

# Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



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| Date of meeting:         | 09 December 2025  |
| Title of Report:         | <b>Achieving Excellence – Children’s Services three year strategic plan, review of progress in year 2 Quarter 1 &amp; 2</b> |
| Lead Member:             | Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care, Culture and Communications)          |
| Lead Strategic Director: | David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)   |
| Author:                  | Vivien Lines  |
| Contact Email:           | Vivien.lines@plymouth.gov.uk  |
| Your Reference:          |   |
| Key Decision:            | No  |
| Confidentiality:         | Part I - Official   |

## Purpose of Report

To provide a progress report on the implementation of Achieving Excellence, our three-year strategic plan for Children’s Services 2024-27. To enable Members to scrutinise, challenge and raise questions about the progress made on implementing the Achieving Excellence Strategy.

## Recommendations and Reasons

- I. To note the key strengths, challenges and next steps.

## Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. None.

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Corporate Plan includes keeping children and young people safe as a priority.

## Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Achieving Excellence sets out a programme of activity aligned to Children’s Services MTFP priorities and actions designed to reduce spend in high pressure areas including SEND, home to school transport, short breaks for disabled children, children’s social work staffing costs and placements for children in care.

## Financial Risks

A number of priority work streams included in the three-year plan currently create a significant financial pressure for the Council. The milestones in the plan are designed to address these pressures and reduce spend in key areas at the same time as sustaining improved outcomes for children and young people.

## Legal Implications

(None.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed for key areas of developments, e.g. children's homes developments and SEND transformation.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The programme is designed to develop more preventative approaches and support inclusive approaches for children with additional needs, keep children safe in family settings, or other settings when this is required, close to Plymouth and support young people to become successful adults. These developments include tackling child poverty through a strong and effective early help and statutory offer to children, young people and families.

**Appendices**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

| Ref. | Title of Appendix                            | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)<br><i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|      |  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| A    | Briefing report title                        |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| B    | Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable) |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C    | Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**Background papers:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

| Title of any background paper(s) | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)<br><i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|                                  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
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**Sign off:**

|     |     |     |     |         |     |    |     |        |     |            |     |
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| Fin | N/A | Leg | N/A | Mon Off | N/A | HR | N/A | Assets | N/A | Strat Proc | N/A |
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| Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Lisa Davies (Interim Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) |
| Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes<br>Date agreed: 27/11/2025                            |
| Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Jemima Laing<br>Date approved: 28/11/2025   |