

Q3 2022/23 PERFORMANCE REPORTEducation and Children's Social Care Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**CONTENTS**

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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	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	3,164	3,616	3,285	494.1 (2020/21)	608.5 (2020/21)	2,255
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	598.1	678.5	616.4			423.1
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	772	861	743	22.7% (2020/21)	23.3% (2020/21)	470
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	24.4%	23.8%	22.6%			20.8%

In the 12 months to the end of quarter three, the Initial Response Teams (IRT - previously PRAS) received 2,255 referrals, this is 1,310 less than the 12 months to December 2021 and 1,295 less than the 12 months to December 2020. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reporting at 423.1 at the end of quarter three. This is lower than Plymouth's published position for 2020/21 (678.5), lower than statistical neighbours and is currently lower than the England average of 494.1 (quarter four's report will be updated to use the published figures for 2021/22 for comparison). This has coincided with partnership work to support partner agencies to think about the different types of support available in our city; however, we continue to monitor the reduction in referrals to ensure we're providing the right support, at the right time.

The proportion of re-referrals received (where a referral had been received for the same child in the 12 months prior) has seen an improvement. The end of quarter three position was reported at 20.8%, down 3.0 percentage points from Plymouth's published 2020/21 figure and 1.8 on the provisional figure for 2021/22. This improvement combined with increased re-referrals in other authorities means Plymouth is at a level lower than the 2020/21 statistical neighbours and the England average.

The recent Ofsted report (published 30 January 2023) has identified two priority actions and these are now being reviewed and are supported by detailed action plan for the Front Door. Within this, the service has a multi-agency group which meets on a fortnightly basis. It reviews 'No Further Action' decisions, recent re-referrals and threshold decisions; this will ensure that decisions are reviewed and discussed across the partnership on a regular basis. This will ensure that any learning or changes to the systems or staff support are put in place.

1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	841	1,121	965	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	990
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	159.0	210.4	181.1	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	185.8

As the table above shows Plymouth's 'Child in Need' caseload (which does not include children subject to Children Protection Plans or Looked after Children) has remained reasonably stable over the last nine months. The net number of children subject to a Child in Need Plan is currently higher than the level prior to the pandemic but has seen a reduction of 131 children when compared to the end of 2020/21 position.

The number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan is reducing, but there continues to be some pressures including timeliness of assessments which is currently being addressed. The service continues to review all children in need to ensure the right support at the right time for families. Through its recent quality assurance work, the service has identified seven areas of practice improvement and is currently working on structured plans to support practice development and Team Manager oversight.

1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	310	333	326	41.4 (2020/21)	57.2 (2020/21)	239
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	58.6	62.5	61.2			44.8
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	53.2% (165)	50.2% (167)	51.5% (168)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	46.9% (112)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	8.7% (27)	7.8% (26)	7.7% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	6.3% (15)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	3.9% (12)	5.1% (17)	3.7% (12)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	4.6% (11)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	34.2% (106)	36.9% (123)	37.1% (121)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	42.3% (101)
6	% of children subject to multiple child protection plans - Within lifetime of the child (new plans starting in last 12 months)	28.8% (96)	27.4% (90)	27.5% (103)	22.1% (2020/21)	21.3% (2020/21)	27.9% (84)

At the end of quarter three (31 December 2022) there were 239 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 44.8 children per 10,000 children, which is lower than the provisional 2021/22 position. The rate per 10,000 children is 3.4 above the England average and currently lower than our Statistical Neighbour average.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to quarter three (January 2021 to December 2022), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 27.9%.

This is the lowest level reported since March 2022, but further improvement is needed. During the last 12 months, 84 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans (within their lifetime), this is an improvement on the 103 reported for the reporting year of 2021/22.

The current percentage is higher than statistical neighbours and the England average. All local authorities experience repeat child protection planning processes for children. This area for improvement is included within the remit of our ongoing Sector Led Improvement Partnership (SLIP) work with Dorset and is the subject of a Practice Learning review by the new service manager.

The service is working with the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Board to roll out the 'NSPCC Neglect Graded Profile Tool' to support all staff and volunteers working across the system to identify and improve support for children and young people who may experience neglect.

1.4. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CHILDREN IN CARE)				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	434	485	490	67.0 (2020/21)	92.2 (2020/21)	487
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	82.0	91.0	91.9			91.4
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%	39.0%	38.0%	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	39.0%
9	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	326	336	325	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	333
	Placement Type: Children's Homes & Residential Care	36	53	56	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	56
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	23	31	33	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	49
	Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	18	12	16	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	1
	Placement Type: Other Placement	x	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	12	25	24	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	15
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	13	25	28	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	28
	Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	5	6	7	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x
Placement Type: Secure Units	x	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x	

On the 31 December 2022, there were 487 children/young people who are children in care. This is a decrease of three children on the end of 2021/22 and two more children than the published figure for the end of 2020/21. Unlike the levels of children subject to a Child in Need Plan and Child Protection Plan that have seen reductions, the net number of children in care has plateaued. A combination of approaches including strengthening our Early Help and front door responses and reviewing our offer for Special Guardians will support decreases in admissions to care. Increased social worker capacity (Permanence Service) and the work of the Adolescence Support Team is supporting children to return home from care where possible. This team also works to prevent children coming into care using earlier intervention and family support and we are currently reviewing the 'Edge of Care' model in this space to ensure this is robust and effective.

297 (61.0%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 190 children (39.0%) 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. Using information being developed, approximately 76% of children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home address.

Please note: where the number of children is below five, the actual figure is suppressed and shows 'x'.

1.5. CARE EXPERIENCED (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CARE LEAVERS)

Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
10	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	Not available	9.6% (17/178)	6.1% (11/181)	12.0% (2020/21)	11.5% (2020/21)	5.6% (10/180)
11	% of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training (Statutory Service (EET aged 18 to 20))	Not available	52.8% (94/178)	56.4% (102/181)	52.0% (2020/21)	51.3% (2020/21)	52.8% (95/180)

Plymouth's quarter three figure shows that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation was at a lower level than the statistical neighbour and England averages (as published 2020/21).

Those in Education, Employment and Training were reported at a similar level as comparators.

Children's Services are in the process finalising the city wide 'NEET' strategy called 'Unlocking the Plymouth's potential', with the aim of moving young people from 'NEET' to 'SEET' (Seeking) through to EET'. The directorate is also 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 along with a stronger practice focus, will support earlier stability and better Education outcomes for all children in care.

In June 2022 the Council signed a commitment for a whole city approach in line with the key principles of the Care Leaver Covenant, which are:

- Care leavers will be supported to achieve and aspire positive outcomes to maximise their life chances.
- They will be supported to be healthy, happy and safe.

Upon signing this document, the Council has agreed to demonstrate its commitment to care experienced young people in a number of ways and aims to make Plymouth the best place for care experienced children and young people to live, to grow up and are supported for when they are ready to leave care.

2. EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES

Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
1	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	Inspections paused due to COVID	76.0%	88.6% (August 2022)	84.7% (August 2022)	76.5%
2	% of pupils attending Plymouth schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	Inspections paused due to COVID	77.1%	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	78.8%

There are 98 state-funded schools in Plymouth and at the end of quarter three, 78.8% of pupils are attending a school judged as good or outstanding in our city; this is an increase of 0.5 percentage points on the previous quarter. When we break this figure down in to the rate of pupils attending primary or secondary schools, we can see that 84.3% of pupils are attending primary schools rated as good or better (compared to 87.4% at the end of quarter two) and 73.8% of pupils are attending secondary schools that are rated as good or better (compared to 68.9% at the end of quarter two).

The phase improvement partnerships, including Early Years, Primary/Special, and Plymouth Strategic (Secondary) Education Group, continue to provide momentum for the place based approach for school improvements, reporting directly to the Plymouth Education Board and the Regional Schools Commissioner. Overall the proportion of actual schools rated good or better by Ofsted has increased to 76.5% by August 2022 (published at end of Q3 2022/23) at the end of quarter three, from 75.5% at the end of August 2021 (published during Q3 of 2021/22).

2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	2021/22 Autumn and Spring term (combined) Actual
3	% of overall absence in all schools	Not reported	4.9%	Due for publication in March 2023	7.4% (2021/22 Spring term)	-	8.8%
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	Not reported	12.9%	Due for publication in March 2023	22.3% (2021/22 Spring term)	-	29.0%
5	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	Not reported	38.8%	Due for publication in March 2023	36.6% (2021/22 Academic Year)	-	44.2%

Previously, the information provided in this report was 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. Schools are now re-focused back to school absence reporting.

The information provided above is provided from the Department for Education "Absence rates" collection. This is a statutory return completed on a termly basis. The latest available report is for the 2021/22 autumn and spring term combined.

The overall absence rate at the end of the 2021/22 autumn and spring term combined currently sits at 8.8% this is above the national average (7.4%). The persistent absence rate at the end of the 2021/22 autumn and spring term combined sits at 29.0%. This is above the national average of 22.3%. The

persistent absence rate for pupils with an EHCP at the end of the 2021/22 autumn and spring term combined sits at 44.2%. This is above the national average of 36.6%. The strengthened education improvement partnerships continue to provide momentum for the place based approach for school improvements, reporting directly to the Plymouth Education Board and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

The new national Attendance expectations for local authorities, multi academy trusts and schools are reshaping the work done by each of these partners on attendance. Plymouth City Council are working with schools to implement this for September 2023. The new expectations bring greater consistency across all schools and strengthen multi agency work with the more serious persistent cases of school absence.

2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
6	% of 16 and 17 year olds in Education, Employment and Training	93.6%	90.7%	91.4%	93.2% (2021)	Not benchmarked	90.1%
7	% of 16 and 17 year olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training	86.5%	84.3%	82.9%	Not reported	Not benchmarked	80.4%

At the end of quarter three 2022/23, 90.1% of 16 and 17 year olds in were in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET). This 0.6 percentage points lower than the EET figures at the end of quarter three in 2021/22 (90.7%).

At the end of quarter three 2022/23, 80.4% of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are in education, training and/or employment. This is 2.3 percentage points below the EET figures reported at the end of quarter three of 2021/22 (83.7%).

This is an area of focus for the Participation and Skills areas of EPS in Plymouth City Council. A number of initiatives are under way to extend the options available to 16-25 year olds with EHCPs.

2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES

2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	2022 Actual
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	37.6%	47.1%	51.9%	46.6% (2022)	47.7% (2022)	45.9%
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	43.7 points	48.5 points	50.5 Points	47.1 points (2022)	47.7 points (2022)	47.5 points

The 2021/22 academic year saw the return of the summer exam series, after they had been cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the transition back to the summer exam series, adaptations were made to the exams (including advance information) and the approach to grading for 2022 exams broadly reflected a midpoint between results in 2019 and 2021. In 2021/22, 45.9% of pupils achieved the 'basics' (5+ in English and Maths). This sits below the national (46.6%), statistical neighbour (47.7%) and regional (49.2%) averages published by the Department for Education. The average Attainment 8 Score was 47.5 points this is above the national average of 47.1 points but below the statistical neighbour (47.7 points) and regional (48.7 points) averages. The strengthened education improvement partnerships continue to provide momentum for the place based approach for secondary school improvements, reporting directly to the Plymouth Education Board and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES
<p>Referrals & Re-Referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where concerns about a child have been raised to Children, Young People and Family Services, once the initial contact has been screened by our multi-agency hub, if appropriate, referrals will be accepted. The rate of referrals per 10,000 children is based on the number of referrals received in the 12 month period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities. A re-referral is where we receive a new referral for a child within 12 months of a previous referral. The indicator is based on a rolling 12 month period (e.g., 01 December to 30 November).
<p>Children In Need - CIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the purposes of this report, the number of children within the CIN cohort are those that have been assessed as being in need (but not CP or LAC) and the number of children who are in the process of being assessed to understand their level of need. The rate of CIN per 10,000 children is based on the number of CIN at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.
<p>Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - CP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Child Protection Plan should assess the likelihood of the child suffering harm and look at ways that the child can be protected. It should decide upon short and long term aims to reduce the likelihood of harm to the child and to protect the child's welfare, clarify people's responsibilities and actions to be taken; and outline ways of monitoring and evaluating progress. The rate of CP per 10,000 children is based on the number of CP at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities. There are four categories for a Child Protection Plan; Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Emotional Abuse. The table shows the number and proportion under each category. The % of children subject to multiple child protection plans is the proportion of new Child Protection Plan starting within the period, that are for a child who has had a previous Child Protection Plan at any time in the child's lifetime. The indicator is based on a rolling 12 month period (e.g., the proportion of new Child Protection Plans that started in 01 December to 30 November).
<p>Looked After Children (also referred to as Children In Care) - LAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The table shows the number of Looked After Children at the end of the reporting period. The rate of LAC per 10,000 children is based on the number of LAC at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities. The proportion of placements outside of the city 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. The figures provided for the placement types follow the Department for Education and Ofsted definitions, grouping multiple types into nine groups (for example, Family Placements contains six different placement types).
<p>Care Experienced (also referred to as Care Leavers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is deemed as 'Unsuitable' accommodation has been defined by the Department for Education. The following are examples of unsuitable accommodation: Bed and Breakfast / Emergency Accommodation, Prison, Temporary/No fixed abode/Street Homeless, Unknown/Not in Touch. The proportion of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training is based on our statutory service and therefore covers those young people ages 18 to 20. Whilst we work with Care Experienced young people aged 21 to 24, support is optional for the young person.

- Please note: The figures are likely to be different to the published Department for Education figures as they look at the age of the young person during the year at the period around their birthday and not at a specific snapshot.

EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

Ofsted Outcomes

Ofsted is responsible for inspecting schools and other social care services for children. There are four possible Ofsted ratings that a school can receive; Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. These Ofsted grades are based on inspectors' judgements across four Ofsted categories – quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development of pupils, leadership and management as set out under the [Ofsted framework 2019](#).

Absence Monitoring

It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. Some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, schools and partners should work with pupils and parents to remove any barriers to attendance as set out in [Working together to improve school attendance](#).

Education, Employment or Training

The law requires all young people in England to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday, although in practice the vast majority of young people continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18. The responsibility and accountability for young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) lies with the local authority and is set out in [Participation Statutory Guidance](#). The Department for Education (DfE) monitors the performance of local authorities in delivering their duties, and specifically in their tracking and supporting of 16 and 17 year olds.

Key Stage Four Outcomes

Key Stage 4 (KS4) is the legal term for the two years of school education which incorporate GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education). During this time, pupils must follow relevant programmes of study from the National Curriculum. At the end of this stage, pupils are entered for a range of external examinations. Following a phased introduction since 2017, GCSEs taken in 2020 and 2021 are all reformed GCSEs graded on a 9-1 scale. Two particular measures are commonly reported on at key stage four:

- percentage pupils achieving 5-9s at English and Maths GCSE in the city, and
- average Attainment 8 scores achieved by schools across the city.

Attainment 8 is calculated by adding together pupils' highest scores across eight government approved school subjects. While these numbers are not made publicly available on a pupil-by-pupil basis, scores taken from across a school year group are averaged to produce a school's overall score. The eight subjects are divided into three categories, called "buckets":

- Bucket 1 - English and maths, which are worth double marks, but English will only count for double marks if both English literature and English (i.e., English language) are taken. The higher grade of the two is used;
- Bucket 2 – The top three scores from the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects taken, i.e. sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages;
- Bucket 3 – The top three scores from remaining EBacc subjects or other government approved qualifications (e.g., other GCSEs or Level 2 Certificates in some technical subjects).

The grades are converted into points, put through a formula and finally out comes the school's Attainment 8 score.