



**Oversight and Governance**

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Published 23 February 2021

## **Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Wednesday 3 March 2021

1.30 pm

Virtual meeting

**Members:**

Councillor Mrs Beer, Chair

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Corvid, Goslin, James, Loveridge, McDonald and Morris.

Members are invited to attend the above virtual meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

This meeting will be webcast and available on-line after the meeting. By joining the virtual meeting, Councillors are consenting to being filmed during the meeting and to the use of the recording for the webcast.

The Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with authority's published policy.

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**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 - 6)**

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 January 2021.

**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. Policy Brief**

**(Pages 7 - 14)**

**6. Covid Update - verbal update**

**7. NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)**

**(Pages 15 - 22)**

**8. Child Exploitation (To Follow)**

**9. Corporate Plan Performance Report**

**(Pages 23 - 40)**

**10. Work Programme**

**(Pages 41 - 44)**

**11. Tracking Decisions**

**(Pages 45 - 46)**

## Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday 6 January 2021**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs Beer, in the Chair.

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Corvid, Goslin, James, Loveridge, McDonald and Morris.

Also in attendance: Caroline Marr (Senior Policy Advisor), Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation), Ming Zhang (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills), Tina Brinkworth (STEM Consultant), Councillor Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager), Siobhan Wallace (Head of Service for Children, Young People and Families) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 1.30 pm and finished at 3.40 pm.

*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.*

### 19. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made in accordance with the code of conduct.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Allen	All items	A family member is a resident at Greenfields Recovery Centre.	Personal

### 20. **Minutes**

Members agreed the minutes of 2 December 2020 as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 21. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

### 22. **Policy Brief**

Caroline Marr (Senior Policy Advisor) presented the Policy Update to Members and highlighted that since the publication of the agenda further announcements had been

made by Government regarding guidance on the status of vulnerable and critical children, specifically with regards to education during the pandemic.

It was queried by a Member if IT equipment was being distributed in a timely manner to children and young people that needed it. It was responded that Officers were working closely with schools to review the position with technology access, however the Government had updated the Covid 19 guidance so that a child without access to IT equipment would be classed as vulnerable and therefore would be eligible to attend school during lockdown.

Members noted the update.

23. **Skills for Plymouth**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation), Ming Zhang (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills) and Tina Brinkworth (STEM Consultant) presented the Skills for Plymouth update.

Key points highlighted to Members included:

- post Covid-19, Plymouth was potentially facing high numbers of unemployment along with over 4,000 potential school leavers and 10,000 further and higher education leavers trying to enter the jobs market; the vision for Skills 4 Plymouth was to close the skills gap by creating a skilled supply of people to match demand;
- officers were working direct with employers in growth sectors and growth businesses to identify their skills demands required today and in the future and refocus the skills delivery that was required; this was transformational programme which focused upon sector demand led intelligence with the help of training providers to match provision and encourage young people to get through education and into real jobs in the city.

Key areas of questioning from Members included the following:

- how many young people were currently engaged in the Kickstart Programme and would lockdown and the focus upon remote home working hinder work placements and cause delays?
- how sector based work academies operated and the length of the Kickstart Programme.

It was agreed that Skills 4 Plymouth would remain on the panel's work programme and a report detailing the progress of the Kickstart Programme and work academies would be provided to Members at a meeting in 6 months' time.

**24. Youth Provision Across the City**

Councillor Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager) and Siobhan Wallace (Head of Service for Children, Young People and Families) presented the Youth Provision across the City update to Members. It was highlighted that the aim of youth work was to support young people to achieve positive outcomes and to improve life chances with a particular focus on participation and advocacy; there was a wide and diverse youth work offer across Plymouth, including the work of community groups and partnership arrangements.

Members were shown a presentation, narrated by a young carer, regarding the how the Community Youth Work Team adapted to the restriction of Covid 19 and the impact that this had on young people.

Key areas of questioning from Members related to the following:

- if there were considered to be enough youth workers throughout the city and if they had the appropriate skills and training to allow them to support young people, specifically with regards to emotional and mental health issues?
- if the youth support team provided support for young people and families to travel across the city to, specifically due to families being on reduced income due to the pandemic and furlough?
- the impact that lockdown was having on young peoples' mental health;
- if funding of youth workers was provided by PCC?
- were there any skills or work-streams that couldn't be provided currently by the youth support team, and what need was most increased by lockdown?
- what support mechanisms were in place to support staff that had to deal with the many forms of exploitation of young people?
- were youth workers going to be prioritised for the covid 19 vaccine given their work was so vital in stopping mental health issues escalating?
- What support was provided to young people who didn't have access to the internet? It was considered that young people not considered vulnerable may not receive the support required.

The Chair thanked officers for their update and wished to pass on congratulations from herself and the Panel to the young carer who narrated the presentation.

It was agreed that –

- I. Child exploitation would be scrutinised at the March 2021 scrutiny

meeting;

2. an evaluation update on the young women's project would be included on the panel's work programme;
3. the Youth Justice Plan would be added to the panel's work programme for late spring;
4. an update on laptop provision and connectivity issues faced by young people in the city would be included in the Covid Update (standing item) at the next meeting.

25. **Youth Service Presentation**

This item was presented and discussed in minute 24 above.

26. **Finance Update**

David Northey (Head of Integrated Finance), Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services) and Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) presented the Finance Update to Members. It was highlighted that the financial position included in the report was up to the end of September 2020 and that the children's department was showing an overspend of £4.9m however this was before grants were applied as £3.8m was linked to the impact of Covid 19. Members were advised that additional children were coming into the care of the local authority, specifically adolescents who were more costly as they were less likely to go into foster care and instead go to more costly placements. Officers were working hard to increase in house provision whilst also supporting children to go back home to their families when safe to do so; placement costs were monitored on a regular basis however the needs of the child were a priority.

Members questioned if it was likely that the children's department would have a balanced budget, what grants had been received by the Council and how much they totalled, and if further information could be provided in order for Members to adequately scrutinise financial pressures in this department.

Officers were cautiously confident that a balanced budget would be achieved and agreed that greater detail would be provided at future financial updates.

Members noted the update.

27. **Covid Update - Verbal Update**

Councillor Laing (Cabinet for Children and Young People) and Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) presented the Covid update to Members.

The following key points were highlighted to Members:

- that there were currently 490 children in care, which was 58 more children

and young people in the care of the local authority than at the beginning of lockdown however this was following the trend plotted by Officers;

- individual risk assessments of every child were being undertaken in order to RAG rate priorities; virtual methods were being used for children who could not be seen face to face;
- in total 6 members of staff in the children's department had tested positive for Covid 19; Midland House was kept open throughout the pandemic as a children and young people hub and was a base for members of staff to work from;
- the only service that slightly shifted direct contact was those subject to care proceedings and their parents; the contact centre was fully risk assessed however virtual contact was also adopted;
- officers were waiting for information regarding vaccinations and clinically vulnerable members of staff had been identified; staff wellbeing and morale was of great importance.

It was requested by a Member that performance monitoring reports detailing priorities and trends was provided as part of the Covid update in the future to allow greater scrutiny.

It was agreed that Members would be provided with a briefing indicating key areas of performance in the children's department, specifically areas doing well and those which were a challenge

The Chair echoed Councillor Laing's thanks to foster carers, guardians and connected carers who were continuing to look after the city's children, as well as thanking teachers and acknowledging the work of officers within the entire department who continued to provide a high quality service throughout the pandemic.

28. **Work Programme**

The panel noted the work programme.

29. **Tracking Decisions**

Members noted the tracking decisions document.

Under this item it was agreed that an update on the PAUSE project would be added to the panel's work programme for March 2021.

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# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	03 March 2021
Title of Report:	<b>ECSC Policy Brief</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Caroline Marr (Senior Policy Advisor)
Contact Email:	Caroline.Marr@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	ECSC PB 03032021
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

## **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

**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	ECSC Policy Brief – 03 March 2021							

**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:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services).											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 18 February 2021											
Cabinet Member approval: Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)											
Date approved: 16 February 2021											

## POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

03 March 2021



***The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators since the last ECSC Scrutiny committee on 06 January 2021.***

### Consultations and Calls for Evidence

#### High needs national funding formula: proposed changes

##### **Closes: 24.03.21**

The Department for Education has announced further funding of £42m to improve services and provide support to disadvantaged families and children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

On Wednesday 10 February, the Government announced it will re-award current contracts and grants which enable schools, colleges, families and local authorities, to support thousands of children with SEND. This includes extending an advice helpline and increased funding for local parent carer forums, support to improve how councils provide local services and improved training for education staff in working with children and young people with specific needs such as autism.

The Department has launched a [consultation](#) with proposed changes to the funding formula that will calculate allocations of high needs funding in 2022-23, to ensure funding is directed where it is needed most.

#### Launch of the Get Help Buying for Schools service

##### **Closes: 11.03.21**

The DfE is seeking views, comments and concerns on their Get Help Buying for Schools service delivery model for schools to buy goods and services. Responses will be used to help shape the chosen model and future developments for the service.

The Get Help Buying for Schools service is for buyers and other buying decision-makers in schools. They can use the service to access to specialist support, information and tools to buy goods and services.

#### Introducing international qualified teacher status (iQTS)

##### **Closes: 03.05.21**

The DfE will use responses to ensure this qualification gives teachers the opportunity to:

- train to high-quality, English standards worldwide
- provide more opportunities for English teacher training providers to expand into the international teacher training market.

This new qualification, based on English standards and training methods, will seek to:

- provide new and growing opportunities for English-style teacher training overseas
- meet global demand for high-quality education for teachers.

#### Ofsted launches point-in-time surveys

Ofsted has sent surveys to social care providers to find out about the experiences of the children, parents, staff and professionals involved. Ofsted has launched their annual point in time surveys for 2021 – **children, parents, staff and professionals can have their say until 28 March 2021.**

<b>Date of publication</b>	<b>Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
Full range of guidance that has been updated to reflect latest government changes	<p>All relevant guidance documents relating to schools, early years and childcare providers, further education and colleges and Children's Social Care providers were updated to reflect the 05 January lockdown restrictions. Additional updates have also been made to the following to reflect changing requirements during lockdown;</p> <p><a href="#">Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</a></p> <p><a href="#">Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak</a></p> <p><a href="#">What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for children's social care services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak</a></p>
Published 07 January 2021	<p><a href="#">Give schools extra money to let pupils retake school year</a></p> <p>The Education Secretary should put extra funding in place to let pupils re-sit this school year, says the Social Mobility Commission. In a statement, the commission outlined its concerns over contingency plans for pupils affected by the global COVID pandemic.</p>
Updates between 07 January and 03 February 2021 include:	<p><a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children's social care</a></p> <p>Updated guidance on supply teachers and other contingent workers in state-funded schools. Removed outdated sector specific guidance for early years providers and to reflect detail on public and private income from school-based nursery provision for mainstream state-funded schools. Added note to the section on supply teachers and other contingent workers in state-funded schools to make it clear that it is out of date and the procurement notices mentioned are no longer in effect. Updated to reflect the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to 30 April 2021.</p>
Updates between 08 January and 04 February 2021 include:	<p><a href="#">Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</a></p> <p>Guidance for schools and local authorities on school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p>Guidance includes information on the support available to schools during the national lockdown. Information about supplier relief payments and changes to the period the support covers. Information about how to order vouchers, sending eCodes to families, supermarkets and redeeming the vouchers. Added Farmfoods to the list of supermarkets available and updated information on how to order vouchers.</p>

Published 12 January 2021	<p><a href="#">Hundreds of thousands more laptops to support disadvantaged pupils learn at home</a></p> <p>On the 12 January the government announced a further 300,000 laptops and tablets to help disadvantaged children and young people learn at home.</p>
Published 12 January 2021	<p><a href="#">Responsibility for exams</a></p> <p>Guidance for schools and colleges on who should enter students for exams, the health arrangements for exams and the support DfE is providing. Updated public health guidance to support exams from January 2021 to reflect that schools and colleges can continue with vocational and technical exams, where they judge it right to do so. This includes updates to the sections on the set up of the exam room, face coverings, maintaining distance between staff and candidates and where a candidate has a negative test.</p> <p>The most recent update on 09 February has added information to 'Public health guidance to support exams from January 2021' about scheduled assessments in February and March.</p>
Published 13 January 2021	<p><a href="#">£135m boost to support T Level students to succeed</a></p> <p>A multi-million pound fund has been launched aimed at making sure young people studying pioneering new T Level qualifications from 2022 have access to world class facilities and equipment. T Level providers across the country can bid for a share of £135 million, through the <a href="#">T Level Capital Fund</a>, to upgrade classrooms and buildings in readiness for students starting courses in September 2022.</p>
Published 15 January 2021	<p><a href="#">Education Secretary launches review of children's social care</a></p> <p>The Department for Education and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson have launched an independent review of children's social care, which sets out to radically reform the system and deliver on the 2019 manifesto commitment to ensure children and young adults get the support they need.</p> <p>The Education Secretary has appointed Josh MacAlister to lead the review. Mr MacAlister founded the social work charity <a href="#">Frontline</a> in 2013 and will step down from his role as Chief Executive to lead the review.</p> <p>The Department for Education has published <a href="#">terms of reference</a> for the review, setting out the themes and questions that will be addressed and how it will respond to the changing needs of children in care or at risk of going into care, especially given the impact of the pandemic.</p>
Published 21 January 2021	<p><a href="#">Response to an IICSA report on the sexual abuse of children outside the UK</a></p> <p>Government response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Report into the protection of children outside the United Kingdom, phase 2. The Government is committed to protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation, not just in the UK, but across the world. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a borderless crime. Offenders are increasingly targeting children in other countries, including by travelling abroad to abuse them. The</p>

Published 22 January 2021	<p>Government is very grateful to the Inquiry for its Children Outside the UK report and the insight it provides.</p> <p><a href="#">The Home Secretary has published a first-of-its-kind national strategy to protect children from all forms of child sexual abuse.</a></p> <p>The Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy sets out how the Government will use new legislation and enhanced technology to stop offenders in their tracks. This includes investing in the UK's world-leading Child Abuse Image Database to identify and catch more offenders quicker – for example, by using new tools to speed up police investigations and protecting officers' wellbeing by avoiding them being repeatedly exposed to indecent images. The Home Office will make it easier for parents and carers to ask the police if someone has a criminal record for child sexual offences as the department commits to a review of Sarah's Law.</p>
Published 27 January 2021	<p><a href="#">Education attendance restrictions to remain in place</a></p> <p>The Prime Minister confirmed that schools and colleges will not return to full face-to-face education after the February half-term and that the current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 08 March at the earliest.</p> <p>The government has committed to providing a programme of catch up into the next financial year, involving a further £300m of new money to early years, schools and colleges for tutoring, as well as working in collaboration with the education sector to develop specific initiatives for summer schools and a Covid premium to support catch up.</p>
Published 29 January 2021  Published 02 February 2021	<p><a href="#">Mass asymptomatic testing: schools and colleges</a></p> <p>Guidance on how to administer testing which began in January 2021. Updated added about reporting delivery and test issues using the form, and contacting the helpline for the link which has been shared with schools and colleges to access guidance and support materials.</p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools and colleges: grant funding</a></p> <p>Conditions of grant funding for the national roll-out of rapid mass testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools and colleges.</p>
Published 01 February 2021	<p><a href="#">Admission appeals for school places</a></p> <p>These guides will help admission authorities advise those involved with school admission appeals to understand their roles and responsibilities. The guidance has been updated as the temporary amendments to the admission appeals regulations, which were introduced due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, have been extended until 30 September 2021.</p>
Published 03 February 2021	<p><a href="#">New Commissioner appointed to oversee education catch-up</a></p> <p>Prime Minister and the Education Secretary appoint Sir Kevan Collins as Education Recovery Commissioner. Sir Kevan will lead work to ensure children and young people can recover learning lost due to the pandemic. Education</p>

	remains the top priority, with government committing £300 million to help with catch-up this year, on top of the £1 billion announced in June last year.
Published 05 February 2021	<p><a href="#"><u>First phase of school transformation launched</u></a></p> <p>First phase of Prime Minister's transformative school rebuilding programme launched, to level up opportunity for all. The Department for Education has announced that 50 schools are confirmed for the first wave of the Prime Minister's ten-year rebuilding programme, which are expected to be completed within 3-5 years. The first 50 projects are supported by £1bn in funding and mark the start of the School Rebuilding Programme which is due to deliver 500 rebuilding projects over the next decade. More than 70% of the schools are to be in the North and Midlands.</p>
Published 10 February 2021	<p><a href="#"><u>The Department for Education have announced plans to roll out new teaching school hubs</u></a></p> <p>81 hubs set up to provide high-quality professional development to teachers and leaders at all stages of their career, and play a key role in helping to build up trainee teachers as they enter the workforce. The Hubs will also help in delivering the Early Career Framework, and will be in operation from this September. Hubs will have a defined set of schools in a specific area to support; each hub will be expected to serve around 250 schools. This programme will run for an initial three years and be supported by £65m in funding.</p>
Published 16 February 2021	<p><a href="#"><u>Laptops and tablets data - week 7 2021</u></a></p> <p>Information about how many laptops and tablets that have been delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts. The LA data shows that Plymouth has received 1,799 devices (laptops and tablets) - delivered or dispatched to LAs or directly to LA-maintained schools since the start of the scheme. This does not include devices delivered to academy trusts which are listed in the trust data.</p>
<b>Ofsted Announcements</b>	
Updates between 11 January and 12 February 2021 include:	<p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update</u></a></p> <p>Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers – rolling update.</p> <p>The 'Current activity' section was updated with details of planned activity until the February half term.</p> <p>The 'first aid certificate' section for childcare providers as updated: if paediatric first aid qualification cannot be updated because of coronavirus restrictions, certificates will be valid until 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Clarification was provided around planned inspection work being carried out remotely until March 8 at the earliest.</p> <p>Added information that after February half term, remote monitoring inspections in schools will normally last for one day and involve 2 HMI.</p>

<p>Published 25 January 2021</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted research finds pupil motivation around remote education is a significant concern for parents and school leaders</u></a></p> <p>A new report from Ofsted has found that pupil engagement and motivation remains a significant challenge for schools providing remote education. Published on 25 January 2021, <a href="#"><u>Ofsted's in-depth study on remote education</u></a> finds that many schools are doing a good job of mitigating children's learning loss. But keeping pupils motivated remains a challenge, despite schools having made strides in their remote learning offers.</p>
<p>Published 27 January 2021</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted's phased return to inspection</u></a></p> <p>Equality, diversity and inclusion statement on how Ofsted's return to routine inspection activity enables Ofsted to fulfil the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.</p>
<p>Published 02 February 2021</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted inspections to be done remotely</u></a></p> <p>All planned inspection activity will be carried out remotely until 08 March at the earliest. However early years providers will be paused until 08 March at the earliest as it is not possible to provide the necessary level of assurance without on-site inspections. Ofsted will inspect schools rated 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' as planned, but will also follow up on complaints raised by parents across all grades of school in order to resolve issues. However as these inspections will not involve an on-site visit, they will be unable to cover the full scope of a monitoring inspection. Ofsted will publish details of the inspection process shortly. The full release can be found <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>.</p>



# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	03 March 2021
Title of Report:	NEETs
Lead Member:	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Tina Brinkworth
Contact Email:	Tina.brinkworth@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AB.MZ.03.03.2021/1
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on NEETs.

## Recommendations and Reasons

For the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the report for consideration.

## Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable - report is for information only

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Plymouth Plan

Policy HEA2: Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Policy GRO2: Delivering skills and talent development

Corporate Plan: A Growing City

## Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are no implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan arising from this advisory report.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

No direct carbon/environmental issues identified

**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.

**Appendices**

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

**Background papers:**

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:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 22 Feb 2021											
Cabinet Member approval: Approved verbally by Councillor Jon Taylor, Cabinet Member for Education Skills and Transformation											
Date approved: 12/02/2021											

## NEETs Update

### Executive Summary

From March 2020 when social distancing rules were initially announced and subsequent lockdowns, PCC and partners across the city worked closely to address and minimise the impacts of Covid-19 on our young people, particularly around reductions in existing opportunities in the local economy. As social distancing restrictions on the operation of schools, colleges and private providers became embedded, we worked with partners and stakeholders to address understand the situation emerging and identify risks such as:

- Using previous year's trends and destinations to identify volumes of young people making the transition from school/college to further career paths and destinations e.g. c2700 at yr11 and 1300 at year13, and FE leavers anticipated to be near 4,000.  
The lack of opportunities for young people due to the impact of Covid-19 on the Plymouth economy. (e.g. Apprenticeship numbers now starting to recover down 60% at quarter one of academic year and down by 26% at quarter three on previous academic year).
- A general disorientation of education and employment pathways for young people created by Covid 19 and their ability to make informed choices with options that remain available but are not as easily accessible or visible
- A lack of confidence that employment opportunities exist in the chosen field of study or work.

The development of the Skills Launchpad Plymouth alongside the wider range of range of advice, guidance and initiatives in place, including the transitions contract at CSW Group, will ensure that the city can continue to deliver a comprehensive and joined-up approach to supporting young people and their families through the difficult economic environment created by Covid-19.

### Statutory duty

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

Specifically these are:

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

### Current position

In December 2020 there were 233 young people age 16 to 17 NEET, this represents 4.3% (significantly higher than the SW 3% and national average 2.7% ) in comparison with 4.1% in the previous year. There were a further 147 (2.7%) young people with unknown status, against 2.4% at the same point in 2019. Latest available national combined NEET and Not Known figures, from December 2020, show Plymouth at 7.1% NEET/Not known with England at 6.3%, national data identifies Bristol at 7.1%, Portsmouth 6.7% and Southampton 7.8%.

Young people in vulnerable groups often face a range of additional pressures or difficulties maintaining participation in learning. Latest figures, for 16 -18 year old NEETs, identify 64 with special educational needs and disabilities, 30 in care, and 9 care leavers. Resources are specifically targeted to provide additional support for these groups of vulnerable young people.

### **Transition into Education, Employment and Training Contract**

The work of the transitions contract, delivered by CSW Group Ltd, supports young people in vulnerable groups to secure places Post-16. It works alongside the work of school careers advisers in delivering the September Guarantee of offering places to all 16 and 17 year olds. Careers advice is further supplemented by Careers Enterprise Company activities such as school based Enterprise Advisers. The flexible approach of the transition contract in supporting multi-agency work through the contract has enabled CSW to respond to the changing needs of schools and families throughout the Covid-19 crisis including:

- Telephone welfare checks for any students that schools/tutors are concerned about;
- offering specific timed availability to those young people who are home educating so that they can speak to a dedicated advisor
- contacting all Year 11 and Year 12 whose destination was an apprenticeship to check on their plans, see whether their offer has been confirmed, whether advice on alternative provision is required

### **Plymouth Skills Launchpad**

Resurgam is one of 6 Pillars supporting economic recovery of the City. Working with local stakeholders and partners, Skills Launchpad Plymouth (Skills4Plymouth) provides an open door offer with the full range of services, advice, support and apprenticeships available to our citizens, young and older, who will be able to access a resource to support them if other options are unclear.

SkillsLaunchpad Plymouth has been purposely developed to provide a one-stop open door facility for all young people, parents and carers with a range of offers that will support young people and minimise the risk of them becoming NEET. The Launchpad has drawn together city wide service providers and stakeholders engaged in supporting young people and those at risk of NEET and includes; CSW Group Ltd, DWP/Job Centre Plus, National Careers Service, the Plymouth Careers Hub, the Devon and Cornwall Training Provider Network as well as links to employers across the City. This coherent approach is the first time the City has drawn together an offer that enables a joined up approach and support on the best the city has to offer and pathways to pursue.

The Youth Hub element of Skills4Plymouth website went live in August, timed to provide support for students 'A'level and GCSE results, and is supported by outreach to our communities, followed closely by the phased roll out to Adults and Employers and an offer to Schools.

- Skills Launchpad Plymouth has attracted over 6,000 unique users by January 2021
- Over 100 self-referrals in first three week of going live with new functionality Jan 2021
- Feedback and testimonials from end users and partners has been very positive
- Recognised by DWP Director General for Work and Health Services as leading innovation nationally and watching Skills Launchpad with interest
- Dedicated Youth Hub Coordinator recruited for 2 year fixed period, recruitment underway for Adult Hub Coordinator and chasing additional funding
- Physical space – soft launch w/c 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and official opening 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

## **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and disadvantage**

Evidence shows that young people who are disadvantaged are more likely to be adversely affected including those with SEND. There are likely to be significant challenges in the coming months for all of our vulnerable groups and these have been targeted by the Skills4Plymouth partnership for additional support through the commissioned service.

Work with the SEND teams, schools and colleges has concentrated on offering students with SEND, where it has been requested, additional time on courses so that they can take an extra year to complete their Further Education courses due to the loss of the term time. Where a student with an Education, Health and Care Plan has been on a 2 year vocational course due to end this September, and where request and appropriate the student has been encouraged to continue with a third year of the course.

The Virtual School has been working with CSW Group Ltd to ensure that young people leaving care can have the opportunity to make a decision regarding their future with support from the various services. This might mean additional time on a course to complete a qualification or considering their options with regard to employment. All partners are working in a multi-agency way to ensure they are able to access advice and information about the availability of education, access to work courses and employment opportunities.

In addition

- Two designated Education Caseworker for Post 16 Looked after Children within the Virtual School Team specifically to support, track and monitor this vulnerable group. Each CiC NEET student has half termly reviews with all professionals involved and the young person is invited to create a plan to support re-engagement as well as informing the students PEP (Personal Education Plan).
- Virtual School and CSW group have termly meetings to review the multi-agency approach to NEETs and at risk young people. Termly meetings with CCP to review all CiC and also a focus on maintaining students to achieve and review the 'at risk of becoming NEET' students.
- NEET panel established for Care Leavers who have turned 18 during the Year 13 academic year. Being used to shape strategy for all NEETs to develop programmes and provision with all education providers.
- NEET challenges are being fed back to the Leadership Adviser (Post 16 Provisions and Funding), Learning and Communities within a meeting in January with the Virtual School and CSW Group to review young people's needs, and work towards bringing education providers on board to develop provision within a needs led approach. The main gaps are 1-1 support for English and Maths, short programmes/ bespoke packages to support engagement around mental health, incentive based programmes, lack of traineeships/ internships, apprenticeship route being a big jump for majority of NEETs and work experience opportunities.

We are addressing statutory duties by the following:

- The commissioning of Careers South West to deliver individual support for those cohorts and a tracking system to record destinations;
- The Plan for Skills encompasses the delivery of the National Careers Strategy through the Plymouth Careers Hub supporting advice and guidance and the development of meaningful pathways.

## Kickstart Programme

Led by DWP as part of the Government's Plan for Jobs, the Kickstart Scheme is a £2 billion fund to create thousands of high quality work placements for young people. The programme is planned to run until December 2021, more information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme>

The £2 billion has been allocated to fund employers to create 6-month job placements for 16 to 24 year olds (who have been on universal claimant credit for 6 months or longer). The programme started November 2020 and young people will be paid 25 hours by the Government at minimum wage, numbers are unlimited numbers within budget. Employers from all industries and across the private, public and voluntary sectors will be encouraged to get involved, however these placements must not replace existing or planned vacancies, or cause existing employees or contractors to lose or reduce their employment. There has been some delay to employer applications being processed by DWP nationally.

There are some conditions; employers can apply direct or they can join a Gateway group representing employers, such as chambers of commerce or trade bodies. Each application should include how you will help the participants to develop their skills and experience, including support:

1. To look for long-term work, including career advice and setting goals
2. With CV and interview preparations
3. The participant with basic skills, such as attendance, timekeeping and teamwork

Employers will receive funding:

- 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week
- Associated employer National Insurance contributions
- Employer minimum auto-enrolment pension contributions

On confirmation of job start, the employer will be paid £1,500 per placement to support overhead costs, this can be used for things like; set up costs, onboarding, training etc.

There will also be extra funding to support young people to build upon their experience and help them move into sustained employment after they have completed their Kickstart scheme (details are not yet available).

In Plymouth (as of Jan 2021);

- The kickstart programme applies to a maximum of 2,000 young people.
- Over 700 placement registered in Devon
- 192 Approved placements in the city
- Plymouth City Council (Education, Participation and Skills department) has established a working group across the city, who meet on a regular basis with various stakeholders to develop an optional 'menu of support' to both the young person and the employer. Where possible utilising existing funded employability programmes as well as specific services for
  - mental health and well-being
  - funded initiatives, courses and qualifications
  - coaching and mentoring support,
  - whilst recognising that each individual and employer will have different needs
- We and partners are working direct with the DWP to deliver 'Sector Based Work Academy' style pilots focused on preparing for and applying for Kickstarts for eligible young people. These started last week along with an induction programme for Kickstart employers.
- DWP are providing a matching services to kickstart placements, which is currently being hampered by lockdown

**Apprenticeship**

As of Q3 of 2019/2020 the apprenticeship starts stand at 1,870 in the city and due to lockdown and current constraints we are not expecting any significant increase in the remaining quarter (75% of previous year).

Engineering, Construction and Digital have recruited in line with predictions (growth sectors), Hospitality, Tourism and Retail apprentices have been in decline for many years.

The most significant impact has been to Business Admin apprenticeships currently at 420 (57%) apprentices compared to 730 last year.

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# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	03 March 2021
Title of Report:	<b>Corporate Performance, Monitoring Report 2020/21 – Quarter 2</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Rob Sowden
Contact Email:	Robert.Sowden@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AL/RS
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

This is the Corporate Plan Performance report that details how the Council is performing against its priority performance indicators that were agreed at the inception of the Corporate Plan.

It provides an analysis of performance as at the end of September 2020 against the Council's key performance indicators (KPIs), providing a detailed performance update against the Corporate Plan priorities.

This report forms part of the Council's Performance Framework and is a key part of our aim to achieve a 'golden thread' from the Corporate Plan and its KPIs and delivery plans, through to service and team level business plans, and ultimately to individual objectives.

This report focuses on performance indicators that are under the remit of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny committee. The report includes updates on a number of subjects, including; numbers not in Employment, Education or Training, referrals into Children's Social Care and numbers with multiple Child Protection Plans.

## Recommendations and Reasons

That the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Notes the Corporate Plan Quarter Two Performance Report

## Alternative options considered and rejected

None

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan.

## Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None arising specifically from this report.

## Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No impacts directly arising from this report. Indicators relating to recycling rates and carbon emissions are included within the Corporate Plan Performance Report.

**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 Corporate Plan complements the Council's existing policy framework with respect to the above.

**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 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**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
Corporate Plan 2018-22							

**Sign off:**

Fin	djn.20 .21.16 2	Leg	3567 2/AC /19/1 1/20	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Assistant Chief Executive											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 24/11/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: [electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')] Approved verbally by Cllr Lowry											
Date approved: 25/11/2020											

# CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER TWO 2020/21

Education and Children's Social Care Scrutiny



# The Corporate Plan

The Plymouth City Council Corporate Plan 2018-2022 sets out our mission of 'making Plymouth a fairer city, where everyone does their bit'. It was approved by Full Council in June 2018.

The Corporate Plan priorities are delivered through specific programmes and projects, which are coordinated and resourced through cross-cutting strategic delivery plans, capital investment and directorate business plans.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) and their associated targets detailed in this report for the first two quarters of 2020/21 (April to September 2020) tell us how we are doing in delivering what we have set out to achieve in the Corporate Plan.

## OUR PLAN A CITY TO BE PROUD OF



### CITY VISION Britain's Ocean City

One of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.

#### OUR MISSION

Making Plymouth a fairer city, where everyone does their bit.

#### OUR PRIORITIES

#### OUR VALUES

##### WE ARE DEMOCRATIC

We will provide strong community leadership and work together to deliver our common ambition.

##### WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

We take responsibility for our actions, care about our impact on others and expect others will do the same.

##### WE ARE FAIR

We are honest and open in how we act, treat everyone with respect, champion fairness and create opportunities.

##### WE ARE CO-OPERATIVE

We will work together with partners to serve the best interests of our city and its communities.

##### A GROWING CITY

- A clean and tidy city
- An efficient transport network
- A broad range of homes
- Economic growth that benefits as many people as possible
- Quality jobs and valuable skills
- A vibrant cultural offer
- A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment.

##### A CARING COUNCIL

- Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes
- Keep children, young people and adults protected
- Focus on prevention and early intervention
- People feel safe in Plymouth
- Reduced health inequalities
- A welcoming city.

#### HOW WE WILL DELIVER

Listening to our customers and communities.

Providing quality public services.

Motivated, skilled and engaged staff.

Spending money wisely.

A strong voice for Plymouth regionally and nationally.

**Plymouth**  
Britain's Ocean City

[www.plymouth.gov.uk/ourplan](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/ourplan)



# Structure of this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a risk-informed analysis of performance against the priorities of the Corporate Plan 2018-2022. The priorities are grouped under 'A Growing City' and 'A Caring Council', and the outcomes for 'How We Will Deliver' – the enablers of the Corporate Plan – are also reported on.

## Trend (RAG) colour scheme

A red-amber-green (RAG) trend rating is provided to give an indication of whether performance is improving or declining based on the two latest comparable periods for which information is available. For example, repeat referrals to Children's Social Care is compared to the previous quarter in the same year; household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting is compared to the same period in the previous year (due to seasonality); and annual measures, such as public satisfaction with traffic flow, are compared to the previous year.

- Indicators highlighted **green**: improved on the previous value or is on an expected trend
- Indicators highlighted **amber**: within 15% of the previous value (slight decline)
- Indicators highlighted **red**: declined by more than 15% on the previous value
- Indicators not highlighted or 'N/A' have no trend or the most recent value is not comparable with previous values.

## Target (RAG) colour scheme

A RAG target rating is applied for indicators that have a target. For these indicators, the bar for the latest reporting period is coloured either red, amber or green in the chart to visually display how we are performing compared with the target.

- Indicators highlighted **green** show where Plymouth is better than target
- Indicators highlighted **amber** show where Plymouth is within 15% of target
- Indicators highlighted **red** show where Plymouth is more than 15% worse than target
- Indicators not highlighted or 'N/A' show where no in year data is available to compare against target, or no target has been set.

## Summary page

Performance summary pages are presented at the start of this report to visually display how we have performed against our Corporate Plan priorities. Our RAG rating on these pages is used to show whether we have done better, worse or had a slight decline from the previous quarter or year (coloured arrows), and whether we have done better, worse or got close to the target (coloured hexagons). Some indicators do not have a target (for example, due to being a new indicator) and will therefore have no target RAG rating (blue hexagons). Similarly, some of our indicators are new and we do not have any previous data to compare our performance to or it is not appropriate to compare to previous data; these will have no trend RAG rating in the summary pages.

For example, the hexagon for the percentage of business rates collected is green because at 56.6% in quarter two 2020/21 it is above the target (53.1%), whilst the arrow within the hexagon is amber because there was a decrease when compared to quarter two in 2019/20 (59.0%).



# Education and Children's Social Care Quarter Two

## Executive Summary

Improvements have been seen across the areas relating to education and children's social care in the first half of 2020/21. As shown in the performance summary below, all five of the key performance indicators that can be trend rated have shown improvements when compared to the previous comparable reporting period. Some of the education and children's social care highlights from the quarter two report are outlined below.

- The percentage of young people in education, employment or training increased to 90.0% in quarter one 2020/21, compared with 89.0% in quarter one 2019/20. Stakeholders and partners across the city have been developing the Skills Launchpad Plymouth, which is a one-stop-shop free skills service established to deliver a city-wide response to COVID-19 within a Resurgam programme.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools have developed effective remote learning and utilised a range of interactive platforms, such as Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom. All schools reopened at the start of term; the back to school campaign emphasised safe opening and attendance was higher than expected.
- There was a decrease in the percentage of children subject to multiple child protection plans; at 21.1% at the end of quarter two, this was better than target (23%) for the first time in more than a year and lower than the average percentage of our statistical neighbours (21.3%).
- Repeat referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC) saw a decrease for the eighth quarter in a row, down to 23.3%, which is a significant improvement on both the end of 2018/19 and 2019/20 positions.
- Although remaining significantly below target, there was a 60 percentage point increase in CSC complaints that were closed within timeframe in quarter two when compared with quarter one 2020/21, resulting in the highest timeliness performance seen for more than a year. The service is also on a trajectory to receive fewer complaints in 2020/21 for the second successive year.

The individual pages within this report reflect on what is working well, what we are worried about and what needs to happen for all of the key performance indicators relating to education and children's social care. In particular, we acknowledge areas in which performance is not meeting the targets that we have agreed and set out how we are working to address concerns and improve performance in these areas.

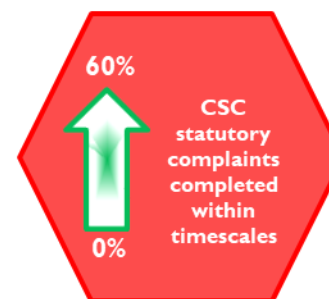
# Education and Children's Social Care Quarter Two Performance Summary

Key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to measure performance against the priorities in the Corporate Plan. Seven of the KPIs included in the full Corporate Plan Performance Report relate to education and children's social care, spanning all three of the main Corporate Plan priority themes. The latest performance for these seven KPIs is summarised below and more detail on each KPI is given in the corresponding pages of this report.

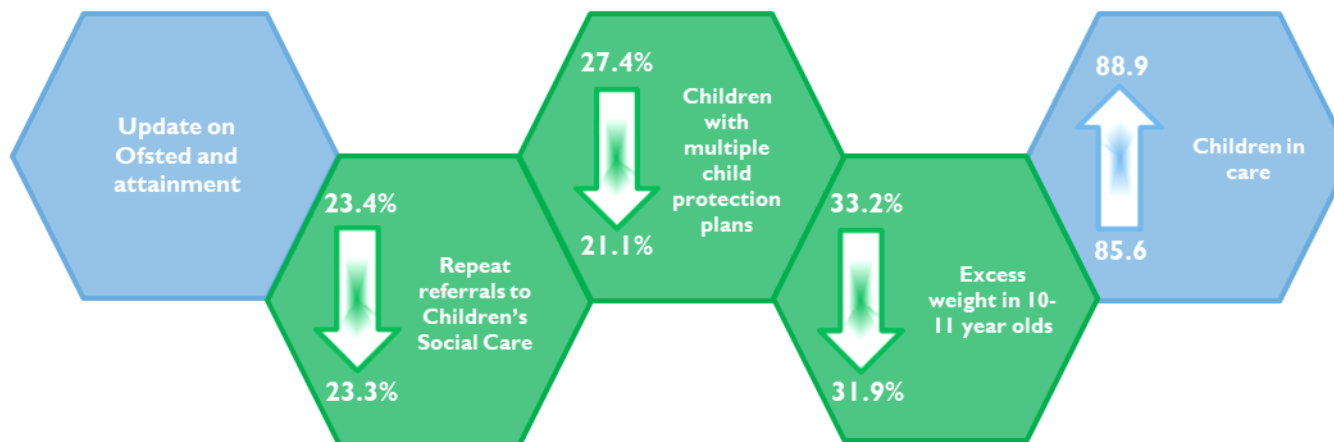
## A Growing City



## How We Will Deliver



## A Caring Council



# A Growing City

Corporate Plan priorities	Key performance indicators	Page number
<b>Quality jobs and valuable skills</b>	Young people in Education, Employment or Training	7

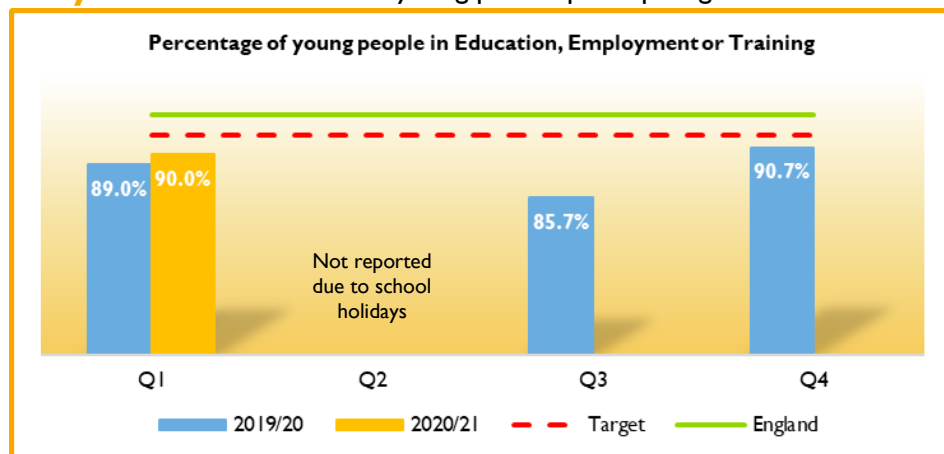


# Quality jobs and valuable skills

## Young people in Education, Employment or Training

**What we measure:** The percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 in academic years 12 to 14 who are going to, or remaining in, education, employment or training (EET).

**Why we measure it:** A young person participating in EET is an enabler to achieving better life outcomes.



**How have we done? 90.0%**

Increase of 1.0 percentage point from quarter one 2019/20.

Trend rating: **Green**

**Target for 2020/21: 92%**

Performance in quarter one is 2 percentage points below the target.

Target rating: **Amber**

**What's working well?** Stakeholders and partners across the city, led by Plymouth City Council, have been developing the Skills Launchpad Plymouth, which is a one-stop-shop FREE skills service established to deliver a city-wide response to COVID-19 within a Resurgam programme. The Skills Launchpad Plymouth was in place to support students at the end of August when exam results were announced and to aid choices for transition into post-16 education, employment or training. Careers South West responded to the impacts of COVID-19 through targeted support for young people in vulnerable categories and those identified in danger of becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET). In particular, those young people in apprenticeships, or due to start apprenticeships, were contacted to identify difficulties and discuss alternative offers if appropriate. Careers South West have restructured teams to enhance support arrangements to meet these young people's needs.

**What are we worried about?** Work-based post-16 opportunities and routes are expected to diminish in the short and possibly medium term due to the impacts of COVID-19. The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds claiming Universal Credit between April and September has significantly increased (125%); whilst actual numbers are relatively low, we remain concerned as the proportion of 16 to 25 year olds has risen by 24% over the same period. Reduced income across communities may affect the ability of young people to remain in education, employment or training due to study costs. The range of provision available may need to meet the needs of more vulnerable groups and the inability of funding regimes to deliver responsive study packages could increase the number young people not in education, employment or training.

**What needs to happen?** Further roll-out of the Skills Launchpad Plymouth to include an Education Hub will support Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) in schools. Multi-agency discussions on provisions and the support needs of NEETs and those at risk of becoming NEET need to galvanise support to develop flexible delivery options and bids for funds (e.g. Education and Skills Funding Agency/European Social Fund).

# A Caring Council

<b>Corporate Plan priorities</b>	<b>Key performance indicators</b>	<b>Page number</b>
<b>Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes</b>	Update on Ofsted and attainment	9
<b>Keep children, young people and adults protected</b>	Children with multiple child protection plans	10
<b>Focus on prevention and intervention</b>	Repeat referrals to Children's Social Care	11
<b>People feel safe in Plymouth</b>	Children in care	12
<b>Reduce health inequalities</b>	Excess weight in 10-11 year olds	13

# Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes

## Update on Ofsted and attainment

**What we measure:** Ofsted ratings for registered early years settings and schools, and the attainment outcomes from Early Years Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4. Please note that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Ofsted inspections were suspended from March 2020. Ofsted assurance visits have started until inspections recommence early in 2021. All examinations were also cancelled in the summer term and attainment outcomes, including Key Stage 4 results, are not published. Therefore we are unable to report on any of the Corporate Plan measures associated with this theme.

**Why we measure it:** Ofsted ratings give a view of the quality of education provision within the city. A higher quality standard of education provision is an enabler to children being school ready and to achieving better outcomes. The Early Years Foundation Stage is an indicator of health inequality. It promotes teaching and learning to enable children's 'school readiness'. Key Stage 4 measures give an indication of the educational outcomes for young people once they reach the end of compulsory education. Higher attainment levels are an enabler to children achieving better long-term outcomes.

**What's working well?** All schools re-opened at the start of term, albeit some had a phased opening for year groups. The back to school campaign emphasised safe opening and attendance was higher than expected. Many schools that have developed effective remote learning have utilised a range of interactive platforms, such as Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom. Examples are evident from both primary and secondary schools, such as Yealmpstone Primary and Sir John Hunt Community Sports College. The 'Wellbeing for Education Return' project, delivered by The Zone Plymouth, provides ongoing support to maintained schools and academies, seeking to better equip education settings to support children and young people's wellbeing, resilience and recovery in the context of COVID-19 throughout autumn and spring of 2020/21. The Plymouth Standards Partnership (PSP) has brought about a coherent approach to recovery and improvement by compiling a robust 'umbrella plan' that incorporates renewed focus on the breadth of school improvement, alongside clear strategies to address the 'new' needs of disadvantaged and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN/D) pupils, as well as specific aspects arising from the COVID-19 crisis and the return to full-time schooling. Dedicated recovery and improvement plans across the three phases have been developed and endorsed by the Plymouth Education Board.

**What are we worried about?** It is expected that remote learning fits seamlessly into the school curriculum and schools are expected to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education for classes or groups who are required to self-isolate for a short period of time, or where there are local restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home. In a snapshot of the Ofsted visits this term, Ofsted has found that remote learning is not yet aligned to the regular curriculum; however, the Department for Education (DfE) has already outlined plans to address this. In Plymouth, we do not yet have an overall picture of our remote learning capabilities, but anecdotally we are aware that some of our schools are completely able to offer remote learning and others have very little expertise or capacity at this time. There are also practical problems, such as a lack of devices. Schools are encouraged to distribute school owned equipment accompanied by a user agreement or contract, and remind pupils that access is possible through large-screen technology.

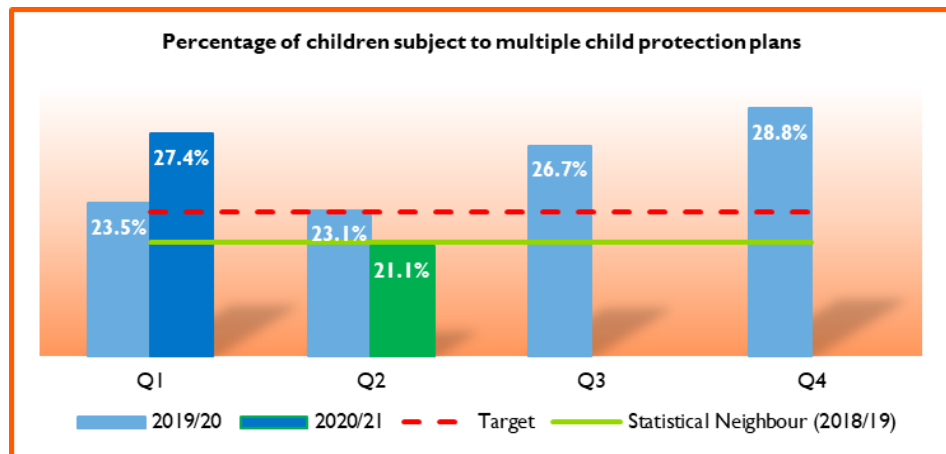
**What needs to happen?** Schools are being asked to plan for disruption to schooling throughout 2020/21. The DfE is constantly reviewing and re-issuing advice and guidance for schools, particularly in relation to actions required in the event of confirmed cases at a school. Schools in Plymouth are following guidance carefully and diligently. Ofsted has announced that it will be conducting assurance visits to schools between September 2020 and March 2021 and the main focus of the visits will be to ascertain from school leaders what is being done to support catch up for all pupils; there will be a focus on disadvantage. Whilst schools with poor outcomes and inadequate inspection grades will be prioritised, all schools may receive a visit. The Education, Participation and Skills department is providing information and support for all maintained school head teachers to ensure that they are prepared, with necessary data and information required by the inspectors. This, alongside work we do as a department, will provide invaluable insight into what needs to be commissioned to accelerate learning for all pupils and provide support for disadvantaged pupils.

# Keep children, young people and adults protected

## Children with multiple child protection plans

**What we measure:** The percentage of children starting a child protection plan who have previously been on a child protection plan.

**Why we measure it:** This indicator gives insight into children who have previously been deemed at significant risk of harm, had that risk mitigated and then later are again found to be at significant risk. This may be for the same or different reasons but highlights vulnerable children where a risk of harm has escalated back to the point where a child protection plan is once again needed.



**How have we done? 21.1%**

Decrease of 6.3 percentage points from the previous quarter, which is a decrease of 23.0%.

Trend rating: **Green**

**Target for 2020/21: 23.0%**

The decrease in quarter two now puts performance 1.9 percentage points (8.3%) below the target.

Target rating: **Green**

**What's working well?** At the end of quarter two, 21.1% of the new Child Protection Plans starting within 2020/21 were for children who had a plan at some point in their lifetime previously. This was a 6.3 percentage point decrease on quarter one and we are now meeting our target of 23% or less. Whilst we remain above the average for England (20.8%) and the average for Ofsted rated 'good' and 'outstanding' authorities (20.2%), we are now at a lower level than our statistical neighbours (21.3%). The 21.1% relates to 37 of the 175 new Child Protection Plans starting in 2020/21.

**What are we worried about?** We are committed to having the right children subject to Child Protection at the right time. This approach remains consistent but following the national lockdown we saw increases in the number of children requiring a Child Protection Plan. When we compare the end of quarter two of 2020/21 position with the end of 2019/20, there has been a net increase of 20 children subject to Child Protection. In mid-September the number of children reached a peak of 356 (a net increase of 46 children), which meant there were additional pressures on the department in terms of Initial Child Protection Conferences and visits.

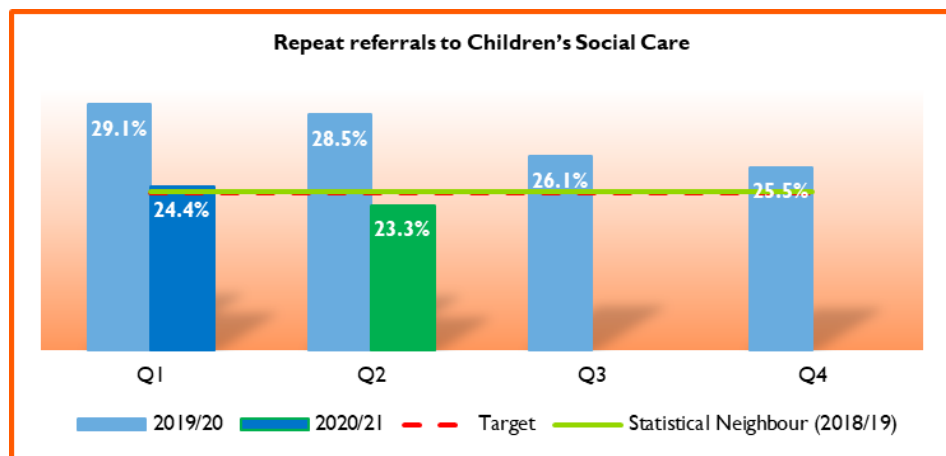
**What needs to happen?** This indicator speaks to a range of factors including the effectiveness of our early help approach and whether our practice, once families move into statutory levels of intervention, enables sustainable change. Over the remaining part of 2020/21 we are changing the ways that we work to ensure a far stronger focus on effective early intervention throughout Children, Young People and Family Services. This will both reduce the number of children who have been referred for the first time escalating in higher tiers of intervention and provide a more robust response to families where concerns re-emerge to prevent escalation.

# Focus on prevention and early intervention

## Repeat referrals to Children's Social Care

**What we measure:** The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care within the financial year where there has been a referral within the previous 12 months for the same child.

**Why we measure it:** This gives insight into the effectiveness of the Children's Social Care response to concerns about children at the first referral. Repeat referrals may have been avoidable if we reached effective outcomes earlier, indicating that the child may not have received the right support at the right time to safeguard them and address their needs. It should be noted therefore that this indicator reflects historic as well as current practice.



**How have we done? 23.3%**

Decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the previous quarter, which is a decrease of 4.5%.

Trend rating: **Green**

**Target for 2020/21: 24%**

The decrease in quarter two now puts performance at 0.7 of a percentage point below the target.

Target rating: **Green**

**What's working well?** Re-referrals saw a decrease for the eighth quarter in a row, down to 23.3% at the end of quarter two of 2020/21. This is a significant improvement on both the end of 2018/19 position of 32.4% and the more recent 2019/20 position of 25.5%. We are currently meeting our target of 24.0% or below.

**What are we worried about?** With the emergence of COVID-19, followed by 'lockdown' coming in to effect in the last week of quarter four of 2019/20, we have seen increases in the number of referrals being received. In the first half of 2020/21 we received 1,843 referrals compared to 1,472 referrals in the same period of 2019/20; this equates to an increase of 25.2%. Since the end of 2019/20, the general increase in referrals over the last two quarters has led to an increase in both the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (up 20 to 330) and the number of children in care (up 34 to 470). These increases mean that there is more demand on the service but also added pressures on the Council's finances.

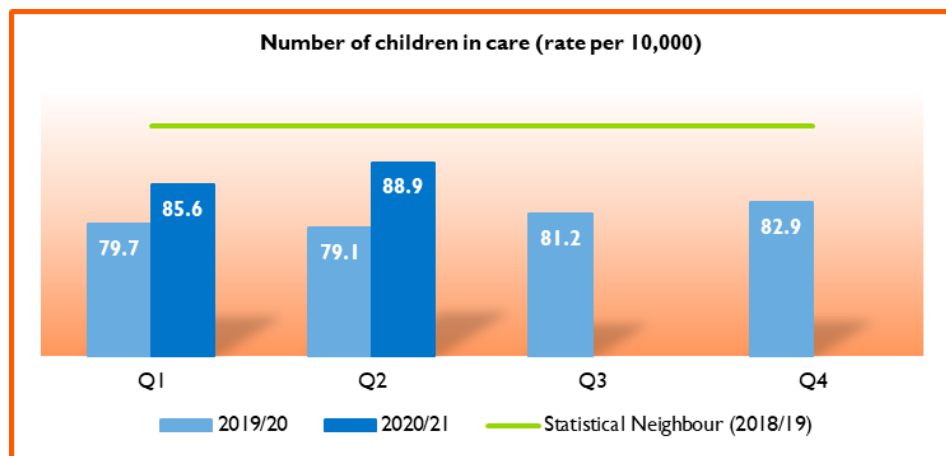
**What needs to happen?** We are actively considering resilience within the Plymouth Children's Gateway (PCG), and capacity issues both in the Plymouth Referral and Assessment Service (PRAS) and across the wider service as the work moves through, in response to the expected spike in workload due to the numbers and complexity of referrals. Thresholds at the front door are kept under close review and are subject to auditing. We are progressing the planned review of the front door configuration in order to ensure that practice is strong from the first point of contact with a family and to remove some duplication of processes.

# People feel safe in Plymouth

## Children in care

**What we measure:** When a child (or young person) is made the subject of a care order, we have legal responsibility for them. We count a child as a 'child in care' if they get accommodation for a period of more than 24 hours, are subject to a care order, are accommodated under section 20 of the 1989 Children's Act or are subject to a placement order (adoption). To enable comparison against other authorities, we report the number as a rate per 10,000 children within our authority's population.

**Why we measure it:** This indicator helps us to quantify how many children and young people we have a corporate parenting responsibility for and assists us in forecasting our resource requirements (e.g. staffing, accommodation and finance).



**How have we done?** **88.9** (rate per 10,000)

An increase of 3.3 from quarter one – this relates to 470 children in care in quarter two 2020/21, which is 34 more children than at the end of 2019/20.

Trend rating: **N/A**

**Target for 2020/21: N/A**

Whilst a decrease is desirable, it is not appropriate for us to set a formal target for the number of children that we provide care for.

Target rating: **N/A**

**What's working well?** The COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown brought a number of challenges to the service as a whole. Despite these additional pressures, the service was able to quickly adapt its way of working and continue to physically visit our most at risk children in a COVID-19 secure way, or utilise video calling for those children where it was appropriate to do so. Most performance indicators have either been maintained or seen improvements over the last six months.

**What are we worried about?** The rate of children in care per 10,000 has increased from 82.9 at the end of 2019/20 to 88.9 at the end of quarter two of 2020/21 (470 children). Whilst this level is below the 2018/19 statistical neighbours' rate of 94.4, we remain above the England average (65.0 per 10,000) and the level for authorities rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted (63.0 per 10,000). The COVID-19 pandemic has seen increases in the number of children in care nationally and other councils will be facing the same pressures as ourselves. Provision of suitable placements, particularly the preferred option of 'in-house' fostering placements, remains challenging. Budgetary pressure primarily caused by some high cost care packages is rated as **red** (high) on the strategic risk register.

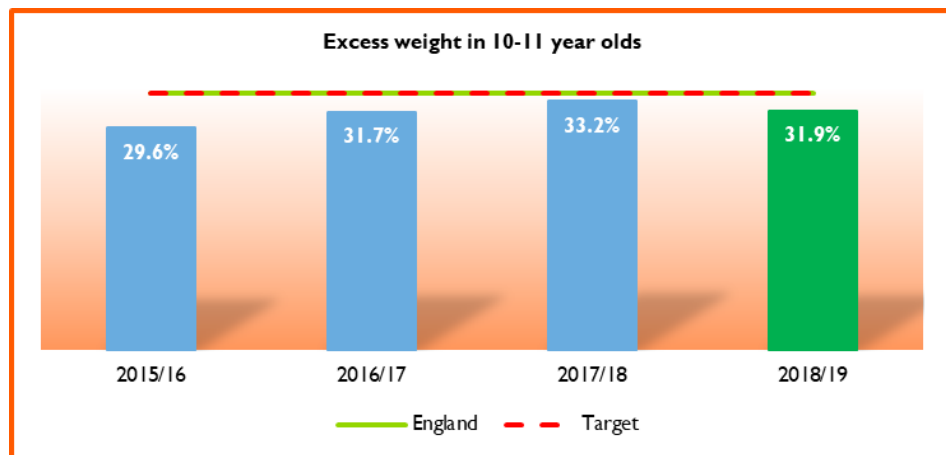
**What needs to happen?** We have developed our 'Edge of Care' response within the Adolescent Support Team to ensure that services are available to children at risk of entering care, as well as working intensively with those who may be able to return to their families from care (reunification). The planned changes to the way in which we work to ensure a more effective early response will also play a key role in preventing escalation of children into care. Robust legal planning and tracking systems have been developed in order to ensure strong oversight and scrutiny of decisions to move into legal proceedings.

# Reduce health inequalities

## Excess weight in 10-11 year olds

**What we measure:** The prevalence of excess weight (including obesity) among children in Year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years old). The latest available data is for 2018/19, with the next national data release due in quarter three.

**Why we measure it:** Excess weight in childhood is a key risk factor for obesity and its associated illnesses in adulthood, as well as potentially having a negative impact on children's physical and mental health.



### How have we done? 31.9%

Decrease of 1.3 percentage points from the previous year, which is a decrease of 3.9%.

Trend rating: **Green**

### Target for 2018/19: 34.3%

The decrease in 2018/19 puts performance at 2.4 percentage points (7.0%) below the target.

Target rating: **Green**

**What's working well?** Levels of obesity in Year 6 pupils in Plymouth are significantly better than the England average. We continue to focus on giving children the best start in life, making schools health-promoting environments, managing the area around schools through fast food planning policy, and working with partners to raise awareness of the complexities associated with individual behaviour change where weight is an issue. The prevalence of overweight pupils seen in the reception years is reversed by the time these same pupils reach Year 6.

**What are we worried about?** Though levels are lower than England for Year 6, these levels are too high. Childhood obesity is closely linked to deprivation and therefore is a strong indicator of inequality. Being overweight and obese in childhood is a risk factor for overweight and obesity in adulthood and increased risk of diseases, such as Type II Diabetes, cancers, and cardiovascular diseases. Healthy weight can only be addressed through a whole system approach, where everyone works together to have an impact. The prevalence of overweight pupils in reception years is 25.9%, which is the highest seen since 2006/07.

**What needs to happen?** There is a lack of a firm evidence base on the most effective interventions to reduce excess weight in children. We are therefore working on developing the current system offer to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. We know that provision of prevention and early intervention measures are key in making a difference for families, along with an environment that supports healthy behaviour, and we will continue to work with our partners to create change. The National Child Measurement Programme was halted due to COVID-19, meaning that fewer children were measured in 2019/20. Guidance for the 2020/21 programme is due in the autumn and will align with relevant Public Health England and other government department COVID-19 guidance provided to schools, local authorities and NHS community services.

# How We Will Deliver

Corporate Plan priorities	Key performance indicators	Page number
Providing quality public services	Statutory complaints completed within timescales	15

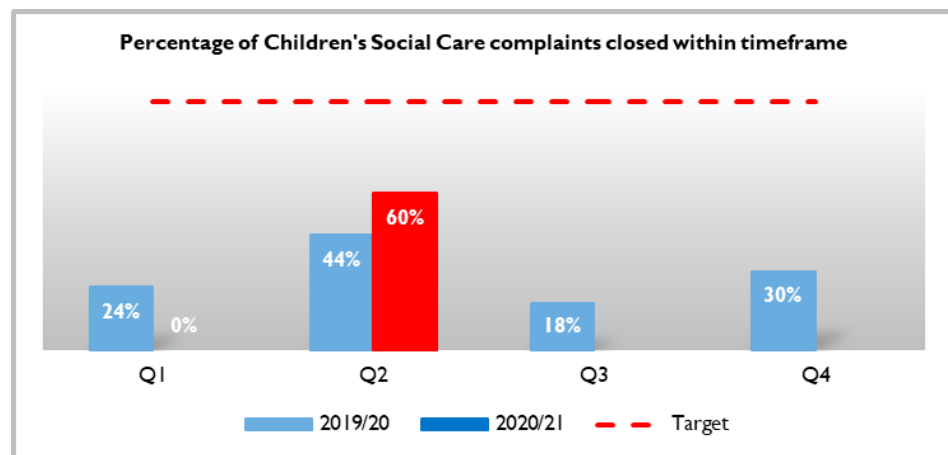


# Providing quality public services

## Statutory complaints completed within timescales

**What we measure:** The percentage of Children's Social Care (CSC) complaints that are responded to within expected timescales (20 working days) and the percentage of Adult Social Care (ASC) complaints responded to within a timescale agreed with the complainant. Responses to CSC complaints are dealt with solely by Plymouth City Council whilst Livewell Southwest (LWSW) respond to ASC complaints.

**Why we measure it:** People accessing CSC and ASC services are some of the most vulnerable people in the city. For this reason it is extremely important that we respond to complaints in a timely manner. This indicator allows us to assess how well we are performing in this area.



**How have we done? 60%**

Increase of 60 percentage points from quarter one 2020/21.

Trend rating: **Green**

**Target for 2020/21: 95%**

Performance in quarter two now puts performance at 35 percentage points below the target.

Target rating: **Red**

**What's working well?** Between 1 April and 30 September 2020, 23 CSC complaints were received; this means that the service is on a trajectory to receive fewer complaints for the second successive year (55 in 2019/20). The percentage of complaints either fully or partially upheld each month is improving. In July and August performance was 40% compared to an average monthly rate of 75% between February and May 2020. Between 1 April and 30 September 2020, 24 ASC specific complaints were received and of those resolved during the period (12), 100% were resolved within the timescale agreed with the complainant. On average over the period it took 55 days for a complaint to have been fully dealt with, which is an improvement on the previous 12 month average of 58 days.

**What are we worried about?** The percentage of CSC complaints that were completed within timescales in quarter two was 60%; performance is improving and how we respond to these complaints will remain a priority for the service. Twelve ASC complaints were closed, seven (58.3%) of which were either fully or partially upheld; this is a reduction on last year but we will continue to engage with the provider regarding lessons learnt.

**What needs to happen?** The coordinating of complaints for the CSC service by a senior manager will continue and this has led to an upturn in performance. With regard to ASC complaints, regular monitoring meetings ensure that a robust process to deal with statutory complaints is in place.

# Further Information

This report was produced by the Plymouth City Council Performance and Risk Team. For further information, please contact:

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# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2020-2021



**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 Helen Rickman, Democratic Advisor on 01752 398444.

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
<b>19 October 2020</b>	Finance – breakdown Children's Services. Month 4 monitoring report	Report required	Assess financial situation of Childrens Service	Cllr Lowry/Andrew Hardingham
	Children in care – numbers/cost	Verbal Update	Assess numbers/costs	Cllr Laing/Jean Kelly/Alison Botham
	Return to school recovery plan – update on health and wellbeing programme. Impact of Covid 19 (day to day for schools). School transport to be covered. Regular update	Report	Assess the impact of Covid 19	Cllr J Taylor/Alison Botham
	Policy Update	Report		Caroline Marr
<b>2 December 2020</b>	Update on progress since JTAI	5	Assess improvement via improvement plan – presentation?	Cllr Laing/Jean Kelly/Alison Botham
	In house fostering/ impact of service re-design.	5	Assess the impact of the service re-design – 2 page briefing report.	Cllr Laing/Jean Kelly/Alison Botham
	Covid impact – standing item. Covid related relaxation of regs. (policy)	Private briefing – to be emailed around.	Update since previous meeting – impact on service area – verbal update (briefing emailed)	

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
	Participation – work of young safe-guarders and Listen and Care Council		Report.	Cllr Laing
<b>6 January 2021</b>	Skills for Plymouth – (to include update on Kickstart)	TBC	Report	Cllr J Taylor
	Youth provision across the city (Jean/ Matt) The Zone.	TBC	Report and sign offs on the template.	Cllr Laing
	Finance update	TBC	Monitoring report Children’s services. Extract of it.	Cllr Laing/David Northey
	Covid update		Verbal and slides on the day Education – impact on school and attendance. Children’s social care – looked after children – those on plans.  Two presentations.	Cllr Laing Cllr J Taylor Alison Botham Jean Kelly Ming Zhang
<b>3 March 2021</b>	Covid update	Verbal Update 5	Verbal update Education – impact on school and attendance. Children’s social care – looked after children – those on plans.	Cllr Laing Cllr J Taylor Alison Botham Jean Kelly Ming Zhang
	NEET – impact of covid on young people.	Report	To discuss the impact of the Covid pandemic on young people.	Cllr J Taylor Ming Zhang
	Child exploitation.	5	All exploitation. Sexual. Report and sign off codes. (to include information on children giving evidence in court)	Cllr Laing

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
	Corporate Plan Performance Report – report	5	Annual Update	Rob Sowden
<b>Items to be scheduled</b>				
<b>Review report – adopt south west</b>				
<b>Select Committee Reviews</b>				
<b>To be scheduled</b>				
<b>Joint Select Committee Reviews</b>				

**Annex I – Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool**

		<b>Yes (=1)</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>Public Interest</b>	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?		
<b>Ability</b>	Could Scrutiny have an influence?		
<b>Performance</b>	Is this an area of underperformance?		
<b>Extent</b>	Does the topic affect people living, working or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?		
<b>Replication</b>	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?		
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?		
	<b>Total:</b>		High/Medium/Low

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Medium</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>1-2</b>

## Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minute No.	Resolution	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
6 January 2021 Minute 23: Skills for Plymouth	It was agreed that Skills 4 Plymouth would remain on the panel's work programme and a report detailing the progress of the Kickstart Programme and work academies would be provided to Members at a meeting in 6 months' time.	<b>Progress:</b> Complete – added to work programme
6 January 2021 Minute 27: Covid Update	It was requested by a Member that performance monitoring reports detailing priorities and trends was provided as part of the Covid update in the future to allow greater scrutiny.  It was agreed that Members would be provided with a briefing indicating key areas of performance in the children's department, specifically areas doing well and those which were a challenge	<b>Progress:</b> Complete – this will be included as part of the update at the meeting.
6 January 2021 Minute 29 Tracking Decisions	Under this item it was agreed that an update on the PAUSE project would be added to the panel's work programme for March 2021.	<b>Progress:</b> Complete - It was agreed by the Chair outside of the meeting that an update would be provided to Members however this was being considered by the Corporate Parenting Group at their March meeting.

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