

QI 2025/26 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				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2025/26
1	Number of referrals received within the last 12 months	2,415	3,879	2,848	518.3 (2023/24)	536.7 (2023/24)	2,634
	Referrals received within the last 12 months - Rate per 10,000 children	467.7	748.2	548.2			507.0
2	Number of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	483	780	765	22.4% (2023/24)	24.4% (2023/24)	632
	% of re-referrals within 12 months (last 12 months)	20.0%	20.1%	26.9%			24.0%

Plymouth processed 2,634 referrals in the 12 months ending quarter one. This represents a decrease of 214 referrals compared to March 2025, returning to levels on par with the volumes seen in 2022/23.

The referral rate per 10,000 children was 507.0 at quarter one's end. This rate has decreased from Plymouth's 2024/25 provisional position of 548.2 and is at a similar level to our statistical neighbour average (536.7) and the England average (518.3).

Re-referral rates have decreased when compared to the provisional figure for 2024/25, but they remain a key area of focus. At quarter one's end, 24.0% of referrals were re-referrals (cases where the same child had been referred within the previous 12 months). This represents:

- A 2.9 percentage point decrease on the last quarter / end of year position for 2024/25,
- A 3.9 percentage point increase from Plymouth's 2023/24 published figure, and
- A rate that is between our statistical neighbours and the England average for 2023/24

Since April 2025, we have been preparing for a significant transformation of our Front Door Service in response to the Government's reform agenda for Children's Social Care, particularly the principles outlined in *Stable Homes, Built on Love*. In June 2025, we successfully launched the Families First Front Door model marking a major step forward in delivering a more responsive, collaborative, and child-centred safeguarding system. This new approach brings together a diverse range of practitioners from across the city into a single, co-located hub. The aim is to provide timely, coordinated responses and ensure a shared understanding and agreement on which service is best placed to meet the needs of each child and young person without unnecessary delay.

A key feature of this transformation is the closer alignment between the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Targeted Help, and Family Hubs Services. This integration ensures that children and families receive the right level of support, including those who do not require statutory intervention. It reflects the national shift toward early help and prevention, reducing reliance on statutory services and promoting whole-family working.

The implementation of the Families First Front Door model has also introduced a shift in our practice model from a referral-based system to a conversation-based approach. All Front Door practitioners have received training in this model, and we actively encourage families and partners to contact us directly to discuss concerns or queries about children and young people. This approach does not replace the formal referral process, but enhances accessibility and promotes relational

practice, family-led decision-making, and timely, proportionate responses all key themes within the national reform agenda.

Looking ahead, we plan to extend this training offer to our wider partnership. A presentation of the conversation-based model will be delivered to the Strategic MASH Board next month, seeking endorsement for a broader rollout across the partnership to embed a robust and consistent approach city-wide.

In terms of performance, the total number of referrals received during this period was 621, reflecting a stable position for the quarter. The re-referral rate stands at 20.3%, which is a positive indicator of effective initial response and support. However, we continue to monitor this closely through monthly desktop audits to identify trends, improve practice, and maintain a strong rolling 12-month position.

1.2. CHILDREN IN NEED

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2025/26
3	Number of children subject to a Child In Need Plan (snapshot)	944	1,379	857	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	872
	Children subject to a Child In Need Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	177.1	265.4	164.9	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	167.8

Plymouth's Child in Need caseload increased slightly by 15 children in quarter one compared to quarter four. This caseload excludes children subject to Child Protection Plans or Looked After Children. Despite this quarterly increase, the current figure remains lower than 2022/23 and 2023/24 but at a similar level to our provisional figure for 2024/25.

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 published year-end positions (2022/23 and 2023/24).

Families First Partnership Programme has started to be implemented across all services, and we are starting to see changes in the way we work with children and families, focussing on early help and prevention being more widely available to our families.

Our Targeted Help Service are currently recruiting to increase capacity of Family Practitioners to be able to provide a timelier response to families, which we hope will lead to a reduction in the numbers of children who will require a statutory response.

Training is being closely developed with our Academy for staff to ensure that our staff teams have the right skills and confidence to work proactively with families. This will ensure that Children Social Care staff and partners have a shared understanding of need and how to respond.

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	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2025/26
4	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (Snapshot)	230	299	361	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	358
	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan - Rate per 10,000 children	44.5	57.7	69.5	41.6 (2023/24)	49.2 (2023/24)	68.9
5	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Neglect	45.9% (107)	50.2% (150)	52.4% (189)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	51.1% (183)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Physical Abuse	6.4% (15)	8.4% (25)	8.6% (31)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	11.7% (42)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Sexual Abuse	4.3% (10)	8.4% (25)	5.8% (21)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	4.5% (16)
	Category of abuse for current Child Protection Plan: Emotional Abuse	43.3% (101)	33.0% (99)	33.2% (120)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	32.7% (117)
6	% of children subject to multiple child protection plans - Within lifetime of the child (new plans starting in last 12 months)	25.8% (65)	30.1% (112)	19.7% (81)	24.7% (2023/24)	24.6% (2023/24)	20.4% (80)

As of 30 June 2025, 358 children were subject to Child Protection Plans, representing a rate of 68.9 children per 10,000. This is higher than Plymouth's published 2023/24 rate of 57.7 (299 children) but slightly less than the provisional figure of 361 for 2024/25. The current rate exceeds both the England average by 27.3 per 10,000 and our Statistical Neighbour average by 19.7 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.

In quarter one of 2025/26, the position increased by 0.7 percentage points, but remained better than both the statistical neighbours average of 24.6% and the England average of 24.7% (both of which increased from their previous year positions). Over the 12 months ending 30 June 2025, 80 children and young people have started repeat Child Protection Plans.

Whilst we have had a period where numbers of children that have been made subject to child protection planning has increased, including large sibling groups, this is now reducing with a further significant reduction in July. This remains higher than our statistical neighbours and we continue to monitor as we implement the wider reforms Families First Partnership by April 2026.

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.

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	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2025/26
7	Number of children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children (Snapshot)	500	513	530	70.0 (2023/24)	92.3 (2023/24)	528
	Children subject to a Care Plan - Looked After Children - Rate per 10,000 children	96.9	99.0	102.0			101.6
8	Number of Looked After Children in an unregistered placement (snapshot)	6	9	7	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	9
9	% of Looked After Children placed outside of the city of Plymouth (i.e., the placement is not within PL1 to PL7 or PL9)	39.9% <small>(25% DfE: +20 miles of LA boundary)</small>	42.7% <small>(23% DfE: 20+ miles of LA boundary)</small>	44.2% (234)	Within boundary not benchmarked 17.0% DfE: 20+ miles of LA boundary)	Within boundary not benchmarked 17.0% DfE: 20+ miles of LA boundary)	41.7% (220)
10	Placement Type: Family Placement (fostering or connected carers)	339	368	343	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	338
	Placement Type: Children's Homes, Residential Care Homes & Residential Schools	57	57	64	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	65
	Placement Type: Hostels & other Supportive accommodation	48	47	54	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	54
	Placement Type: Lodgings or Independent living (16+)	x	x	x	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	x
	Placement Type: Other Placement	5	8	6	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	9
	Placement Type: Placed for Adoption	18	5	13	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	11
	Placement Type: Placed with Parents	32	26	42	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	44
	Placement Type: Other accommodation - NHS, Family Centres, Parent & Child	x	x	6	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 30 June 2025, there were 528 children and young people in care. This represents a net increase of 28 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 526 children and young people.

Of the 528 children in care, 308 (58.3%) were placed within the city, while 220 (41.7%) were placed outside the city. This is lower than our internal 2023/24 figure of 42.7% and our provisional position at the end of 2024/25.

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 23.8% of children in care (128 out of 528) are placed more than 20 miles from their home address.

The number of children in unregistered arrangements increased to nine at the end of quarter one, compared to seven at the end of quarter four. This remains at nine currently, of which a low number are registered by Care Quality Commission due to the complexity of the children's health needs.

The Family Homes for Plymouth's Children programme continues working to build sufficiency of local foster homes, develop our own residential provision, step children from residential to family-based care 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:

- Three children (two families) have successfully reunified to their parent's care
- One child successfully stepped down from unregistered to regulated supported accommodation (16+)
- Four children successfully stepped down from residential to regulated supported accommodation (16+)
- One further plan for reunification was progressing at the end of quarter one and has since successfully progressed.
- Four further plans are actively progressing from residential to in-house fostering, one of which has since successfully progressed.

The work with Reconnect has now started with a specialist fostering recruitment programme and supporting a cohort of young people to move from residential to a more suitable provision, this work is progressing in quarter two.

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 150 at the end of March 2025 to 161 at the end of June 2025. The number of children living with in-house foster carers continues to remain above the number living with Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) foster carers. It is important that sufficiency of foster carers across in house and IFA grows to ensure that as many as possible children can live in family-based care.

The Financial Offer to Special Guardians was presented and agreed at the Family Homes Board in June 2025. This will be further reviewed in quarter two following the outcome of a bid for a Department for Education pilot in relation to Special Guardianship.

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	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Provisional	England	Statistical Neighbours	Q1 2025/26
11	% of Care Experienced young people in Unsuitable Accommodation (Statutory Service (aged 18 to 20))	4.1% (8/192) (12% DfE)	9.5% (19/201) (15% DfE)	7.0% (14/201)	12.0% (2023/24 DfE)	9.0% (2023/24 DfE)	7.0% (14/200)
12	% of Care Experienced young people in Education, Employment and Training (Statutory Service (EET aged 18 to 20))	50.0% (96/192) (47.0% DfE)	43.3% (87/201) (45.0% DfE)	46.8% (94/201)	54.0% (2023/24 DfE)	52.4% (2023/24 DfE)	48.5% (97/186)

Plymouth's quarter one 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. The number of young people in unsuitable accommodation has improved compared to our published 2023/24 figure and remains at the same level as provisionally reported for 2024/25.

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. An additional weekly meeting has been implemented in quarter two to focus on care experienced young people in unsuitable accommodation (B&B).

The proportion of care leavers in Education, Employment, and Training (EET) was 48.5%, which is 1.7 percentage points higher than our internal 2024/25 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).

The targeted EET action plan to address our strategic priorities for enhancing our work in this area is progressing with key actions being the recruitment starting for a newly developed post of Education Advocate for Care Experienced Young People and the creation of accessible information for young people and Personal Advisors highlighting the EET opportunities available.

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

2.1. OFSTED OUTCOMES				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 England	2023/24 South West	Q1 2025/26
1	% of all schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	76.0%	77.6%	90.8%	90.4%	86.7%	Please see note
2	% of pupils attending Plymouth schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	77.1%	81.0%	90.4% (based on NOR May School Census and OFSTED outcomes at 31/08/2024)	Not benchmarked	Not benchmarked	Please see note

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.

- At the end of 2024/25 – 16 schools have been inspected over the course of the academic year
- Of these 16 schools, six have received good or outstanding in all of the four main areas of 'Quality of Education', 'Behaviour and attitudes', 'Personal Development' and Effectiveness of leadership and management' (37.5%)
- All 16 schools were judged as having effective Safeguarding

2.2. ABSENCE MONITORING

				Latest published data & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2022/23 Annual	2023/24 Annual	2024/25 Term 1	England Term 1	South West Term 1	Jan to Apr 2025/26
3	% of overall absence in all schools	8.2%	8.3% (Academic Year 2023/24)	7.5% (Autumn Term 24/25)	6.4% (Autumn Term 24/25)	6.8% (Autumn Term 24/25)	7.3% (View Your Education Data, Summer Term)
4	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) in all schools	24.1%	23.6% (Academic Year 23/24) (Of which 3.2% were severely absent)	21.7% (Autumn term 24/25) (Of which 2.8% were severely absent)	17.8% (Autumn Term 24/25) (Of which 2.0% were severely absent)	18.5% (Autumn Term 24/25) (Of which 2.4% were severely absent)	19.3% (Of which 2.8% were severely absent) (View Your Education Data Summer Term)
5	% of persistent absence (less than 90% attendance) of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs)	40.5%	40.5% (Academic Year 23/24) (Of which 8.5% were severely absent)	39.1% (Autumn Term 24/25) (Of which 9% were severely absent)	33.3% (Autumn Term 24/25) (Of which 6.9% were severely absent)	35.8% (Autumn Term 24/25) (Of which 8.4% were severely absent)	40.4% (Of which 10.6% (198) were severely absent) (View Your Education Data, Summer 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 2024/25 Autumn Term 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 Summer term 2024/25 - period from 22/04/2025 to 31/07/2025.

- The Overall absence rate was 7.3% (0.5pp higher than the published Autumn Term)
- The percentage of those persistently absent was 19.3% (0.8pp higher than the published Autumn Term)
- The percentage of those with an EHCP who were persistently absent was 40.4% (4.6pp higher than the Autumn Term).

In comparison to the regional and national averages for the Autumn Term 2024/25, Plymouth's statistics are higher in all areas. Plymouth's Summer Term averages are higher than those seen in the Autumn Term, however this is not unexpected when comparing the Autumn and Summer Terms and has been seen in previous years.

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 2,000 responses and the child survey 1,500. 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 regarding 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, 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 one to one 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.

Significant work has been undertaken in the month of June to assure that we have those on a part time timetable correctly recorded. This has seen a reduction in numbers. This work will carry on into the new academic year together with streamlining reporting processes and closer monitoring of the length of time that pupils spend on part time timetables.

2.3. PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2022 Plymouth	2023 Plymouth	2024 Plymouth	2024 England	2024 Regional	Q1 2025/26 Apr to Jun
6	Number of pupils in Elective Home Education (EHE)	580 (1.5%)*	640 (1.7%)	930 (2.4%)	152,410 (1.8%)	17,230 (2.5%)	918 (Number in month) (2.5%)
7	Number of pupils considered to be missing education (CME)	230 (0.6%)	310 (0.8%)	370 (1.0%)	149,900 (1.8%)	9,360 (1.3%)	116 (Number in month)
8	Number of pupils on part time timetables	-	409	316	Not published	Not published	560

**Percentage figures relate to the percentage of the statutory school age cohort in EHE/CME*

Throughout the academic year, the Local Authority has continued to hold a firm monitoring position, an understanding of the children in the cohorts and where needed, intervention to ensure that a suitable education is being provided of those in Elective Home Education, Part-Time Timetables and Children Missing out on Education.

The diversion from Elective Home Education remains a strategic priority for the city. The Home Education Research Project launched in November 2024 in conjunction with three universities, concluded in April 2025. In trying to determine the driving factors behind opting for home education and experiences of those educated at home, the research included a parent and a child survey. A summary of the initial findings of the research project were presented to the Plymouth Education Board and the Elective Home Education Task and Finish Group. The final report will inform the six strands of the Place Based Working Group, ready to launch in the new academic year with this information shaping the work. The research will be used to create an offer of support for parents and carers at the earliest point possible, to avoid break down in trust or relationships with their child's setting and strengthen their experience of education.

There will also be learning from the new approach to the use of predictive and compounding data when identifying those at risk of persistent absenteeism, which we believe will enable a more robust offer of early help and good school attendance, reducing the risk of persistent or severe absence and/or elective home education. This will be combined with the work being undertaken currently where an Early Help and Prevention Pilot has used data to identify the 20 children most at risk of home education in two schools. Youth Workers are working with the children, schools and family to maximise access, confidence and participation in education. We look forward to reporting on the impact of this work and early indications are that it is effective.

The Priority Three; 'Reducing permanent exclusions of children with an EHCP' Task and Finish Group of the SEND Action Plan has now merged with the Elective Home Education Task and Finish group, to strengthen collective impact and maximise resource to tackle the root causes of children not being in school. The group has representation from across the Local Area Partnership. Following the findings of the research and the Inclusion Review, the group is developing a joint action plan to draw together the work to keep children in their settings.

The Virtual School Extended Schools Co-ordinator continues to lead a CAFE (Children Absent from Education) approach developed in May and June to explore the possible barriers to education for those considered to be disadvantaged; this would include those with SEN, those known to social care; those with high numbers of suspensions and those at risk of permanent exclusion. Focusing on education as a protective factor for children and young people, regular discussions, practice sharing and quality assurance activity is now embedded across Children's Services Teams, conducted jointly

between Education, Participation and Skills and Children's Social Care. The learning from this is shared through team meetings and with Senior Managers. Collaboration with schools to include their involvement in this practice is now being implemented.

The Local Authority maintains a sharp focus for any child on a protection plan being in home education. Any child in home education and on a Child Protection Plan is registered as missing education and is supported to return to school.

New registration for EHE in the secondary phase, have increased slightly from 424 to 433, a growth of nine pupils or 2.1%, indicating a slowing rate of growth compared to previous years. In the special school sector, new EHE registrations fell from two to one, marking a 50% decrease year-on-year.

All children with an EHCP who are home educated have a joint approach to casework which includes the Home Education Team and 0-25 SEND Service. The Head of Service for Education and the Head of Service for SEND are working together to develop a coordinated approach to supporting children with EHCPs to return to school. A pilot commenced with six children and their families to actively develop and encourage a path back to school. As a result of this pilot, we know some children have now returned to school and will be able to report on this at the end of Q2.

Every child who is deregistered to home education has a home visit within two weeks. Any child who is considered vulnerable and who is home educated is allocated a key worker who undertakes home visits; the support remains in place until the child is receiving a suitable education at school. A child who is registered as home educated but whose parents have reached a formal notice stage (where there has not been evidence provided of a suitable education) are recorded as a child missing education and assigned a key worker who will undertake home visits and casework.

To complement all of this activity, home educating parents will be invited to meet one to one with the Head of Education and Virtual School, in a series of Listening Events, so that we learn from the experiences of families who home educate and determine how earlier support might have helped to sustain confidence in education. This will inform the approach to continuously strengthen our Home Education policy and procedures.

2.4. EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

				Previous Year & Benchmarking			Current Period
Ref	Indicator Name	2022	2023	2024	2024 England	2024 Regional	Q1 2025/26
9	% of 16- and 17-year-olds in Education, Employment and Training	91.1%	90.4%	93.3%	94.6%	94.6%	92.6% (End of June 2024/25)
10	% of 16- and 17-year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training	83.2%	81.4%	89.2%	90.2%	90.0%	91.9% (End of June 2024/25)

By the end of Q1 (June 2025), 92.6% of 16-and 17-year-olds are in Education Employment and Training. By the end of the Summer Term of 2024/25, this figure is 0.3% higher than the figure seen at the end of the Spring Term 2024/25 (92.3 %).

The percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds with SEND in Education, Employment and Training at the end of June 2025 is 91.9%. This is 0.9% higher than the figure seen at the end of the Spring Term 2024/25 (91.0%)

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 has achieved this ambitious target. 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, with over 50% of the NEET young people now engaged and working towards moving into EET status.

As the academic year 2024/25 closes, 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%
- 88% of post 16 young people in Care are in EET; the virtual school has invested in EET advocacy roles which are supporting young people to make a smooth transition into post-16 next steps.
- Careers Plymouth have started to work with in-care young people from year seven, to provide regular careers and advice guidance as they move into a NEET prevention delivery model
- There has been a 3% increase in care leavers who are EET, from 48.5% and we are on target to achieve 50% by March 2025
- 72 EHCP young people are on a supported internship. The number of providers offering supported internships has increased from one to seven, with one more provider delivering from December 2025.

2.5. KEY STAGE 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
11	EYFS - % of pupils achieving a 'good level of development' (GLD)	63.5%	64.1%	67.7%	69.2%	66.7%	66.7%
12	Key Stage 2 - % of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined	59.0%	59.8%	61.1%	58.3%	60.1%	62.5%
13	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)
14	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)

The statistical neighbours for Plymouth have changed from February 2025 (please see Annex 3). The data provided above for the 2023/24 comparators are calculated using the new statistical neighbours in preparation for comparison with the data for the academic year 2024/25.

Assessment at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage examines pupils' abilities in regard to 17 Early Learning Goals. Reaching the expected standard across 12 early learning goals within the five areas of learning of communication and language; personal, social and emotional development; physical development; literacy; and mathematics, is determined as having a 'Good Level of Development'. At end of 2023/24, Plymouth sits lower than the national average and regional neighbours average and is in line with the statistical neighbour average. Plymouth's GLD average at the end of 2023/24 is 4.1% higher than that seen in 2022/23. Data for 2024/25 is due to be published in November 2025.

At the end of primary school and Key Stage 2, assessments determine whether pupils have met the expected standard related to their age in reading, writing and maths combined. At the end of 2023/24, Plymouth's average is higher than that of the national, regional and statistical neighbour averages. Plymouth's average increased from 2022/23 to 2023/24 by 4.5%. Unvalidated data published for 2024/25 indicates that Plymouth's average at 62.8%; again, this is higher than the national average of 61.2%, regional (58.9%) and statistical neighbour average (60.6%). The percentage increase from 2023/24 to 2024/25 is 0.5%. Validated published data is due to be released in December 2025.

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 4. 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/

5. ANNEX 3: CURRENT STATISTICAL NEIGHBOURS

- Cornwall
- Dudley
- Gateshead
- Kirklees
- Medway
- Plymouth
- Rotherham
- Tameside
- Telford and Wrekin
- Torbay
- Wakefield