

Q4 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 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 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)	2,848
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	616.4	467.7	748.2			548.2
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	743	483	780	22.4% (2023/24)	24.4% (2023/24)	765
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	22.6%	20.0%	20.1%			26.9%

Plymouth processed 2,848 referrals in the 12 months ending quarter four. This represents a decrease of 1,031 referrals compared to March 2024, but an increase of 433 referrals from March 2023 levels.

The referral rate per 10,000 children was 548.2 at quarter four's end. This rate has decreased from Plymouth's 2023/24 published position of 782.2 and sits between our statistical neighbour average (728.5) and the England average (518.3).

Re-referral rates have increased, presenting a key area of focus. At quarter four's end, 26.9% of referrals were re-referrals (cases where the same child had been referred within the previous 12 months). This represents:

- A 0.7 percentage point increase during the last quarter
- A 6.8 percentage point increase from Plymouth's 2023/24 published figure
- A rate higher than both statistical neighbours and the England average for 2023/24

Since June 2024, we have refined our Public Protection Notice (PPN) process at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). We now only progress PPNs that meet the statutory threshold. When a PPN doesn't require this level of response, we inform our police colleagues so they can update their records accordingly.

The MASH and Targeted Help Service now work more closely together. This alignment ensures children and families receive appropriate support that best meets their needs, including families who don't require statutory intervention.

We continue working with team managers to ensure interventions are sustained before ending Children's Services involvement. The MASH Operational Group regularly samples practice and shares learning with the wider partnership. This ensures all partners understand assessment outcomes and plans before we conclude involvement with a family.

Our target is to maintain monthly re-referral levels below 23%. April 2025 showed encouraging progress at 21.4%. Achieving this target will help stabilise our rolling 12-month position, as reflected in the performance data above.

1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED

I.2. CHILDREN IN NEED				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 2024/25
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	965	944	1,379	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	857
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	181.1	177.1	265.4	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	164.9

Plymouth's Child in Need caseload increased slightly by 26 children in quarter four compared to quarter three. This caseload excludes children subject to Child Protection Plans or Looked After Children. Despite this quarterly increase, the current figure remains lower than the last three year-end positions.

However, we note that children subject to Child Protection Plans or Child in Care Plans (covered in the next two sections) are currently at higher levels than the previous two year-end positions.

Practice Improvements and Impact

Our department-wide practice improvement work has successfully reduced the number of children with Child in Need plans. This reduction reflects ongoing improvement work and enhanced scrutiny of plans by senior management. Key changes to our approach include:

- Children needing intervention following assessment are now transferred to Targeted Help from Initial Response, rather than to longer-term social care teams
- Children with CIN plans in longer-term teams have their plans reviewed monthly with the Service Manager to assess suitability

We recognize that children needing additional support benefit from early intervention, which can prevent the need for statutory services. We have developed a workstream with partners to create clear pathways for families to access early help and targeted early help without requiring social work intervention.

The impact of this approach is already visible in referral volumes and subsequent assessments. This is positive for families, as we want to ensure they receive the least intrusive interventions possible.

The Children's Social Work Service holds regular Child in Need tracker meetings chaired by service managers. These meetings enable reflective discussions and ensure there is no drift or delay in support and intervention for families.

Training and development continues for all managers. We are currently running a specific management programme for aspiring team managers, with Heads of Service supporting them to develop the skills and confidence needed to manage and lead teams. This runs alongside the 'Leaders for Excellence' programme, which focuses on practice improvement.

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

1.3. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

I.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	Q4 2024/25
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	326	230	299	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	361
	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)	69.5
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	51.5% (168)	45.9% (107)	50.2% (150)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	52.4% (189)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	7.7% (25)	6.4% (15)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	8.6% (31)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	3.7% (12)	4.3% (10)	8.4% (25)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	5.8% (21)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	37.1% (121)	43.3% (101)	33.0% (99)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	33.2% (120)
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)	19.7% (81)

As of 31 March 2025, 361 children were subject to Child Protection Plans, representing a rate of 69.5 children per 10,000. This is higher than Plymouth's published 2023/24 rate of 57.7 (299 children). The current rate exceeds both the England average by 27.9 per 10,000 and our Statistical Neighbour average by 15.1 per 10,000.

The proportion of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan between April 2024 and March 2025, and who had previously been on a Child Protection Plan, was 19.7%. This represents a significant decrease of 10.4 percentage points from 31 March 2024.

Over the past 12 months, 81 children and young people have started repeat Child Protection Plans. This is an improvement from the end of 2023/24 and is currently better than both the statistical neighbours average of 25.5% and the England average of 24.7% (both of which increased from their previous year positions).

We maintain strong focus on requests for repeat Child Protection Plans, with greater oversight by Service Managers. This provides more consistency and creates opportunities for reflective discussions to ensure care plans are appropriate for these children and to explore whether we can work differently with families.

We also focus strongly on Child Protection Plans lasting over 12 months. Monthly meetings are chaired jointly by the Service Manager for Safeguarding and the Service Manager for Children's Social Work Service to ensure effective oversight and timely decisions for children.

The department is working with the Plymouth Safeguarding Partnership Board to continue rolling out the 'NSPCC Neglect Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment Tool'. This supports all staff and volunteers across the system to identify and improve support for children and young people who may experience neglect. Staff within the Children's Social Work service have completed the assessment training, and we ensure new staff attend this training as part of their induction.

As part of our improvement journey, we are equipping social workers with better understanding of sexual abuse identification. Workshops ran from November to April for staff across Initial Response Teams, Children's Social Work, and Children with Disabilities Teams. The main aims of these workshops were to:

- Share partnership work that supports practitioners working with families where sexual abuse is a concern
- Help staff develop confidence and skills to carry out direct work with children where there are sexual abuse concerns
- Strengthen collaboration with the centre of excellence

The Children's Social Work Service Manager now chairs the child sexual abuse working group and continues to ensure learning and development is integrated into monthly service meetings with staff.

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

I.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	Q4 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)	530
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	91.9	96.9	99.0			102.0
8	Number of Looked After Children in an unregistered placement (snapshot)	4	6	9	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	7
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>	44.2% (234)
10	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	325	339	368	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	343
	Placement Type: Children's Homes, Residential Care Homes & Residential Schools	56	57	57	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	64
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	33	48	47	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	54
	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	6
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	24	18	5	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	13
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	28	32	26	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	42
	Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	7	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	6
	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'.

As of 31 March 2025, there were 530 children and young people in care. This represents a net increase of 30 from the published 2022/23 figure and 17 more than the published 2023/24 figure of 513. The average month-end position over the past 12 months was 525 children and young people.

Of the 530 children in care, 296 (55.8%) were placed within the city, while 234 (44.2%) were placed outside the city. This is slightly higher than our internal 2023/24 figure of 42.7% and higher than the positions at the end of 2021/22 and 2022/23.

This measure is based on the postcode of the child's placement address. Postcodes outside PL1 to PL7 or PL9 are considered outside the city. For example, PL12 refers to Saltash in Cornwall and is considered outside Plymouth, even though it may be less than a mile from a child's home address.

Using provisional information, approximately 24.7% of children in care (131 out of 530) are placed more than 20 miles from their home address.

The number of children in unregistered arrangements increased to seven at the end of quarter four, compared to four at the end of quarter three. This has further increased to ten currently, of which four are registered by CQC.

The Family Homes for Plymouth's Children programme continues working to build sufficiency of local foster homes, develop our own residential provision, and support reunification to family where it is safe to do so.

Sufficiency of fostering homes for children and young people remains a challenge both locally and nationally. However, we have seen positive developments:

- One child successfully stepped down from residential to an in-house foster home
- Two further plans are actively progressing from residential to in-house fostering
- Two children avoided residential placement due to additional support provided to in-house foster carers

While the overall number of fostering households has not significantly increased (due to carers retiring as new carers are registered), the number of children placed in in-house fostering arrangements has grown from 138 at the end of January 2025 to 151 at the end of April 2025. More children now live with in-house foster carers than with Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) foster carers.

The Fostering Summit took place on 7 February 2025 and received positive feedback about the support and financial offers provided. We are developing our work with Reconnect to increase specialist fostering recruitment as part of the STEPS programme, complementing the work of our in-house fostering and brokerage teams.

The Special Guardianship Support Team continues reaching out to Special Guardians to ensure they are aware of the new SGO Support Offer. A proposal for an updated financial offer for special guardians will be presented to the next Family Homes Board in June 2025.

Two children were successfully reunified with their parent from long-term care in May 2025. A further two young people have plans to return to their parent's care over the school summer break, one of whom will be moving out of residential care.

The percentage of children in care placed more than 20 miles from home (based on placement postcode compared to home postcode) has increased slightly in the last quarter.

A review of children and young people placed outside Plymouth, more than 20 miles from home and outside Devon and Cornwall, was undertaken to understand the impact. This report was presented to the Quality Assurance, Performance and Improvement Board in May. Currently, 13% of our children in care live outside Devon and Cornwall.

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

1.5. CARE EXPERIENCED (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CARE LEAVERS)				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q4 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)	7.0% (14/2081)
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)	46.8% (94/201)

Plymouth's fourth-quarter data shows that 7.0% of care-experienced young people are in unsuitable accommodation. This is lower than both the England average and the statistical neighbours' average for 2023/24. While the number of young people in unsuitable accommodation has improved compared to our published 2023/24 figure, it remains slightly higher than the figures reported for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The Housing and Preparation for Adulthood meeting continues to ensure timely plans are in place for young people approaching 18. This is supported by the Transitions Meeting for young people who may require Adult Social Care or Health-funded support after turning 18. The Care Leavers Team collaborates with colleagues through the steering group for new SHAP-funded housing provision. Although the opening has been delayed, planning continues to ensure young people with the greatest need are prioritised when it opens in August 2025.

The proportion of care leavers in Education, Employment, and Training (EET) was 46.8%, which is 3.5 percentage points higher than our internal 2023/24 figure. Our DfE published figure of 45.0% for 2023/24 (which uses slightly different criteria than our internal reporting) was approximately 8.9 to 10.7 percentage points lower than the published figures for our comparators.

While our NEET rates remain below England and statistical neighbours' averages, we have seen steady improvement in reducing the number of young people recorded as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

We held a focused workshop to increase aspirations and engagement for care-experienced young people. This brought together key leaders from One Children's Service and DWP to agree strategic priorities for enhancing our work in this area.

Agreement for a coordinator post has been given alongside agreement for the Virtual School to extend their support to care experienced young people aged 18 - 25. This coordinated support will help individual young people progress from NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) through SEET (Supported Employment, Education or Training) to EET (Education, Employment and Training). The Connect to Work programme will further improve outcomes when it launches in September 2025.

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 19th, 20th or 21st birthday.

2. EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS

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) 90.4% (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)

PLEASE NOTE: 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

				Current published data & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Plymouth	2022/23 Plymouth	Plymouth	England	South West	Jan to Apr 2024/25
3	% of overall absence in all schools	8.8%	8.2%	8.3% (Academic Year 2023/24)	7.1% (Academic Year 2023/24)	7.6% (Academic Year 2023/24)	7.9% (View Your Education Data, Spring Term)
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	28.1%	24.1%	23.6% (Academic Year 23/24) (Of which 3.2% were severely absent)	20.0% (Academic year 23/24) (Of which 2.3% were severely absent)	20.8% (Academic year 23/24) (Of which 2.8% were severely absent)	18.8% (Of which 2.1% were severely absent) (View Your Education Data Spring Term)
	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	45.0%	40.5%	40.5% (Academic Year 23/24) (Of which 8.5% were severely absent)	35.5% (Academic Year 23/24) (Of which 6.8% were severely absent)	38.6% (Academic Year 23/24) (Of which 8.5% were severely absent)	38.2% (721) (Of which 9.3% (176) were severely absent) (View Your Education Data, Spring Term)

The benchmark information provided above is provided from the Department for Education; compiled from the statutory school census return completed on a termly basis. The best available report for the three indicators above is the 2023/24 academic year data.

The data source for local absence statistics continues to be taken from 'View Your Education Data' (VYED) website, the DfE site for collating school absence. All Plymouth schools are now reporting daily attendance figures to this site and therefore the most reliable source for collated statistics.

VYED presents absence data cumulatively from the beginning of each term and therefore the following data represents the period from 01/01/2025 to 30/04/2025. In the Spring term of 2024/25:

- The Overall absence rate was 7.9% (0.2pp higher than the Autumn Term)
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 18.8% (3.7pp lower than the Autumn Term)
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were persistently absent was 38.2% (2.2pp lower than the Autumn Term).

In comparison to the same period in 2023/24, attendance is higher for all pupils. When looking at persistent absence in the same period last year, this has reduced. However, in comparison, severe absence was lower at the same point last year, than in this year.

Work continues by the Inclusion and Welfare Service to reduce school absence.

A School Attendance research project has been delivered in partnership with Marjon University. The parent survey received over 2000 responses and the child survey 1500. The survey explored themes in respect of belonging, part time timetables and school absence. 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. The DfE have asked for the research findings to be shared with them, and Plymouth is one of four local authorities helping to shape the national attendance campaign.

After establishing and helping to rectify an error which prevented successful data uploading, all schools in Plymouth are now reporting attendance data daily to VYED (View your education data); therefore, our data set is complete and as such city averages are meaningful.

Following the creation of the Extended Role within the Virtual School, monitoring is now taking place with regard to the attendance of CPP (those on a Child Protection Plan) & CIN (Children in Need) children. This will enable the LA to get a better understanding of this vulnerable cohort. The Extended Role Co-ordinator regularly meets with Social Workers and offers drop-in sessions, in order to promote that a focus on Education is key when considering the safeguarding of children and young people.

The Inclusions Service has worked with SEN Service to help launch the new GATI (Graduated Approach to Inclusion) and OAP (Ordinary Available Provision) resources. This is to improve the support of those with additional needs, with the goal to keep pupils in school and maintain good attendance. In addition to this, a SEN Support working group has been established which, in collaboration with schools, will work to better understand the cohort of K support children in schools.

Reducing the rate and duration of part time timetables and Elective Home Education is a strategic priority for the city. Home educating parents will be invited to meet 1:1 with the Head of Education and Virtual School, in series of Listening Events, so that we learn from the experiences of families who home educate. This will inform our approach to early help and prevention within the Home Education Policy and Attendance Strategy. A focus for the remaining academic year will look towards tightening up reporting processes and length of time pupils spend on part-time timetables, which could be inadvertently hiding attendance issues.

2.3. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2022 Plymouth	2023 Plymouth	2024 Plymouth	2024 England	2024 Regional	Q4 2024/25
6	% of 16- and 17-year-olds in Education, Employment and Training	91.1%	90.4%	93.3%	94.6%	94.6%	92.3% (End of April 2024/25)
7	% of 16- and 17-year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training	83.2%	81.4%	89.2%	90.2%	90.0%	91.0% (End of April 2024/25)

By the end of Q4 (April 2025), 92.3% of 16-and 17-year-olds are in Education Employment and Training. By the end of the Spring Term of 2024/25, this figure is 3% lower than the figure seen at the end of the Autumn Term 2024/25 (95.2%).

The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training at the end of April 2025 is 91.0%. This is 0.7% higher than the figure seen at the end of the Autumn Term 2024/25 (90.4%)

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 with 91.0% of SEND 16 and 17 years olds in EET status. 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.

- NEET numbers across all cohorts of 16 and 17 years old, remain low at 4.5%
- 68% of post 16 young people in Care are in EET; 88% of those who are not are seeking education, employment or training
- 68.5% of care leavers are either in EET or are seeking EET
- 50% of young parents are in EET or seeking EET
- 67 EHCP young people are on a supported internship. The number of providers offering supported internships has increased from one to four, with three more providers delivering from September 2025 and discussions taking place with two more providers who are looking to deliver in the next academic year.

2.4. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES

				Current published data & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Plymouth	2022/23 Plymouth	2023/24 England	2023/24 Regional	2023/24 Statistical Neighbours	2023/24 Plymouth
8	Key Stage 4 - % of pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths	46.0%	41.7% (1,214/ 2,912)	46.2% (23/24 revised)	45.8% (23/24 revised)	44.4% (23/24 revised)	46.3% (1,328/ 2,869)
9	Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score	47.6 points	44.9 Points (Average score for 2,912 pupils)	46.1 points (23/24 revised)	46.0 points (23/24 revised)	45.0 points (23/24 revised)	46.2 Points (Average score for 2869 pupils)

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 1 – Indicator Definitions

Revised data released by the DfE for 2023/24 is showing that 46.3% of all KS4 pupils achieved a strong pass in English and Maths at Key Stage Four. This is a 10.9% increase from 41.7% achieved in 2022/23; 4.6pp higher.

In 2023/24, Plymouth's average for those achieving a strong pass in English and Maths is 0.1pp above the National average (46.2%). Plymouth is above the statistical neighbour average of 44.4% and the regional neighbour average of 45.8%

Revised 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), 1.2 points above the statistical neighbour (45.0) average and 0.2 points above the regional neighbour average (46.0).

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%) and 1.5pp higher than the regional neighbour average (22.3%). 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 29.1pp (52.9% – 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 and regional neighbour average of 7%, 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%, the regional neighbour average of 21.3% and above the statistical neighbour average of 19.7% for pupils receiving SEN Support.

3. ANNEX 1: INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SERVICES
Referrals & Re-Referrals
<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).
Children In Need – CIN
<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.
Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - CP
<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).
Looked After Children (also referred to as Children in Care) - LAC
<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).
Care Experienced (also referred to as Care Leavers)
<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
<p>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.</p>
Absence Monitoring
<p>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.</p>
Education, Employment or Training
<p>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.</p>
Key Stage Four Outcomes
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ percentage pupils achieving 5-9s at English and Maths GCSE in the city, and ▪ average Attainment 8 scores achieved by schools across the city. <p>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":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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). <p>The grades are converted into points, put through a formula and finally out comes the school's Attainment 8 score.</p>

4. ANNEX 2: OTHER SOURCES OF PUBLISHED INFORMATION

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