

Q2 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

I.1. REFERRALS & RE-REFERRALS				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q2 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)	3,676
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	616.4	467.7	762.4			707.5
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	743	483	821	22.4% (2022/23)	24.3% (2022/23)	938
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	22.6%	20.0%	20.7%			25.5%

In the 12 months to the end of quarter two, Plymouth progressed 3,676 referrals, this is 285 less than the 12 months to March 2023 but 1,261 more than the 12 months to March 2022. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reported at 707.5 at the end of quarter two. This is higher than Plymouth's published position for 2022/23 (467.7) and between the statistical neighbour average of 739.1, and 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 1.5pp) in the last quarter. The end of quarter two position was reported at 25.5%, up 5.5 percentage points from Plymouth's published figure for 2022/23. Plymouth is currently at a level higher 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.

In the current quarter, we have observed a slight increase in re-referrals. To address this, we are conducting desktop exercises to evaluate previous assessments, interventions and support offered, ensuring they served their intended purpose. We are also assessing whether these families could have been directed to alternative services upon completing their assessments to consolidate and fully embed the changes and improvement intended. As indicated above, our current re-referral rate exceeds the published levels for our statistical neighbours and the national average for the 2022/23 period. As a service, we are dedicated to maintaining a low re-referral rate, which indicates that prior interventions have contributed to sustained positive changes and improvements for our families. As a learning organization, we will continue to review and monitor these cohorts, applying the appropriate thresholds and services. Furthermore, we aim to enhance our understanding of family histories and chronologies to better inform our assessments, planning, and interventions, while improving our targeted support offers for families.

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	Q2 2024/25
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	965	944	1,379	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	820
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	181.1	177.1	265.4	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	157.8

Quarter two 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 was at a level lower than the last three year-end positions. We draw your attention to the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan or Child in Care Plan (next two sections) which are currently at a higher level than the previous two year-end positions, indicating that children are generally receiving the right level of support.

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

1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q2 2024/25
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	326	230	296	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	306
	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)	58.9
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	51.5% (168)	45.9% (107)	50.3% (149)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	54.9% (168)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	7.7% (25)	6.4% (15)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	6.9% (21)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	3.7% (12)	4.3% (10)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	8.8% (27)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	37.1% (121)	43.3% (101)	32.8% (97)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	29.4% (90)
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)	25.4% (112)

At the end of quarter two (30 September 2024) there were 306 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 58.9 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 15.7 above the England average and 3.0 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. The current level of 306 is reasonably close to the 285 to 295 children we predicted back in February.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to the end of quarter two (October 2023 to September 2024), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 25.4% (down 4.6 percentage points on 31 March 2024). During the last 12 months, 112 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	Q2 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)	517
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.9	96.9	99.1			99.5
8	Number of Looked After Children in an unregistered placement (snapshot)	4	6	9	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	6
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	42.7% (221)
10	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	325	339	368	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	356
	Placement Type: Children's Homes, Residential Care Homes & Residential Schools	56	57	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	54
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	33	48	47	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	50
	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	5
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	24	18	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	10
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	28	32	26	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	36
	Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	7	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	5
	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 September 2024, there were 517 children/young people who are children in care. This is a net increase of 17 children/young people on the published figure for 2022/23 and two more than the provisional figure of 515 for 2023/24. The average month-end position for the last 12 months is calculated at 517 children/young people.

Following on from the Sector Lead Improvement Partnership (SLIP) work around children and young people's long-term matching for permanence, the Head of Service is now chairing a monthly oversight and tracking meeting to ensure timely progression of permanence for children. We will also be delivering a week of lunchtime workshops around safe and settled care arrangements for children in care in January 2025 to focus on permanence matching and stable care.

296 (57.7%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 221 children (42.7%) placed outside of the city. This is reported at the same level as our provisional figure for 2023/24 but higher than 2021/22 and 2022/23 figures published by the DfE. 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 75.0% of children in care are placed within 20 miles of their home address (388 of 517). 42 children / young people (8.1%) were placed more than 125 miles from their home address.

Work to increase sufficiency to provide the right homes for children in or close to Plymouth and to progress plans for individual children continues to be monitored through Children's Resource Panel and our Family Homes for Plymouth's Children Board. Sufficiency of fostering homes for children and young people remains a challenge both locally and nationally. This has impacted the timeliness of young people stepping out of residential settings into family-based care.

We continue to work creatively through our Brokerage Team and using our STEPS program to identify family-based placements for the children and young people who are assessed as being ready to move into a family-based placement with careful preparation and matching. In addition, work continues to grow the number of in-house Foster Carers with increased recruitment activity both locally and via the Regional Fostering Hub. An increase in in-house foster carers has yielded a decrease on the reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies, and we have also seen an uplift in applications to foster this financial year.

Although not within quarter two, it is also of note that in October, Foster for Plymouth joined a growing partnership of Councils and Children's Trusts across the Country to produce a short film called '[Everything](#)' to promote local authority fostering. This was launched nationally with a premier on 17 October in Birmingham and then Foster for Plymouth hosted a premiere on 18 October. The formal launch of Mockingbird in Plymouth (a global award-winning programme led by The Fostering Network in the UK) took place on Friday 01 November, with a celebratory event with Foster Carers, Children and Young People.

The Special Guardianship Support Team was formally launched in Kinship Care Week (7-14 October 2024). Consultation sessions have taken place with Special Guardians which have informed the SGO Support Offer. 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	Q2 2024/25
11	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	6.1% (11/181) (11% DfE)	4.1% (8/192) (12% DfE)	9.5% (19/201)	12.0% (2022/23 DfE)	11.2% (2022/23 DfE)	6.4% (13/203)
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)	43.3% (88/203)

Plymouth's quarter two figures show that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation (6.4%) was at a lower than both the England average and the statistical neighbour average (as published for 2022/23). The cohort of young people in unsuitable accommodation has improved on our provisional figure for 2023/24 and has returned to levels comparable to those published for 2021/22 and 2022/23. This cohort of young people is rigorously reviewed and reported via our internal reporting monthly.

The Housing and Preparation for Adulthood meeting continues to ensure that timely plans are in place for young people as they approach 18 and this is contributing to the improved suitability figures and a reduction in lengthy and costly extensions to children's placements post 18. Robust monitoring of those young people over 18 who are in unsuitable accommodation continues to focus on the support plans in place and joint working with community connections to move young people into suitable accommodation.

Those in Education, Employment and Training were reported at a level circa 12.0 to 12.7 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 or Training) in targeted monthly review meetings and implementing an individualised action plan through the Skills Launchpad. A period of enhanced incentivisation for young people moving from NEET to into training or education, even if this is a part time or voluntary experience is being explored to assess whether this improves engagement.

Work continues within Plymouth City Council and across the business community to develop supported opportunities across the 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. Activity during care leavers week has focused on young people's feedback about positive work experience and university study will encourage employers to think further about their role.

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

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
				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) 90.4% (End of August report)	86.9% (pub. Dec 2023) 86.6% (End of August report)	90.8% (89/98) End of August 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% (32,201 / 35,576)

There are 98 state-funded schools in Plymouth and at the end of quarter two for 2024/25, 90.8% of schools are judged as Good or Outstanding.. 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).

As we have moved into a new academic year, based on local information on pupils on roll, at the end of September 90.5% of pupils are attending a school judged as good or outstanding in our city.

From September 2024, OFSTED no longer provides a one-word judgement on the overall effectiveness of a school. Therefore, the figure will remain static for future reporting until it can be established how OFSTED will be using inspection data for monitoring purposes.

2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Plymouth	2021/22 Plymouth	Current published data & Benchmarking			Current Period
				Plymouth	England	South West	Q2 2024/25
3	% of overall absence in all schools	4.9%	8.8%	8.2% (Academic Year 2022/23) 8.1% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	7.4% (Academic Year 2022/23) 6.9% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	7.6% (Academic Year 2022/23) 7.4% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	7.9% (Local data – 01/07/24 to 30/09/24)
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	12.9%	28.1%	24.1% (Academic Year 23/24) 23.2% (Autumn & Spring 23/24)	21.2% (Academic year 22/23) 19.2% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	21.3% (Academic year 22/23) 20.3% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	23.1% (Of which 3.6% were severely absent) (Local data – 01/07/24 to 30/09/24)

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 & Spring 2023/24)	36.0% (Academic Year 22/23) 34.8% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	37.8% (Academic Year 22/23) 37.8% (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	36.6% (632) (Of which 11.0% (190) were severely absent) (Local data 01/07/24 to 30/09/2024)
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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 & Spring Term 2023/24 data now published for benchmarks and characteristic data and is also above.

Local unvalidated data for Q2 2024/25 (01/07/2024 to 30/09/2024) for those with an EHCP who are persistently absent currently sits at 36.6%.

As this quarter broaches the end of the previous academic year and the start of the new academic year, data for the full academic year 2023/24 and the first month of 2024/25, have been provided as follows:

Local unvalidated data from the Plymouth Inclusion Scorecard showed for the academic year 2023/24, that:

- Overall absence rate for the 2023/24 (01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024) was 8.2%
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 28.3%
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were persistently absent was 40.5%.

Local unvalidated data from the Plymouth Inclusion Scorecard showed for the month of September 2024/25, that:

- Overall absence rate was 6.1%.
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 18.2%
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were persistently absent was 25.8%.

The ‘Strong Start to September’ campaign was run in the first month of the academic year to encourage attendance from the start of the academic year. Comparing this September’s data to last September’s data is showing a 0.8% improvement in attendance and in 12.1% decrease in persistent absence. Fortnightly contact between Attendance Support Team and schools has been established and Access and Attendance Officers will continue to monitor attendance on a fortnightly basis for each school in Plymouth.

The place-based approach to attendance begun in 2023/24, will continue into 2024/25, focusing on inclusion, mobility and those who experience disadvantage. The headteacher conference held in October 2024, has ratified the place-based action plan with this focus. The Health and Well-being Officer in Education is working with schools in a ‘Team Around the School’ focus on look at increasing suspension numbers, which often contribute and compound the issue of absence. Deep dive work into persistent and severe absence, children moving to Elective Home Education, and suspensions and permanent exclusions will continue to drive attendance strategies.

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	93.3% (End of Academic year 2023/24)
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	86.1% (End of Academic year 2023/24)

As quarter two covers the end of the academic year 2023/24 and the beginning of the academic year 2024/25, the data above covers the end of the academic year 2023/24, where 93.3% of 16- and 17-year-olds were participating in Education, Employment, and/or Training (EET) and 86.1% of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities were in education, training and/or employment. This is a slight reduction in both figures on the end of Q1, but this is an annual pattern seen as young people come to the end of courses in June and July.

It is important to note that Education, Employment and Training data is not recorded for September and October, to allow for the transition of young people leaving statutory education and those moving on from further education to employment. Continuing the positive engagement of 2023/24, the target for 16 & 17 year olds with SEND, being in Education, Employment and Training has been raised to 92% for the 2024/25 year.

Moving young people from not being in education, employment, and training (NEET) to seeking (SEET), education, employment, and training will continue to be the focus of the Participation and Skills Team. At the start of 2024/25, the team continue to widen their offer of extensive support to transition into employment, education or training to groups who may experience disadvantage, including (but not exclusive to) those in care, care leavers, young carers and young parents.

Positive updates at the start of 2024/25 include:

- More than 50 young people with EHCP's on supported internships
- Over 120 young people accessing the SEND Innovation and Progression Funds
- 80 skills action plans created with the Skills Launchpad Team
- The continuation of young people successfully completing the 'Your Future' programme and progressing to positive next steps, that began in 2023/24

2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES

2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES				Current published data & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Plymouth	2021/22 Plymouth	2022/23 Plymouth	2022/23 England	2022/23 Statistical Neighbours	2023/24 Plymouth
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	51.9%	46.0%	41.7% (1,214/ 2,912)	45.5% (22/23 revised)	43.2% (22/23 revised)	46.0% (School reported data)
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	50.5 points	47.6 points	44.9 Points (Average score for 2,912 pupils)	46.4 points (22/23 revised)	45.0 points (22/23 revised)	Not yet available

Outcomes for the end of Key Stage 4 (the point at which the majority of 15- & 16-year-olds complete GCSE's at the end of their statutory education) are measured primarily through numerical values assigned per GCSE subject (or an equivalent value for a non-numerical qualification outcome such as a 'pass' at BTEC).

For each pupil, for each GCSE subject completed and assessed, a value will be provided between one and nine (nine being the highest achieved level). A 'level 4' is considered to be a 'standard' pass, a 'level 5' is considered to be a 'strong' pass. Attainment 8 is the sum of the eight highest achieved passes by a student; these figures are then averaged per school, per Local Authority and nationally to create performance measures. Further information can be found in Annex 1 – Indicator Definitions

The pupil level results used to calculate performance measures, will be directly available to the LA in October 2024 (after the checking and appeals process), along with national, regional and statistical neighbour comparators.

Early reported data from schools for 2023/24 is suggesting that 46.0% of all KS4 pupils will achieve a strong pass in English and Maths at Key Stage Four. This is an increase by 4.3pp from 41.7% in 2022/23.

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).

In 2022/23, the average Attainment 8 score was 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>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.

4. ANNEX 2: OTHER SOURCES OF PUBLISHED INFORMATION

<p>LG Inform</p> <p>The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association</p>	<p>https://lginform.local.gov.uk/</p>
<p>GOV.UK - Explore education statistics</p> <p>Find related information and other statistical services provided by the Department for Education (DfE)</p>	<p>https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Children's Social Care - Outcomes and Enablers</p> <p>This dashboard displays data indicators to help both local and central government understand progress towards the outcomes and enablers set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework</p>	<p>https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/csc-outcomes-enablers/</p>