

Notice of Meeting

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee



Date and Time

Thursday, 20 July
2023
10.00 am

Place

Woodhatch Place, 11
Cockshot Hill,
Reigate, RH2 8EF

Contact

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Committee/Board Members:

Fiona Davidson (Chairman), Jonathan Essex, Bob Hughes, Jennings-Evans, Rachael I Lake, Bernie Muir, John O'Reilly, Parr, Quddus, Sugden, Tear, Tilling, Townsend, Chris Townsend (Vice-Chairman), Webster (Vice-Chairman) and Fiona White

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AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 12 JUNE 2023

(Pages
7 - 22)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter:

- I. Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- II. Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

To receive any questions or petitions.

Notes:

1. The deadline for Member's questions is 12.00pm four working days before the meeting (*14 July 2023*).
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (*13 July 2023*)
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

The public retain their right to submit questions for written response, with such answers recorded in the minutes of the meeting; questioners may participate in meetings to ask a supplementary question. Petitioners may address the Committee on their petition for up to three minutes. Guidance will be made available to any member of the public wishing to speak at a meeting.

5 ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PLAN (Pages 23 - 46)

To review the actions and recommendations tracker and forward work programme, making suggestions for additions or amendments as appropriate.

6 EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN TIMELINESS (Pages 47 - 78)

To show the position at the end of June 2023 with regard to EHCP timeliness, an area identified for improvement. The report focuses on the data, the capacity and resources to undertake timely statutory assessments, and the process improvements that will facilitate this.

7 CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 79 - 148)

To provide key performance data for Looked After Children compared with statistical neighbours and nationally, for the year ending March 2022.

8 CHILDREN'S HOMES - OFSTED REPORTS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE (Pages 149 - 166)

To review new Ofsted reports on Surrey County Council-run Children's Homes, received as part of the communications plan in Children's Services agreed in 2022.

9 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

(Pages
167 -
182)

To apprise the Committee of the latest Children, Families and Lifelong Learning performance information.

10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next public meeting of the committee will be held on Monday, 2 October 2023.

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive

Published: Wednesday, 12 July 2023

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

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QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Cabinet and most committees will consider questions by elected Surrey County Council Members and questions and petitions from members of the public who are electors in the Surrey County Council area.

Please note the following regarding questions from the public:

1. Members of the public can submit one written question to a meeting by the deadline stated in the agenda. Questions should relate to general policy and not to detail. Questions are asked and answered in public and cannot relate to “confidential” or “exempt” matters (for example, personal or financial details of an individual); for further advice please contact the committee manager listed on the front page of an agenda.
2. The number of public questions which can be asked at a meeting may not exceed six. Questions which are received after the first six will be held over to the following meeting or dealt with in writing at the Chairman’s discretion.
3. Questions will be taken in the order in which they are received.
4. Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. The Chairman or Cabinet members may decline to answer a question, provide a written reply or nominate another Member to answer the question.
5. Following the initial reply, one supplementary question may be asked by the questioner. The Chairman or Cabinet members may decline to answer a supplementary question.

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MINUTES of the meeting of the **CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00 am on 12 June 2023 at Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, RH2 8EF.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 20 July 2023.

Elected Members:

- * Fiona Davidson (Chairman)
- * Jonathan Essex
- * Robert Hughes
- * Rebecca Jennings-Evans
- * Rachael Lake
- * Bernie Muir
- * Mark Sugden
- * Ashley Tilling
- Liz Townsend
- * Chris Townsend (Vice-Chairman)
- * Jeremy Webster (Vice-Chairman)
- * Fiona White

Co-opted Members:

- Mr Simon Parr, Diocesan Representative for the Catholic Church
- r Mrs Tanya Quddus, Parent Governor Representative
- Mr Alex Tear, Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church, Diocese of Guildford

*present

r = Remote Attendance

12/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Simon Parr.

Tanya Quddus attended remotely and had no voting rights.

13/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 20 MARCH 2023 [Item 2]

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

14/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

None were received.

15/23 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were three public questions, one Member question and no petitions. The questions and responses were published as a supplement to the 12 June agenda.

The Scrutiny Officer read a supplementary question on behalf of Roisin Kennedy, asking when the Council would stop offering only two sessions of speech therapy as standard when many children needed more. The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning agreed to provide a written response.

A second questioner, Charles Hepburn, did not attend the meeting.

Anna Sutherland attended the meeting and asked for an answer to her original question which she felt had not been provided by the response. The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning offered to have a discussion with Mrs Sutherland outside the meeting.

Adjournment for 7 minutes while building works noise resolved. Meeting resumed at 10:18 am.

As a supplementary to his written question, Jonathan Essex asked what would be done to address the shortfall in play and youth activities. He said this had not been bridged by DfE funding, which had created an expectation for something additional that might not be funded in the future. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families said she had committed to review the budget position for 2024/25. In the meantime, outcomes would be measured and evaluated, and feedback from carers and young people accessing the service would be harnessed through Family Voice.

Actions/requests for further information:

1. Cabinet Member for Education and Learning to reach out for discussion with Anna Sutherland regarding her Public Question and share notes of the conversation with the Select Committee.
2. Cabinet Member for Education and Learning to send a written response to Roisin Kennedy's supplementary question and share it with the Select Committee.

16/23 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS [Item 5]

The Chairman paid tribute to her predecessor, Liz Bowes, for creating a spirit of collaboration. She declared her intention to limit public meetings to three hours, continue Member visits to front line operations and engage with education providers.

17/23 ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PLAN [Item 6]

A forward work programming session will be held for all Committee Members on 10 July.

18/23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND SHORT BREAKS [Item 7]

Witnesses:

Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Rachael Wardell, Executive Director – Children, Families & Learning

Jenny Brickell, Assistant Director – Children with Disabilities

Eamonn Gilbert, Assistant Director – Commissioning

Chris Tisdall, Service Manager, Commissioning – Corporate Parenting

Kate Goode, Family Voice Surrey Participation Manager

Key points made in the discussion – Children with Disabilities:

1. Mandatory additional safeguarding training for social workers in the children with disabilities service was introduced following Ofsted's 2021 visit, after the service took over case management responsibility for safeguarding cases, which previously had been transferred to family safeguarding teams. A Member asked how their understanding of safeguarding issues was being checked. The Assistant Director for Children with Disabilities said training had a safeguarding focus every three months, and one month ago a quarterly report to management from the Academy was introduced to check social workers' attendance at training, including agency staff. She informed the Committee the internal audit of the whole service in February 2023 did not identify any safeguarding concerns. A second audit was to be carried out later in 2023.
2. A Member asked how often children placed in specialist independent schools around the country were visited by Surrey staff. The Assistant Director for Children with Disabilities clarified the statutory requirement is for the child to be visited within the first week of a new placement, then at least once every six weeks, reduced to every three months if the placement is made permanent. Compliance was monitored monthly.
3. Regarding the 2023 dip sample, the Assistant Director for Children with Disabilities was asked what was being done to address the fact most of the child and family assessments were out-of-date. It was being considered whether these yearly assessments were proportionate and necessary in addition to the statutory child in need visits. A Member queried why in most of the audits there was no consent for information sharing. The Assistant Director said it was mainly due to the consent obtained not being evidenced, and parents understood information needed to be shared with schools and health partners. In order to improve the quality of reports, an exemplar assessment had been developed and shown to staff in practice improvement sessions.
4. Regarding timeliness of child in need visits, 87% of children were currently being seen within timescale, compared with 77% when Ofsted expressed concern in their January 2022 visit.

5. A Member asked if once a child had been classified as having lower needs and placed accordingly, there were subsequent reviews to check if their needs had changed. The Assistant Director for Children with Disabilities clarified a review took place every six months by a team that included an advanced social worker. Although this was an issue identified in the Ofsted report of March 2021, it was now an area of strong performance within a stable team.
6. A Member asked what had been done since the January 2022 Ofsted inspection to ensure a child's wider needs are met, not just those relating to their disability. The Assistant Director for Children with Disabilities said there was a focus on what the child can do and they recognised the importance of thinking about the child in the round.
7. The Family Voice Surrey Participation Manager acknowledged there had been improvement in the Service. She said they would like to be involved in how assessment training is put together and stressed the importance of viewing the child as a whole and looking positively at their abilities.
8. The Executive Director said they did not anticipate having a 100% fully staffed permanent workforce and were aiming for 85% permanent, 10% agency and 5% vacancies as a realistic goal by the time of the next full Ofsted inspection, expected early 2025. Within the CWD Service, the proportion of permanent social workers had increased to 77%, from 50% in March 2021.

Key points made in the discussion – Short Breaks

9. A Member asked why the short breaks budget had not been increased in 2023/24 despite a rise in inflation and demand. The Assistant Director for Commissioning emphasised the difficult economic climate and said it had been challenging to retain the same budget. A Member pointed out that although the budget remained stable it represented a real-term reduction in what could be delivered and suggested this could have been made more explicit. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families said she would listen to the feedback and any shortage of supply would be taken into account when setting future budgets.
10. The Chairman noted this funding, to pilot new initiatives, did not plug the deficit in play and leisure provision. A Member worried this would raise expectations and then be withdrawn. Asked if the £900,000 from the Short Breaks Innovation Fund would be repeated, the Service Manager for Commissioning confirmed it was for one year initially and the prospect of continuity was in discussion with the Department for Education (DfE). The Assistant Director for Commissioning observed the fund was for innovation and the idea was to bring it into the mainstream if the pilot was successful.

11. The Family Voice Surrey Participation Manager noted the importance of short breaks to the short and long-term wellbeing of families including siblings. The respite holds families together and the breaks allows the child to flourish, but only with regular access. Parents were expressing frustration at having services cut, sometimes on the day, and newly eligible families were on long waiting lists and did not believe it was being given the importance it warrants. The Chairman added that this echoed what councillors were being told.
12. Asked for the supply and demand ratio, the Assistant Director for Commissioning explained that, historically, providers had managed their own waiting lists, but steps were being taken to give the Commissioners a better idea of demand. The Member expressed concern at the gap in information where services are commissioned. The Service Manager informed they were currently surveying providers on waiting list levels.
13. A Member asked if tendering could be made less bureaucratic as some providers had been discouraged from applying, particularly smaller charities who were asked for a great deal of information for very small sums. The Service Manager welcomed detail on providers' specific issues so they could be followed up directly. He explained the new way of commissioning involved the Dynamic Purchasing System that had a light touch process for changes once due diligence had been done. The Assistant Director for Commissioning noted a need to reflect on the procedure for smaller awards though they did have to go through a competitive process.

Actions/requests for further information:

1. Service Manager, Commissioning – Corporate Parenting to answer if supply is meeting demand across the various Short Breaks services (overnight, play and leisure etc.), based on waiting list levels for both those services provided in-house and those commissioned once providers have responded to survey w/c 12/06/23.
2. Service Manager, Commissioning – Corporate Parenting to provide a breakdown of what short breaks the Council's core budget is providing versus what the DfE innovation funding is buying.
3. Cabinet Member for Children and Families to provide to Select Committee a clear timeline of what will be done to mitigate the impact of the reduction in play and youth activities this year, before the 2024/25 budget is set and before the 20 July Committee meeting.

Resolved:

Children with Disabilities (CWD)

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee recommends that:

1. When a dip sample audit report is employed as a tool to monitor performance, the recommendations should adhere to SMART criteria, and any subsequent report to Select Committee should document progress against these SMART recommendations.
2. The CWD Service continues to drive for improvements in the quality and consistency of assessments, as highlighted in the dip sample audit report.
3. As a result of the introduction of mandatory safeguarding training in the CWD Service, social workers should have their understanding of safeguarding issues checked annually. Should there be any further change to roles, all staff should be trained appropriately before this takes effect.

Short Breaks

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee recommends that:

1. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families prioritises the restoration of funding for community-based play and youth schemes for children with disabilities to enable the FY 2022/23 capacity to be restored in FY 2024/25, given the widespread feedback that this change has been detrimental to the mental health of parents, carers, children and young people, as well as adversely impacting the Council's prevention strategy.
2. There is a determined focus on clear and timely communication both internally within Children's Services, and with parents and providers. This includes ensuring that, prior to any change in policy or process taking effect, the appropriate information is published on the Council's website and all parents using the services are informed of the change.
3. The short breaks commissioning/procurement process is reviewed to ensure that it is not overly onerous and does not deter smaller organisations from applying. As part of this review, Surrey Youth Focus should be asked to meet with providers (existing and those who have withdrawn) and to feedback anonymously to the Service.
4. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families responds to the findings of Family Voice Surrey's current survey on short breaks and communicates this response to the Select Committee, within one month of receipt.
5. Whilst additional government funding is very desirable, funding for pilots that may not deliver the outcomes desired, or for activities that are not financially sustainable without continued funding from the same source, should be carefully assessed. Where such pilots are introduced, the circumstances should be clearly identified in order to avoid setting expectations that cannot be realised in the longer term.

19/23 REPORT OF THE ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS TASK GROUP [Item 8]

Witnesses:

Chris Townsend, Chairman of the Task Group
Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning
Liz Mills, Director – Education and Lifelong Learning

Key points made in the discussion:

1. The Chairman commended members of the task group for producing a comprehensive review of how the Council and its partners can respond to the challenges of adult learning.
2. The Chairman of the Task Group thanked all those who had participated in their research. He stressed the importance of having a centralised and publicly accessible database to make everyone aware of what adult learning is being provided and where in order to demonstrate where the gaps lie, for example in Mole Valley. He highlighted the imbalance between types of provision in the East and West of Surrey.
3. The Director of Education and Learning said she welcomed the report's breadth and thoroughness. It was an important staging post and they would take the recommendations to the Adult Learning Service's governing body.
4. A Member questioned the feasibility of every library in Surrey operating as an adult learning facility. The Chairman noted the recommendation had been modified accordingly.
5. A Member said recommendations were about residents' wellbeing, not just aiding economic growth, and urged that community learning and work-related skills should be equally valued and not subject to a postcode lottery.
6. A Member said the report identifies economically inactive communities in Surrey who were being left behind because the Council was not reaching them in terms of skills development.
7. The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning observed the level of detail in the report but was disappointed it did not highlight the work done to help people with additional needs into employment. She pointed out its interconnectedness with the Pathways to Employment model and Lifetime of Learning Strategy. She noted that the responsibility for skills sits with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth. The Task Group Chairman informed her that the report had been shared with him.
8. The Chairman offered further discussion on the topic following the meeting.

Resolved:

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee:

1. Endorses all recommendations of the Adult Learning and Skills Task Group. This includes the recommendation on using libraries, while noting this may be very challenging in some smaller libraries.
2. Asks the relevant officers to provide a progress report to this Select Committee on the progress being made in relation to the Task Group's recommendations at the first Select Committee meeting of 2024, to include an analysis of the funding implications.

20/23 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE UPDATE [Item 9]

Witnesses:

Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning
Rachael Wardell, Executive Director – Children, Families and Learning
Michael Smith, Temporary Senior Responsible Officer for Home to School Transport Improvement
Gerry Hughes, H2STA Service Manager
Leanne Henderson, Family Voice Surrey Participation Manager

Key points made in the discussion:

1. Family Voice Surrey (FVS) noted the heartening progress made and said its impact would be felt after summer, when they would run another survey. They were pleased to have assurance families would not be forced to accept an Independent Travel Allowance (ITA) in lieu of transport being provided. They confirmed families in receipt of the ITA had been reimbursed for the other leg of a return journey, and considered this a great success. Key stage transfer letters were much improved this year with a clear flowchart showing how to apply. FVS had received much fewer emails from families having difficulties with outstanding payments. Not all parent carers felt communication had improved. FVS were disappointed the first payment could not be made before October; the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning explained it was a reimbursement scheme in case there had been any absences, but there was an emergency allowance scheme.
2. Asked to identify where problems lie, the Executive Director for Children, Families and Learning said that as a shortage occupation, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) case workers had large caseloads, which in itself contributed to fluctuating retention. FVS said they would return to Committee to share their findings from a survey on the case officer role.
3. The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning said the Service was in a much better position to deal with peak activity this year. The Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) said the Service had been restructured and

additionally resourced, they had removed the need for 850 families to reapply, and had managed to reduce the year's overspend to £12million. He confirmed the potential cost of outstanding Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) awaiting assessment was reflected in this year's budget and said the £55 million budget looked sufficient.

4. A Member asked if there would be a recurrence of the spike in demand seen in May 2022 and if financial surprises may materialise. The SRO responded they were now resourced to deal with that level of demand, though May 2023 had seen 460 applications compared to over 900 12 months before. He explained that a +/- 1% difference in inflation or forecast EHCP numbers equated to about £300,000, but rigorous monitoring would enable a prompt response in such a scenario.
5. The Executive Director made the point that inclusive practice would enable children with SEND to attend the same school as their siblings and reduce H2STA costs.
6. A Member asked if the Service measured if there was an adverse impact on young people when solo taxi arrangements were withdrawn. The SRO said any change in mode of transport was made with full consultation with the family and all applicants had the right to appeal. A Member queried whether the service was designed around the needs of children or led by the budget. The Cabinet Member said it complied with statutory obligations; it was their duty to meet the child's needs and these were always considered, however they also had a duty to account for their use of public money.
7. Asked if school coaches were used efficiently, the SRO said all demand had been met and there was spare capacity to accommodate any new movers during the year, though vehicles could be downsized mid-year to reduce unit cost. The Member queried whether parents were made aware of the existence of concessionary seats and said these should be promoted.
8. A Member queried the need to wait for a new customer relationship management system (CRM) when the current architecture could support what they want to do. The H2STA team were working with digital discovery colleagues on the best solution.

Tanya Quddus left at 2:42 pm.

Actions/requests for further information:

1. Senior Responsible Officer for H2STA to provide to Select Committee the number of children and young people (and percentage) with solo taxi arrangements for the last 12 months, on a month-by-month basis.

Resolved:

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee recommends:

1. A particular focus is placed on improving communications with parents and carers, as highlighted in the update from Family Voice, during the next few months to ensure that the reassuring trend in respect of feedback on Home to School Transport is not undermined.
2. Making an urgent priority the alignment of customer relationship management systems (CRMs) and telephony systems across the corporate contact centre, CFLL Customer Relations team and within the service teams involved in enquiry handling, and for IT to explore how this can be done under the current CRMs to avoid delay.
3. The Senior Responsible Officer provides a further update on the performance and progress of Home to School Transport as soon as possible after the start of the September 2023 new academic year, to include the results of the joint survey with Family Voice.

Adjournment for 16 minutes while technical issue resolved. Meeting resumed at 3:08 pm.

Fiona White left at 2:53 pm. Rebecca Jennings-Evans left at 2:56 pm.

21/23 ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES MONITORING [Item 10]

Key points made in the discussion:

1. A Member enquired if communications would be included in the KPIs shared with Committee. The Chairman indicated that was her intention.

Resolved:

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee recommends:

1. That from the October 2023 committee meeting, key performance indicators measuring performance in additional needs and disabilities, to be agreed between the Director of Education and the Chairman, are added to the data provided in the performance overview standing item.
2. Given the committee's recommendations from December 2022 are all considered to be complete, that additional needs monitoring is removed as a standing item once recommendation 1 is implemented.

22/23 CHILDREN'S HOMES – OFSTED REPORTS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 11]

Witnesses:

Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Rachael Wardell, Executive Director – Children, Families and Learning

Key points made in the discussion:

1. The Chairman remarked that the five latest Ofsted reports overall demonstrated progress and there looked to be more management oversight.
2. A Member asked how Ofsted heard the voice of the child and how young people were able to speak freely. The Executive Director for Children, Families and Learning stated Ofsted would not give a good judgement if a home were to appear obstructive in securing the child's voice in the inspection. Although young people are entitled to withhold consent, staff try to give them the confidence to speak.

Ashley Tilling left at 3:17 pm.

Actions/requests for further information:

1. Scrutiny Officer to feedback to the Service, on behalf of the Select Committee, progress noted in the management oversight of children's homes.

23/23 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW [Item 12]

Witnesses:

Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning

Patricia Denney, Director of Children's Quality Assurance and Performance

Chris Tisdall, Service Manager, Commissioning – Corporate Parenting

Key points made in the discussion:

1. The Chairman enquired what the plan was to recruit foster carers as the Big Fostering Partnership (BFP) had not delivered. The Service Manager for Commissioning - Corporate Parenting confirmed that since entering the partnership in April 2022, they had not met the goal of enabling 22 children to step down from children's homes to fostering. The ambition had been revised to four children by the end of January 2024 when the partnership ends. BFP had however helped them to improve practice.
2. The Executive Director for Children, Families and Learning explained deregistered households included those who had not accommodated a child for a long time, which freed up resources to encourage active carers to take

more children. They were looking into applying to be part of the Department for Education's Fostering Recruitment and Retention Programme.

3. A Member asked why only 35 of the 204 children taken through a Section 47 investigation in March 2023 resulted in a Child Protection (CP) Conference. 17% of S47 enquiries had that outcome in April, which fell short of the 39% target. The Director of Children's Quality Assurance and Performance explained that in some cases the process itself had resulted in an improvement meaning a child in need plan became more appropriate than a child protection plan. Under the Family Safeguarding model, rather than a traditional social work model, they were working more outside of the Section 47 process; the target was set before the relaunch of the model and would be revised. The Executive Director for Children, Families and Learning elaborated that the model leans towards using child in need plans when safe to do so, if the family is engaging. She believed it was not appropriate for conversions to CP conferences to be target-driven. In general terms, however, KPI targets were being made more ambitious.

Rachael Lake left at 3:38 pm.

4. A Member requested a task and finish group on increasing Surrey's supply of foster carers.

Actions/requests for further information:

1. Democratic Services Assistant to set up a meeting with the Executive Director of CFL and Committee Members to discuss how performance is measured, raising KPI targets and where targets may not be needed.

24/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 13]

The Committee noted its next meeting would be held on Thursday 20 July 2023.

Meeting ended at: 3:45 pm

Chairman

Supplementary Question to Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee – 12 June 2022

Thank you for the information to help parents whose children are not being accepted by provisions due to suspected learning difficulties. However, in regards to health working together with you to get the support for children this is simply not happening.

Nurseries who do support SEN children are being told of incredibly long waits for speech therapy and that when the child will be seen they will be restricted in what support is given. This then does increase the chance of the child not being able to attend mainstream school and so many missed opportunities for these children. When will Surrey stop offering only 2 sessions as standard when many children will need more (some may need less).

Can you also ask for a phone number instead of email to the team who can help regarding nurseries rejecting children?

Roisin Kennedy

Response

To give you an example of how we work to support children across health and education teams, I have included below the offer that is in place across Surrey for early years children. For clarity, Surrey County Council commissions the early years speech and language therapy service in terms of the education provision. Speech and Language therapy services are provided as part of the wider Children Community Health services (CCHS) within Surrey. CCHS are provided via integrated provision between Surrey Heartlands ICB, Surrey County Council (SCC), NHS Frimley ICB and NHS England. The efficacy and quality and safety of these services are overseen via governance processes across all four of the partners mentioned above.

Universal support for all children in under 5 years of age: The Children, Family Health Services Surrey [webpage](#) has advice and resources that are available for all. There are also advice lines listed [here](#), including the 0-19 Surrey-wide advice line.

The Surrey Early Years SEND teams and Speech and Language therapy teams work together on children's two-year checks. There is a strong relationship between the teams with collaborative meetings and numerous chances to liaise with one another. This practice extends into the early years settings, enabling joint working to provide the best possible support for individual children. Therapists make time to meet with the Early Years SEND Advisors in their area and discuss their offers of support.

Joint training is delivered free to the early years settings. These are delivered by Speech Therapists and often joined by the Early Year's Advisors. At the Additional Needs Transformation Board, April 2023 (attended by numerous Head Teachers)

there was a desire expressed by education colleagues to provide more support to help these young children; further and extended opportunities are currently being investigated.

Once a child's needs are identified there is an Advice Clinic for parents following a referral. Children's reports (once consent is given) are shared between the teams and early years SEND team support the setting to carry out the interventions. Regular multi-disciplinary meetings between Health and SEND are scheduled in diaries to discuss children and support. Alongside this, there is an open-door policy between the two teams where contact can be made at any time.

Early Intervention Funding (EIF) is a multi-disciplinary panel made up of both education and health professionals. Children's needs and their support are discussed, and funding is awarded to the early years setting to help the nursery enhance the ratio to allow for any interventions and targets (provided by therapists) to occur within the nursery provision.

Both Health and Early Years SEND teams attend Transition meetings and ensure plans are in place to ensure successful transition into school. Funding through EIF is also available to support the transition arrangements.

I hope that it is clear that there is a robust joint approach to improving outcomes for children in Surrey, across health, social care and education partners. Should you require further information we would be happy to discuss further.

The provision for early years speech and language support is predicated on meeting the needs of the child and family. Speech and Language therapy pathways ensure an individualised offer for children. Therapy sessions are given where appropriate for a child's needs. In Surrey there is no capped offer of two sessions of therapy. This may have been what was thought as appropriate for an individual child and on that we are unable to pass comment.

Post-pandemic there has been an expected increase in the level of need for speech and language support for early years children. Set against the challenging national backdrop (finance, workforce) this has led to children waiting longer to receive speech and language therapy where and if appropriate. Following additional investment there has been considerable improvement in this area. The vast majority of children are now seen within 18 weeks.

From a wider perspective, children's speech, language and communication needs are supported from a systems approach. From the moment a child's needs are identified (no need for diagnosis), our early years settings can provide interventions to support the child's speech and language needs. The early years advisors go into settings regularly to provide advice and guidance; and settings can access training, networks and funding to enable this support. There are resources available that the practitioner in the settings (who know the children) are able to utilise to help move the child forward.

We also provide Portage for young children with more significant and complex needs.

Parents and carers are able to call Surrey's Family Information Service (FIS) on **0300 200 1004** for support with looking for an early years provision/place.

If the child is eligible for Funded Early Education at age Two (FEET), the Early Years Commissioning team provide a brokerage service. All eligible parents who have given consent to share their contact details are messaged via text or email and can reply asking for a call back.

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Thursday, 20 July 2023

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of report: The Select Committee is asked to review its actions and recommendations tracker and forward work programme.

Recommendation

That the Select Committee reviews the attached actions and recommendations tracker and forward work programme, making suggestions for additions or amendments as appropriate.

Next steps

The Select Committee will review its actions and recommendations tracker and forward work programme at each of its meetings.

Report contact

Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer

Contact details

07816 091463 / julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk

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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE
ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER
JULY 2023**

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Recommendations

Meeting	Item	Recommendation	Responsible Officer/Member	Deadline	Progress Check On	Update/Response
2 March 2023	Additional needs and disabilities monitoring [Item 8]	CFLLC 1/23: That Members of CFLLC Select Committee monitor the capital expenditure related to the Safety Valve Agreement via the Budget Task Group.	Emily George, Assistant Director - Send Systems, SEND Transformation; Ross Pike, Scrutiny Business Manager	20 July 2023	11 July 2023	Next meeting of the Budget Task Group is 20 July 2023.
16 February 2023	Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health [Item 6]	AH 7/23: To establish explicit criteria and SMART performance metrics for measuring the outcomes and effectiveness of Children and Young Person's Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health services in relation to total		TBC	TBC	The recommendations have been sent to lead officers for a response.

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		<p>requirements for mental health support in Surrey; and to report performance against these metrics to the Adults and Health Select Committee and the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee every three months from June 2023.</p> <p>AH 8/23: To collate and share data on priorities, areas of need, waiting times for assessment and treatment, and outcomes for treatments as part of Children and Young Person’s Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health services.</p> <p>AH 9/23: To ensure that there is accuracy and synergy of patient records, and that all organisations involved in treating patients can</p>				
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		<p>access and update these records accordingly.</p> <p>AH 10/23: For waiting times to be reduced across all pathways as part of all Prevention and Early Intervention measures, as well as through the process of Transitions.</p> <p>AH 11/23: To continue to advance social prescribing County-Wide, and to ensure that there are appropriate initiatives, workable processes, adequate funding, and sufficient resources for this.</p> <p>AH 12/23: To conduct a thorough review into training provision for Children and Young Person's Emotional Wellbeing & Mental</p>				
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		<p>Health services frontline and managerial staff.</p> <p>AH 13/23: For early diagnosis and appropriate mental health support for Children and Young Persons with Learning Disabilities and Autism.</p> <p>AH 14/23: To monitor the impacts of waiting times for assessments and treatments on the acuity of Children and Young Person’s mental health conditions, including the impact of the proposed reductions in treatment sessions aimed at reducing waiting times.</p> <p>AH 15/23: To review strategies across agencies for prevention and intervention surrounding bullying of Children.</p>				
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		AH 16/23: To bring this item back to a formal Adults and Health Select Committee meeting with an update on all the above recommendations (with representatives from the Children’s Select Committee present).				
12 June 2023	Children with Disabilities [Item 7]	<p>CFLLC 8/23: When a dip sample audit report is employed as a tool to monitor performance, the recommendations should adhere to SMART criteria, and any subsequent report to Select Committee should document progress against these SMART recommendations.</p> <p>CFLLC 9/23: The CWD Service continues to drive for improvements in the quality and consistency of assessments, as</p>	Jenny Brickell, Assistant Director for Children with Disabilities; Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Response by 31 August 2023		The recommendations were shared with lead officers on 30 June 2023.

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE
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		<p>highlighted in the dip sample audit report.</p> <p>CFLLC 10/23: As a result of the introduction of mandatory safeguarding training in the CWD Service, social workers should have their understanding of safeguarding issues checked annually. Should there be any further change to roles, all staff should be trained appropriately before this takes effect.</p>				
12 June 2023	Short Breaks [Item 7]	<p>CFLLC 11/23: The Cabinet Member for Children and Families prioritises the restoration of funding for community-based play and youth schemes for children with disabilities to enable the FY 2022/23 capacity to be restored in FY 2024/25, given the widespread feedback that this change has been detrimental to</p>	Lucy Clements, Director for Commissioning; Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Response by 31 August 2023		The recommendations were shared with lead officers on 30 June 2023.

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		<p>the mental health of parents, carers, children and young people, as well as adversely impacting the Council's prevention strategy.</p> <p>CFLLC 12/23: There is a determined focus on clear and timely communication both internally within Children's Services, and with parents and providers. This includes ensuring that, prior to any change in policy or process taking effect, the appropriate information is published on the Council's website and all parents using the services are informed of the change.</p> <p>CFLLC 13/23: The short breaks commissioning / procurement process is reviewed to ensure</p>				
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		<p>that it is not overly onerous and does not deter smaller organisations from applying. As part of this review, Surrey Youth Focus should be asked to meet with providers (existing and those who have withdrawn) and to feedback anonymously to the Service.</p> <p>CFLLC 14/23: The Cabinet Member for Children and Families responds to the findings of Family Voice Surrey’s current survey on short breaks and communicates this response to the Select Committee, within one month of receipt.</p> <p>CFLLC 15/23: Whilst additional government funding is very desirable, funding for pilots that may not deliver the outcomes</p>				
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		desired, or for activities that are not financially sustainable without continued funding from the same source, should be carefully assessed. Where such pilots are introduced, the circumstances should be clearly identified in order to avoid setting expectations that cannot be realised in the longer term.				
12 June 2023	Adult Learning and Skills Task Group Report [Item 8]	<p>CFLLC 16/23: Endorses all recommendations of the Adult Learning and Skills Task Group. This includes the recommendation on using libraries, while noting this may be very challenging in some smaller libraries.</p> <p>CFLLC 17/23: Asks the relevant officers to provide a progress report to this Select Committee</p>	Liz Mills, Director for Education and Lifelong Learning; Dawn Redpath, Director for Economy and Growth; Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and	Response by 25 September 2023		Select Committee report going to 25 July Cabinet meeting.

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		on the progress being made in relation to the Task Group's recommendations at the first Select Committee meeting of 2024, to include an analysis of the funding implications.	Learning; Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth			
12 June 2023	Home to School Transport Assistance Update [Item 9]	<p>CFLLC 18/23: A particular focus is placed on improving communications with parents and carers, as highlighted in the update from Family Voice, during the next few months to ensure that the reassuring trend in respect of feedback on Home to School Transport is not undermined.</p> <p>CFLLC 19/23: Making an urgent priority the alignment of customer relationship management systems (CRMs) and telephony systems across the corporate</p>	Michael Smith, Temporary Senior Responsible Officer for H2STA improvement plan; Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning	Response by 31 August 2023		The recommendations were shared with lead officers on 30 June 2023.

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		<p>contact centre, CFLL Customer Relations team and within the service teams involved in enquiry handling, and for IT to explore how this can be done under the current CRMs to avoid delay.</p> <p>CFLLC 20/23: The Senior Responsible Officer provides a further update on the performance and progress of Home to School Transport as soon as possible after the start of the September 2023 new academic year, to include the results of the joint survey with Family Voice.</p>				
12 June 2023	Additional Needs and Disabilities	CFLLC 21/23: That from the October 2023 committee meeting, key performance indicators measuring performance in additional needs and disabilities,	Liz Mills, Director for Education and Lifelong Learning; Clare	Response by 31 August 2023		The recommendations were shared with lead officers on 30 June 2023.

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	Monitoring [Item 10]	<p>to be agreed between the Director of Education and the Chairman, are added to the data provided in the performance overview standing item.</p> <p>CFLLC 22/23: Given the committee's recommendations from December 2022 are all considered to be complete, that additional needs monitoring is removed as a standing item once recommendation 1 is implemented.</p>	Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning			
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Actions

Meeting	Item	Action	Responsible Officer/Member	Deadline	Progress Check On	Update/Response
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4 October 2022	Surrey Homes for Surrey Children [Item 8]	CFLLC 29/22: The Head of Commissioning (Corporate Parenting) to confirm a date by which the intention is for 80% of Surrey's looked after children to be living in Surrey.	Chris Tisdall, Head of Commissioning - Corporate Parenting	2023	May 2023	Reminded 15 May. Response 21 February 2023: The intention is to reset this at the start of the next financial year (informed by the position we get to in March). I would expect we will be bringing a proposal to our Transformation Board for sign off on 4 April, which can then be reported to the Select Committee.
16 February 2023	Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health [Item 6]	AH 8/23: To write to ICB Chairs with requests for further funding to be allocated for Mental Health. AH 9/23: For a meeting to be organised between relevant Cabinet Members, the Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, and the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Adults and Health Select Committee to formulate a plan to help implement Action 1.	Omid Nouri, Scrutiny Officer; User Voice Participation team; SaBP	TBC	TBC	The actions and requests for further information have been sent to lead officers for a response.

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		<p>AH 10/23: The User Voice and Participation team to research and update the Adults and Health Select Committee and the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee on the difficulties experienced by young people with autism and mental health issues combined.</p> <p>AH 11/23: The User Voice and Participation team to share their Action Cards with stakeholders relevant to the issues highlighted within these.</p> <p>AH 12/23: The Programme Director-Mindworks, to provide the Adults and Health Select committee and Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee with the</p>				
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		Mindworks monthly performance packs. AH 13/23: The Chief Executive, Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, to provide the Adults and Health Select committee and the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee with an integrated and data-informed outcome measure by April 2023.				
12 June 2023	Questions and Petitions [Item 4]	CFLLC 13/23: Cabinet Member for Education and Learning to reach out for discussion with Anna Sutherland regarding her Public Question and share notes of the conversation with the Select Committee.	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning	7 July 2023	11 July 2023	Cabinet Member met with Mrs Sutherland and has been asked to share notes of the conversation with the Committee.
12 June 2023	Questions and Petitions [Item 4]	CFLLC 14/23: Cabinet Member for Education and Learning to send a written response to Roisin Kennedy's	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for	7 July 2023	N/A	Response emailed to Mrs Kennedy and Committee Members on 11 July 2023.

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		supplementary question and share it with the Select Committee	Education and Learning			
12 June 2023	Children with Disabilities and Short Breaks [Item 7]	CFLLC 15/23: Service Manager, Commissioning – Corporate Parenting to answer if supply is meeting demand across the various Short Breaks services (overnight, play and leisure etc.), based on waiting list levels for both those services provided in-house and those commissioned, once providers have responded to survey w/c 12/06/23.	Chris Tisdall, Head of Commissioning - Corporate Parenting	7 July 2023	N/A	Response emailed to Committee Members on 7 July 2023.
12 June 2023	Children with Disabilities and Short Breaks [Item 7]	CFLLC 16/23: Service Manager, Commissioning – Corporate Parenting to provide a breakdown of what short breaks the Council's core budget is providing versus what the DfE innovation funding is buying.	Chris Tisdall, Head of Commissioning - Corporate Parenting	7 July 2023	N/A	Response emailed to Committee Members on 7 July 2023.

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12 June 2023	Children with Disabilities and Short Breaks [Item 7]	CFLLC 17/23: Cabinet Member for Children and Families to provide to Select Committee a clear timeline of what will be done to mitigate the impact of the reduction in play and youth activities this year, before the 2024/25 budget is set.	Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	7 July 2023	N/A	Response emailed to Committee Members on 11 July 2023.
12 June 2023	Home to School Transport Assistant Update [Item 9]	CFLLC 18/23: Senior Responsible Officer for H2STA to provide to Select Committee the number of children and young people (and percentage) with solo taxi arrangements for the last 12 months, on a month-by-month basis.	Michael Smith, Temporary Senior Responsible Officer for H2STA improvement plan	7 July 2023	N/A	Response emailed to Committee Members on 11 July 2023.
12 June 2023	Children's Homes – OFSTED reports published since the last meeting of the	CFLLC 19/23: Scrutiny Officer to feedback to the Service on behalf of the Select Committee, progress noted in the management oversight of children's homes.	Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer	7 July 2023	N/A	Director of Corporate Parenting was sent note on 5 July 2023.

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	Select Committee [Item 11]					
12 June 2023	Performance Overview [Item 12]	CFLLC 20/23: Democratic Services Assistant to set up a meeting with the Executive Director of CFL and Committee Members to discuss how performance is measured, raising KPI targets and where targets may not be needed.	Emily Wilkinson, DSA & Sandra Garvey, Executive Director's PA	7 July 2023	11 July 2023	In progress.

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee

Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee
 Chairman: Fiona Davidson | Scrutiny Officer: Julie Armstrong | Democratic Services Assistant: Emily Wilkinson

Date of Meeting	Type of Scrutiny	Issue for Scrutiny	Purpose	Outcome	Relevant Organisational Priorities	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
Informal meeting September 2023	Pre-decision	Surrey Youth Justice Plan 2023/24	For Select Committee to have oversight before it goes to Council for approval in October 2023	Prompt action by the right professional to maximise opportunities to intervene and divert away from the Criminal Justice System	Tackling health inequality, Empowering communities	Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families; Jamie Cottingham, Youth Justice Service Manager; Jackie Clementson, Assistant Director Early Help and Adolescents
2 October 2023	Overview, policy development and review	Recommissioning	Review standards and process in relation to commissioning / procuring services and interaction with the third sector	Committee makes recommendations as appropriate	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Enabling a greener future, Empowering communities	Lucy Clements, Director for CFL Commissioning Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

6 December 2023	Overview, policy development and review	Home to School Transport Allowance	Review handling of applications for the start of the 2023/24 academic year, and impact of capital programme on H2STA costs forecast over medium term	Committee monitors progress following learning review, assesses implementation of recommendations	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Enabling a greener future, Empowering communities	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning Lucy Clements, Director for CFL Commissioning Michael Smith, Temporary SRO for H2STA improvement plan
	Pre-decision scrutiny	Budget 2024/25	Select Committee to receive draft budget proposals for 2024/25	Committee scrutinises the Council's budget proposals, provides feedback and makes recommendations	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Enabling a greener future, Empowering communities	Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families; Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning; Denise Turner-Stewart, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety; Rachael Wardell, Executive Director – Children, Families and Lifelong Learning; Marie Snelling, Executive Director – Communities and Transformation; Anna D'Alessandro, Director - Corporate Finance & Commercial; Rachel Wigley, Director - Finance Insights & Performance; Daniel Peattie, Strategic Finance Business Partner CFL

15 February 2024	Overview, policy development and review	Alternative Provision	Review AP given the large number of children and young people with additional needs in these types of provisions – numbers of and outcomes in registered and unregistered providers in Surrey, and how many are used outside Surrey	Understand if children in unregistered AP have good educational outcomes by comparison with children in registered AP	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning Liz Mills, Director for Education and Lifelong Learning
	Overview, policy development and review	Sufficiency – Foster carers	Review if recruitment and retention of foster carers can be improved	Committee makes recommendations as appropriate to improve sufficiency	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families Tina Benjamin, Director for Corporate Parenting
4 April 2024	Overview, policy development and review	Universal youth work	Review the provision of universal youth work and outcomes for all young people at county and district levels and outcomes for service users; compare and contrast data from new provision with that of previous provision	Committee assured of adequacy and impact of provision	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Empowering communities	Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families Jackie Clementson, Assistant Director for Early Help and Hubs

	Overview, policy development and review	Adult Learning and Skills	Committee asked at June 2023 meeting for a progress report in relation to the Task Group's recommendations, to include an analysis of the funding implications	Parity in community learning and adult skills across Surrey	Tackling health inequality, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Enabling a greener future, Empowering communities	Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning; Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth; Liz Mills, Director for Education and Lifelong Learning; Dawn Redpath, Director for Economy and Growth
Informal meeting Spring 2024	For information	Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership case review	To share with the Committee learnings from case review on racial incident outside Ashford school	Safeguarding	Empowering communities	Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families; Simon Hart, Independent Chair SSCP; Matt Ansell, Director – Family Resilience and Safeguarding
Task and Finish Groups						
<u>Topic</u>				<u>Relevant organisational priorities</u>		<u>Membership</u>
Additional Needs and Disabilities, to be scoped				Tackling health inequality, Empowering communities, Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit		Jeremy Webster (Chairman), Jonathan Essex, Fiona White, Mark Sugden, Bob Hughes

Standing Items

- **Recommendations Tracker and Forward Work Programme:** Monitor Select Committee recommendations and requests and forward work programme.
- **Performance Overview:** Dashboard of key indicators in Children's Services, showing level of progress made against ILACS recommendations; social worker and foster carer turnover data; overview comparing current external assessors' grades with previous year, in all areas of CFLLC remit.



Thursday, 20 July 2023

EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN TIMELINESS

Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture (CFLLC) Select Committee to show the position at, and progress made by, the end of June with regards to Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) timeliness.

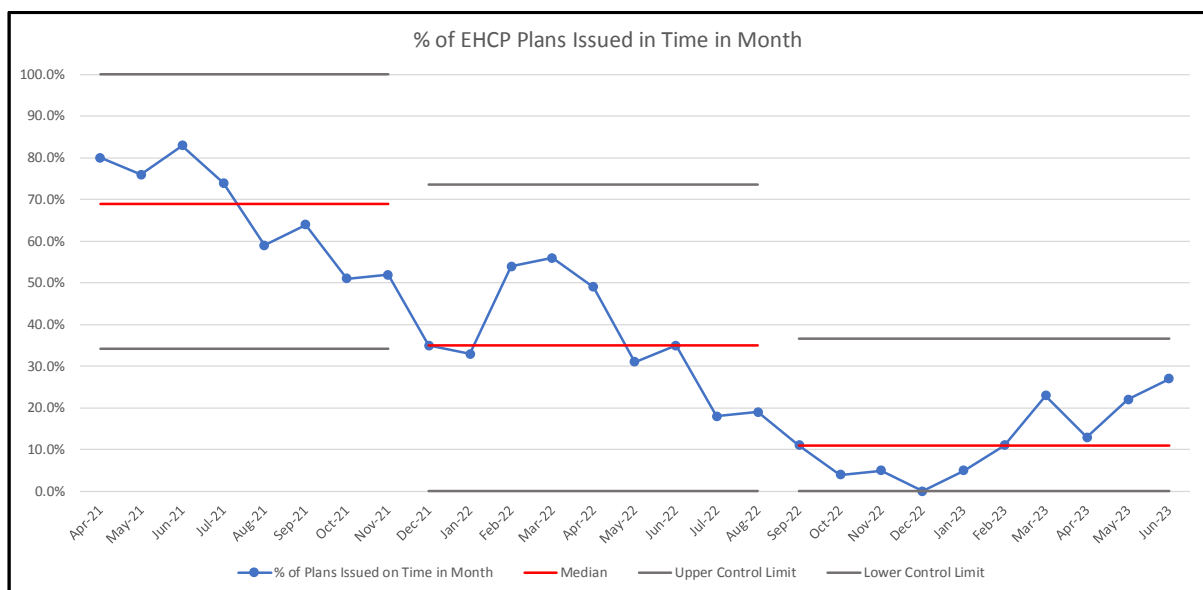
This builds upon the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy paper considered by the CFLLC Select Committee on 4 October 2022 where this was identified as an area for improvement. This report will not focus on managing needs or demand. It will focus primarily on the data and the capacity and resources to undertake timely statutory assessments and the process improvements that will facilitate this.

Introduction:

1. Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities receive support across Education, Health, and Social Care and for many children Ordinarily Available Provision meets their needs. The term 'ordinarily available provision' comes from the SEND Code of Practice (2014) and refers to the support that mainstream schools or settings and health and care providers are expected to provide for a child or young person through their agreed funding and resource arrangements. However, for others an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is required which sets out children's needs, the provision necessary to meet those needs and the anticipated outcomes arising from the provision stipulated in the plan.
2. As at the end of June 2023 Surrey County Council held 13,429 Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs).
3. Data is collected by the Department for Education ("DfE") each calendar year, and this confirmed that between January 2022 and January 2023 there was a 10% increase in EHCPs in Surrey, compared to 9% nationally.

4. While the increase in EHCPs in Surrey is broadly in line with the national increase, the proportion of EHCPs for the January 2023 school population of Surrey is 4.8% which is higher than the national figure of 4.3%. Therefore, this increase builds upon a higher baseline.
5. There is a statutory requirement to complete Education, Health and Care needs assessments and to issue a plan where the need assessment indicates one is required within 20 weeks from the request for an assessment, and this is referred to as timeliness. Current performance against this measure is low for a number of reason and mirrors a trend in a significant number of other local authorities. However, timeliness in Surrey is considerably lower than the national average.
6. Timeliness in completing assessments in 2021 was 65% and was stable until Spring term 2022 with a marginal decline, however, in the summer term 2022 timeliness began to drop more rapidly. This led to overall cumulative timeliness for plans completed during the 2022 calendar year in Surrey falling to 26%. Nationally there has also been a decline in cumulative timeliness with figures dropping from 60% in 2021 to 51% at the end of 2022.
7. The latest Surrey data is that 27% of plans have been issued on time in the month of June 2023. The graph below shows the data to the end of June 2023.

Figure 1: the blue line represents actual timeliness in each month. The red lines reflect the median timeliness over the period and the black lines are the upper and lower control limits for that period.



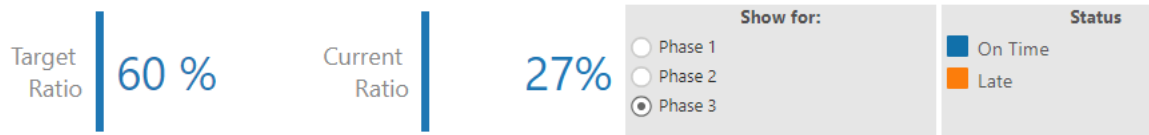
8. Further information of the different EHCP timeliness measures that are reported and why each of these is used is provided at Appendix 1.

9. The drop in timeliness during 2022 was due to a combination of continuing increased requests for assessment, which saw an uplift of 64% since 2020, and a contemporaneous reduction in capacity of critical teams such as SEN case officers and Educational Psychologists (EPs) and therapists who are required to contribute to the assessment process. Educational Psychologists needed to be diverted from early intervention support to statutory support which led to a repeating cycle. Alongside this the SEN team capacity was diluted by the demands of bringing in a new Education Management System (EHM/EYES).
10. Educational Psychologists are the only professional named in law as required to provide advice for all children undergoing an Education, Health and Care needs assessment and the ability to complete assessments on time has been significantly impacted by the national shortage of EPs. The DfE report “Educational psychology services: workforce insights and impact” published 29 June 2023 confirms that 88% of local authorities said that they were experiencing recruitment difficulties and 34% reporting that they were experiencing retention difficulties.
11. A multi-agency recovery plan has been in place since February 2022 when the drop in timeliness was identified as a steady decline and a backlog of overdue needs assessments began to develop. The plan sought to increase staffing capacity and balance the recovery of timeliness with the need to prioritise backlog cases. Monitoring of the impact of the plan has made it clear that the plan needs to be much bolder if it is to succeed in the short term and to lead to sustained effectiveness over the medium and long term.
12. This paper sets out the current position, the comparison with the national picture and the updated strategy to recovery.

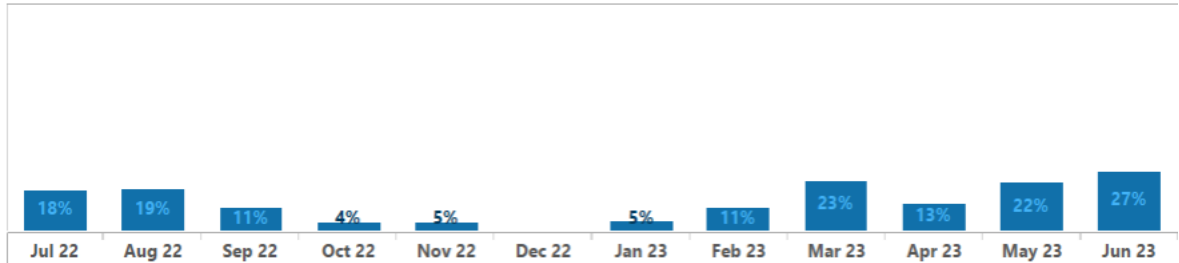
Timeliness of EHCPs and the backlog of needs assessments

13. On 10 May 2023 the CFLLC Select Committee Practice Improvement and Performance sub-group was provided with data that confirmed the April 2023 timeliness of EHCPs at a county and quadrant level, the average days it took to complete an EHCP, the size of the backlog of assessments and modelling to show the impact of the growth in needs assessment requests upon the backlog.
14. Since April 2023 timeliness of plans issued in-month has increased from 13% of EHCPs issued on time to 27% issued on time in June as shown in the graph below. Data recording has a lag and so productivity in June will be subject to change.

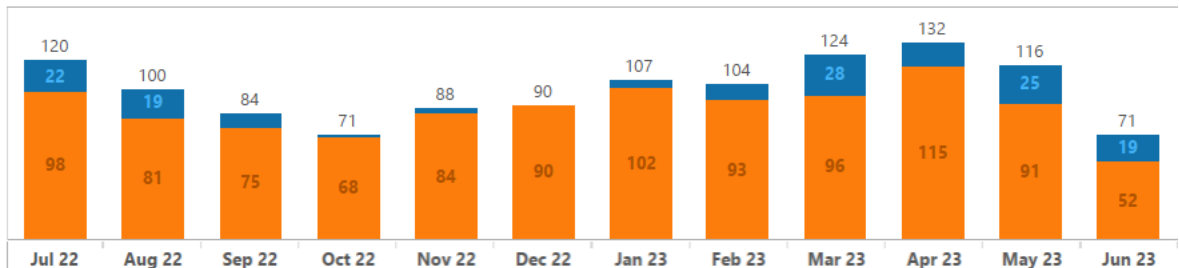
Figure 2



EHCP Completed on-time - by Issued Date



All New EHCPs - by Issued Date



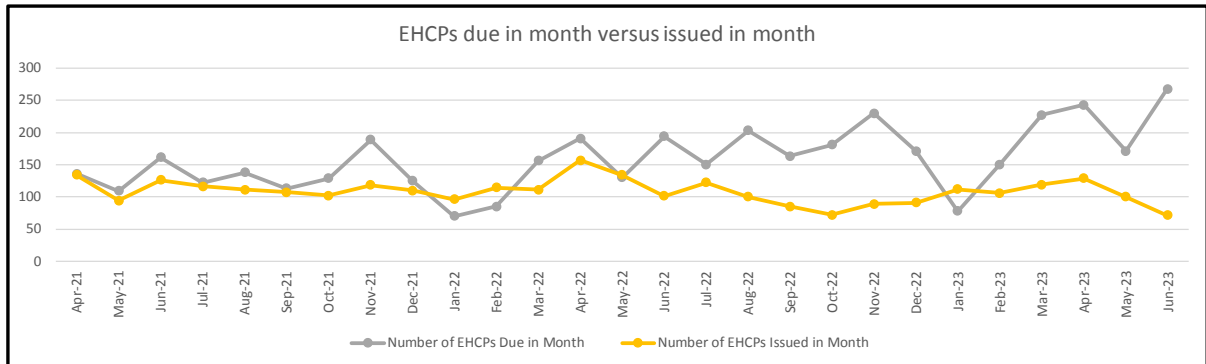
15. The graph above suggests that timeliness is improving but the SEN teams are typically completing more overdue EHC needs assessments than EHC needs assessments within timescale.
16. There is considerable variation in timeliness across quadrants as shown in the graphs at Appendix 2, from 56% plans issued in June being on time in the SW to 13% in the SE. The variations in performance relate to variations in EP advice being submitted to the teams for children within and outside timescales and the extent to which SEND teams are able to make up time for overdue reports at phase 3 of the needs assessments.

Backlog Latest Data

17. The term “backlog” is currently being used to refer to overdue activity at several stages of the process. For this report, it is being defined as all EHCP requests which were due for completion in June 2023 or earlier and which have not yet been recorded as finalised.
18. The graph below shows the number of plans due for issue each month (grey line) against the number of plans that were issued (yellow line). This illustrates that prior to May 2022, these two lines were generally very close together, although there is always a seasonal ebb and flow in number of requests and in number of plans issued. The impact of staffing shortages after this point resulted in the backlog of EHCPs building up in both the EP service and

across the SEND teams, which then caused the reduction in timeliness overall.

Figure 3



19. The backlog of EHCPs due to be issued in June 2023 or earlier which were not yet recorded as complete at the end of June 2023 was 1191, up from 1036 last month. This breaks down as follows:

- 240 (20%) were less than one month overdue (i.e., due for completion in May)
- 508 (43%) were 1-3 months overdue (i.e., due for completion in Mar-May)
- 273 (23%) were 3-6 months overdue (i.e., due in Dec 22 – Feb 23)
- 170 (14%) were 6+ months overdue, of which the majority (99.8%) were due for completion in November 2022.

20. As noted earlier, the key professional required for all needs assessments is an educational psychologist. However, health and social care advice also need to be submitted within statutory timescales. The previous level of timeliness achieved (65%) was typically a result of delays from health and care teams relating to the provision of statutory assessments rather than educational psychologist advice delays.

21. Our revised strategy for addressing this backlog as well as ensuring improved timeliness for new requests is outlined below in the Phase 2 Recovery Plan section of the report.

Comparison with the national picture

22. The 2023 SEN2 return to the DfE collected data on EHCP activity during the 2022 calendar year plus detail of our EHCP cohort on the census date in January 2023. The SEN2 does not report on monthly patterns or provide backlog data.

23. The DfE has now published this data and headline figures are as shown in the table below:

Table 1

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
National	301.4	9.2	15.6	50.7
Southeast	330.4	9.5	17.2	45.8
Surrey	356.2	10.0	14.8	26.4
<i>Surrey's national ranking (of 152)</i>	26	69	82	128
Preferable to be ranked in the...	Middle	Middle	Bottom (152 is best)*	Top (1 is best)
*A low refusal rate generally suggests that the EHCP process is efficient and low numbers of inappropriate/ incomplete requests are made				

24. This demonstrates that Surrey is:

- Significantly above national and regional averages for the rate of EHCPs per 10k 0 to 25 population (top quartile for this measure) – this leads to questions about schools’ ability to meet the needs of children without an EHCP and partners’ ability to meet the needs of children with a health plan or early help/family support.
- Slightly above national and regional averages for the rate of increase in EHCPs
- Below the national and regional average for the rate of refusal to assess/ issue an EHCP – this leads to questions about our decision-making processes and criteria.
- below the national and regional average for the proportion of EHCPs issued on time, having seen a decline from above the national average last year – this is impacted by the overall numbers of EHCPs being maintained and requested and the capacity of our system to support this.

25. This data focusses our attention on the key areas of improvement needed to come back to timeliness. In order to come into line with national and regional comparators we would need our overall EHCP rate, and our increase in EHCPs, to reduce in 2023 and in the years thereafter. To do this, our refusal

rate is likely to increase initially whilst we work with our partners to ensure that all EHCP requests received are appropriate and suitable for a statutory assessment. Once this is achieved, we would expect to see our refusal rate reduce as requests are in line with need. Our Ordinarily Available Provision Guide will support us to achieve a consistent approach.

Comparison with statistical/ regional neighbours and top performers

26. The table below shows the same set of key indicators for Surrey compared with a core set of our largest statistical neighbours. Please see Appendix 3 for the full set of data for our statistical and regional neighbours, as well as for those authorities who are in the top quartile for timeliness and those with a Safety Valve agreement.

Table 2

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
National	301.4	9.2	15.6	50.7
Southeast	330.4	9.5	17.2	45.8
Surrey	356.2	10.0	14.8	26.4
Key large statistical neighbours				
Buckinghamshire	354.2	8.8	20.7	67.1
Cambridgeshire	343.3	14.3	9.3	41.2
Hampshire	371.9	14.4	13.2	45.7
Hertfordshire	285.3	11.3	17.1	32.6
Oxfordshire	242.8	8.0	16.7	4.0
Range amongst all statistical/ regional neighbours (see Appendix 3 for detail)				
Minimum	242.8	- 2.1	0.0	0.0
Maximum	449.4	14.7	30.9	98.8

27. One key point to note here is that there is a wide degree of variation between authorities across these measures. Even when considering the data for the top 25 largest authorities, the variation is still extremely wide. This indicates

that the variation is influenced by factors other than just the size of the authority or the demographics of the population that it serves.

28. However, it should be noted that, for EHCP timeliness, there is only one large authority in the top quartile (Lancashire, 9803 plans). Only two of the 24 county councils (Lancashire and East Sussex) are represented in this group. The average number of EHCPs held by local authorities in the top quartile for EHCP timeliness is 2412 compared with an average of 3401 when looking at all authorities. For the bottom quartile of authorities in terms of timeliness, the average number of EHCPs is 4015.
29. This suggests that there is some link between the number of plans that an authority maintains and ability to deliver EHCPs in a timely manner, although this is not the only factor driving timeliness as indicated by the wide range of plans per head of population seen in the top quartile.
30. As with all other groups of authorities given in this document, there is a high degree of variability on all the other measures for the top quartile timeliness group. See Appendix 3 for further detail.

Learning from other local authorities

31. In order to understand the story behind the other local authority data in more detail, a review of our “SE19 group” regional local authority data and approaches has been undertaken with responses to date have been received from

- Wokingham Borough Council,
- West Berkshire Council
- East Sussex Council
- Portsmouth Council
- Hampshire Council

See Appendix 4 for details. Further research is underway with top performing large local authorities.

32. The responses indicate that the majority of local authorities are experiencing difficulties with shortages of educational psychologists to provide advice and are experiencing an increase in demand for education health and care needs assessments.
33. Most local authorities are looking to procure additional educational psychology capacity placing pressure on the national market. Some are looking to streamline the educational psychology assessment process so shorter assessments can be produced.

34. Other LAs have looked to manage demand through clarifying expectations regarding what schools should ordinarily provide within their available resources for children at SEND Support and provided additional funding and support to help schools meet needs at SEND Support without recourse to an education, health, and care plan.
35. Appendix 4 demonstrates that Surrey's recovery plan has included these strategies.

Recovery plan impact to date and issues

36. A multi-agency recovery plan has been in place since February 2022 when the drop in timeliness was first predicted and a backlog of overdue needs assessments began to develop.

Process and threshold improvements

37. The EHC needs assessment process takes place across three phases which together are required to take no more than 20 weeks, the first is where the decision to assess is made and this has a 6 week time limit, the second phase is the assessment advice gathering stage which also takes 6 weeks and phase 3 is 8 weeks which includes the decision to issue a plan the drafting of a plan and agreement of content with families, placement identification and issuing the final plan. This process involves a number of teams and the recovery plan established a **swifter assessment process** across the SEND system, using a high quality EHCP template.
38. The impact has been that the time taken for decisions to assess reduced from 38 days in January 2022 to consistently below 33 days from January 2023, therefore **families have been waiting less time** for this first decision in the needs assessment process. There is 100% timeliness in phase 1 of decision making on a consistent basis.
39. Schools and families have welcomed the **new EHCP format** and quality audits confirm that EHCP **quality has generally improved** as a result of the new template.
40. **SEN teams** are also often able to **make up time at the end of the process** and deliver the plan in under 8 weeks where advice from professionals has been overdue. Despite improved processes, the ability to issue EHCPs on time remained dependent upon assessment advices (Phase 2 of the process) being returned on time.
41. The plan also focused on clear and transparent **decision-making** criteria based upon a stronger understanding of what schools should ordinarily

provide children at SEN Support **and a strengthened support offer to schools.**

42. It was anticipated that this would reduce the demand for needs assessments however, the impact has not yet had sufficient time to be realised as this work was completed between September 2022 and January 2023 and is continuing to be embedded and monitored.

Capacity building

43. The plan included a number of strategies to support **capacity building** across all professionals required to provide advice as part of the needs assessment process.

Educational Psychology

44. As noted earlier educational psychologists are the key advice provider and key to the success of authorities providing timely EHCPs. The educational psychology service in Surrey has 38.3FTE posts. The service typically operated at 50% staffing capacity during 2022 which enabled the team to complete 154 advices per month. Current demand for EP advice per month (including completing overdue assessments) is for 350 advices. The recovery plan therefore focused on increasing capacity as it was clear that demand would outstrip capacity particularly as the backlog of overdue advice grew.
45. Enhanced terms and conditions were established in the Spring 2022 to help attract staff to join the service, leading to an increase in staffing by 7.4 new FTE main grade EPs from April 2022. This was an improvement but led to the service still being below the establishment levels. It nevertheless confirmed that our **recruitment approaches are more effective**, and we will continue to adapt and enhance our recruitment strategy to increase capacity.
46. However, there are 8.8 FTE main grade EPs who have left meaning that there has been an overall reduction in staff with the team remaining at approximately 50% capacity. Retention of staff is a key issue, and phase 2 of the recovery plan will **develop retention packages** to stem the flow of leavers. In part this is due to the satisfaction of EP work in a local authority where the main focus is statutory assessments and the competition on price for this work within the private market. Increasing overall capacity in the EP team will rebalance the workload between statutory assessments and early intervention which will increase retention based on feedback from staff.
47. In 2022, additional capacity from locums, agency staff and associates was also secured currently providing 5 FTE capacity securing capacity to produce 40 additional advices per month. This enhanced EP capacity, but demand continued to outstrip capacity and so further market testing enabled two key

contracts to be secured providing 59 advices per month from April 2023. This was a significant enhancement of capacity providing over **500 additional** advices in this calendar year.

48. We have diversified the workforce in line with other local authorities who have a greater timeliness, and this led to the recruitment of 12 Assistant EPs now in post and being trained. Four more Assistant EPs are being recruited.
49. The policy on some use of independent psychologists commissioned by parents and schools was launched in May 2023 with the impact yet to be determined, however, initial data suggests that the numbers of private advices able to be used in the assessment process is low, due to the professional guidance and standards that must be met as part of a statutory assessment.

SEN Team capacity

50. A centralised recruitment and retention plan was introduced in 2022. Agency staff were brought in to cover vacancies and remained in post while new staff were brought on board to help them to settle in well. The impact of this was that **vacancy levels** within the SEN core establishment **reduced** from 19% to 5%.
51. The plan then led to SEN staffing capacity increases to ensure that demand and capacity align in this key role. The additional staff included 4 Additional Senior Case-managers to join an establishment team of 20FTE, 8 additional SEND caseworkers and 4 new staff to focus on annual reviews to join an establishment team of 81FTE, and 4 additional SEND Officers to join an establishment team of 16FTE who will act as timeliness co-ordinators to focus on operational blockers and to help meet targets in each quadrant; 20 staff in total. These staff are in the process of being recruited and joining the service.
52. A new approach to over-recruit in order to be able to maintain 100% capacity is being implemented to ensure there is no vacancy factor and cases do not need to be covered by duty workers in the future.
53. A further review of caseworker capacity needed is underway in light of the increasing caseloads over time. The additional staffing capacity also had the impact of improving parity of case holding across the teams with new staff being weighted into the **SE Team** bringing projected **case holding down** from an average in the SE of **221 to 177 in line with other teams**.

Prioritisation of requests for statutory assessment

54. The plan specifies how new assessments should be managed alongside the overdue assessments, this has been in place since the Autumn 2022 and is resulting in the **targeted plans being produced on time**. A risk-based

approach has been adopted by all agencies so that children with the greatest risks; for example, children where there are safeguarding risks, children looked after and children missing education or at risk of placement breakdown would be assessed according to statutory timescales. This cohort of children will continue to have plans that are completed on time.

55. Since 2021, there have been regular timeliness reports to the Inclusion and Additional Needs Partnership and Transformation Boards. In 2022, the **Education, Health, and Care Liaison Group** was established and managers from all these areas have been working on the recovery plan. The EHCP focus group was established in March 2023 with colleagues from the voluntary sector; representatives for parents and young people; and education providers, have been involved in shaping the recovery work.
56. Specific outcomes from these forums include a new **Designated Social Care officer role** to manage timeliness in social care advice in May 2022. **Social Care needs assessment timeliness was a maintained average of 63%** between January 2023 and March 2023. There has also been a deep dive on sample of children and tracking through local authority and health recording systems. Both actions have led to the capacity of health and social care teams to be more aligned with priority groups and demand, with improving health and social care timeliness.

Communications and assurance

57. The plan has focused upon stronger **communications** and **support** with a SEND communications protocol launched in August 2021 and revised in December 2022 and school and parent updates placed on the local offer in March 2023 alongside a **three-weekly contact for families** whose children are awaiting an assessment. While **communication is more proactive and** team members strive to adhere to the protocol, there is much more to do to improve communications with families and partners in our system including schools. This is a key feature of our next phase of work and will be supported by improved staffing levels.
58. In addition, any **school** or parent of a child out of school, where the **child was waiting for an assessment had a call** from the specialist teaching team to determine whether the child's circumstances had changed or if additional advice was required. Few schools felt additional help was needed. A small number of children have had additional support put in place as a result.
59. Since February 2022 regular timeliness updates have been provided to the Children Families and Lifelong Learning Directorate, there has been close oversight of the work by the Director for Education and Lifelong Learning through weekly and fortnightly meetings, alongside operational weekly

meetings. This work has been supported by project management colleagues. During this time it was understood that the strategies in the recovery plan would require time to take effect and it was also noted that there were areas of improvement suggesting that the plan was beginning to take effect. In May 2023 it became clear that demand for assessments was placing the plan at risk and that significant additional capacity would be required to address the backlog, so Phase 2 of the recovery plan was devised.

Phase 2 Recovery Plan

60. Phase 2 will take a more targeted approach to the management of the recovery. Assessments for the most vulnerable children will continue to be completed on time and all other EHCPs, starting with the most overdue will be produced, meaning that all children's plans will be more timely and the longest waits will steadily reduce. New preventative approaches and needs being supported earlier without the need for a statutory assessment are being explored, there will be an enhanced educational psychology service and more SEN service capacity (subject to approval and contracts) and communication and systems improvements. Finally, there will be an extended governance model drawing on broader support from across the council and the wider AND system to secure the success of the plan.

Working Smarter – Operating Model Effectiveness

61. An end-to-end review has been launched for a **broader review of the SEN statutory system** which will lead to longer-term efficiencies in the needs assessment and annual review processes.
62. **External agency** support is being scoped to help with more detailed **modelling of the demand and impact** to ensure that there is a continual review of resource requirements and adjustments to the focus of our resources.
63. **Changes are required to the IT system** to ensure that it operates as effectively as possible to support our work with children and families and provides accurate performance information to manage the SEN service and associated teams.
64. Communication and customer service will be strengthened by establishing a **SEN Contact Team** which will ensure full adherence to the SEN communications protocol and identify resource to ensure that regular stakeholder communications are consistently provided in a timely and helpful manner.
65. **Support from the Customer and Communities Team** has been secured to advise and enable systems and approaches to be established in the short term. In addition, targeted work with key families and stakeholders is planned over the next two months.

Extended EP capacity to reduce and eliminate backlog of needs assessments

66. Despite EP capacity having been enhanced since April 2023, the current resource will not keep up with demand (or clear the backlog) and therefore, further **market testing is being undertaken to determine what additional capacity can be procured**. Modelling has identified the shortfall which, if the demand management strategies take effect, requires approximately 1100 additional advices between August 2023 and March 2024.
67. As part of the end-to-end review there will be a **longer-term reflection on the staffing capacity required for the SEN team**, however it is proposed that in order to manage the increased assessment requests being managed as part of the accelerated recovery plan there is, at least, a need for short term SEN staffing. Whilst recruitment and retention is also important for service sustainability, in the **short term interim staffing and/or procurement of a “recovery” team are likely to be the most viable** options to increase short term capacity responsively.
68. **Social Care and health colleagues will also need to adjust** their resources accordingly to the projected numbers of assessments, which could be challenging for those services.

Enhanced Governance and Assurance

69. An external consultancy, commissioned by the Transformation Team, has been asked to provide independent assurance of the plan during July 2023. This will provide an independent overview of our strategy, delivery plan and management/ governance arrangements. Surrey County Council’s Director of Design and Transformation will provide further design support and oversight of the delivery of the plan.
70. In order to manage the accelerated recovery plan, it is proposed that there is a revised governance model with accountability to the Executive Director for Children Families and Lifelong Learning, the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning and relevant directors.
71. It is also proposed that there is a delivery oversight group with corporate and partner representatives attending who will drive the accelerated recovery plan forward in addition to the recruitment of an operational lead who will ensure that the work streams are delivered on a day-by-day basis. This governance will be brought within the existing governance arrangements relating to Additional Needs and Disabilities Transformation.

Impact on EHCP timeliness

72. The current projections demonstrate that if the EP procurement and management strategies are successful and that the broader partner and infrastructure changes are made, then this plan will enable us to get back to an acceptable level of timeliness of 60%+ in 2024 (above the current national

average and back on par with our previous performance). In order to reach our ultimate goal of 100% EHCP timeliness, we are reliant on health partners and the wider system continuing to work more closely together, so we will continue to work together to achieve this, in keeping with the Cabinet Member's commitment to children and families.

73. During this period of time, we anticipate that initially there may be a dip in timeliness as we target the backlog. As we manage this work, we will begin to be able to increase our completion of new assessments on time. There will be a corresponding increase in productivity over this period. Further sophisticated modelling and assurance of the modelling is required, and the plan is for this to be undertaken using internal resources and potentially by a consultancy, subject to arrangements.

Risks and Assumptions

74. This plan and the impact of the plan is underpinned by a set of data and trajectory modelling. All modelling work is carried out using estimated figures which are based on a combination of historical data and a series of assumptions about future demand and the impact of our strategies. Appropriate adjustments have been made for any known data quality issues. However, there a degree of uncertainty will remain as to how changes will ultimately manifest in our systems and practice.
75. To mitigate for this, we have carried out our modelling using a number of different scenarios so that our plans are based on a reviewing a range of possible outcomes rather than on a single set of figures.
76. The key constraints that could limit the effectiveness of this plan are several elements outside our direct control. These include how families and schools will respond to those measures which aim to reduce EHCP demand; how feasible it is to contract resources or provision; and the response of other partners in the system. These risks are being mitigated by testing and gaining insight into how partners respond as we proceed, by proactive market testing and by strengthening those aspects of the plan which are within our control.
77. The actual outturn will be closely monitored via the governance model outlined above, to quickly identify any situations in which the assumptions about demand or impact prove to be inaccurate. This will allow us to respond appropriately.

Financial implications

78. The strategies to address the backlog are not all currently funded within the approved 23/24 budget. Formal approval to incur expenditure in these areas is therefore to be sought, in line with the relevant governance requirements, i in this case via a Cabinet decision. Potential costs include entering into contracts to boost EP capacity, enhancing the Team Around the School arrangements and supporting recruitment and retention. In totality these are

projected to cost up to approximately £5m in 2023/24, with future years' funding requirements still to be confirmed. Funding to cover approximately half of these additional costs has already been set aside, with the remaining funds being identified and appropriate approvals being put in place.

79. The impact of accelerating the work, on core High Needs Block (HNB) spend, is that growth built into the Safety Valve program will impact on the budget in a more uneven way, as opposed to materialising at a steady pace /in line with the seasonal patterns observed when timeliness was at more acceptable levels. However, based on current forecast this is not expected to create an additional pressure in the HNB.
80. Last year the Council's actual HNB spending was £2m less than the agreed planned HNB deficit. At the same time, when planning for 2023/24, an additional c£3m was added to the cost containment target to mitigate against the risk of overall growth running higher than planned. Therefore, at the end of 2023/24, if all targets and growth were as planned the deficit could be lower by c£5m.
81. High level modelling indicates that the cost of accelerating the assessments and clearing the backlog could result in c£4.7m associated costs to the High Needs Block over the course of this financial year. If these costs materialise in this way the Council would still remain 'on-track' with the overall Safety Valve trajectory.
82. This does introduce a risk around sufficiency as financial forecasts assume suitable placements are available for all children at the appropriate level. This will be influenced by the results of each assessment and the specific provision capacity needs. The Admissions teams are monitoring the backlog and preparing to manage these needs effectively.
83. Clearing the backlog could create an influx of SEN Children requiring Home to School travel assistance (H2STA) part way through an academic year. Current modelling assumptions are that 33% of children with an EHCP require some level of H2STA. Based on the current backlog this could therefore represent c350 children which would be a 6% increase on the current level of SEN Children receiving support. Whilst the same growth assumptions have also been used in H2STA planning, the phasing of this accelerated approach may mean an increase in plans being finalised after the start of the new academic year which may make efficient route planning more challenging as most routes are optimised in or around September. Additional administrative costs may also be required to process the level of extra applications within timescales. Close monitoring of these applications and early communication with the H2STA teams is anticipated and is key to ensuring that appropriate support is provided and planned.

Conclusions:

84. The latest June 2023 timeliness data suggests that the impact of the recovery plan is on a positive trajectory, however, the backlog of overdue assessments will not be reduced unless the number of needs assessment requests reduces and the capacity of services who are required to provide professional advice as part of the needs assessment, increases.
85. An enhanced recovery plan is proposed and the latest modelling demonstrates that this plan will enable us to get back to an acceptable level of timeliness of 60%+ in 2024 (above the current national average and back on par with our previous performance). In order to reach our ultimate goal of 100% EHCP timeliness, we are reliant on health partners and the wider system continuing to work more closely together, so we will continue to work together to achieve this, in keeping with the Cabinet Member's commitment to children and families.
86. The plan also reduces the length of time that families with an overdue assessment will need to wait incrementally as well as continuing the current 100% timeliness for our most vulnerable children.
87. This enhanced plan requires additional resource and support in order to secure its success and there are factors that are not in the direct control of the local authority. However, a review of the work of other local authorities indicates that the existing and enhanced recovery plan is comprehensive and includes all of the key features of the highest performing local authority strategies and it is proposed that the plan also receives external validation.

Recommendations:

88. That the Select Committee supports the Phase 2 EHCP Timeliness Recovery Plan.

Next steps:

89. To provide an updated report to the next meeting of the Select Committee in October 2023 on progress being made to deliver timely EHCPs for all children and young people who require statutory planning and support and to eliminate the backlog of overdue assessments and plans as soon as possible.
-

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Sources/background papers

[Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy paper considered by the Children Families Lifelong Learning and Culture \(CFLLC\) Select Committee on the 4 October 2022](#)

[“Educational psychology services: workforce insights and impact” DfE published 29 June 2023](#)

[“SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years” DfE published 11 June 2014](#)

Appendix 1 – explanation of EHCP timeliness measures used

1. There are four key performance indicators which are monitored regularly with regards to the overall timeliness of EHCPs. All of these have an important purpose but can cause confusion if it is not made clear which measure is being referred to. These measures and their purpose are outlined below.

Monthly measures

2. Monthly measures are good for showing the most recent performance but, due to the small numbers that they often reflect, they tend to be more variable. Demand for EHCP requests follows a very stable pattern of peaks and troughs each year based around the school term structure. This means that these measures can be significantly affected by things like school and bank holidays which impact both demand and output in a particular month.
3. Comparison with previous months should therefore be treated with caution, and we should look at the general trend over several months rather than a single upwards/ downward turn.
4. The two monthly measures that we report on are:

a) Timeliness by month in which plan was due

Page 86 of the compendium reports the timeliness based on the month in which plans were due to be issued. This graph therefore also shows the backlog of plans still in progress (the grey section of the bar chart).

This measure is important as it most closely reflects the “lived experience” of the children and young people going through the EHCP process. It is also important both strategically and operationally to ensure that we have oversight of the backlog of work due which has not yet been completed.

b) Timeliness by month in which plan was issued

Page 87 of the compendium shows the timeliness of plans based on the month in which they were issued. As this reflects only completed EHCP requests, it does not include the backlog requests which have not yet been done.

This measure is important operationally as it reflects the output of the SEN teams each month. When the majority of EHCPs are being issued on time, these two figures should be almost identical.

12 month measures

5. Annual/12-month measures are good for showing the longer-term trend in performance. Because they look at a much larger dataset, they are less subject to the variation described above. However, this also means that they are slower to show emerging trends of improving/ declining performance.
6. The two 12-month measures that we report on are:

c) SEN2 calendar year figure

The DfE collects data from us every spring for the timeliness of plans that were issued during the calendar year prior to the census date in January – so the SEN2 2023 collected timeliness data for the calendar year 2022.

This figure is important as it is the only one for which we have the full range of national, regional, and local authority level comparator data to benchmark our performance against.

The key drawback is that this data is 6 months old by the time it is published and is only collected once a year.

d) Rolling 12-month figure

Page 85 of the compendium shows the timeliness of plans issued in the last 12 months. This figure is important because it acts as a moving forecast of what we are building towards for our SEN2 return each year. By using a rolling 12-month period rather than starting with a single month of data and adding to it each time, it avoids the variability described above.

The key drawback is that, where there has been a significant change in performance during the reporting period (as has been seen since the start of 2023), this measure does not fully reflect that.

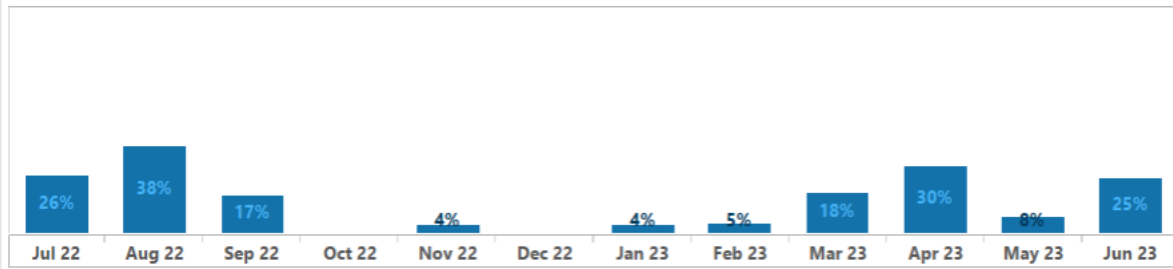
7. We are therefore looking to introduce a fifth, hybrid measure which will track the building SEN2 picture, adding data in month by month over the course of the year. Initially this will have the variability drawbacks of the monthly measures but will mean that the data is not affected by activity in the previous calendar year which will not be included in the next SEN2 return.

Appendix 2 – Current performance data for each quadrant in the county

The graphs below show the timeliness of EHCPs issued in each month from July 2022 to June 2023 by quadrant.

Figure 4 - NE

EHCP Completed on-time - by Issued Date



All New EHCPs - by Issued Date

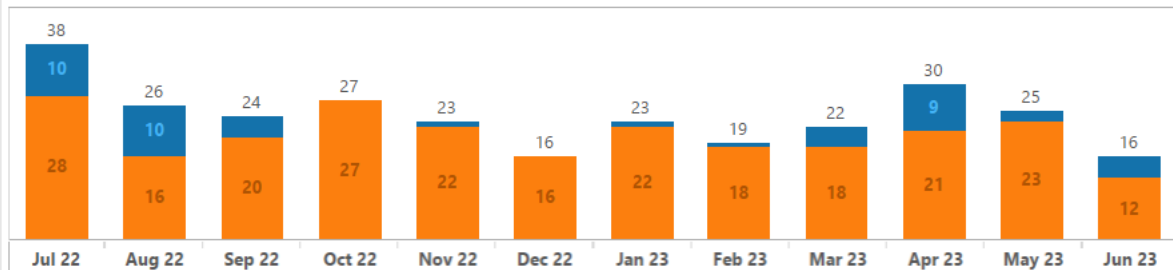
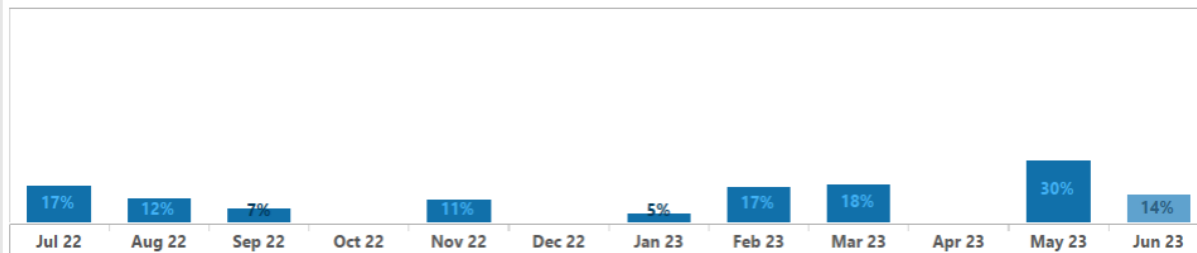


Figure 5 - NW

EHCP Completed on-time - by Issued Date



All New EHCPs - by Issued Date

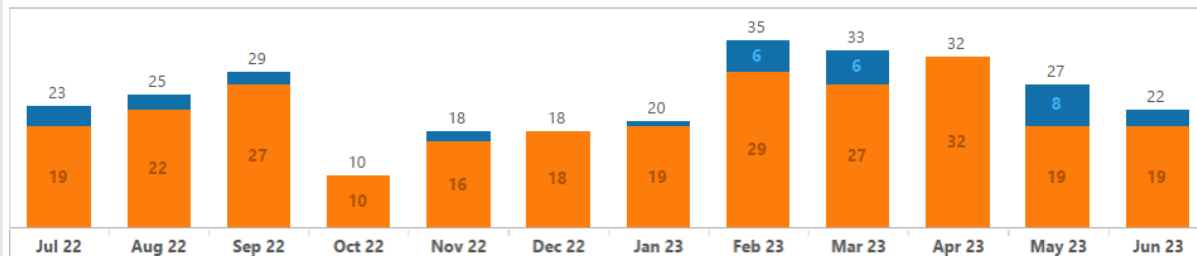
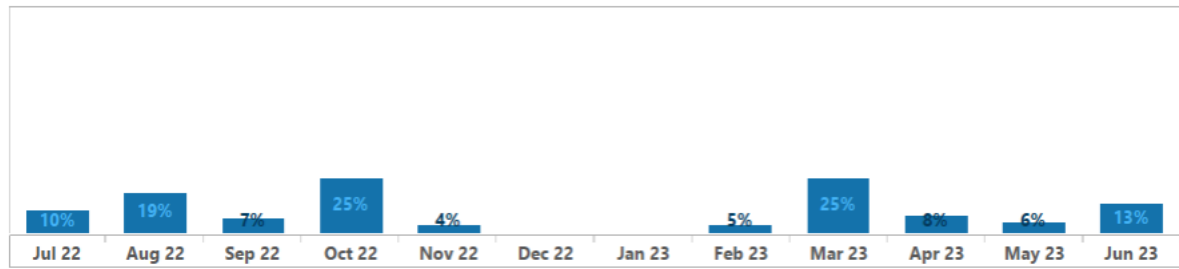


Figure 6 - SE

EHCP Completed on-time - by Issued Date



All New EHCPs - by Issued Date

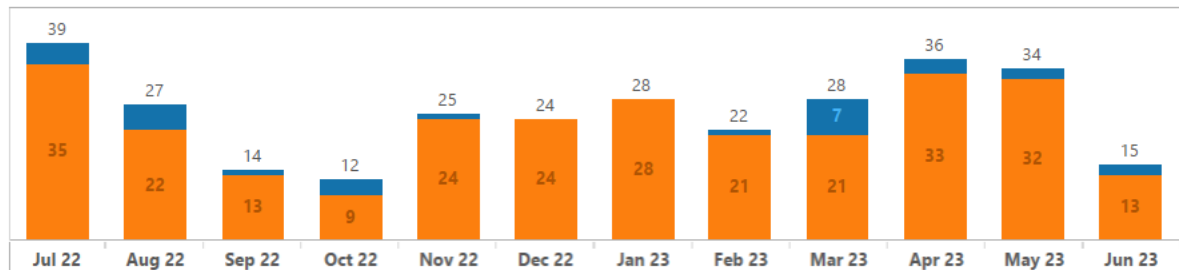
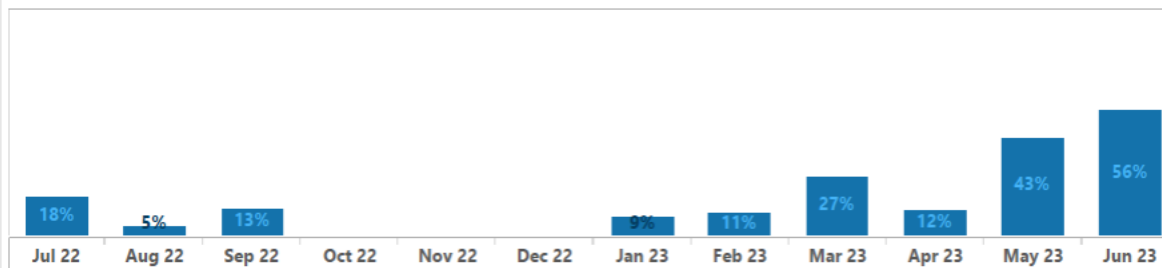
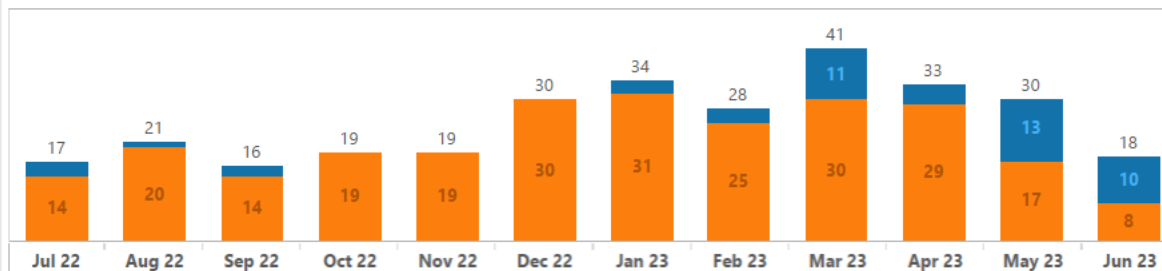


Figure 7 - SW

EHCP Completed on-time - by Issued Date



All New EHCPs - by Issued Date



Appendix 3 – SEN2 comparative KPIs for other local authorities

Statistical and regional neighbours

8. The table below shows the core set of key indicators for Surrey compared with both our statistical neighbours and our regional neighbours.

Table 3

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
National	301.4	9.2	15.6	50.7
Southeast	330.4	9.5	17.2	45.8
Surrey	356.2	10.0	14.8	26.4
Statistical neighbours				
Bracknell Forest	324.6	10.2	0.0	46.3
Buckinghamshire	354.2	8.8	20.7	67.1
Cambridgeshire	343.3	14.3	9.3	41.2
Central Bedfordshire	336.5	14.7	12.0	12.0
Hampshire	371.9	14.4	13.2	45.7
Hertfordshire	285.3	11.3	17.1	32.6
Oxfordshire	242.8	8.0	16.7	4.0
West Berkshire*	281.6	10.4	1.1	0.0
Windsor and Maidenhead	243.0	5.6	30.9	88.4
Wokingham	306.8	13.2	11.6	59.1
Regional neighbours (where not included above)				
Brighton and Hove	257.6	9.8	19.1	59.3
East Sussex	301.2	8.9	26.3	87.6
Isle of Wight	449.4	12.1	28.8	75.3
Kent	403.2	6.8	21.6	41.1
Medway	320.2	5.8	14.2	67.7

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
Milton Keynes	254.1	- 2.1	7.9	92.1
Portsmouth	269.5	6.3	11.8	90.0
Reading	303.0	14.2	15.5	79.8
Slough	314.0	7.6	12.4	11.6
Southampton	250.4	12.7	10.6	98.8
West Sussex	297.5	13.3	20.3	16.5
Range amongst statistical/ regional neighbours				
Minimum	242.8	- 2.1	0.0	0.0*
Maximum	449.4	14.7	30.9	98.8

* Please note that there are several odd figures for West Berkshire which suggest that this LA may have had issues with their data quality/ submission

Top quartile EHCP timeliness local authorities

9. The table below shows the performance indicators above for those authorities in the top quartile for EHCP timeliness, given in ranking order from highest to lowest.

Table 4

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
National	301.4	9.2	15.6	50.7
Southeast	330.4	9.5	17.2	45.8
Surrey	356.2	10.0	14.8	26.4
Top performing LAs for timeliness				
Tower Hamlets	363.2	18.7%	0.0	100.0

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
Telford and Wrekin	317.4	4.3%	12.9	100.0
Kensington and Chelsea	185.7	1.7%	17.1	100.0
City of London	105.7	10.5%	7.1	100.0
Calderdale	309.1	10.9%	13.5	99.4
Westminster	229.5	2.2%	19.6	99.2
Camden	211.9	0.4%	12.6	99.2
Southampton	250.4	12.7%	10.6	98.8
Lancashire	267.1	12.8%	0.0	98.6
East Riding of Yorkshire	358.6	10.4%	13.2	98.6
Gateshead	274.3	5.1%	16.1	98.5
Barnet	278.3	7.7%	16.0	97.9
Oldham	315.1	0.3%	23.2	96.5
Stockton-on-Tees	322.4	3.8%	14.5	95.2
Havering	269.1	8.2%	16.1	95.1
Blackburn with Darwen	212.4	11.4%	5.3	94.8
Solihull	341.8	8.6%	23.9	92.4
Milton Keynes	254.1	-2.1%	7.9	92.1
Liverpool	298.4	24.0%	18.2	92.0
Rochdale	356.5	12.9%	16.2	91.8
Wakefield	295.2	11.5%	21.4	90.7
Peterborough	324.3	6.8%	27.0	90.7
Barnsley	349.6	5.6%	20.9	90.7
Enfield	405.2	16.2%	18.1	90.7
Darlington	293.9	7.4%	2.4	90.2
Portsmouth	269.5	6.3%	11.8	90.0
Bexley	354.0	8.5%	10.4	89.8

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
Waltham Forest	329.7	11.6%	7.8	89.7
South Tyneside	379.8	5.8%	17.3	89.2
Merton	383.3	0.9%	15.9	88.7
Windsor and Maidenhead	243.0	5.6%	30.9	88.4
York	184.0	2.4%	26.0	88.2
East Sussex	301.2	8.9%	26.3	87.6
Wigan	274.1	11.6%	15.5	83.9
Blackpool	332.5	5.0%	12.2	83.8
North Lincolnshire	278.9	14.4%	14.8	83.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	271.4	27.5%	19.4	82.1
North Tyneside	369.3	3.2%	24.5	81.3
Range amongst top quartile timeliness LAs				
Minimum	105.7	- 2.1	0.0	81.3
Maximum	405.2	27.5	30.9	100.0

Safety valve local authorities

10. The table below shows the performance indicators for authorities with a DfE Safety valve agreement in place, listed in alphabetical order. Surrey has an agreement in place but is listed at the top for comparison as with other tables.

Table 5

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
National	301.4	9.2	15.6	50.7
South East	330.4	9.5	17.2	45.8

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
Surrey	356.2	10.0	14.8	26.4
Safety Valve local authorities				
Barnsley	349.6	5.6	20.9	90.7
Bath and North East Somerset	307.2	15.2	0.0	23.6
Bexley	354.0	8.5	10.4	89.8
Blackpool	332.5	5.0	12.2	83.8
Bolton	283.1	1.9	6.7	44.1
Bury	377.7	7.4	13.6	51.0
Cambridgeshire	343.3	14.3	9.3	41.2
Croydon	322.2	13.0	12.3	37.7
Darlington	293.9	7.4	2.4	90.2
Dorset	397.1	13.0	14.1	62.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	271.4	27.5	19.4	82.1
Haringey	327.0	2.3	14.5	44.1
Hillingdon	319.9	8.2	19.1	66.0
Hounslow	313.7	4.6	23.5	49.7
Isle of Wight	449.4	12.1	28.8	75.3
Kent	403.2	6.8	21.6	41.1
Kingston upon Thames	307.0	5.2	10.2	72.0
Kirklees	280.4	4.4	0.4	14.4
Medway	320.2	5.8	14.2	67.7
Merton	383.3	0.9	15.9	88.7
Norfolk	352.5	0.7	15.1	75.4
North Somerset	304.4	14.7	16.0	38.8
North Tyneside	369.3	3.2	24.5	81.3
Richmond upon Thames	295.9	2.6	12.1	73.7

Region	EHCP rate per 10k 0-25 pop	% increase in EHCPs	% requests to assess/ issue refused	% EHCP timeliness
Rotherham	365.7	11.0	17.0	51.6
Salford	276.0	-0.8	3.7	48.3
Slough	314.0	7.6	12.4	11.6
South Gloucestershire	310.4	10.7	21.2	16.3
Southwark	307.7	6.2	27.9	43.4
Stoke-on-Trent	329.4	9.1	12.9	62.6
Torbay	453.1	-0.8	23.2	65.4
Wokingham	306.8	13.2	11.6	59.1
York	184.0	2.4	26.0	88.2
Range amongst Safety Valve LAs				
Minimum	105.7	-0.8	0.0	11.6
Maximum	453.1	27.5	28.8	90.7

Appendix 4

Local Authority Feedback Summary

Bold denotes strategies also currently in the SEN recovery plan

Local authority	What strategies are you using to resolve any EP advice backlogs?	What strategies are you using to reduce the demand for needs assessments?
LA 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Consultant /locum EPs • We cannot keep up with the demand even using locum EPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the funding to early years settings through an EY Inclusion fund for SEND support. • Increased the SEND support offer to Early Years. • Developing a SEND Support Service to include seconded SENCos
LA 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a new template to record key person-centred information • Reducing the level of detail in EP advice • Quality assuring EP advice using peer support and checklists • Experimenting with writing the advice for the CYP themselves • Making effective use of Assistant EP capacity to support observations, pupil views and consultations (drafting notes to include in the advice) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personalised decision wording when we decide not to assess or not to issue a plan, offering support from inclusion services • arrange a multiagency Way Forward Meeting • When making decisions we scrutinise the costed provision and decide if it can be met from the school's £6000 notional SEN budget without the need for a plan • Set up a Time-Limited Inclusion Grant which schools can apply for to get funds to overcome barriers which is contingent upon them not requesting an EHCNA. • EPs attend panel • We provide transition support from our Early

		<p>Years' Service for all preschool children with SEND, with funding and access to school support services to facilitate their transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are starting to focus on how to celebrate the ceasing of a plan where the child or young person has made good progress and achieved outcomes by the end of a key stage • Maintaining a balance of work for the EPs so that they can do the early intervention and prevention work needed, thereby protecting the variety of work that is necessary for retention and recruitment.
LA 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have not taken any action yet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have talked with HTs and SENCOs about the intention of the SEN&AP improvement plan to reduce reliance on EHCPs to meet needs.
LA 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had clear goals with the EP service on the % of cases we expected each month to come through within time • SEN were encouraged to make decisions to assess around week 3, this gave the EP service additional weeks to comply with advice. • It has taken us 18 months to reduce the backlog and to bring in line the 20-week. We do still have cases that are taking longer, but on the whole the 2 services are working together to ensure that the 20-week indicator increases, we are now on around 70% each month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are strengthening decision making and now have multi-agency panel for decisions that are not clear or likely to be no. • We are looking at what we need to put in around Early Intervention. SENco Toolkit, SENco helpline, Training offer, conferences to increase knowledge, way forward meetings for EY's turn downs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor it closely we brought in a Timeliness coordinator who works across both services chasing advice and ensuring 2nd decisions are made and that drafts and finals are sent by timelines. 	
LA 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are using EP reports from where the child was seen in the last 6 months and where the report has the relevant needs, outcomes and provision identified. 	

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Thursday 20 July 2023

Corporate Parenting Annual Report and Annual Performance Report 2021-22**Purpose of report:**

This report provides the key performance data for year ending March 2022 for Looked After Children as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally.

The annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board has been provided as a separate report.

Introduction

1. On 28 July 2020 it was agreed for the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning Select Committee to receive an annual report in relation to the delivery of Corporate Parenting within Surrey County Council.
2. In order to provide comparative data within the report, it was agreed to present the Department for Education (DfE) benchmarking data. The current data covers 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the data

3. The Government ended all Covid restrictions in February 2022.
4. The impact of Covid can be seen in this data and more so in the indicators that require an NHS service for example the numbers of children who have visited the dentist, which although above statistical and national outcomes is below the Surrey target of 90%.

The key performance data for year ending March 2022 for Looked After Children as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally

5. The key performance data for the Council in relation to Looked After Children can be found in the attached report entitled *Annex 1: Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information*; this report will be referred to as the Annex 1 report within this document. The performance intelligence team have undertaken a comparison of the data, from 2020/21 with that of 2021/22 including data from, statistical neighbours, and national performance.
6. Local authorities submit data for children who have been Looked After during the year, but the DFE publish data predominantly for those that have been Looked After for 12 months or more.

Looked After Children performance data and comparisons

7. Slides 2 and 3 of the Annex 1 report shows that as of the 31 March 2022 the number of Looked After Children (CLA) by Surrey County Council was 1048, which was an increase of 5.0% from the previous year. This resulted in a slight increase in the rate of children per 10,000 when compared to 2021. Surrey County Council, however, continue to have lower rates of Looked After Children than both statistical neighbours and nationally.
8. Slide 4 shows the data for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and reveals that the percentage of UASC increased by 3% between 2021 and 2022 rising from 78 in March 2021 to 119 by 31 March 2022. This is a similar picture to that seen by statistical neighbours and nationally. It is suspected that this increase may well have been as result of the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and the easing of travel restrictions. This view would be supported by the increase we are seeing in numbers of UASC at the current time.
9. The majority of Surrey County Council's Looked After Children, as of 31 March 2021, were placed with foster carers although this decreased from 72% in 2021 to 68% in 2022 (Slide 5).

10. For Surrey County Council's Looked After Children living in children's homes (regulated, non-regulated and secure units) there was no change from 20% in 2021 whereas for our statistical neighbours and nationally there was a slight increase. This data supports our approach to use foster carers as the first option for the majority of children.
11. Slides 6 and 7 show that for children placed for adoption, Surrey saw a decrease of 0.4% for adoptive placements. Our statistical neighbours saw no change and nationally there was a 0.2% decrease. Surrey County Council have lower numbers of adoptions in comparison to statistical neighbours and nationally, and we also have lower numbers of Special Guardianship Orders.
12. Slide 8 shows that the proportion of Surrey County Council's Looked After Children placed within 20 miles of their home address has decreased slightly by 1%, from 57% in 2021 to 56% in 2022. The proportion of Looked After Children living over 20 miles from their home address has also decreased by 3.0%, from 36% in 2021 to 33.0% in 2022. Surrey differs from the national performance data, however, is very similar to statistical neighbours. When this is considered in context, Surrey is a large geographical area surrounded by other local authorities and we are in the unusual position where keeping children in Surrey can mean moving them over 20 miles away, whereas moving them out of county could be a much closer option. For instance, Oxted to Farnham is 41 miles, whereas Oxted to Westerham, Kent, is 3.4 miles.
13. Slide 9 indicates that there was no change in the number of Looked After Children living within Surrey, as of 31 March 2022 This percentage was 52% as it was in 2021. For those Looked After Children living outside the boundaries of Surrey, again the percentage hasn't changed from 48%.
14. Slide 10 shows that the number of Looked After Children with an up-to-date Dental Check increased significantly from 58% in 2021 to 85% in 2022. This can be attributed to the easing of restrictions due to COVID-19. Positively, Surrey fairs well when compared to both statistical neighbours (69%) and nationally (70%).

15. In Surrey in terms of completed Health Assessments there was a 10% decrease between 2022 resulting in 84% compared to 94% in 2021 (Slide 11). Whilst statistical neighbours (84%) and national (89%) performance also decreased, Surrey was in line with statistical neighbours but below the national average.
16. Slide 12 shows that Surrey was in touch with 93% of its 17–18-year-old care leavers and 92% of its 19–21-year-old care leavers. This is a slight increase of 2% for the 17–18-year-olds but a significant increase of 6% for the 19–21-year-olds. For 17-18 years, both our statistical neighbours and nationally are above Surrey by 1% at 94%. For 19–21-year-olds our statistical neighbours are slightly lower at 91% and nationally it is in line with Surrey at 92%.
17. Slide 13 shows that of the care leavers Surrey were in touch with, 89% of 17–18-year-olds were in suitable accommodation and 87% of 19–21-year-olds were in suitable accommodation. For 17–18-year-olds both our statistical neighbours (91%) and nationally (90%) were slightly higher than Surrey. For 19–21-year-olds Surrey was in line with our statistical neighbours (87%) and nationally were slightly higher at 88%.
18. Slide 14 shows that of the care leavers Surrey were in touch with, 65% of 17–18-year-olds were in education, employment or training and 60% of 19–21-year-olds were in education, employment or training. For 17–18-year-olds, this is below our statistical neighbours (71%) and slightly below national (66%). For 19–21-year-olds, Surrey are slightly above statistical neighbours (59%) and above national (55%).
19. Slide 15 provides the overview of Surrey County Council's performance and comparisons for Looked After Children. The overview shows that for those children entering Care in 2022, those entering Care through the granting of interim Care Orders (ICOs) decreased significantly from 24.6% in 2021, to 18.2% in 2022. This is considerably lower than both our statistical neighbours and nationally, whereas those entering Care through section 20 is much higher; with Surrey using section 20 for 73.8% in 2022 (a significant increase on 2021).

Statistical neighbours used section 20 for 56% entering care and nationally used Section 20 for 54% entering Care.

20. The use of Section 20 as opposed to the use of ICOs perhaps suggests that Surrey County Council is less likely to enter care proceedings, less likely to seek an ICO, or less likely to be granted an ICO than both statistical neighbours and nationally. In addition, this approach would also be in line with that of the family safeguarding model, where there is an effort made to work in partnership with the family to address the concerns. The increase in unaccompanied children might also in part explain this difference as they almost all remain under S.20.
21. For those Surrey County Council children subject to care proceedings on 31st March, there was very little change in the proportion of children subject to interim Care Orders (S.38) at 17.7% and a 0.9% decrease in full Care Orders (S.31), falling from 51.0% in 2021 to 49.1% in 2022. It is highly likely that the delay in care proceedings caused by Covid-19 restrictions leading to longer proceedings resulted in the decline in S.31 Care Orders. In addition, the difficulties caused by Covid-19 may also have played a part in the slight increase in interim Care Orders.
22. Immunisation checks saw very little change, 92.7% in 2021 to 92.8% in 2022, reflecting that more focussed recording has been maintained.
23. Surrey County Council's Looked After Children with confirmed substance misuse decreased from 2.2% in 2021 to 1.1% in 2022. It is unclear at this time if this is as a result of the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, however if so, then it may increase again in next year's data.
24. For Surrey County Council's Looked After Children who had a strength and difficulties questionnaire completed, there was an increase of 7% from 88.7% in 2021 to 95.2% in 2022. This is a positive improvement on which to build. It is particularly relevant, knowing the impact Covid-19 has had on mental health/ wellbeing and loneliness.

25. For Looked After Children under 5 years old and continuously looked after for 12 months or more, there has been an increase in developmental checks. Again, this is a positive improvement.

National policy developments

26. Please find below link to CMA (Competition and Markets Authority) report: This report was published in March 2022 but gives the reader the context and difficulties we are working within whilst developing Sufficiency in Surrey

[Children's social care market study final report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108211/childrens-social-care-market-study-final-report.pdf)

The report below is the government's response to the National Care Review and includes how it intends to support the Sufficiency difficulties reported in the CMA report

[Children's social care: stable homes, built on love - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108211/childrens-social-care-stable-homes-built-on-love.pdf)

Conclusions

27. The performance data, both when compared from 2021 to 2022 in general shows stability or improvement when compared to statistical neighbours and nationally.
28. The exception to this is Looked After Children placed over 20 miles from their family home, and the percentage placed outside Surrey. It is however key when considering this information that the geographical size of Surrey, along with the number of counties it borders is recognised.

Recommendations

29. The Select Committee notes the Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information in relation to Looked After Children (Annex 1) and Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report (Annex 2).
30. The Select Committee are to receive a report next year which will include:

- a) any relevant national policy developments that impact Corporate Parenting, including any updates in relation to the *independent review of children's social care in England*.
 - b) the key performance data for year ending March 2023 for Looked After Children as compared with statistical neighbours and nationally; and,
31. The Select Committee to agree that the development of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board can be provided as a separate report.

Report information

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Sources/background papers

Annex 1: Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information

Annex 2: Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022-23

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Annex 1

Corporate Parenting Data & Performance Information

Rate of Looked After Children

As of the 31st March 2022 the number of Looked After Children by Surrey County Council was 1048, an increase of 5.0% from the previous year. The rate per 10,000 increased slightly

Number of children looked after at 31 March each year			
	2021	2022	% Difference
Surrey	996	1048	5.0 %
Statistical Neighbours (SN)	544	560	2.9%
National	80,850	82,170	1.6%

Rate per 10000 looked after at 31 March each year			
	2021	2022	Difference
Surrey	38	40	2
Statistical Neighbours (SN)	44	46	2
National	67	70	3

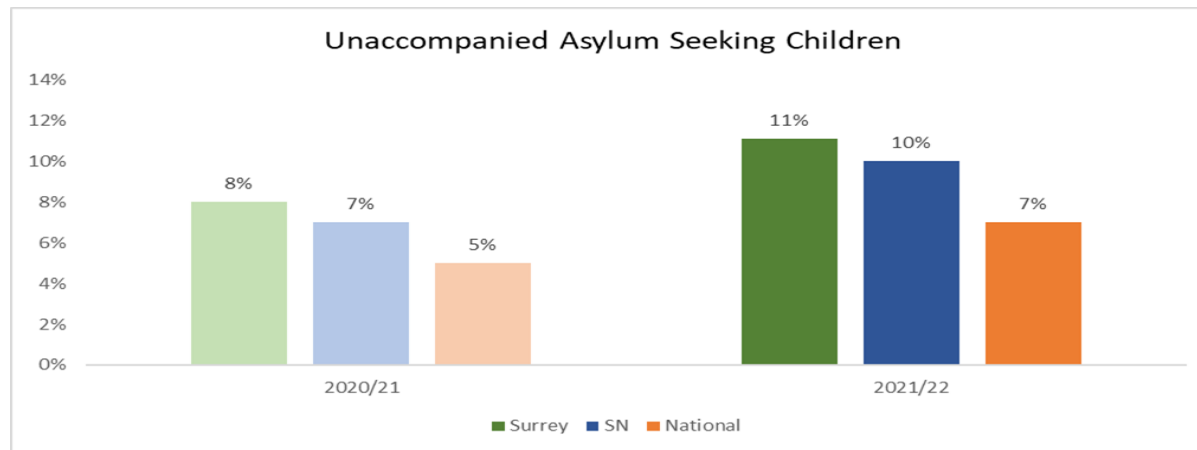


Surrey's rate per 10,000 has increased slightly, which is also evident in the Looked After rate per 10,000 in the Statistical Neighbours and Nationally

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

As well as the number of Looked After Children increasing, the percentage of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) has also increased by 3% between the years 2021 and 2022. As at 31st March 2021, the number of UASC within the care of SCC was 78. This number increased to 119 in 2022.

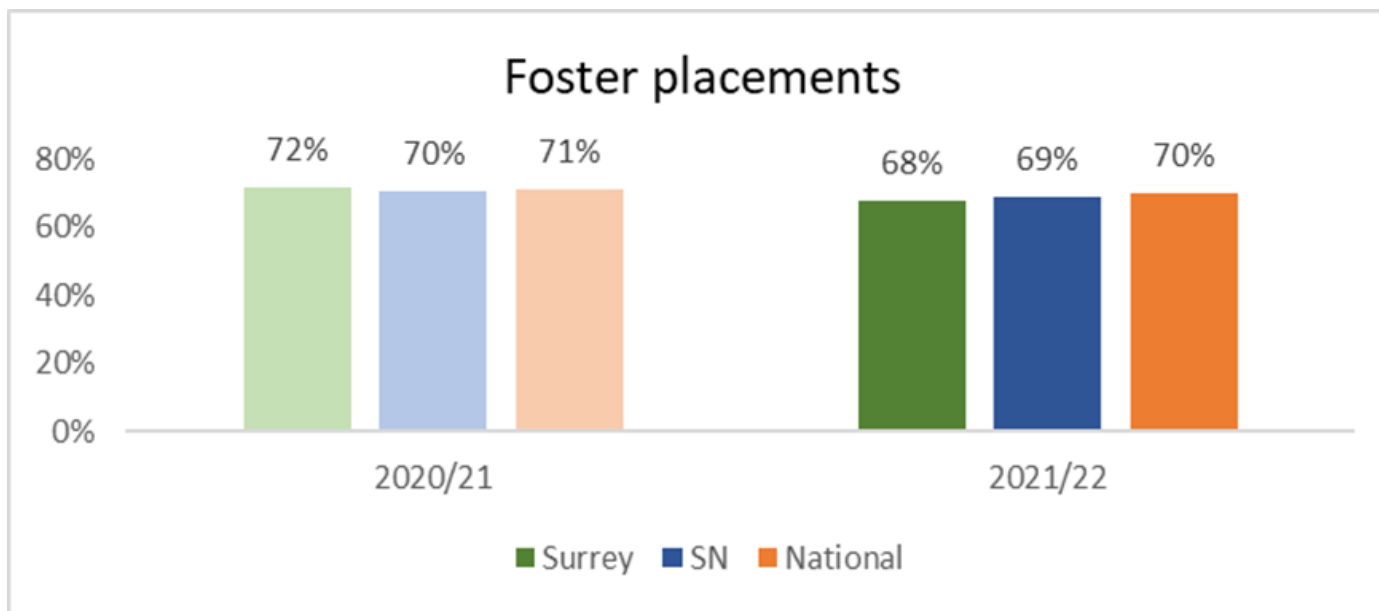
Number of UASC Children in care			
	2021	2022	Difference
Surrey	78	119	41
Statistical Neighbours	37	46	9
National	4070	5570	1500



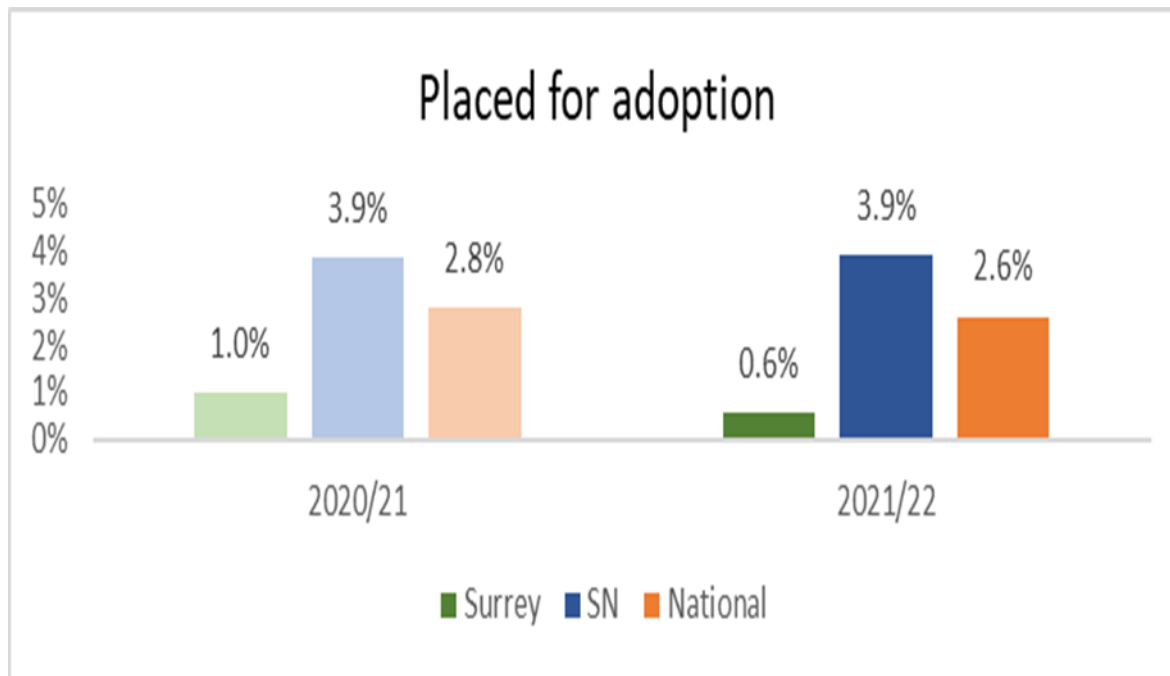
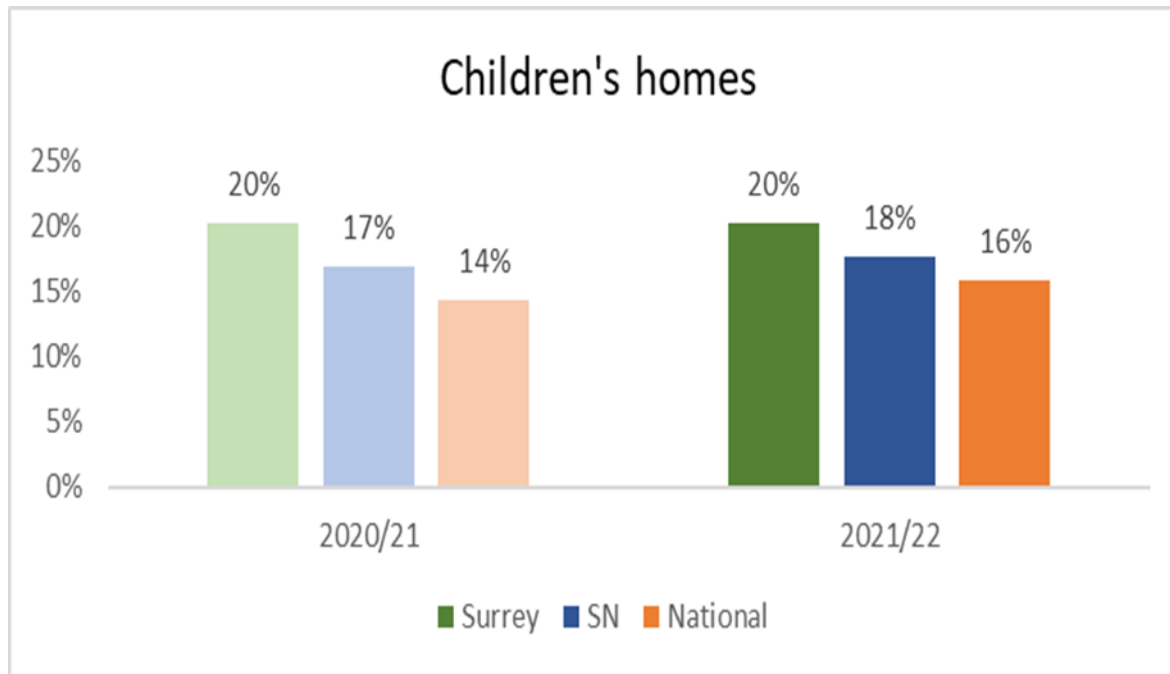
This increase in the percentage for the UASC can also be seen for the Statistical Neighbours and at a National level.

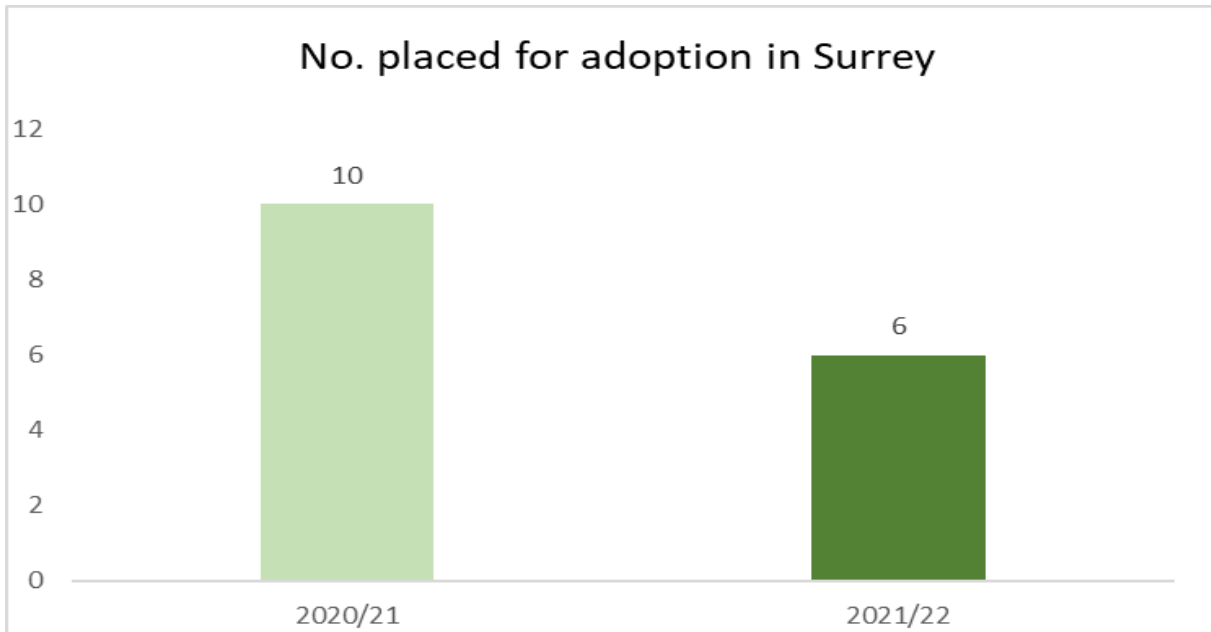
Placements as at 31st March

The majority of those Looked After by SCC as at 31st March were placed with Foster Carers but this has decreased by 4.0%, from 72.0% in 2021 to 68.0% in 2022. Those placed in Children's homes (regulated, non-regulated and secure units) has remained the same in 2022 at 20% as in 2021. Adoptive placements have decreased by 0.4%.



There has been a decrease by 3.0% to 45.0% of Surrey using its own provision as of 31st March 2022. External provision includes private provisions and voluntary/third sector provision.

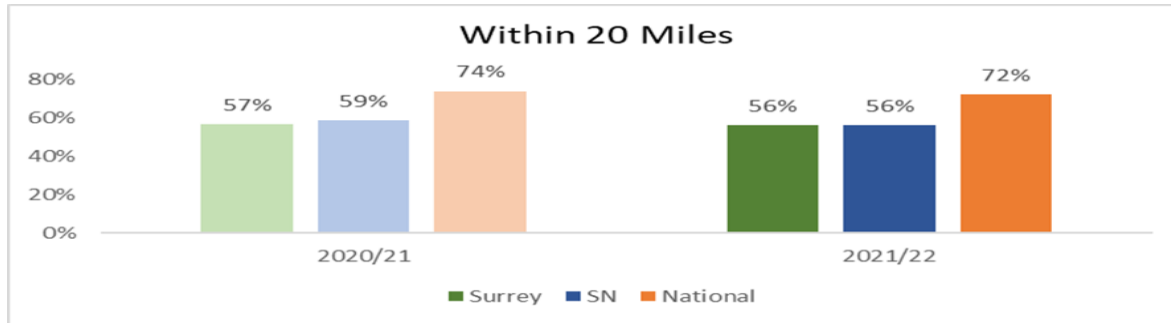




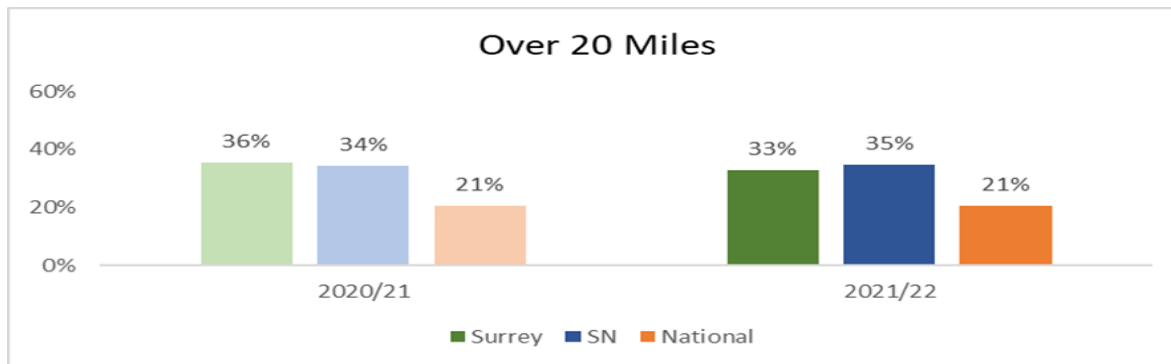
Surrey is in line with our Statistical neighbours and Nationally where we have seen a slight decrease in the percentage of children placed in Foster care, Surrey is different to our Statistical neighbours as the proportion of Children's Homes placements for the Statistical Neighbours has increased slightly. The National figure has also increased slightly where Surrey has remained the same. For children Placed for Adoption, in Surrey, our Statistical Neighbours and Nationally the percentage has more or less remained the same

Placed Within 20 Miles of Home

- The proportion of SCC CLA placements placed within 20 miles of their home address has decreased slightly by 1.0%, from being 57.0% in 2021 to 56.0% in 2022. The proportion of CLA placements placed over 20 miles of their homes address has also decreased by 3.0%, to 33.0% in 2022.



Surrey percentages will not sum to 100% as cases with distance not known or not recorded were excluded (8% for 2021 and 11% for 2022)

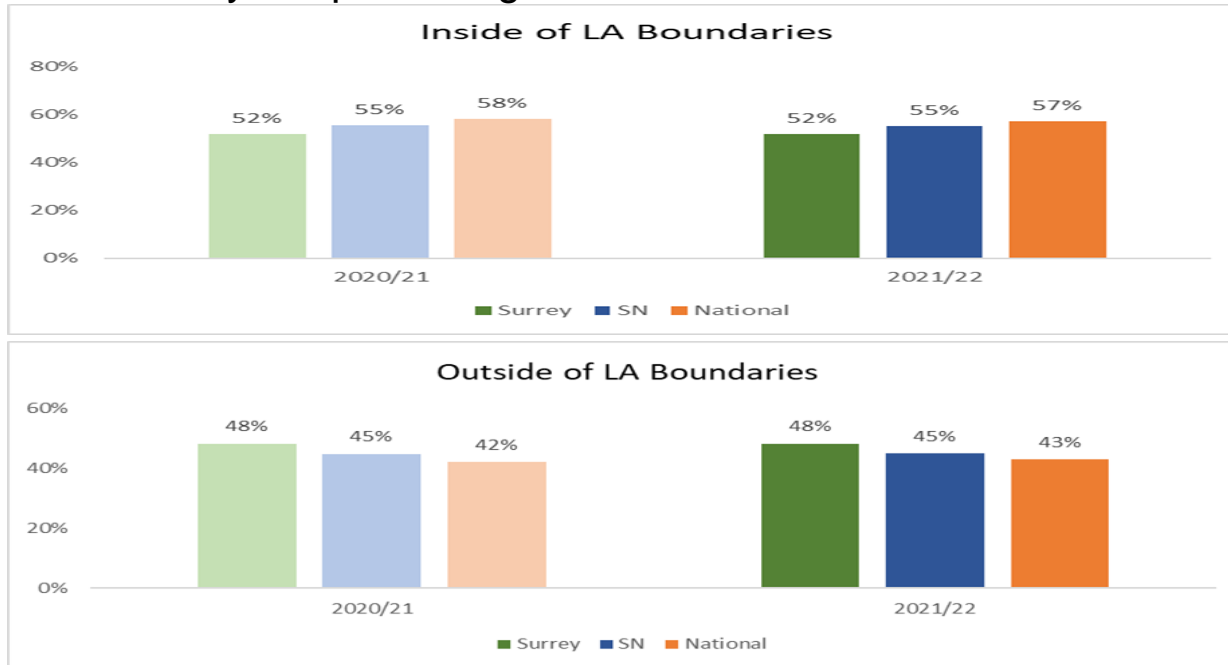


Surrey percentages will not sum to 100% as cases with distance not known or not recorded were excluded (8% for 2021 and 11% for 2022)

For the Statistical Neighbours and Nationally, the proportion of CLA placed within 20 miles of their home address has decreased slightly. For the percentage of placements over 20 miles from their home address, there has been a decrease in Surrey whilst nationally it has remained the same. There has been a slight increase for Statistical Neighbours.

Placed Within Local Authority Boundaries

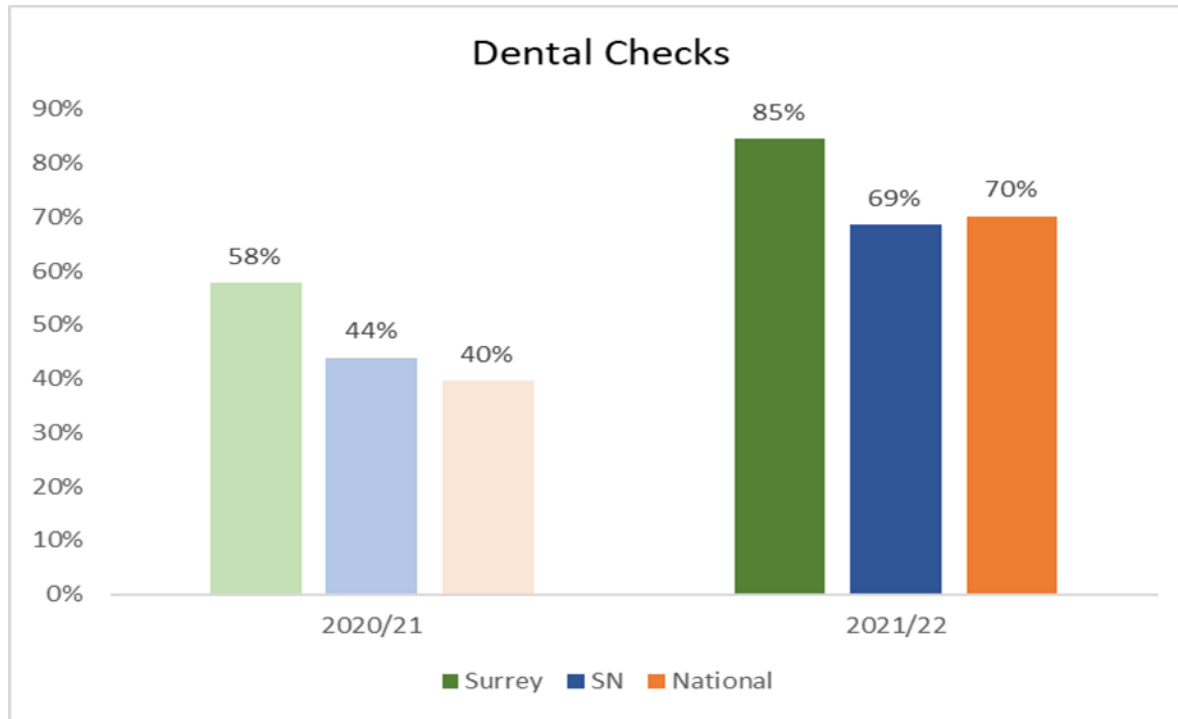
- There has been no change in Surrey in the number of CLA that have been placed within its own borough for the children that were in its care as of 31st March 2022. This percentage has remained at 52.0% in 2022. For those CLA placed outside the boundaries of Surrey the percentage has also remained the same at 48.0%.



For the Statistical Neighbours, in line with Surrey the children placed within the LA boundaries has remained the same, as well as those children placed outside of the LA boundaries. Nationally, there has been a slight decrease for the percentage of CLA that have been placed within the LA boundaries and a slight increase for outside of the LA boundaries.

Dental Checks

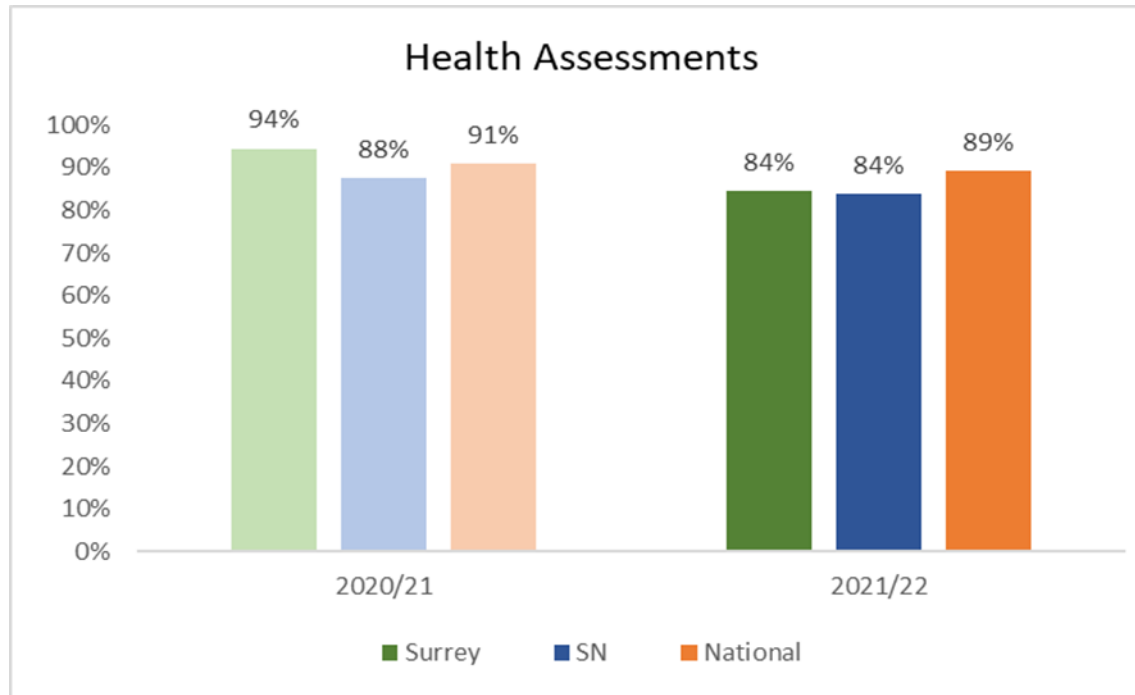
- The percentage of those continuously Looked After for 12 months by Surrey with a completed dental check increased significantly by 27.0% from 58.0% to 85.0%, in 2021 and 2022 respectively.



Amongst Surrey's Statistical Neighbours and Nationally, a significant increase in the percentage of dental checks has also been observed.

Health Assessments

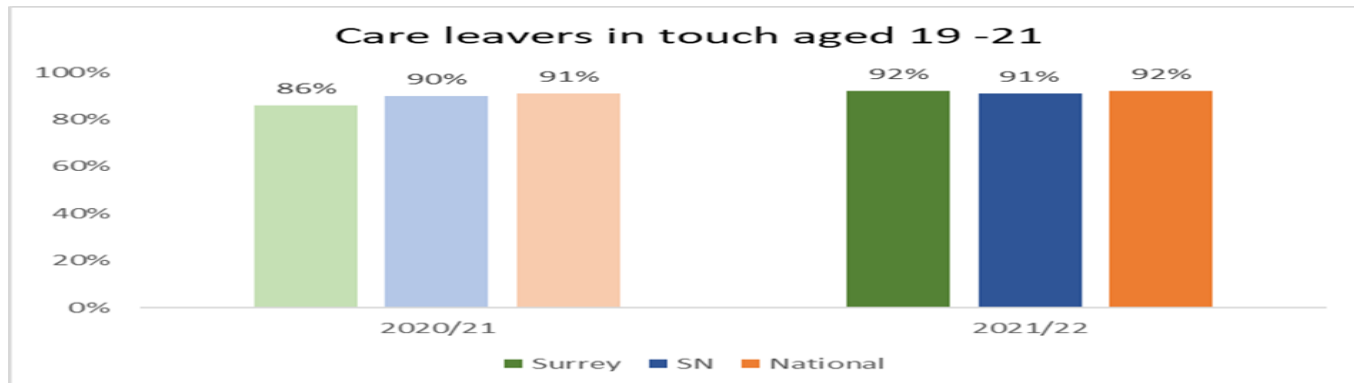
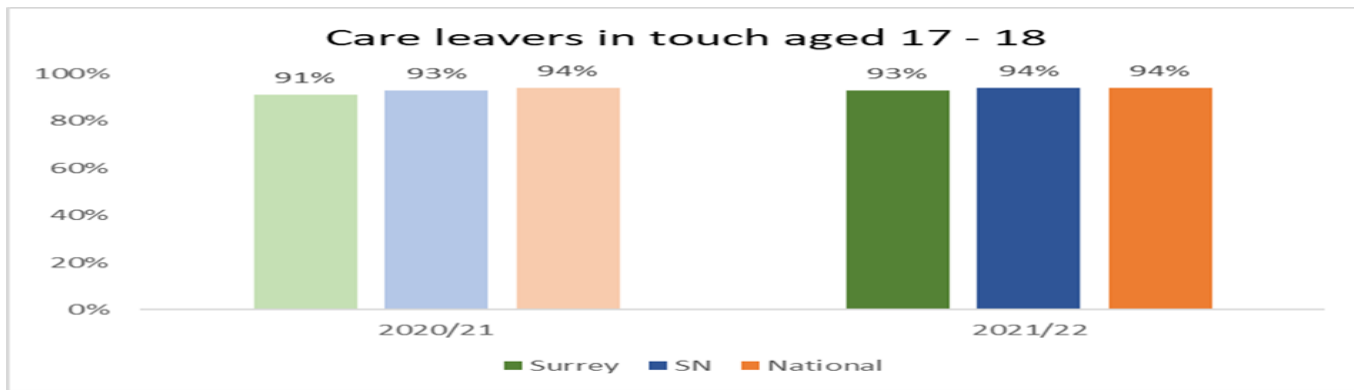
- For Surrey, the number of health assessments that have been completed for those children that have been looked after for 12 months has decreased significantly by 10.0%. It was 94.0% and 84.0% for 2021 and 2022 respectively.



For the Statistical Neighbours, there has been 4.0% decrease and Nationally there has been a 2% decrease.

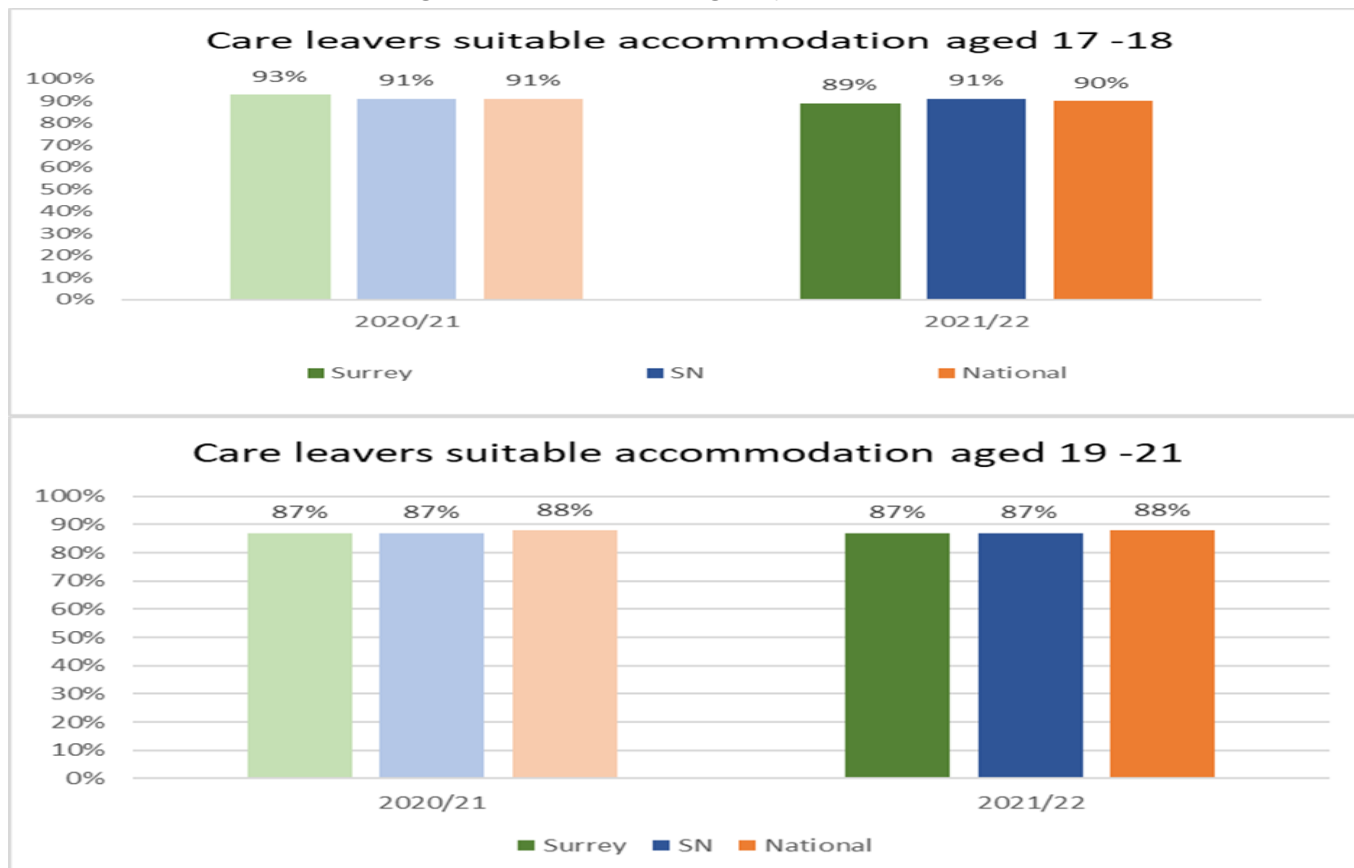
Care leavers in touch with Local Authority

- Of the relevant and former relevant children, Surrey were in touch with 93% of 17 – 18 year olds and 92% of 19 – 21 year olds in 2021/22. This is an increase from 2020/21 of 2% and 6% respectively and slightly lower than our statistical neighbours and national for 17 – 18 year olds who were at 94%. For 19 – 21 year olds this is slightly above our statistical neighbours but in line with national.



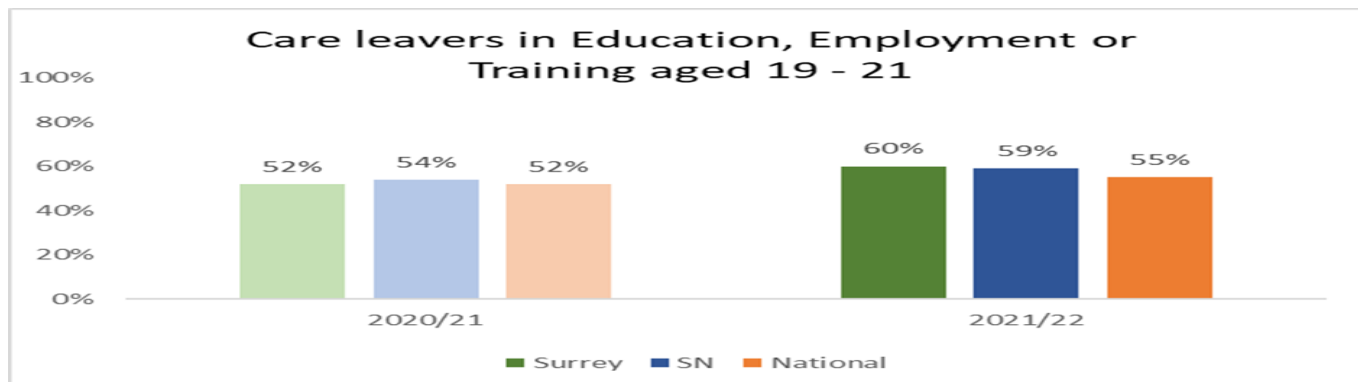
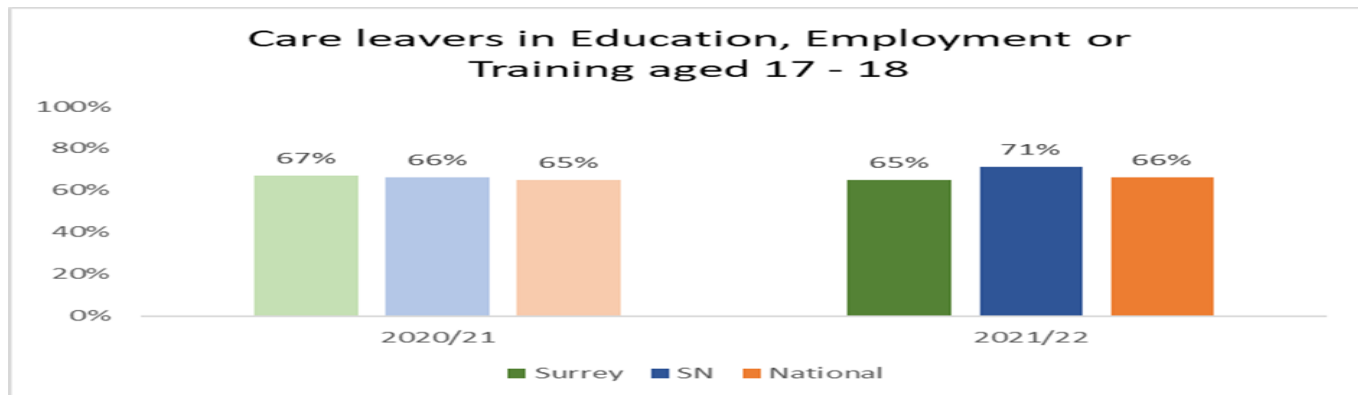
Care leavers in touch with Local Authority in suitable accommodation

- Of the care leavers that Surrey were in touch with, 89% of those aged 17 -18 were in suitable accommodation in 2021/22 compared to 93% in 2020/21. For those aged 19 -21 there was no change at 87% from 2020/21. For the 17 – 18 year olds we were lower than our statistical neighbours and national. For the 19 – 21 year olds we were in line with our statistical neighbours and slightly lower than national.



Care leavers in touch with Local Authority in education, employment or training

- Of the care leavers that Surrey were in touch with, 65% of those aged 17 – 18 were in education employment or training in 2021/22. This is a slight decrease of 2% from 2020/21. For those aged 19 -21 there was a significant increase in 2021/22 to 60% from 52%. For the 17 – 18 year olds we were significantly lower than our statistical neighbours and only slightly lower than national. For the 19 – 21 year olds we were slightly higher than our statistical neighbours and significantly higher than national.



Overview

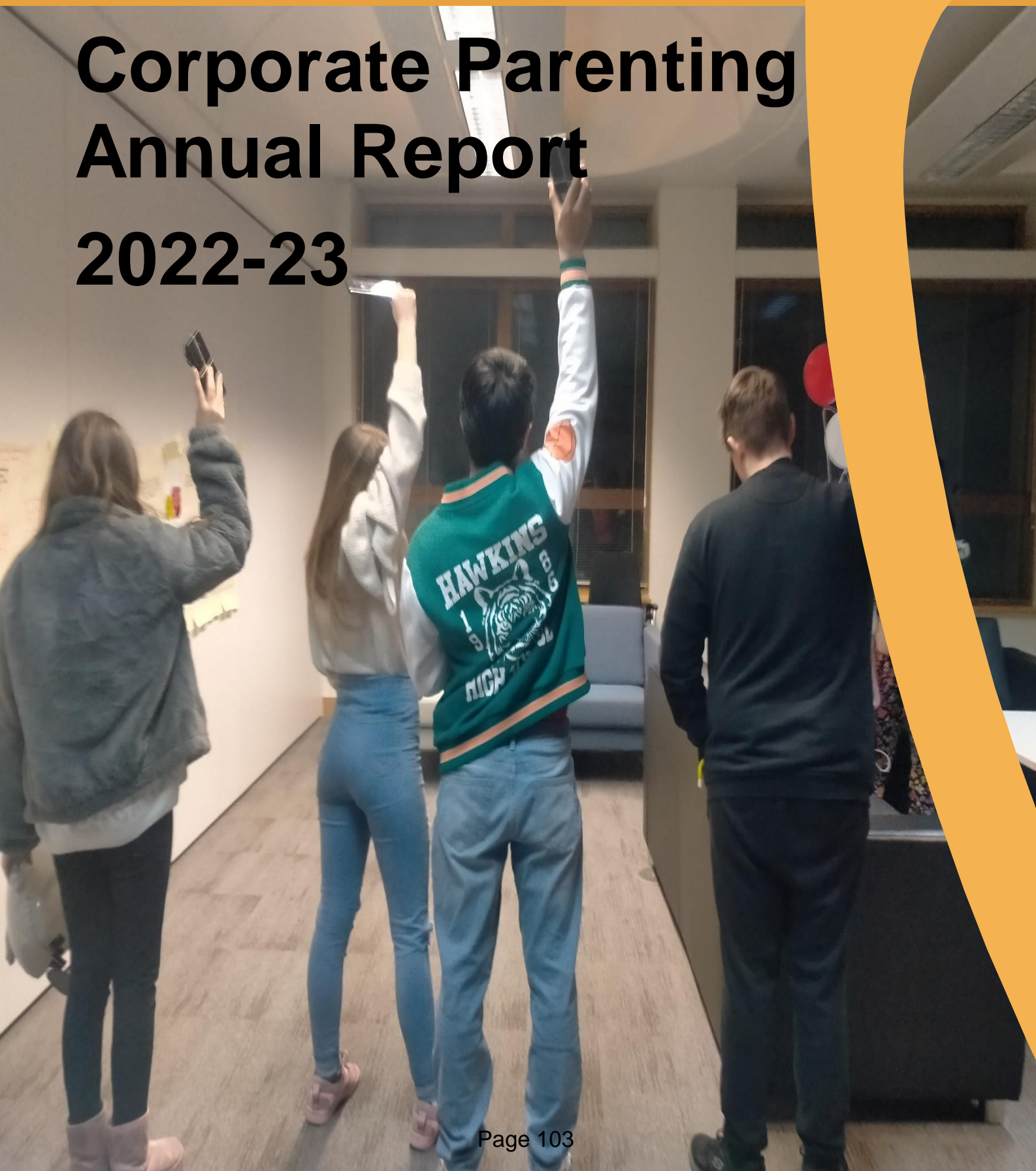
Measure	Surrey 2021	Surrey 2022	Direction	Statistical Neighbours	SE region	England
Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	38	40	↑	46	56	70
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	8.0%	11.1%	↑	10%	10%	7%
Legal Status – Looked After as at 31st March						
Interim Care Orders	17.9%	17.7%	→	18%	17%	20%
Full Care Orders	51.0%	49.1%	↓	54%	54%	58%
Section 20	27.5%	30.2%	↑	22%	23%	17%
Legal Status – Status When Entering Care						
Interim Care Orders	24.6%	18.2%	↓	32%	33%	33%
Section 20	65.6%	73.8%	↑	56%	63%	54%
Placements as at 31st March						
Foster Care	71.6%	67.7%	↓	67%	69%	70%
Childrens Home	20.2%	20.2%	→	21%	18%	16%
Placed for Adoption	1.0%	0.6%	↓	2%	2%	3%
Placed Within 20 Miles of Home						
Within 20 Miles	56.6%	55.8%	↓	58%	60%	72%
Over 20 Miles	35.5%	32.7%	↓	28%	32%	21%
Placed Within Local Authority Boundaries						
Inside of LA Boundaries	51.7%	51.7%	→	50%	58%	57%
Outside of LA Boundaries	48.3%	48.3%	→	42%	46%	49%
Reason for Leaving Care						
Adoptions	7.3%	5.8%	↓	11%	8%	10%
Special Guardianship Order	10.8%	10.8%	→	13%	10%	13%
Returned Home	24.7%	27.0%	↑	23%	22%	22%
Other	36.7%	32.0%	↓	36%	22%	26%
Dental Checks	57.8%	84.5%	↑	77%	74%	70%
Health Assessments	94.5%	84.4%	↓	91%	85%	89%
Immunisations	92.7%	92.8%	→	79%	82%	85%
Substance Misuse	2.2%	1.1%	↓	2%	3%	3%
Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires	88.7%	95.2%	↑	76%	68%	77%
Development Checks	97.8%	100.0%	↑	95%	95%	89%
Care leavers 17 - 18 in touch with Local Authority	91.0%	93.0%	↑	94%	89%	94%
Care leavers 17 - 18 in suitable accommodation	93.0%	89.0%	↓	91%	86%	90%
Care leavers 17 - 18 in education, employment or training	67.0%	65.0%	↓	71%	65%	66%
Care leavers 19 - 21 in touch with Local Authority	86.0%	92.0%	↑	91%	90%	92%
Care leavers 19 - 21 in suitable accommodation	87.0%	87.0%	→	87%	86%	88%
Care leavers 19 - 21 in education, employment or training	52.0%	60.0%	↑	59%	57%	55%

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SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022-23



Chair's foreword

As Cabinet Member for Children and Families at Surrey County Council, I am delighted to introduce the 2022/23 Annual Report of Surrey's Corporate Parenting Board, which provides a summary of the business of the Board in the last year and an overview of the key priorities for the following year.

In September 2022, I became the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, comprised of county councillors, council officers and foster carers, and we have since welcomed a number of other new members. As a Corporate Parenting Board, we share the ambition that all children and young people with care experience will be safe, healthy, actively involved in society, happy in the right home, have education, employment and training opportunities and sufficient plans made for their future. It is these priorities that shape the structure and focus of our Corporate Parenting Board meetings.

Listening to the lived experience and voice of children and young people, and using it to inform future decision making, is a key principle of the Corporate Parenting Board. In 2022/23 we reviewed our listening and engagement mechanisms, in conjunction with the User Voice and Participation Team, and have agreed to hold more face-to-face engagement events in 2023/24. We are grateful to all the young people whom have shared their lived experiences through conversations with the Board.

In 2022 the Board agreed that Surrey County Council should join the Care Leaver Covenant, a national inclusion programme that supports care leavers aged 16-25 to live independently with opportunities. As a Lead Ambassador for the Covenant, I will collaborate with colleagues across the council on behalf of the Board to promote corporate parenting principles and develop opportunities for care leavers.

The Board has this year championed a universal leisure offer, which in partnership with eleven district and borough councils has enabled free gym membership and swimming to all looked after children, care leavers and a 50% discount for foster carers across Surrey. In 2023 we will extend this offer to care leavers living outside of Surrey. This will be funded by Surrey's Celebration Fund – a scheme led by councillors to recognise and reward achievements of care-experienced children and young people.

I am proud to have witnessed first-hand the progress made this year towards achieving excellence in our services for looked after children and care leavers. I would like to thank everyone involved in the Board, and in our wider corporate parenting work, for their ongoing dedication and commitment to Surrey's children and young people. Let's see what more we can achieve together in 2023.



Cllr. Sinead Mooney

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board

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1. SURREY CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

1.1 Purpose

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) provides robust assurance of the whole corporate parenting system, ensuring Surrey is the very best corporate parent to its children; and that all looked after children and care leavers can achieve their full potential.

The Board does this by putting the voice of children and service users at the centre of everything it does. Members of the Board inquire, set ambition, champion and challenge our collective care of looked after children and care leavers. Surrey's CPB is ambitious, forward thinking and informed by experts, practitioners, children and carers.

The CPB ensures that Surrey County Council (SCC) and its partner agencies uphold the highest corporate parenting principles. The foundations of our work across our system are the **Corporate Parenting Strategy**, the **Sufficiency Strategy** and our **Looked after Children and Care Leavers Participation Strategy**, which sets out our commitments to looked after children and care leavers about how we will care for and support them.

The CPB may inquire into any service for looked after children or that contributes to outcomes for looked after children and care leavers across the system including social care, health, education, leisure, policing, housing and transport. The CPB will respond to specific issues, blockages and challenges raised by the Corporate Parenting Operational Group (CPOG) or any other stakeholders as needed.

1.2 Membership

The Board has [Cross Party Membership](#) and is chaired by the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families. Membership of the Board changed in 2022, with new county councillors and officers joining.

Name	Role
Cllr Sinead Mooney	Chairperson, Cabinet Lead for Children & Families
Cllr Clare Curran	Cabinet Member for Education & Learning
Cllr Maureen Attewell	Member
Cllr Rebecca Paul	Member
Cllr Jonathon Essex	Member
Cllr Steve Bax	Member
Cllr Catherine Powell	Member
Cllr Fiona White	Member
Cllr John Robini	Member
Cllr Jeremy Webster	Member
Jane Porter	Chair of Foster Carer Executive
Cindy Morris	Care Experienced Foster Carer

Linda Grover	Foster Carer
Joanna Killian	CEO
Rachael Wardell	Executive Director
Tina Benjamin	Director – Corporate Parenting
Anwen Foy	Headteacher and Assistant Director of the Virtual School
Jo Rabbitte	Assistant Director – Children’s Resources
Sam Reynolds	Service Manager, Customer Services and UVP
Lisa Andrews	Public Health Principal

1.3 Relationship with CPOG

The Corporate Parenting Operational Group (CPOG) meets six times per year and meetings shadow the themes of the CPB’s meetings. The role of CPOG is to take forward issues and decisions arising from the CPB which require the engagement of operational services in and outside the council. CPOG is accountable to the CPB and the Director of Children’s Services for the operational delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The group is also accountable to our children in care, care leavers and their carers. Unlike the CPB, CPOG has broad membership of officers from across the council, foster carer representatives and senior leads from key partner agencies including the NHS, Police, Fire & Rescue, and Surrey’s Integrated Care System, enabling direct multi agency working and collaboration.

1.4 Format of CPB meetings

A sequence of pre-meetings enables six annual Board meetings to run efficiently during a 12-month reporting period from April 2022 to March 2023 .

The table below demonstrates how Board meetings are scheduled.

Item	Deadline	Responsible Owner(s)	Purpose
1. Forward Plan meeting	8-wks before CPB	Chief of Staff, Lead Cabinet Member, Director, AD, PM	Agree agenda, discuss report content & contributors
2. Draft Report meeting	3-wks before CPB	Chief of Staff, Lead Cabinet Member, Director, AD, PM	Review draft reports, make recommendations & additional requests
3. Pre-meet with CYP	Evening before CPB	All Members of the CPB, looked after children & care leavers	Listen to the views of service users on the CPB theme
4. CPB	Every 2-months	CPB Members & small number of senior officers	Corporate Parenting Board meeting makes recommendations & monitors action-tracker

5. CPOG meeting	1-month following CPB	Multi-agency officer membership	Implement actions & recommendations from CPB
------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

1.5 CPB meetings held in 2022/23

A Board forward plan sets out the theme and dates for 6 CPB meetings during a 12-month period. See Annex 1 on for CPB forward plan 2023/24 (page 44).

In 2022-23, 7 themed CPB meetings were held, including a special additional meeting to review annual reports

CPB date	Theme	Reports
May 2022	Sufficiency, Permanence & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sufficiency report ✓ Thresholds and outcomes ✓ Fostering recruitment ✓ CPB Annual Report 2022/23
July 2022	Additional Meeting (annual reports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fostering Annual Report 2022 ✓ Children's Homes Report 2022 ✓ No Wrong Door ✓ IRO Annual Report 2022 ✓ IV Annual Report 2022
August 2022	Leisure, Culture & Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rights and Entitlements ✓ Enhanced Leisure Offer ✓ Financial Independence ✓ Adoption ✓ Achieving Excellence Update
September 2022	Education, Employment & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Surrey Virtual School Annual Report 2021/22 ✓ Post 16 report ✓ Care Leavers and EET ✓ SEND and Looked After Children
17 November 2022	Health, Wellbeing & CAMHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Health Report of Looked After Children and Care Leavers ✓ Hope Service Report ✓ Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH)
January 2023	Safeguarding of Looked After Children and care leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exploitation and Missing ✓ Contextual Safeguarding ✓ Suicide Prevention and Mental Health ✓ Achieving Excellence Update
March 2023	Preparation for Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Care Leaver Report ✓ Participation of CYP within the Board

The CPB will scrutinise thematic reports from a range of services, such as education, health, leaving care service, adoption and fostering services. The Board has several standard agenda items including a themed item on views of children and young people (CYP).

CPB standard agenda items:

Standard Item	Purpose	Role
Views of CYP on the CPB theme	To understand what is & what is not working well in relation to themes. To listen to the recommendations and suggestions for service development from CYP with care experience	Participation Officer
Performance Report	To understand current data & trends in relation to children looked after & care leavers	Strategic Analyst
*Corporate Parenting Director's Update	Provide regular updates on key areas of Corporate Parenting across the county. Report provides a summary of the Alerts and Escalations raised on behalf of children by the Independent Reviewing Service.	Director of Corporate Parenting
Children's Social Care Transformation Update	To provide information & awareness of the various transformation projects & improvement activity currently underway across Surrey's children's services.	Head of Projects and Programmes
**CPB Action Tracker	To provide a status update on CPB actions.	Corporate Parenting Project Manager

*The Director's Update provides assurance to members by providing updates on serious incidence and reporting on vulnerable groups of CYP, including:

- Missing and exploited
- Young people in secure hospitals
- Number of children in secure accommodation Section 25
- Young people looked after in custody
- Missing and exploited children
- The number of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) alerts are reported, included the reason and resolution of the alert
- UASC
- Capital programme
- Status of CYP living in unregulated placements

**An action tracker monitors progress against actions and decisions of the Board, an update is presented at each CPB.

2. OUR VISION AND VALUES

2.1 Corporate Parenting Vision

To be the best corporate parents we can be, working together to provide children and young people in our care with happy and healthy childhoods, helping them reach and exceed their potential and aspirations, and supporting them into successful adulthood.

2.2 The values we bring to help us realise our vision

- We must be the strongest champions of and advocates for all our looked after children and care leavers.
- We should have positive regard for all looked after children and care leavers and make sure that all are nurtured, feel loved and supported.
- Looked after children and care leavers are 'our' children and young people and we must have strong ambitions and aim high for all.
- All our young people are individuals and unique and we must parent each child as such.
- We must build trusting relationships with our children and young people so they feel able to give us their views and can talk to us about their wishes and feelings, their anxieties and hopes.
- We must listen to our children and young people and take account of their views on all matters which affect them.
- We must be resilient and persistent parents with an uncompromising approach to doing the best for our children and young people and a willingness to 'go the extra mile'.
- We want to continuously improve as corporate parents and continuously improve outcomes for our young people.

2.3 Pledge Promises



The work of the CPB is underpinned by the Seven **Corporate Parenting Principles** that are enshrined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 below.

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.
2. To encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people.
4. To help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people.
6. For children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
7. To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

2.4 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020-2023

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our vision for CYP looked after by the council, or formerly in care, and the values that inform the way we meet our corporate parenting responsibilities. Drawing on the requirements of the [Social Work Act 2017](#) and the seven corporate parenting principles, it sets out our priorities and the actions we take to ensure that no child looked after by the council is 'left behind'. The strategy was developed in consultation with children and young people, carers and partner agencies from across the council. A young person version is available.

A refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy will be launched in 2023.

2.5 Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2025

Surrey County Council is legally required to consider sufficiency and the term is defined in the [Children Act 1989](#) which is the primary legislation in which all Children's Services operate. The act requires all local authorities to take steps that secure, as far as reasonably practicable, enough accommodation within the authority's area that meets the needs of children that the local authority is looking after. Aside from being a statutory duty, we also know that working to secure the right amount of appropriate provision, in the right places and at the right time makes a massive difference to Surrey's looked after children and care leavers and is a key part of how we can enable them to achieve better outcomes.

Surrey has a five-year sufficiency strategy (2022-2025) which sets out five clear strategic ambitions to realise better outcomes for looked after children and care leavers, these are:

Living in a family setting where possible

Surrey homes for Surrey children

A wide range of placements for diverse needs

Homes of the highest quality

Support to move to independence

2.6 Surrey Children's Homes

In 2023 a large capital programme will increase sufficiency through the development of three brand new specialist children's homes in Epsom, Walton Upon Thames and Dorking. There is an update on the capital programme in section 5.10 of this report (page 35).

Surrey County Council has one of the largest estates of in-house residential provision in the country. Each home is registered and subject to rigorous monitoring by Ofsted.

Children's Homes Ofsted Outcomes 2022/23

Home Name	Date of Inspection	Overall Current Rating
1. Applewood	12 April 2022	Good
2. The Annex	17 February 2023	Good
3. Burbank	21 – 22 March 2023	Provisional judgement is good . Awaiting draft report
4. Extended Hope	29 – 30 November 2022	Good
5. Faircroft	28 March 2023	Awaiting feedback
6. Libertas	15 – 16 February 2023	Good

7. Ruth House	1 – 2 March 2023	Provisional judgement is good . Awaiting draft report
8. Treehouse	14 – 15 September 2022	Inadequate – compliances met 19 th of September 2022 – final report published – suspension of admissions formally agreed with Ofsted Jan 2023.
9. Woodlands	7 – 8 March 2023	Good
10. Epsom Children’s Home		Not yet registered with Ofsted
11. Walton Children’s Home		Not yet registered with Ofsted
12. Dorking Children’s Home		Not yet registered with Ofsted

2.7 Listening to Service Users



Listening to CYP is at the heart of the CPB and instrumental to assist members to understand the lived experiences of children and young people in our care. In 2022, the User Voice and Participation (UVP) team created a Microsoft Form based on a key CPB theme, relevant feedback from participation groups and targeted consultations/events from the previous 12-months are collated into an impactful report and presented to the Board. Presentations include videos, audio and quotes from young people that are framed around what is working well and what needs to be improved. We ask the question *‘if you had a magic wand, what would you change?’*. These presentations form part of the agenda pack and are the first item of discussion.

In addition to a written report, a virtual meeting with CYP was held in the evening prior to each CPB meeting in 2022. Evening meetings allowed CYP to return home from work, school or college. During the Covid-19 pandemic, CYP told us that they preferred this format of pre-meeting, but since the end of the pandemic we have seen online participation reduce. To ensure the Board continues to hear a breadth of CYP experiences in 2023, we will hold more face-to-face meetings with CYP and look to pilot, a care leaver co-chairing meetings with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People. We are excited to explore new and innovative methods of listening to and engaging with CYP in 2023/24.

In Summer 2022 we held our first Children’s Summer Extravaganza for children in our care and foster families. Following over 2-years of Covid restrictions it was a delight to see so many children and carers having fun. This event was attended by over 100 looked after children and foster carers own children. The event had giant inflatables, soft play, a sensory room and dozens of sporting games and activities. Given the success of the CPB Children’s Summer Event, we have agreed to run this on an annual basis and planning for a Summer 2023 event is well underway.



In 2023 we plan to hold more face-to-face consultation activities and events to ensure members of the CPB can engage and interact with children and carers in a fun and memorable way.

An event to celebrate Care leavers week will be facilitated in autumn 2023.

UVP have created an **action card database** with feedback from our looked after children, young people and care leavers. Action cards are raised by young people or CPB members to highlight an issue they would like to be resolved. There is a clear process for responding to action cards and CPOG is responsible for ensuring actions are resolved and practice is improved. Action cards are allocated to senior leaders and should be responded to within 2 months.

Below are two examples of action cards that have been implemented with the support of the CPB and CPOG.

You Said: As young people with care experience in Surrey, you wanted a young person friendly version of the 'Together and Apart Framework', so that you better understand what happens when coming into care.

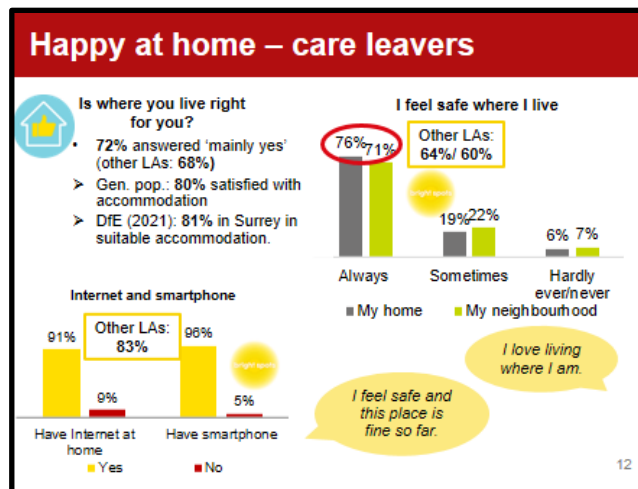
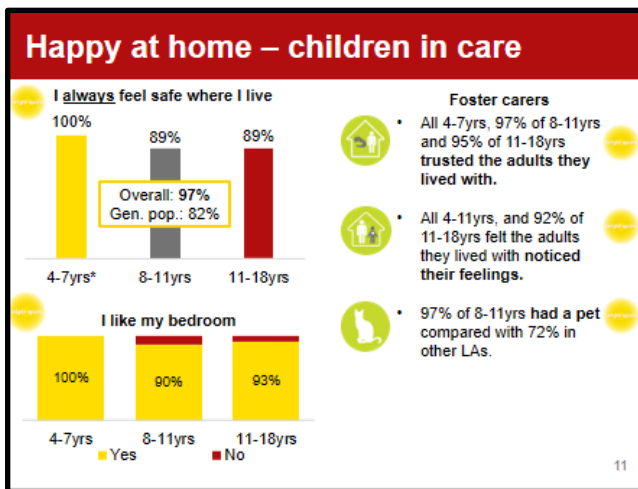
We Did: We worked with CPOG to create an accessible document that you've said is clear and easy to understand. We created a YP friendly document of the Sibling Separation Policy.

You Said: As young people living in Surrey, we would like more opportunities to expand our independence and finance/budgeting skills in our foster homes, placements or at workshops before reaching adulthood so that we feel ready and supported to take steps to becoming independent when we turn 18.

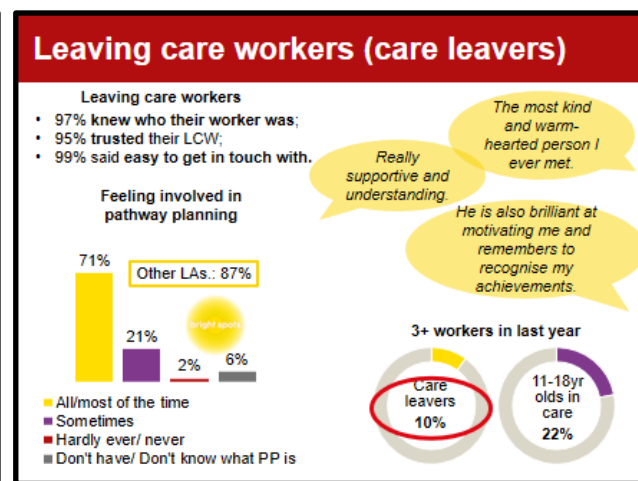
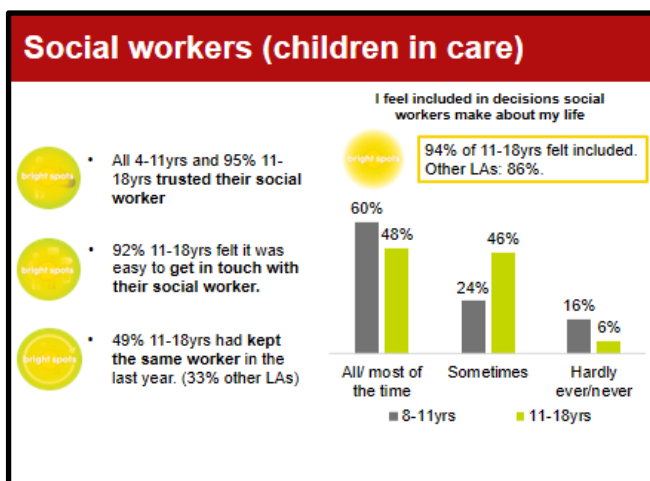
We Did: Children's Services in Surrey have developed the 'Surrey How Do I?' Workshops to teach you the skills you may need to live independently.

In 2022, two large surveys were commissioned to understand the views of Care Leavers: Coram Bright Spots 'Your Life Beyond Care' survey for care leavers and 'Your Life, Your Care' survey for looked after children. 180 Care leavers responded to the Your Life Beyond Care survey, this represents 23% of Surrey care leavers, with 63% male and 27% female. 11% were parents, pregnant or the partner of somebody who was pregnant and 19% of respondents reported having a long term illness/Disability.

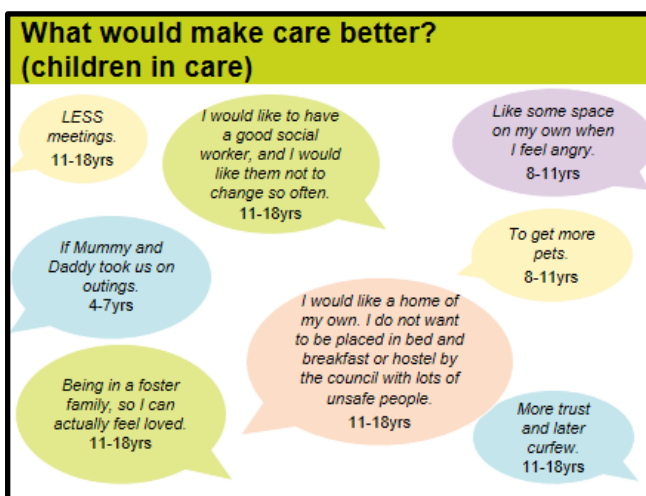
15% of Looked After Children responded to the Your Life survey, this is 128 children. With 51% male and 48% female, 1 child identified as "other". 76% of respondents identified as white and the majority of children (72%) were in Foster Care, 12% were in Kinship Placements, 7% in Semi-Independence and 4% in Residential Care. The survey identified areas of strength (Bright Spots) and areas for development. Below is a summary of Surrey's 'Bright Spots' relating to CYP who said they *'feel safe and happy in their home'*.



CYP were also 'satisfied with their social workers and personal advisors' and felt 'included in decision-making' about their care plan and pathway plan.

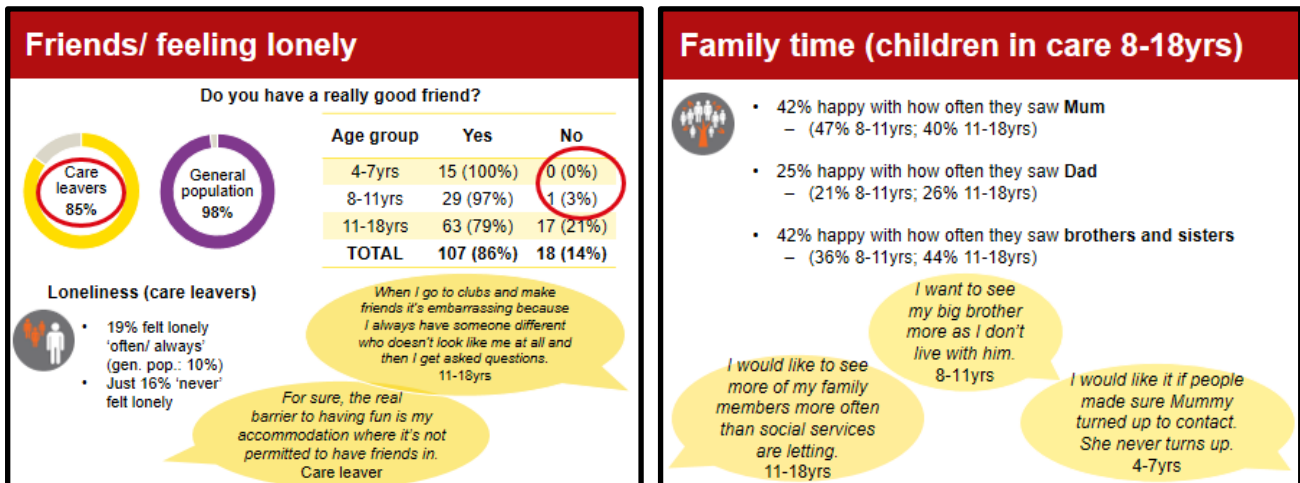


The tables below show quotes from CYP on 'what would make care and leaving care better'.



Key areas for improvement identified in the Coram Bright Spots survey include care leavers 'feeling lonely' and looked after children not having enough 'family time' with biological parents and siblings.

An action-plan to address areas identified for improvement is being developed for implementation in 2023. Below are some areas the service will address through an action-plan.



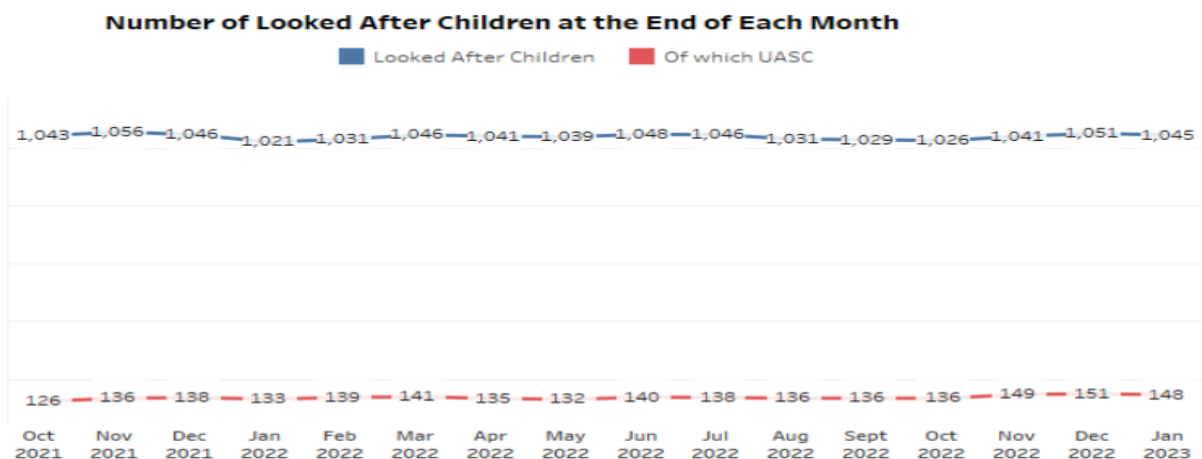
3. SURREY CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

Data varies throughout this Annual Report 2022/23 because themed reports were presented to the CPB at different times throughout the year. All data in this section is accurate from January 2023.

Looked After Children data

This section provides a deeper context on Surrey looked after children and care leavers, it includes information on the profile of CYP and placement stability with comparative data for regional and national trends.

The number of children looked after as at the end of each month has remained relatively consistent over the last 16 months. There has been an upward trend in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) looked after in recent months.



The 148 unaccompanied asylum seeking children currently supported by Surrey County Council is 0.06% of the child population. The nationally-set target is for each local authority to support 0.07% of their child population as UASC. For Surrey, with a child population of 265,033, this would equate to 186 children. UASC account for 14% of the children currently looked after by Surrey.

The rate of looked after children per 10,000 population as at the end of November 2022 was 39.5. This remains below our statistical neighbour average of 46.2 and the region average of 56.0 looked after children per 10,000 population as at the end of March 2022.

	Mar 2013	Mar 2014	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022
Surrey	33.0	31.0	31.0	34.0	34.0	36.0	37.0	37.0	38.0	40.0
South East	47.0	47.0	49.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	52.0	53.0	53.0	56.0
Statistical Neighbours	35.8	37.6	38.1	38.5	40.8	42.6	46.4	43.4	43.7	46.2
England	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	62.0	64.0	65.0	67.0	67.0	70.0
East Sussex	57.0	55.0	52.0	51.0	52.0	57.0	55.0	55.0	57.0	61.0
Hampshire	40.0	45.0	47.0	46.0	51.0	56.0	59.0	56.0	58.0	61.0
Essex	42.0	38.0	34.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	36.0
Hertfordshire	41.0	39.0	38.0	38.0	34.0	33.0	34.0	35.0	36.0	38.0

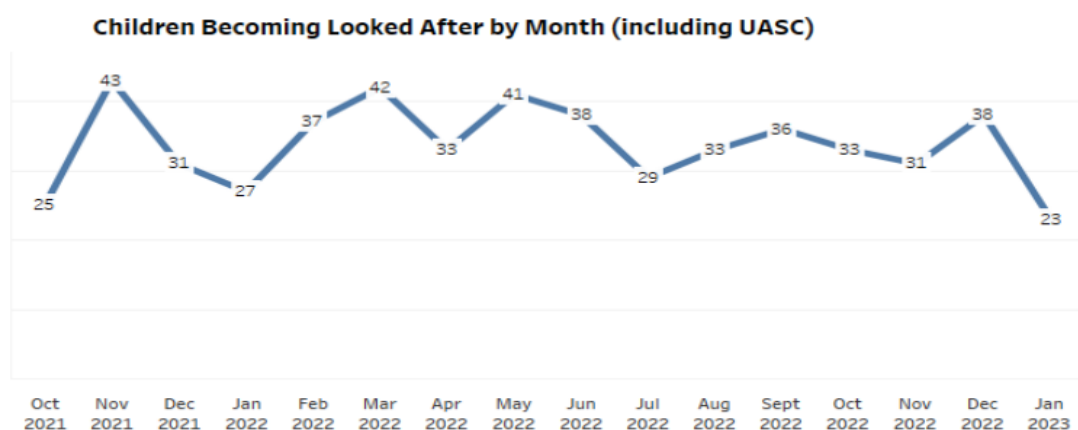
Age Profile of Looked After Children

Surrey's age profile of looked after children is broadly in line with the latest national figures (below). Surrey has a slightly higher proportion of looked after children aged 10-15 years old and a lower proportion of looked after children aged 16-17 years old.

5% of children are aged under 1 14% are aged 1-4 years
 18% are aged 5-9 years 39% are aged 10-15 years
 25% are aged 16 and over

The Number of Children Becoming Looked After

The number of children becoming looked after has remained consistent for the last 16 months.

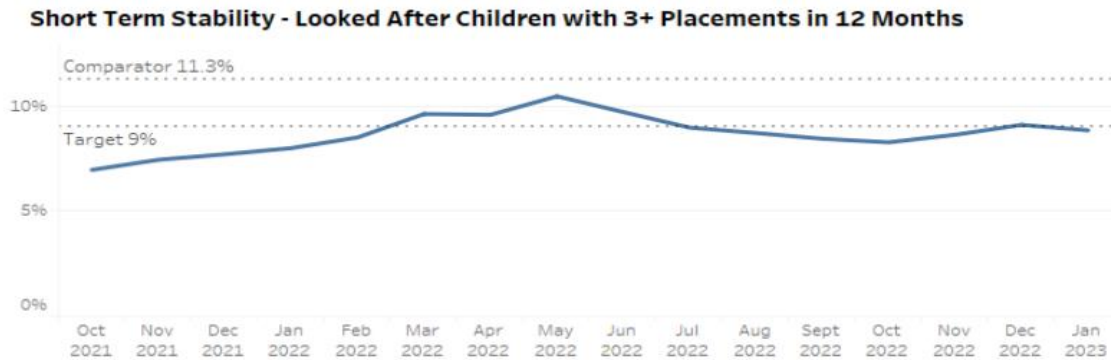


Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Approximately 14% of Surrey's under 18 looked after population are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Approximately 35% of Surrey's care leaver population is asylum experienced with 99.94% of the population male and 0.06% female. Surrey has participated fully in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and has continued to accept new arrivals alongside young people that may present within Surrey not linked to the scheme. Surrey currently has 136 young people under the age of 18 and 307 18-plus asylum experienced care leavers whom Surrey is a corporate parent to.

Distance From Home and Placement Sufficiency

Placement Stability (including UASC)



The proportion of children who have had 3+ placements in the last 12 months has met the target of 9.0% in January 2023 after falling slightly short the previous month. **The long-term stability of placements has surpassed our target of 70% for the last 12 months.**

- ★ “I like where I live but I want to be at home with my family. I don't want to be where I am forever.” (looked after young person aged 15 years)

Looked After Children Distance from Home

For current looked after children with a home and placement address recorded, 64% (569 children) have been placed within 20 miles of their home address, an increase when compared to the same period 12 months ago (62%). **We are making progress against our ambitious target of 80% of CYP living in county.** 16% (140 children) of looked after children are placed more than 50 miles from their home address.

Placement Category

The table below shows placements by type of provision.

Placement Type	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Change
Fostering - Total	703 71%	669 64%	-34 -7%
Of which Internal	491 49%	458 44%	-33 -5%
Of which External	212 21%	211 20%	-1 -1%
Placed for Adoption	18 2%	24 2%	6 0%
Other Placements	273 27%	357 34%	84 +7%
Total Placements	994	1050	+56

*Other Placements account for 34% in March 2022, this includes Independent Living, Children's Homes and Residential Placements. Data for March 2023 was not available at time of writing.

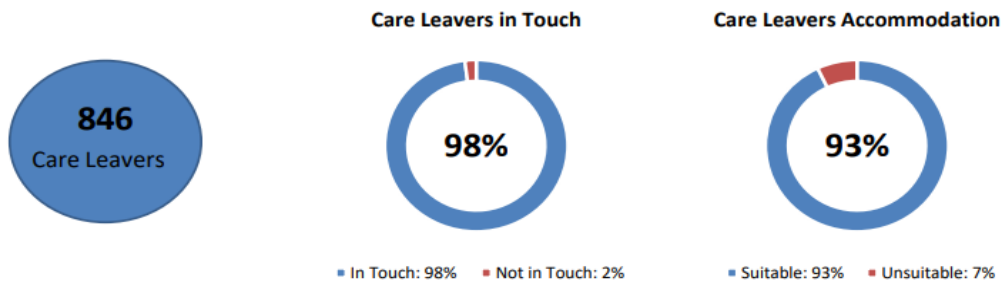
- ★ “Where I live is good because I feel very safe, and I love the foster carers who I live with, and I feel like I can talk to them whenever I feel I need to talk about something.” (looked after child)

Looked After Children Leaving Care (including UASC)

Coupled with the increase in the number of children becoming looked after in recent months, a lower number of children leaving care has contributed to more children being looked after.

Care Leaver Totals and main Placement Type

Care Leavers



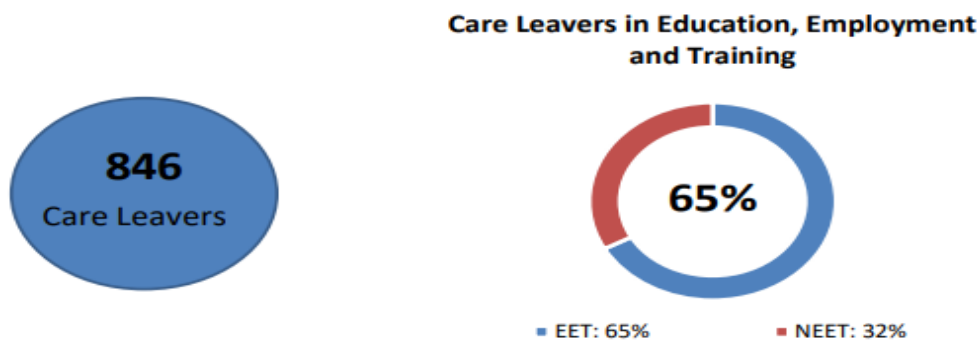
There are currently 846 care leavers supported by SCC; 829 (98%) are currently in touch and 786% (93%) are recorded as living in suitable accommodation.

The two largest groups of accommodation type are **semi-independent** accommodation for 36% of care leavers and **independent accommodation** (own tenancy) for 27% of care leavers.

★ *“I went from being in semi-independent with Moving On and having the support from them, to now having my own flat which I’ve been in for nearly 2 years.”(care leaver aged 21 years)*

Care Leaver in Education, Employment and Training (EET) and Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET).

Education, Employment and Training (EET) of Care Leavers



The reason that 32% of care leavers are NEET is due to reasons including illness and disability, parenting and pregnancy. There is a category called G5 ‘other category’ which includes 167 (20%) of NEET care leavers. A CPB NEET Task and Finish group was established in 2023 to understand the barriers and identify enablers to support this group into EET. In 2021/22 nine care leavers enrolled at university.

★ *“Education means everything to me, I finished college and worked for a couple of years and then realised what I want to do in life. I went back to education to study what I’m most passionate about.” (Care leaver aged 20 years)*

4. SPONSORED CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PROJECTS

Board members actively participate in a number of corporate parenting programmes and projects to promote and celebrate achievements of children and young people and to understand operational challenges faced by children & young people and their workers/carers.

The CPB sponsors specific activities and member-led projects including:

- The Celebration fund
- Link Member project
- Bicycle scheme
- Member visits
- Care leaver covenant
- Universal leisure offer / boxing offer
- Children’s summer event / care leavers week event

CPB projects are coordinated by the Corporate Parenting Project Manager in partnership with Members, the service and CYP.

4.1 Member Visits

Member visits provide opportunities for officers to further understand the role of members and for members to identify and explore wider system issues impacting on the care, support and experience of service users and officers. Visits provide evidence of child, carer, parent and practitioner insight and experience, and are used to inform discussions and shape assurance and decision-making that improves services and support for children. In 2021 member visits were stopped due to Covid-19 and we are excited to announce plans to relaunch this project in 2023 in partnership with the Select Committee. A calendar of member visits is being coordinated to reflect Select Committee and CPB themes and priorities, below are examples of member visits that are currently being considered for 2023/24.

Children’s Crisis Intensive Support Service (CCISS) & Hope Service	Understand mental health crisis support available in SCC.
Surrey Virtual School	To understand education for CLA placed in and out of SCC.
Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health (EWMH) commissioning and MindWorks.	Mental Health & Wellbeing service for CLA & care leavers.
C-SPA	The Children’s Single Point of Access is the umbrella term used to describe the front door to Children’s Services.
Quadrant Service visits x 4	Visit to front line teams across four quadrants.
Universal and Target Youth Offer	Visit to teams to understand the offers across SCC (universal and targeted).

4.2 Link Member Scheme

As part of ongoing quality assurance arrangements, councillors who are members of the CPB may visit Surrey children’s homes. These visits help members deepen their understanding of the experiences

of staff, carers and children, and the quality of practice children receive. They also enable staff, carers and children to raise good news stories and general concerns independent of the operational service. Board members often use their local connections to champion on behalf of homes, for example, one member coordinated with borough council colleagues and arranged for residents to receive free rugby training from a local coach.

4.3 Celebration Fund Panel

All councillors at SCC are committed to being good corporate parents and this means supporting CYP in care and leaving care to achieve their full potential. To help with this there is a small, discretionary fund where members make financial contributions, this fund supports looked after children and care leavers to:

- Pursue a hobby or interest
- Participate in a one off activity that will really benefit a child/young person's overall wellbeing
- Provide a child/young person with a piece of 'equipment' to support independence/achieve a goal and to engage in a sports activity
- Go on a local/international visit, trip, or excursion
- Celebrate personal achievements (no matter how small or large)

This year, 264 applications were submitted, and the Celebration Fund Panel agreed 206 awards to the total of £33,638.22. The June 2022 panel received 49 successful applications, the October 2022 panel received 84 successful applications and the February 2023 panel received 73 successful applications. The above figures include applications to the Surrey Bike Scheme (a total of 35 applications; 22 in October and 13 in February 2023).

Age breakdown of 264 applications to the Celebration Fund submitted in 2022/23

0 – 4 years	2
5 – 10 years	11
11 – 16 years	78
17+ years	173

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

- ★ *“It has positively motivated me in my life to achieve my goals.”*
- ★ *“I am motivated to do more - improve my music making skills such as writing lyrics and rapping.”*

Of the 264 applications, 136 were in county and 128 out of county.

Members fund the Celebration Fund through member contributions and unspent member allocations. In 2022/23 the Celebration Fund received £19,028.60 funding from members.

FEEDBACK FROM KEYWORKERS

- ★ *“It is good to acknowledge the hard work of not only the child but their carers.”*
- ★ *“Very glad we have it in Surrey.”*

Funding received

Below is a breakdown of funding received by applicants.

Year	Member Contribution	Funding allocated from underspend	Total funding from Members
2020/21	£9,940	£34,209	£44,140
2021/22	£9,653	£10,000	£19,653
2022/23	£6,632	£12,396.60	£19,028.60

As indicated in the table below, the Celebration Fund is increasing in popularity and each year we receive more applications from social workers and personal advisors. Hundreds of Surrey CYP benefit each year and receive recognition for a personal achievement (no matter how big or small).

Year	Applications submitted	Applications Successful	Amount
2021/22	207	133	£17,564.91
2022/23	264	206	£33,638.22

Key spending themes for 2022/23



The Celebration Fund Panel influences further provision. For example, a standard offer for computers, driving lessons, recycled furniture and bicycles has been agreed due to advocacy from members. In 2023 we plan to develop an out of county gym membership scheme for care leavers, funded by the Celebration Fund.

4.4 Boxing Offer

In 2022/23 the Celebration Fund received a large number of applications for boxing classes and membership. Active Surrey and Children's Services secured funding from Sport England to launch a **boxing offer** for children and care leavers aged 12 – 25 years. Currently 10 applications have been received.



The Boxing Offer is for CYP aged 12 – 25 years living in and out of Surrey.

- 3-months membership at any Boxing for England affiliated clubs, with a possible extension to 6-months.
- Purchase of gloves and wrap (for CYP that extend initial 3-month membership).



4.5 Bicycle Scheme for Looked After Children & Care Leavers

The Bike Scheme is now embedded into the corporate parenting service and local offer. Since the launch in September 2021 186 bikes with locks and helmets have been awarded totalling approximately £23,000 (this figure does change depending on placement moves). The Bike Scheme is funded by Active Surrey and Children’s Services, and it is helping many CYP to become healthy and active, and travel to school, college and work by bicycle which is saving money and the environment.

There are four age categories of funding and awards are calculated to fund approximately 75% of a new or refurbished bike with a lock and helmet. To encourage CYP to purchase refurbished bikes the amount of funding available is higher however, there are various challenges to CYP purchasing refurbished bikes including ‘attitude to second-hand goods’ and ‘supply issues’ experienced by some local bike projects.

Surrey’s Bike Scheme For those in care or care leavers

Are you a looked after child or care leaver (living in or outside Surrey)?

You can get help to buy a bike!

- For ages 5-25
- See application form for [rules](#)
- Amount of funding you get depends on your age and if the bike is new or fully [refurbished](#)
- Includes money towards a [helmet](#)
- FREE [Bikeability](#) training to [improve](#) your road safety
- Speak to your Key Worker/Social Worker for more information, or email celebration.fund@surreycc.gov.uk



“The bike is helpful, B feels happy to have his own bike. It is helping B to keep fit mentally and physically.”



- We receive many applications for those YP who have come into the care system as a result of asylum applications.
- We receive many applications for younger children who have grown out of old bikes that were bought for them before the scheme started and in addition those moving from school to college who need a bike.
- In 2023/24 Active Surrey have donated a further £15,000 to the scheme.

4.6 Care Leaver Covenant

The [Care Leaver Covenant](#) is a national inclusion programme which seeks to create opportunities that support care leavers 16 - 25 to live independently. There has been significant activity across services in Surrey in consultation with care leavers to identify the key

areas of focus (Wish List) that Surrey's care leavers want us to prioritise. We have developed a broad action-plan with six key priorities:



1. Raising awareness of the Care Leaver Covenant
2. Increasing education, employment and training opportunities and support
3. Creating more opportunities for care leavers through [Social Value](#)
4. Developing more discounts to help care leavers financially
5. Having a Whole Local Authority approach and promoting [Corporate Parenting Board](#) responsibilities
6. Better health and wellbeing support and provision

On 31st March 2023 SCC signed the CLC. We have four lead ambassadors including, Sinead Mooney, Cabinet Lead for Children & Families, Rachael Wardell, Director for Children's Services and care-experienced ambassadors, Grace Mumford and Sameer Hussain who are apprentices with the UVP service.



Ambassadors Grace and Sameer had this to say about the CLC:

- ★ *"It's good that people higher up in Surrey are noticing there are things that need improving, it's really good that the Care Leaver Covenant is being recognised by senior management in Surrey", Grace (19).*
- ★ *"It's great that Surrey are signing up to the Care Leaver Covenant, it will provide care leavers with more benefits and opportunities", Sameer (24).*

Many CLC projects and activities are already well underway, one positive outcome includes pre-paid prescriptions for care leavers which was launched on 1st April 2023 and funded by ICG for care leavers living in county and Children's Services for those living out of county. This fantastic initiative was championed by designated health colleagues. See Annex 3. Pre-Paid Prescription Flyer (page 46)

4.7 Universal Leisure Offer

In 2022 a **leisure offer** was launched for CYP and foster carers living in Surrey. Children's Services and Active Surrey have worked in partnership with 11 borough councils and 6 leisure operators to agree a universal leisure offer. Surrey is one of few county councils to agree such an offer accessible across the county. The leisure offer was reviewed in January 2023, more information on access and impact of the offer is in section 6.3 Leisure, Culture & Life Skills (page 38).

In 2023 we hope to begin plans to develop an **out of county gym membership** for care leavers in partnership with Hussle.com, one of the UK’s largest private gym providers with the largest coverage across England.



- The Leisure Offer for looked after Children, Care Leavers & Foster Carers 2022 includes:
- ✓ Free gym membership
 - ✓ Swimming access at all times
 - ✓ All looked after children under 16 years are entitled to one free **adult** admission
 - ✓ Care leavers aged 18-25 with additional needs entitled to one free **adult** admission
 - ✓ Foster carers and their birth children (aged under 18 years) have a 50% concession on all leisure provision

5. Outcomes from Themed CPB meetings

The CPB held meetings under 6 key themes:

Theme
Preparation for Independence
Health & Wellbeing
Education, Employment & Training
Placements, Sufficiency, Permanence
Leisure, Culture & Life Skills
Safeguarding of Looked After Children and care leavers

5.1 PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE

In 2022 OFSTED highlighted positive comments in relation to the Virtual School’s wide-ranging work to support young people into appropriate learning or employment, and the helpful employment advice provided for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Since then, an external peer review conducted by the National Association of Virtual School Heads (NAVSH) has highlighted post 16 education, employment and training as a strength in the Virtual School’s work. The report also notes that *“It is helpful that the partnership working between the Post 16 and Post 18 Virtual School staff and the Personal Advisors and education partners is well established”*.

As of March 2023, there were 345 young people in the Virtual School’s Years 12 and 13 cohort (16–18-year-olds) of whom 67, or 19% were **not in education, employment or training (NEET)**. This is a reduction of 3.5% from the previous year. The Virtual School has developed new granular analysis of the NEET cohort and the primary reasons for the inactivity. This has allowed for targeted interventions to be developed, which started as part of the first year of the Post-16 Pupil Premium pilot, funded by the DfE. The overall NEET figure for Year 12 and 13 is likely to fluctuate during the year but has remained below 20% since the start of this academic year, compared to a relatively static 30% historically.

The Surrey Virtual School delivered a **DFE pilot project in 2022**, focusing on access to post-16 education, employment and training for young people, which is contributing to national research in this area. SVS has since been awarded grant funding for a second year of the project, which will focus on unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, who comprise 10% of the 16-18 NEET cohort and are more susceptible to disengagement and long-term worklessness, particularly following receipt of Leave to Remain status. A recent analysis by the Virtual School of young people who are NEET in Years 12 and 13 has highlighted that 96 of our young people (28% of the overall cohort) were new to care since 31st March 2022.

The pilot allowed for a coach to young person ratio of 1:8, compared to 1:100 for the wider Virtual School. Whilst this level of support was a luxury which would be impossible to achieve within current resources, it does demonstrate learning for SVS in relation to the nature of the support provided, and the impact of more targeted work than our standard approach can offer. The pilot has emphasised the importance of trusting relationships, (gentle) persistence, providing safety in the exploration of options and broadening horizons. It is these key findings on which we intend to build in the second year.

The Virtual School has agreed to fund the **Grand Mentors Scheme** for a further year, match funded by 'Volunteering Matters' and is working with the Grand Mentors Board to refresh the offer to better align it to the needs of our young people. 'Grand Mentors is a mature organisation with a proven track record and infrastructure around mentoring Care Leavers and other young people from vulnerable groups. In 2022, 16 referrals were successfully matched to a Grand Mentor and the following table indicates the impact of the scheme. Data from Grand Mentors also demonstrates that the input has significantly increased positive self-esteem and wellbeing of participants.

I received a referral for a UASC who had hopes of one day studying Law.

I was fortunate enough that at the time I had a mentor who had trained and worked as a solicitor for many years and once I told him this, I could see the excitement in his face.

Shortly after, we arranged a match meeting for them and they just clicked.

They have met several times and together they have been looking at different universities, the qualifications required to get onto those courses and different areas of Law that may be of interest.

The mentor has kindly gifted him some old books of hers about the history and geography of the UK that she no longer reads.

Thanks to Grandmentors, this young man is able to receive specialised, one to one support in his area of interest that he would not have received otherwise. They are only 2 meetings in however I know that with the support and guidance of his mentor, he is destined for big things.

There are a number of resources used to support young people in their understanding of **finance related issues**. The service has developed a guide which covers a wide range of areas including opening a bank account, how to set and manage a budget, income and employment, loans and overdrafts, accessing benefits, paying bills and managing debt, using credit cards, understanding insurance and credit checks. The service has referred young people to the Money House an accredited UK charity which delivers expert led financial education programmes. Sessions are focussed on young

people who are about to move into their own accommodation and have responsibility for managing a tenancy. Care leavers who have participated in the programme have found this very beneficial.

The [Local Offer for Care Leavers](#) was reviewed and a new Higher Education Support Package and Reference Guide for Surrey Care Leavers includes information on financial support, bursaries, accommodation and support from Surrey care leavers when entering higher education or university. Care leavers living within and outside of Surrey continued to benefit from Council Tax exemptions in place which extended to all Surrey Districts and Boroughs from 1 April 2022. The scheme was reviewed in 2022 which resulted in new recording processes and guidance for professionals and care leavers.

DFE funding has continued for two dedicated homelessness prevention officers within the care leavers service. They continue to work countywide with personal advisors and young people on any emerging **housing issues**. They have assisted in developing the knowledge base of personal advisors in relation to housing issues, have brokered partnerships with housing colleagues and frequently meet with young people to talk through housing options, link with relevant services and try to prevent accommodation arrangements from ending when an issue does arise.

During the pandemic there was a notable increase in the number of private landlords seeking guarantors to secure provision for care leavers, this trend has continued. We recognise this can be a barrier for care leavers securing accommodation and in response developed a rent guarantor scheme for care leavers who are able to evidence the independence skills which they have and manage a tenancy appropriately. The Surrey scheme went live in July 2022. In March 2023 the BBC raised awareness of this national issue for care leavers.



Cost of living: The care leavers struggling to fin...
Uni students who are estranged from their families say they often struggle to get a rent guarantor.
www.bbc.co.uk

The service has continued to work closely with colleagues in Commissioning and Land and Property to develop further sufficiency for care leavers. An additional **100 supported accommodation beds were created** through the Commissioning Alliance Framework and became available from April 2022. £5.07m has been approved by the CFL Leadership Team, with final confirmation for capital expenditure given at Corporate Programme Panel in February 2023. Land and Property have now begun searching for suitable properties, with a view to having the first property secured by summer 2023.

Surrey is collaborating with Transform Housing and Support, one of our supported accommodation block bed providers with over 50 years of experience of providing services in Surrey, to fund the development of **4 self-contained beds for Surrey care leavers**. This opportunity allows the county council to prototype a new partnership approach to rapidly develop local care leavers accommodation, whilst also delivering strong value for money for Surrey, due to access of drawing on complimentary funding from Homes England and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The required £240k capital investment has been approved by the CFL Leadership Team and is now progressing to Property Panel for Land and Property confirmation.

Surrey has an under 18 **asylum team** and two dedicated care leaver teams that work solely with those seeking asylum. The majority of unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in Surrey are aged 16 and 17 and often do not have decisions on their asylum status by the point they transfer into the post 18 asylum teams. We have entered into an arrangement with the Home Office to offer a hybrid model of asylum interviews in an attempt to improve the timeliness of young people's asylum

applications being progressed. We have participated fully in the National Transfer Scheme and have continued to accept new arrivals alongside young people that may present within Surrey not linked to the scheme. In the summer of 2022, the government increased the percentage of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children local authorities would accept from 0.07% of a local authority's child population to 0.1%. For Surrey this would mean working with approximately 265 children under the age of 18 before any new requests to accommodate children above this number could be referred to other local authorities.

The service responded to CYP requesting more support with practical life skills by developing a series of workshops called **Surrey How Do I?** These are hands on sessions for CYP which are available on YouTube to watch from home. In January 2023 a DIY session took place in a workshop in Woking. Young people had a great time working on skills such as sawing, sanding, and painting. One young person had recently come to the UK from Sudan, and it warmed everyone's hearts when he carved his mums name in Arabic on the phone holder which he had made.

★ *"I love upcycling and doing anything creative" (care leaver)*

5.2 Key themes from Surrey Looked After Children & Care Leavers

- ✓ key highlights from feedback include CYP being taught independence skills from an early age by their carers and workers and care leavers received support from their allocated workers and accommodation providers but felt that this started too late. CYP also were not sure of expectations regarding 'independence'.
- ✓ Care leavers that felt supported mentioned their workers, supported accommodation providers and resources such as independence booklets helped them with preparing for independence.
- ✓ The majority of looked after children told us that they felt supported when learning independence skills with only one responder telling us that they felt unsupported and had to learn themselves.
- ✓ Overall, the feedback from care leavers included mostly positive experiences when they were supported to learn independence skills. Some care leavers told us that they had not received any support at all.
- ✓ Young people across the cohort reported foster carers, social workers, personal advisers, workers in residential homes and supported accommodation providers and the User Voice and Participation team supported them with independence skills.

★ *"I feel like I've been pushed into the big world but when help is needed it takes an awfully long time to come."* (care leaver 18 years)

★ *"Yes, I was lucky enough to have a foster cater to teach me but the inconsistency and constant change of social workers sort of interrupted the process."* (care leaver aged 21 years)

★ *"Yes, I talked to the council (CPB) as a looked after child through meetings set up by Care Council."* (looked after child 13 years)

5.3 A sample of CPB actions in response to feedback from CYP

Actions from CPB – theme Preparation for Independence

CPB action	
	Create a checklist for young people, with the input of foster carers, moving into their first home as care leavers

Response	A Pledge from Foster Carers to Children & Young People in their care was developed with help from CYP in foster care
CPB action	Training for Foster Carers to be able to impart the skills for independence to those in the care.
Response	The training offer for foster carers includes training on 'preparing children and young people for independence'.
CPB action	Implement a new method of participation based on Board discussions and suggestions made by the Board
Response	CYP co-chairing CPB meetings will be piloted, and more face-to-face events will be planned to increase engagement in a fun & relaxing way

5.4 HEALTH & WELLBEING

New Leaf Service

The **New Leaf service** supports and provides assessment and intervention for children and young people who are in care, care leavers, adopted and/or under Special Guardianship Orders who are affected by developmental trauma and attachment difficulties. The new service supports unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and supports and monitors funding agreements for children and young people in care who are placed outside of Surrey so they can access local services. The three groups supported by the New Leaf service are:

1. Care leavers 16-25 living in Surrey
2. Children in Care up to 18th birthday living in Surrey and 20 miles beyond Surrey borders
3. Post-order Support aged 0-18 who are subject to either an adoption or SGO and adoption

In April 2022 the process of refreshing the CYP **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy (EWMH)** began. The CPB were updated on consultation on the strategy and key findings. In September 2022, three surveys were launched, one for children and young people, one for families and one for professionals to hear their views on improving services for young people, and experiences of accessing mental health support (this included support from doctors, hospitals, schools, youth clubs, charities and/or social workers).

A total of 245 responses from all three surveys were received, with a breakdown per survey as follows:

- Children and Young People survey: 108 respondents (45 of which accessed support services in Surrey).
- Survey for Parents/Carers with a young person who has received EWMH support: 74 respondents
- Stakeholders of CYP EWMH support services: 63 respondents Focus groups

Below respondents to the EWMH surveys listed what Surrey is '**doing well**' to support the emotional and mental health needs of CYP.

What is good and strong about what we're doing to support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health?



Below respondents to the EWMH surveys listed what **'needs to improve'** in Surrey to better support the emotional and mental health needs of CYP.

What is not as good and needs improvement about the way we support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health?



Six key themes were identified for the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy:

1. **Self-help.** Provide accessible support and information for families to understand and take care of their own physical health, emotional wellbeing and mental health throughout their life course.
2. **More Accountable and Accessible Signposting.** Work in partnership to signpost to services more effectively so that young people and their families are aware of what's available in their area.
3. **Timeliness of Support.** Quickly acknowledge referrals and provide advice, help, and clarity around waiting times for more extensive and speciality help.

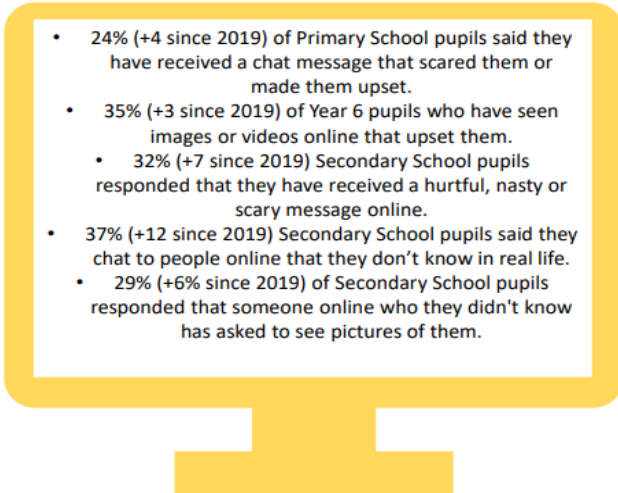
4. **Online Safety and Social Media Use.** Provide support for CYP and their families on how to be a responsible digital citizen and keep yourself and others safe online.
5. **Parent and Carer support.** Provide emotional wellbeing and mental health support for parents and carers to enable them to look after themselves and their children, with more support pathways for those who care for young people.
6. **Workforce Upskilling.** Ensure staff working with CYP feel well-equipped and confident to support CYP with mental health concerns, including self-harm and suicide, taking a child-centred approach that supports Neurodiversity.

In December 2022 a public health lead for CYP **suicide prevention** started in post, this post will be a conduit for CYP suicide prevention across the Surrey system. The all age suicide prevention strategy is currently being engaged on and CYP (universal) are theme four of this strategy. The CYP EWMH and suicide prevention action plan will be delivered by the CYP EWMH and suicide prevention partnership, this partnership action plan is overseen by the Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention Oversight Group. A Key focus for the 2023 is improving the flow of information between these three working groups and implementing learning in a timely way.

Information on the situation in Surrey regarding online safety, suicide prevention and self-harm is below:

Local Picture:

Online Safety



- 24% (+4 since 2019) of Primary School pupils said they have received a chat message that scared them or made them upset.
- 35% (+3 since 2019) of Year 6 pupils who have seen images or videos online that upset them.
 - 32% (+7 since 2019) Secondary School pupils responded that they have received a hurtful, nasty or scary message online.
- 37% (+12 since 2019) Secondary School pupils said they chat to people online that they don't know in real life.
 - 29% (+6% since 2019) of Secondary School pupils responded that someone online who they didn't know has asked to see pictures of them.

Self-Harm

- There has been a significant increase for 15-19 year olds (820.6 per 100,000) in hospital admissions as a result of self-harm in 2020-21. Whilst this is lower than the regional average (826.4 per 100,000), it is significantly higher than the England average (652.6 per 100,000).
- On a local level, an insight from the 2022 Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire, 8% of secondary pupils responded that they 'usually' or 'always' cut or hurt themselves when they have a problem that worries them or they are feeling stressed.

Suicide

- The Primary Care Mortality Database recorded 43 suicides between the period 2017 to 2020 for people aged under 25 in Surrey. The majority of these people were between the ages of 18 and 24.

5.5 Key themes from Looked After Children & Care Leavers

- ✓ Our respondents were very well informed and positive when thinking about what being healthy means. This ranged from the general information about healthy eating and being fit, but also included being able to look after yourself and being happy with who you are.
- ✓ The highest responses were based around healthy eating and being fit (40% & 43%), as this is what first comes to mind when thinking about being healthy. As the key aspect of healthy living that is taught in schools it is positive to see that this is at the forefront of the answers.
- ✓ 38% of responses focused on being physically and mentally able to look after yourself and the importance of being happy or feeling good about themselves. This is also reflected in the 34% of responses including the importance of good mental health and the practices required for this. As 17% of the young people that completed the survey have not accessed mental health or

emotional wellbeing support, it is very positive to see that our young people are aware of the importance of good mental health and the impact it can have on being healthy.

- ✓ Other notable mentions included maintaining a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise, as well as being around the “right” people (direct language from the young person), being clean, hygienic and having nice teeth.
- ✓ 83% of respondents stated that they are supported in managing their wellbeing and by a wide range of people. A fantastic 94% (33) of respondents stated that they have been positively supported through covid by a wide range of people.
- ★ *“Being healthy means having a healthy frame of mind, healthy diet and healthy lifestyle” (looked after aged 14 years)*
- ★ *“The nurse is really friendly and nice; she helps to make sure my appointments happen” (looked after aged 10 years)*
- ★ *“Covid has impacted me a lot mentally because I personally had covid 3 times. So I had to isolate in my room. Covid has also made me anxious about getting behind in college or getting ill” (care leaver 21 years)*
- ✓ A fantastic 94% (33) of respondents stated that they have been positively supported through covid by a wide range of people.
- ✓ 51% of young people feel that they have been directly impacted by Covid. The highest response was an impact on their Mental Health, this was closely followed by the impact of being unable to see birth family due to social distancing restrictions.
- ★ *“Kind of like being inside – wasn’t happy about not being able to ride bike to shops” (looked after aged 14 years)*

5.6 A sample of CPB actions in response to feedback from CYP

Actions from CPB – theme Health & Wellbeing	
CPB action	Explore the provision of a Prescription Pre-payment Certificate scheme, concerning the exemption from prescription charges for Care Leavers.
Response	On 1 st April 2023 a Pre-Paid Prescription Scheme for care leavers with ongoing health issues was launched (funded by ICG and CS). See annex 3.
CPB action	To look to link the ‘Bright Spots’ and ‘Our Voice Matters’ reports into the deep dive, as well as the other survey undertaken with Looked After Children and Care Leavers, share report findings and action-plan.
Response	In April 2023 CPOG will discuss the action-plan in response to the Bright Spots feedback, information will be shared with CPB members.
CPB action	Designated doctor to attend some of the designated teacher networks or training to reiterate the message around the nuanced approach regarding different health appointments.
Response	Sharon Kefford and her team met with the Teachers Network to talk about health assessments and children being taken out of school.
CPB action	To liaise with the provider of sexual health services to formalise a piece of work looking at how Surrey’s foster carers and residential care workers could have more confidence in how they are interacting with their young people.
Response	

5.7 EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (EET)

The Surrey Virtual School presented its statutory report which provided an overview of its work and focus during the academic year 2021-22, including analysis of available end of key stage educational outcomes and progress against other key performance measures. The report also reviewed the progress made in respect of the wider and extended duties of the Virtual School - children previously looked after and with a social worker (introduced in 2018 and 2021 respectively). The rapid pace of improvement at the SVS has continued to accelerate throughout 2021-22 reflected in HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) references to SVS as providing 'effective support' being 'clearly focussed' and 'having a positive impact on the educational progress of children in care.' In light of these key areas, the report identified priorities for securing better educational progress, experiences and outcomes for all children in scope of the Virtual School.

The Virtual School proactively works with others to create a culture of high expectation and aspiration around children looked after, previously looked after and those with a social worker. **Improving educational outcomes** is a collective responsibility and the key responsibilities of the Virtual School are outlined in current DfE statutory and non-statutory guidance. SVS is held to account through the Education Subgroup' of Corporate Parent Board through service challenge and peer review activities and regular reporting to leadership teams against its annual development and improvement plan.

The purpose of **Pupil Premium Plus** (PPP) for looked after children is to close the attainment gap, as detailed in the DfE 'Conditions of Grant' which is updated annually. There has been significant and continuous improvement in the way this grant is used and monitored since being identified as a weakness by OFSTED in 2018. Scrutiny of the use and impact of PPP is fully embedded into the Virtual School's termly quality assurance process for Personal Education Plans and The Virtual School Head completed her annual review of PPP, the review has informed the updated 2022 PPP policy.

Surrey Virtual School has continued with its programme of **training and events for carers** through the year, particularly around supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing post pandemic, understanding the impact of this on children's learning. In addition, the role of 'Education Leads' in all Surrey Children's homes has continued to develop. Education Support Officers advocate determinedly for children and ensure their voices are heard. SVS has also commissioned training from the Educational Psychology service to ensure engagement with children and young people in their PEPs meets their communication needs and preferences. This has led to more visible use of person centred planning in work with children and young people. SVS regularly seeks the views of Care Council members prior to any substantial changes that may affect their education.

Due to the pandemic, there were no end of key stage assessments in the primary or early years phases during 2020-21. Key Stage 4 (Year 11) summer exams were cancelled but instead, young people were awarded **GCSE grades** determined by their teachers, based on a range of evidence. This is a different process to 2020 and therefore results cannot be compared. SVS conducted its own collection of results at Key Stage 4, contacting foster carers individually for 104 young people, which enabled bespoke advice and guidance to be provided and entry for Functional Skills in English or maths (a level 2 qualification like GCSE) where needed. More young people achieved grades 4 and 5 in both English and maths than 2020, however assessments were based on a different system. 64% of young people achieved 'any qualification' compared with 57.5% in 2020, however SVS remain focused on raising this further with the intention that no child enters post 16 without any qualifications.

Similar to 2020, SVS's analysis has identified **school moves as contributing to poorer Key Stage 4** outcomes. The Virtual School has worked hard to minimise disruption to education during 2021-22 and as a result fewer young people (28) experienced a school move during year 10 or 11 compared with 42 the previous year. A range of measures are in place to support progress and outcomes at Key Stage 4 including careers coaching, Functional Skills qualifications, access to the National tutoring Programme (NTP) and therapeutic interventions – all personalised to the needs of individual children.

80% of children are in **good and outstanding schools**, compared with 73% at the same point last year, and the Virtual School has forged strong links with the Royal Springboard Foundation and the independent schools sector, to ensure that children can benefit from the bursary scheme if they meet the criteria. OFSTED concluded in 2021 that “The virtual school provides effective support to enable children in care to attend school. Whilst overall attendance for children in care has been good, SVS is focusing its energies on improving the attendance of children who are ‘persistently absent’ (below 90% attendance) and ‘severely absent’ (a new DFE category describing attendance below 50%). Our analysis has highlighted some specific groups of children who may be more vulnerable to poor attendance than others and we will work closely with Inclusion teams to support these children and implement the new DFE guidance published in 2022. looked after children are five times more likely to experience a ‘suspension’ (previously known as fixed term exclusion) than all children and 1.5 times more likely than children in need (Timpson Review of School Exclusion (publishing.service.gov.uk)).

SVS continues to work with young people in Year 13 once they become **care leavers**. A small but dedicated team supports young people in years 12 and 13. Post 16 has been an area of considerable development for SVS during 2021-22 whilst also posing some complex challenges. Virtual Schools hold no statutory powers to direct post 16 settings to admit young people to their roll, unlike statutory school age. Whilst there is currently no pupil premium plus linked with young people beyond Year 11, Virtual School Heads have lobbied the DFE to introduce this. Alongside 9 other LAs, SVS is now entering a second year of a national post 16 pupil premium pilot and contributing strongly to the evidence for change in this area.

SVS analysis of reasons why young people become **NEET** has enabled us to develop targeted and personalised support for small groups of young people. For example, we are providing a dedicated careers and work coach for young people who feel strongly that employment is the only post 16 path for them. We have also replicated the support offer we have in place for young people in Key Stage 4 in our post 16 work, so that opportunities to gain level 2 qualifications, access tutoring support and careers coaching is accessible to young people at risk of NEET. An additional 9 young people started university in September 2021 and our first SVS apprentice leaves us to start University in September 2022.

As of July 2022, there were 210 **unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people** on the SVS register, compared with 133 at the same point last year. 47 were of statutory school age and 163 post-16. SVS has a clear education offer in place for UASC when they first arrive, which is put into place immediately- whilst longer term provision is identified. SVS invests significantly into each young person's education, valuing their first language and supporting development of their English language skills so they get the best possible start once in the care of Surrey. SVS works closely the LA's REMA service and has partnerships with the third sector including Big Leaf, CARAS and the Refugee Council to enhance the education offer and provide access to the social and emotional support needed by this group of young people.

Links with **SEND** teams have significantly strengthened throughout 2021-22 and there is a joint action plan in place to ensure that children's needs are met and the right education provision in place for each

child with minimum delay. Our own data and national datasets indicate that children looked after are overrepresented when SEND data is considered. The increased incident of SEND is often related to several issues; neglect in early years, complex medical and learning needs and trauma experienced by young people before they come into care.

5.8 Key themes from Looked After Children & Care Leavers

- ✓ Positively, 31% of these young people specifically mentioned the importance of EET when it comes to developing their skills and options for the future, with 28% highlighting the opportunities available to them by attending education and training, and the wider options open to them by completing qualifications and building their confidence.
- ✓ 25% of responses focused on how EET helps them to access not just a job, but specifically a career, with emphasis on EET providing them the opportunity to improve their life and develop a passion for a specific area.
- ✓ The importance of EET for future stability (3%) and income (17%) are also key themes mentioned by several respondents. Highlighting, as usual, the awareness and current worries of the cost of living crisis and funds available to these young people.
- ★ *“Everything is good at school I have lots of friends and am going for head girl” (looked after 10 years)*
- ★ *“I was able to study what I wanted in college however my grades were affected by lack of motivation and chronic illness. I am grateful that even without the high grades I had wished for, I now have a placement in an enjoyable job and can pursue a more fitting way of education while I work rather than going to university (which I find difficult with my way of working).” (care leaver 22 years)*
- ★ *“Education means everything to me, I finished college and worked for a couple of years and then realised what I want to do in life. I went back to education to study what I’m most passionate about.” (care leaver 20 years)*

What advice would you give to your younger self on education, employment and training?

- ★ *“To my younger self I would say to have stayed in education longer and finished college and then also to have explored the opportunity of going to university which I didn’t even consider when I was younger.” (care leaver 22 years)*
- ★ *“I am 10 and following my own advice but I would try harder to follow the rules and listen to people.” (looked after child 10 years)*
- ★ *“You will get there one day, try as many different ways of engaging in education/training. It really makes a difference in your life.” (care leaver 22 years)*

5.9 A sample of key actions in response to feedback from our CYP

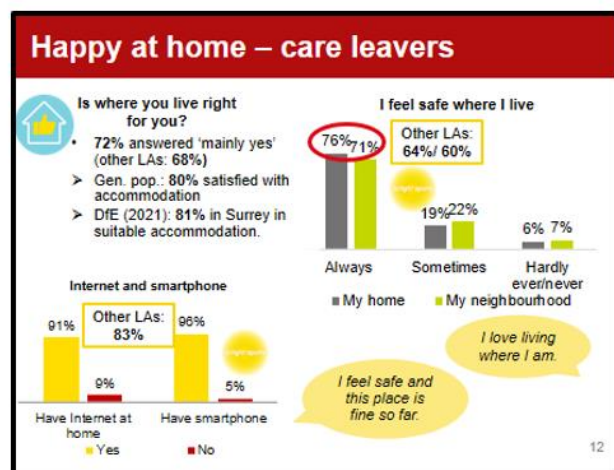
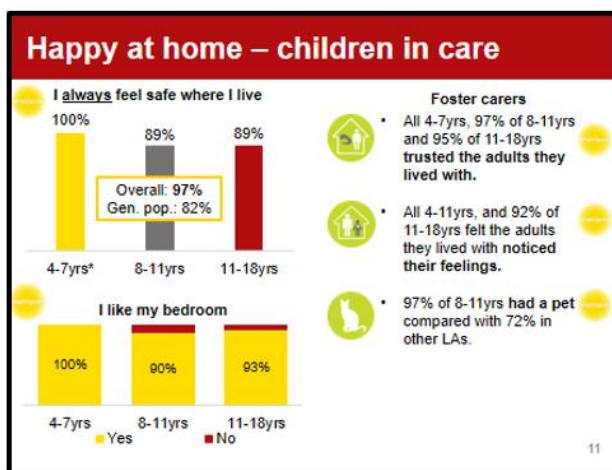
Actions from CPB – Education, Employment and Training

CPB action	A NEET Task and Finish Group will be formed to go into a deeper dive into the issues raised in the item, providing recommendations back to the Board in due course. To define the themes of the task and finish group.
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Response	The third meeting of the NEET T&F Group, chaired by Cllr. Jonathan Essex is scheduled in April 2023.
CPB action	To follow up that Member's offer of support around apprenticeships and will explore the opportunities offered by the Open University.
Response	This action has contributed to the formation of the NEET T&F Group, the member in question has joined this group and is liaising directly with the AD. Open University offers are circulated monthly in a UVP EET update.
CPB action	The User Voice and Participation Officer will investigate putting together a working document around work experience and the opportunities available and would share that widely.
Response	This piece of work will be delivered via the NEET T&G Group
CPB action	To look to raise the matter of having trauma and attachment issues being part of initial teacher with the DfE.
Response	SVS Head raised this with the National Association of Virtual School Heads and requested it to be discussed at the next board meeting.

5.10 PERMANENCE, PLANNING AND SUFFICIENCY

In 2022 two large surveys were commissioned by Coram to understand the views of Care Leavers: 'Your Life Beyond Care' survey and Looked After Children: 'Your Life, Your Care' survey. Feedback from children in care and care leavers on 'home life' was a strength or **Bright Spot** for Surrey.



As set out in our Looked After Children and Care Leavers **Sufficiency Strategy**, SCC are particularly focussed on five overall priorities:

1. Surrey homes for Surrey children
2. Enabling more children to live in family settings
3. Having a wide range of placements for diverse needs
4. Developing homes of the highest quality
5. Providing support to move to independence

Bringing about lasting change in response to these five priorities will take time, commitment, and resources, as we continue to develop and improve our collective practice, processes and provision in

the county. Our longer-term strategic ambition is that “**every looked after child has a choice to remain in Surrey**, where this is appropriate to their needs”. Our working hypothesis is that this would look like 80% of our looked after children being able to live in Surrey. Following the January 2022 ILACS inspection, Ofsted commented; “A comprehensive sufficiency strategy is being implemented. The strategy is based on a detailed understanding of the gap between identified needs and resources. This is leading to an increased range of suitable accommodation options for children, although some gaps remain, especially for care leavers.

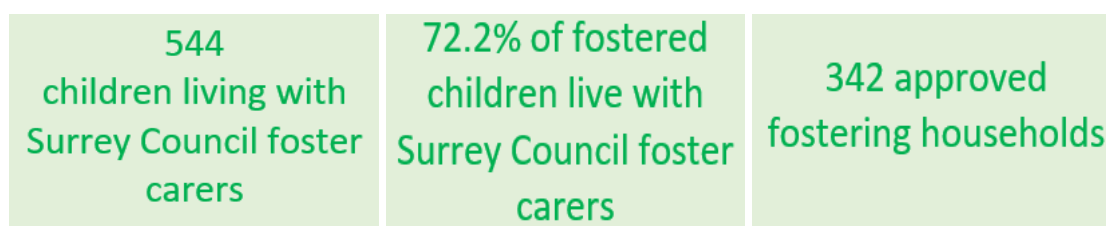
01 April 2022 we saw an increase of 41 looked after children in Surrey when compared to the previous year. When looking at the **proportion of looked after children who are living in Surrey** and/or within 20 miles of their home address (a broader measure of sufficiency), we can see greater progress across 12 months – 61.7% (612 individuals) in April 2021 compared to 64.9% (679 individuals) in April 2022, having peaked at 66.1% (694 individuals) in December 2021.

Some Sufficiency achievements throughout the year include:

Launched and delivered year 1 of a new sufficiency-focussed transformation programme – Placement Value and Outcomes (PVO)
Focussed on improving the sufficiency and quality of supported accommodation in Surrey
Begun a transformation of our SCC-run children’s homes to prepare for the future
Laying the foundations for sufficiency growth within in-house fostering
Mobilising a new practice model to reduce entry to care and emergency placements
Developing and maximising use of the external market of provision in Surrey

In 2023 Cabinet approved an **increase in payments to Surrey County Council foster carers**, recognising the highly skilled nature of fostering and the vital role our carers play in supporting Surrey’s children.

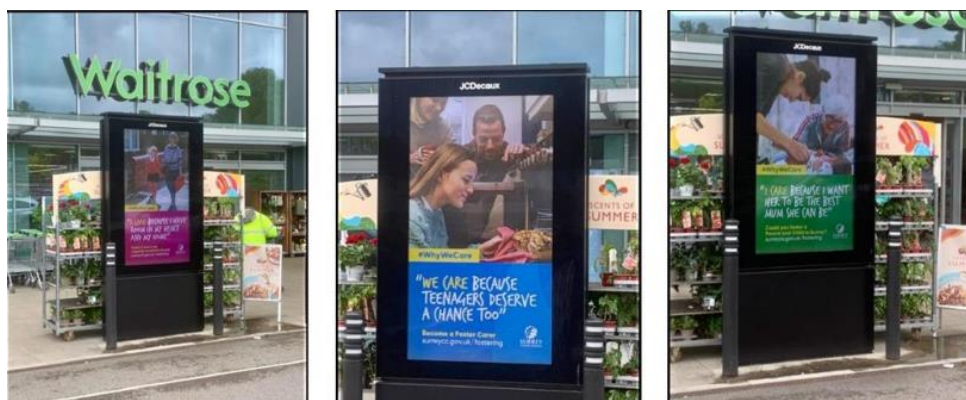
Fostering Service Highlights March 2022



A key challenge for the Fostering Service is to recruit an additional 120 new fostering households over the next two years, 35 in the coming year to support a greater number of children being cared for in Surrey whilst ensuring that the standard of care for children remains high and their outcomes align with our aspirations for them. The service approved 21 new fostering families, which does not include connected foster carers during 2021/2022 period, which was 17 fewer than in 2020/2021. 41 Connected persons foster carers were approved during last year, which means that for many children they have been able to live with family members, or friends known to them.

The service has focused on ‘**Surrey homes for Surrey children**’, targeting much of their activity in areas of the county where many of our looked after children are from. These targeted activities included local community events, advertising in local libraries, shops, places of worship and in local magazines,

door-to-door leaflet drops and posting in local Facebook groups. The service has been working alongside current foster carers and staff to hold recruitment events within local communities. This has included events in local schools and with health partners. This resulted in 27 referrals from foster carers and Surrey staff over the course of 2021 - 2022.



Surrey commissioned Essex in their capacity as a **Partner in Practice** to undertake a review of Surrey's Fostering service in November 2021. The purpose of this was to provide independent scrutiny of Surrey's Fostering Service and to ensure we were able to meet the service wide sufficiency plan that had been proposed. This was achieved by meeting with senior managers, members of the fostering service and stakeholders across children's service, meeting with foster carers and analysing performance data. Work is well underway to implement recommendations from the Essex review, including review of the foster carer allowance.

Children's Homes and Family Contact Centre Capital Project update 2023

In 2022 Cabinet approved a significant capital programme to build three new children's homes, one contact centre and make substantial building repairs and extensions to existing homes and a respite centre for children with disabilities. This investment in creating Surrey homes for Surrey children, will make Surrey one of the largest in-house providers of accommodation for children with complex needs.

Surrey has a large estate of children's homes, which are all registered Ofsted providers.



Below is a summary of the looked after children capital programme :

Name of home/centre	Update (as of Feb 2023)	Estimated Completion Date

Walton Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home and three-bedroom No Wrong Door home, to accommodate four children plus staff members and emergency temporary accommodation	22-05-2023 Operational
Dorking Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home and three-bedroom annex, to accommodate four children plus staff members and specialist service provision	May - 2025 Operational
Epsom Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home to accommodate four children plus staff members	15-05-2023 Operational
Cobham Children's Home	Construction of a brand-new six-bedroom Children's Home and three-bedroom annex, to accommodate four children plus staff members and additional service provision (TBC)	August 2025 Operational
Shaw Family Contact Centre	Construction of a brand-new family contact centre with associated parking to replace the former Shaw Family Contact Centre	28-07-2023 Full Practical Completion

There are key national challenges in finding suitable homes for looked after children and care leavers, including a lack of placements of the right kind in the right places. There are large private providers making materially higher profits, and charging materially higher prices, than we would expect if the market was functioning effectively. Alongside this, there are also national challenges with regards to changes introduced to make it unlawful to place children under the age of 16 in unregulated provision. Whilst Surrey County Council is supportive of the ambition behind this change, it is presenting all local authorities with challenges placing a small number of children with more challenging behaviours and complex needs.

5.11 Key themes from Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- ✓ Several young people reported the location of where they live as something they would like to change.
- ✓ Young people mentioned the distance from their education and employment being an issue and being closer to these places would make where they live more positive.
- ✓ CYP reported that to them 'Permanence' is a very important concept, it means being able to call the place in which they live 'home', without being afraid of having to move again; it's somewhere where they feel safe and stable, and that gives them a sense of belonging. Some young people also referred to permanence in terms of stable education and employment.
- ✓ The majority of CYP feel supported where they live, they have good relationships and communicate well within the home, with some saying that it feels like family.

★ *"I have a permanent home, a good support network around me and a stable job with steady income which is all I can ask for which helps."* (care leaver 18yrs)

- ★ *“I went from being in semi-independent with Moving On and having the support from them, to now having my own flat which I’ve been in for nearly 2 years.” (care leaver 21 years)*
- ★ *“My PA is amazing at telling me what Surrey are going to fund for me or any opportunities where I can better myself etc. She helps me with any issues I don’t understand and if she doesn’t know herself, she seeks out the information and comes back to me.” (care leaver 21 years)*
- ★ *“I like where I live but I want to be at home with my family. I don’t want to be where I am forever.” (looked after aged 15 years)*

5.12 A sample of actions in response to feedback from our CYP

Actions from CPB – Placements, Planning and Sufficiency	
CPB action	Members wished for details of a face-to-face corporate parenting event to engage with children & young people.
Response	Agreed to organise a Children’s Summer Event in 2022
CPB action	Members requested a breakdown of CYP that participate in Board consultation, to broaden representation & diversity.
Response	UVP process was updated to clearly demonstrate UASC and to increase participation of CLA aged 13 years and under
CPB action	Members requested a matrix of what providers Surrey uses & profits being made by large privately owned providers.
Response	A detailed update was shared providing information on high profits of private housing providers and details of providers being used by SCC.
CPB action	Members were dissatisfied with ‘other’ category when reporting NEET care leavers & requested a breakdown.
Response	Other category (G5) has been broken down to identify a clear picture of care leavers who are unable/not in EET.
CPB action	Provide a briefing note on the key changes between the first plan and the second plan regarding the Sufficiency Strategy and how things had progressed. Board also requested a detailed briefing on the reasons for placement moves.
Response	A detailed briefing was shared with CPB members, in addition two sufficiency workshops were held with members to develop learning.

5.13 LEISURE, CULTURE & LIFE SKILLS

In 2017 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a duty on all local authorities in England to publish information about the services the local authority offers care leavers aged 18-25 years. The current [Surrey Local Offer for Care Leavers](#) was developed in 2019/2020 and in 2021 a series of meetings were held to review, amend, improve and expand the content of the Local Offer to ensure its relevance for care leavers. The Ofsted Monitoring visit in 2021 noted that “young people were provided with extensive information in both paper and digital formats and have accessible links and signposts to more detailed information and further sources of advice”. In addition to clear information on rights and entitlements for care leavers, a Young Person’s Finance Policy was developed for looked after CYP aged 0-18 years, this policy covered finance for CYP living in the various types of placement options, it

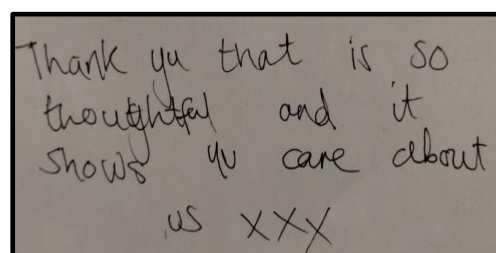
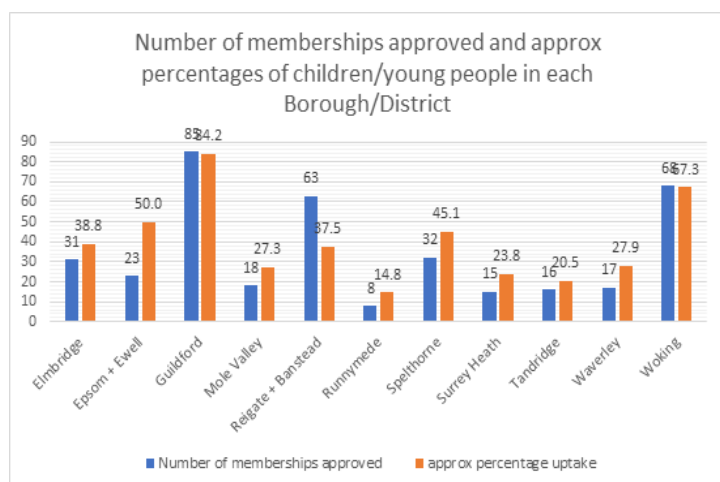
addressed ‘out of policy’ requests, such as clothing for a school Prom and set out clear finance processes for workers and managers.

Following advocacy from CPB members, the leisure offer launched on 1st June 2022 operating across all 11 borough councils in Surrey and encompassing all 25 local authority owned leisure centres across 6 different leisure operators (**Places Leisure, Everyone Active, Freedom Leisure, GLL/Better, Achieve Lifestyle, Fusion Lifestyle**). The offer is promoted directly to foster families via Supervising Social Workers, the Surrey Fostering Network and direct to looked after children via Social Workers/children’s home workers and Care Leavers are reached via their Personal Advisers.

In June 2022 we completed a 6-month review of the Leisure Offer, several recommendations were made to improve promotion and processing by some leisure operators. In the first two quarters/2022 over 600 applications were submitted and over 350 leisure cards were issued to CYP and carers. The offer is currently being utilised by up to 35% of CYP living in county.

Quarter	Applications received	Eligible applications	Sent to leisure centres	Approved by leisure centres	Cards issued
1	240	216	177	137	137
2	376	350	350	230	230

The table below highlights access across the county, Guildford has issued the highest number of leisure centre cards and Runnymede the lowest, to some extent this represents the population of CYP and foster families living in borough councils across Surrey.



‘Above is a message from a care leaver to each of the borough councils and leisure operators for being excellent corporate parents and working in partnership to create such a beneficial leisure offer’.

- ★ *“I’d also like to say thank you for the gym membership it’s helped me so much with my mental health and venting it through the gym. So massive thank you!”* (care leaver 20 years)
- ★ *“It was a great way to channel the negativity into something positive, I’m at the gym now and have been every single day for the past 2 weeks”* (care leaver 18 years)
- ★ *“I have been working with an isolated young man to increase his independence in the community. Having a leisure card means that he can access climbing sessions with another young person, helping his physical and mental health”.* (Personal Advisor)

Due to the tenacious effort of the CPB elected members and DCS, all 11 borough councils now provide **council tax exemption** for Surrey care leavers. In 2022 a working group reviewed the council tax

scheme and improved finance processes and recording. The scheme was also extended to care leavers closed to the service aged up to 25 years and promotional materials were developed.

During the past 18 months, SVS has worked with **Surrey Arts** to offer free music lessons to Surrey Looked After Children. SVS developed 'Summer Extravaganza' as a summer holiday offer to improve 'soft skills' primarily for our Y6 children transitioning to secondary school. The Big Leaf Foundation ran a 3 night residential to Jamie's Farm for our UASC and promoted the 'family learning' offer from Surrey Adult Learning (SAL). Summer holiday events from different providers were captured in one leaflet produced by a care experienced SVS events apprentice.

Surrey's Fostering Service and Children's Homes enable children to access a wide range of community based and tailored leisure activities, both services promote the Celebration Fund as a useful source of funding for CYP living in all placement types to apply for items such as, sports equipment, day trips and leisure activities.

5.14 Key themes from Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- ✓ 63% said they do have access to opportunities to access leisure activities, highlighting sports clubs, gyms, sea cadets and libraries. Some young people attended life skills workshops around managing money and cooking, but these were in the minority.
 - ✓ 21% of young people stated that they do not have the opportunity to access these types of experiences, reasons given were 'reduced access for 18+ to a wider range of activities, high cost and not have finances available to spend on these additional activities. CYP also told us 'feeling a lack of community or friends to attend with' also prevented them accessing activities.
 - ✓ 14% of young people were positive but had a mixed experience. This was due to a wide variety of reasons from lack of variety of activities and locations as the main factors.
 - ✓ The key barrier to accessing activities was lack of funding, 46% of CYP said they do not have enough financial assistance to access leisure, cultural or life skills activities.
- ★ *"I live near where I can access gym which has facilities like sauna, swimming pool and dance classes."* (care leaver 22 years)
- ★ *"I barely have enough to pay my bills and despite having a job and receiving universal credit I still get behind on drivers insurance and rent etc, so I don't really have enough money to do anything but thankfully my mum (foster mum) does pay for me".* (care leaver 20 years)

'If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you change about Leisure, Culture or Life Skills support from services'?

- ✓ There was a wide range of opinions expressed with this question. The main points are covered within Finance and Money, 46%, Types of Activity, 20%, and Access, 17%. Positively, 10% of respondents stated that there is nothing to currently change about the provision.

5.15 A sample of key actions in response to feedback from our CYP

Actions from CPB – Leisure, Culture & Life Skills

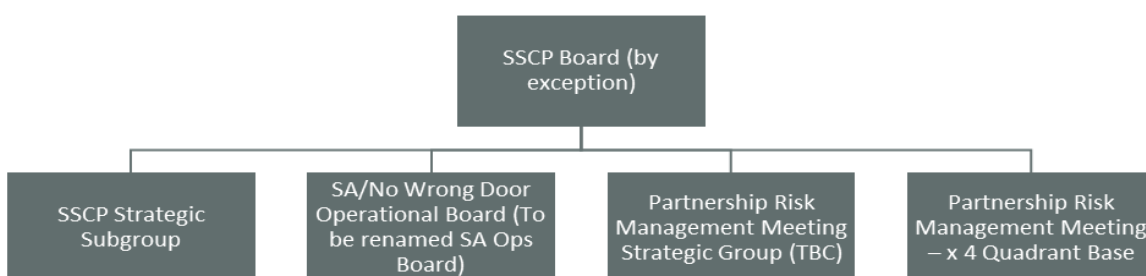
CPB action	The AD South-West Quadrant will look to raise the issue of the need to have a consistent housing offer and start to identify housing providers.
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Response	A housing protocol is in a mature stage of development with borough council colleagues.
CPB action	Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to promote the leisure activities to their young people, to link up with the UVP team on how best to continue to promote the available offers particularly those coming up to age 18.
Response	The corporate parenting project manager attends all service meetings on a bi-annual basis and will regularly share updates with IRO's and service managers.
CPB action	The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning will explore the idea of having a Surrey passport for young people to access all of the leisure and cultural provision in the county for free without having to worry about the cost of transport.
Response	The Cabinet Lead for Education & Learning is championing 'discounted travel for care leavers in Surrey'. This is also a Care Leaver Covenant action.

5.16 SAFEGUARDING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

The **Safeguarding Partnership** has committed to reviewing the processes around need and risk for all children in Surrey including those looked after. A review of the adolescent offer has resulted in the establishment of a Safeguarding Adolescents Board. The ambition for 2023 is to strengthen the exploitation/contextual safeguarding pathways as a partnership under the Safeguarding Adolescent Partnership Board to ensure our most at risk children get the appropriate resource and support across the partnership, including safe spaces for children to meet and build social networks, there are plans to create a second tier of support and police intelligence across the county council.

A new governance structure for the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership, will have a positive impact on keeping children safe.



The new **Safeguarding Adolescents Strategic sub-group** was established to provide governance and direction in relation to multi-agency partnership working, strategy, practice, and risk management arrangements for adolescents. This sub-group will oversee all aspects of partnership Safeguarding Adolescents work, including the Adolescent No Wrong Door agenda and ensure that all work is coordinated and joined-up. The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Sub-Group will report directly into the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership and by exception into the Health and Wellbeing Board. The

Adolescent Safeguarding Strategic Sub-Group will also oversee the board and programmes that sit underneath as per the structure chart noted above.

A memorandum of understanding is in place between **Surrey police and Children's Social Care** in relation to children placed in supported living, lodgings or accommodation in Surrey who may be at risk of going missing and/or exploitation. Surrey also carries out its responsibility as a Prevent first responder to report all children identified as being at risk of trafficking and/or radicalisation to the Home Office. Recent reports suggest that more girls are coming to the notice of Local Authorities for criminal exploitation and County Lines and that the most successful support network is usually that of a positive stable home life. Children's social care work enormously hard to connect with these children using motivational interviewing techniques alongside trauma informed practices and the support of our partners.

Following the Ofsted visit in February 2022, an audit was undertaken on all the experiencing and significant exploitation risk rated children case files. These audits showed a marked improvement in safety planning and recording. A further round of audits of our work on intervention and disruption across the partnership will be completed in spring 2023.

The Police are revising their tactical and strategic plans, and as part of this will be developing an intelligence led data product, that identifies who the **highest risk children** are, who are being exploited/regularly coming into contact with police/going missing/being groomed to commit crime etc. To ensure efforts are focussed on the right children and targeting those offenders that pose most risk to children, through the Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group Meetings. To enhance the response to targeting those that abuse children, police will be delivering refresher training on Child Exploitation Disruption Tactics and use of ancillary orders. Empowering officers and staff to utilise a suite of powers and orders to target perpetrators.

Police are also planning on forging closer links with the **3rd sector safeguarding network**, to develop opportunities to increase the intelligence picture, so that activity can be targeted at places where children and young people might be most at risk. Discussions are currently underway with Surrey Youth Focus, regarding opportunities to link in with those working in the Community.

5.17 Key themes from Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- ✓ CYP reported that communication and support from workers and carers can help with positive feelings of safety; this includes young people speaking to friends, family and the police.
 - ✓ CYP told us that having their basic needs met such as food, warm clothes, exercise and somewhere safe to live can all increase their feelings of being safe.
 - ✓ Both looked after children and care leavers reported that not having a safe and trusted adult to talk to can make them feel unsafe, however this varied between workers, carers and their family.
 - ✓ Young people mentioned going out into the community late at night can make them feel unsafe. It was also reported that being around people they don't know and going to places they don't know can increase their sense of feeling unsafe.
 - ✓ Several care leavers told us that loneliness, uncertainty, and isolation can cause a feeling of unsafety.
- ★ *“Being in my own space, knowing that I have money, food and shelter and having people around me.” (care leaver 22 years)*
- ★ *“Where I live is good because I feel very safe and I love the foster carers who I live with and I feel like I can talk to them whenever I feel I need to talk about something.” (looked after child)*

★ *“Going out at night to places I don't know might make me feel less safe.” (care leaver 21 years)*

What three things would make you feel safer? The top three things listed by young people that would make them feel safer were: a good support network, having someone to talk to and activities to help with their mental health.

- ✓ Several young people reported having a trusted adult they could talk to would help them to feel safer. Examples given were friends, family and the police.

5.18 Key actions in response to feedback from our CYP

Actions from CPB – Safeguarding of looked after children & care leavers	
CPB action	The UVP Officer will do more probing and in-depth questions going forward in consultation with the existing groups rather than through the UVP survey and she will liaise with the group leads on the matter.
Response	Follow up discussions are held with CYP following pre-meetings to identify additional support needs and signpost where necessary. Other themed consultation is collated and shared with the Board.
CPB action	The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families will discuss the issues around housing with officers: - around supported living and more work needed to be done with the borough and district councils, and housing providers around permanent housing.
Response	A housing protocol is in a mature stage of development, members and officers raise housing issues with colleagues at D&B quarterly meetings.
CPB action	The Missing and Exploitation Lead will follow up with the Member about his question around whether Surrey had any children at risk of exploitation in semi-independent accommodation.
Response	A detailed agenda item discussing exploitation & missing from care was discussed at CPOG and future reporting will include names of placement providers when presenting data. Information is shared with Gateway to resources.

6. Summary

This has been somewhat of a transformational year for the corporate parenting board. Sponsored projects have made excellent progress in establishing new and improved offers for CYP. A pre-paid prescription scheme for care leavers, a universal leisure offer, and a boxing offer are just some examples of service development driven by listening to the needs of CYP with lived experience. The ambitious Capital Programme is building 'Surrey homes for Surrey children', this will develop new housing provision for care leavers including three new children's homes.

Through the adoption of the Care Leaver Covenant in 2023, members will continue to ask, 'Is this good enough for my child?' and advocate for better provision and opportunities for care leavers to live independent and successful lives. With Covenant ambassadors, including Joanna Killian, SCC CEO, we will drive a whole local authority approach to corporate parenting responsibilities.

The Board has a refreshed Forward Plan 2023/24 that puts CYP at the centre of our work. Members are keen to explore dynamic ways to meaningfully engage and communicate with children and young people in our care. Board-led events, including the Children's Summer event and Care leavers-week autumn event, will provide further opportunities to showcase the outstanding achievements of CYP and the commitment of Surrey Children's Services and its partners, to be outstanding corporate parents.

This is going to be an exciting and busy year ahead and we look forward to providing an update on our progress in 2024.

**"Children are not the people of tomorrow,
but are people of today.
They have a right to be taken seriously,
And to be treated with tenderness and
respect.
They should be allowed to grow into
whoever they were meant to be –
'The unknown person' inside each of them
is our hope for the future"**
Janusz Korczak

Annex 1. Corporate Parenting Board Forward Plan 2023/24

Corporate Parenting Board 2023-24 Forward Plan

16 th May 2023 CPOG – 6 th June 2023	03 rd July 2023 CPOG – 25 th July 2023	05 th October 2023 CPOG – 24 th October 2023
<p>Annual Reports</p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> NO Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p><i>Children's Social Care Transformation update</i></p> <p>(1)IRO Annual report. (2)Children's Homes Annual report. (3)CPB Annual report. (4)Data of CLA & CL's report.</p> <p>No Standing agenda items</p>	<p>Theme 1: Placements, Sufficiency, Permanence</p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p>(1)Permanence report (FYI) (2)Sufficiency report. (3)Adoption annual report. (4)Fostering annual report.</p> <p>Standing agenda items</p>	<p>Theme 2: Education, Employment & Training</p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p><i>Children's Social Care Transformation update</i></p> <p>(1)SV Head annual report & care leavers EET/apprenticeships. (2)Looked after children with SEND.</p> <p>Standing agenda Items</p>
30 nd November 2023 CPOG – 19 th December 2023	25 th January 2024 CPOG – 15 th February 2024	21 st March 2024 CPOG – 18 th April 2024
<p>Theme 3: Health, Wellbeing & CAMHS</p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p>(1)EWMH and Mindworks report. (2)Surrey Heartlands ICB report.</p> <p>Standing agenda Items</p>	<p>Theme 4: Safeguarding children looked after & care leavers</p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p><i>Children's Social Care Transformation update</i></p> <p>(1)Criminal exploitation, missing & contextual safeguarding report. (2)Safeguarding, bullying & mental health report.</p> <p>Standing agenda Items</p>	<p>Theme 5: Preparation for Independence</p> <p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u> Themed CYP views by UVP</p> <p>(1)Moving towards independence (care leaver report). (2)Independent skills, leisure , culture & skills report.</p> <p>Standing agenda Items</p>

Annex 2. Glossary of Acronyms

ACME	Area Children Missing Education
AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
ASDAN	Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network
ASE	Adoption Southeast
BC	Borough Council
CYP/CYP	Children and Young People with care experience
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CLA	Child looked after
CLC	Care Leaver Covenant
CME	Children Missing & Exploited
CPB	Corporate Parenting Board
CPOG	Corporate Parenting Operational Group
CSH	Central Surrey Heath
D&B	District & Borough
DFE	Department For Education
EET	Education, Employment & Training
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages
EWMH	Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health
FCE	Foster Care Executive
HOSG	Health Outcomes Sub-Group
IHA	Initial Health Assessment
ILACS	Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services
IRO	Independent Review Officer
IV	Independent Visitor
KLOE	Key Lines of Inquiry
LCS	Leaving Care Service
LCS	Liquid logic Children's Social Care System Software
LMCS	Lead Member of Children's Services
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NTS	National Transfer Scheme
NWD	No Wrong Door
PA	Personal Advisor
PEP	Personal Education Plans
PVO	Placement Value Outcomes
REMA	Race equality & Minority Achievement
SAL	Surrey Adult Learning
SCC	Surrey County Council
SCIFF	Social Care Common Inspection Framework
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SHS	Surrey Healthy Schools
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SVS	Surrey Virtual School
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
UVP	User Voice & Participation (team)
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

Annex 3. Pre-paid prescription flyer

COST OF LIVING

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND | **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

ARE YOU A CARE LEAVER?

You could be entitled to

FREE PREPAYMENT CERTIFICATES

- You must be registered with a GP in Surrey
- Be a care leaver and eligible to receive a leaving care service from Surrey County Council
- Aged between 18 to 25 years old
- Require repeat prescriptions for ongoing medication
- Not already be exempt from prescription charges:
 - Young person in apprenticeship or work
 - Young person earning more than £15,276 per annum



For more information contact your Personal Adviser, or scan the QR code

NHS

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE
SELECT COMMITTEE



Thursday, 20 July 2023

CHILDREN'S HOMES – OFSTED REPORTS PUBLISHED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Purpose of report: The Select Committee will receive Ofsted reports on Surrey County Council-run Children's Homes in its agenda, as part of a communications plan agreed in June 2022.

Recommendation:

That the Select Committee reviews and notes the attached reports, asking questions as appropriate.

Next Steps:

The Select Committee will receive further reports as they are published.

Report contact

Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer

Contact details

07816 091463, julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk

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SC045408

Registered provider: Surrey County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides a short-break service for children who are having an emotional crisis at home. It is part of a wider service for children experiencing poor mental health and is operated by Surrey County Council and the local NHS trust.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 May 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 29 November 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/11/2022	Full	Good
29/03/2022	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
06/10/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/12/2018	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

One child was staying at the home during the inspection. Inspectors observed positive interactions between staff and the child. The child said that staff listen and are friendly. Staff form positive relationships with children in their care.

Planning for admissions is thorough. A nurse completes a suitability assessment for each child before admission. This assessment forms the foundation of the child's placement plan and risk assessments. These reports are robust and reflective of the child's needs. They rely on input from the child's entire support network. This approach ensures that the relevant information is available to support the best outcomes for children who stay at the home.

Parents give high praise about the care that their children receive. One parent described the service as 'fantastic' and said that they wished it was available across the country.

Children's views are sought to inform placement objectives. This takes place both pre- and post-placement. Most children make progress during their short stay in this home.

All children and parents must give consent on admission. The consent forms are comprehensive and located on each child's file. Children have input into their placement plans. The child's voice is evident in this home.

Children take part in a variety of activities when they stay at the home. These include trips to the cinema and gym, going on walks and going bowling. Children can cook their own meals alongside staff. This supports children with their independence and well-being.

All children have access to the 'Hope service' which provides education, therapy and extra activities off site. Staff support children with their education.

From the time of admission, staff are focused on supporting children through their next transition. One external professional said that staff had been 'integral' in transition support for children. Staff are committed to providing the best outcomes for children.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Staff know children well. They are competent in supporting children who are facing a high level of mental and emotional crisis. Risk assessments are thorough and updated daily to reflect any change in behaviour or need, with consistent management oversight. Children are safe during their stay at this home.

Children rarely go missing from this home. This is due to the care given by staff and good staff-to-child ratios. If a child does go missing, staff respond immediately.

Professionals and parents spoken to during this inspection raised no safeguarding concerns. Positive relationships with the staff team are a strength of this service. Police have regular updates with the management team. This partnership allows for a planned care approach that is proactive, as opposed to reactive. This practice keeps children safe in the home and the wider community.

Staff report safeguarding notifications to the relevant professionals. Notifications are timely and relevant. Professionals say that staff work well to ensure that children are safe.

Safer recruitment of staff is thorough. Interviews are carried out by a diverse panel of senior leaders, staff and care leavers. This ensures that the right people are employed to support children.

Staff build relationships with the children and their extended networks quickly. However, some parents expressed concerns that they are not informed of incidents as quickly as they would like. This continues to be an area for improvement.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager was registered with Ofsted in March 2023. She has the relevant experience and is a confident leader. All staff feedback has been positive, describing the manager as supportive and approachable. This leads to a calm and stable feel in the home.

The home reopened to full capacity in January 2023. The senior leaders and managers have managed the reopening effectively, prioritising the needs of the children and ensuring that the staff team was at full capacity and staff had completed all training before more children were admitted.

The manager knows the children well. She is a good advocate for ensuring that children are placed appropriately in the home. The manager is committed to the children and to progressing the service further.

Managers and leaders understand the home's strengths and areas for development. The manager completes monthly monitoring reports for senior leaders. These are robust and identify areas for growth. This provides an added layer of monitoring, which ensures that gaps in the service are identified and improvements are made.

Regular supervision and yearly performance discussions are embedded in practice. Staff development is enhanced by a continued menu of training reflective of the needs of children that they care for. Most staff have completed all mandatory training. However, shortfalls were identified in the recording of staff training. Specifically, the expected timescales for completion of some mandatory training were missing.

What does the children’s home need to do to improve? Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the ‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff—</p> <p>seek to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with such persons, bodies or organisations as the registered person considers appropriate having regard to the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the children’s home is to provide care and accommodation. (Regulation 5 (d))</p> <p>In particular, this relates to ensuring that safeguarding incidents are shared with parents in a timely manner.</p>	<p>24 July 2023</p>

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs and should understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home. In particular, ensure the recording of staff training is consistent, with specific reference to timescales. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 53, paragraph 10.11)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the ‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC045408

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Surrey County Council

Registered provider address: Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7QQ

Responsible individual: Lisa Wade

Registered manager: Samantha Heighes

Inspectors

Skye Frain, Social Care Inspector

Jane Balfe, Social Care Inspector

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SC405933

Registered provider: Surrey County Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is run by a local authority and provides short breaks for children with sensory impairment, learning disabilities and physical disabilities. Twenty-seven children are currently registered to use the short-breaks service and up to six children can use the service at any one time.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 12 May 2014.

Inspection dates: 31 May and 1 June 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected good

The effectiveness of leaders and managers good

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 12 April 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/04/2022	Full	Good
13/07/2021	Full	Outstanding
29/08/2019	Full	Good
23/10/2018	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children are cared for by staff who are child-focused. Staff receive training specific to the needs of the children and staff consult regularly with parents. Consequently, children are cared for by staff who have a good understanding of how to meet their needs.

Children make good progress from their starting points. They have developed their independence skills in different areas. For example, children who required support at mealtimes are now able to feed themselves with minimal support. Staff work in partnership with health and education professionals to meet the children's needs. They attend review meetings at schools, provide support with transporting children to school at times and share information with relevant professionals. This ensures consistency in the care that children receive across the different settings.

Staff know the children well and recognise progress for each child in line with their individual capabilities. A range of communication methods are used by staff to capture the wishes and views of children. Consequently, children feel listened to.

There are positive relationships between staff and parents. Parents are well informed when incidents occur and are kept updated on children's progress. A parent said that their child enjoys coming to the home and calls it a holiday. Another child's parents were pleased with the transition process provided by staff and added that the team felt like 'family'.

Children are provided with opportunities to engage in a variety of activities. These include visits to the local community and spending time in the home's sensory or computing rooms. Children have access to a recently refurbished, spacious garden containing various apparatus for their enjoyment, such as a trampoline, roundabout and swing. This allows children to have positive day-to-day experiences.

Children live in a well-maintained home. However, the kitchen and dining areas, including some appliances and equipment, were not clean at the time of the inspection. The wall in the dining room is defaced with scribbling and markings and some displayed pictures are damaged. Children's bedrooms are not always decorated with personal items and are furnished with plastic mattresses. This detracts from the homely feel.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Risk assessments are completed and reviewed effectively. They clearly indicate risks for children and how these are to be managed. Discussions take place during staff meetings and with staff individually about how risks are to be managed. This assures children's safety.

Staff ensure that children's health needs are met. The effective use of newly implemented systems helps to ensure that medication handling and administration are completed as directed by medical professionals. Where medication errors occur, action is taken to report and address the concerns. However, medication errors deemed serious by the provider are not always promptly reported to Ofsted. This prevents timely oversight by the regulator.

Children do not go missing from the home. They are closely monitored by staff in the home and in the community. Well-documented missing persons protocols are in place to guide staff on actions to take if children do go missing.

Staff use an individualised approach to manage children's behaviours effectively. However, some incident reports do not clearly detail the de-escalation measures used to support children to calm. Some reports also lack a record of the manager's oversight. This results in missed opportunities for reflection.

Leaders and managers adhere to safer recruitment processes. Thorough checks are completed before staff commence employment. This helps to protect children from potentially unsafe adults.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers are enthusiastic about providing good standards of care to children. The manager works alongside a caring and friendly staff team to ensure that children are provided with an individualised approach to their care.

Leaders and managers recognise the importance of children having stability and continuity of care, which they achieve through a stable staff team. This has resulted in children and their parents forming positive, trusting relationships with staff.

Leaders and managers ensure that staff have access to training programmes specific to children's individualised needs. Staff receive mandatory training when they start work. Further training in line with children's health needs is provided to staff. However, the training matrix does not always indicate completed or overdue training.

Staff receive regular and effective supervision sessions. Leaders and managers place a great emphasis on ensuring that staff receive ongoing support and development outside of their supervision space. There is also a focus on staff's individual needs. Consequently, staff feel well supported, empowered and valued.

Leaders and managers provide reflective group discussions about maintaining good practice. This demonstrates the ongoing commitment of leaders and managers to ensure that children's needs are at the forefront of their practice.

What does the children’s home need to do to improve? Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the ‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—</p> <p>details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure.</p> <p>(Regulation 35 (3)(a)(v))</p>	30 September 2023
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious.</p> <p>(Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p>	30 September 2023

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the children’s home provides a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of the children. The home should be a homely, domestic environment. Children’s homes must comply with relevant health and safety legislations (alarms, food hygiene, etc.); however, in doing so, homes should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic rather than ‘institutional’ impression. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that records demonstrate that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and that they understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home. (‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 53, paragraph 10.11)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC405933

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Surrey County Council

Registered provider address: Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7QQ

Responsible individual: Paul Thomas

Registered manager: Elizabeth Mahdi

Inspectors

Sasha Reid, Social Care Inspector

Alphie Khumalo, Social Care Inspector

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE
SELECT COMMITTEE



Thursday, 20 July 2023

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Purpose of the report: The Select Committee is apprised of the latest CFL performance information, which consists of:

- (a) Key indicators in children's social care measuring progress made in Ofsted recommendations following the January 2022 inspection of Surrey Local Authority Children's Services;
- (b) Turnover of social workers and foster carers to measure progress in the Children's Recruitment, Retention and Culture Workforce Planning Strategy;
- (c) External assessments of all areas within the Committee's remit.

Recommendation:

Members review the performance information.

Next Steps:

The Select Committee will use the performance overview to inform Committee business.

Report contact

Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer

Contact details

07816 091463, julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk

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Children's Social Care Key Indicators

Metrics - KPI component	What is the KPI/Target where applicable	What is the statistical benchmark for National/Comparable LAs		Figure for: Mar	Mar RAG	Figure for: Apr	Apr RAG	Figure for: May	May RAG	RAG Narrative
Number of CSPA contacts received	N/A	N/A		4912		3575		4412		The rise in Contacts in May demonstrates some of the volatility highlighted in other reports. The volume of Contacts to C-SPA had decreased in April by over a thousand, and work to understand this suggests that school closure was a significant part. This in turn highlights the significant volume of traffic from school settings which needs to be explored. There is an underlying ongoing drop in volumes which speaks to the impact of some of the transformation work in the Early Help space.
Number and percentage of contacts progressed to social care	N/A	N/A		680 14%		453 13%		605 14%		Despite the fluctuation in contact to referral volumes, the monthly average of families progressing to social care has remained consistent for the quarter and indeed throughout 2022 and 2023 to date. This suggests that thresholds are consistently applied within that high volume.
4.2 Re-referrals to Children's Services	22%	24%	23%	17%	G	15%	G	13%	G	The Re-referral rate continues to fall, strengthening the view that families are being supported either at an earlier point to stop deterioration or the plans made at point of step-down are sustaining positive change. We are performing better than statistical neighbours and below the national average for this indicator which in this context is a positive position.
4.3 Proportion of Assessments completed within forty-five working days	90%	90%	88%	73%	R	79%	R	81%	A	There is an improving picture with this indicator but it still sits below target. 516 assessments were being progressed in May. Analysis suggests that most assessments are completed within the 45 days but that practitioners tend to use the full period rather than bringing assessments to completion at earlier stages when the forward plan is identified. Assessments will be subject to a deep dive through the Transformation & Assurance Board in the Autumn
5.2 Number of Children in Need	N/A	N/A		2016		2016		2016		
5.2 Child In Need Visits up to date	90%	N/A		72%	R	77%	R	77%	R	This indicator remains subject to management action with Service Managers tasked with understanding and addressing the reasons for this. There are some data cleansing issues that account for a small proportion of the "children not seen" where the case is no longer open. There is an issue of not taking account of timescales when booking the next visit, with a number being overdue by one or two days. In one case the family are in Australia for an extended holiday. These variables give an indication of some of the issues that need consistent attention.
6.2 Proportion of S47 Enquiries with an outcome of Initial Child Protection Conference	39%	38%	37%	28%	R	17%	R	29%	R	Conversion rates from Section 47 to Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) are now on a par with Regional counterparts and within a % margin of Stat Neighbours. With the concentration on working with families wherever safe to do so via CIN processes, this may lead to some divergence in benchmarking going forward, but within a positive contextual frame
6.3 Child Protection volumes and rate	N/A	34.4	41.4	780 29.4		772 29.1		753		The continuing decrease in children being subject to CP Plans, month on month, is indicative of the approach to responding to families' needs at a lower tier intervention, utilising the Family Safeguarding Model to provide safe responses. There is also a greater confidence within CP Conferences to step children down to child in need at an earlier point.
6.4 Initial Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	85%	86%	83%	90%	G	84%	A	89%	G	This indicator continues to see improvement over the quarter as management action to ensure early notification of the need for a Conference became

										effective. The sustainability of progress will be a test within the new service delivery model.
6.5 Child Protection Plan repeat in 2 years	N/A	N/A		24%		16%		6%		There has been a statistically significant fall in the number of children being taken to an ICPC for a second time within 2 years. This is an improving picture and the confidence around FSG when families re-present is a feature of how these children's situations are progressed. The Independent Chairs Service has also responded to the aspirations of the model in stepping families down into a robust child in need framework rather than maintaining a child protection plan.
6.6 Review Child Protection Conferences held within timescale	100%	95%	93%	99%	A	99%	A	95%	A	As has been referenced previously the Independent Reviewing Service is much more in control of the outcomes for this indicator and the higher performance reflects this. When target is not achieved this is usually because of sickness or other issues that required the Review to be postponed.
6.7 Proportion of children subject to a CP Plan for over 24 months	2%	2.4%	2.0%	4.2%	R	4.3%	R	4.2%	R	As with the above we are slightly above Stat Neighbour/England average. This group of children are more consistent relating to the circumstances of the child protection plan being an ongoing feature. In May there were twenty-eight children who had been on a CP Plan for more than 2 years, which continued a steady decrease in 2022/23. For some children who have been subject to an extended period of being on a CP Plan, any entry into Care Proceedings where children remain at home, such as Interim Supervision Orders, can lead to reaching 24 months on a plan.
6.8 Children subject to a CP Plan seen in the last ten working days	90%	N/A		88%	A	90%	G	88%	A	There are improvements in individual areas with some being above 90% performance against this indicator but average weighting impacts on the County performance. Again, there are issues around data cleansing affecting some of these figures, with for instance cases that should have closed to CP still showing as open. For the majority of children, overdue visits have been completed within 1-5 days of the due date, suggesting that booking visits to allow for slippage is not common practice

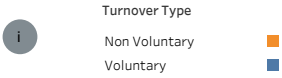
Metrics - KPI component	What is the KPI/Target where applicable	What is the statistical benchmark for National/Comparable LAs		Figure for: Mar		Mar RAG	Figure for: Apr		Apr RAG	Figure for: May		May RAG	Narrative to attach to the RAG ratings
7.1 Number of Looked After Children and rate per 10k	N/A	43.7	67	1022	38.6		1024	38.6		1030	38.9		There is no target attached to this metric. There is an overall increase but a significant part of this is growth in UASC numbers related to the National Transfer Scheme and young people being found within Surrey's borders and being accommodated.
7.2 Number of Care Leavers	N/A	N/A		854			842			841			
7.3 Personal Education Plans – Quality Termly	75%	N/A 77% G		77%		G							These are termly figures and will be updated at the end of the summer term. The current target will be reset to that is more in line with our aspirations for young people's education following the service delivery realignment.
7.4 Pathway plans – Looked After Children	95%	N/A		R		R	80%			81%			This indicator is affected by the lag in transitioning young people from LAC Care Plans to Pathway Plans at 16. This is an area of focus for IRO's at the penultimate Review prior to the young person's 16 th birthday.
7.2 Looked After Children with up-to-date Reviews	90%	N/A		87%		A	88%		A	92%		G	The majority of children in care have timely Reviews but most delay is at the first Review which is held within 4 weeks of accommodation and relates to allocation capacity within the social work and IRS teams. As seen above at point of subsequent reviews, timeliness is achieved.
7.3 Looked After Children statutory visits	90%	N/A		94%		G	93%		G	93%		G	The Looked After Children's Teams have sustained performance against this indicator meaning that the vast majority of children are seen regularly and in time. With the move to service specific leadership there will be additional efforts to further improve performance for the small number of children who have delayed visits. There is consistency of performance across the County and performance continues to exceed target.
7.7 Looked After Children Initial Health Assessments completed	90%	N/A		85%		A	85%		A	83%		A	Performance is in line with National & Stat neighbour averages. Initial timeliness can be affected by late notification of care entry and both Initial & Review Health Assessments are compromised by staffing issues within Community Paediatrics. There is an ongoing impact of post-Pandemic capacity issues that are seen across the health sector, but these are being addressed, although the lag is continuing to play out in stats. The greater control over Review timeliness is evidenced within the metrics but initial timeliness will be a feature of first LAC Reviews.
7.8 Looked After Children Review Health Assessments completed	90%	92%	91%	88%		A	88%		A	89%		A	
7.9 Looked After Children Dental Checks completed - in care more than 1 year	90%	50%	40%	85%		A	85%		A	84%		A	Although not meeting target performance locally is significantly better than national/stat neighbour. Examination of data shows that most who have not had dental checks sit within the adolescent cohort. This is a featured area within LAC Reviews and IRO's will be asked to profile/promote dental health in forthcoming reviews.
7.13 Looked After Children Short Term Placement Stability	9%	9.3%	9.0%	8.8%		G	8.5%		G	8.7%		G	Short term stability has seen some pressure in this quarter but has dipped below external benchmarking. This indicator suggests that most children do not experience successive placements before settling into a longer-term home. Some children may have one or more emergency/short term placements before a permanent home is secured and for a small number of young people difficulties in stabilising challenging behaviours can lead to repeat placement breakdowns.

7.14 Looked After Children Long Term Placement Stability	70%	65%	70%	70%	G	69%	A	69%	A	Long term stability appears more likely when young people are retained "in County" and performance against this indicator has been stable over the quarter.
7.15 Looked After Children placed over twenty miles from Surrey	20%	27%	16%	30%	R	30%	R	31%	R	Sufficiency within County remains a factor within this indicator & 320 (31%) children are cared for more than twenty miles from home. There is growing divergence from the National/Regional average at 16%/22% respectively, although adjacent with Stat Neighbours at 28%. A higher number of late entry adolescents who move to residential is a recent development. With the opening of new SCC residential homes imminently and resolving under-occupancy at others some of this can be mitigated against.
8.2 Care Leavers in Contact with Surrey	95%	N/A		86%	A	87%	A	85%	R	There are issues with one service area which account for most of the improvements required and this is being addressed by the responsible Assistant Director with improvements already being noted.
8.3 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 17-18 in suitable accommodation	TBC	92%	91%	91%		89%		93%		This figure relates to those young people who are classed as NFA/homeless - often young people who have been unable to maintain their tenancy and are awaiting other accommodation solutions, the small number of young people who are in custody and that number of UASC who did not remain in our care after initial accommodation and whose whereabouts are unknown.
8.3 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	65%	87%	88%	96%	G	95%	G	95%	G	Care Leaver accommodation suitability is at very good levels and significantly above the Surrey target, which will be made more ambitious with the new service delivery mode;. and that of statistical neighbours. This indicator suggests that the majority of young people are in accommodation that is of a good standard and is meeting their needs. The bi-monthly Accommodation Panels looking at young people's needs is one strand of how quality is maintained. Where accommodation is unsuitable this can be custody as for one young person or other types of accommodation which does not correspond with the care plan.
8.4 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 17-18 in education, employment and training (EET)	TBC	66%	65%	71%		67%		71%		This indicator suggests that a core group of young people are not accessing employment, education, or training opportunities. There is no significant difference between 16-18 & older young people in this group. 5% are not engaged in EET due to illness or parenting responsibilities. NEET clinics operate in all quadrants with a focus on timely interventions to address NEET status, alongside support from the Post 16 education advisor from the virtual school about relevant opportunities. Community partners provide a targeted range of support.
8.4 Proportion of Care Leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment and training (EET)	65%	54%	52%	62%	A	63%	A	61%	A	
9.2 LAC Missing Children Going Missing in the Month	N/A	85	10880	53		48		47		
10.1 Child Supervision recorded to timescale	90%	N/A		84%	A	82%	A	81%	R	The lack of progress in this domain is disappointing, although some areas are performing better, with one Quadrant hitting target. The stats are at odds with what individual practitioners report in audits and during Practice Learning Days, suggesting that the difficulty is often related to the note of the supervision being entered onto LCS. There are ongoing capacity issues but these do not explain all of the issues with compliance. This will be a primary area for direct intervention within the new delivery model.

Social Worker Turnover

CFL Qualified Social Workers

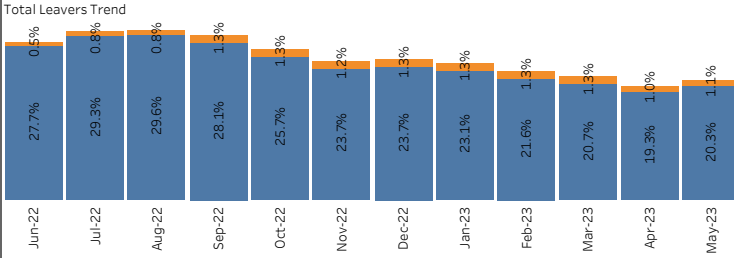
Workforce Information to 5/31/2023
(Excludes Bank Staff)



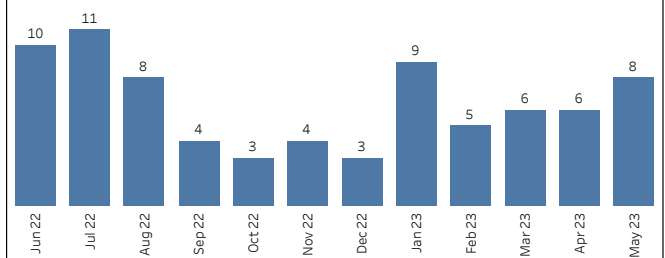
- Social worker roles
- Advanced Social Worker
 - Senior Social Worker
 - Social Worker
 - Team Manager
 - Service Manager

Quadrant All
Teams All

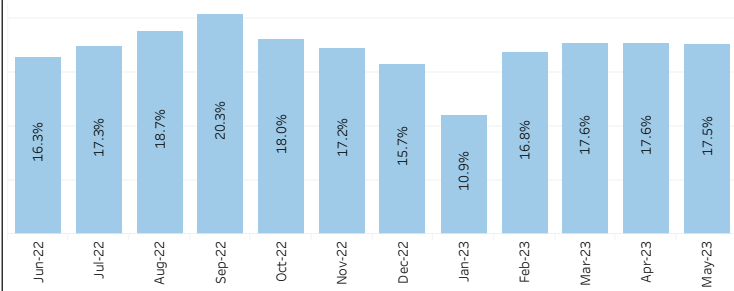
Total Leavers Trend (rolling 12 months)
Total turnover is displayed - hover to see the Non/Voluntary split.



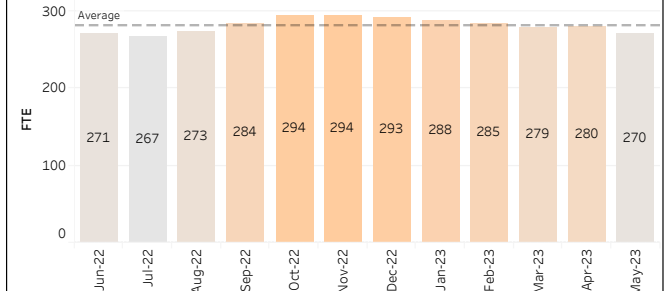
Actual Voluntary Leavers each month
12 months to 5/31/2023



Starters Trend (rolling 12 months)



Staffing Levels (FTEs - snapshot at each month end)



Tenure in years Leavers in the 12 months to 5/31/2023



Leavers by Category Leavers in the 12 months to 5/31/2023



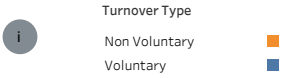
Leaver Reasons Leavers in the 12 months to 5/31/2023



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CFL Qualified Social Workers

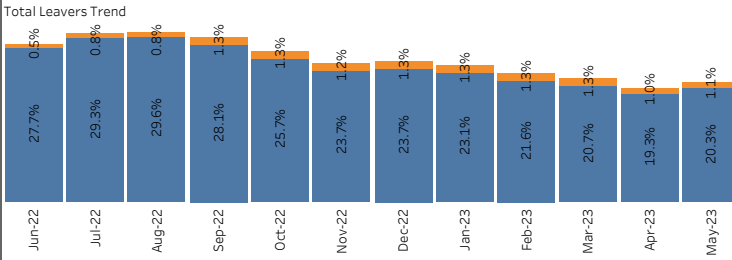
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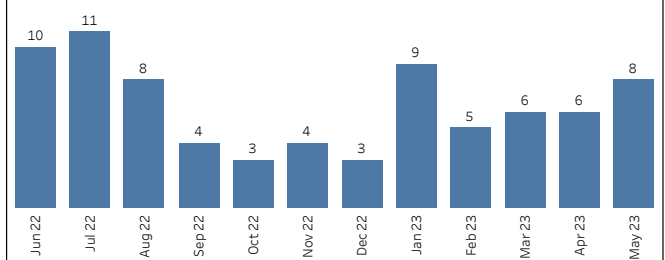
- Social worker roles**
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 - Service Manager

Quadrant All
Teams All

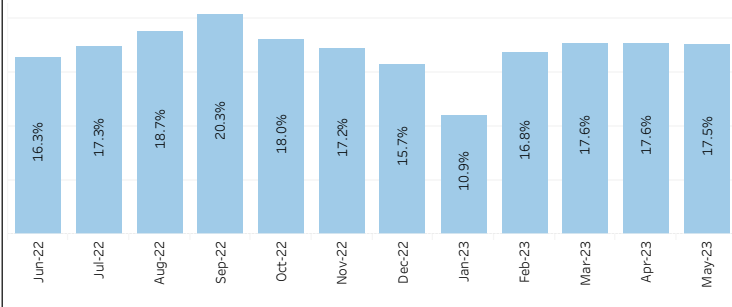
Total Leavers Trend (rolling 12 months)
Total turnover is displayed - hover to see the Non/Voluntary split.



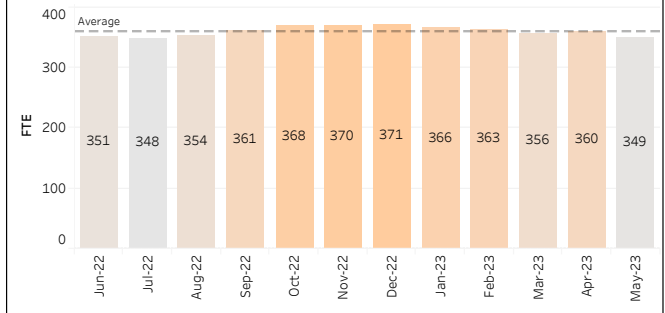
Actual Voluntary Leavers each month
12 months to 5/31/2023



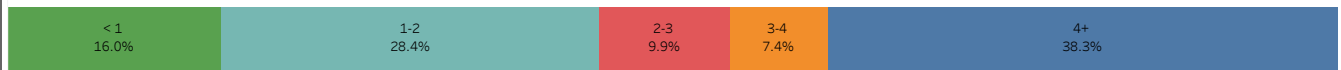
Starters Trend (rolling 12 months)



Staffing Levels (FTEs - snapshot at each month end)



Tenure in years Leavers in the 12 months to 5/31/2023



Leavers by Category Leavers in the 12 months to 5/31/2023



Leaver Reasons Leavers in the 12 months to 5/31/2023



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Foster Carer Turnover

Information is supplied annually to Ofsted in the form of a prescribed data-set.

Collection year	Total Number of households at 31 st March	Number of places at 31 st March	Number of Family and Friends households
2018	388	658	
2019	377	643	
2020	393	656	109
2021	398	662	113
2022	397	660	122

(Source: Ofsted Fostering Data Set Return)

Fostering Households approved by fostering panel in year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023 (to 31/03/23)	2023-24 (to 31/5/23)
General foster carer	31	21	18	1
Friends and family carer	50	41	37	10
Fostering to adopt carer	2	4	-	
Short breaks – children who are also looked after carer	1	2	-	
Short breaks – children who are not otherwise looked after carer	3	0	-	
Total	88	62	55	11

(Source: Surrey Fostering Panel Case Data)

Collection year	Total Number of households resigned or deregistered by fostering panel	Number of mainstream fostering households	Number of connected person fostering households
2020-2021	42	11	31
2021-2022	38	24	14
2022-2023	47	31	16
2023-2024	8	3	5

(Source: Surrey Fostering Panel Case Data)

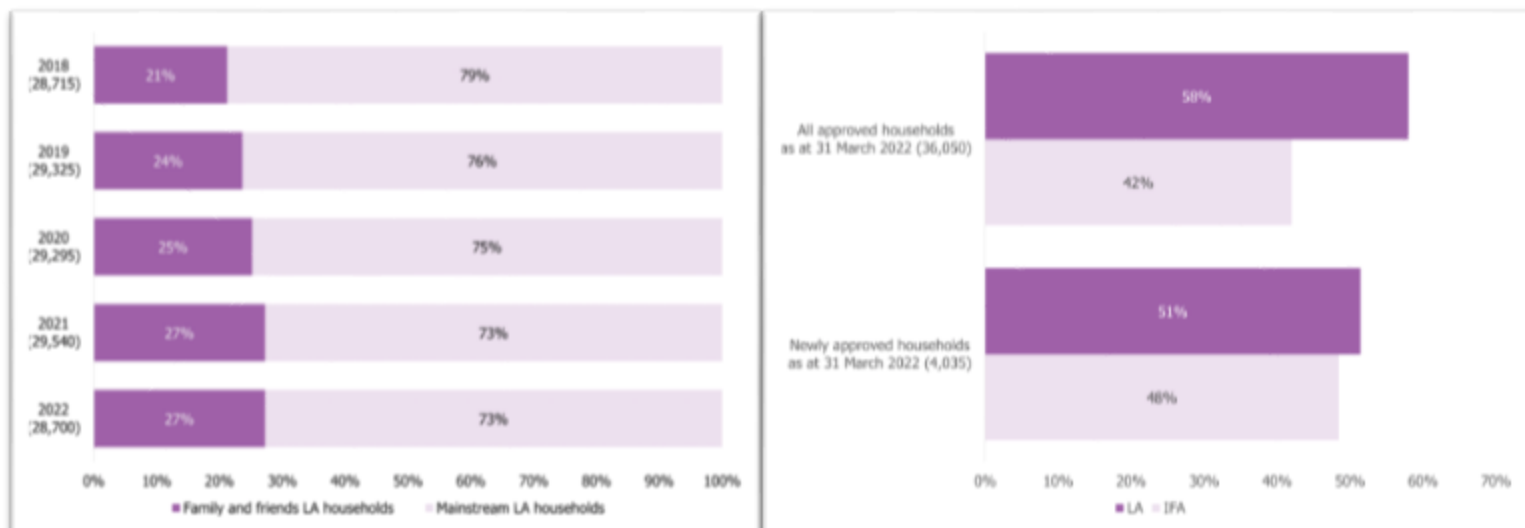
Deregistration reason – Household number	2022-23	2023-24 (to 31/5/23)
Resigned due to retirement	11	1
Resigned due to change of circumstances	14	2
Resigned due to difficulty fulfilling the fostering role	3	
Resigned as child no longer looked after (Special Guardianship obtained)	8	
Resigned as child no longer looked after (Turned 18 and Staying Put)		1
Resigned due to impact of fostering on emotional well-being	1	
Resigned as child no longer in their care	5	4
Resigned following standards of care investigation	1	
Deregistered by the service as no longer suitable to foster	4	

(Source: Fostering Service exit interviews and Fostering Panel Case Data)

National Statistics – Fostering in England April 21 – March 22

Ofsted’s statistical release covers 146 Local Authority fostering services and 282 Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. It includes data about fostering households, foster carers, retention, recruitment and capacity.

There is an upward trend in fostering provision provided by family and friends households. Family and friends households made up 27% of all Local Authority fostering households as at 31 March 2022, an increase from 21% in 2017-18. Family and friends households accounted for 60% of households approved in-year that were still active on 31 March 2022, up slightly from 56% in 2017 to 2018. This type of household made up 60% of deregistrations by Local Authorities in the 2021 to 2022 period



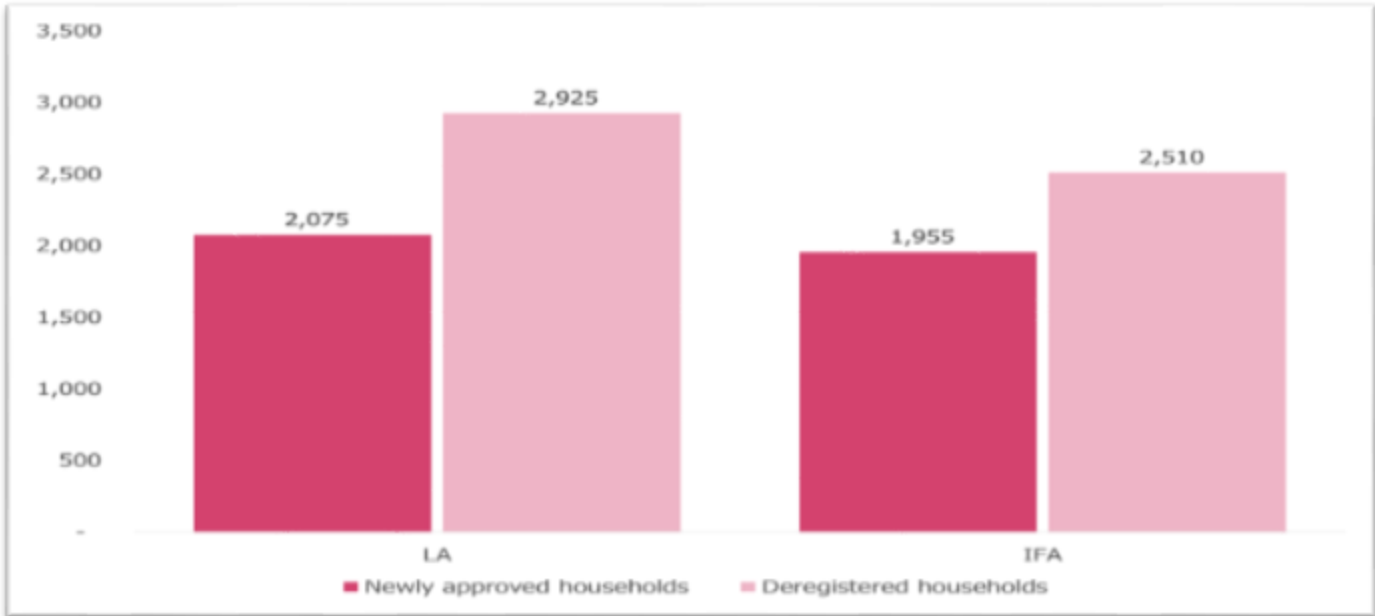
The number of **enquiries** about fostering rose in 2022 compared with previous years and over the past 5 years between 70% and 79% of these were made to IFAs. However there has been a downward trend in the number of **applications** for mainstream fostering over the last 5 years with only 6% of those making initial enquiries going on to make an application. The conversion rate remains different for the LA and IFA sectors. Actual applications were equivalent to 4% of initial enquiries for IFAs and 12% for LAs. For us, in Surrey, over the past 10 months, applications received are equivalent to 16% of initial enquiries.

For both sectors, applications are at their lowest level in several years. Local Authority applications have decreased by 22% since 2018.

Ofsted data shows that in 2021 to 2022, more mainstream fostering households deregistered (5,435) than were approved (4,035), leading to a net decrease in fostering capacity of 4% since 2018. However this masks a difference in the overall trend between the sectors, with IFAs seeing an increase of 3% in households since 2018, and Local Authorities seeing a decrease in capacity of 8% during the same period.

Of mainstream fostering households that held an approved status at some point during 2021 to 2022, 13% had deregistered by the end of the year (5,435 of 41,485).

Local Authority mainstream households tended to stay registered for longer than IFA households. Local Authorities reported that 31% of deregistrations were within 2 years of approval, while 28% had been with their services for 10 or more years. In contrast, a higher proportion of deregistrations were within 2 years among IFAs (34%), and a lower proportion had been registered for 10 or more years (15%).



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External Assessments

Area	Assessor	Situation in 2021	Situation in 2023
Children's services	Ofsted	Inadequate (May 2018)	Requires improvement (Mar 2022)
Youth offending team	HM Inspectorate of Probation	Inadequate (Aug 2019)	Good (Mar 2022)
In-house children's homes (Table 1)	Ofsted	70% Good or Outstanding	78% Good or Outstanding
Schools and AP (Tables 2 & 3)	Ofsted	Maintained: 96.1% Good or Outstanding Academies: 90.1% Good or Outstanding	Maintained: 95.1% Good or Outstanding Academies: 87.8% Good or Outstanding
SEND (local area inspection)	Ofsted & CQC	Progress in 4 of 5 areas of weakness identified in 2016 (May 2019)	Not yet reinspected
Adult learning	Ofsted	Good (Jun 2016)	Good (Jun 2022)

Table 1: **SCC children's homes** as of July 2023

SCC children's home	Previous inspection	Most recent inspection
SC405933	Good (Apr 2022)	Good (Jun 2023)
1230411	Good (Jul 2021)	Good (Feb 2023)
SC370703	Improved effectiveness (Interim Mar 2022)	Good (Mar 2023)
SC040633	Outstanding (May 2021)	Good (Mar 2023)
SC040638	Inadequate (Sept 2022)	Monitoring visit Oct 2022
SC040631	Requires improvement Nov 2022)	Assurance inspection Mar 2023
SC040642	Outstanding (Apr 2021)	Good (Feb 2023)
SC068827	Inadequate (Dec 2022)	Good (March 2023)
SC045408	Good (Nov 2022)	Good (May 2023)

Non-SCC children's homes housing Surrey children as of June 2023

Ofsted grade	Percentage of homes in England	Number of Surrey children affected
Outstanding or Good	87.8%	94
Requires improvement	4.9%	4
Newly registered/yet to be inspected	7.3%	7

NB In addition five children are housed in homes in Wales/Scotland, inspected by the Care Inspectorate.

Schools and Alternative Provision

Who runs what in the sector as of July 2023:

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRU
Maintained	155 (52%)	10 (17%)	12 (48%)	5 (63%)
Academies	144	48	13	3
Total	299	58	25	8

Table 2: Ratings for maintained schools

Surrey County Council **Ofsted Monthly Management Information: Data Tables**
 1 = Outstanding | 2 = Good | 3 = Requires Improvement | 4 = Inadequate.

Table Name: 31 May 2023 | Data taken at end of: May 2023

Show Data As: No. of Schools No. of Students | School type at time: (All) | Current School Type: (Multiple values)

Surrey										
	Overall effectiveness ¹					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Nursery	1	3				4	4	4	100.0%	
Primary	20	126	7	1	1	155	154	146	94.8%	5.2%
PRU	2	3				5	5	5	100.0%	
Secondary	3	6	1			10	10	9	90.0%	10.0%
Special	6	6				12	12	12	100.0%	
Grand Total	32	144	8	1	1	186	185	176	95.1%	4.9%

All Local Authorities										
	Overall effectiveness ¹					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Nursery	236	137	8	2		383	383	373	97.4%	2.6%
Primary	1,342	7,806	698	57	9	9,912	9,903	9,148	92.4%	7.6%
PRU	29	138	7	1		175	175	167	95.4%	4.6%
Secondary	81	501	67	9		658	658	582	88.4%	11.6%
Special	218	320	23	4	1	566	565	538	95.2%	4.8%
Grand Total	1,906	8,902	803	73	10	11,694	11,684	10,808	92.5%	7.5%

Table 3: Ratings for academies including free schools

Surrey County Council **Ofsted Monthly Management Information: Data Tables**
 1 = Outstanding | 2 = Good | 3 = Requires Improvement | 4 = Inadequate.

Table Name: 31 May 2023 | Data taken at end of: May 2023

Show Data As: No. of Schools No. of Students | School type at time: (All) | Current School Type: (Multiple values)

Surrey										
	Overall effectiveness ¹					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Primary	25	102	11	5	1	144	143	127	88.8%	11.2%
PRU	3					3	3	3	100.0%	
Secondary	13	31	2	1	1	48	47	44	93.6%	6.4%
Special	4	2	4	2	1	13	12	6	50.0%	50.0%
Grand Total	45	135	17	8	3	208	205	180	87.8%	12.2%

All Local Authorities										
	Overall effectiveness ¹					Total	Inspected	Good or Outstanding	As a Percentage (G or O R or I)	
	1	2	3	4	Not been inspected					
Primary	971	4,838	656	309	96	6,870	6,774	5,809	85.8%	14.2%
PRU	28	85	23	14	10	160	150	113	75.3%	24.7%
Secondary	447	1,643	360	180	56	2,686	2,630	2,090	79.5%	20.5%
Special	134	203	38	41	54	470	416	337	81.0%	19.0%
Grand Total	1,580	6,769	1,077	544	216	10,186	9,970	8,349	83.7%	16.3%

NB Academies may not have been inspected since converting.