

**Q4 2023/24 PERFORMANCE REPORT**Education and Children's Social Care Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**CONTENTS**

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## I. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period
					England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 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>3,961</b>
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	678.5	616.4	467.7			<b>762.4</b>
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	861	743	483	22.4% (2022/23)	24.3% (2022/23)	<b>821</b>
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	23.8%	22.6%	20.0%			<b>20.7%</b>

In the 12 months to the end of quarter four, Plymouth progressed 3,961 referrals, this is 1,546 more than the 12 months to March 2023 and 676 more than the 12 months to March 2022. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reported at 762.4 at the end of quarter four. This is higher than Plymouth's published position for 2022/23 (467.7), higher than the statistical neighbour average of 739.1, and 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 (up 0.2pp) in the last quarter. The end of quarter four position was reported at 20.7%, up 0.7 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.

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 inspection found that 'Most referrals from partner agencies are timely and thresholds for different levels of support and intervention are appropriately understood and applied. Referrals about children are progressed promptly and are appropriately risk assessed.'

Since the inspection we have continued to work with the MASH to further improve the way we work with children and families. Further development work is taking place to strengthen the front door which includes discussions with our stakeholders to increase presence of our partners in the front door and improve the response to children and families by ensuring the right service can respond promptly to need. As we do this work, we are likely to see a reduction in the referrals being accepted for a statutory response as other practitioners will be able to respond at an earlier opportunity preventing the need for this.

**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>Q4 2023/24</b>
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	1,121	965	944	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>1,379</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>265.4</b>

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

As a result of the practice improvement work across the department we have seen an increase in the number of children opening on a Child in Need pan. For example, where there is a theme around sexual abuse and domestic violence, we are carrying out earlier assessments to identify the level of risk and intervention needed.

We know that children may need support and through early intervention could avoid coming into statutory services. There is a workstream that has been developed with partners to identify a clear pathway for families who can easily access early help and targeted early help without requiring social work intervention. We also know there are some children open within the children social work service who no longer need a social worker but require ongoing support to ensure the improvements they have made are sustained.

The children social work service has four weekly Child in Need tracker meetings chaired by the service managers to enable reflective discussions and ensure there is no drift and delay around the support and intervention for families. The service continues to embed quality assurance work with specific focus on these four areas of improvement.

1. Assessment
2. Plans
3. Supervision
4. Management Oversight

Training and development continues for all managers. There is a specific management programme which is underway for aspiring team managers, with Heads of Service supporting them to develop the skills and confidence to manage and lead teams. This is alongside the 'Leaders for Excellence' programme.

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

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2022/23 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2023/24
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	333	326	230	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>296</b>
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	62.5	61.2	44.5	43.2 (2022/23)	55.9 (2022/23)	<b>57.0</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>50.3% (149)</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>8.4% (25)</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>8.4% (25)</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>32.8% (97)</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>30.2% (112)</b>

At the end of quarter four (31 March 2024) there were 296 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 57.0 children per 10,000 children, which is higher than the published 2022/23 rate of 44.5 (230 children). The rate per 10,000 children is currently 13.8 above the England average and 1.1 above our Statistical Neighbour average. As explained at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28 February, we anticipated that the number of children on Child Protection Plans would 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 (April 2023 to March 2024), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 30.2%.

This is at a higher level than the last three year-end positions as seen in the table above. During the last 12 months, 112 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans (within their lifetime), this is an increase of circa 72% on the 65 reported for the reporting year of 2022/23. The current percentage is higher than the published 2022/23 statistical neighbours average of 24.7% and the England average of 23.6%. With the increases in referrals and to a lesser extent re-referrals over the last 12 months, we have seen the increase in repeated child protection plans. We were expecting this increase whilst we improve practice to ensure that children and families received the right level of support at the right time.

There is a strong focus on requests for repeat Child Protection Plans with greater oversight by Service Managers. 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 department 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. We are working towards ensuring all staff undertaking assessments have been trained by the end of 2024.

As part of our improvement journey, we are equipping our social workers with a better understanding of the identification of sexual abuse and domestic abuse; this is visible in the information shown above with a shift in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for these reasons.

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

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period
					England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2023/24
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	485	490	500	71.0 (2022/23)	96.5 (2022/23)	515
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.0	91.9	96.9			99.1
8	Number of Looked After Children in an unregistered placement (snapshot)	4	4	6	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	9
9	% 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	42.7%
10	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	336	325	339	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	368
	Placement Type: Children's Homes & Residential Care	53	56	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	57
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	31	33	48	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	47
	Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	12	16	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x
	Placement Type: Other Placement	x	x	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	8

Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	25	24	18	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>5</b>
Placement Type: Placed with Parents	25	28	32	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>26</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>

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

On 31 March 2024, there were 515 children/young people who are children in care. This is a net increase of 15 children/young people on the published figure for 2022/23 and 25 more than the published figure of 490 for 2021/22. The average month-end position for the last 12 months is calculated at 501 children/young people with six month-end positions being at 500 or more.

We are working with our SLIP partners in relation to children and young people's long-term matching for permanence to support our improvement work across the children's teams and the Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Team. This in turn will positively impact stable care arrangements.

We continue to work collaboratively with our health partners to ensure children in care access health assessments and support in a timely manner, in line with the agreed improvement plan which is reported to and monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board.

295 (57.3%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 220 children (42.7%) 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 76.5% of children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home address (394 of 515). 32 children / young people were placed more than 125 miles from their home address.

This has increased slightly compared to the 2022/23 average, however the percentage of children and young people placed outside of Devon and Cornwall has not significantly changed.

The number of children and young people in residential settings remains the same as the 2022/23 average. We have identified a cohort of those children and young people for whom we have assessed that they could live in a family-based placement with careful preparation and matching. Work is progressing with these children, and this is monitored through Children's Resource Panel and our Homes for Cared for Children work.

Sufficiency of suitable homes for cared for children continues to be an issue locally and nationally. Foster for Plymouth's new co-designed financial support offer has been launched through awareness raising activity in Foster Care Fortnight. The Regional Fostering Recruitment Hub (South West Fostering) is now live and the implementation of Mockingbird in Plymouth is progressing.

The Special Guardianship Support Team is now being established with the Team Manager starting in August 2024. The policies and procedures will be developed along with proactive information sharing with our Special Guardians. This will offer support that promotes stable care arrangements to prevent disruption of these family arrangements and enables prospective Special Guardians to feel confident in caring for a child under a Special Guardianship Order, which in turn should result in increased discharges from care.

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

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period	
				2022/23 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2023/24
11	% 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>9.5%</b> <b>(19/201)</b>
12	% 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>43.3%</b> <b>(87/201)</b>

Plymouth's quarter four figures show that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation (9.5%) 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 Housing & Preparation for Adulthood meeting established in February 2024 is operating monthly and monitoring the plans for all care experienced young people aged 16 and 17 to improve transition planning. This has evidenced improved planning and fewer young people requiring extensions to 16+ provisions post 18 due to delayed planning.

Those in Education, Employment and Training were reported at a level circa 6.7 to 12.0 percentage points lower than the 2022/23 published figures for our comparators.

We continue to focus on the cohort of young people recorded as NEET and targeted monthly review meetings are starting on 02 July 2024 in line with the improvement plan. This will review each care leaver who is NEET and, where appropriate, the Skills Launchpad develop will engage with them to develop an individualised action plan. This has been slightly delayed due to the SEND work and will initially prioritise those identified as ready to seek employment, education or training (SEET) in order to maximise impact for them ahead of the new academic term.

Work is ongoing through the Corporate Parenting Operational Managers Group to explore and develop opportunities across Plymouth City Council, our partners and the wider community for care experienced young people to access work shadowing, work experience, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities.

**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

2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	England	South West	Q4 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>88.8% (87/98)</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>86.5% (33,958 / 39,273)</b>

There are 98 state-funded schools in Plymouth and at the end of quarter four 88.8% of schools are judged as Good or Outstanding, an improvement of 12.8% on 2021/22 and bringing Plymouth more in line with national averages. When we break this figure down into the number of primary, secondary, and special schools judged as Good or better, we can see that there are:

- 2 out of 2 Nurseries (100% compared to 98.2% nationally)
- 64 out of 69 Primary Schools (92.8% compared to 91.2% nationally),
- 14 out of 19 Secondary Schools (73.7% compared to 83.2% nationally), and
- 6 out of 7 Special Schools (85.7% compared to 90.1% nationally).

Overall, 86.5% of pupils are attending a school judged as good or outstanding in our city.

### 2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING			Previous Year & Benchmarking				Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	England (Academic Year 2022/23)	South West (Academic Year 2022/23)	Autumn Term 2023/24
3	% of overall absence in all schools	4.9%	8.8%	8.2%	7.4 %	7.6%	<b>7.7% (341,717 sessions missed)</b>
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	12.9%	28.1%	24.1%	21.2%	21.3%	<b>23.2% (7,760 of which 860 severely absent)</b>
5	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	38.8%	45.0%	40.5%	36.0%	37.8%	<b>37.5% (611)</b>



The information provided above is provided from the Department for Education “Pupil absence in schools in England” collection. This is a statutory return completed on a termly basis. The best available report for the three indicators above is the 2022/23 academic year data. Overall absence and persistent absence data for indicators three and four, were published for the Autumn term 2023/24 on 16 May 2024. However published data is yet to be broken down by pupil characteristic, this is expected in July 2024.

Local unvalidated data for Autumn 2023/24 (01/09/2023 to 31/12/2023) for those with an EHCP who are persistently absent currently sits at 37.5%.

Local unvalidated data from the Plymouth Inclusion Scorecard showed that:

- Overall absence rate for the 2023/24 Autumn and Spring term (01/09/2023 to 31/03/2024) was 8.5%.
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 21.8%
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were consistently absent was 38.5%.

It is expected that the DfE will publish the validated data for Plymouth and the rest of the country in October 2024.

The Plymouth Inclusion Scorecard indicates that the overall absence rate for the whole 2023/24 academic year which falls within quarter two, is likely to sit at 9.1%; that the percentage of those persistently absent will likely sit at 23.9% and that the percentage of those with an EHCP who are persistently absent is likely to sit at 40.6%.

Throughout this academic year our place-based approach has been focused on inclusion, particularly the attendance, mobility and outcomes for children who experience disadvantage. This has been through a working group led by SEND 4 Change who were 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 2024 and have been termly thereafter, with an 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.

Attendance is a key focus for all schools. Multi agency work to support those pupils who are severely absent has been a focus of targeted support meetings which have been held jointly between education and social care early help teams.

### 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	Q4 2023/24
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>93.6%</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>86.8%</b>

At the end of quarter four 2023/24, 93.6% of 16- and 17-year-olds were participating in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET) and 86.8% of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are in education, training and/or employment.

It is important to note that by the end of May 2024, the target of young people with SEND in education, employment and training of 88% has been met, currently sitting at 88.1%. The target will be revised to 90% for the 2024/25 year.

By the end of quarter four, 145 young people had 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. Actions and impacts include:

- Tracking young people with an EHCP on apprenticeship and developing pathways (from 9 in 2022/2023 to 25 this academic year)
- Secured £1.3m SEND innovation grant year 3 to support transition that includes an innovative 'Your Future Programme' which provides 4-to-5-week employability programmes and support for young people. Year 2 of the SEND Innovation grant supported 277 young people against a target of 150 people. There has been a 100% success rate regarding positive next steps for the young people who have already undertaken the 'Your Future' programme. Achievements for these young people have included increased confidence, independent travelling, receiving mentoring to achieve future goals, securing interviews, and securing employment.
- A high number of young people moving into employment or apprenticeships from Supported Internships

**2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES**

<b>2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES</b>				<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Current Period &amp; Benchmarking</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 2022/23</b>	<b>Statistical Neighbours 2022/23</b>	<b>Plymouth 2022/23</b>
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	47.1%	51.9%	46.0%	45.5% (22/23 revised)	43.2% (22/23 revised)	<b>41.7%</b> <b>(1,214/2,912)</b>
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	48.5 points	50.5 points	47.6 points	46.4 points (22/23 revised)	45.0 points (22/23 revised)	<b>44.9 Points</b> <b>(Average score for 2,912 pupils)</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 (43.2%) averages. Performance in Plymouth is 4.3 percentage points lower than the previous academic year, which is just below the decrease seen nationally from 50.0% to 45.5% (4.5pp 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 (Education, Health and Care Plan) and 18.7% of pupils receiving SEN (Special Educational Needs) 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.

### 3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES
<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.