

**Q3 2023/24 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee

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## I. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES

### I.1. REFERRALS & RE-REFERRALS

I.1. REFERRALS & RE-REFERRALS				Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period	
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2023/24
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	3,616	3,285	2,415	544.5 (2022/23)	739.1 (2022/23)	<b>3,484</b>
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	678.5	616.4	467.7			<b>670.6</b>
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	861	743	483	22.4% (2022/23)	24.3% (2022/23)	<b>714</b>
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	23.8%	22.6%	20.0%			<b>20.5%</b>

In the 12 months to the end of quarter three, Plymouth progressed 3,484 referrals, this is 1,229 more than the 12 months to December 2022 and 81 less than the 12 months to December 2021. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reported at 670.6 at the end of quarter three. This is higher than Plymouth's published position for 2022/23 (467.7), lower than the statistical neighbour average of 739.1, but higher than the England average of 544.5.

The proportion of re-referrals received (where a referral had been received for the same child in the 12 months prior) has seen a slight increase in the last quarter. The end of quarter three position was reported at 20.5%, up 0.5 percentage points from Plymouth's published figure for 2022/23. Plymouth is currently at a level lower than the 2022/23 published levels for both its statistical neighbours and the England average.

Following feedback from our focussed visit which Ofsted carried out in December 2022 and our Sector Led Improvement Partnership with Dorset, practice within the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been refined. From May 2023 the recording of contact information and progression to referral (where required) is consistent. Whilst we already know that the volume of contacts and referrals will be higher for 2023/24 when we compare it against 2022/23, it is felt that the current levels reported are more reflective of practice and level of need in the city.

In January 2024, Ofsted undertook an inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS), which included practice within the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The findings of the ILACS will be published 15 March 2024. Our Sector Led Improvement Partnership with Dorset, and our own quality assurance work shows that both decision making and thresholds are appropriately applied.

**1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED**

<b>1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED</b>				<b>Previous Year &amp; Benchmarking</b>			<b>Current Period</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>Q3 2023/24</b>
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	1,121	965	944	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>1,189</b>
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	210.4	181.1	177.1	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>228.8</b>

Quarter three has seen a decrease in Plymouth's 'Child in Need' caseload (which does not include children subject to Children Protection Plans or Looked after Children) but remains at the level higher than the previous three financial year-end positions.

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 in the Initial Response Service and Children's Social Work Teams to ensure robust, timely decision making, assessments and interventions for children. The seven areas of priority practice improvement are:

1. Assessment
2. Plans
3. Supervision
4. Management Oversight
5. Lived experience and voice of the child
6. Domestic Abuse
7. Neglect

As part of this practice improvement, Practice Standards setting out expectations across these seven areas have been shared with teams and a 'Leaders for Excellence' programme is in place for frontline managers to reset expectations. Our quality assurance framework is now aligned closely to these priority practice areas so that we will have the evidence from audit and dip sampling to help us evaluate whether practice is improving as we expect over time. We have a high proportion of newly qualified and newly arrived international social workers in our Children's Social Work Teams (almost 50%) who require this targeted workforce development. This also impacts on case-holding capacity and an additional team has been resourced for six months to enable the new workers to have a supported induction programme to prepare them for case-holding more complex work.

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

<b>1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN</b>				<b>Previous Year &amp; Benchmarking</b>			<b>Current Period</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>Q3 2023/24</b>
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	333	326	230	43.2 (2022/23)	55.9 (2022/23)	<b>219</b>
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	62.5	61.2	44.5			<b>42.2</b>

5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	50.2% (167)	51.5% (168)	45.9% (107)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>42.9% (94)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	7.8% (26)	7.7% (25)	6.4% (15)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>8.7% (19)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	5.1% (17)	3.7% (12)	4.3% (10)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>4.6% (10)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	36.9% (123)	37.1% (121)	43.3% (101)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>43.8% (96)</b>
6	% of children subject to multiple child protection plans - Within lifetime of the child (new plans starting in last 12 months)	27.4% (90)	27.5% (103)	25.8% (65)	23.6% (2022/23)	24.7% (2022/23)	<b>22.9% (61)</b>

At the end of quarter three (31 December 2023) there were 219 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 42.2 children per 10,000 children, which is lower than the published 2022/23 rate of 44.5 (230 children). The rate per 10,000 children is currently 1.0 below the England average and 13.7 lower than our Statistical Neighbour average. We anticipate the number of children on Child Protection Plans will increase to a more similar level to statistical neighbours as practice in this area continues to improve.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to the end of quarter three (January 2023 to December 2023), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 22.9%.

This is at a level lower than the last four year-end positions, but we wish to improve further. During the last 12 months, 61 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans (within their lifetime), this is an improvement on the 65 reported for the reporting year of 2022/23. The current percentage is lower than the published 2022/23 statistical neighbours average of 24.7% and the England average of 23.6%. All local authorities experience repeat child protection planning processes for children.

There is a strong focus on requests for repeat Child Protection Plans with greater oversight by both the Safeguarding Service Manager and the requesting social workers' Service Manager. This provides more consistency and further opportunity to have reflective discussions to ensure that the care plan is right for these children, or whether we can work differently with the family.

The service is working with the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Board to roll out the 'NSPCC Neglect Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment 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	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2023/24
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	485	490	501	70.0 (2021/22)	94.5 (2021/22)	<b>523</b>
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.0	91.9	94.0			<b>100.7</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)	39.0% (25% DfE – city boundary)	38.0% (23% DfE – city boundary)	39.9% (25% DfE – city boundary)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>39.9%</b>
9	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	336	325	339	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>370</b>
	Placement Type: Children's Homes & Residential Care	53	56	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>51</b>
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	31	33	48	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>57</b>
	Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	12	16	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>
	Placement Type: Other Placement	x	x	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	25	24	18	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>8</b>
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	25	28	32	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>28</b>
	Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	6	7	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>
Placement Type: Secure Units	x	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>x</b>	

On 31 December 2023, there were 523 children/young people who are children in care. This is a net increase of 22 children/young people on the published figure for 2022/23 and 33 more than the published figure of 490 for 2021/22. The average month-end position for the last 12 months is calculated at 497 children/young people with five month-end positions being at 500 or more.

Our improvement work includes ensuring children with permanence plans of long-term fostering are matched with their foster carers to support stable care arrangements.

We are working closely with our health partners to ensure children in care access health assessments and support in a timely manner; an action plan and improvement trajectory has been agreed and will be monitored through our Corporate Parenting Board.

314 (60.1%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 209 children (39.9%) 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 (potentially be less than a mile from a child's home address), but it is outside of Plymouth. Using provisional information, approximately 78.2% of children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home address (409 of 523). 30 children / young people were placed more than 125 miles from their home address.

There has been a slight increase in the number of children and young people in residential settings and close tracking is in place of all children. We have begun piloting the use of the BERRI Tool to support our identification and progression of step forward plans for children and young people to ensure that they are in the right home at the right time to meet their needs.

Nationally, and locally there are significant challenges finding suitable placements for all children in care, in both residential and foster placements, especially those with complex needs.

A Fostering Summit was held on 31st January 2024 to consult and co-design the new Fostering Recruitment and Retention Offer for Foster for Plymouth. A Task and Finish Group has been established to progress this. This work is completed alongside the implementation of the Regional Fostering Recruitment Hub and Mockingbird in Plymouth.

The offer made to Special Guardians, both to support the stability of current arrangements which can prevent breakdown and to reassure prospective special guardians which could result in increased discharges from care is being developed.

*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	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2023/24	
10	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	9.6% (17/178) (15% DfE)	6.1% (11/181) (11% DfE)	4.1% (8/192) (12% DfE)	12.0% (2022/23 DfE)	11.2% (2022/23 DfE)	<b>10.0%</b> <b>(20/200)</b>			
11	% of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training (Statutory Service (EET aged 18 to 20))	52.8% (94/178) (39% DfE)	56.4% (102/181) (49% DfE)	50.0% (96/192) (47.0% DfE)	56.0% (2022/23 DfE)	55.3% (2022/23 DfE)	<b>50.0%</b> <b>(100/200)</b>			

Plymouth's quarter three figures show that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation (10.0%) was at a lower level than the statistical neighbour and England averages (as published for 2022/23). The cohort of young people in unsuitable accommodation has increased on our locally held figures for 2021/22 and 2022/23 figures. Although comparing favourably with the England and statistical neighbour averages, this cohort is rigorously reviewed and reported via our internal reporting monthly.

A monthly Housing & Preparation for Adulthood meeting is being established in February 2024 to ensure robust, earlier planning for our 16- and 17-year-olds in respect of housing and the factors which impact access to and maintenance of suitable, stable housing post 18.

Those in Education, Employment and Training were reported at a level circa 5.3 to 6.0 percentage points lower than the 2022/23 published figures for our comparators.

There is an increased focus across Children's Social Care and Education, Participation and Skills to review and develop Individual SEET Plans for those young people within the 50% of care leavers who are not in education, employment or training but are seeking education, employment, or training. A joint tracker is being developed to monitor and progress plans for Care Leavers who are NEET or SEET. The Care Leavers Team and Post 16 and Skills are working with Livewell to develop a pilot Care Leavers Employment Pathway in consultation with care experienced young people. Positive discussions have taken place with DELT regarding work experience apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced young people.

**Please note:** *The DfE calculation differs from our local figures. We include all care leavers (Qualifying, Relevant & Former Relevant) and use the latest information available for those aged under 21. However, the DfE only include Former Relevant care leavers and use information held around the young person's 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.*

## 2. EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

### 2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2022/23 Actual	England	South West	Q3 2023/24
1	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	76.0%	77.6%	89.6% (Dec 2023)	87.0% (Dec 2023)	<b>87.6%</b>
2	% of pupils attending Plymouth schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	77.1%	81.0%	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>86.6%</b>

There are 98 state-funded schools in Plymouth and at the end of quarter three 87.6% of schools are judged as Good or Outstanding. When we break this figure down in to the number of primary, secondary and special schools judge as Good or better, we can see that 94.6% of primary schools are rated as good or better (compared to 90.8% nationally), 79.6% of secondary schools are rated as good or better (compared to 82.7% nationally), and 85.0% of special schools are rated as good or better (compared to 90.0% nationally).

Overall, 86.6% of pupils are attending a school judged as good or outstanding in our city.

### 2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period
					England (Autumn and Spring Term 2022/23)	South West (Autumn and Spring Term 2022/23)	Autumn and Spring Term 2022/23
3	% of overall absence in all schools	Not reported	4.9%	8.8%	7.3%	7.6%	<b>8.1%</b>
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	Not reported	12.9%	28.1%	21.2%	21.9%	<b>24.4%</b>
5	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	Not reported	38.8%	45.0%	36.9%	Available March 2024	<b>Available March 2024</b>

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 best available report is for the 2022/23 Autumn and Spring Term. Data was published on 19 October 2023.

Local unvalidated data from the Plymouth Inclusion Scorecard showed that the overall absence rate for the 2022/23 Autumn and Spring term was 8.1%. The DfE Published data confirms this and benchmarks us above the regional rate of 7.6% and national rate of 7.3%. The Plymouth Inclusion



Scorecard indicates that the overall absence rate for the whole 2022/23 academic year which falls within quarter two, is likely to sit at 8.9% - The DfE will publish validated data in March 2024.

Throughout this academic year our Place based approach is focused on inclusion, particularly the attendance, mobility and outcomes for children who experience disadvantage. This is through a working group led by SEND 4 Change who have been commissioned to produce a set of recommendations for city education leaders.

The new national Attendance expectations for local authorities, multi academy trusts and schools is reshaping the work done by each of these partners regarding attendance. Plymouth City Council are working with schools and trusts to ensure that this is implemented successfully. The first attendance network was held in July, with a further attendance conference in November. The new duties focus the work of schools towards direct engagement with their families and focuses the work of the local authority towards strategic oversight, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and children with SEND.

A city-wide campaign started during the Autumn term of 2023 which promotes strong attendance. Attendance is a key focus for all schools. Multi agency work to support those pupils who are severely absent is a focus for the locality work.

### 2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2022/23
6	% of 16 and 17 year-olds in Education, Employment and Training	92.1%	91.1%	90.4%	92.5% (Q4 2022/23)	Not benchmarked	<b>93.0%</b>
7	% of 16 and 17 year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training	83.1%	83.2%	81.4%	88.7% (Q4 2022/23)	Not benchmarked	<b>87.4%</b>

At the end of quarter three 2022/23, 93.0% of 16 and 17 year-olds were participating in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET) and 87.4% of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are in education, training and/or employment.

137 young people have moved from being not in education, employment, and training (NEET) to seeking (SEET), many of these young people need extensive support to transition into employment, education or training. This is an area of focus for the Participation and Skills areas of EPS in Plymouth City Council. Several initiatives are under way to extend the options available to 16–25 year-olds with EHCPs which includes growing the number of Supported Internships, Supported Apprenticeships, paid and unpaid volunteering placements and the newly developed 'Your Future' 5 Work readiness programme which includes a one week residential delivered by On Course South West.

**2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES**

<b>2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES</b>				<b>Previous Year &amp; Benchmarking</b>			<b>Current Period</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>2022/23 Revised</b>
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	47.1%	51.9%	45.9%	45.5% (22/23 revised)	42.7% (22/23 revised)	<b>41.7%</b>
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	48.5 points	50.5 points	47.5 points	46.4 points (22/23 revised)	45.0 points (22/23 revised)	<b>44.9 points</b>

In 2022/23, 41.7% of pupils achieved the 'basics' (5+ in English and Maths). This sits below National (45.5%) and statistical neighbour (42.7%) averages. Performance in Plymouth is 4.4 percentage points lower than the previous academic year, which is in just below the decrease seen nationally from 50.0% to 45.5% (5.0pp reduction).

The average Attainment 8 score is 44.9 points this is below the national (46.4 points) and statistical neighbour (45.0 points) averages.

18.5% of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieved 'the basics' (5+ in English and Maths). This is below the national average for FSM pupils at 25.0%. 8.2% of pupils with an EHCP and 18.7% of pupils receiving SEN support achieved 'the Basics'. This is above the national average of 6.9% for EHCP pupils and below the national average of 20.7% of pupils receiving SEN support nationally.

Throughout this academic year our Place based approach is focused on inclusion, particularly the attendance, mobility and outcomes for children who experience disadvantage. This is through a working group led by SEND 4 Change who have been commissioned to produce a set of recommendations for city education leaders.

### 3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES</b>
<p><b>Referrals &amp; Re-Referrals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children In Need – CIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - CP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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 the period 01 December to 30 November).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Looked After Children (also referred to as Children in Care) - LAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table shows the number of Looked After Children at the end of the reporting period.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Care Experienced (also referred to as Care Leavers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

## 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.