

# **Q4 2021/22 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee



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## 1. CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES

### 1.1. REFERRALS & RE-REFERRALS

1.1. REFERRALS & RE-REFERRALS				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	4,042	3,164	3,616	494.1 (2020/21)	608.5 (2020/21)	<b>3,285</b>
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	769.1	598.1	678.5			<b>616.4</b>
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	1,265	772	861	22.7% (2020/21)	23.3% (2020/21)	<b>743</b>
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	31.3%	24.4%	23.8%			<b>22.6%</b>

In the 12 months to the end of quarter four, the Plymouth Referrals and Assessment Service (PRAS) received 3,285 referrals, this is 331 less than the 2020/21, but 121 more referrals than 2019/20. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) we were reporting at 616.4 at the end of quarter four. This is lower than our published position for 2020/21 (678.5) but slightly higher than our statistical neighbours and higher than the England average of 494.1 (2020/21 published figure as 2021/22 published figures will not be released until December 2022). Whilst we remain above pre-pandemic levels, the last few months have seen decreases in the average monthly volume of referrals.

The proportion of re-referrals received (where we had received a referral for the same child in the 12 months prior) has seen an improvement. The end of quarter four position was reported at 22.6%, down 1.2 percentage points from our published 2020/21 figure. Our improvement combined with increased re-referrals in other authorities means we are at a level lower than our statistical neighbours and the England average.

### 1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED

1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	1,053	841	1,121	-	-	<b>965</b>
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	200.4	159.0	210.4	-	-	<b>181.1</b>

As the table above shows our 'Child in Need' caseload (which does not include children subject to Children Protection Plans or Looked after Children) had increased by 33.3% over 2020/21. Over the last few months our net number of children subject to a Child in Need Plan has started to return to pre-pandemic levels.

With the decrease in the number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan and some increased capacity in the Social Work teams, caseloads are gradually returning to more manageable levels. The service continues to review all children in need to ensure the right support at the right time for families.

### 1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	255	310	333	41.4 (2020/21)	57.2 (2020/21)	<b>326</b>
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	48.5	58.6	62.5			<b>61.2</b>
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	45.1% (115)	53.2% (165)	50.2% (167)	-	-	<b>51.5% (168)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	11.0% (28)	8.7% (27)	7.8% (26)	-	-	<b>7.7% (25)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	2.7% (7)	3.9% (12)	5.1% (17)	-	-	<b>3.7% (12)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	41.2% (105)	34.2% (106)	36.9% (123)	-	-	<b>37.1% (121)</b>
6	% of children subject to multiple child protection plans - Within lifetime of the child (new plans starting in last 12 months)	22.7%	28.8%	27.4%	22.1% (2020/21)	21.3% (2020/21)	<b>27.5%</b>

At the end of quarter four (31 March 2022) there were 326 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is 61.2 children per 10,000 children and is slightly lower than the 2020/21 published figure and is 25 children (8.0%) more than at the point of the first national lockdown on 23 March 2020. At a rate per 10,000 children, we are 19.8 per 10,000 children higher than the England average and 4.0 children per 10,000 higher than our statistical neighbours.

When compared to the end of the 2020/21 position, the proportion of children on a Child Protection Plan due to 'Neglect' has increased by 1.3 percentage points to 51.5% of the 326 children subject to a CP Plan (as at 31 March 2022). The proportion of Child Protection Plans for 'Emotional Abuse' increased slightly (up 0.2 percentage points). CP Plans for 'Sexual Abuse' reduced by 1.4 percentage points and 'Physical Abuse' saw a slight decrease of 0.1 to 7.7%.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to quarter four (i.e., the financial year 2021/22), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 27.5%. This has increased by 0.1 of a percentage point when compared to our published figure for the previous reporting year (2020/21) and is higher than our statistical neighbours and the England average. All local authorities experience repeat child protection planning processes for children. The Safeguarding Service has led a review of all of the children affected by this and are working with the wider service to improve practice and performance.

**1.4. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CHILDREN IN CARE)**

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	412	434	485	67.0 (2020/21)	92.2 (2020/21)	<b>490</b>
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	78.0	82.0	91.0			<b>91.9</b>
8	% of Looked After Children placed outside of the city of Plymouth (i.e., the placement is not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9)	34.9%	34.9%	39.0%	-	-	<b>38.0%</b>
9	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	314	326	336	-	-	<b>325</b>
	Placement Type: Children's Homes	34	36	53	-	-	<b>56</b>
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	14	23	31	-	-	<b>33</b>
	Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	17	18	12	-	-	<b>16</b>
	Placement Type: Other Placement	2	3	0	-	-	<b>0</b>
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	17	12	25	-	-	<b>24</b>
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	7	13	25	-	-	<b>28</b>
	Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Mum & Baby	2	5	6	-	-	<b>7</b>
	Placement Type: Secure Units	3	0	2	-	-	<b>1</b>

On the 31 March 2022, there were 490 children/young people who are children in care. Although this is only five more children than the published figure for the end of 2020/21 position, it is 58 more than when the pandemic started, an increase of 13.4%. Unlike the level of children subject to a Child in Need Plan or Child Protection Plan, the increase seen in the net number of children in care is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. A combination of increased social worker capacity (Permanence Service) and the work of the Adolescence Support Team is supporting reunification where possible and the prevention of children coming into care using earlier intervention and family support.

62% of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 38% are placed outside of the city. This measure is simply based on the postcode of the child's placement address. Those not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9 are considered outside of the city. For example, PL12 refers to Saltash in Cornwall, which could potentially be less than a mile from a child's home address, but it is outside of Plymouth.

**1.5. CARE EXPERIENCED**

Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
10	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	9.0 (DfE)	24.0% (DfE)	9.6% (local) 15.0% (DfE)	12.0%	11.5%	<b>6.1%</b>
	% of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	51.0% (DfE)	47.0% (DfE)	52.8% (local) 39.0% (DfE)	52.0%	51.3%	<b>56.4%</b>

Our local figures shows that both the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation and those in Education, Employment and Training at better levels than our statistical neighbours and the England average. We continue to improve our performance and practice in both key areas.

We are working closely with the Skills for Plymouth response to ensure all care experienced young people have the opportunity to engage in education, training and employment. The increase in Personal Advisors in the service is supporting this work and the plan to increase social worker capacity in the permanence service will support earlier preparation with all children in care.

## 2. EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

### 2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES

Ref	Indicator Name	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2018/19 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
1	% of pupils attending Plymouth schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	80.1%	74.9%	68.0%	-	-	<b>77.1%</b>
2	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	New	New	72.0%	86% (2018/19)	-	<b>76.0%</b>

Graded inspections resumed at the start of the 2021/22 academic year. There are 98 state-funded schools in the city and, at the end of quarter four, 77.1% of pupils are attending a school judged as good or outstanding.

55 out of 69 Primary schools (79.7%) have been graded good or outstanding by Ofsted and 11 out of 18 Secondary schools (61.1%) have been grade as good or outstanding. This is an improvement on the last available report for the 2018/19 academic year when Ofsted judged that 72% of our schools were good or outstanding. Nationally, 86% were judged good our outstanding in 2018/19.

### 2.2. ATTENDANCE

Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
3	% of all pupils attending School	N/A	N/A	73.0%	88.6% (end Q4)	-	<b>86.4%</b>
4	% of pupils with a social worker attending School	N/A	N/A	69.4%	82% (end Q4)	-	<b>70.1%</b>
5	% of pupils with Special educational Needs and Disabilities attending School	N/A	N/A	65.9%	83% (end Q4)	-	<b>77.7%</b>

The information above is from the "Attendance in education settings during the COVID-19 pandemic" national survey. The survey was introduced at speed to obtain attendance data in response to the pandemic and replaced the school absence reporting pre-Covid. This survey is now requested fortnightly and is not mandatory, therefore the information should be used taking these caveats into account.

38.5% or 37 Plymouth school responded to the survey at the end of quarter four, with 86.4% of pupils being in attendance (versus pupils on roll). Plymouth's response rate was lower than the 43% of schools that responded nationally and the overall attendance level reported for Plymouth was 2.2 percentage points lower than the national average of 88.6%. For our vulnerable pupils Plymouth below nationally reported figures – however this will be impacted by the low response rates seen from Plymouth's secondary schools (just seven secondary schools responded).

It is worth noting that during lockdown two and three Plymouth had consistently higher attendance rates than was nationally reported.

**2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2021/22
6	% of 16 and 17 year olds in Education, Employment and Training	89.3%	93.6%	90.7%	93.6% (end Q3)	-	<b>91.4%</b>
7	% of 16 and 17 year olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training	83.5%	86.5%	84.3%	86.5% (end Q3)	-	<b>82.9%</b>

At the end of quarter four the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET) is 91.4%. This is above the EET figures at the end of quarter four in 2020/21 (90.7%).

At the end of quarter four 82.9% of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are in education, training and/or employment. This is 1.4 percentage points below the EET figures reported at the end of quarter four of 2020/21 (84.3%).

**2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES**

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	2020/21 Actual
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	38.5%	37.6%	47.1%	48.4% (2020/21)	50.7% (2020/21)	<b>51.9%</b>
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	44.1 points	43.7 points	48.5 points	48.9 points (2020/21)	50.0 points (2020/21)	<b>50.5 Points</b>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all summer 2021 exams were cancelled. This data reflects the GCSE grades awarded to pupils in August 2021, through centre (school based) assessed grades.

The percentage of pupils achieving the 'basics', a 5+ in English and Maths now sits above the national and statistical neighbour average (although slightly below the regional average). This is a good reflection on the Secondary Improvement Strategic Partnership activity that has been undertaken.