

QI 2024/25 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

Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2024/25
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	3,285	2,415	3,961	544.5 (2022/23)	739.1 (2022/23)	4,067
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	616.4	467.7	762.4			782.8
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	743	483	821	22.4% (2022/23)	24.3% (2022/23)	942
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	22.6%	20.0%	20.7%			23.2%

In the 12 months to the end of quarter one, Plymouth progressed 4,067 referrals, this is 106 more than the 12 months to March 2023 and 1,652 more than the 12 months to March 2022. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reported at 782.8 at the end of quarter one. 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 an increase (up 2.5pp) in the last quarter. The end of quarter one position was reported at 23.2%, up 3.2 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.

During the quarter under review, we have seen a decrease in the number of contacts progressing to assessment at the front door, attributed to the rigor and collaborative efforts with colleagues from Targeted Help and partner agencies within the MASH. Plans are in progress to involve more partner agencies in the MASH HUB, aiming for expedited and well-informed decision-making regarding contacts and ensuring timely intervention and support for children and their families. Though early in the process, we are pleased with the significant reduction in caseload and will continue to provide relevant training and workshops to enhance the skill set of MASH staff, ultimately leading to a safer and more effective service for children and families.

On a more related note, although there has been a slight increase in our re-referral rate as previously mentioned, Plymouth's overall re-referral rate remains below that of our statistical neighbours and the England average. We are committed to maintaining a low re-referral rate, indicating that prior interventions have successfully brought about sustained change and improvement for our families. As a learning organization, we will persist in reviewing and monitoring these cohorts and ensuring the appropriate application of thresholds and services. Additionally, we will continue to learn from family history and chronology to better inform our assessments and planning.

1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED

1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED				Previous Year & Benchmarking		Current Period	
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2024/25
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	965	944	1,379	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	1,070
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	181.1	177.1	265.4	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	205.9

Quarter one 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) and returns to a level comparable to the end of 2021/22 and 2022/23 positions.

As a result of the practice improvement work across the department we have seen a decrease in the number of children open in the department under a Child in Need plan, this is as a result of the practice improvement work being undertaken and the close scrutiny of plans by senior management.

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 have started to see this in the volume of referral and subsequent assessments, which is really positive for families as we would want to ensure they receive the least intrusive interventions where possible.

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. Visits

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	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2024/25
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	326	230	296	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	338
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	61.2	44.5	57.0	43.2 (2022/23)	55.9 (2022/23)	65.1
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	51.5% (168)	45.9% (107)	50.3% (149)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	50.6% (171)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	7.7% (25)	6.4% (15)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	7.1% (24)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	3.7% (12)	4.3% (10)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	10.4% (35)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	37.1% (121)	43.3% (101)	32.8% (97)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	32.0% (108)
6	% of children subject to multiple child protection plans - Within lifetime of the child (new plans starting in last 12 months)	27.5% (103)	25.8% (65)	30.2% (112)	23.6% (2022/23)	24.7% (2022/23)	26.2% (116)

At the end of quarter one (30 June 2024) there were 338 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 65.1 children per 10,000 children, which is higher than the published 2022/23 rate of 44.5 (230 children) and our provisional rate of 57.0 for 2023/24 (296 children). The rate per 10,000 children is currently 213.9 above the England average and 9.2 above our Statistical Neighbour average. We had previously advised the Scrutiny Committee (on 28 February) that we anticipated that the number of children on Child Protection Plans would increase over quarter four of 2023/24 as practice in this area continued to improve. We had anticipated a level of around 285 to 295 children, but were higher than this at 338.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to the end of quarter one (July 2023 to June 2024), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 26.2% (down 4.0 percentage points). During the last 12 months, 116 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans (within their lifetime), whilst this is a decrease on the end of 2023/24 position, it remains higher than the published 2022/23 statistical neighbours average of 24.7% and the England average of 23.6%.

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.

There is also a strong focus on Child Protection Plans over 12 months, with monthly meetings chaired by the Service Manager for safeguarding who is ensuring that there is grip and timely decisions for children.

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)				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2024/25
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	490	500	515	71.0 (2022/23)	96.5 (2022/23)	527
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.9	96.9	99.1			101.4
8	Number of Looked After Children in an unregistered placement (snapshot)	4	6	9	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)	38.0% (23% DfE – city boundary)	39.9% (25% DfE – city boundary)	42.7% (220)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	42.3% (223)
10	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	325	339	368	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	372
	Placement Type: Children's Homes, Residential Care Homes & Residential Schools	56	57	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	55
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	33	48	47	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	44
	Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	16	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x
	Placement Type: Other Placement	x	5	8	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	9

Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	24	18	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	12
Placement Type: Placed with Parents	28	32	26	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	30
Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	7	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x
Placement Type: Secure Units & Youth Offender Institutions	x	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x

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

On 30 June 2024, there were 527 children/young people who are children in care. This is a net increase of 27 children/young people on the published figure for 2022/23 and 12 more than the provisional figure of 515 for 2023/24. The average month-end position for the last 12 months is calculated at 509 children/young people with the last seven month-end positions being higher than 509. 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. We are awaiting the report however have already implemented some joint learning with our SLIP partners with some nominated staff attending workshops in Dorset which they will then deliver to staff in Plymouth around permanence matching and positively impact stable care arrangements.

304 (57.7%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 223 children (42.3%) placed outside of the city. This has decreased slightly compared to the 2023/24 average but is significantly higher than 2021/22 and 2022/23 average, however the percentage of children and young people placed outside of Devon and Cornwall has not significantly changed. 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 74.6% of children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home address (393 of 527). 39 children / young people (7.4%) were placed more than 125 miles from their home address.

The number of children and young people in residential settings has reduced slightly compared to the previous year end positions. We continue to work through our STEPS program to identify family-based placements for the cohort of children and young people who are assessed as being ready to move into 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 Family Homes for Plymouth's Cared for Children Board. A further cohort of children have been identified for the next phase of the work.

The risks identified in the STEPS work relate to the sufficiency of both 'in house' and Independent Fostering Agency foster placements and the matching of children given some of their complex needs and trauma. Sufficiency of suitable homes for cared for children continues to be an issue locally and nationally. Foster for Plymouth's updated offer to our Foster Carers has been completed to accompany the financial offer. 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 has now been established and the Team Manager is developing the policies and procedures ahead of a launch in quarter two. This will clarify and increase the offer of support to promote 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	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2024/25
11	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	6.1% (111/181) (11% DfE)	4.1% (8/192) (12% DfE)	9.5% (19/201)	12.0% (2022/23 DfE)	11.2% (2022/23 DfE)	11.9% (24/202)
12	% of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training (Statutory Service (EET aged 18 to 20))	56.4% (102/181) (49% DfE)	50.0% (96/192) (47.0% DfE)	43.3% (87/201)	56.0% (2022/23 DfE)	55.3% (2022/23 DfE)	45.0% (91/202)

Plymouth's quarter one figures show that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation (11.9%) was at a level slightly lower than the England average but above the statistical neighbour average (as published for 2022/23). The cohort of young people in unsuitable accommodation has increased on our locally held figures for the last three-year end positions. Our current position is at similar levels to the England and statistical neighbour averages and this cohort is rigorously reviewed and reported via our internal reporting monthly. There has also been an increase in comparison to the 2921/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Housing & Preparation for Adulthood meeting continues to meet 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. However there has been several young people over 18 who have moved from suitable to unsuitable accommodation.

Those in Education, Employment and Training were reported at a level circa 10.3 to 11.0 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 (Not in Education, Employment and Training) in targeted monthly review meetings which examines each care leaver who is NEET and implementing an individualised action plan through the Skills Launchpad. The focus has initially been on our children in care and care leavers in Year 12 and Year 13 to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET and exacerbating the increase. The work is now shifting towards those aged 18+ who are SEET (Seeking Education, Employment and Training) and NEET.

Work is ongoing 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. The fostering recruitment activity with local businesses and communities will also enhance this work.

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 19th, 20th or 21st 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	Q1 2024/25
1	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	76.0%	77.6%	89.6% (pub. Dec 2023) 90.3% (End of June report)	86.9% (pub. Dec 2023) 87.0% (End of June report)	90.8% (89/98) End of June position
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	90.5% (35,625 / 39,407)

There are 98 state-funded schools in Plymouth and at the end of quarter one for 2024/25, 90.8% of schools are judged as Good or Outstanding. This is an improvement of 10.2% compared to the end of the academic year 2022/23, and now 0.5% higher than the National average (90.3%) at the end of June 2024. 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 97.4% nationally)
- 65 out of 69 Primary Schools (94.2% compared to 91.6% nationally),
- 16 out of 19 Secondary Schools (84.2% compared to 83.8% nationally), and
- 5 out of 7 Special Schools (71.4% compared to 90.5% nationally).

Overall, 90.5% 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	South West	Q1 2024/25
3	% of overall absence in all schools	4.9%	8.8%	8.2%	7.4% (Academic Year 2022/23) 6.7% (Autumn Term 2023/24)	7.6% (Academic Year 2022/23) 7.0% (Autumn Term 2023/24)	9.1% (Local data – 01/04/24 to 30/06/24) 7.7% (Autumn Term 2023/24)
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	12.9%	28.1%	24.1% (Academic Year 23/24) 23.2% (Autumn Term 23/24)	21.2% (Academic year 22/23) 19.4% (Autumn Term 23/24)	21.3% (Academic year 22/23) 20.1% (Autumn Term 23/24)	29.5% (Local data – 01/04/24 to 30/06/24) (Of which 4.4% were severely absent)
5	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	38.8%	45.0%	40.5% (Academic Year 22/23) 38.4% (Autumn Term 23/24)	36.0% (Academic Year 22/23) 34.1% (Autumn Term 23/24)	37.8% (Academic Year 22/23) 36.3% (Autumn Term 23/24)	42.1% (722) (Local data 01/04/24 to 30/06/2024) (Of which 9.4% (161) were severely absent)

The benchmark 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. There is additional Autumn Term 2023/24 data now published for benchmarks and characteristic data and is also above.

Local unvalidated data for Q1 2024/25 (01/04/2024 to 30/06/2024) for those with an EHCP who are persistently absent currently sits at 42.1%.

Local unvalidated data from the Plymouth Inclusion Scorecard showed for the academic year until the end of June, that:

- Overall absence rate for the 2023/24 up to the end of June 2024 (01/09/2023 to 30/06/2024) was 8.4%.
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 25%
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were persistently absent was 40.1%.

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 2024/25, is likely to sit at 8.2%; that the percentage of those persistently absent will likely sit at 28.3% and that the percentage of those with an EHCP who are persistently absent is likely to sit at 41.9%.

Throughout this academic year our place-based approach has been focused on inclusion, particularly the attendance, mobility and outcomes for children who experience disadvantage. As a result, the Attendance Team Plan has been established, and subsequently presented and approved by the Plymouth Education Board. The ‘Strong Start to September’ campaign has begun and fortnightly contact between Attendance Support Team and schools has been established. 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.

The 0-25 SEND Team will begin to attend termly Targeting Support Meetings with Early Help link Officers and Attendance Officers to ensure joint planning in respect of children with EHCPs and absence.

Training is being offered to schools on how to support families to remove barriers to attendance, following local arrangements and service guidelines.

New regulations around penalty notices have been published in order to provide a consistent approach to issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absence and to help support Plymouth in reducing rates of avoidable absence.

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	Q1 2024/25
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	93.6%
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	89.1%

At the end of quarter one 2024/25, 93.6% of 16- and 17-year-olds were participating in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET) and 89.1% 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% had been met. The target will be revised to 92% for the 2024/25 year.

By the end of quarter one, 154 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

2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES				Previous Year	Current Period & Benchmarking		
Ref	Indicator Name	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	England 2022/23	Statistical Neighbours 2022/23	Plymouth 2022/23
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)	41.7% (1,214/2,912)
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)	44.9 Points (Average score for 2,912 pupils)

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.

Pupil level data for Key Stage 4 outcomes 2023/24 will be available to the LA in October 2024. School level information will be available to be reported to Scrutiny in the Q2 2024/25 report.

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 the period 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.