presented the Performance Scorecard report to members of the Committee.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) Children on repeat Child Protection plans had been relatively high. The figure reported had been reporting on whether a child/young person had returned onto a child protection (CP) plan in the last 12 months or at some stage in their lifetime. Many of the children subject to CP plans had been living with neglect issues relating to domestic abuse which could improve and change over time. Plymouth had been working hard to work to one significant plan to improve outcomes and then step them down or out of the service once the risk had reduced. It was recognised that this could take a long time.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

107. **Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership**

Councillor Carlyle, Karl Knill (Head of Service for Plymouth's front door service) and John Clements (Independent Scrutineer) presented the item to members of the Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- a) 'Working Together' was the statutory guidance which outlined what areas had to do in respect of safeguarding children. Within the Partnership there had been three statutory leads; Devon and Cornwall Police, ICB and the Local Authority and they were required to produce arrangements for safeguarding taking into account local and national contexts. This in turn would lead to other partners across the city working together to keep our children safe;
- b) Plymouth had a very committed leadership and membership to safeguarding with good representation at leadership, managerial and practitioner levels. There had also been good representation of a range of different groups in the City;
- c) The work plan for the partnership focussed on neglect, child sexual harm, being trauma informed and getting the right support at the right time and place;
- d) The Partnership had introduced a new quality assurance framework and quality assurance work plan for the year;

In response to questions raised it was reported that

- a) The strategy and its effectiveness had been incorporated in the Partnerships own data set and Sharon Muldoon had been driving this across the strategic partnership but with a focus on the key proxy indicators such as the number of children on CP plans or subject to re-referrals. Behind the plan would be a number of audits taken at key points throughout the year with the first one looking at child sexual harm that would identify what the current practice looked like and the outcomes of those children;
- b) The Scorecard had included more areas to best advise the Partnership how well the system had been working;
- c) Partners in the city would have their own internal training programmes for staff. There had been a document entitled 'keeping children safe in education' which was refreshed annually and then cascaded through all schools. Safeguarding training would be carried out within schools at the start of each year. Multi-agency training had been provided by the Partnership concentrated on those operating in a more specialist area having involvement within Child Protection conference or Team around the child/family meetings. There were also more specialist training for neglect, child sexual abuse or domestic abuse amongst others;
- d) John Clements would explore as to whether an invitation had been sent to faith groups in the city to join the Partnership and report back to the Committee;
- e) Officers would look into a mechanism to report the work of the Partnership more widely for members of Plymouth City Council.

- f) The Committee requested John Clements of the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership to come back to the last scrutiny of the municipal year to report on how the plan of the Partnership is working and whether John could be accompanied by the young safeguarders to talk to the Committee about what they do.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

108. **National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, National Panel**

Councillor Carlyle and Karl Knill (Head of Service for Plymouth's front door) presented this item to members of the Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The review reported
 - i. information sharing between organisations as having been an issue and nobody having the full picture of concerns for a particular child;
 - ii. There had been a lack of robust and critical thinking challenge;
 - iii. The triggering of statutory child protection processes had not been taking place at the right time and the workforce didn't have the right skills and experience to undertake complex work;
 - iv. There had been a reluctance in challenging and working with reluctant parents;
 - v. There had been a lack of understanding of the lived experience of children;
 - vi. There had been a poor understanding at times of domestic abuse;
 - vii. The uncertainty that the right organisational structures were in place to enable effective child protection work to take place;
- b) Significant work had been undertaken in Plymouth over a 12 month period to address some of the points within the report. Plymouth had worked to ensure education colleagues were involved which significantly improved the likelihood of getting safeguarding right for the children of Plymouth;
- c) The scorecard had been updated for the partnership to bring in more multi-agency data and would enable change in areas across the city;
- d) The report highlighted that within both authorities that they didn't have the right multi-agency oversight in place. Plymouth had already put in place arrangements to change this and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub would report into the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership to provide oversight and scrutiny on a quarterly basis;

- e) An assurance plan had been created to provide assurances on issues that could be affecting Plymouth to ensure Plymouth families were not experiencing what had been found elsewhere;
- f) An assurance plan had been created to provide assurances on issues that could be affecting Plymouth to ensure Plymouth families were not experiencing what had been found elsewhere;
- g) Government needed to provide some legislative change to enable change within some of the recommendations of the review;

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) The Partnership had introduced a refreshed case resolution protocol to ensure challenge and critical scrutiny is recorded robustly;
- b) There had been a specific training programme offered by the Partnership focussed on domestic abuse. The principal social worker of children's social care had emphasized a specific focus on upskilling the workforce on domestic abuse;
- c) Plymouth had been working with the NSPCC to reduce the level and impact of sexual abuse across the city. There had been a regular range of events that happened such as the PANTS campaign targeted at children in primary school in terms of raising awareness with children at a young age so they are able to think about their safety. The NSPCC had been carrying out healthy relationships work which had been reaching young children in an appropriate and sensitive way;
- d) When it came to concerns that are safeguarding, where it was likely or possible a child would experience on-going significant harm if disclosure regarding a carer was made. There had been agreement within legislation and within mandatory guidance that consent did not have to be sought from a parent to report the concern for investigation.
- e) The Committee would receive the domestic abuse paper that would go to Cabinet in December.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

109. **Work Programme**

Members discussed the work programme and added:

- Recruitment and Retention Strategy
- Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Update

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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tracking Decisions 2022/23

Minute No.	Resolution	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
92 – Policy Brief	Caroline Marr to produce a briefing/summary for Councillors on the Schools white paper. Caroline to also include a briefing/Summary on the SEND and AP green paper. Members required a focus on the 'strengthened role for local authorities within the white paper'. Following a briefing/summary members will advise the Chair which items should be put onto the work programme for a future meeting.	Date: 16 June 2022 Progress: Complete – sent to Committee members on 01/08/2022
92 – Policy Brief	Ming Zhang to respond to Members of the Education and Children's Social Care Committee in relation to Councillor Tippetts question: How much money is being outsourced on private therapy to meet EHCP requirements? What portion of the budget is going to Early Years Provision in the SEND Review?	Date: 16 June 2022 Progress: Complete – sent to Committee members on 02/08/2022
92 – Policy Brief	Ming Zhang to issue a request on behalf of the committee to Multi-Academy Trusts requesting data in relation to the National Tutoring Programme in order for the Committee to understand the impact on Plymouth and its children.	Date: 14 October 2022 Progress: Complete
93 – Overview of Education and Children's Services	Jean Kelly to circulate a copy of the Bright Futures document to all Members of the Education and Children's Social Care OSC.	Date: 14 October 2022 Progress: Complete
95 – Performance report	Jean Kelly to provide data to the Education and Children's Social Care OSC in response to Councillor Harrison's query on the following: 1. How many children have 'stepped up' from a Child in Need plan to a Child Protection plan? 2. How many children and young people have successfully 'stepped down' from a Child in Need plan to Universal services and have no longer required the services of Plymouth City Council's Children's Social Work Service (CSW).	Date: 16 June 2022 Progress: Action sent to Jean for progression. Date: 13 October

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tracking Decisions 2022/23

	<p>This data is to be provided to Councillors before the next Scrutiny meeting and should also be reported within the next Performance report.</p>	<p>Progress: Scrutiny heard that the data was not built into the new Eclipse case management system, but that it was progressing.</p> <p>Paul Stephens had been progressing this.</p>
96 – Kickstart Update	<p>Tina Brinkworth to provide data to the Education and Children's Social Care OSC on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data of placements over different sectors 2. How many of the Universal Credit claimants between the ages of 16 and 24 are in full time education? <p>A detailed report following the conclusion of the Kickstart programme to be put on the agenda for February 2023's agenda</p>	<p>Date: 16 June 2022</p> <p>Progress: Action sent to Tina for progression.</p> <p>Detailed report will be ready for February 2023.</p> <p>Scrutiny heard on 13 October that this data would be available for the Committee in readiness for the meeting being held in February 2023.</p>
97 – City Wide Youth Services Provision	<p>Recommendation to Scrutiny Management Board – The Committee agreed to:-</p> <p>For Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager) and Martine Aquilina (Service Manager for Targeted Support) to endeavour to produce an app for the Young People in the city of Plymouth to access which would advise them of youth services they could access.</p>	<p>Date: 16 June 2022</p> <p>Progress: Recommendation sent to Ross Jago to be heard at Scrutiny Management Board.</p> <p>Email sent to Dave Ryland and Martine Aquilina on 01 November requesting an update.</p>

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tracking Decisions 2022/23

		Further email sent on 28 November requesting an update.
98 – Work Programme	Sharon Muldoon/Ming Zhang to provide data to the Committee on children's results and inclusion prior to the Scrutiny meeting in November to allow for a focussed session.	Date: 16 June 2022 Progress: Action sent to Sharon and Ming for progression.
101 – Tracking Decisions	Jean Kelly to answer Councillor Briars-Delve: 'How many of Plymouth Looked after Children had been placed in placement settings more than 36 miles from the City?'	Date: 14 October 2022 Progress: Complete
102 – Policy Brief	Sharon Muldoon to provide a response to Councillor Dr Cree's question: How did Plymouth City Council respond to the Department for Education's consultation on Early Years Funding Formula?	Date: 28 November 2022 Progress: Complete
103 – Josh MacAlister's Independent Review of Children's Social Care	Councillor Laing to write to the Minister of State for Schools and Childhood as Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask for government's endorsement to Josh MacAlister's recommendations and the estimated £2.6 billion required nationally to implement the recommendations. Councillor Laing to also write to the Secretary of State for Education to request funding for the local government settlement in line with the costs of inflation.	Date: 28 November 2022 Progress: Sent to Councillor Laing, Jane Anstis and Sharon Muldoon for action.
103 – Josh MacAlister's Independent Review of	Sharon Muldoon to circulate the new Recruitment and Retention Strategy once implemented to the Committee. This would also be placed onto the work programme for the Committee's consideration.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Sent to Sharon Muldoon for progress

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tracking Decisions 2022/23

Children's Social Care		The draft recruitment and retention strategy would be completed in early December and would be circulated once final checks had been completed.
104 – Risk Monitoring Report	The Education and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an update following the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus OSC deep dive on the Education and Children's Social Care budgets.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Sent to Helen Rickman (Democratic Support) who will advise timescales.
107 – Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership	John Clements (Independent Scrutineer) to provide the Committee with a work plan for the Partnership over the year.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Sent to John for progress.
107 – Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership	John Clements to explore whether an invitation, or offer had been extended to Faith Groups in the city to be part of the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Sent to John for progress.
107 – Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership	A mechanism to inform Plymouth Councillors to be sought on the work of the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Jake Metcalfe to progress.
107 – Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership	John Clements to come back to the 15 February 2023 Scrutiny Committee to advise members how the plan had been progressing and whether young 'safeguarders' could also come to the meeting to advise the Committee of their role.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Sent to John for progress.
108 – National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and	Sharon Muldoon to circulate the Domestic Abuse paper that would be going to Cabinet in November to the Committee and for the Committee to decide whether this would be required on the work programme.	Date: 14 November 2022 Progress: Sent to Sharon for progress.

Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tracking Decisions 2022/23

Start Hobson, National Panel		
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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	09 December 2022
Title of Report:	ECSC Policy Brief
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Sharon Muldoon (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Sarah Gooding (Policy and Intelligence Advisor)
Contact Email:	Sarah.gooding@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	ECSC PB 09122022
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest national picture in respect of policy announcements and legislation affecting children and young people.

Recommendations and Reasons

For Scrutiny to consider the information provided in regard to their role and future agenda items.

Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Delivery of the Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan needs to take account of emerging policy and the legislative picture.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

N/A

Financial Risks

N/A

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

N/A

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

N/A

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
<p>Approved by: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive</p> <p>Date approved: 30.11.2022</p>											

POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

09 December 2022



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant policy announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators.

Consultations and Calls for Evidence

No current consultations

[Review of post-16 qualifications at level 2 and below](#)

Consultation Response

This consultation sought views on proposals to reform post-16 qualifications at level 1, level 2 and entry level. The report provides a summary of responses received and the government response.

Date of announcement /publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Government Policy / Legislative Announcements:	
20 October 2022	<p><u>£180 million to improve children's development in the early years</u></p> <p>Every region in England will benefit from programmes to improve teaching of children's early speech, language and numeracy, along with professional development to build strong leadership skills and improve the understanding of children's development. New opportunities will also be provided for graduates looking to embark on a career in early years teaching, as well as staff looking to train as early years special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs).</p> <p>Up to £180 million of government funding over the three years will support the sector to focus on children's development in their earliest of years and help to address existing recruitment and retention challenges. It follows commitments by the Government to improve parents' access to affordable, flexible childcare through ambitious reforms, for which work continues.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council welcomes this announcement and awaits further details. Settings in Plymouth are already benefiting from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early maths, language, and social development training for 10,000 professionals through the third phase of the Professional Development Programme (PDP3) • The national rollout of the Expert and Mentors programme to provide bespoke leadership support to 7,500 early years settings and childminders • Graduate-level specialist training leading to early years teacher status - evidence is very clear that higher qualifications are

	<p>consistently identified as a predictor of higher quality and associated with better child outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for early years professionals to achieve the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL) • A new network of 18 Stronger Practice Hubs (through to the final stages, results to be shared by the DfE soon)
09 October 2022	<p><u>Bumper £24 million to boost children's literacy</u></p> <p>Over £24 million is set to be invested in building children's literacy skills as the government continues to support pupils' recovery from the pandemic and work towards the target of 90% of primary children reaching the expected standard in literacy and numeracy.</p>
29 September 2022	<p><u>Exams head back to normality in 2023</u></p> <p>In line with the plans set out last September, Ofqual has confirmed a return to pre-pandemic grading in 2023.</p> <p>To protect students against the disruption of recent years, and in case students' performance is slightly lower than before the pandemic, senior examiners will use the grades achieved by previous cohorts of pupils, along with prior attainment data, to inform their decisions about where to set grade boundaries.</p>
Ofsted Announcements:	
18 November 2022	<p><u>How local authorities plan for sufficiency: children in care and care leavers</u></p> <p>This report considers how local authorities plan for sufficiency of accommodation that meets the needs of children in care and care leavers.</p>
31 October 2022	<p><u>Reading should be explicitly taught even in secondary schools</u></p> <p>Ofsted has published a research report looking at how high-performing secondary schools provide targeted support for struggling readers.</p>
26 October 2022	<p><u>Ofsted's tutoring programme review published</u></p> <p>Ofsted has published the first of two independent reviews of the Government's tutoring programme in schools and further education providers. Ofsted was commissioned by the Department for Education to look at the overall quality of tutoring provided, how it was integrated into schools' curriculum planning and delivery, and the likelihood that it will help pupils catch up.</p>
24 October 2022	<p><u>Review of the quality of T-level courses: interim report</u></p> <p>Ofsted has published an interim report evaluating the quality of the new T-level courses. It finds that providers are working hard to ensure that T-level courses equip learners with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed for future study or employment. However, the first providers to offer these new qualifications have faced some challenges.</p>

For information:	
	<p><u>Government calls for urgent action to protect children with disabilities from abuse</u></p> <p>A national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs has revealed serious failures at three residential special schools registered as children’s homes. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has issued an urgent action to all local authorities to ensure all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living in similar children’s homes are safe and well.</p>

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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	09 December 2022
Title of Report:	Plymouth Education Board
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Sharon Muldoon (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Ming Zhang
Contact Email:	Ming.zhang@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of the functions and work programme of Plymouth Education Board (PEB) as a governance forum for the city's education improvement partnership, which delivers one of the three priorities of the Children's Plan Bright Future – Aspire and Achieve.

Recommendations and Reasons

For information and the Panel are asked to note the board's ToR and work programme

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This decision links to the Plymouth Plan: Policy HEA2 - Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

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*Add rows as required to box below

Fin	DJN. 22.23 .286	Leg	EJ/38 851/1 7.11.2 2 (4) EJ/38 851/1 7.11.2 2 (5)	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Assets	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang											

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 16/11/2022

Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Charlotte Carlyle approved by email

Date approved: 24/11/2022

Introduction:

A Bright Future Children's Plan has set out an ambition for the city's education:

"A city where:

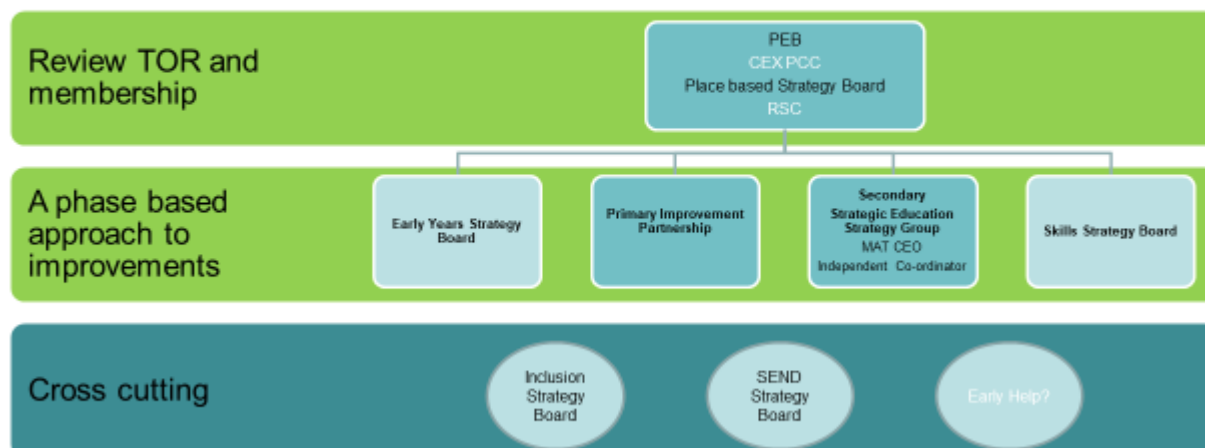
- children have access to high quality early years provision;
- children are ready to start school and fully engage in learning;
- children and young people are able to attend good quality primary and secondary education;
- special educational needs are identified early and supported as needed;
- young people are helped to develop the skills needed for the world of employment."

The purpose of the Plymouth Education Board is to improve educational outcomes in all schools by bringing key parts of the school improvement system together to address issues.

Education Partnership/collaboration Governance: Aspire and Achieve:

Within the framework of the city's children's services plan A Bright Future, Plymouth Education Board (PEB) will provide strategic governance for the key strand of the children's plan Aspire and Achieve, ensuring a clear strategic direction and accountability for the city's education improvement and partnerships.

Proposed Plymouth Education Board and related partnership governance



PEB Work Programme 2022-23:

ITEM	KEY ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Plymouth Education Board Themes and Priorities Overview 2022-23	Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing PEB agenda item to receive updates, progress, barrier and impact to inform the Board's oversight and monitoring of the City's education improvement and its decision on next steps; Skills Plan's implementation and the link with the work of Skills and Employment Board Feedback on the Secondary schools' Place-based Programme and its Education Strategy Board Feedback on Primary/Special schools improvement collaboration via Plymouth Standard Partnership Feedback on Primary/Special schools improvement collaboration via Plymouth Standard Partnership Monitoring of Inclusion and SEND improvement goals and progress 	Every meeting

Date of meeting	Agenda item
6 Jan 2023	<p>Annual Education Outcomes</p> <p>Strategic Education Group - One Plan</p> <p>Primary and Special Schools Partnership Update</p> <p>Early Years Strategy Board Update</p> <p>SEND Improvement Plan</p>
24 March 2023	<p>Skills Strategy Implementation Action Report</p> <p>Strategic Education Group – One Plan Implementation and Progress</p> <p>Primary and Special Schools Partnership Update</p> <p>Early Years Strategy Board Update</p> <p>Inclusion transformation and AP remodelling</p>
7 July 2023	<p>Strategic Education Group – One Plan Implementation and Progress</p> <p>Primary and Special Schools Partnership Update</p> <p>Early Years Strategy Board Update</p> <p>SEND Improvement progress report</p> <p>Inclusion Board Updates</p>

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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	09 December 2022
Title of Report:	Inclusion Briefing: Children Missing Out On Education
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Sharon Muldoon (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Isabelle Morgan
Contact Email:	Isabelle.morgan@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide a briefing in respect of Reduced Timetables, Children Missing Out On Education, Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education

Recommendations and Reasons

None, this briefing is for information only.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This decision links to the Plymouth Plan: Policy HEA2 - Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

None

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 22.23 .286	Leg	EJ/388 51/17. 11.22 (4) EJ/388 51/17. 11.22 (5)	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 16/11/2022											

Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Charlotte Carlyle approved by email

Date approved: 24/11/2022

INCLUSION BRIEFING

OVERVIEW

This briefing paper sets out the current position and areas of focus in respect of inclusion, with a particular focus on reduced timetables (RTT); Children Missing Out On Education (CMOOE); Children Missing Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE).

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local Authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area. Local Authorities are also required to have robust procedures in place to meet all duties in relation to this group of children.

A Child Missing Out On Education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. A child is also at an increased risk of underachieving; being a victim of abuse; being sexually exploited and/or becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET) on reaching school leaving age.

Section 436A of the Education Act 1996 (added by section 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) places a duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education. Arrangements made under section 436A also play an important role in fulfilling the Local Authority's wider safeguarding duties.

The Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) statutory guidance provides advice on multi-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Effective information sharing between parents, schools and local authorities is critical to ensure that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education.

Local authorities should focus their resources effectively in intervening early in the lives of vulnerable children to help prevent poor outcomes. In June 2013, Ofsted implemented new joint inspections for multi-agency arrangements for the protection of children. The inspection framework includes CMOOE; CME; children subject to elective home education; children on reduced timetables and children accessing alternative provision.

CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON EDUCATION

Children Missing Out On Education (CMOOE) is defined as a child or young person of statutory school age who does not or cannot attend full-time school education in the usual way. Many of these children are not on a school roll and are considered to be the direct responsibility of the Local Authority. Others are on a school roll but are not attending full time or are attending alternative provisions.

In May 2022 the DfE published new guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance' which will become statutory from September 2023 at the earliest. The changes to practice and responsibility set out in the guidance will support partners in the city to identify and address the needs those children who are missing out on education.

Key changes outlined in the guidance are:

1. A Local Authority core offer:

- rigorous tracking of city, MAT & school attendance data to devise a strategic approach to attendance;
- a named LA Officer for every school to provide communication and advice;
- termly targeting support meetings with every maintained and academy school in the city;
- facilitation and/or provision multi-disciplinary support to families to remove barriers to attendance;
- legal enforcement action in respect of non-school attendance using the full range of parental responsibility measures/
- monitoring and improvement of attendance for children with a Social Worker.

2. Embedding an integrated approach across Children's Social Care, SEND & Inclusion.

In response to the guidance, Plymouth City Council's Service Manager (Inclusion and Attendance) and Head of Service (Education and the Virtual School), have developed an operational implementation plan which identifies key priorities based on identified need in the city. This plan is integrated with Early Help services and the new localities structure which is currently under design.

In addition, in partnership with schools (through Plymouth's place-based plan); our Sector Led Improvement Partner (Dorset) and our link DfE Attendance Adviser, a local attendance strategy is under development and scheduled for completion at the end of December. The plan is based on a comprehensive analysis of local area strengths and areas of development and progress will be governed through the Inclusion Strategy Board.

City-wide picture

In Term 1 of this academic year (2022/23) there was in excess of 726 (2.02%) children missing out on education in the city. This has increased when compared with the same period in the previous academic year (2021/22) when 1.63% (582) of the student population was CMOOE.

Secondary CMOOE

In Term 1 2022/23, 7 out of 10 of the CMOOE cohort were secondary aged children or young people (73% (530 out of 726)). For the same period last year it was close to 8 out of 10 (78% (451 out of 582)). This means that there has been a slight reduction in the rate of CMOOE at secondary (5%).

Analysis of the secondary school CMOOE cohort shows that children identified at SEN Support are over represented. In term 1 of this academic year 37.5% (199) were recorded at SEND Support. The rate has stayed the same when compared with the same period 2021/22 37.5% (169).

Secondary aged CMOOE children with an EHCP in Term 1 of this academic year accounted for 9.8% (52) of the CMOOE cohort. This has increased by 2% when compared with the same period in the previous academic year 2021/22 when children with an EHCP accounted for 7.8% (35).

In term 1 of this academic year, secondary aged CMOOE who have received a suspension whilst at school accounted for 13% (69) of the cohort. This is a slight increase on the same period the previous academic year (12.2% (55)).

A breakdown of the secondary level data is set out in Table 1.1.*

Table 1.1.

Secondary School CMOOE with:	Term I 2021/22 rates (actual number)	Term I 2022/23 rates (actual number)	Direction of travel in rate (actual number)
SEN Support	37.5% (169)	37.5% (199)	< > (^) (30)
EHCP	7.8% (35)	9.8% (52)	^ (^) (17)
Suspensions	12.2% (55)	13% (69)	^ (^) (14)

**Data source: Inclusion Scorecard. Inclusion Scorecard still in test and development phase. Equivalent primary school level data not yet available.*

Primary CMOOE

In Term I of this academic year (2022/23), almost 3 out of 10 of the CMOOE cohort were primary aged children and young people (27% (196 out of 726)). For the same period in the last academic year it was 2 out of 10 (22% (131 out of 582)). This means that there has been an increase in the rate of primary aged CMOOE (5%).

CMOOE AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

A sample audit of 256 secondary and primary aged CMOOE case files was conducted in August 2022. 69% (176) either had current or historical children's social care involvement.

REDUCED TIMETABLES

In January 2022, following the Education Participation and Skills Service redesign; additional capacity was created in the Inclusion Attendance and Welfare Service to improve the assurance work in respect of children on reduced timetables within the city.

A child subject to a reduced timetable will attend school for less hours than the specified school day. A reduced timetable over a fixed period of time can be a successful strategy to reintegrate a child back into fulltime education, however, where a pupil is subject to a reduced timetable without a plan to return to school fulltime they are missing out on education.

From January 2022 new arrangements for reporting by schools were put in place. Schools now notify the Local Authority of any child who is put on a reduced timetable using a notification form. This information is then recorded on CAPITA and onto a manual database for tracking. If a reduced timetable exceeds 6 weeks a letter is sent to the Headteacher of the school to seek assurance in respect of the arrangements. As a consequence of these new ways of working, increased awareness and follow up; the reporting of reduced timetables has increased from 348 between Jan - Dec 2021 to 599 Jan – Oct 2022.

To date, there is no national comparative dataset and no indication such data will become available to Local Authorities. A change in the local reporting mechanism means that local comparative data will not be available until January 2023.

Data indicates two key areas of focus:

1. Reduced timetables which have extended beyond 8 weeks
2. Reduced timetables for primary aged children

On 1st November 2022, 190 Reduced Timetables were reported to Plymouth City Council by schools. Table 1.2. identifies that reduced timetables are fairly evenly split with primary aged children accounting for 81 (42.6%) and secondary aged children 88 (46.3%) of the cohort.

At primary:

- The highest prevalence of reduced timetables is at KS1, 44 (54.3%).
- 42 (95.4%) of KS1 children on a reduced timetable have SEND.
- 27 (72.9%) of KS2 children on a reduced timetable have SEND.
- 25 (56.8%) of the KS1 cohort have been on a reduced timetable for more than 8 weeks, this rises to (27) 72.97% at KS2.

Secondary aged children on reduced timetables:

- The highest prevalence of reduced timetables is at KS4 47 (53.4%).
- 20 (48.7%) of KS3 children on a reduced timetable have SEND.
- 11 (23.4%) of KS4 children on a reduced timetable have SEND.
- 30 (73.2%) of the KS3 cohort have been on a reduced timetable for more than 8 weeks, this increases to 38 (80.9%) at KS4.

Special School children on reduced timetables:

- The highest prevalence of reduced timetables at special school is seen at KS3 and KS4, 14 (66.6%)
- All of the children on a reduced timetable at special school have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- 19 (100%) of the cohort at KS2, KS3 and KS4 have been on a reduced timetable for more than 8 weeks. Medical needs is the most prevalent reason for a child being on a reduced timetable in a special school.

A breakdown of the Reduced Timetable data is available in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2.

1st November 2022	Number of RTT	RTT with an EHCP	RTT with SEN Support	No SEND recorded	RTT more than 8 weeks
Primary	81 (42.6%)	39 (48.1%)	30 (37.0%)	12 (14.8%)	52 (64.2%)
KS1	44 (54.3%)	25 (56.8%)	17 (38.6%)	2 (4.6%)	25 (56.8%)
KS2	37 (45.7%)	14 (37.8%)	13 (35.1%)	10 (27.0%)	27 (72.97%)
Secondary	88 (46.3%)	18 (20.5%)	13 (14.8%)	57 (64.8%)	68 (77.3%)
KS3	41 (46.6%)	12 (29.2%)	8 (19.5%)	21 (51.2%)	30 (73.2%)
KS4	47 (53.4%)	6 (12.8%)	5 (10.6%)	36 (76.6%)	38 (80.9%)
Special	21 (11.1%)	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	20 (95.2%)

KS1	< 10	<10 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	<10 (50%)
KS2	<10	<10 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	<10 (100%)
KS3	<10	<10 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	<10 (100%)
KS4	< 10	<10 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	<10 (100%)

The top 3 reasons for Reduced Timetables are as follows:

Behaviour

SEND

Medical Needs

CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION

Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity e.g. school, alternative provision or elective home education; and has been out of education provision for a substantial period of time (usually agreed as two months). A child is classed as a Child Missing Education if they are:-

- of compulsory school age; and
- not on a school roll; and
- not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school, for example, at home, privately or in alternative provision.

Across the period 1st April 2022 – 1st October 2022, the numbers of children reported as Children Missing Education (CME) fell when compared with the same period 2021 (table 1.3).

Table 1.3.

01/04/21 - 01/10/21		01/04/21 - 01/10/22	
CME	166	CME	105
Primary	73	Primary	38
Secondary	93	Secondary	67

The top 3 reasons for CME are:

1. Moved Out Of Area (waiting for confirmation of new school place)
2. Resident in Plymouth and waiting to be admitted to a school
3. Failed Elective Home Education

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school full-time. This is different to education provided by a local authority other than at a school, for example for children who are too ill to attend school.

The numbers of statutory school aged children being deregistered from schools to be electively home educated (EHE) continues to increase and remains a priority for the city. The period 1st April – 1st

October 2022 saw an increase in the numbers of children being registered as home educated when compared with the same period 2021. See Table 1.4. below.

Table 1.4.

1 st April 2021 – 1 st October 2021			1 st April 2022 – 1 st October 2022	
Started EHE	110		Started EHE	139
Primary	29		Primary	40
Secondary	81		Secondary	99
Special School	<5		Special School	0
EHCP	11		EHCP	<5
SEN Support	30		SEN Support	45
Known to Children's Social Care	49		Known to Children's Social Care	50

The top 3 reasons for parents electing to home educate in Term 1 of the academic year 2022/23 were:

1. Issues with the school
2. Mental Health
3. Health/medical conditions.

The Inclusion Attendance and Welfare Service has a particular focus on the vulnerable learners in EHE. Vulnerable learners are those who are known to a Social Worker on a child protection plan (CP) or and/or have SEND.

The comparative data in Table 1.4. identifies a 50% (15) increase in the numbers of statutory school aged children with SEN Support being withdrawn to home education. In addition there has been a 26.36% (29) increase overall in the numbers of children being withdrawn to home education.

Whilst the number of children being withdrawn to elective home education continues to rise, the comparative data in table 1.4. shows the rate of children known to Children's Social Care being withdrawn to home education has reduced from 44.55% to 35.7%. This is the result of improvements made across Children's Services as a result of the Rapid Review of Child C which took place in the summer of 2021.

Following the Rapid Review a series of technical papers, local authority protocols and multi-agency working agreements were formally approved by the multi-agency Child Safeguarding Practice Review sub group of the PSCP on 7th July 2022 and rolled out across all agencies.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The numbers of vulnerable children with SEND Support needs who are being withdrawn to home education continues to rise.

In the 2021/22 academic year, 94 children with SEN Support were deregistered from school to be home educated. This represented an increase of 15 (18.98%) when compared to the previous year. Of

the cohort five (4.7%) were known to Children's Social Care, this is an improvement on the previous year when it was six (7.59%).

18 (19.15%) were primary school aged, this is an improvement on the previous year when there were 30 (23.7%). 76 (80.85%) of the children were secondary school aged, this demonstrates an increase on the previous year which was 49 (76.3%).

In 2021/22, 20 children with an Education Health and Care Plan were deregistered from school to be home educated. This is an increase of 2 (10%) on the previous year. At the time no children within the cohort were known to Children's Social Care.

< 5 of the children were primary school aged which was a reduction from the previous year when there were 9.

16 (80%) of the cohort were secondary school aged.

The top 3 reasons for children being withdrawn to elective home education in 2021/22 were:

Issues with school

Mental Health

Waiting for a place at preferred school

If the Local Authority is not satisfied that the parents are providing a suitable education to a child of compulsory school age and it is appropriate for the child to attend school, a School Attendance Order can be issued under section 437(3) Education Act 1996. The Order places a requirement on the parent to register their child at a school. Failure to comply with a School Attendance Order amounts to an offence which the parent can be prosecuted for.

The number of School Attendance Orders being issued has increased and is set to continue to rise. Across the whole of academic year 2021/22, 25 Orders were issued. In September 2022 alone, seven Orders were issued. All of the Orders were in respect of secondary aged children. <5 of whom are registered as SEN Support and <10 are known to Children Social Care.

NEXT STEPS

At an individual pupil level, all schools in the city will meet with their allocated Education Welfare Officer (EWO) once a term. There is a direct correlation between the CMOOE and Elective Home Education. A focus of the meeting will be to rigorously track attendance data in respect of CMOOE and the reduced timetable cohort, supporting schools to devise a strategic approach to improving attendance. A further purpose of the meeting is to improve assurance activity by using data and follow up in respect of Children Missing Out On Education. The new arrangements for reporting by schools and follow up by the LAWS staff will be implemented from November 2022.

The number of children being deregistered to home education who receive SEN Support has increased. Work to interrogate the reasons for this increase has been included in the SEND Improvement Plan.

To effectively respond to increasing numbers of CMOOE and EHE children, an integrated approach across Children's Social Care, SEND and Inclusion is in the process of being implemented. The Head of Service for the Virtual School and Inclusion, Head of Service for SEND and Service Director Children

Young People and Families are combining efforts to create synergy in the way we work together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Information sharing through the 'live' pupil tracking data will be pivotal to removing barriers to attendance for this cohort of children and young people. This will be achieved through the proposal to create a new integrated Children's Services Panel which will monitor the provision of education and agency involvement for Plymouth's most vulnerable statutory school age pupils who are Children Missing Education or Children Missing Out On Education. The purpose of the panel will be to minimise the amount of education missed by this cohort of Children and young people through earlier identification, multi-agency oversight and engagement with schools.

Using a "Criteria of Concern" to identify the children, the panel will monitor and track more closely:-

- Any pupil who has appeared on the Pupils Missing Education Register for two consecutive terms (12 weeks).
- Any pupil known to Children's Social Care who has had 3 or more suspensions in a 6 month period.
- Any pupil with SEN Support who has had 3 or more suspensions in a 6 month period.
- Any pupil with an EHCP who has had 3 or more suspensions in a 6 month period.
- Any pupil known to Children's Social Care on a reduced timetable.
- Any pupil on a reduced timetable of less than 15 hours per week.
- Any pupil on a reduced timetable for more than 8 weeks.
- Any primary aged pupil on a reduced timetable.
- Any special school pupil on a reduced timetable.
- Any pupil registered as EHE who is not receiving a suitable education.
- Any pupil registered as home educated where there is a legitimate safeguarding concern but does not meet the threshold for statutory involvement from Children's Social Care.
- Any pupil with attendance below 50% for 6 weeks or more.
- Children returning from custody without a school place.
- Any child without a school place for more than 4 weeks.

At a city and multi-academy trust level, school leaders, the local authority and partners will be able analyse trends and patterns in data for vulnerable children through the inclusion scorecard. Key areas for development are captured in Plymouth's place-based action plan which will be implemented in November 2022 and governed through the Plymouth Education Board.

In addition, an EHE Protocol has been developed in Partnership with schools. The Protocol aims to secure consistency in respect of how schools will work with families to try to keep children engaged at school. The Protocol will be presented to the Strategic Education Group with a recommendation for approval.

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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	09 December 2022
Title of Report:	Plymouth Education Improvement
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Sharon Muldoon (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Ming Zhang
Contact Email:	Ming.zhang@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of the status of the city's education improvement partnership and the priority actions of the place-based programme.

Recommendations and Reasons

For information and the Panel are asked to note the priorities of the education improvement strategy delivered through a place-based partnership approach and the progress so far.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This decision links to the Plymouth Plan: Policy HEA2 - Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 22.23 .286	Leg	EJ/388 51/17. 11.22 (4) EJ/388 51/17. 11.22 (5)	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Assets	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 16/11/2022											

Cabinet Member approval: *Cllr Charlotte Carlyle approved by email*

Date approved: 24/11/2022

Plymouth Education Improvement: A Place Based Model

How we started

Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic, Plymouth had experienced, for a number of years, the lowest KS4 standards in the south west region with primary school outcomes also below the national average.

This challenging situation resulted in key partners including the local authority (LA), the Department for Education (DfE) and school leaders coalescing to develop a place-based approach to raising educational outcomes in the city starting at the secondary phase. Discussions between multi-academy trust (MAT) leaders, the LA and the Teaching School Council (TSC) led to the agreement in early 2021 that there is:

- a) a strong moral purpose that coalesces the sector to engineer a high performing system that meets the needs of *all* pupils;
- b) a fertile landscape through the presence of strong trusts on which to further build collaboration and secure a place-based approach;
- c) strategies in place to tackle key historical barriers to system improvement and bring coherence (e.g. student mobility); and
- d) a growing sense that acting as a whole gives greater opportunity to attract investment.

Where we are going?

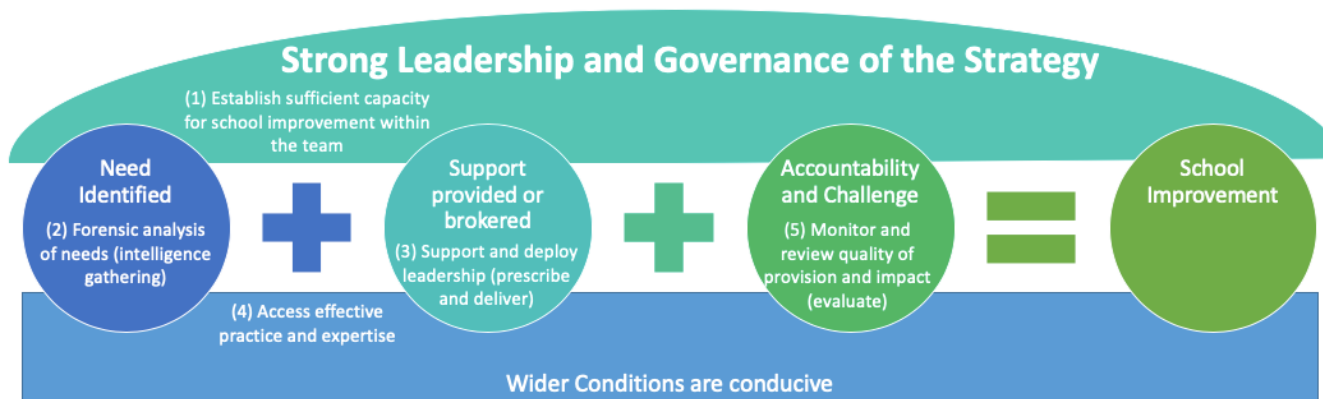
A 'place-based' approach continues to form the core of the city's strategy for education improvement. Phase two of the 'place based' strategy is now underway and builds on the work that began in 2018. The second phase will focus on ensuring that school improvement programmes are sustainable in each school within a school/MAT led system. This means that school improvement programmes are delivered by the best school and subject leaders in order to ensure that as many children as possible benefit from their skills and expertise through the sharing of practice that is outstanding. The second phase of work will also continue to embed a culture of accountability and collaboration between partners for the benefit of all Plymouth pupils.

To deliver this, the city council's education services, MAT CEOs, DfE and TSC have developed have a shared plan for phase 2 to achieve rapid and sustainable improvement.

Why this plan?

- Our education improvement plan builds on the strategic direction set out in “**A Bright Future, 2021-2026**” – **Partnership Working**” (page 9) and “**Partnership for Success and Collaborating with Intent - The development of a place-based improvement and inclusion partnership for Plymouth**” and “**Developing a Place-Based School Improvement Partnership**” (pages 5-8).
- Schools leaders will receive support to navigate the “middle tier” of school improvement providers. “One Plan for Plymouth” will provide coherence and will bring wider regional and national excellence to bear on school improvement priorities.
- “One Plan for Plymouth” will provide a clear strategic direction for all to coalesce around so there is a shared ambition that we can, and must, do better for our children and young people, regardless of where they live or what school they go to.

- “One Plan for Plymouth” does not duplicate a school or MAT’s own improvement planning. It aims to identify and set out the agreed place-based focus and priorities, which individual MAT and school plans will align with.
- Through partnership working, outcomes are more likely to be improved across the City. This requires collective responsibility for schooling and working at scale to make a difference. Combining experience, sharing the best of what we do and identifying additionally what we need will lever faster rates of improvement.
- LA funding and capacity to improve schools is shifting to MATs, school-led improvement capacity is growing.
- Through working together, investment can be generated, bringing system capacity to bear through economies of scale to make our joint work more efficient and effective.



Our governance works to the following principles:



Operationalising the Plymouth Education Improvement Plan

Plymouth Priorities for Education Improvement

Overarching Education KPIs to be agreed by Plymouth Education Board (PEB) and to be presented at PEB.

Priority 1: System and Infrastructure

Create a cohesive strategy for improvement within the school-led self-improving system.

Goal 1: Co-ordinate all aspects of Plan implementation

Goal 2 : Facilitate MAT CEO Network development ensuring school improvement work across Multi Academy Trusts.

Goal 3: Conduct a system capacity review in order to identify and align capacity to Plymouth school improvement needs.

Goal 4: Harness local, regional and national expertise for the benefit of Plymouth school improvement.

Goal 5: Improve communication across the system (Portal communications, newsletters and bulletins).

Priority 2: Leadership

Goal 1: Appoint and develop high quality MAT Central Team School Improvement Leaders to build capacity in the city based for deployment within MATs and across MATs/LAMS/SATS.

Goal 2: Baseline the quality of Leadership in each Plymouth school through a programme of school improvement visits, starting at Secondary Schools.

Goal 3: Develop a high quality “menu” of leadership support for school leaders to access in order to improve. For example: Secondments (Appendix 1), Placements, Training, Coaching, Peer Review.

Goal 4: Develop a “Plymouth Young Leaders Programme as a talent management strategy and pipeline for future leaders.

Goal 5: In collaboration with the Teaching School Hub (SWIFT) ensure there is full knowledge of the new NPQ suite and active enrolment from Plymouth Schools.

Priority 3: Curriculum

“Develop curriculum excellence across all Plymouth schools ensuring local, regional and national student progress to destinations of choice, locally, regionally and nationally”.

Goal 1: To provide immediate support for those schools in their Ofsted inspection window.

Goal 2: To deliver training across the city focussing on Leadership of the Curriculum: What is curriculum excellence, what does it look like and why?

Goal 3: Alongside other MATS in Plymouth explore models to extend the school day, in order to provide a wider curriculum entitlement to all learners.

2a English and Literacy

Goal 4: To provide support for schools in the city to become GCSE English ready for the Summer 2022 exams.

Goal 5: In collaboration with other Plymouth MATS to agree and resource a strategy that delivers longer-term sustainable improvement in English progress and attainment outcomes, ensuring every child in Plymouth is taught by an English specialist teacher.

Goal 6: To provide ongoing and continued implementation support for EEF/PCC Literacy Programme for all engaged schools.

2b Maths and Numeracy

Goal 7: To provide support for schools in the city to become GCSE Maths ready for the Summer 2022 exams.

Goal 8: In collaboration with other Plymouth MATS to agree and resource a strategy that delivers longer-term sustainable improvement in Maths progress and attainment outcomes, ensuring every child in Plymouth is taught by an Maths specialist teacher.

Goal 9: To showcase SPARX Maths as a transition tool (evidence based) to secure numeracy skills across the city at transition.

Priority 4: Teaching and Learning

“Secure high-quality leadership of teaching and learning that will provide the capacity for outcome improvement.”

Goal 1: Audit the leadership of Teaching and Learning in each school, in order identify improvement support and to be confident in the capacity to improve.

Goal 2: In the immediate terms (Autumn 21/Spring 22) maximise support for Year 11 exam outcomes, through the deployment of high-quality evidence-based strategies to boost progress and attainment: “Teach to remember.”

Goal 3: Develop bespoke support for each school to improve the quality of teaching and learning. For example: Short-term placements outstanding schools, focussed school visits programme. NPQ enrolment.

Goal 4: Aggregate audit outcomes to develop and deliver a placed based city-wide offer to improve teaching and learning.

Goal 5: Better subject knowledge through building on the established Plymouth professional learning communities. MAT central team members to facilitate half-termly subject leader meetings in English, Maths, Science and Guided Reading.

Goal 6: To secure and outstanding ECF offer for teachers in the city, though working with Teach First (National Provider), the South-West Institute for Teaching (SWIFT – Regional Provider) and the Plymouth Teaching School Alliance (PTSA – Local Provider)

Goal 7: In conjunction with the Research School (Kingsbridge) and Teaching School Hub (SWIFT) deliver a three-day training leadership programme. “Training and Retaining great Teachers” developing capacity to support the new ITT curriculum and ECF Framework.

Priority 5: Inclusion/SEND Priority

“Secure outstanding SEND/Inclusion practice in all Plymouth schools ensuring that no child with additional needs is left behind and flourish in the future.”

Goal 1a: Research further earlier intervention with pupils likely to experience reduced educational inclusion.

Goal 1b: Build on the work of the Plymouth SEND desktop audit to add further analysis of exclusions, attendance, outcomes for children at City and whole School Level (Whole School SEND offer and LA Inclusion Score Card.)

Goal 2: Analyse the impact of transition points on vulnerable learners and align systems and approaches to a Trauma Informed Approach (Gavin Gracie/Transforming Futures)

Goal 3: Audit the Trauma Informed skill sets within schools to identify further personal development plans. Further develop Trauma Informed training for all pupil facing staff.

Goal 4: Develop bespoke support for each school aligning the expertise of the LA, Transforming Futures and Whole School SEND to develop a strategic trauma informed approach to SEND (Priority Leads plus Area Co-ordinator)

Goal 5: Every Leader a Leader of SEND and Every Governor a Governor of SEND programme to ensure secure leadership and management of SEND identification, provision and outcomes. (Whole School SEND offer)

Goal 6: Ensure the successful implementation and staffing of the Plymouth Inclusion Support Centres to deliver high quality provision for vulnerable pupils and re-engage pupils in their learning.

Outcomes so far

There are some impressive success in both Primary and Secondary schools’ attainment results in 2022 further to the green shoots of progress in 2021. Further details can be found in the separate report tabled today on school attainment results.

Next steps

While the place-based education improvement work has its initial focus on Secondary Schools in the past two years, we are working on a genuine 'One Plan' to achieve sustainable improvement across all phases, from Early Years to Post-16.

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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	09 December 2022
Title of Report:	School Attainment
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Sharon Muldoon (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Ming Zhang
Contact Email:	Ming.zhang@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of the school attainment outcomes that have been provisionally published or shown in the regional data collection. The full national final data releases will not be available until at least late October.

Recommendations and Reasons

For information.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This decision links to the Plymouth Plan: Policy HEA2 - Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

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A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

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Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 22.23 .286	Leg	EJ/388 51/17. 11.22 (4) EJ/388 51/17. 11.22 (5)	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Assets	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 16/11/2022											

Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Charlotte Carlyle approved by email

Date approved: 24/11/2022

Plymouth Schools Outcome – Provisional

2022 Provisional Exam Results show a continued improvement

There are some impressive success in both Primary and Secondary schools' attainment results in 2022 further to the green shoots of progress in 2021.

Primary schools - The Government's provision release updated on 9th September indicated that this year, 59% of Primary school pupils have met the expected standards (EXS) at the end of Key Stage 2.

It means for the first time, Plymouth's outcome is better than the Southwest Region's average (57%) and the national average (58%).

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (combined) for 'Key stage 2 attainment by region and local authority' in England, Plymouth and South West between 2016/17 and 2021/22 (No normal exams in 2019-21 due to Covid-19 pandemic)							
		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
South West	Plymouth	60%	63%	64%	no exam	no exam	59%
	South West	60%	63%	64%	no exam	no exam	57%
England		62%	65%	65%	no exam	no exam	58%

This progress has been achieved further to last year's green shoots of the city's Secondary Key Stage 4 outcomes which were for the first time better than the national average, based on like for like national comparison.

Secondary schools - Last year (2021), we have for the first time achieved better than the national average KS4 attainment 8* and basis English and Maths pass rates. (No national progress 8 data for 2021).

Consolidating that progress, the initial data of 2022 exam results indicates that Plymouth Secondary schools continue to make steady progress with an improvement in both Attainment 8 and Progress 8**, although the initial data should be treated with care due to the transitional exam arrangement and the technical methodology for estimating progress 8 based on 2019 formula.

This year's (2022) outcomes of Attainment 8 and Progress 8 were historically best in Plymouth since the accountability measures were introduced in 2014. (There is not yet national figures to compare with until late October.)

Plymouth City Secondary School KS4 Outcomes (unverified)	2022 Progress 8 (using 2019 estimates)	2019 Progress 8	2022 Attainment 8	2019 Attainment 8
Avg.	-0.10	-0.29	47.40	44.10

The momentum of improvement is clearly established in Plymouth. It gives much cause for optimism for our vision of a decent education in Plymouth education although there is still a long way to go both nationally and locally to realise the country's vision of a Global Britain and our local economic opportunities as a Freeport in a highly competitive 21 century.

* **Attainment 8** measures the achievement of a pupil across 8 qualifications including mathematics (double weighted) and English (double weighted), 3 further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure and 3 further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list. Each individual grade a pupil achieves is assigned a point score, which is then used to calculate a pupil's Attainment 8 score (see second step below).

** **Progress 8** is a measure published annually showing the average academic performance of a secondary school. It is calculated by adding together pupils' highest scores across eight government approved school subjects. While these numbers are not made publicly available on a pupil-by-pupil basis, scores taken from across a school year group are averaged to produce a school's overall score.

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	09 December 2022
Title of Report:	Risk Management Monitoring Report
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Ross Jago, Head of Governance Performance and Risk
Contact Email:	Ross.jago@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	RS/RMNov22
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The attached report provides an update on both the Strategic register for the organisation.

Strategic Risk Register

During this review of the strategic risk register there have been three risks removed and one new risk added, bringing the total strategic risks managed to 20. The new risk relates to the viability of commercial bus operators with patronage not yet back to pre-Covid levels and the ending of Government Bus Recovery Grant in October.

This amber risk has been scored as 'almost certain' to happen and a 'moderate risk' to the operation of the council.

The three risks removed from the strategic register were:

- The Council is unable to fulfil its legal obligations regarding the safety of its citizens and service recipients.
- Staff resilience to causative factors of stress variable resulting in the primary reason for short and long term absences being due to stress / psychological factors; reduced morale, loss of productivity with impact on delivery. (Moved to operational risk)
- Departure from EU single market with The Trade and Cooperation Agreement could further decreases city economic output.

The appended report identifies risks pertinent to the committee.

Recommendations and Reasons

The Committee is recommended to note the current position with regard to the Strategic Risk Register.

Reason: As part of the Committee's responsibility for seeking assurance that key risks of the authority are mitigated against.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Effective risk management processes are an essential element of internal control and as such are an important element of good corporate governance. For this reason alternative options are not applicable.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Strategic Risk and Opportunity Register includes links to the Corporate Plan priorities – monitoring of control action for strategic risks therefore contributes to the delivery of the council's core objectives.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None arising specifically from this report but control measures identified in Directorate Operational Risk and Opportunity Registers could have financial or resource implications.

Financial Risks

None arising specifically from this report but control measures identified in Directorate Operational Risk and Opportunity Registers could have financial or resource implications.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Failure to deliver against actions in the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan are included on risk registers.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The risk registers specifically supports the council's overall governance arrangements.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Risk Monitoring Report							
B	Strategic Risk Register (Pertinent to committee)							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
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Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 22.23. 293	Leg	EJ/38 851/2 2.1.22 (1)	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 21/10/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy)											
Date approved: 22/11/2022											

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APPENDIX A - RISK MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT

December 2022



Introduction

This report provides the position with regard to the strategic and operational risk registers.

The next formal review of the strategic risk and opportunity register will take place in December 2022, the operational risk register will also be reviewed at this time. Risk registers are however a live document and will be regularly discussed at Directorate Management Teams.

Strategic Risk Register

During this review of the strategic risk register there have been three risks removed and one new risk added, bringing the total strategic risks managed to 20. The new risk relates to the viability of commercial bus operators with patronage not yet back to pre-Covid levels and the ending of Government Bus Recovery Grant in October (number 15 in table two). This amber risk has been scored as 'almost certain' to happen and a 'moderate risk' to the operation of the council.

The three risks removed from the strategic register were:

- The Council is unable to fulfil its legal obligations regarding the safety of its citizens and service recipients.
- Staff resilience to causative factors of stress variable resulting in the primary reason for short and long term absences being due to stress / psychological factors; reduced morale, loss of productivity with impact on delivery. (Moved to operational risk)
- Departure from EU single market with The Trade and Cooperation Agreement could further decreases city economic output.

In total there are five red risks. One is pertinent to the committee -

Risk number two in table one relates to possible failure to meet statutory duties due to growing volume and complexity of demand for children's social care services.

Strategic Risk update table one

Table one provides an update on strategic risks with mitigation that is fully influenced by Plymouth City Council.

Table one – Strategic Risks fully mitigated by Plymouth City Council

Risk Register No.	Description	Mitigation	Risk Score	Previous risk rating	Current risk rating	Risk Owner
2	<p>Failure to meet statutory duties due to growing volume and complexity of demand for children's social care services</p> <p>Pressures are building around the rate of inflation and cost of living incurred costs which Local Authority Foster Carers and Independent Providers are experiencing; this will have an additional impact on our sufficiency. We are likely to continue to feel the effects of further increases in the 2022/23 financial year, as we renew our annual contracts in April 2023. Predictions are that the 2023/24 financial year will also see increased impacts, therefore a 3% inflation is being built in on all fees for 2023/24.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional social work capacity agreed to support effectively delivery of casework. Recruitment is ongoing to some of these posts on a permanent basis. - Fostering Project Delivery Plan in place to increase foster carer resource to reduce costs. - High cost placement review takes place on a frequent basis each month to ensure all costs closely monitored and reduced. - Ongoing rigour in decision making to manage demand via Placement Panel which takes place weekly and overseen by a dedicated service manager with responsibility for reducing costs of individual placements and ensuring timely step down. - Ensuring action plan milestones are reached via monthly monitoring at Programme Board/Finance DMT. - Service redesign is occurring to ensure an operating model that supports much earlier intervention and prevention of children coming into care wherever possible. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early help needs to be stronger - Our response needs to be more collaborative and supportive - Relationship based - Focus on reunification and other family based solutions i.e. guardianship / kinship care 	20	Red	Red Red since July 2020	Sharon Muldoon

Risk Register No.	Description	Mitigation	Risk Score	Previous risk rating	Current risk rating	Risk Owner
18	Risk to vulnerable children and young people in the care system, by not delivering early intervention and prevention.	Continue to drive forward change across the partnership in relation to whole family working, engagement with the Early Help Assessment Tool process, data exchange and achieving the outcomes required within the Troubled Families Outcomes Plan.	6	Green ■	Green ■	Sharon Muldoon

Strategic Risk update table two

Table two provides an update on strategic risks with mitigation that is influenced by Plymouth City Council but is also dependent on other outside factors.

No.	Description	Mitigation	Risk Score	Previous risk rating	Current risk rating	Risk Owner
5	Lack of adult social care workforce and growing fragility of Adult Social Care Market leading to inability of Authority to meet statutory duties and meet eligible need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of Community Capacity Command Centre to provide greater oversight of market and capacity - Local Authority has set up a Care Company to ensure continuity of provision in the event of market failure - Care Home liaison work being undertaken by Livewell Southwest, to increase levels of support to Residential and Nursing care market - Risk to be continued to be monitored through contract monitoring and market intelligence - Supporting market wide workforce recruitment / retention across residential and domiciliary sector - Remodelled bed bureau launched to support Care Homes to manage complex discharge cases - Incentive payments to workforce - Managing risk through winter strategy for the domiciliary care market. 	20	Red ■	Red ■ Red since Oct 2021	Anna Coles

No.	Description	Mitigation	Risk Score	Previous risk rating	Current risk rating	Risk Owner
13	<p>Insufficient pupil attainment to achieve economic / quality of life outcomes across the secondary cohort</p> <p>Plymouth's Secondary cohort has experienced many years of poor attainment outcomes. This affects future economic and quality of life outcomes. Despite the 'provisional' indication of improvement in educational outcomes this year (2021/22), improved outcomes needs to be embedded, consistent and sustainable over forthcoming years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plymouth Education Board (PEB) (and sub groups) has been reviewed with the new Board started, strengthening education partnership. - School 'Causing Concern' procedure has been reviewed and strengthened. These have led to a partnership of distinct interventions to drive improvement and raise achievement. - Cause for concern meetings, Early Years Board, Primary and Special School Partnership, Inclusion Strategy Board have added strength to the work governed by PEB. - Proposed Inclusion Mark for the City to celebrate inclusion. - The Plymouth Standards Partnership Recovery & Improvement Plan: A key priority is work to support disadvantaged pupils. - The work of the Plymouth Commission has been extended to focus on attainment for secondary aged pupils and school improvement. Schools have been offered a catch up premium of £80 per pupils for most schools, to assist with programmes of learning to support pupils who require additional support following Covid. Schools have been sent a survey to confirm how this has been spent and the effectiveness of any programmes introduced. - Summer 2021 GCSE, AS and A level were teacher assessed with the reintroduction of exams in 2022. Initial provisional indications are that 2022 examination outcomes are positive and show an improving Plymouth picture against national benchmarks. 	15	Amber ■	Amber ■	Sharon Muldoon

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT Work Programme 2022-2023



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice. The information in this work programme is intended to be of strategic relevance.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this Committee's work programme, please contact Jake Metcalfe, Democratic Advisor on 01752 304963.

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
15 June 2022	Finance Outturn			
	Children's and Education Scorecard			
	Overview of Services			
	Update on Kickstart			
	Youth Service Update			

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
14 September 2022	<p>Policy Brief</p> <p>Josh MacAlister's Independent Review of Children's Social Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficiency and commissioning placements • Recruitment and retention of SW • Care Journey and care Leavers <p>Strategic Risk Register – Children's</p> <p>Finance Monitoring</p> <p>Performance Scorecard</p> <p>Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership</p> <p>National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson</p>			Sharon Muldoon & Jean Kelly

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
09 December 2022	<p>Plymouth Education Board and Work programme</p> <p>Inclusion Briefing</p> <p>Education Improvements</p> <p>School Attainment</p> <p>Regional Schools Commissioner (Verbal update)</p> <p>Performance Scorecard (Paul Stephens & Jane Anstis)</p> <p>Financial Monitoring (David Northey)</p> <p>Risk Report (Ross Jago)</p>			Sharon and Jim Barnicott /Amanda Paddison/Lucinda Ross/I Morgan
15 February 2023	<p>Kickstart – Final Review</p> <p>Out of hours reshaping & MASH update</p> <p>Afghan Resettlement Programme (widen to all refugees) accessing education</p> <p>Social Worker Recruitment and retention</p> <p>Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Update</p> <p>Children and Young Peoples emotional wellbeing & Mental Health</p> <p>Changes to pupil premium</p>			
Items to be scheduled				
Review report – Adopt South West				

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
Finance Monitoring				
Children’s Mental Health Select Committee update				
Update on Baroness Baron’s letter				
Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Update				
To be scheduled				
Joint Select Committee Reviews				