

**Q3 2024/25 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee

**CONTENTS**

<b>1. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.1. REFERRALS &amp; RE-REFERRALS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.4. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CHILDREN IN CARE)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.5. CARE EXPERIENCED (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CARE LEAVERS)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2. EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4. ANNEX 2: OTHER SOURCES OF PUBLISHED INFORMATION</b>	<b>15</b>

## 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 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2024/25
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	3,285	2,415	3,879	518.3 (2023/24)	728.5 (2023/24)	<b>3,310</b>
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	616.4	467.7	748.2			<b>637.1</b>
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	743	483	780	22.4% (2023/24)	24.4% (2023/24)	<b>867</b>
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	22.6%	20.0%	20.1%			<b>26.2%</b>

In the 12 months to the end of quarter three, Plymouth progressed 3,310 referrals, this is 569 less than the 12 months to March 2024 but 895 more than the 12 months to March 2023. At a rate per 10,000 children (enabling comparisons against other authorities) Plymouth is reported at 637.1 at the end of quarter three. This is lower than Plymouth's published position for 2023/24 (782.2) and between the statistical neighbour average of 728.5, and the England average of 518.3.

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 0.7pp) in the last quarter. The end of quarter three position was reported at 26.2%, up 6.1 percentage points from Plymouth's published figure for 2023/24. Plymouth is currently at a level higher than the 2023/24 published levels for both its statistical neighbours and the England average.

In the third quarter, there has been an increase in the number of contacts progressed within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), but a decrease in the contacts converted into referrals. Several factors contribute to this trend:

- Agreement with Police: Low-level Public Protection Notices (PPNs) are now returned to the police for monitoring under their 3x3 rule (three occurrences). If a safeguarding concern arises for a child or young person, Children's Social Care (CSC) will be notified.
- Targeted Help Services: There has been an increase in the capacity of Targeted Help services aligned at the 'Front Door' to provide timely intervention for families, as this prevents the need for statutory involvement.
- The trial of the Family Help Model began in November 2024. Although still in its early stages, it has shown that some families benefit from Child in Need (CIN) assessments conducted by the Targeted Support service rather than statutory services. Some families have established good working relationships with Family Support workers, effectively addressing low-level CIN needs.

To monitor the high re-referral rate, we continue to conduct monthly dip sample activities on all re-referrals. This provides the evidence regarding which service area the high rate of re-referrals are coming from and where to focus on. The actions that are being taken to address the rate of re-referrals includes:

- Thorough assessments to consider family history
- Safety plans to be shared with professional network
- Family Group Conference and Family Meetings to be consider before closure to CSC
- Consultation with Targeted Help before case closure

The themes which are seen in re-referrals are discussed at managers meeting and service meetings and taken forward to be used for service learning for all staff.

**1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED**

Ref	Indicator Name	Previous Year & Benchmarking					Current Period
		2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2024/25
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	965	944	1,379	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>831</b>
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	181.1	177.1	265.4	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>159.9</b>

Quarter three saw a slight increase (11 children) in Plymouth's 'Child in Need' caseload (which does not include children subject to Children Protection Plans or Looked after Children) when compared to quarter two. However, it is 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.

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 down to the work being undertaken and the close scrutiny of plans by senior management.

- Children who may need intervention following assessment are transferred to Targeted Help from Initial response as opposed to longer-term social care teams
- Children who are on CIN plans with longer-term teams, have their plans reviewed monthly with the Service Manager to assess their suitability.

We know that children who may need additional support benefit from early intervention and this could avoid a move 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 the impact of 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 regular Child in Need tracker meetings chaired by the service managers to enable reflective discussions and ensure there is no drift and delay on the support and intervention for families.

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, focused on practice improvement

In November 2024 the Government published 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive', which has led to a Families First Partnership reform and a commitment to rolling out family help and multi-agency child protection teams. The approach and practice around how we support children in need is likely to change during 2025/26, as we implement the Government's social care policies.

### 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 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2024/25
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	326	230	299	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>325</b>
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	61.2	44.5	57.7	41.6 (2023/24)	54.4 (2023/24)	<b>62.6</b>
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	51.5% (168)	45.9% (107)	50.2% (150)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>50.8% (165)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	7.7% (25)	6.4% (15)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>8.6% (28)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	3.7% (12)	4.3% (10)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>8.0% (26)</b>
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	37.1% (121)	43.3% (101)	33.0% (99)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>32.6% (106)</b>
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)	30.1% (112)	24.7% (2023/24)	25.5% (2022/23)	<b>25.6% (114)</b>

At the end of quarter three (31 December 2024) there were 325 children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a rate of 62.6 children per 10,000 children, which is higher than the published 2023/24 rate of 57.7 (299 children). The rate per 10,000 children is currently 21.0 above the England average and 8.2 above our Statistical Neighbour average.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan within the 12 months up to the end of quarter three (January 2024 to December 2024), who have been on a previous Child Protection Plan in their lifetime was reported at 25.4% (down 4.5 percentage points on 31 March 2024). During the last 12 months, 114 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 slightly higher than the published 2023/24 statistical neighbours average of 25.5% and the England average of 24.7% (our comparators saw increases on their previous year positions).

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 and the Service Manager for the Children Social Work Service who ensures that there is grip and timely decisions for children.

The department is working with the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Board to continue 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. The majority of staff within the Children Social Work service have now attended the assessment training and we continue to ensure that new staff attend the training as part of their induction.

As part of our improvement journey, we are equipping our social workers with a better understanding of the identification of sexual abuse.

Two workshop days were undertaken in November and December with staff across the Initial Response Teams, Children's Social Work and the Children with Disabilities Teams.

- To share the partnership work undertaken to support practitioners working with families where sexual abuse is a concern
- To support staff to develop the confidence and skills to carry out direct work with children where there are concerns of sexual abuse

Further development sessions are planned for February which are being co-delivered with the NSPCC. We are working closely with the Centre of Excellence and the NSPCC to ensure the training is aligned and compliments each other.

The children Social Work Service Manager is also now chairing the child sexual abuse working group and will continue to ensure learning and development is taken back into the monthly Service meetings with staff.

**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 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 2024/25
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	490	500	513	70.0 (2023/24)	94.0 (2023/24)	523
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.9	96.9	99.0			100.7
8	Number of Looked After Children in an unregistered placement (snapshot)	4	6	9	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	4
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% <small>(23% DfE: +20 miles of LA boundary)</small>	39.9% <small>(25% DfE: +20 miles of LA boundary)</small>	42.7% <small>(23% DfE: 20+ miles of LA boundary)</small>	Within boundary not benchmarked <small>17.0% DfE: 20+ miles of LA boundary)</small>	Within boundary not benchmarked <small>20.1% DfE: 20+ miles of LA boundary)</small>	42.8% <b>(224)</b>
10	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	325	339	368	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	357
	Placement Type: Children's Homes, Residential Care Homes & Residential Schools	56	57	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	65
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	33	48	47	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	51
	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	x
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	24	18	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	9
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	28	32	26	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	32
	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 31 December 2024, there were 523 children/young people who are children in care. This is a net increase of 23 children/young people on the published figure for 2022/23 and 10 more than the published figure of 513 for 2023/24. The average month-end position for the last 12 months is calculated at 521 children/young people.

299 (57.2%) of children in care are placed within the city, the remaining 224 children (42.8%) are placed outside of the city. This is reported at a similar level as our internal figure for 2023/24 (42.7%) but higher than our position at the end of 2021/22 and 2022/23. 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 less than a mile from a child's home address), but it is outside of Plymouth. Using provisional information, approximately 23.3% of children in care are placed more than 20 miles of their home address (122 of 517)

The number of children in unregistered arrangements reduced to four by the end of December with move-on plans in place for two of those. Both have since moved to their registered placements in January 2025. There are currently two children in unregistered placements by OFSTED, however both placements are registered by the CQC.

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. It is positive that to date 11 new fostering households have been approved by Foster for Plymouth this financial year with a further eight expected to progress to Fostering Panel by 31 March 2025. This represents double the number of households approved last financial year (2023/24) when nine households were approved and an increase on the 15 approved in the previous year (2022/23). The Fostering Summit will take place on 07 February 2025 to co-design the 2025/26 support and retention offer with our foster carers alongside the launch of the high support and emergency fostering offers.

We continue to work creatively through our Brokerage Team and using our STEPS programme 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. One child successfully moved to her new family in early January with another four being progressed through Foster for Plymouth.

The Special Guardianship Support Team continues to reach out to Special Guardians to ensure that they are aware of the new SGO Support Offer. SGO Support has been added as a sixth workstream within the Family Homes for Plymouth Children Board. Work is continuing to explore the financial offer available to Foster Carers who wish to care for a child in care under an SGO, thus enabling the child to exit care.

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

Ref	Indicator Name	Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period		
		2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 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) (15% DfE)	12.0% (2023/24 DfE)	12.4% (2023/24 DfE)	<b>9.1%</b> <b>(19/208)</b>
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) (45.0% DfE)	54.0% (2023/24 DfE)	52.2% (2023/24 DfE)	<b>46.2%</b> <b>(96/208)</b>

Plymouth's quarter three figures show that the proportion of Care Experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation (9.1%) was lower than both the England average and the statistical neighbour average (as published for 2023/24). The cohort of young people in unsuitable accommodation has improved on our published figure for 2023/24 but is at a level higher than those published for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The Housing and Preparation for Adulthood meeting ensures that timely plans are in place for young people approaching 18, improving suitability figures and reducing lengthy and costly extensions to children's placements post-18. Robust monitoring of young people over 18 in unsuitable accommodation focuses on support plans and joint efforts with Community Connections to move them into suitable housing, especially when higher support levels are needed to navigate social housing systems and timeframes. The Care Leavers Team collaborates with colleagues through the steering group for the new SHAP-funded housing provision to identify young people in or at risk of unsuitable accommodation who would benefit from the provision when it opens in March/April 2025.

Those in Education, Employment and Training was reported 2.9 percentage points higher than our internal figure for 2023/24. Our DfE published figure of 45.0% for 2023/24 (which has slightly different criteria to our internal reporting), was reported at a level circa 8.9 to 10.7 percentage points lower than the published figures for our comparators.

While still below England and statistical neighbours, there has been a steady improvement in the number of young people recorded as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Focused work has also shown an increase in those moving from NEET to SEET (Seeking Education, Employment or Training) and their progress is monitored through 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 the Council, our partners and across the business community to develop supported opportunities for care experienced young people to access work shadowing, work experience, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities. This included a presentation at the Devon Chamber of Commerce City Conversations Event.

**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. 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	Q1 2024/25
1	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	76.0%	<b>77.6%</b>	<b>89.6%</b> (pub. Dec 2023) <b>90.4%</b> (End of August report)	<b>86.9%</b> (pub. Dec 2023) <b>86.6%</b> (End of August report)	<b>90.8%</b> <b>(89/98)</b> End of August position
2	% of pupils attending Plymouth schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	Inspections paused due to COVID	77.1%	<b>81.0%</b>	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	<b>90.5%</b> (32,201 / 35,576)

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

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).

### 2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING				Current published data & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2020/21 Plymouth	2021/22 Plymouth	Plymouth	England	South West	Sept to Dec 2024/25
3	% of overall absence in all schools	4.9%	8.8%	<b>8.2%</b> (Academic Year 2022/23) <b>8.1%</b> (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	<b>7.4%</b> (Academic Year 2022/23) <b>6.9%</b> (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	<b>7.6%</b> (Academic Year 2022/23) <b>7.4%</b> (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	<b>7.7%</b> (View Your Education Data, AYTD 31/12/2024)
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	12.9%	28.1%	<b>24.1%</b> (Academic Year 23/24) <b>23.2%</b> (Autumn & Spring 23/24)	<b>21.2%</b> (Academic year 22/23) <b>19.2%</b> (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	<b>21.3%</b> (Academic year 22/23) <b>20.3%</b> (Autumn & Spring 2023/24)	<b>22.5%</b> <b>(Of which 2.8% were severely absent)</b> (View Your Education Data, AYTD 31/12/24)

<p>% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)</p>	<p>38.8%</p>	<p>45.0%</p>	<p><b>40.5%</b> (Academic Year 22/23) <b>38.4%</b> (Autumn &amp; Spring 2023/24)</p>	<p><b>36.0%</b> (Academic Year 22/23) <b>34.8%</b> (Autumn &amp; Spring 2023/24)</p>	<p><b>37.8%</b> (Academic Year 22/23) <b>37.8%</b> (Autumn &amp; Spring 2023/24)</p>	<p><b>40.4%</b> (752) (Of which 10.0% (187) were severely absent) (View Your Education Data, AYTD 31/12/24)</p>
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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.

The data source for absence statistics has been switched from the local information source to the ‘View Your Education Data’ (VYED) website, the DfE site for collating school absence. A recent technical issue with particular school data feeds (which has affected schools across the country) means that currently this is the most reliable data source. However, this data set currently does not include the information from one large secondary school for Plymouth.

VYED presents absence data cumulatively from the beginning of the academic year and therefore the following data represents the period from 01/09/2024 to 31/12/2024.

In the Autumn term of 2024/25:

- The Overall absence rate was 7.7 %.
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 22.5%
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were persistently absent was 40.4%.

In comparison to the same period in 2023/24, while primary and secondary attendance was slightly higher, special school attendance has fallen. When looking at persistent absence in the same period last year, this has fallen across primary, secondary and special schools

Work continues by the Inclusion and Welfare Service to reduce school absence. Access and Attendance Officers continue to monitor attendance on a fortnightly basis for each school in Plymouth. Schools which appear to be driving low rates of attendance when analysing overall Special school level have been identified and this is being discussed with these schools within School Effectiveness Framework meetings

With regard to the attendance of children with an EHCP, an audit has been undertaken of every child with an EHCP who is also either on a part-time timetable or considered severely absent. This will be completed by the end of January 2025. The School Improvement Team will work with the SEND Service to develop a plan to target schools to ensure that planning for children is robust which will help to improve practice and the rates of attendance for the EHCP cohort.

With regard to the attendance of children with SEN support, the role of the School Improvement Officer for SEND is being developed to enable targeted conversations with schools to improve attendance of children who need SEN Support.

A School Attendance research project has been developed in partnership with Marjon University. This will include a parent survey and a child survey, which will be carried out across the city and will explore the themes of belonging and inclusion in school. The surveys will be launched at the end of February 2025, with the research project concluding in May 2025. The ‘Belonging’ strand lead of the place-based working group has been involved in the development of the surveys and the learning from the project will both feed back into the place-based working group and inform future media campaigns promoting the importance of school attendance.

### 2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q3 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	<b>95.2%</b> (End of December 2024/25)
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>90.4%</b> (End of December 2024/25)

By the end of Q3 (December 2024), 95.2% of 16-and 17-year-olds are in Education Employment and Training. By the end of the Autumn Term of 2024/25, this figure is 2% higher than the figure seen at the end of the academic year 2023/24 (93.3%).

The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training at the end of December 2024 is 90.4%. This is 5% higher than the figure seen at the end of the academic year 2023/24 (86.1%)

Continuing the positive engagement of 2023/24, the target for 16- and 17-year-olds with SEND, being in Education, Employment and Training has been raised to 92% for 2024/25. Data is evidencing that the Post 16 team is on target to achieve this. Moving young people from not being in education, employment, and training (NEET) to seeking (SEET), education, employment, and training remains the focus of the team.

As the academic year 2024/25 progresses, the post 16 team continue to widen their offer of extensive support to transition into employment, education or training to groups who may experience disadvantage, which now together with the SEN cohort includes (but not exclusive to) those in care, care leavers, young carers and young parents.

- The numbers of post 16 young people in care in EET is more than double those who are seeking EET or NEET.
- 45% of Care leavers are in EET and when including those seeking EET this increases to 54.3%
- 72% of young carers are in EET, which increases to 80% when including those seeking EET
- 33.3% of young parents are in EET, which increases to 44.4% when including those seeking EET
- Although the funding period for the SEND innovation fund has now closed, the SEND progression fund continues to support more than 250 young people.
- The number of EHCP young people on supported internships continues to grow, moving from 51 in September to 57 by the end of December 2024.

**2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES**

<b>2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES</b>				<b>Current published data &amp; Benchmarking</b>			<b>Current Period</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Indicator Name</b>	<b>2021/22 Plymouth</b>	<b>2021/22 Plymouth</b>	<b>2023/24 Plymouth</b>	<b>2023/24 England</b>	<b>2023/24 Statistical Neighbours</b>	<b>2023/24 Plymouth</b>
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	46.0%	41.7% (1,214/ 2,912)	46.2% (1,327/ 2,870)	46.2% (23/24 provisional)	44.4% (23/24 provisional)	<b>46.2%</b> <b>(23/24 provisional)</b>
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	47.6 points	44.9 Points (Average score for 2,912 pupils)	46.2 Points (Average score for 2,870 pupils)	46.1 points (23/24 provisional)	44.6 (23/24 provisional)	<b>46.2 Points</b>

Outcomes for the end of Key Stage 4 (the point at which the majority of 15- & 16-year-olds complete GCSEs 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 I – Indicator Definitions

Provisional data released by the DfE for 2023/24 is showing that 46.2% of all KS4 pupils achieved a strong pass in English and Maths at Key Stage Four. This is a 10.8% increase from 41.7% achieved in 2022/23; 4.5pp higher.

In 2023/24, Plymouth's average for those achieving a strong pass in English and Maths is equal to the National average (46.2%). Plymouth is above the statistical neighbour average of 44.4%

Provisional data released by the DfE for 2023/24 is showing that the average attainment 8 points score for KS4 pupils in Plymouth is 46.2. This is 1.3 points higher than the average in 2022/23 (44.9) This is 0.1 points above the national (46.1 points) and 1.6 points above the statistical neighbour (44.6 points) averages.

In 2023/24, 23.8% of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieved 'the basics' (5+ in English and Maths). This is a 28.6% increase from the 18.5% achieved in 2022/23; 5.3pp higher. When compared to the national average Plymouth is 2.2pp lower (26.0%) but 1.3pp higher than the statistical neighbour average (22.5%). Although Plymouth is below the national average of 26% of FSM pupils achieving 'the basics', Plymouth's gap in achievement between FSM and non-FSM pupils has narrowed due to the increased achievement of FSM pupils in 2023/24. In 2023/24 this is 29.0pp (52.8% – 23.8%) compared to 30.1pp (48.6%-18.5%) in 2022/23.

In 2023/24, 6.7% of pupils with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) achieved 'the basics'. This is a reduction of 18.3% compared to 2022/23 (8.2%); 1.5pp lower. This is below the national average of 7% for EHCP pupils, but above the statistical neighbour average of 4.4% for EHCP pupils

In 2023/24, 24.5% of pupils receiving SEN (Special Educational Needs) Support achieved 'the Basics'. This is an increase of 31.0% compared to 2022/23 (18.7%); 5.8pp higher. This is above the national average of 21.6% for SEN support pupils and above the statistical neighbour average of 19.7% for pupils receiving SEN Support.

### 3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES</b>
<p><b>Referrals &amp; Re-Referrals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where concerns about a child have been raised to Children, Young People and Family Services, once the initial contact has been screened by our multi-agency hub, if appropriate, referrals will be accepted.</li> <li>The rate of referrals per 10,000 children is based on the number of referrals received in the 12-month period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> <li>A re-referral is where we receive a new referral for a child within 12 months of a previous referral. The indicator is based on a rolling 12-month period (e.g., 01 December to 30 November).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children In Need – CIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the purposes of this report, the number of children within the CIN cohort are those that have been assessed as being in need (but not CP or LAC) and the number of children who are in the process of being assessed to understand their level of need.</li> <li>The rate of CIN per 10,000 children is based on the number of CIN at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - CP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Child Protection Plan should assess the likelihood of the child suffering harm and look at ways that the child can be protected. It should decide upon short and long term aims to reduce the likelihood of harm to the child and to protect the child's welfare, clarify people's responsibilities and actions to be taken; and outline ways of monitoring and evaluating progress.</li> <li>The rate of CP per 10,000 children is based on the number of CP at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> <li>There are four categories for a Child Protection Plan; Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Emotional Abuse. The table shows the number and proportion under each category.</li> <li>The % of children subject to multiple child protection plans is the proportion of new Child Protection Plan starting within the period, that are for a child who has had a previous Child Protection Plan at any time in the child's lifetime. The indicator is based on a rolling 12-month period (e.g., the proportion of new Child Protection Plans that started in the period 01 December to 30 November).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Looked After Children (also referred to as Children in Care) - LAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table shows the number of Looked After Children at the end of the reporting period.</li> <li>The rate of LAC per 10,000 children is based on the number of LAC at the end of the period divided by the number of children aged 0 to 17 in the city (ONS estimate this at 53,291 for Mid-2021) multiplied by 10,000. This gives a rate that can be benchmarked against other authorities.</li> <li>The proportion of placements outside of the city is simply based on the postcode of the child's placement address. Those not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9 are considered outside of the city. For example, PL12 refers to Saltash in Cornwall, which could potentially be less than a mile from a child's home address, but it is outside of Plymouth.</li> <li>The figures provided for the placement types follow the Department for Education and Ofsted definitions, grouping multiple types into nine groups (for example, Family Placements contains six different placement types).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Care Experienced (also referred to as Care Leavers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is deemed as 'Unsuitable' accommodation has been defined by the Department for Education. The following are examples of unsuitable accommodation: Bed and Breakfast / Emergency Accommodation, Prison, Temporary/No fixed abode/Street Homeless, Unknown/Not in Touch.</li> <li>The proportion of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training is based on our statutory service and therefore covers those young people ages 18 to 20. Whilst we work with Care Experienced young people aged 21 to 24, support is optional for the young person.</li> <li>Please note: The figures are likely to be different to the published Department for Education figures as they look at the age of the young person during the year at the period around their birthday and not at a specific snapshot.</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

### Ofsted Outcomes

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

### Absence Monitoring

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

### Education, Employment or Training

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

### Key Stage Four Outcomes

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

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

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

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

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

#### 4. ANNEX 2: OTHER SOURCES OF PUBLISHED INFORMATION

<p><b>LG Inform</b></p> <p>The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association</p>	<p><a href="https://lginform.local.gov.uk/">https://lginform.local.gov.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>GOV.UK - Explore education statistics</b></p> <p>Find related information and other statistical services provided by the Department for Education (DfE)</p>	<p><a href="https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/">https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Children's Social Care - Outcomes and Enablers</b></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><a href="https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/csc-outcomes-enablers/">https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/csc-outcomes-enablers/</a></p>