

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE



Tuesday, 29 June 2021

Democratic and Members' Services
Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

14:00

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

**University of Cambridge Sports Centre (Multi-Purpose
Room), Phillippa Fawcett Drive, Cambridge CB3 0AS
[Venue Address]**

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press by appointment only

- 1. Notification of the Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the
Children and Young People Committee**
verbal item
- 2. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Guidance on declaring interests is available at
<http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code>
- 3. Minutes of the 9th March 2021 and Action Log** **5 - 22**
- 4. Petitions and Public Questions**

DECISIONS

- 5. Agenda Plan and Training Plan** **23 - 28**

KEY DECISION

6. **Childrens Occupational Therapy (OT) in Cambridgeshire Childrens Community Services (CCS)** 29 - 42

OTHER DECISIONS

7. **Finance Monitoring Report** 43 - 80
8. **Service Director Report** 81 - 88
9. **Supporting Vulnerable Families** 89 - 98
10. **Cambridgeshire Sufficiency Strategy** 99 - 150
11. **Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels Report** 151 - 164

The Children and Young People Committee comprises the following members:

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact

COVID-19

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Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Chair) Councillor Maria King (Vice-Chair) Councillor David Ambrose Smith Councillor Michael Atkins Councillor Alex Bulat Councillor Simon Bywater Councillor Claire Daunton Councillor Anne Hay Councillor Samantha Hoy Councillor Jonas King Councillor Keith Prentice Councillor Alan Sharp Councillor Philippa Slatter Councillor Simone Taylor and Councillor Firouz Thompson Canon Andrew Read (Appointee) Flavio Vettese (Appointee)

Clerk Name:	Richenda Greenhill
Clerk Telephone:	01223 699171
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Children and Young People Committee: Minutes

Date: 9 March 2021

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillors D Ambrose Smith, S Bywater (Chairman), H Batchelor, P Downes, L Every, A Hay, S Hoy (Vice Chairwoman), S Taylor, J Whitehead and J Wisson

Co-opted Members:
A Read, Church of England Diocese of Ely

395. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Councillor L Nethsingha, substituted by Councillor H Batchelor, and F Vettese, co-opted member representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.

A declaration of interest was made by Councillor J Whitehead in relation to Item 4: Delivery of Early Years Provision to serve Abbey Ward, in that she had been a member of a working party on the Barnwell Hub since 2013. Minute 398 below refers.

396. Minutes – 19 January 2021 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record. A copy will be signed by the Chairman when it is practical to do so. The action log was noted.

397. Petitions and Public Questions

Five requests to speak had been received from members of the public. Four of these related to Item 4, the Delivery of Early Years Services to serve Abbey Ward and were addressed under that agenda item (minute 398 below refers). The fifth related to secondary school provision in St Neots. As there was no report on this issue on the meeting agenda the question was not accepted, but would instead receive a written response within ten working days of the meeting. No petitions were received.

398. Delivery of Early Years Provision to serve Abbey Ward (KD2021/007)

A declaration of interest in this item was made at the start of the meeting by Councillor Whitehead, in that she had been a member of a working party on the Barnwell Hub since 2013. Minute 395 above refers.

Four requests to speak on this item were received from members of the public. Copies of their comments and questions are attached at Appendix 1. In accordance with the Constitution, the first three requests to speak which were received were accepted. The fourth request was not accepted, but the comments which had been submitted were circulated to all members of the committee electronically for information in advance of the meeting. A written response would be sent within ten working days of the meeting. Written comments were also received from the Chair of Seesaw Preschool which were circulated electronically to all members of the committee for information in advance of the meeting.

The Strategic Education Place Planning Manager introduced the report. Work on the new Community Hub project for East Barnwell in Abbey Ward had reached the point where the design stage needed to be finalised. Consequently, officers had been asked whether, from a service delivery perspective, early years provision needed to be delivered from the new East Barnwell hub. Currently, early years provision in Abbey Ward was provided through two settings: one at the Fields Early Years Centre and the other on the site of The Galfrid School. The latter, Seesaw Pre-school, had been relocated onto The Galfrid site since August 2019 whilst work was underway to develop the new community hub at East Barnwell.

Both early years settings were required to meet current and future demand for early years' places in Abbey Ward and were either to close there would be a shortfall of places. Officers stated that the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient early years education and childcare places could be met irrespective of the location of the provision currently delivered by the Seesaw Pre-school within Abbey Ward. Remaining at The Galfrid School would also provide scope for future expansion if more places were needed, which was not the case at East Barnwell. In addition to the Council's statutory duty additional factors included social and community considerations and the impact on these of the location of early years provision within Abbey Ward. There were also financial implications associated with the different locations, with an indicative cost of £450k for an early years element of the East Barnwell site. There was also a longstanding expectation within the local community that early years provision would return to the East Barnwell site when the redevelopment work was completed. These considerations were set out in the report and officers had met with representatives from Seesaw Pre-school and the Abbey People Trust on 1 October 2020 to discuss these. A decision on the re-development of the East Barnwell Community Centre site would rest with the Commercial and Investment Committee. The decision and views of the Children and Young People Committee on the early years element of that re-development would be included in the report which would be submitted to the Commercial and Investment Committee after the local elections in May.

The Chairman invited the three public speakers whose questions had been accepted to address the Committee. A copy of their comments and questions is attached at Appendix 1. There were no questions from the Committee. The Chairman thanked the public speakers for sharing their views and stated that these would be taken into account as the committee considered the report. The Committee would also consider all of the financial and other implications of the proposals and not just short-term savings.

Councillor Whitehead, local Member for Abbey Division, commented that the public speakers had spoken eloquently about why the Seesaw Pre-school should return to East Barnwell and this was also the preference of the pre-school itself. She felt that the money needed for this was available and emphasised the needs of the local community and children. She had asked repeatedly that the outcome of the officer consultation on the proposal should be shared with committee members for their information, but did not believe this had happened. Officers stated that they had met with representatives of the Abbey People Trust and Seesaw Pre-school on 1 October 2020 to discuss the options identified. They were not aware of any written comments being submitted in response to this, but the Seesaw Pre-school representatives had made clear their preference to return to the East Barnwell Hub. This position had been reiterated in the written comments submitted by the Chair of Seesaw Pre-school which had been circulated electronically to members of the committee on 5 March 2021.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Asked what the £450k cost of returning Seesaw Pre-School to the East Barnwell site was for. Officers stated that this was the capital build cost of the Hub redevelopment.
- Commented that they understood that £1.8M has been allocated within the Council's capital programme for the Barnwell Hub project. If that capital provision was still in place they felt this could be used to fund the £450k cost of returning Seesaw Pre-school to the East Barnwell site. They deemed it unacceptable that the Council would not now pay £450k when the original overall budget had been £1.8M. The Service Director for Education stated that this cost would not be funded by capital grant so the Council would need to borrow the money and pay it back, which had revenue implications. The need to consider the capital cost was vital. Officers noted that the Council also needed to fund a new library and the community centre on the East Barnwell site.
- Asked about the higher rent cost at the Barnwell site. Officers stated that the Council leased out many early years' sites. The expectation was that market rent would be paid unless a setting could not afford this, in which case less than best rent might be paid. Pre-school provision was a market-led sector and the Council must ensure that its fixed costs were met and that it acted fairly in relation to all providers. The £16.5k represented the market rent rate and so would be the starting point for discussions with the provider. The lower rent being charged for The Galfrid site reflected the different cost base of operating from a school site.
- Asked about the current status of the East Barnwell Community Centre. Officers stated that designs needed to be finalised now prior to applying for planning permission.

Summing up, the Chairman stated that the Committee was being asked to decide where early years provision in Abbey should be located. Finance was a consideration, but this was mainly for the Commercial and Investment Committee. The focus for the Children and Young People Committee was whether the Seesaw Pre-school provision should remain on its current site at The Galfrid School or return to its initial location at the East Barnwell Community Centre, for which representations had been made by the

public speakers and chair of Seesaw Pre-school. As Education Authority it was noted that Seesaw Pre-school provision had been delivered from The Galfrid School site for around the last 18 months with no fall in usage and that it appeared to be operating well.

It was resolved by a majority to:

- a) Note and comment on the report and consider each option for the future delivery of sessional (pre-school) early years provision to serve the Abbey ward in Cambridge City, in particular taking account of officers' assessment that the Council will continue to be able to meet its duty to secure sufficient and suitable early years places irrespective of which option is implemented.
- b) Note the views of the Local Member.
- c) Endorse the officer recommendation that that the provision, currently provided by Seesaw Pre-school, remain in its current accommodation on the site of Galfrid Primary School.

Councillors Batchelor, Downes, S Taylor and Whitehead asked that it be recorded that they had voted against the recommendations.

Co-opted members of the committee were not eligible to vote on this item.

399. Housing Related Support Services (KD2021/020)

The Committee was advised of the proposed approach to procuring housing related support (HRS) services for young people and the timescales for the planned procurement. HRS services provided dedicated support staff who were able to deliver specialist support to individuals to enable them to develop independent living skills and maintain their accommodation. This support was tailored to meet specific needs, such as developing life skills or managing addiction, mental health or emotional wellbeing issues. This was not a statutory function and costs relating to accommodation such as rent and service charges were not covered by this funding. A review of all HRS services had begun in 2018 with the aim of re-designing the service. It became clear from this work that services were still delivering good outcomes for service users, but that they were not meeting all presented needs. To address this it was proposed to move to a hub and spoke model which would reflect a more place and person centred approach. Smaller units would offer a more flexible response and also provide step down and moving-on options as services users' needs evolved. This would also support provision for particular groups, such as some female-only accommodation, and address some gaps in provision identified by the review. Officers were working with current providers and partners and the re-commissioning would also take account of learning during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as the inclusion of ensuite accommodation to increase resilience. There would be a light-touch dialogue approach with providers between stages of bid submission and would reflect a balance between cost and quality. A seven year contract was proposed to reflect the scale of the change being undertaken and there would be a significant transition period.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Asked about the system for moving people towards independence. Officers stated that the current model did not include any step-down or moving-on accommodation. The new model would allow the option of moving into accommodation with reduced support as part of the journey towards independence.
- Asked whether current providers would be in a position to bid and whether contracts would be let on an individual basis or to a single provider for the delivery of all HRS services. Officers stated that it was envisaged that there would be one contract per district. They were encouraging partnerships between providers and there had been discussions about this with existing providers.
- Commented that it had been important to Members that the review was rigorous and that it was driven by need, would better suit the needs of individual service users and districts and was not a top-down approach.
- Noted that there was no reduction to the funding available.

Summing up, the Chairman commended the Commissioner for Housing Related Support and her team for their hard work on this issue. There had been a lot of anxiety initially about the changes which the review might propose, but partnership working had led to a satisfactory conclusion.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Agree the proposed Procurement Approach.
- b) Approve the recommissioning of Housing Related Support services for young people for a contract period of seven years and total value of £11,253,935.
- c) Agree to delegate the responsibility to award the contract to the Executive Director of People and Communities, in consultation with the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee.

Co-opted members of the committee were not eligible to vote on this item.

400. Exemption to Contract Procurement Rules Request

In a change to the published agenda, the Committee considered a report recommending a twelve month extension to 274 home to school transport routes at a cost of £7M. This key decision was published on Friday 5 March under the Special Urgency arrangements set out in the Council's Constitution and a copy was shared electronically with all members of the committee. When officers started the detailed preparatory work for the re-tendering process it had become apparent that, due to the continuing impact of the pandemic, the preferred option would be to seek an exemption waiver for a proportion of the transport routes due to be retendered during the current financial year in order to ensure that the Council could continue to meet its statutory obligations with regard to the provision of home to school transport. The tenders needed to be awarded in May 2021 in order for operators to have the necessary staff

and vehicles in place for September, so the decision could not wait until the committee's next meeting.

Home to school transport route contracts were reviewed on a rolling basis, but this had not happened in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Officers were recommending a twelve month extension to 274 routes in order to ensure continuity of service and enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations to provide transport to all eligible children and young people. The Service Director for Education placed on record his thanks to the Transport Team for their hard work in responding to the Covid pandemic. This was echoed by the Chairman on behalf of the committee.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Commented that they were happy to support the recommendation to avoid any further disruption to young people.
- Asked whether levels of demand remained the same. The Service Director for Education stated that demand was dynamic. Officers were seeking the twelve month contract extension in order to allow time for a full tender process to be conducted which would be based on need.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would want to stay across this issue going forward as the Covid situation evolved.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Agree to exemption waiver on 274 home to school contracts for a period of one year.

401. Finance Monitoring Report

The overall position for the People and Communities Directorate remained fairly consistent with previous reporting, with a predicted overspend of around £6.6M. This related mainly to adult services and Covid-related expenses. The position in relation to budgets for which the Children and Young People Committee was responsible had deteriorated slightly from a projected overspend of around £64k to a projected overspend of around £360k at the end of January 2021. This included an increase of around £200k in the cost of children in care placements, but this was offset by underspends elsewhere within the children's social care budget. There had also been an increase in the cost of home to school transport for children and young people with additional needs due to increased demand. The in-year deficit on the dedicated schools grant (DSG) was now around £12.6M and officers were working closely with the Department for Education on the recovery plan. Outdoor centres were driven solely by external income and officers were working hard to contain and manage spend in this area. It was still uncertain when schools and groups would be able to access day or residential trips. The Service Director for Education offered an assurance that officers were doing all they could to manage these costs, including putting staff on furlough. The Chairman stated that he had taken a close interest in this issue and that officers had done everything possible to minimise costs.

A Member asked whether the Council was still using the Grafham Water Outdoor Centre to provide short-term accommodation to young people in care. Officers stated that it was not currently being used in this way, but the option to do so remained available if required.

It was resolved unanimously to review and comment on the report.

402. Service Director's Report: Children and Safeguarding

The report was written before the recent return to school by the majority of students and demonstrated an essentially steady position. Progress was being made in some areas, including a continuing reduction in the number of children in care. However, there had been a small increase in costs associated with the children in care placement budget due to a small number of children with very complex needs having come into the Council's care. Face to face visits with children were continuing where officers judged that these were necessary, but other work was being delivered virtually. The report included a summary of the revised clinical offer which included a focus on providing support to the carers of young people demonstrating challenging behaviours.

A Member commented that there were issues in some areas in relation to health assessment timescales, vaccinations and child health support and asked whether the committee should raise this with the Health Committee or the Director of Public Health to express its concern. The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding stated that health assessments were still taking place, even if some were not being conducted within the required 28 day timeframe. This delay had in some cases been due to information not being passed to health service colleagues quickly enough by officers. The Health Service was facing huge pressures at present, but officers were still engaging regularly with health colleagues. The Executive Director for People and Communities stated that regular discussions were taking place about the impact of Covid on children's health services. There had been some delays and any concerns were being followed up with health service colleagues, but it was important to recognise the pressures under which they were currently operating. The Chairman stated that these issues had been picked up by the Social Care Board and that both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive had taken up the issue of health assessments at senior level. The Council remained on a journey of improvement, and this included improving its own performance. He asked that an update on this issue should be included in the Service Director's next committee report. **ACTION**

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the key performance information and actions being taken to continue to improve outcomes in children's services.
- b) Note and comment on the continuing work by all in children's services, including our foster carers, to support children, young people and families through the continuing pandemic.

403. Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training

The Committee received an update on the work being done through the NEET reduction action plan to support young people in care and care leavers to achieve sustained employment, education or training opportunities. Due to the small cohort and age range involved it was difficult to make direct comparisons and as part of the NEET strategy officers were looking at how to make data comparisons. Many of the industries which traditionally employed large numbers of young people such as retail and hospitality had been disrupted by Covid leading to reduced employment opportunities. However, a number of initiatives had been established to support young people at both local and national level, including the Kickstart Scheme. A working group had been set up to look at digital exclusion and the Virtual School was developing a trauma-informed programme to engage with harder to reach young people.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Asked whether there were any positive outcomes of the Covid experience in relation to care leavers not in education, employment or training. Officers stated that some initial benefits had been seen in relation to active learning and a greater willingness by some young people to engage digitally rather than in person. However, as the lockdown period grew longer this may have lessened. It was likely that future engagement models would include a mixture of both digital and face to face engagement to make the best use of both options.
- The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee stated that the education, training and employment prospects of young people in care and care leavers was an issue of particular concern to the Sub-Committee. All county councillors were corporate parents to the children and young people in the Council's care and it was vital that they offered them their full support. She recognised that there had been some improvements due to changes in service delivery structures, but it was still not good enough. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee would welcome the opportunity to continue monitoring progress on this work and would want to look at what was being done to support the 23 young people in care and care leavers who were currently not in education, training or employment and whether there were any particular barriers to their progress. The Business Mentoring Scheme pilot project which had included the Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee as a mentor had proved a great success and it was hoped that this would be extended.

The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding stated that it was important to recognise that this cohort of young people may have had very difficult life experiences and as such they were likely to require individualised support. A NEET working group which included personal advisors had been established to focus on the needs of these young people and how to bring them into the education, training and employment process.

- Commented that there used to be a good programme of working in schools with any young person identified by the schools as likely to become NEET and asked whether any similar intervention was being considered now. Officers confirmed

that one of the working group's aims was to look at the different ways in which schools assessed young people's risk of becoming NEET. Whilst this was unlikely to result in a return to direct work in schools it would inform the work which schools themselves did with these young people.

Summing up, the Chairman emphasised the importance of reaching these young people as early as possible in order to be in time to inform their early decisions about education, training and employment.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the good performance in relation to the general population of young people in Cambridgeshire in respect of those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- b) Note the positive signs of impact of the renewed focus on reducing the number of young people in care and who are leaving care who are NEET.
- c) Support monitoring of continuing impact of the NEET reduction action plan for young people in care and leaving care by the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

Co-opted members of the committee were not eligible to vote on this item.

404. Best Start in Life Update

The Best Start in Life (BSiL) was a long-term project aimed at children from pre-birth to the age of five and designed to improve their life chances. Work-streams had been impacted by the Covid pandemic and there had been some pauses, but work was continuing.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Asked when the pilot projects would finish and be evaluated. Officers stated that the pilot projects were needed to identify what did and did not work so that this learning could be incorporated into future work. The first information was expected to be available in April 2021. The Executive Director for People and Communities stated that learning from the pilot projects would help as officers looked to roll the BSiL programme out to other areas. This would include looking at the digital platform and the relationship between midwives, child and family works and health workers and she anticipated positive outcomes for practitioners as well as service users. The work was being monitored by the Early Help Strategic Board, which she chaired

Summing up, the Chairman stated that some great work was being done. He would welcome a further update being brought to the committee in the summer to keep Members informed. **ACTION**

It was resolved unanimously/ by a majority to note and comment on the continued progress of the Best Start in Life Programme.

405. Children and Young People Committee Agenda Plan, Training Plan and Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

The Committee reviewed its agenda plan and training plan and noted that there were no changes to committee appointments. The reserve meeting date of 13 April 2021 was not required and the committee would meet next on 25 May 2021.

The Chairman stated that it had been a privilege to serve as the chairman of the committee for the past four years. He expressed his thanks to all those who had served on the committee during those four years. He offered good wishes to those councillors who would be stepping down at the forthcoming election and wished good luck to all those who would be standing for re-election. He also expressed his thanks to the co-opted members representing the Church of England Diocese of Ely and the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia for their invaluable input. He also thanked the Executive Director for People and Communities, the Service Director for Children and Safeguarding and the Service Director for Education and their teams for their work.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note that the report on the Appropriate Adult Service had been deferred from May to July.
- b) Note the training plan.
- c) Note that committee appointments to outside bodies and internal advisory groups remained unchanged.

Co-opted members of the committee were not eligible to vote on this item.

(Chair)

Children and Young People Committee 9 March 2021 – Public Speakers

	Name	Question/ comments
1.	Nicky Shepard, CEO Abbey People	Nicky Shephard emphasised the importance of the pre-school being on the site of the Community Hub to fully deliver the vision of the site. This included Seesaw families to having access to the services available at the Hub and the pre-school contributing to the success of the site. Seesaw Pre-school did not just serve the Galfrid area and removing the pre-school provision from the community centre site would leave a gap in provision. There had been a 300%+ increase in benefits claimants in Abbey Ward and the communities' needs and the role played by Seesaw Pre-school in meeting those needs were being ignored.
2.	Dr Alexandra Bulat, Cambridge resident	Dr Bulat commented that the County Council had promised a new nursery since 2013 and local residents were still waiting. Abbey was the most deprived ward in Cambridge with one in five children living in poverty and when speaking to Abbey residents they say these services are essential. Locating the pre-school on the East Barnwell site would also encourage the use of other, possibly under-used services to the benefit of children and families. Dr Bulat asked why the recommendation was putting short-term savings above long-term and sustainable funding for early years provision in an area where need will increase.
3.	Cllr Nicky Massey, Abbey Ward, Cambridge City Council	Cllr Massey commented that the project was all about community cohesion and joint location, much like the Think Communities approach being used across county council services today. It had initially been planned to return Seesaw Pre-school to its original home within the centre and she questioned whether it was beneficial to separate the pre-school from the library and other services which would be located at East Barnwell. Seesaw served a different area to the other pre-school in Abbey and locating them on the same site would create confusion and limit parental choice. The rent and service charges would double if it went back to the East Barnwell site. There had been no consultation on this by the Council and residents had been ignored. She was sad to see this and urged the committee to include Seesaw Pre-school in the East Barnwell site at their current rates.
4.	Rev. Stuart Wood, Barnwell Baptist Church, Cambridge	1. The County Council has a requirement to provide 'suitable' provision. I would like, using recent history, to demonstrate that the methodology employed to decide what is suitable is flawed.

	Name	Question/ comments
		<p>2. I would like to report that in a recent conversation with a Council Officer, I was advised that “virtually all, if not all” early years settings in the County have a ‘less than best’ rent arrangement. To therefore use this as leverage to keep SeeSaw on the current site, is a flawed argument.</p> <p>3. I would also like to point out that SeeSaw Pre-School is being prejudiced because of the hard work of Staff, Trustees and parents in making the move not have an impact.</p> <p>4. I would finally like to point out that in two meetings we had with Council Officers, one of the issues raised and acknowledged to us in those meetings has not been taken into account in this report.</p> <p>[Received a written response]</p>

Non-agenda item

	Name	Question/ comments
1.	James Boyle, St Neots resident	<p>A proposal to build a new Secondary School in St Neots was approved by the DfE in 2017 (Free School Wave 12). The proposal was put ‘on pause’ in December 2017 to allow time for critical issues to be resolved at the two existing secondary schools in St Neots. The two schools (Ernulf Academy and Longsands Academy) were subsequently transferred to a new Multi Academy Trust in September 2018.</p> <p>Contrary to some reports, the St Neots Free School project was not cancelled and has remained ‘on pause’ at the pre-opening stage. The DfE have recently indicated to me that they are now “reviewing basic need in the planning area for the proposed St Neots Academy and are continuing to work closely with the proposer group, Advantage Schools, to consider options.”</p> <p>My concern is that the CCC is not engaged with this proposal and indeed seems determined to pursue its own preferred option of expanding capacity at the existing schools even though there is no obvious source of funds for this expansion. The recent feasibility study into expanding secondary school provision in St Neots only looked at the CCC’s preferred option.</p>

	Name	Question/ comments
		<p>I note that another wave 12 free school project – St Bede’s in Soham – was recently pushed through by the DfE without the support of the CCC. This is not ideal but in justifying this action, Baroness Berridge argued that "a new school operated by an Ofsted-rated outstanding provider will help raise standards" and would "offer parents more of a choice". These arguments would certainly apply to St Neots where both secondary schools are now rated as 'requires improvement' and are run by the same MAT.</p> <p>Can the CCC please confirm that, rather than getting into a position where the DfE forces the St Neots Free School Project through, they will engage with the DfE in progressing the project and that the proposal will be properly evaluated by the Children and Young People Committee before the CCC commits to any alternative plans to increase secondary school places in the town. Alternatively, if the CCC is not engaging with the DfE on this, I would respectfully ask 'Why not'?</p> <p>[Received a written response]</p>

Children and Young People Committee Action Log

Purpose:

This log captures the actions arising from Children and Young People Committee meetings and updates Members on progress.

Minutes of the meeting on 15 September 2020

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
349.	Service Director's Report: Education	Jonathan Lewis	Asked for more information on the progress on the SEND recovery strategy. The Service Director for Education undertook to bring a report on this to a future meeting when more information was available.	20.09.20: This will be included as part of the November Service Director Report. 30.10.20: An update will be provided in the new year to coincide with the wider consultation which will be undertaken on SEND funding changes.	This will be shared in the autumn following a consultation event with Heads on the 28 th June.

Minutes of the meeting on 10 November 2020

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
371.	Early Help, Older Children and Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Development	Lou Williams/ Nicola Curley	To circulate the ISOS report and arrange a workshop with ISOS for committee members. This may be opened up to other councillors.	08.01.21: The ISOS report will be circulated when available and the workshop arranged after that. 21.06.21 – the Early Help review has been finalised and a briefing note will be circulated to members shortly. A briefing session with Members is currently being arranged.	Ongoing

Minutes of the Meeting on 1 December 2020

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
	CYP Review of draft revenue and capital business planning proposals	Jonathan Lewis	Jonathan Lewis offered a briefing note to committee members on St Neots school place planning issues in January 2021.	08.01.21: This will be circulated when all the necessary information is available. 12.02.21 Officers from the Place Planning Service met with the local members to brief them following the CYP Committee meeting in January. Those Officers are meeting with the Academy Trust on the 28 February 2021 and will provide a further update and briefing for Members following that meeting. 14.06.21: Briefing note circulated electronically to committee members.	Completed

Minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2021

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
387.	School Building Standards and Specifications	Ian Trafford	Attention was drawn to the design process for Alconbury Weald to meet the Council's new targets in this area, which would identify the costs and the necessary business case to support the investment of the additional capital spend it might require. Members requested details of the costs for the Alconbury Weald development when available. It was noted that the Committee could receive a report at its meeting in the spring at the end of the milestone 2 process.	<p>01.02.21: The project milestone report (MS2) which will include design proposals and costs for meeting the Council's new environmental standards, will be available in late March 2021.</p> <p>The approach to the design is a complex issue and will comprise a significant level of technical detail. Consideration will be given to a general presentation/ seminar for Members to explain the approach taken.</p> <p>14.06.21: MS2 on Alconbury signed off. Officers to advise on timing of a CYP member seminar to brief members on the approach taken.</p> <p>15.06.21: The update may be addressed through a wider Member briefing on buildings, sustainability and carbon reduction targets.</p>	Ongoing
388.	Schools and Early Year's Funding Arrangements	Jonathan Lewis	It was proposed to target additional funds at the Early Years' sector through the Covid grant or DSG in order to meet sufficiency requirements going forward. Members would receive a briefing note on this proposal.	<p>29.03.21: This will be distributed to Members in April 2021.</p> <p>21.06.21 – Briefing note circulated to Members</p>	Complete

Minutes of the meeting on 9 March 2021

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
402.	Service Director's Report: Children and Safeguarding	Lou Williams	To include an update on health assessment timescales and child health service provision in the next service director's report.	05.03.21: Included in the March Service Director's report.	Completed
404.	Best Start in Life Update	Nicola Curley	The Chairman asked for a further update to be brought to the committee in the summer.	21.06.21 – this has been scheduled for an update with Lead CYP Members in August 2021.	Ongoing

Children and Young People Committee Agenda Plan

Published on 1 June 2021
Updated 16.06.21



Notes

The definition of a key decision is set out in the Council's Constitution in Part 2, Article 12.

* indicates items expected to be recommended for determination by full Council.

+ indicates items expected to be confidential, which would exclude the press and public.

The following are standing agenda items which are considered at every Committee meeting:

- Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log
- Agenda Plan, Training Plan and Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
29/06/21	1. Notification of the Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee	Democratic Services	Not applicable	17/06/21	21/06/21
	2. Cambridgeshire Paediatric Occupational Therapy	L Loia	KD2021/049		
	3. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	4. Sufficiency Strategy	L Williams	Not applicable		
	5. Service Director's report: Education	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	6. Supporting Vulnerable Families during the Summer Holidays	J Lewis	Not applicable		
14/09/21	1. Appropriate Adult Service	H Andrews	KD2021/035		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	2. Education Transport	H Belchamber	Not applicable		
	3. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	4. Service Director's Report: Children and Safeguarding	L Williams	Not applicable		
[19/10/21] Provisional Meeting					
30/11/21	1. Business Planning: Revenue and Capital Budgets	L Williams/ J Lewis	Not applicable	18/11/21	22/11/21
	2. Establishment of a New Primary School at Waterbeach Barracks Development	R Lewis	Not applicable		
	3. Service Director's report: Education	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	4. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	5. Schools and Early Years Funding Arrangements 2021/22	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	6. Annual Safeguarding Report	J Procter	Not applicable		
	7. Annual Customer Services Report	J Shickell	Not applicable		
	8. Risk Register	D Revens	Not applicable		
18/01/22	1. Schools and Early Years Funding Arrangements 2021/22	J Lewis	KD2022/004		
	2. Determined Admissions arrangements	K Beaton	Not applicable	06/01/22	10/01/22

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
01/03/22	1. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	2. Fire Safety in Schools	I Trafford	TBC		
	3. Establishment of a New Primary School at Sawtry	C Buckingham	Not applicable		
	4. Service Director's report: Children and Safeguarding	L Williams	Not applicable		
	5. Corporate Parenting Annual Report	L Williams	Not applicable		
	6. Headteacher Report for the Virtual School	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	7. Children's Collaborative	L Williams	Not applicable		
[19/04/22] Provisional Meeting				05/04/22	07/04/22

Please contact Democratic Services democraticservices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk if you require this information in a more accessible format

Children and Young People (CYP) Committee Training Plan 2021/22

Below is an outline of dates and topics for potential training committee sessions and visits.

	Subject	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Notes
Corporate Induction Programme						
1.	Children & Young People Committee induction	15 June – 12-2pm	<i>Service Director Children's & Education</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	CYP Members	
2.	Safeguarding	7 July – 12-2pm	Directors & Safeguarding leads in Adults, Children's, & Education	Virtual	All members	
3.	Corporate Parenting Sub-committee induction	12 July – 12-2pm	<i>Service Director Children's</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	Corporate parenting members	
4.	Local Government Finance session 1	30 June – 12-2pm	Head of Finance	Virtual	All members	
5.	Community Connectors	14 July – 12-2pm	Service Director Communities & Partnership	Virtual	All members	
6.	Local Government Finance Session 2	1 Sept – 12-2pm	Head of Finance	Virtual	All members	
7.	Local Government Finance Session 3	16 Nov – 12-2pm	Head of Finance	Virtual	All members	
Suggested Additional training for CYP Members						
9.	Meeting with - (Young People's Council)	August (tbc)	<i>Service Director: Children's</i>	Virtual	All CYP Members invited	
10.	Place Planning 0-19; Admissions, Attendance, Elective Home Education (EHE), Children in Entertainment, Children in Employment	Sept (tbc)	<i>Head of Place Planning 0-19</i>		All Members	

	Subject	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Notes
11.	Schools Funding	Sept (tbc)	<i>Service Director Education / Finance Business Partner</i>		All CYP Members invited	
12.	Special Educational Needs - strategy, role and operational delivery	October (tbc)	<i>Assistant Director: SEND</i>		All CYP Members invited	
13.	Commissioning Services – what services are commissioned and how our services are commissioned across Children Services	Nov (tbc)	<i>Service Director: Children's / Head of Children's Commissioning</i>		All CYP Members invited	
14.	Visit Family Safeguarding Team	Dec (tbc)	<i>Head of Safeguarding</i>		All CYP Members invited	
15.	Understanding Educational Performance	Jan (tbc)	<i>Service Director: Education</i>		All CYP Members invited	

Children's Occupational Therapy (OT) in Cambridgeshire Children's Community Services (CCS)

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 29 June 2021

From: Executive Director, People and Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: 2021/049 Key decision: Yes

Purpose: What is the Committee being asked to consider?

Support for additional funding for the Cambridgeshire
Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service

Recommendation: What is the Committee being asked to agree?

- a) to note and comment on the contents of the report
- b) to support the requirement for additional permanent funding of £496,000 from 2022/23 onwards.

Officer contact:

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Member contacts:

Names: Councillor Bryony Goodliffe / Councillor Maria King
Post: Chair / Vice-Chair
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Tel: 01223 706398

1. Background

- 1.1 This paper follows the approval of increased expenditure agreed by Wendi Ogle Welbourn in March 2021. The expenditure was approved following the provision of a report outlining the current pressures on the OT Service in Cambridgeshire, and therefore this paper looks to seek support to secure funding on an ongoing basis. The current additional expenditure was agreed under delegated authority of the Executive Director and the previous Chair of CYP Committee.
- 1.2 Additional spend of £261k is required in 2021/22, with funding of £175,000 being secured from reserves and the remainder to be managed in-year. Permanent funding will be required to be approved as part of the business planning process for 2022/23 onwards in line with the ongoing commissioning and review of the contract between Cambridgeshire County Council and CCS.
- 1.3 This paper is specifically in relation to services for Occupational Therapy in Cambridgeshire, which is currently delivered via CCS under a S75 agreement. This agreement allowed for the provision of funds from Councils to NHS services for the delivery of services on behalf of the Council.
- 1.4 Until March 2021, the service was funded fully by the Dedicated Schools Grant and High Needs Block at a value of £245,000. There were a number of issues identified in relation to the funding arrangement and the use the DSG, as the service actually provides support to both children and young people with EHCP's but also those known and open to Disabled Childrens Social Care. This is highlighted and explain in section 2.0 in more detail.
- 1.5 The CCG health contribution to CCS OT service is 685k, to support Health OT elements.
- 1.6 This paper sets the scene in respect of the future demand for services that can be expected in Cambridgeshire and therefore recommends a further programme of work that looks to consolidate and understand the totality of resources available across funding organisations once secured and sustainable, with a view to developing an integrated model that benefits from economies of scale, best use of shared resources and seamless access to provision across education, health and social care.

2.0 Main Issues

- 2.1 There was an inequity of funding to support the integrated approach across health, social care and education. Of the £245K from CCC for the social care element of the OT role; £210k currently funds the housing pathway (major adaptation work primarily), leaving £35k to fund staff across the whole county for equipment, moving/handling assessment/review etc. Other funding from CCC included ad hoc payment for tribunal-related work and a SLA for mainstream school staff and school adaptation work.

- 2.2 Specific tribunal pressures – In 2020, CCS had in excess of 52 requests from Education; ranging from tribunal request input into mediation related to tribunals, advice following an independent OT report has been received etc. these could not be managed within the existing case loads set out in 2.1.3 and therefore were additional spot purchase of around £75,000 to the SEND service.
- 2.3 Caseload sizes are up to 50% higher compared with Royal College of Occupational Therapy recommendations with CCS OT's typically carrying a caseload of 47 vs. a recommendation of 23.
- 2.4 The S75 for OT identifies both education and social care support within the scope of delivery, however CCS report that they are currently only providing support for the Social Care service [including the provision disabled facilities grants and housing adaptations] and the budget for this is already pressured
- 2.5 CCS are not currently providing any OT Service for the SEND service, as per the S75 and CCS report the budget to meet the existing provision is not viable financially, let alone with the addition of the originally required SEND provision.
- 2.6 It can be concluded that the funding “topliced” from the High Needs Block for SEND/EHCP purposes as is in fact being redirected to support the 0-25 service's OT Children's Social Care Requirement and not covering the service provision needed for the SEND Service.
- 2.7 There is no budget for OT within Social Care or in other Council funded budget and therefore it can be concluded that the DSG and High Needs Block is currently being used for the purpose of Social Care provision, which is not permitted under the S251 guidance. The below clauses make explicit what the HNB can be used for and what is the responsibility of the Local Authority to fund:

2.7.1 High Needs Block

1.2.13 Therapies and other health related services: include costs associated with the provision or purchase of speech, physiotherapy and occupational therapies. Include any expenditure on the provision of special medical support for individual pupils which is not met by a Primary Care Trust, National Health Service Trust or Local Health Board.

2.7.2 Local Authority

3.3.1 Social work (including local authority functions in relation to child protection): Social workers who are directly involved with the care of children and with the commissioning of services for children. Include most of the direct social work costs (except those detailed below), including the processes for assessing need, determining and defining the service to be provided and reviewing the quality of and continued relevance of that care for children. Also include:

- Child protection costs;
- Field social work costs (include hospital social workers);

- Occupational therapy services to children;
- Relevant support staff costs.

2.8 Therefore, the Council are not providing any or sufficient input in the service to meet the statutory requirements and duties for disabled children, for example Section 27 of the Children Act 1989 which encourages Councils to engage other agencies in the assessment of children:

“The guidance places emphasises the importance of involving other agencies - paragraph 5.3 states:

....These ‘agencies’ could include a child’s school, GP, physiotherapist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and other professionals they may have had contact with.”

2.9 The OT service provides input to children with an Education, Health and Care Plan [EHCP]. The service should also provide support to children and young people who have SEND needs that may not have an EHCP. However, this is limited due to capacity and funding shortfalls. In 2020, out of the 768 children on the existing/current caseloads, 517 have an EHCP.

2.10 Within an integrated service and the nature of Occupational Therapy, it is impossible to accurately divide a child’s care into what is school, what is home and what is health when collating data. Best practice would view the child holistically and discuss all elements of daily living. The data below from a typical year (2018 and 2019) sets out broadly the primary ‘category’ for input:

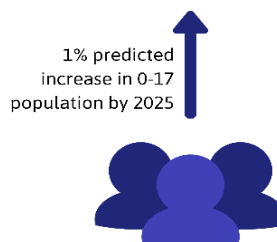
	Percentage of overall number of referrals in (averaged over two years)	
Health	12%	Reason for input linked to Health in 56% of all referrals
Health and Local Authority	36%	
Health and Social Care	8%	
Local Authority	20%	Reason for input linked to Local education authority in 56% of all referrals
Social Care	24%	Reason for input linked to social care in 32% of all referrals

Important to note is that this doesn’t capture the amount of time spent on an average case under each category, which naturally is dependent upon the complexity of the child’s needs related to Occupational Therapy.

3.0 Demand and Growth in Population

3.1 Cambridgeshire are predicted to see a 1% growth in population size of 0-17 year olds in the coming five years.

3.2 In the next five years England overall expects a 2% increase in the 0-17 population. Therefore Cambridgeshire's 0-17 population is predicted to grow just shy of 1%, four more than England in the next five years.



3.3 Cambridgeshire is set to have significant new housing development with a total of 74,000 new homes to be built by 2031 across the five districts. Including a new town, Northstowe, north of Cambridge which will create 9,500 new homes. On top of this single large development there will be multiple smaller developments of around 600 homes each, with each development requiring its' own school and early years/childcare facilities.

3.4 Also in Cambridgeshire, there are a number of interdependent commissioning priorities and capital planning programmes that look to address and respond to growth in population, demand for EHCP's and the increasing complexity of need of children, young people and adults. These are all likely further increase the demand for Occupational Therapy and therapeutic interventions to enable inclusion in Schools, all of which will require full and proper analysis. These include but not limited to:

3.4.1 Enhanced Resource Base Review [ERB] – a review of the cost, quality and provision of ERBs that provide inclusive provision for children and young people with Autism on mainstream school sites.

3.4.2 New School Provision – Development of three new special Schools across the County.

3.4.3 Special School Expansion on two sites and alternations to age range and status on a further site

3.4.4 Extension of Hearing Impairment provision on one site

3.4.5 Inclusion of a secondary provision on one site

3.5 Demand and Growth in EHCPs in Cambridgeshire

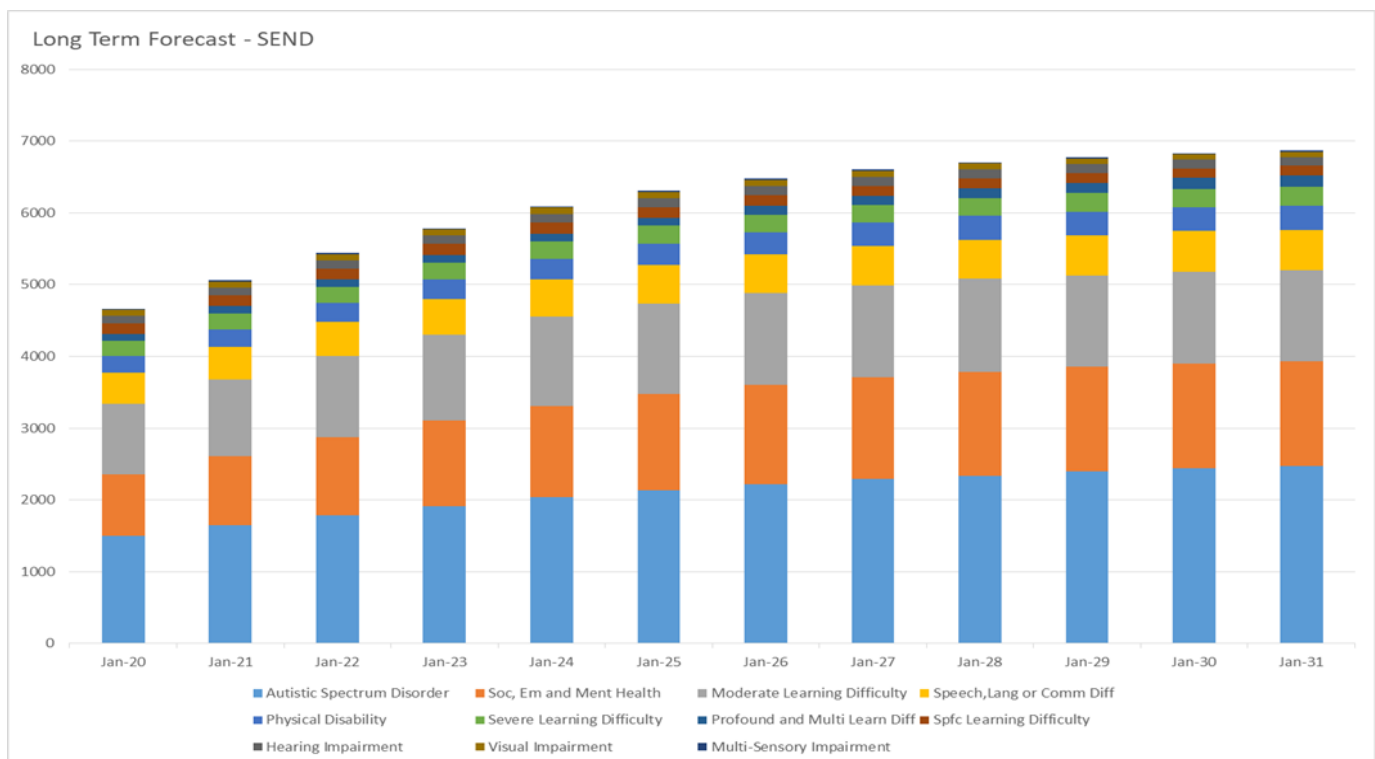
3.6 Cambridgeshire County Council are anticipating a growth of approximately 47% of EHCPs in the next 10 years. Much of this growth occurs in the coming 5 years, with particular notable increased in both Autism Spectrum Disorder [65%], Social Emotional Mental Health [70%] and Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities [63%]

3.7 There are growth areas and variable financial impacts as a result of this growth, however these figures are specifically pertinent to the provision of Occupational Therapy in Education Settings and in children and young people's homes.

Table 1 is a simple representation of the total growth across all age categories and educational need groups.

Condition	Jan-20	Jan-31	Change	% Change
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	1497	2475	978	65.3%
SEMH	857	1458	601	70.1%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	989	1270	281	28.4%
Speech, Lang or Comm Difficulty	434	561	127	29.3%
Physical Difficulty	228	337	109	47.8%
Severe Learning Disability	209	265	56	26.8%
Profound and Multi Learn Diff	97	159	62	63.9%
Spfc Learning Disability	146	129	-17	-11.6%
Hearing Impairment	110	124	14	12.7%
Visual Impairment	84	71	-13	-15.5%
Multi - Sensory Impairment	11	17	6	54.5%
Total	4662	6866	2205	47.3%

Table 2 represents the same information above, but demonstrates the data over time to articulate the specific growth areas and when they occur.



3.8 Growth and Demand in Disabled Children

3.9 Table 3 outlines the predicted growth of the 0-18 population across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; the 8% prevalence rate (as per the Department for Works and Pensions Family Resource Survey) has been applied to try and get a better understanding of the

number of children and young people with disabilities across both counties.

Population Forecasting Cambridgeshire & Peterborough 2016-2036

Year	0-4	5-14	15-17	Total 0-17	% Increase on 2016	8% prevalence rate applied, indicating number of CYP with disabilities*
2016	53,810	101,870	28,550	184,230	-	14,738
2021	56,630	113,540	30,530	200,700	8.94%	16,056
2026	60,230	119,190	35,580	215,000	16.70%	17,200
2031	59,560	122,650	35,660	217,870	18.26%	17,430
2036	57,670	121,960	36,830	216,460	17.49%	17,317

3.10 The table demonstrates that we can expect to see a rise in children with disabilities of over 17% the next ten years, around 2500 more children than in 2016.

3.11 Table 4 outlines the number of children and young people open to Social Care currently, and the projected increase based on previous years.

	Current CCC	Projected CCC (2036)**
Open under 1989 Children Act	280	333
Open under the Chronically Sick & Disabled Person's Act (CSDPA)	828*	983

* 646 of whom are accessing the Local Short Break Offer

** assuming growth in line with population

3.12 This demonstrates that we can expect a rise of around 18% of children and young people open to social care over the next ten years.

3.13 It is not possible to consolidate the totality of data available that assists us in understanding the exact demand for OT services, as many children may or may not have an EHCP, may or may not have a disability; and there is variance in the level of interventions required at any one time for children and young people.

3.14 However, we know already that the service is not sufficient in meeting the demands of existing cases as set out within Section 2, at least a third of children and young people on existing case loads do have an EHCP and case loads are already over 50% higher than what is considered best practice.

3.15 There are currently around 500 [10% of the total number of EHCPs] children and young people with an EHCP accessing the OT service, we can therefore broadly assume that based on EHCP data alone, if there are 2200 more EHCPs in the next ten years, with significant spikes in 2021-2025 [around 1500 new plans] then in the next three years we can expect around 150 children with EHCPs alone requiring OT support, in addition to the those already accessing the service.

4.0 Funding Options

Year 1: 2021/22 Additional Staffing Requirement

2 x Band 7 OTs – Education

1 x Band 6 OT – Education

1 x Band 7 OT – Social Care

Note “Band is in relation to the NHS pay band.

- 4.1 This funding was already secured, pro rate, as detailed in with section 1.2
- 4.2 The provision of services primarily covers Education Health and Care Plan Assessment, Tribunals and support and training in schools and settings.
- 4.3 It includes the application of a tiered model (universal, targeted, specialist) to make most efficient use of Occupational Therapy services.
- 4.4 The provision of services has reduced unsustainable caseload levels.
- 4.5 The provision of services has increased the training offer to all special schools, further releasing capacity on the targeted and specialist service provided by CCS.

Total for 2021/22 - 260,970

Year 2: 2022/23 Additional Staffing Requirement

1 x Band 6 – Education

1 x Band 6 – social care

2 x Band 4 – education

1 x Band 4 – social care

- 4.6 This is new and recurring money as requested by this paper.
- 4.7 It will support the further roll-out of the tiered model – focussing on targeted support within schools and pre-schools.
- 4.8 Create a sustainable service with introduction of further skill mix, support the apprenticeship grow your own’ scheme.
- 4.9 Support clinical delivery.
- 4.10 Sustainable caseload levels for social care elements of the OT role.

Total for 2022/23	235,482
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The total overall additional funding for CCS children’s OT service from Cambridgeshire County Council:	
2021/22 and 2022/23	496,452

- 4.11 Therefore, the combined increase inclusive of the existing funding of £245k from the Dedicated Schools Grant [DSG] and the additional requested funding will be:

Current Funding	£245k
Requested uplift for 21/22	£261k
Total Funding for 21/22 – which would then be permanent in the base	£506k
Requested uplift for 22/23	£235k
Total Funding for 22/23 – which would then be permanent in the base	£741k

- 4.12 The funding will be pooled to ensure seamless and efficiency of delivery, under a single service specification between Cambridgeshire County Council and Children's Community Services, with the existing £245k primarily funding the SEND provision [namely EHCP assessment, advice and tribunal] and the additional funding supporting the social care elements [namely housing adaptations, disabled facilities grants and assessments], therefore ensuring appropriate use of both DSG and Council general funds.

5.0 Summary

- 5.1 There is already a significant pressure on the existing Occupational Therapy Service across in Cambridgeshire, significantly impacting on the timeliness and efficiency of provision offered to children and young people eligible for service. In addition, there is a growing financial pressure on services as a result of a lack of Occupational Provision in order to assess and provide quality EHCP advice and subsequently robust evidence of provision resulting in expedition of tribunal process.
- 5.2 There is also an opportunity to conduct a full and proper commissioning exercise that looks to understand the detailed and segmented demand likely to require Occupational Therapy in the future and ensure the totality of resources across all funding services and organisations to deliver efficient, effective, high quality and good value provision through the implementation of an integrated service delivery model across education, health and social care.
- 5.3 However, the current funding arrangements are significantly stalling the ability to deliver early intervention, prevention and timely provision of advice and support and therefore it is recommended that the identified funding requirement is supported under an interim service specification to address the immediate issues and concerns, whilst allowing for a sufficient pool of resources to be considered as part of an Occupational Therapy review and identification of the correct service delivery model to ensure a robust and sustainable provision in the future.

6. Alignment with Corporate Priorities

Report authors should evaluate the proposal(s) in light of their alignment with the following three Corporate Priorities.

6.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Timely and good quality provision of OT for children and young people with and without disabilities and SEND.
- Efficient provision of OT without delay.
- Integrated service to ensure cohesion in assessment and support.

6.2 Thriving places for people to live

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Access to education and support to live within the home and local community.
- Upskilled workforce to ensure education and social care staff have the skills to meet the needs of their communities.
- A county with good quality of provision and offer, supporting the response to the growth and development of our communities and population.

6.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Early intervention
- Prevention of escalation in need
- Family resilience and skilled parenting and support
- Independence of children and young people and ability to remain in their local schools and communities
- Sufficient funding for a fully integrated model
- Well prepared parents

7. Significant Implications

7.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 5.0

7.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

7.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Adherence to the requirements of s251 on the transfer and manage of the DSG and High Needs Block.
- Adherence to the needs for assessment within the Children Act 1989 and other legislation in relation to children with disabilities.
- Adherence to the SEND Code of Practice in the involvement of professionals in the statutory assessment, review and tribunal process; as well as the provision for health support.

7.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Equitable access and support for disabled children and their families.

7.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

7.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications for this category.

7.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

7.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

There are no significant implications for this category.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?

Yes

Name of Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

8. Source Documents

[National Health Service Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

[Department for Education \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) - Therapies referenced at 1.2.13 (HNB) and 3.3.1 (LA funding).

[Children Act 1989 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

[Cambridgeshire Education organisation plan 2020-21](#)

[Special schools and specialist provision - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Based on the Strategic Forecasting Model for EHCP's in Cambridgeshire

Finance Monitoring Report – May 2021

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 29 June 2021

From: Executive Director: People and Communities
Director of Public Health
Chief Finance Officer

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Outcome: To provide the Committee with the May 2021 Finance Monitoring Report for People and Communities and Public Health.

The report is presented to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the financial position as at the end of May 2021.

Recommendation: The Children and Young People Committee are asked to:

- a) Review and comment on the report.
- b) Note the Section 256 arrangement in respect of Overnight and Residential Short Breaks.
- c) Recommend the changes to the capital programme budgets from the Business Plan as summarised in Appendix C for approval by Strategy and Resources.

Officer contact:

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Tel: 01223 699733

Member contacts:

Names: Councillor Bryony Goodliffe / Councillor Maria King
Post: Chair / Vice-Chair
Email: Bryony.Goodliffe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk / Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 706398

1. Background

- 1.1 Finance Monitoring Reports (FMR) are produced monthly, except for April, by all services. They report on a range of financial information to enable a view of each service's financial position to be taken.
- 1.2 Budgets for services are agreed by Full Council in the business plan in February of each year and can be amended by budget virements. In particular, the FMR provides a revenue budget forecast showing the current projection of whether services will be over or underspent for the year against those budgets.
- 1.3 The detailed FMR for People and Communities (P&C) and Public Health (PH) is attached in Appendix B. This report covers the whole of the P&C, and PH Service, and as such, not all of the budgets contained within it are the responsibility of this Committee. Members are requested to restrict their attention to the budget lines for which this Committee is responsible, which are detailed in Appendix A. Sections of the main FMR which do not apply to CYP Committee have been highlighted in grey.
- 1.4 The table below provides a summary of the budget totals relating to CYP Committee:

Forecast Variance Outturn (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual May 21 £000	Outturn Variance £000
0	Children's Commissioning	22,612	2,366	0
0	Communities & Safety - Central Integrated Youth Support Services	382	-242	0
0	Children & Safeguarding	59,615	3,096	0
0	Education – non DSG	39,653	4,263	671
0	Education – DSG	89,278	11,178	11,244
0	Public Health - Children's Health	9,317	-242	0
0	Total Expenditure	220,857	20,419	11,915
0	Grant Funding (including Dedicated Schools Grant etc.)	-100,372	-17,242	-11,244
0	Total	120,485	3,177	671

Please note: Strategic Management – Commissioning and the Executive Director policy lines cover all of P&C and is therefore not included in the table above.

2. Main Issues – Revenue

- 2.1 At the end of May 2021, the overall P&C and PH position shows a forecast overspend of £326k; around 0.1% of budget. The budgets within the remit of CYP are currently forecasting an overspend of £671k (excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant).
- 2.1.2 The significant issues as highlighted in the main FMR are:

Outdoor Education is currently forecasting an in-year overspend of £639k due to school residential visits not being allowed until mid-May and a reduction in numbers in order to adhere to Covid-19 guidance.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Due to the continuing increase in the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and the complexity of need of these young people the overall spend on the High Needs Block element of the DSG funded budgets has continued to rise. At the end of 2020/21 the High Needs Block overspent by approximately £12.5m, which was in line with previous forecasts. However, there were a number of one-off underspends in other areas of the DSG which resulted in a net DSG overspend of £9.7m to the end of the year.

When added to the existing DSG deficit of £16.6m brought forward from previous years and allowing for required prior-year technical adjustments this totals a cumulative deficit of £26.4m to be carried forward into 2021/22. Based on initial budget requirements for 2021/22 there is an underlying forecast pressure of £11.2m relating to High Needs.

This is a ring-fenced grant and, as such, overspends do not currently affect the Council's bottom line. We are working with the Department for Education (DfE) to manage the deficit and evidence plans to reduce spend.

2.1.3 Other information:

Overnight and Residential Short Breaks - A Section 256 agreement (which allows CCGs to enter into arrangements with local authorities to carry out activities with health benefits) is now in place with the CCG for the provision of Overnight and Residential Short Breaks. This function has recently been brought back in to the control of Cambridgeshire County Council and although the transfer of funding is not new, the agreement of £350k per annum for the next 2 financial years secures health funding into the service for children with complex needs.

2.3 Capital

- 2.3.1 The P&C Capital Plan for 2021/22 has reduced by £5.2m since the Business Plan was published. This reduction is due to the combination of schemes being removed, delayed into future years, and savings made on the overall value of projects. There have also been changes to some of the sources of funding of the capital programme. A summary of these changes can be seen in Appendix C to this covering report.
- 2.3.2 The Capital Programme Board recommended that services include a variations budget to account for likely slippage in the capital programme, as it is sometimes difficult to allocate this to individual schemes in advance. The allocation for P&C's negative budget has been revised and calculated using the revised budget for 2021/22 as below. Slippage and underspends in 2021/22 resulted in the capital variations budget being fully utilised.

Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (May 21) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Outturn Variance (May 21) £000
P&C	-5,957	-5,957	2,590	43.5%	0
Total Spending	-5,957	-5,957	2,590	43.5%	0

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.2 A good quality of life for everyone
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us
There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications
This report sets out details of the overall financial position of the P&C Service.
- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement
There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

There are no significant implications within this category.

5. Source documents

5.1 Source documents

As well as presentation of the FMR to the Committee the report is made available online each month.

5.2 Location

[Click here to access the finance and budget performance reports on the Council website.](#)

Children & Young People Committee Revenue Budgets within the Finance Monitoring Report

Commissioning Directorate

Strategic Management – Commissioning – covers all of P&C

Access to Resource & Quality – covers all of P&C

Children's Commissioning

Children in Care Placements

Commissioning Services

Community & Safety Directorate

Youth and Community Services

Children & Safeguarding Directorate

Strategic Management – Children & Safeguarding

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

Fostering and Supervised Contact Services

Corporate Parenting

Integrated Front Door

Children's Disability Service

Support to Parents

Adoption Allowances

Legal Proceedings

Youth Offending Service

District Delivery Service

Children's Centres Strategy

Safeguarding West

Safeguarding East

Early Help District Delivery Service –North

Early Help District Delivery Service – South

Education Directorate

Strategic Management - Education

Early Years' Service

School Improvement Service

Schools Partnership Service

Outdoor Education

Cambridgeshire Music

ICT Service

Redundancy & Teachers Pensions

SEND Specialist Services (0-25 years)

SEND Specialist Services

Funding for Special Schools and Units

High Needs Top Up Funding

Special Educational Needs Placements
Out of School Tuition
Alternative Provision and Inclusion
SEND Financing - DSG

Infrastructure
0-19 Organisation & Planning
Education Capital
Home to School Transport – Special
Children in Care Transport
Home to School/College Transport – Mainstream

Executive Director
Executive Director - covers all of P&C
Lost Sales, Fees & Charges Compensation – covers all of P&C
Central Financing - covers all of P&C

Grant Funding
Financing DSG
Non Baselined Grants - covers all of P&C

Service: People and Communities (P&C) and Public Health (PH)

Subject: Finance Monitoring Report – May 2021

Date: 10th June 2021

Key Indicators

Previous Status	Category	Target	Current Status	Section Ref.
Green	Revenue position by Directorate	Balanced year end position	Amber	1.2
Green	Capital Programme	Remain within overall resources	Green	2

Contents

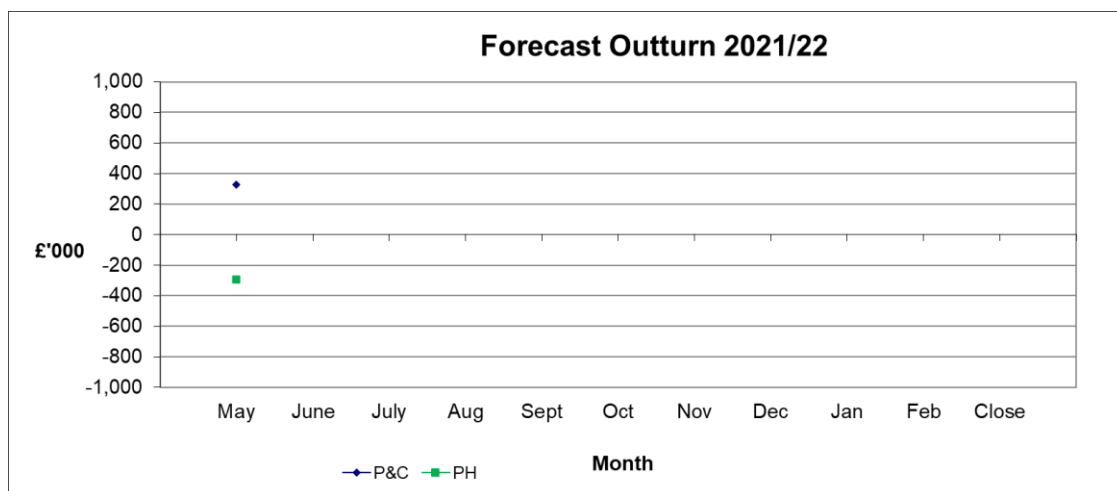
Section	Item	Description	Page
1	Revenue Executive Summary	High level summary of information: By Directorate By Committee Narrative on key issues in revenue financial position	2-7
2	Capital Executive Summary	Summary of the position of the Capital programme within P&C	8
3	Savings Tracker Summary	Summary of the final position on delivery of savings	8
4	Technical Note	Explanation of technical items that are included in some reports	9
5	Key Activity Data	Performance information linking to financial position of main demand-led services	9-15
Appx 1	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial tables for P&C main budget headings	16-18
Appx 1a	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial table for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) main budget headings within P&C	19
Appx 2	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial table for Public Health main budget headings	20
Appx 3	Service Commentaries	Detailed notes on financial position of services that are forecasting a significant variance against budget	21-24
Appx 4	Capital Appendix	This will contain more detailed information about P&C's Capital programme, including funding sources and variances from planned spend.	25-26
<i>The following appendices are not included each month as the information does not change as regularly:</i>			
Appx 5	Savings Tracker	Each quarter, the Council's savings tracker is produced to give an update of the position of savings agreed in the business plan.	
Appx 6	Technical Appendix	Twice yearly, this will contain technical financial information showing: Grant income received Budget virements into or out of Service reserves	

1. Revenue Executive Summary

1.1 Overall Position

People and Communities reported an overspend of £326k at the end of May.

Public Health reported an underspend of £-294k at the end of May.



1.2 Summary of Revenue position by Directorate

1.2.1 People and Communities

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual £000	Outturn Variance £000	Outturn Variance %
0	Adults & Safeguarding	177,574	30,327	-171	-0.1%
0	Commissioning	44,739	-6,596	-53	-0.1%
0	Communities & Partnerships	12,243	-1,733	311	2.5%
0	Children & Safeguarding	59,615	3,096	0	0.0%
0	Education - non DSG	40,365	4,363	671	1.7%
0	Education - DSG	89,278	11,178	11,244	12.6%
0	Executive Director	3,081	122	-432	-14.0%
0	Total Expenditure	426,894	40,756	11,571	2.7%
0	Grant Funding	-124,152	-22,025	-11,244	9.1%
0	Total	302,742	18,730	326	0.1%

1.2.2 Public Health

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual £000	Outturn Variance £000	Outturn Variance %
0	Children Health	9,317	-242	0	0.0%
0	Drugs & Alcohol	5,790	16	0	0.0%
0	Sexual Health & Contraception	5,113	1,391	0	0.0%
0	Behaviour Change / Preventing Long Term Conditions	3,714	344	0	0.0%
0	Falls Prevention	87	0	0	0.0%
0	General Prevention Activities	13	-0	0	0.0%
0	Adult Mental Health & Community Safety	257	4	0	0.0%
0	Public Health Directorate	21,460	1,014	-294	-1.4%
0	Total Expenditure	45,750	2,527	-294	

The Covid-related grants from central government are held centrally within the Council, and so the numbers in the table above are before any allocation of the funding to specific pressures.

1.2.3 Summary of Forecast Covid-19 Related Costs by Directorate for 2021/22

Directorate	Covid-19 Pressure £000
Adults & Safeguarding	10,065
Commissioning	524
Communities & Partnerships	445
Children & Safeguarding	1,395
Education	1,470
Executive Director	450
Public Health	0
Total Expenditure	14,349

These Covid-19 related costs are a mixture of additional expenditure, reduced income, and savings not delivered as a result of the pandemic. They are also net of any external funding received to cover specific functions and pressures. Increasingly, some of these additional costs have been included within initial budgets and as such do not impact on the services' forecast outturns reported elsewhere within this report. However, the overall costs related to Covid-19 are still required to be categorized and reported to central government.

1.3 Summary by Committee

P&C's services are overseen by different committees – these tables provide committee-level summaries of services' revenue financial positions.

1.3.1 Adults & Health Committee

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual May 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
0	Adults & Safeguarding	178,130	30,327	-171
0	Adults Commissioning (including Local Assistance Scheme)	21,336	-9,134	-53
0	Public Health (excl. Children's Health)	36,433	2,769	-294
0	Total Expenditure	235,899	23,962	-518
0	Grant Funding (including Improved Better Care Fund, Public Health Grant etc.)	-18,889	-4,740	0
0	Total	217,010	19,222	-518

1.3.2 Children and Young People Committee

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual May 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
0	Children's Commissioning	22,612	2,366	0
0	Communities & Safety - Central Integrated Youth Support Services	382	-242	0
0	Children & Safeguarding	59,615	3,096	0
0	Education – non DSG	39,653	4,263	671
0	Education – DSG	89,278	11,178	11,244
0	Public Health - Children's Health	9,317	-242	0
0	Total Expenditure	220,857	20,419	11,915
0	Grant Funding (including Dedicated Schools Grant etc.)	-100,372	-17,242	-11,244
0	Total	120,485	3,177	671

1.3.3 Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual May 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
0	Communities and Partnerships	11,860	-1,491	311
0	Total Expenditure	11,860	-1,491	311
0	Grant Funding (including Adult Education Budget etc.)	-4,891	-43	0
0	Total	6,969	-1,535	311

1.3.4 Cross Cutting P&C Policy Lines

Forecast Variance Outturn (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual May 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
0	Strategic Management – Commissioning	235	171	0
0	Executive Director	3,081	122	-432
0	Total Expenditure	3,316	293	-432
0	Grant Funding	0	0	0
0	Total	3,316	293	-432

1.4 Significant Issues

People & Communities started 2021/22 with a balanced budget including around £3m of funding to meet Covid-related demand pressures and savings of £4.2m.

P&C budgets are facing increasing pressures each year from rising demand and changes in legislation, and now have pressures because of the pandemic. The directorate's budget has increased by around 10% in 2021/22 to meet these pressures. In 2020/21, the pandemic severely impacted the financial position in P&C, and it is likely that the same will happen over at least the first part of 2021/22

At May 2021, the forecast P&C outturn is an overspend of £326k; around 0.1% of budget. This reflects services' best estimates of their financial position at this point in time but remains very uncertain. Unlike last year, we have had the opportunity to estimate and budget for some expected pressures from the pandemic this year. The Council also has un-ringfenced grant funding from central government to meet Covid-19 pressures across the whole Council. Section 1.2.3 above sets out the estimated Covid-19 pressures this year, some of which will have been estimated and budgeted for, and others are emerging.

P&C will receive specific grant funding from government to deal with aspects of the pandemic as well. The £3m infection control and testing grant is being passed to social care providers, and our first three months of lost income from fees and charges will be met by a grant.

Appendix 1 provides the detailed financial information by service, with Appendix 1a providing a more detailed breakdown of areas funded directly from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Appendix 3 providing a narrative from those services projecting a significant variance against budget.

1.4.1 Adults

Like councils nationally, Adult Services in Cambridgeshire has faced cost pressures for several years. This has been due to the rising cost of care home and home care provision due to both the requirement to be compliant with the national living wage and the increasing complexity of needs of people receiving care (both older people and working age adults). Budgets are set broadly based on this trend continuing, with some mitigations.

At the end of May, Adults are forecasting an underspend of £224k (0.1%), with pressures in some disability services offset with an underspend forecast in Older People's services.

The financial and human impact of Covid-19 has been substantial for Adult Services, overspending in 2020/21 because of the need to provide additional support to care providers, disrupted savings delivery, and rising needs of people receiving care. Some adults who were previously supported at home by friends, family and local community services have not been able to secure this support during Covid-19 due to visiting restrictions during lockdown. This has increased reliance on professional services; the

ability to focus on conversations about the use of technology, community support or other preventative services have been restricted due to the refocusing of staffing resources towards discharge from hospital work and supporting care providers. Many vulnerable adults have developed more complex needs during lockdown as they have not accessed the usual community-based services or early help services. We are expecting the longer-term financial impact of this to be very large.

Despite this, some services over 2020/21, and continuing into 2021/22, have seen expenditure at less than budgeted levels. This is particularly the case with spend on residential and nursing care for older people, where spend today is below the level budgeted for and therefore budget is available for rising demand or costs. This is causing a forecasted underspend on the Older People's budget, but the financial position of this service is considerably uncertain. There is likely to be an increase in need for care services as Covid-19 restrictions ease, and as NHS discharge funding ends in the middle of the year, as well as evidence of a rising complexity of need which will increase costs. Care provider support may also be required if government funding is not aligned to how long infection control requirements last. The forecast underspend assumes a lot of growth in cost from this month to the end of the year.

We will review in detail on a quarterly basis the activity information and other cost drivers to validate this forecast position, and so this remains subject to variation as circumstances change.

Learning Disabilities (LD) and Mental Health services have got cost pressures that are driving a forecast overspend for the year. Levels of need have risen greatly over the last year, and this is exacerbated by several new service users with LD care packages with very complex health needs, requiring large amounts of care that cost much more than we budget for an average new care service. LD services in Cambridgeshire work in a pooled budget with the NHS, so any increase in cost in-year is shared.

1.4.2 Children's

Although the levels of actual spend in relation to Covid-19 remained relatively low within Children's there are a number of areas which are likely to result in significant increased costs as we move into 2021/22 because of the pandemic:

- Due to the lockdown and lack of visibility of children, referrals to Children's saw a significant reduction; we predicted that there would be demand building up with a need for an increase in staff costs resulting from an increase in the number of referrals, requiring assessments and longer term working with families, whose needs are likely to be more acute, due to early support not having been accessed, within both early help and children's social care.
- We have seen an increase in the numbers of referrals of children and young people with more complex needs. This has been the case in other areas and signals that there is likely to be an increase in demand both in terms of volumes and complexity of need.
- While numbers in care are continuing to decline, albeit more slowly, we have seen a small increase in the number of young people in care with extremely complex needs that have required more specialist and expensive placements. There is a shortage of placements for this group of young people, and placement costs have been increasing from an already very high unit cost. Across the health and care system we are working on developing an invest to save business case to develop local services to meet the needs of these young people. The Covid-19 pandemic has also affected the full implementation of Family Safeguarding, with a small number of adult practitioner posts remaining vacant. Family Safeguarding is associated with lower numbers of children in the care system; the full benefit of the model requires all posts to be recruited to, and it is therefore possible that overall numbers in care may reduce more slowly than anticipated over coming months.

1.4.3 Education

Education – A number of services within Education have lost income as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some areas have been able to deliver services in different ways or have utilised their staff and/or building to provide support to other services to mitigate the overall impact. Outdoor Education is currently forecasting an in-year overspend of £639k due to school residential visits not being allowed until mid-May and a reduction in numbers in order to adhere to Covid-19 guidance.

The overall impact has been significant for many services with a traded element and may continue to deteriorate if schools and other providers choose not to access this provision as frequently in the future. The viability of outdoor education provision will need to be an area for discussion.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Appendix 1a provides a detailed breakdown of all DSG spend within P&C. The budget figures are net of recoupment for academies and high needs place funding.

Due to the continuing increase in the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and the complexity of need of these young people the overall spend on the High Needs Block element of the DSG funded budgets has continued to rise. At the end of 2020/21 the High Needs Block overspent by approximately £12.5m, which was in line with previous forecasts. However, there were a number of one-off underspends in other areas of the DSG which resulted in a net DSG overspend of £9.7m to the end of the year.

When added to the existing DSG deficit of £16.6m brought forward from previous years and allowing for required prior-year technical adjustments this totals a cumulative deficit of £26.4m to be carried forward into 2021/22. Based on initial budget requirements for 2021/22 there is an underlying forecast pressure of £11.2m relating to High Needs.

This is a ring-fenced grant and, as such, overspends do not currently affect the Council's bottom line. We are working with the Department for Education (DfE) to manage the deficit and evidence plans to reduce spend.

1.4.4 Communities

The Coroners service is reporting an opening pressure of £319k mainly as a result of additional costs related to Covid-19. Work is currently ongoing to review overall resources requirements of the service.

1.4.5 Executive Director

The Executive Director line is forecasting an underspend of £432k, due to a large provision for spend on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for service delivery expected to partly not be required as central government has extended its cost-neutral PPE scheme for councils into 2021/22 aligning it with the current phasing of restrictions easing. This forecast underspend is half of that provision.

1.5 Significant Issues – Public Health

The Public Health directorate is funded wholly by ringfenced grants, mainly the Public Health Grant. The work of the directorate has been severely impacted by the pandemic, as capacity has been re-directed to outbreak management, testing, and infection control work. The directorate's expenditure has increased by nearly 50% with the addition of new grants to fund outbreak management, mainly the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

In 2020/21, the pandemic caused an underspend on many of PH's business as usual services. Much of the directorate's spend is contracts with or payments to the NHS for specific work, and the NHS' re-focussing on pandemic response and vaccination reduced activity-driven costs to the PH budget. There is a risk of this continuing into the first part of 2021/22 with indications that spend is currently below budgeted levels. Service demand is difficult to predict and will be kept under review.

2. Capital Executive Summary

2021/22 In Year Pressures/Slippage

The P&C Capital Plan for 2021/22 has reduced by £1.836m since the Business Plan was published, resulting in a revised budget of £44.588m. This reduction is due the combination of schemes being removed or added, delayed into future years and changes to carry forward positions from 2020/21. The schemes with major variations of £500k or greater are listed below;

Scheme		2021/22 change (£000)	Overall Scheme Change (£000)
Littleport Community Primary	Slipped	-591	0
WING Development	Slipped	609	0
St Philips Primary School	Slipped	-710	0
Isleham Primary	New	10	11,226
Cambourne Village College Phase 3b	Slipped	-5,276	0
School Condition, Maintenance & Suitability	Additional	715	715
Meldreth Caretaker House	New	15	300
East Cambridgeshire Adult Service Development	Removed	-1,875	-3,000

Funding

The following changes in funding for 2021/22 have occurred since the Business Plan was published:

- School Conditions Allocation government grant funding increased by £715k.
- Adjustment to carry forward funding increased by £4,462k.
- Devolved formula capital reduced by £31k
- Adult specific Grant reduced by £1,000k
- Additional SEN funding announced for Cambridgeshire £2,709k
- Prudential Borrowing reduced by £8,691k to account for savings and slippage on projects since the business plan was approved.

In May the £2,709 additional SEN funding was removed from the 2021/22 capital plan as it is expected that this will be used toward the capital cost of the new area special school to be established in Alconbury Weald now known as Prestley Wood.

Details of the currently forecasted capital variances can be found in appendix 4.

3. Savings Tracker Summary

The savings tracker is produced quarterly to monitor delivery of savings against agreed plans. The first savings tracker of 2021/22 will be produced at the end of June.

4. Technical note

On a biannual basis, a technical financial appendix will be included as appendix 6. This appendix will cover:

- Grants that have been received by the service, and where these have been more or less than expected.
- Budget movements (virements) into or out of P&C from other services (but not within P&C), to show why the budget might be different from that agreed by Full Council.
- Service reserves – funds held for specific purposes that may be drawn down in-year or carried-forward – including use of funds and forecast draw-down.

5. Key Activity Data

The Actual Weekly Costs for all clients shown in section 2.5.1-2 are calculated based on all clients who have received a service, are receiving a service, or we plan will receive a service. Some clients will have ceased receiving a service in previous months, or during this month, or we will have assumed an end date in the future.

5.1 Children and Young People

5.1.1 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Children in Care Placements is shown below:

	BUDGET				ACTUAL (May 21)				VARIANCE		
Service Type	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements May 21	Yearly Average	Forecast Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted no. of placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Residential - disability	7	£1,204k	52	3,307.62	8	6.46	£1,082k	3,069.46	-0.54	-£122k	-238.16
Residential - secure accommodation	1	£365k	52	7,019.23	0	0.00	£k	0.00	-1.00	-£365k	-7,019.23
Residential schools	10	£1,044k	52	2,006.99	6	5.72	£503k	1,984.27	-4.28	-£541k	-22.72
Residential homes	35	£6,028k	52	3,311.90	39	37.18	£6,966k	3,684.78	2.18	£938k	372.88
Independent Fostering	230	£10,107k	52	845.04	225	218.42	£9,672k	869.53	-11.58	-£434k	24.49
Supported Accommodation	20	£1,755k	52	1,687.92	23	17.04	£1,546k	1,483.28	-2.96	-£209k	-204.64
16+	8	£200k	52	480.41	4	2.10	£34k	256.60	-5.90	-£165k	-223.81
Supported Living	3	£376k	52	2,411.58	3	1.48	£253k	2,115.56	-1.52	-£124k	-296.02
Growth/Replacement	0	£k	0	0.00	0	0.00	£1,023k	0.00	-	£1,023k	0.00
Additional one off budget/actuals	0	£k	0	0.00	0	0.00	£k	0.00	-	£k	0.00
Mitigations required	0	£k	0	0.00	0	0.00	£k	0.00	-	£k	0.00
TOTAL	314	£21,078k			308	288.40	£21,078k		-24.08	£K	
In-house Fostering	240	£5,103k	56	382.14	226	219.77	£4,389k	362.57	-20.23	-£714k	-19.57
TOTAL	240	£5,103k			226	219.77	£4,389k		-20.23	-£1,124k	
Adoption Allowances	97	£1,063k	52	210.16	88	87.03	£1,078k	224.49	-9.97	£15k	14.33
Special Guardianship Orders	322	£2,541k	52	151.32	286	280.60	£2,167k	145.03	-41.4	-£373k	-6.29
Child Arrangement Orders	55	£462k	52	160.96	55	53.88	£435k	156.13	-1.12	-£26k	-4.83
Concurrent Adoption	3	£33k	52	210.00	1	1.00	£11k	210.00	-2	-£22k	0.00
TOTAL	477	£4,098k			430	422.51	£3,692k		-9.97	-£406k	
OVERALL TOTAL	1,031	£30,279k			964	930.68	£29,159k		-54.28	-£1,530k	

NOTES:

In house Fostering payments fund 56 weeks as carers receive two additional weeks payment during the Summer holidays and one additional week each for Christmas and birthday.

5.1.2 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for SEN Placements is shown below:

The following key activity data for SEND covers 5 of the main provision types for pupils with EHCPs.

Budgeted data is based on actual data at the close of 2020/21 and an increase in pupil numbers over the course of the year.

Actual data is based on a snapshot of provision taken at the end of the month and reflect current numbers of pupils and average cost

Provision Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (May 21)					FORECAST	
	No. pupils	Expected in-year growth	Average annual cost per pupil (£)	Budget (£000) (excluding academy recoupment)	No. Pupils as of May 21		% growth used	Average annual cost per pupils as of May 2021		Forecast spend (£)	Variance (£)
					Actual	Variance		Actual (£)	Variance (£)		
Mainstream top up *	1,913	174	8,130	16,059	2,012	99	157%	8,136	6	16,059	0
Special School **	1,326	121	10,755	20,811	1,270	-56	54%	10,852	97	20,811	0
HN Unit **	202	n/a	13,765	3,182	208	6	n/a	13,763	-2	3,182	0
Out of School Tuition ****	84	n/a	45,600	3,834	178	94	n/a	41,370	-4,230	3,834	0
SEN Placement (all) ***	243	n/a	53,464	13,012	247	4	n/a	52,680	-784	13,012	0
Total	3,768	294	-	56,898	3,915	147	149.78%	-	-	56,898	0

* LA cost only

** Excluding place funding

*** Education contribution only

5.2 Adults

In the following key activity data for Adults & Safeguarding, the information given in each column is as follows:

- Budgeted number of care services: this is the number of full-time equivalent (52 weeks) service users anticipated at budget setting.
- Budgeted average unit cost: this is the planned unit cost per service user per week, given the budget available.
- Actual care services and cost: these reflect current numbers of service users and average cost; they represent a real time snapshot of service-user information.

A consistent format is used to aid understanding, and where care types are not currently used in a particular service those lines are greyed out.

The direction of travel (DoT) compares the current month's figure with the previous month.

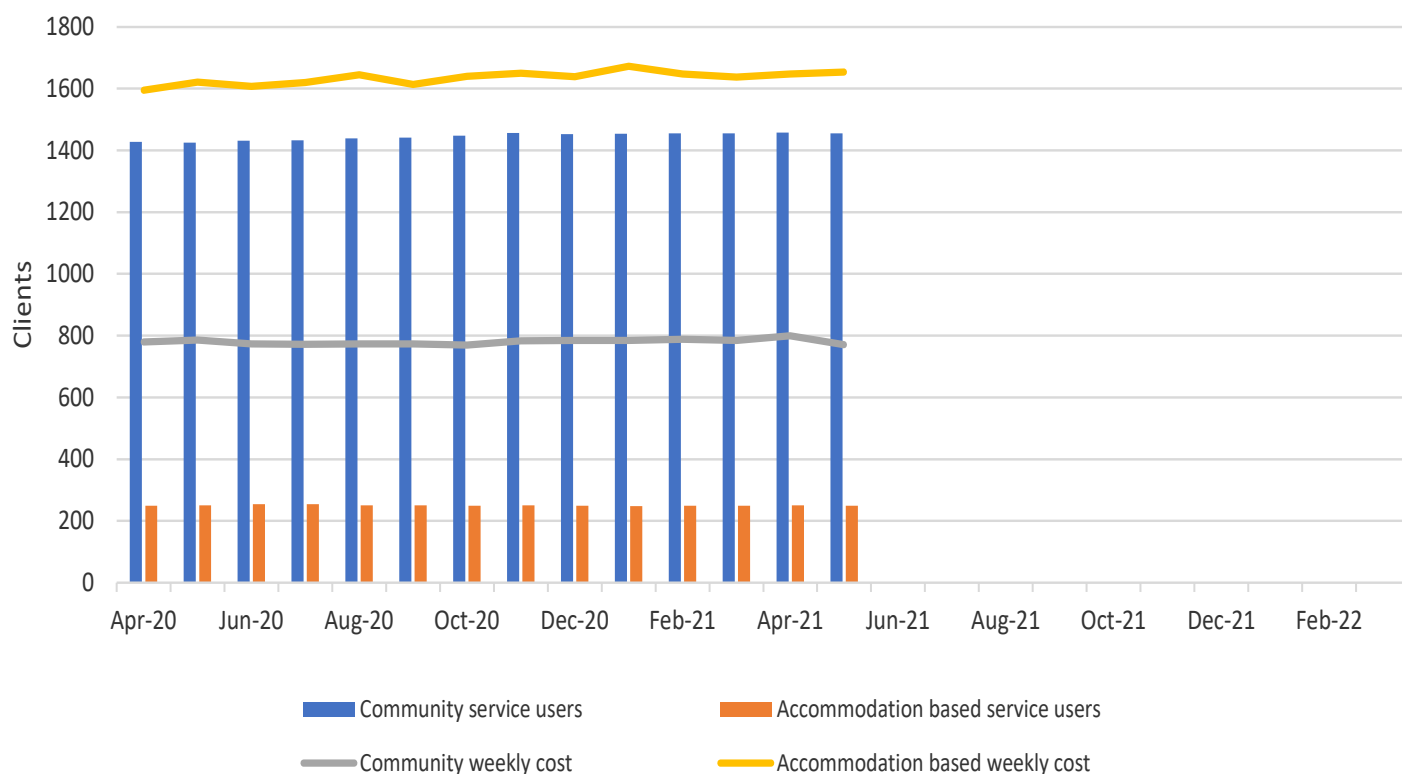
The activity data for a given service will not directly tie back to its forecast outturn reported in appendix 1. This is because the detailed forecasts include other areas of spend, such as ended care services and staffing costs, as well as the activity data including some care costs that sit within Commissioning budgets.

5.2.1 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Learning Disability Partnership is shown below:

Learning Disability Partnership	BUDGET			ACTUAL (May 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	251	£1,759	£24,664k	252 ↑		£1,776 ↑		£24,835k ↑		£171k
~Nursing	6	£2,385	£813k	6 ↔		£2,385 ↔		£809k ↓		-£4k
~Respite	159	£183	£382k	154 ↓		£208		£378k ↓		-£4k
Accommodation based subtotal	416	£1,096	£25,860k	412		£1,121		£26,022k		£163k
Community based										
~Supported Living	456	£1,338	£35,160k	455 ↓		£1,322 ↓		£35,409k ↑		£249k
~Homecare	386	£380	£6,342k	378 ↓		£373 ↓		£6,341k ↓		-£1k
~Direct payments	403	£446	£8,874k	402 ↓		£442 ↓		£8,923k ↑		£49k
~Live In Care	15	£2,033	£1,709k	15 ↔		£1,994 ↓		£1,701k ↓		-£8k
~Day Care	437	£175	£4,146k	437 ↔		£176 ↑		£4,250k ↑		£104k
~Other Care	57	£86	£856k	58 ↑		£85 ↓		£844k ↓		-£11k
Community based subtotal	1,754	£598	£57,087k	1,745		£591		£57,468k		£382k
Total for expenditure	2,170	£693	£108,806k	2,157		£692		£83,491k ↓		£544k
Care Contributions			-£4,396k					-£4,505k ↑		-£109k

The LDP includes service-users that are fully funded by the NHS, who generally have very high needs and therefore costly care packages

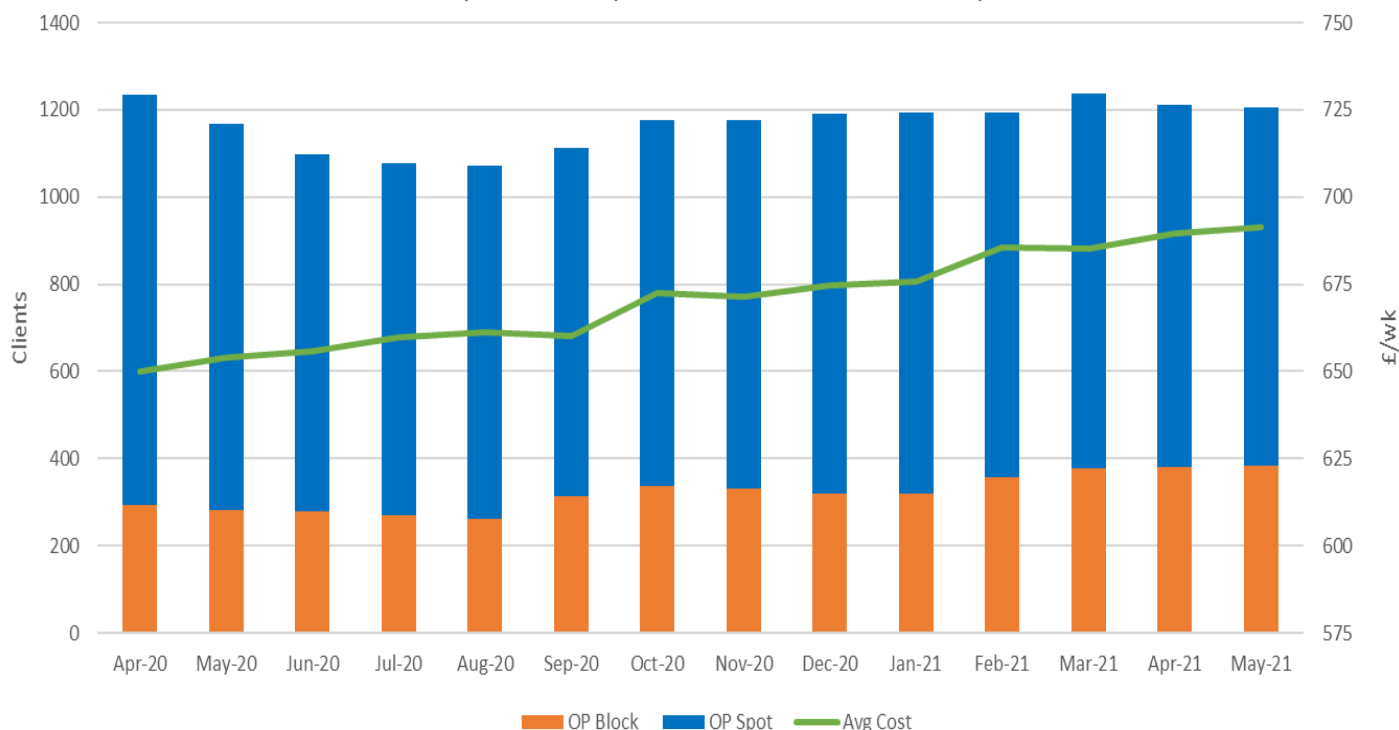
LDP Activity and Weekly Cost from April 2020



5.2.2 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Older People's (OP) Services is shown below:

Older People	BUDGET			ACTUAL (May 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	410	£672	£14,054k	365 ↓		£637 ↓		£14,416k ↑		£362k
~Residential Dementia	517	£657	£17,722k	440 ↓		£658 ↑		£17,948k ↑		£226k
~Nursing	290	£808	£12,199k	258 ↓		£739 ↓		£13,279k ↑		£1,080k
~Nursing Dementia	203	£809	£8,539k	141 ↓		£851 ↑		£8,357k ↓		-£182k
~Respite	41	£679	£1,584k	38		£731		£1,449k ↓		-£134k
Accommodation based subtotal	1,461	£694	£54,098k	1,242		£670		£55,450k		£1,351k
Community based										
~Supported Living	320	£368	£5,603k	349 ↑		£142 ↓		£5,640k ↑		£37k
~Homecare	1,510	£230	£18,320k	1,224 ↓		£239 ↑		£14,424k ↓		-£3,896k
~Direct payments	160	£320	£2,465k	155 ↓		£352 ↑		£2,613k ↑		£148k
~Live In Care	30	£822	£1,250k	28 ↓		£839 ↑		£1,262k ↑		£12k
~Day Care	267	£54	£763k	72 ↓		£71 ↑		£762k ↓		£k
~Other Care			£163k	↔		↔		£166k ↑		£3k
Community based subtotal	2,287	£243	£28,564k	1,828		£233		£24,867k		-£3,697k
Total for expenditure	3,748	£419	£136,761k	3,070		£410		£135,766k ↓		-£994k
Care Contributions			-£20,621k					-£21,104k		-£483k

OP Activity and Weekly Cost for Care Homes from April 2020



5.2.3 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Physical Disabilities Services is shown below:

Physical Disabilities	BUDGET			ACTUAL (May 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D T	Average Unit Cost (per week)	D T	Total spend/ income	D T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	33	£905	£1,611k	37	↑	£637	↓	£1,545k	↓	-£66k
~Residential Dementia	4	£935	£195k	7	↑	£658	↓	£137k	↓	-£58k
~Nursing	38	£1,149	£2,438k	46	↑	£739	↓	£2,356k	↓	-£82k
~Nursing Dementia	3	£1,192	£192k	3	↔	£851	↓	£107k	↓	-£86k
~Respite	2	£685	£114k	10		£731		£114k	↔	£k
Accommodation based subtotal	80	£1,010	£4,550k	103		£628		£4,259k		-£292k
Community based										
~Supported Living	7	£843	£551k	37	↑	£142	↓	£539k	↓	-£12k
~Homecare	389	£257	£5,326k	424	↑	£239	↓	£5,356k	↑	£30k
~Direct payments	285	£398	£5,279k	279	↓	£352	↓	£5,164k	↓	-£116k
~Live In Care	35	£862	£1,627k	35	↔	£839	↓	£1,609k	↓	-£19k
~Day Care	21	£85	£94k	24	↑	£71	↓	£103k	↑	£8k
~Other Care			£4k	1	↑		↔	£1k	↓	-£3k
Community based subtotal	737	£341	£12,882k	800		£295		£12,771k		-£111k
Total for expenditure	817	£406	£21,982k	903		£333		£21,289k	↓	-£694k
Care Contributions			-£2,154k					-£2,154k		£k

5.2.4 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Older People Mental Health (OPMH) Services:

Older People Mental Health	BUDGET			ACTUAL (May 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	32	£717	£1,010k	31 ↔		£690 ↑		£1,059k ↑		£49k
~Residential Dementia	28	£755	£860k	28 ↑		£727 ↑		£901k ↑		£42k
~Nursing	23	£826	£943k	23 ↑		£822 ↑		£1,023k ↑		£80k
~Nursing Dementia	69	£865	£2,788k	70 ↑		£829 ↑		£3,024k ↑		£236k
~Respite	3	£708	£42k	0 ↓		£708 ↔		£42k ↔		£k
Accommodation based subtotal	155	£792	£5,643k	152		£781		£6,050k		£407k
Community based										
~Supported Living	9	£340	£111k	9 ↔		£340 ↔		£106k ↓		-£5k
~Homecare	68	£221	£693k	4 ↓		£218 ↑		£756k ↑		£62k
~Direct payments	9	£273	£116k	9 ↔		£318 ↑		£143k ↑		£28k
~Live In Care	8	£1,079	£455k	7 ↓		£1,093 ↑		£408k ↓		-£48k
~Day Care	4	£47	£k	3 ↓		£47 ↑		£k ↔		£k
~Other Care	2	£6	£1k	72 ↑		£61 ↑		£1k ↔		£k
Community based subtotal	100	£293	£1,376k	104		£183		£1,414k		£38k
Total for expenditure	255	£596	£12,662k	256		£538		£13,513k ↑		£851k
Care Contributions			-£958k					-£958k		£k

5.2.5 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Adult Mental Health Services is shown below:

Adult Mental Health	BUDGET			ACTUAL (May 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	58	£794	£2,369k	57 ↔		£777 ↑		£2,290k ↓		-£80k
~Residential Dementia	6	£841	£267k	4 ↓		£664 ↓		£258k ↓		-£9k
~Nursing	10	£788	£427k	12 ↑		£787 ↑		£461k ↑		£34k
~Nursing Dementia	3	£686	£112k	2 ↓		£755 ↑		£120k ↑		£9k
~Respite	1	£20	£k	1 ↔		£20 ↔		£k ↔		£k
Accommodation based subtotal	78	£783	£3,176k	76		£761		£3,130k		-£46k
Community based										
~Supported Living	113	£181	£1,812k	110 ↓		£182 ↑		£1,801k ↓		-£12k
~Homecare	135	£113	£1,333k	135 ↑		£118 ↑		£1,337k ↑		£4k
~Direct payments	14	£364	£263k	14 ↔		£359 ↓		£285k ↑		£22k
~Live In Care	2	£1,030	£109k	2 ↔		£1,018 ↓		£108k ↓		£k
~Day Care	4	£66	£42k	4 ↔		£66 ↔		£14k ↓		-£28k
~Other Care	0	£0	£10k	0 ↔		£0 ↔		£8k ↓		-£3k
Community based subtotal	268	£161	£3,569k	265		£163		£3,552k		-£17k
Total for expenditure	346	£301	£9,920k	341		£297		£9,811k ↑		-£109k
Care Contributions			-£393k					-£393k		£k

5.2.6 Key activity data at the end of May 21 for Autism is shown below:

Autism	BUDGET			ACTUAL (May 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential										
~Residential Dementia				↔		↔		↔		£k
Accommodation based subtotal										
Community based										
~Supported Living	18	£469	£429k	11 ↓		£848 ↑		£574k ↑		£145k
~Homecare	19	£151	£149k	15 ↓		£149 ↓		£133k ↓		-£17k
~Direct payments	19	£299	£297k	16 ↓		£333 ↑		£310k ↑		£13k
~Live In Care	1	£1,979	£142k	0 ↓		£0 ↓		£k ↓		-£142k
~Day Care	18	£65	£62k	14 ↓		£64 ↓		£58k ↓		-£4k
~Other Care	2	£29	£3k	2 ↔		£60 ↑		£7k ↑		£4k
Community based subtotal	77	£262	£1,083k	58		£309		£1,081k		-£2k
Total for expenditure	78	£278	£1,181k	59		£328		£1,263k ↑		-£16k
Care Contributions			-£54k					-£44k		£10k

Due to small numbers of service users some lines in the above have been redacted.

Appendix 1 – P&C Service Level Financial Information

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
		Adults & Safeguarding Directorate				
0		Strategic Management - Adults	-3,635	2,455	118	3%
0		Transfers of Care	2,030	401	-0	0%
0		Prevention & Early Intervention	9,628	1,963	0	0%
0		Principal Social Worker, Practice and Safeguarding	1,580	275	2	0%
0		Autism and Adult Support	1,578	470	-0	0%
0		Adults Finance Operations	1,783	265	0	0%
		Learning Disabilities				
0		Head of Service	5,458	231	0	0%
0		LD - City, South and East Localities	38,040	6,132	-167	0%
0		LD - Hunts & Fenland Localities	33,130	5,111	-26	0%
0		LD - Young Adults	9,530	1,430	726	8%
0		In House Provider Services	7,378	1,106	0	0%
0		NHS Contribution to Pooled Budget	-21,717	-5,429	-124	-1%
0		Learning Disabilities Total	71,819	8,582	410	1%
		Older People and Physical Disability Services				
0		Physical Disabilities	16,356	2,935	0	0%
0		OP - City & South Locality	24,228	4,887	-340	-1%
0		OP - East Cambs Locality	8,607	1,291	-340	-4%
0		OP - Fenland Locality	13,258	1,944	0	0%
0		OP - Hunts Locality	15,937	2,335	-320	-2%
0		Older People and Physical Disability Total	78,385	13,392	-1,000	-1%
		Mental Health				
0		Mental Health Central	1,847	-15	-50	-3%
0		Adult Mental Health Localities	6,059	1,055	0	0%
0		Older People Mental Health	6,500	1,486	350	5%
0		Mental Health Total	14,405	2,525	300	2%
0		Adults & Safeguarding Directorate Total	177,574	30,327	-171	0%
		Commissioning Directorate				
0		Strategic Management –Commissioning	235	171	0	0%
0		Access to Resource & Quality	1,289	198	0	0%
0		Local Assistance Scheme	300	51	0	0%
		Adults Commissioning				
0		Central Commissioning - Adults	17,333	-9,249	-53	0%
0		Integrated Community Equipment Service	2,018	-266	0	0%
0		Mental Health Commissioning	2,241	330	0	0%
0		Adults Commissioning Total	21,592	-9,184	-53	0%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
		Children's Commissioning				
0		Children in Care Placements	21,078	2,168	0	0%
0		Commissioning Services	245	0	0	0%
0		Children's Commissioning Total	21,323	2,168	0	0%
0		Commissioning Directorate Total	44,739	-6,596	-53	0%
		Communities & Partnerships Directorate				
0		Strategic Management - Communities & Partnerships	67	-122	-0	0%
0		Public Library Services	3,732	615	0	0%
0		Cambridgeshire Skills	2,178	-646	0	0%
0		Archives	369	36	0	0%
0		Cultural Services	314	-1	0	0%
0		Registration & Citizenship Services	-634	-125	0	0%
0		Coroners	1,569	571	311	20%
0		Trading Standards	694	0	0	0%
0		Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service	918	-1,244	0	0%
0		Think Communities	2,655	-574	0	0%
0		Youth and Community Services	382	-242	0	0%
0		Communities & Partnerships Directorate Total	12,243	-1,733	311	3%
		Children & Safeguarding Directorate				
0		Strategic Management - Children & Safeguarding	2,605	479	-0	0%
0		Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	2,507	189	-0	0%
0		Fostering and Supervised Contact Services	9,980	1,394	-0	0%
0		Corporate Parenting	7,810	709	-0	0%
0		Integrated Front Door	4,164	655	-0	0%
0		Children's Disability Service	6,861	1,329	-0	0%
0		Support to Parents	1,102	-981	0	0%
0		Adoption	5,658	140	-0	0%
0		Legal Proceedings	2,050	166	0	0%
0		Youth Offending Service	1,880	30	-0	0%
		District Delivery Service				
0		Children's Centres Strategy	61	0	0	0%
0		Safeguarding West	1,029	286	0	0%
0		Safeguarding East	4,832	-2,610	0	0%
0		Early Help District Delivery Service – North	4,504	599	0	0%
0		Early Help District Delivery Service – South	4,572	710	0	0%
0		District Delivery Service Total	14,999	-1,014	0	0%
0		Children & Safeguarding Directorate Total	59,615	3,096	0	0%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Education Directorate						
0		Strategic Management - Education	2,082	98	0	0%
0		Early Years' Service	3,973	692	32	1%
0		School Improvement Service	1,017	156	0	0%
0		Schools Partnership service	574	378	0	0%
0		Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)	-2	351	639	30114%
0		Cambridgeshire Music	0	130	-0	-%
0		ICT Service (Education)	-200	-953	0	-%
0		Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	3,727	117	0	0%
SEND Specialist Services (0-25 years)						
0		SEND Specialist Services	10,853	1,502	0	0%
0		Funding for Special Schools and Units	34,846	3,281	0	0%
0		High Needs Top Up Funding	28,846	2,248	0	0%
0		Special Educational Needs Placements	13,846	2,842	0	0%
0		Out of School Tuition	3,834	174	0	0%
0		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,317	1,031	0	0%
0		SEND Financing – DSG	-11,244	0	11,244	100%
0		SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	88,298	11,077	11,244	13%
Infrastructure						
0		0-19 Organisation & Planning	3,187	440	0	0%
0		Education Capital	179	550	0	0%
0		Home to School Transport – Special	14,988	1,333	0	0%
0		Children in Care Transport	1,588	54	0	0%
0		Home to School Transport – Mainstream	10,231	1,117	0	0%
0		0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	30,173	3,495	0	0%
0		Education Directorate Total	129,643	15,541	11,916	9%
Executive Director						
0		Executive Director	1,794	122	-432	-24%
0		Lost Sales, Fees & Charges Compensation	1,266	0	0	0%
0		Central Financing	21	0	0	0%
0		Executive Director Total	3,081	122	-432	-14%
0		Total	426,894	40,756	11,571	3%
Grant Funding						
0		Financing DSG	-90,523	-16,961	-11,244	-12%
0		Non Baselined Grants	-33,629	-5,064	0	0%
0		Grant Funding Total	-124,152	-22,025	-11,244	9%
0		Net Total	302,742	18,730	326	0%

Appendix 1a – Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Summary FMR

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Commissioning Directorate						
Children's Commissioning						
0		Commissioning Services	245	0	0	0%
0		Children's Commissioning Total	245	0	0	0%
0		Commissioning Directorate Total	245	0	0	0%
Children & Safeguarding Directorate						
District Delivery Service						
0		Early Help District Delivery Service –North	0	0	0	0%
0		Early Help District Delivery Service – South	0	0	0	0%
0		District Delivery Service Total	0	0	0	0%
0		Children & Safeguarding Directorate Total	0	0	0	0%
Education Directorate						
0		Early Years' Service	1,518	463	-0	0%
0		Schools Partnership service	150	0	0	0%
0		Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	0	0	0	0%
SEND Specialist Services (0-25 years)						
0		SEND Specialist Services	7,280	929	0	0%
0		Funding for Special Schools and Units	34,846	3,281	0	0%
0		High Needs Top Up Funding	28,846	2,248	0	0%
0		Special Educational Needs Placements	13,846	2,842	0	0%
0		Out of School Tuition	3,834	174	0	0%
0		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,242	994	0	0%
0		SEND Financing – DSG	-11,244	0	11,244	100%
0		SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	84,649	10,467	11,244	13%
Infrastructure						
0		0-19 Organisation & Planning	2,561	249	-0	0%
0		Home to School Transport – Special	400	0	0	0%
0		0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	2,961	249	-0	0%
0		Education Directorate Total	89,278	11,178	11,244	13%
0		Total	89,523	11,178	11,244	13%
0		Contribution to Combined Budgets	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Schools						
0		Primary and Secondary Schools	402,484	20,761	0	0%
0		Nursery Schools and PVI	36,942	7,216	0	0%
0		Schools Financing	-529,949	-47,952	0	0%
0		Pools and Contingencies	0	66	0	0%
0		Schools Total	-90,523	-19,909	0	0%
0		Overall Net Total	0	-7,730	11,244	-%

Appendix 2 – Public Health Summary FMR

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Children Health						
0		Children 0-5 PH Programme	7,271	-188	0	0%
0		Children 5-19 PH Programme - Non Prescribed	1,705	-54	0	0%
0		Children Mental Health	341	0	0	0%
0		Children Health Total	9,317	-242	0	0%
Drugs & Alcohol						
0		Drug & Alcohol Misuse	5,790	16	0	0%
0		Drug & Alcohol Misuse Total	5,790	16	0	0%
Sexual Health & Contraception						
0		SH STI testing & treatment - Prescribed	3,750	1,561	0	0%
0		SH Contraception - Prescribed	1,096	-73	0	0%
0		SH Services Advice Prevention/Promotion - Non-Prescribed	267	-97	0	0%
0		Sexual Health & Contraception Total	5,113	1,391	0	0%
Behaviour Change / Preventing Long Term Conditions						
0		Integrated Lifestyle Services	1,980	306	0	0%
0		Other Health Improvement	426	95	0	0%
0		Smoking Cessation GP & Pharmacy	683	-66	0	0%
0		NHS Health Checks Programme - Prescribed	625	10	0	0%
0		Behaviour Change / Preventing Long Term Conditions Total	3,714	344	0	0%
Falls Prevention						
0		Falls Prevention	87	0	0	0%
0		Falls Prevention Total	87	0	0	0%
General Prevention Activities						
0		General Prevention, Traveller Health	13	-0	0	0%
0		General Prevention Activities Total	13	-0	0	0%
Adult Mental Health & Community Safety						
0		Adult Mental Health & Community Safety	257	4	0	0%
0		Adult Mental Health & Community Safety Total	257	4	0	0%
Public Health Directorate						
0	10	Public Health Strategic Management	945	0	-294	-31%
0		Public Health Directorate Staffing and Running Costs	2,051	358	0	0%
0		Test and Trace Support Grant	1,064	167	0	0%
0		Contain Outbreak Management Fund	15,590	45	0	0%
0		Lateral Flow Testing Grant	1,811	444	0	0%
0		Public Health Directorate Total	21,460	1,014	-294	-1%
0		Total Expenditure before Carry-forward	45,750	2,527	-294	-1%
Funding						
0		Public Health Grant	-26,787	-6,902	0	0%
0		Test and Trace Support Grant	-1,064	-1,064	0	0%
0		Contain Outbreak Management Fund	-15,590	-15,590	0	0%
0		Community Testing Grant	-1,811	0	0	0%
0		Other Grants	-498	-404	0	0%
0		Grant Funding Total	-45,749	-23,959	0	0%
0		Overall Net Total	0	-21,432	-294	

Appendix 3 – Service Commentaries on Forecast Outturn Position

Narrative is given below where there is an adverse/positive variance greater than 2% of annual budget or £100,000 whichever is greater for a service area.

1) Strategic Management – Adults

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
-3,635	2,455	118	3%

This budget line is forecasting an overspend of £118k due to pressures on the central transport service. This service commissions transport for people with disabilities mainly to attend day centres. Due to the pandemic, some contracts that were expected to have been retendered for reduced costs are still in place. Also, we are continuing to pay to plan for transport costs as day centre attendance is still slightly disrupted. This means we are paying full contract value for the first part of the year, whereas in previous years we would normally have had some reductions where transport routes did not run for various reasons.

2) Learning Disabilities

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
71,819	8,582	410	1%

The Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) budget is forecasting an overspend of £534k at the end of May. The Council's share of the overspend per the pooled arrangement with the NHS is £410k.

The overspend is within the Young Adults service and is due to two new care services for service users with very complex health needs. There is an allowance for transitions in the Young Adults budget. However, these new care services cost significantly more than the price previously paid for care services for young people with complex needs so there is a forecast pressure on the transitions demand budget. If this trend continues then the pressure on the LDP budget this year is likely to increase above the current forecast.

A Transitions Panel has recently been set up to discuss complex cases transferring from children's services, so all involved parties will be able to better plan and forecast for transitions. Primarily this should improve outcomes for service users, but an additional benefit will be to aid better budget planning.

Furthermore, the Young Adults team continues to have strengths-based conversations with service users, working on service users' independence and helping them to achieve their goals. They are on track to achieve a £200k preventative savings target, part of the Adults' Positive Challenge Programme. This is built into the forecast and mitigates some of the demand pressure.

3) Older People

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
62,029	10,457	-1,000	-2%

Older People's Services are forecasting an underspend of £1.0m at the end of May. As was reported throughout 2020/21, sadly the impact of the pandemic has led to a notable reduction in the number of people having their care and support needs met in care homes, and this short-term impact has carried forward into early forecasting for 2021/22. We remain significantly below budget at the end of May for spend on older people's care.

There is considerable risk and uncertainty around the impact the pandemic will have on both medium- and longer-term demand. We know that there is a growing number of people who have survived Covid but have been left with significant care needs that we will need to meet, and many vulnerable adults have developed more complex needs during lockdown as they have not accessed the usual community-based services or early help services due to lockdown. This is borne out by a significant increase in referrals reported by the Long-Term care teams since the start of the year that has not yet been reflected in reported commitments. There has also been an increase in referrals and requests for help to Adult Early Help as well as an increase in Safeguarding Referrals and Mental Health Act Assessments.

We do expect some substantial cost increases as both NHS Covid funding is unwound fully in 2021/22 and the medium-term recovery of clients assessed as having primary health needs upon hospital discharge returning to social care funding streams.

The reported financial position includes an allowance for the above factors, and detailed monitoring of placement activity continues to be maintained to facilitate this. However, given the level of uncertainty regarding volume, acuity and timing of the likely demand pressures, it is expected that the forecast for Older People's Services may flex significantly over the course of the year.

4) Mental Health Services

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
14,405	2,525	300	2%

Mental Health Services are reporting an overspend of £300k for May.

It was reported last year that the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on elderly clients with the most acute needs in the short-term. However there was a significant increase in placements into care homes over the final quarter of 2020/21, and this has continued into the early part of 2021/22 with current placement numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels. Similar to Older People's Services, there is considerable uncertainty around impact of the pandemic on longer-term demand for services, and so it is not yet clear whether the recent increase in placements is indicative of an emerging trend or a one-off outcome of the second wave.

Mental Health care teams are reporting a significant increase in demand for AMHP services. It is anticipated that this may result in an increase in the provision of packages for working age adults with mental health needs above budgeted expectations, both in terms of numbers and complexity of needs.

Detailed monitoring of placement activity continues to be maintained to inform financial reporting.

5) Coroners

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
1,569	571	311	20%

The coroners service is forecasting an opening pressure of 311k as a result of:

- Required changes to venues to make them Covid-19 compliant.
- Increased costs of postmortems owing to additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and more staff required to reflect the high risk nature of potential Covid-19 related deaths.
- Increasing complexity of cases referred to the Coroner in the jurisdiction, leading to longer investigation and inquest durations.

6) Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
-2	351	639	-%

The Outdoor Centres outturn forecast is a £639k pressure. This is due to the loss of income as a result of school residential visits not being allowed until mid-May and a reduction in numbers following the opening up in order to adhere to Covid-19 guidance. More than 50% of the centres' income is generated over the summer term and so the restricted business at the start of the financial year has a significant impact on the financial outlook for the year. Approximately 70% of the lost income until June can be claimed back through the local Government lost fees and charges compensation scheme. The figures above also allow for the small number of staff still being furloughed.

7) SEND Financing DSG

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
-11,244	0	11,244	-%

Due to the continuing increase in the number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and the complexity of need of these young people the overall spend on the High Needs Block element of the DSG funded budgets has continued to rise. The current forecast in-year pressure reflects the initial identified shortfall between available funding and existing budget requirements.

8) Executive Director

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
1,794	122	-432	-24%

A provision of £900k was made against this budget line on a one-off basis in 2021/22 for the costs of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is needed to deliver a variety of services across social care and education services. When budgets were agreed for 2021/22 there was uncertainty about what, if any, PPE would be provided directly by government rather than having to purchase it ourselves. The Government subsequently confirmed that their PPE scheme would continue, and therefore over the first quarter of the year PPE spend by the Council will be minimal. As infection control measures are expected to decrease over the rest of the year, we expect to underspend by at least this much on PPE.

9) Financing DSG

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
-90,523	-16,961	11,244	-12%

Above the line within P&C, £90.5m is funded from the ring-fenced DSG. Net pressures will be carried forward as part of the overall deficit on the DSG.

10) Public Health Strategic Management

Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual May 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
945	0	-294	-31%

The budget for this service line consists of parts of the increase in Public Health Grant in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 where these have not yet been allocated to specific services (either because it remains unallocated or because the service has not yet started). The forecast underspend is approximately half of the available grant uplift and reflects the likelihood that the first part of the year will continue to be disrupted by Covid-19 and therefore plans to spend this funding may be delayed. It also provides for a more general likelihood that there will be some underspend across Public Health over the first part of the year even if services are not reporting that yet.

Appendix 4 – Capital Position

4.1 Capital Expenditure

Original 2021/22 Budget as per BP £'000	Scheme	Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Actual Spend (May 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (May 21) £'000	Total Scheme Revised Budget £'000	Total Scheme Variance £'000
	Schools					
12,351	Basic Need - Primary	11,719	-481	-657	187,810	0
11,080	Basic Need - Secondary	5,822	-1,277	-1,722	236,548	0
665	Basic Need - Early Years	1,578	2	0	6,973	0
1,475	Adaptations	1,141	120	-1	6,988	0
3,000	Conditions Maintenance	5,947	142	0	24,215	0
813	Devolved Formula Capital	2,036	0	0	7,286	0
2,894	Specialist Provision	3,200	406	-210	24,661	0
305	Site Acquisition and Development	305	-7	0	455	0
1,000	Temporary Accommodation	1,000	10	0	12,500	0
675	Children Support Services	675	0	0	5,925	0
12,029	Adult Social Care	10,719	7	0	51,511	0
3,353	Cultural and Community Services	3,662	283	0	6,285	0
-5,957	Capital Variation	-5,957	0	2,590	-52,568	0
905	Capitalised Interest	905	0	0	4,699	0
44,588	Total P&C Capital Spending	42,752	-796	0	523,288	0

The schemes with significant variances (>£250k) either due to changes in phasing or changes in overall scheme costs can be found below:

Northstowe Secondary

Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Outturn (May 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (May 21) £'000	Variance Last Month (Apr 21) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ Overspend £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Reprogramming / Slippage £'000
537	250	-287	0	-287		-287

Slippage due to further review and decision that the build element including the 6th Form provision is no longer required until 2024.

New secondary capacity to serve Wisbech

Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Outturn (May 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (May 21) £'000	Variance Last Month (Apr 21) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ Overspend £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Reprogramming / Slippage £'000
1,984	600	-1,384	0	-1,384		-1,384

Slippage in the project after significant delays in the announcement by the Department for Education of the outcome of Wave 14 free school applications. Design work expected in 2021/22 with building work starting on site late March 22.

Other changes across all schemes (<250k)

Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Outturn (May 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (May 21) £'000	Variance Last Month (Apr 21) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ Overspend £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Reprogramming / Slippage £'000
					-319	-573

Other changes below £250k make up the remainder of the scheme variances

P&C Capital Variation

The Capital Programme Board recommended that services include a variations budget to account for likely slippage in the capital programme, as it is sometimes difficult to allocate this to individual schemes in advance. The allocation for P&C's negative budget has been revised and calculated using the revised budget for 2021/22 as below. Slippage and underspends in 2021/22 resulted in the capital variations budget being fully utilised.

Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (May 21) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Outturn Variance (May 21) £000
P&C	-5,957	-5,957	2,590	43.5%	0
Total Spending	-5,957	-5,957	2,590	43.5%	0

4.2 Capital Funding

Original 2021/22 Funding Allocation as per BP £'000	Source of Funding	Revised Funding for 2021/22 £'000	Spend - Outturn (May 21) £'000	Funding Variance – Outturn (May 21) £'000
0	Basic Need	976	976	0
3,113	Capital maintenance	6,060	6,060	0
813	Devolved Formula Capital	2,036	2,036	0
0	Schools Capital	0	0	0
5,699	Adult specific Grants	4,699	4,699	0
16,409	S106 contributions	16,409	16,409	0
0	Other Specific Grants	2,709	0	-2,709
0	Other Contributions	0	0	0
0	Capital Receipts	0	0	0
21,175	Prudential Borrowing	12,484	15,193	2,709
-2,621	Prudential Borrowing (Repayable)	-2,621	-2,621	0
44,588	Total Funding	42,752	42,752	0

Changes from the 2021/22 Business Plan Capital Budgets:

Rephasing and scheme additions/reductions:

Scheme	2021/22 change (£000)	Overall Scheme change (£000)	Notes
Littleport Community Primary	-591	0	Rephasing of the school element which will now complete summer 2022.
WING Development	609	0	After initial works progressing on site ahead of schedule.
St Philips Primary School	-710	0	Project slipped and completion will now be summer 2022
Isleham Primary	10	11,226	New scheme for the relocation and expansion of Isleham CE Primary School from 210 to 420 places including early years provision
Cambourne Village College Phase 3b	-5,276	0	Slippage due to start on site now delayed until May 2022, no change to anticipated completion date of summer 2023
School Condition, Maintenance & Suitability	2,947	715	Additional grant from the anticipated level in business planning. Also c/f of 2020/21 additional funding of £2,323.
Meldreth Caretaker House	15	300	New Scheme to provide additional early years places.
Devolved Formula Capital	1,223	-31	DFC is a three year rolling balance and includes £1,254k carry forward from 2020/21. The -£31 represents a slight decrease in the DFE grant than anticipated at business planning.

Scheme	2021/22 change (£000)	Overall Scheme change (£000)	Notes
East Cambridgeshire Adult Service Development	-1,875	-3,000	Scheme removed as per committee paper in February 2020
Other changes (<£250k)	-1,637	0	The remaining changes to the capital programme are below the de-minimus limit of £250k
TOTAL	-5,285	9,210	

Additions/reductions in funding:

Funding Type	2021/22 change (£000)*	Explanation
Prudential borrowing	8,691	Adjustment for 2021/22 savings and slippage on projects and to fund roll forward position from 2020/21
Basic Need Grant	976	Roll forward of grant from 2020/21
Adults Specific Grant	-1,000	Reduction of assumed additional NHS grant associated with the removal of East Cambridgeshire Adult Service Development.
School Conditions Allocation	2,947	Additional government grant and roll forward from 2020/21
SEN Funding	2,709	New SEN Funding for 2021/22
Devolved Formula Capital	1,223	Reduction in government grant £31k and roll forward of 2020/21 grant

***Please note:** Figures are net of carry forward adjustments where applicable.

Service Director Report - Education

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 29th June 2021

From: Service Director - Education

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref:

Outcome: The report is intended to provide an overview to the Committee of the current challenges in education and the short and longer term objectives as we move into the recovery phase.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to note the report and request any further information on the areas outlined.

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Covid-19 situation has meant the work of the education directorate has expanded significantly to provide advice and guidance to all schools and early years settings, whilst many of our statutory functions continue. It has been a hugely challenging time where teams across the Council have stood up to this challenge and worked beyond expectations to ensure our children, staff and communities are protected. This journey has been charted through reports to the Children and Young People Committee. This challenge continues, but we are starting to move towards the recovery phase and this paper seeks to cover the current approach and future plans for the Directorate.

2. Key Issues in Education

Covid 19 Position

- 2.1 Since the start of the summer term (12th April), we have had 177 confirmed Covid-19 cases in Cambridgeshire schools and early years settings. These include cases in independent schools. This has led to 144 members of staff and 2,001 children isolating. We have undertaken regular briefings for Headteachers at each of the stages of the route map out of Covid-19 and provided resources and support to ensure schools and early years settings continue to remain safe places for our children and staff. Weekly member briefings have been produced throughout the Covid-19 pandemic for Members and MPs to ensure they are fully briefed on the challenges we are facing.

Attendance

- 2.2 Attendance has been strong throughout, reflecting parental confidence and the hard work of schools to support children safely returning to school. We have been consistently above national and regional average and we produce a weekly monitoring tool for schools that compare their attendance against other schools in the Local Authority area. This has been perceived as best practice by the Department for Education and shared with other areas where attendance is low.

	Attendance - 9th June 2021		
	Cambridgeshire	East of England	England
Primary Attendance	96.9%	96.0%	95.5%
Secondary Attendance	73.4%	73.3%	72.4%
Overall attendance	87.9%	85.9%	85.2%
Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan	86.9%	85.7%	85.3%
Pupils with social worker	84.3%	81.2%	81.3%

- 2.3 These figures are impacted by closure of bubbles as the attendance is compared against overall numbers on a school roll.

Exams – Year 11 and Year 13.

- 2.4 Owing to the cancellation of exams again this academic year, schools have been collating evidence on student performance for teacher assessed grades (TAG). This has included the use of tests made available by the examining body, mock results, assessed student work and other evidence. Schools will then submit the TAG information to the relevant board, and these will be reviewed and moderated, with further investigation if required. A period of moderation and review will be undertaken before results are published on the 10th August (A-levels) and 12th August (GCSEs). This is earlier than usual to allow times for appeals and for students to get more support with their choice of the next stage of their education. Students are not notified of their submitted grades.
- 2.5 The appeal process is open to all students. Centres must submit appeals requested by students. There is a prioritised appeal process for those students applying to higher education who did not attain their firm choice (i.e. the offer they accepted as their first choice) and wish to appeal an A-level or other Level 3 qualification result. The appeals process goes through two stages:
- Stage 1: The Centre Review – where there is check for administrative errors (e.g. mis-transposing grades from one spreadsheet to another) and that the centre has followed its procedures properly and consistently.
 - Stage 2: Awarding Organisation appeal. Candidates can appeal to awarding organisations if they feel the Centre Review did not properly resolve concerns about administrative or procedural errors. They can also appeal on the basis of unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence from which to determine the grade and/or the determination of that grade from the evidence. The independent reviewer will determine the alternative grade. The awarding organisation will then report the revised grade and outcome of the appeal, with reasons, to the centre. The 'independent reviewer' is a subject expert appointed and trained by the awarding organisation.
- 2.6 Priority students have to request Centre Reviews (stage 1) by August 16th, and Awarding Organisation appeals (stage 2) by August 23rd. Non-priority appeals can be processed until October.
- 2.7 Where the awarding organisation finds an issue, they will report these findings to the centre and direct them to revise the Teacher Assessed Grade.
- 2.8 Teaching staff and leaders will be required to be available over the summer holidays. This is likely to be a challenging process for both schools, students, and parents. We are intending to undertake some proactive communication work prior to the publication of outcomes so people can understand the arrangements for this year.

Current Priorities

- 2.9 Covid-19 is very much still part of our daily work. However, we have begun to focus on wider areas which will contribute to our work and objectives moving forward. Upcoming reports to this Committee will outline these areas further but the current areas of priority are:
- Supporting schools with the continued challenge of Covid-19. This is likely to remain until Spring 2022 due to vaccination roll out with children and the impact of the Delta variant in school age children.
 - We have not yet seen the full impact of Covid-19 on families and vulnerable children and young people – behaviour, SEND needs and mental health challenges are emerging. We will need to respond to support this and broker additional services to support children. We do not currently have any additional funding for this.
 - The substantial deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for high needs funding. This is around £27m and we have lobbied Government for additional funding but nothing has been forthcoming to date. We are finalising a recovery plan and have worked closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to outline the challenges we face. Our aim is to bring our spend in line with the annual budget in the next three years. We will continue pushing our case for DfE 'safety valve' funding to write off our deficit. Other authorities have received this funding.
 - Addressing the lack of capacity within SEND services to support the volume of requests for Education Health and Care Plans. We have seen a 38.5% increase in numbers of children in three years and despite investment in the team, we cannot keep pace with the volume of work. The statutory assessment process takes capacity from across the service. We also need further capacity to transform service areas to provide better outcomes and reduce spend.
 - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on pupil's learning. This is not yet fully understood and will not be established nationally until next year with the first set of published performance data. We are intending collecting information from schools this term to understand where children are against national expectations to help schools to plan.
 - Procure a provider and deliver a voucher scheme for all eligible children from vulnerable families for the 2021 Summer holidays.
 - Recruiting to vacancies across the service - we have been unable to recruit to several key roles within the team including the Assistant Director for School and Setting Improvement. To deliver current and future priorities, we need further capacity.
 - We have recently undertaken a revisit of our LA survey of schools after three years. This has shown significant improvement in the creditability of the LA but also highlighted a number of areas for further development. This will form part of our action plan moving forward.

- Deliver the education elements of the joint administration agreement. This includes ensuring sufficiency of breakfast club provision, supporting schools to remain maintained by the Local Authority and looking at sustainability funding for Nursery schools. Action plans will be written for all of these areas.
- Increasing the take up for free school meal entitlement especially for families who are low income following Covid-19. We also want to increase the take up of 2 year old funded places and the early years pupil premium (3 and 4 year olds) as we know settings are losing out on financial support which is vital to support catch up in these establishments.
- Ensure attendances continues to be high across all groups including a focus on vulnerable groups. We will also offer advice parents who are considering elective home educating their children line with the new requirement brought in during Covid-19.

Long Term Objectives

2.10 Planning for the longer term is challenging at the current time however the key focus areas for the directorate can be listed below:

- Commission eight new schools to meet our growth requirements in the next five years. This will be undertaken through the LA led free school presumption processes and support trusts with free school bids.
- Developed a school improvement strategy that bring all outcomes above national average and to the top of our statistical neighbours. Focus areas:
 - Improving Key Stage 2 outcome. All other areas have seen significant improvements and more schools becoming good and outstanding.
 - Focus our challenge and support to Academy Trusts over their performance.
 - We are 'closing the gap' for pupil premium children at a faster pace than other local authorities but the gap remains one of the largest in the country. With more children becoming eligible for pupil premium, we need to continue to deliver our approach further.
- Ensure there is a sustainable approach to operating our smallest schools. This may involve consideration of different models for delivery and we are working with the Church of England Diocese to ensure we can continue to support these schools in their communities. Cambridgeshire schools are funded at 145th out of the 151st and this is affecting all children. We are hoping that changes to the national funding formula and the inclusion of a revised sparsity factor (rurality) will support schools.
- Develop an action plan for improving prevention and early intervention for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and reduce the need for statutory processes. This will include developing more locally based, school-based provision as part of the continuum of support for children with additional needs.

- Ensure we effectively respond to the Ofsted Inspection of SEND services expected to take place in 2022. The last inspection took place in 2017.
- Sustain the improvement that have emerged in Fenland through the Opportunity area to ensure its academic performance continues to improve.
- Build a strong Local Authority led family of maintained schools to deliver and sustain outstanding school improvement and a culture of self-improvement.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

- Schools and early years settings are at the heart of communities. Ensuring effective recovery from Covid-19 will support communities getting back to normal.

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

- Providing high quality education should enhance the skills of the local workforce and provide essential childcare services for working parents or those seeking to return to work. Schools and early years and childcare services are providers of local employment.

3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

- The funding will support the most challenging families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.

3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

- There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

- Education is the major universal service the council provides as all children are required to access education. School and early years settings play a critical role in safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and families. Post Covid-19, this role is becoming even more important.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The need to ensure sufficient capacity for the SEND statutory process will be considered as a capacity bid. The funding requirement is currently being considered.

- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:
There are no significant implications within this category.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes
Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes
Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes
Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes
Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes
Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?
No implications.

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

No implications

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 Source documents

None

Supporting Vulnerable Families during the 2021 Summer Holidays

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 29th June 2021

From: Service Director - Education

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref:

Outcome: To agree the allocation of funds to provide FSM for Summer 2021 in recognition of ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our most vulnerable families. Post Summer 2021 we will be developing an anti-poverty strategy that will consider how we ensure those families entitled to free school meals and other vulnerable families and groups have access to food and other basic needs, as well as support with debt management, employment and training opportunities.

Recommendation: The Children and Young People Committee is asked to:

a) Debates whether to refer the request for circa £1.61m of funding to the Strategy and Resource committee to fund supermarket vouchers during the summer holidays.

b) If this is agreed, the committee is asked to authorise the use of the RM6255 framework for procurement of vouchers and for the Service Director Education to consider the appropriate route for ensuring vouchers are distributed in time for the summer holidays.

Officer contact:

Name: Jonathan Lewis
Post: Service Director Education
Email: Jonathan.lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:

Names: Councillors Bryony Goodliffe / Councillor Maria King
Post: Chair/Vice-Chair

Email: Bryony.Goodliffe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk / Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 706398

1. Background

- 1.1 Following significant public pressure, the Government allocated in the late autumn a new grant (the Winter Support Grant) to provide support to vulnerable families for food during the Christmas and February half term holidays. Cambridgeshire received £1.459m and the authority was required to spend a minimum of 80% on food, energy and water bills for household purposes (ring-fenced) and up to 20% for other essentials. It was agreed with the CYP Committee Chair that we were operate two schemes which were:
- Support with food – Direct Voucher Scheme. A voucher for a choice of 8 supermarkets was sent to eligible families automatically via an automated system called Wonde which was used by the majority of schools in Cambridgeshire. Each eligible child received a £15 voucher for each week of the school holidays (£3 per day). Those eligible for the voucher will be those pupils who met the following criteria:
 - Early Years Pupil Premium,
 - Children that access funded two-year-old education,
 - Eligible for Free School Meals ,
 - Students eligible for 16+ bursary.
 - County Hub – for all other families, an offer was made from the hub arrangements. We worked with the Districts councils and the voluntary sector to provide the right support for those that need it. Grants were made to support local organisations to make the right support offer. Over 3000 applications were made during the Christmas and half term and support requests include food, household energy bills, clothing, blankets, shoes, and white goods.
- 1.2 The Winter Support Grant was extended for the two weeks of the Easter holiday at a lower level of funding (£703,715). We agreed locally to continue our focus on the voucher scheme with smaller amounts being funded via the County hub. In May, a new grant was allocated to Local Authorities – the LA Covid Support Grant – for continuing the support to vulnerable families during the summer half term. Cambridgeshire's allocation was £343,509. Again, a voucher offer was made to all eligible parents.
- 1.3 Currently there is no Government announcement on funding for the summer holidays and this is unlikely given the end of roadmap out of Covid-19 recovery in June. The Holiday and Activity Fund will provide some support (outlined later in this report) but there will be no direct funding for families and the reach of this scheme will not cover all this group. Around £1.646m has been spent in Cambridgeshire supporting families for these six weeks with around 110,000 vouchers allocated to date.
- 1.4 As part of the Joint Administration agreement, a commitment was made to maintain free school meals for eligible children during school holidays. This is in recognition of ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our most vulnerable families and a growing number of families who are newly eligible for accessing support. Post summer 2021, we will be

developing an anti-poverty strategy that will consider how we ensure those families entitled to free school meals and other vulnerable families and groups have access to food and other basic needs, as well as support with debt management, employment and training opportunities.

- 1.5 This paper outlines the financial implications of meeting this summer holiday requirement and the timescales for delivery.

2. Providing Support to Vulnerable Families during the 2021 Summer Holidays

Increasing Free School Meal Numbers during Covid-19

- 2.1 Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen a significant increase in the number of children becoming eligible for support through free school meals and voucher schemes. The table below outlines the changes in eligible pupils -

	March 2020	May 2021	Change during Covid-19	Pupils on Roll (October Census) Age 4 to 16
East Cambs	1697	2168	27.8%	13057
Fenland	2926	3722	27.2%	13716
Huntingdonshire	3546	4492	26.7%	24754
South Cambs	1821	2461	35.1%	23578
Cambridge City	2880	3655	26.9%	14224
Cambridgeshire	12870	16498	28.2%	89329

- 2.2 The number of children in early years setting accessing supermarket vouchers increased from 1,904 at Christmas to 2,321 by summer half term. We have also provided vouchers for those children who are not on a school roll or are electively home educated. We do not intending changing the definition of who receives these vouchers from that outlined in 1.1 of this report.

Costs of Providing Supermarket Vouchers

- 2.3 In previous rounds, we have funded eligible children at £3 per day over week days (i.e. £15 a week). The summer holidays vary from school to school but the published Cambridgeshire term dates which many schools follow have 28 'week' days (including the August Bank holiday for funding). Therefore, parents will be allocated £84 for the summer holiday.
- 2.4 Based upon the current take up of meals, it costs around £56,520 a day and this will mean an estimated total cost of £1.58m. In addition, there are post 16 students who attend colleges in Cambridgeshire which qualify under the post 16 bursary scheme. We estimate this to cost around £25k.

- 2.5 All figures will be reviewed and updated and it is likely the final cost may be higher due to new parents becoming eligible. Early years also has the potential for significant variability as the criteria for 2 year old funding is different from the Early years pupils premium (covering 3 and 4 year olds) and children will move up to the older category during these months. A cut off will be established to allow the vouchers to be allocated. The overall costs also allow for a small number of vouchers that are either unwanted or are not claimed. It is our intention to withdrawn unclaimed vouchers in October. Any refund would be made to the Council. There is an additional cost of administering these schemes and this will be around £6k for this period.

Procurement Arrangements

- 2.6 With the Winter Support Grant and LA Covid support grant, the Council has used emergency provision under Covid-19 situation to directly award to a voucher supplier (Wonde). We are unable to follow this route due to the current context. It is our intention to access a new procurement framework put in place by the Crown Commercial Service (CCS). Local Authorities can access a list of thirteen suppliers, including current providers of vouchers, but may find this scheme to be more flexible. Using this [RM6255 Voucher Scheme](#) will allow the Council to either direct award or undertake a further competition. The framework means the Council is not required to undertake a full OJEU procurement. The agreement is fully legal, compliant and in line with procurement regulations. This reduces procurement risk for and reduces bureaucracy in the procurement process. The framework could be used to provide vouchers other parts of the council including clothing, electricals and energy vouchers e.g. care leavers.

Holiday Activities and Food Fund

- 2.7 On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the holiday activities and food pilot programme will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. The programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018. The programme will cover the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021 and Cambridgeshire was awarded £1.8m for this period.
- 2.8 School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from disadvantaged families:
- Less likely to access organised out-of-school activities;
 - More likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health; and;
 - More likely to experience social isolation.
- 2.9 This HAF programme seeks to address some of this shortfall. During the summer, we will be delivering in Cambridgeshire our second round of the HAF programme. Over the Easter Holidays, we worked with 30 Holiday Scheme providers and childminders and offered 584 places, 340 of which were taken up. The feedback from parents and providers was positive overall and we have used this learning to pull together an expanded summer offer. We

currently have 81 providers registered to offer places, with 1981 places currently available to book during the summer holidays. We have mapped provision against need to ensure delivery is where it is most needed.

- 2.10 Through schools, we have sent letters to all eligible families, explaining what the programme is and how they can access places. Parents can use the Provider Directory on the Council website to locate their nearest/chosen provider and book places directly with them. The grant we have received has enabled us to pay providers £112 per 16 hours booked per child. Under the Summer HAF programme, children are entitled to access up to 64 hours of funded provision across multiple providers.
- 2.11 For providers to register to offer places, they had to express an interest and then complete a registration form, clearly demonstrating how they were able to meet the criteria of the HAF Programme set by the DfE. We have run several Provider Network sessions and funded and run training sessions on food hygiene, play work, safeguarding and Ofsted registration. In order to support providers further, we are also offering support with food provision and the transportation of children to venues where we can, utilising Think Communities' knowledge and network of local food charities and community transport groups. Providers are expected to offer food to children as part of the HAF programme – the rule of thumb is meal should be provided for every four hours of provision accessed. All meals provided are expected to meet school foods standards. Support will be offered to providers where possible.

Timescales and Further Considerations

- 2.9 It is a hugely complex operation to allocate vouchers. Cambridgeshire term ends on the 22nd July and it takes around two weeks to allocate the vouchers which includes schools checking the allocations made. The procurement will take up to two weeks, so the decision-making process is essential. If a decision is not made at the Strategy and Resources Committee on the 6th July, we will not be able to allocate in time for the end of term.
- 2.10 There are a number of challenges that will require resolving prior to allocating vouchers and a further briefing note will be sent to Member of the Committee and wider Councillors once agreed. These include consideration of the current year 11 pupils that will leave their secondary school on the 25th June (where statutory education ends) and how to fund those pupils accessing education outside of Cambridgeshire including those in Peterborough schools.
- 2.11 At this stage, it is proposed to allocate two vouchers during the holidays – one at the start of and the other in the middle of the holidays. Each voucher would be for £42.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

- The funding will support the most challenging families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.

- The process is means tested so we are targeting funding at the areas of greatest need.

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

- The funding will support the most challenging families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.

3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

- The funding will support the most challenging families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.

3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

- There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

- The funding will support the most challenging families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 2.3 to 2.5. The recommendation from this report will form part of the key decision paper on finance presented at the Strategy and Resources Committee on the 6th July.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 2.6.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The offer will be able all eligible families so there are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

We will communicate to parents with letters, support documents and a media campaign to ensure parents are aware of their eligibility and how the supermarket voucher systems works.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The proposal will provide a supermarket voucher across all constituencies across the county. Information will be shared with all Councils – both County and District / City if agreement to proceed is reached.

4.7 Public Health Implications

We will be including our letter advice to parents on health eating. We will also promote the Health Start Programme for children age 0 to 4 that allow parents to access a government voucher scheme for milk, vegetables and vitamins.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

There are no significant implications within this category.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?

Name of Financial Officer: Tom Kelly

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes

Procurement using the stated framework will be compliant, but to achieve value for money and to negate the risk of challenge, using the further competition route rather than direct award is recommended.

Name of Officer: Henry Swan HoP CCC

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona MacMillian

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes

Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

No response

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 Source documents

None

Cambridgeshire Sufficiency Strategy

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 29th June 2021

From: Director of Children's Services

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/a

Outcome: To consider a renewed sufficiency strategy relating to children and young people in care to Cambridgeshire County Council and family support services.

The sufficiency strategy will help us to work with internal and external providers of placements for children in care to ensure that as many children coming into care as possible are able to continue to live in Cambridgeshire and close to their home communities.

Recommendation: a) To agree to the adoption of the sufficiency strategy included as Appendix 1 to this report.

Officer contact:

Name: Lou Williams
Post: Director of Children's Services
Email: lou.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 703286

Member contacts:

Names: Councillors Bryony Goodliffe and Maria King
Post: Chair/Vice-Chair
Email: bryony.goodliffe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and maria.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

1. Background

- 1.1. All local authorities who have responsibility for children in care are required to publish a sufficiency strategy.
- 1.2. A sufficiency strategy should set out what steps the local authority will take in order to ensure that as many children and young people in our care are able to live in placements [usually foster homes] that are within the County, enabling them to retain links with communities and families, except where to do so would not be in their best interests.
- 1.3. Local authorities are not under any obligation to provide all placements for children in their care. Placements may be provided by Independent Fostering Agencies and independent sector providers of residential children's homes.
- 1.4. The Sufficiency Duty is described in the 2008 Children and Young Person's Act as: 'A whole system approach which delivers early intervention and preventative work to help support children and their families where possible, as well as providing better services for children if they do become looked after. For those who are looked after, Local Authorities and their Children's partners should seek to secure a number of providers and a range of services, with the aim of meeting the wide-ranging needs of looked after children and young people within their local area'.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1. The Cambridgeshire Sufficiency Strategy 2021-24 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. It provides a detailed analysis of the population of children looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council. This is not a static group – many children and young people who come into care leave care again quite quickly. This might be because the issues that caused the child to come into care have been addressed and they are able to return home. It may also be because they have left care to be adopted, or to live permanently with a [usually] relative under a Special Guardianship Order. Some children and young people – often those who have complex disabilities – are in care as a result of having a number of overnight short breaks from their families, but continue to live for the majority of the time at home. A significant proportion, however, and particularly those who come into care aged 5 and above, will remain in care until they reach 18 years of age.
- 2.2. The characteristic of children in care change over time, reflecting changes in the broader community as well as changes in practice. The Cambridgeshire population of children and young people is becoming more culturally diverse. The implementation of Family Safeguarding in Cambridgeshire means that we are better at supporting families with younger children to make the changes they need to make in order to provide loving and stable homes. This means that fewer young children are coming into care now than was the case previously. Changes like these mean that there is an on-going need to review the availability of local placements for children in care.
- 2.3. The majority of children and young people live in foster families, with over 70% of Cambridgeshire children and young people living with foster carers. The majority of the remainder live in residential children's homes or, for some of those aged 16 and 17, in semi-independent provision. The sufficiency strategy is concerned with ensuring that we are taking

steps to ensure that children and young people living in foster placements, residential care and semi-independent living are, as far as possible and in line with their specific circumstances, able to be looked after locally.

- 2.4. Our ambition remains to build the number of our own fostering households, and support our foster carers to enable them to feel more confident about offering homes to older children and young people. We have been successful in recruiting our own carers following investment in this area, but we have more to do to enable more of our carers to feel confident offering care to older children and young people.
- 2.5. Independent Fostering Agency foster carers provide an important service, with no local authority able to place all their children with their own carers. We work closely with fostering agencies to develop positive relationships so that we can place more of our children and young people with their carers, but not Independent Fostering Agency carers with vacancies will live within the County.
- 2.6. There is a national shortage of foster carers, and a growing number of children in care nationally [even if numbers in care in Cambridgeshire have been declining recently]. Foster carers tend to be older, meaning that approved carers may not foster for many years before retiring. Foster placements with foster carers also become unavailable to children newly coming into care, because the foster carer has decided to offer a permanent home for the children they are looking after. This is obviously great for the children in their care, but means that placement choice is reduced. For reasons like these, recruitment must be a continuous activity, if numbers of fostering households overall are to be maintained, let alone increased.
- 2.7. The other two main forms of accommodation where children in care live are residential children's homes and semi-independent living, for some young people aged 16 and 17.
- 2.8. The sufficiency strategy discusses both types of accommodation, indicating not only the gaps in current availability, but also geographical areas within Cambridgeshire where there is a need for more of certain types of provision.
- 2.9. Children and young people needing residential care generally have highly specialist needs and do best in small homes that are very well matched to those needs. Placement matching with other young people in placement is also very often an important consideration. Nationally, around 66% of this type of provision is managed by the independent sector, and many local authorities, including Cambridgeshire, do not operate their own children's homes except those that offer short breaks for children and young people with disabilities.
- 2.10. The sufficiency strategy includes a proposal to undertake an options proposal to look at other options for delivering residential care for Cambridgeshire children and young people in care. As is the case with fostering placements, there is a national shortage of residential placements for children and young people. There are indications from Government that they are considering how to streamline the process of opening children's homes, and may consider some capital funding for local authorities to develop their own provision.
- 2.11. For some children and young people, and particularly those with very complex needs, the ability of a placement to be able to promote the best possible outcomes will continue to take priority over location.

- 2.12. Semi-independent provision is largely operated by the independent sector, and there are a number of small local providers of this accommodation in Cambridgeshire. This sector is not currently regulated by Ofsted, and our commissioning service has a very robust quality assurance framework in place to ensure that all providers that we use are providing good quality support.
- 2.13. The Cambridgeshire sufficiency strategy has been co-produced with children and young people who have experience of being in care in Cambridgeshire. The strategy describes our ambitions for continuing to develop preventative services that enable families to provide the love and care that their children need, while ensuring that as far as possible, children and young people coming into care have suitable local placements available for them.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Children in care do best when they live in stable family homes, attend a consistent school and build sustainable community relationships.

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Effective family support services enable families to address issues that would otherwise have an adverse impact on their children. Where children need to come into care in order for their wellbeing to be safeguarded and promoted, enabling them to remain living in the right placement is most likely to enable them to achieve the best outcomes.

3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Children do best in learning and development if they are able to live in stable and loving homes, with their own families if at all possible, or with well-matched foster placements or other care settings if remaining at home is not in their best long-term interests.

3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Vulnerable children are entitled to be supported to remain at home with their parents wherever possible. Our family support services work with families where parents are struggling to meet the needs of their children so that they are supported to make the changes they need to make.
- Where children would be at risk of significant harm were they to remain in the care of their parents, or where they have very complex needs that require specialist care, we provide well-matched placements to enable children and young people to grow up safely and achieve the best possible outcomes.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This report is not primarily about finance, but actions that we take to increase the supply of suitable, in-house foster placements and placements that are within the local authority do have apposite financial benefit. In-house fostering placements are around half the cost of an Independent Fostering Agency foster placement. Local placements reduce travelling time for social workers and the expense of promoting contact between children and their families.
- Supporting children to remain with their families where this is in their best long term interests is also a better outcome for the child concerned as well as financially.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The Sufficiency Strategy details the commissioning and procurement mechanisms in place for sourcing placements for children and young people in care from external providers. .

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- As set out in paragraph 1.4 of this report, upper tier local authorities are required by statutory duty to have a Sufficiency Strategy. Family support services and the law relating to children and young people in care are also covered by legislation including the Children Act 1989.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Supporting good outcomes for children, young people and their families contributes to an overall improvement in public health outcomes.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Lou Williams

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes or No

Name of Officer:

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Lou Williams

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 Source documents

None

Cambridgeshire County Council Sufficiency Statement

Children in Care & Care Leavers
2021 - 2024

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FOREWORD

By Abi, Young Inspector

Hi, I'm Abi, one of the Young Inspectors.



The Young Inspectors are a group of young people who have experience of children's social care and using that expertise, scrutinise services for children and young people through discussion, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups and site inspections of council run services.

We recently completed an inspection of a local residential provision for children with disabilities and were able to make a number of recommendations on how services could be further personalised for individual children, which have been put into effect by the Registered Manager.

Remember that you should not underestimate the influence of matching, of carers and existing children or other young people who already live there, as it can make the difference between a stable, happy living situation and a messy placement breakdown.

Miscommunication can cause mistrust which can break down a young person's relationship with people they work with and so it's important that you are honest and realistic when communicating to young people regarding their ideals in order to manage their expectations of a move and prospective carer.

My advice to you would be to really have a "person centred" approach, so the young person is involved in processes pertaining to the move, where appropriate. Being a child anyway can make you feel powerless, but as a young person in care, those feelings of powerlessness can be threefold. Therefore, making sure young people's voices are heard and that they feel valued, respected and appreciated in all decisions that involve them, and their lives, is essential!



Executive Summary

Cambridgeshire Council is committed to securing the best possible outcomes for those children and young people in our care, leaving care or at significant risk of coming into care. Within this strategy we have analysed all relevant information to determine what needs there are in the relevant groups and what actions will be necessary to secure positive outcomes for those groups. Though like all local authorities Cambridgeshire has seen significant impacts in funding, meeting these needs of vulnerable groups will always remain a priority for the Council.

The total number of children in care has decreased since 2019 and is now comparable with statistical neighbours. This downward trend is in contrast to the national picture. Cambridgeshire children and young people in care continue to be overwhelmingly placed in foster care. A continuing priority is to increase the number of foster and residential placements in area and for those children and young people traditionally harder to place, (e.g. older young people, children and young people with challenging behaviour). The Authority is also investing in developing support services that may safely prevent children and young people entering the care system or shortening the time that they are outside safe care in their own families.

Individual trends and needs are analysed below. In the penultimate section of this document the actions are collected together. Each of these actions will have a detailed Action Plan to ensure timely delivery for the Children and Young People in the care of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Introduction

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Statement is to demonstrate how Cambridgeshire County Council will meet the placement needs of our current and future Children in Care and Care Leavers, improve their outcomes, and support a positive transition into adulthood in light of their needs and current provision.

Local Authorities are required to take steps to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care within their local area.

In 2010, the statutory guidance for the Sufficiency Duty was issued. This guidance is explicit in placing a duty on local authorities to act strategically to address gaps in provision by ensuring that they include, in relevant commissioning strategies, their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 defines sufficiency as “a whole system approach which delivers early intervention and preventative work to help support children and their families where possible, as well as providing better services for children if they do become looked after. For those who are looked after, Local Authorities and their Children’s partners should seek to secure a number of providers and a range of services, with the aim of meeting the wide-ranging needs of looked after children and young people within their local area”.

Under the guidance, the sufficiency duty is described as follows:

- From April 2010, local authorities will include in relevant commissioning strategies their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty
- From April 2011 working with their partners, local authorities must be in a position to secure, where reasonably practical, sufficient accommodation for children in care in their local authority area

The Statement is set within the context of national policy, legislation and guidance, is linked to key planning documents, and builds on the progress made in previous Sufficiency Statements.

Action points can be found throughout the document, in tables as below, and link into the emerging trends and priorities for the Council.

Focus Area
Challenges/Gaps
-

Actions Required	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

All figures are taken from the 31st of March 2020 unless stated otherwise.

2.2 Covid-19: March 2020 onwards

Covid -19 has presented us with unprecedented challenges throughout 2020 and into 2021. However, throughout these past months, we've seen creative and engaging responses to the challenges we've all faced. These have included baking sessions, virtual coffee mornings, 'WhatsApp' support sessions, Zoom youth clubs, as well as continued provision of education through online and e-learning classrooms, health and wellbeing packs and food vouchers and in some cases provision of equipment and technology for children and young people, to name a few. This has all been so crucial in continuing to meet the needs of the Cambridgeshire's children and young people in care.

It's important to acknowledge the resilience that we've seen from our children, young people, carers, support workers, and staff throughout this period. We entered into a period of unknown challenges and the response we've seen has been remarkable; throughout the uncertainty of the situation, providers, staff and carers remained child focused, innovative and have demonstrated true commitment to our children and young people.



There are still many unknown challenges we have yet to face as the Local Authority, providers, and our children and young people move towards the 'new normal'. Children's Commissioning have developed recovery strategies for all our service areas. Our intention is to respond to changes in circumstances and potential changes in demand in accordance with these.

2.3 Our Children and Young People in Care

Cambridgeshire County Council believe that coproduction and participation is paramount in commissioning. The Authority has a range of methods and practices in place to consult and engage with children and young people, fulfilling our commitment to coproduction of service design and delivery with children and young people.

Children and young people have been key to the development of this strategy; we've consulted with Children in Care Councils, Care Leaver Forums and the Young Inspectors group to shape our analysis of provision, identification of gaps and our commitment to our future commissioning intentions.

Cambridgeshire's Children in Care Pledge was developed in partnership with young people, senior managers and lead members and sets out Cambridgeshire's promise and commitment to our Children in Care and Care Leavers.

 *The Young Inspectors have provided our Foreword, and the feedback, thoughts and feelings shared with us from our Children, Young People and Care Leavers are included throughout the document.* 

2.4 Update of Previous Statements

Cambridgeshire's previous Sufficiency Statement [2017-2020] clearly articulated four key strategic priorities for the Local Authority in response to the gaps and challenges identified throughout the Statement.

- 1) Deliver high quality, effective assessments and purposeful interventions with children, young people and families.
- 2) Increased development of the in house fostering service
- 3) Placement stability and range of high quality placement provision in area
- 4) Ensure looked after children and young people have access to the right health resources, including additional support where a need is identified

2.4.1 We Said, We Did

Cambridgeshire undertook a comprehensive action plan to support the activities required to achieve the identified priorities.

- 1) Deliver high quality, effective assessments and purposeful interventions with children, young people and families, including the timeliness of statutory visits.

Much of this strategic priority links in with developments undertaken by colleagues and outlined within the Child and Family strategy; updates in respect of the implementation of the THRIVE model have been identified within the Child and Family Sufficiency Strategy.



- 2) Increased development of in house fostering service

Continued development of Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service has been, and continues to be, a key strategic priority. Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service has implemented a comprehensive recruitment strategy, seeking to increase the number of in house foster carers, as well as targeting recruitment to those priority areas including Link foster carers and carers for young people aged 11+.

In to 2019/2020 period, Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service undertook a targeted recruitment programme, resulting in approvals of 29 households, offering 37 additional beds to Cambridgeshire Children in Care; this represents an increase on the previous year (24 households approved). This recruitment activity continues, with 34 households approved, resulting in 45 beds, and a net gain of 15 households in the 2020-21 period.

Despite this there continues to be a need for increased development of in house fostering provision, with focus on recruiting carers for specific cohorts of young people. This is explored in more detail at Section 4.1.2.

3) Placement stability and range of high quality placement provision in area

 *Young people valued placement stability so that they did not have to move placement, as when they do move “everything you’ve worked for, you have to start all over again.”* 

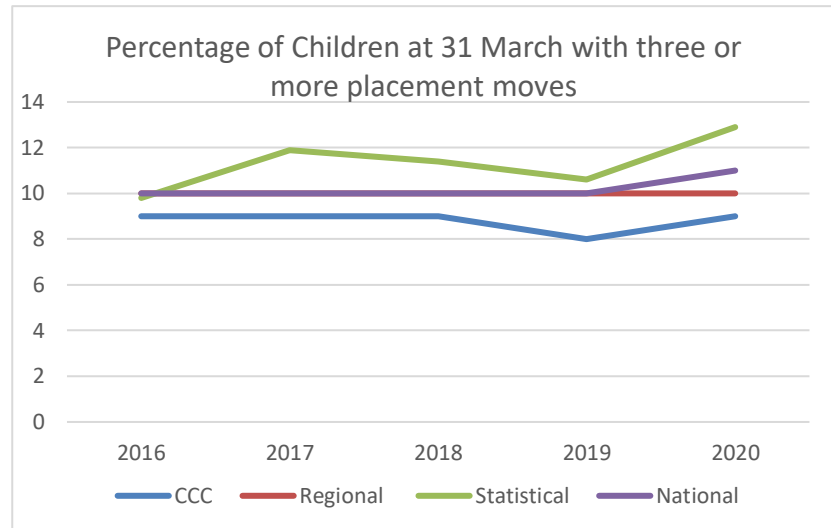
One of the core commissioning intentions that supported this priority was improving Cambridgeshire's, local supported accommodation provision. One of the core aims of this strategy was to commission provision in other key locations, as well as Cambridge City which has consistently had

comparably high availability of provision. Peterborough continues to be a popular location for supported accommodation provision, led by both affordability of local property and the availability of education and local amenities popular with young people. However, since the development of the Supported Accommodation framework we have seen increases in provision available in Huntingdon and Fenland, better supporting young people to have choice and access to live in their preferred locations.

Cambridgeshire's Supported Accommodation includes specific requirements for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people, and the Framework has successfully managed the accommodation and support needs of this group of young people. It is of note, that for many of Cambridgeshire's unaccompanied young people, Peterborough represents a hub of diversity, with excellent networks for young people [education, culturally and for religious purposes]. As such, many of Cambridgeshire's unaccompanied young people can experience positive outcomes; successfully develop independence skills and integrate into local communities in our neighbouring authority.

Cambridgeshire has implemented a Dynamic Purchasing System for Children's External Placements (DPS), with lots for Independent Fostering Agencies, Residential Children's Homes, Independent Special Schools, and Out of School Tuition. This DPS offers Cambridgeshire greater access to provision for children and young people, the ability to commission bespoke provision to meet the needs of Children in Care, and mechanisms to manage provider quality and risks to placements. The introduction of this commissioning and purchasing model has seen an increase in placement choice both in area and out of area [as appropriate to individual child requirements/needs].

Placement stability continues to be a key priority; as at March 2021 8.7% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population had experienced three or more placements during a year. This is significantly lower than regional, national & statistical comparators.



3 Children in Care

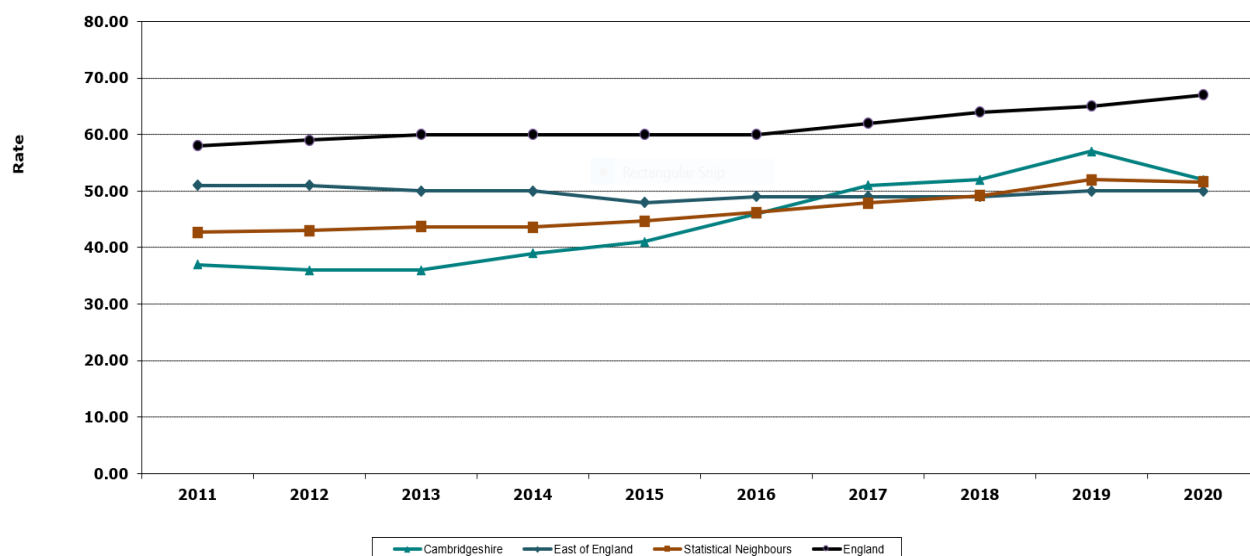
3.1 Children in Care Rate per 10,000 Children aged under 18

Table 1

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020	Changes from 2015 to 2020
Cambridgeshire	41	46	51	52	57	52	-9%	27%
Statistical Neighbours	42	42	45	46	49	51.6	3%	8%
East of England	48	49	49	49	50	50	2%	19%
England	60	60	62	64	65	67	3%	12%

Cambridgeshire saw notable increases in the number of Children in Care per 10,000 children under 18, from 2018 to 2019, and across a five year period when compared to its statistical neighbours, as well as the regional and national trends. In 2020 Cambridgeshire's rate per 10,000 reduced significantly, despite increases seen nationally, regionally and for statistical neighbours. As a result Cambridgeshire population of Children in Care, per 10,000 is now comparable with statistical neighbours and below national figures.

Children looked after rate, per 10,000 children aged under 18



3.2 Comparison: Number of Children in Care

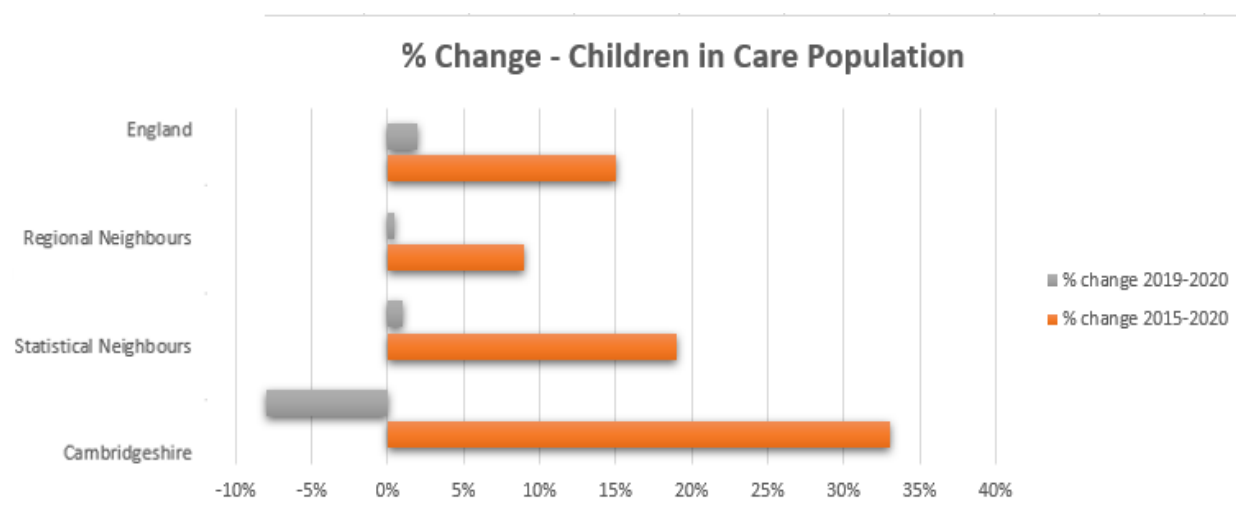
Table 2

	Number of Children in Care*							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020	Change from 2015 to 2020
Cambridgeshire	535	607	686	700	773	714	-8%	33%
Statistical Neighbours Average	609.4	627.7	651.3	680	717.1	722.5	1%	19%
East of England Average	6150	6340	6450	6530	6740	6710	0.4%	9%
England Average	69470	70410	72610	75370	78140	80080	2%	15%

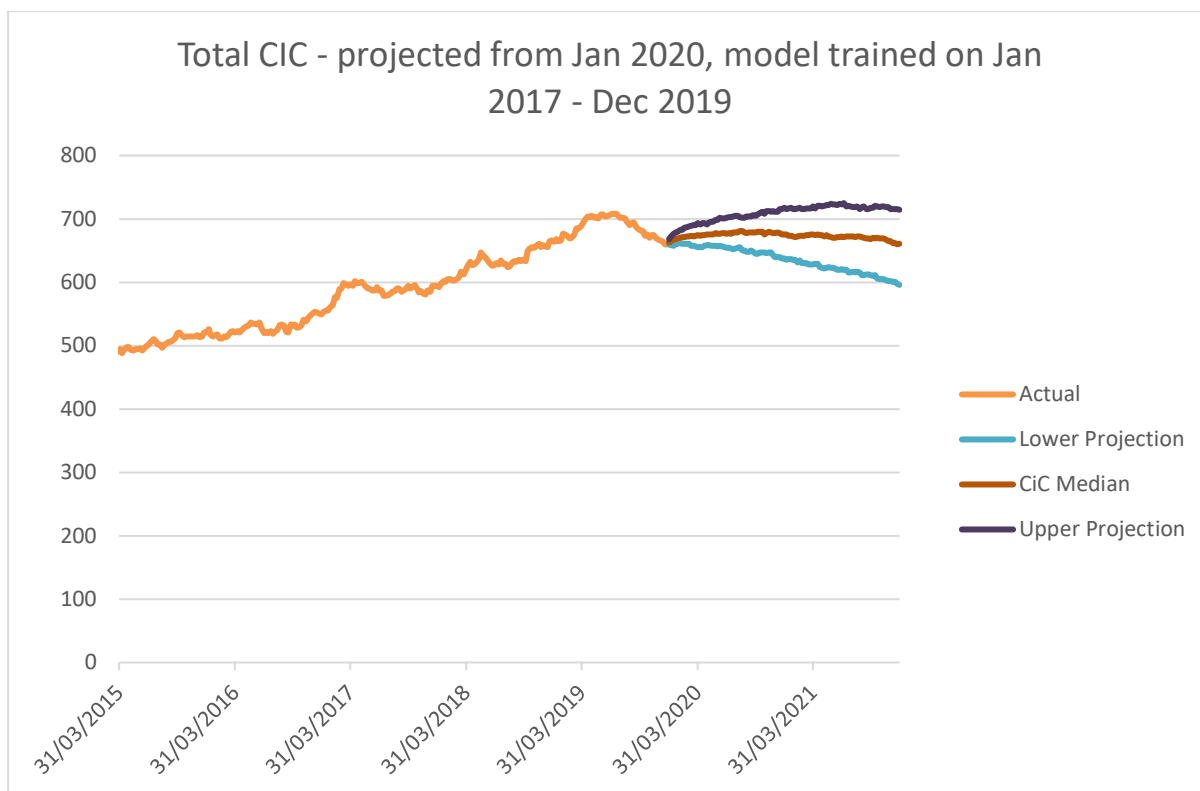
*figures for regional, statistical and national comparison at 2021 are not available at the time of writing

Over the six year period, 2015 to 2020, Cambridgeshire saw a 33% increase compared to a 19% increase seen by its statistical neighbours, and a 9% and 15% increase seen regionally and nationally.

Cambridgeshire saw notable increases in the number of children in care from 2015 to 2019 when compared to its statistical neighbours, as well as the regional and national trends. However, in 2020, Cambridgeshire saw a 8% decrease in the number of children in care from the previous year, compared to a 1% increase seen by statistical neighbours and a 2% nationally.



Historically, Cambridgeshire had presented an upward trend in the number of Children in Care; whilst this was consistent with the wider picture, it occurred at a far accelerated rate in comparison to statistical and regional neighbours, and national trends. Forecasting based on this trend had suggested a continued increase of the Children in Care population.



However, since 2019, Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population has reduced (to 714 at March 2020 further to 655 at March 2021); the previous trajectory for an annually increasing children in care population is not anticipated to continue in coming years.

Cambridgeshire is committed to ensuring that, where it is safe to do so, children and young people are supported to live at home with their families.

Cambridgeshire implemented a Family Safeguarding model in November 2019 which is supporting the local authority to reduce the Children in Care population moving towards comparable figures to those of our statistical neighbours. This is expected to be a gradual change, due in part to the proportion of children and young people in Cambridgeshire's Care population who will remain in Care for a number of years. Cambridgeshire have also adopted a strategy to increase use of Public Law Outline, and reduce the number of children who are in care proceedings.

Cambridgeshire's Reunification and Placement Stability service [RAPSS] is a further aspect of how the Authority is endeavouring to support young people to either remain safely in their family home, or to return home in a timely manner.

3.3 Improving outcomes for children and young people: Early help, including Contextual Safeguarding

An extensive consultation with key stakeholders has recently been completed, the findings of which are contained within the report 'Strong Families, Strong Communities: Securing best outcomes for children & young people' (due to be published July 2021).

This work forms an important stage in our journey towards developing seamless services for children, young people and their families through the development of an Integrated Care System, or ICS. Integrated Care Systems will be the framework for ensuring the delivery of services to

vulnerable adults as well as for children. They are being developed as part of the review of Clinical Commissioning Groups now taking place within health services. For services to children and young people, the local name for the ICS is the Children's Collaborative.

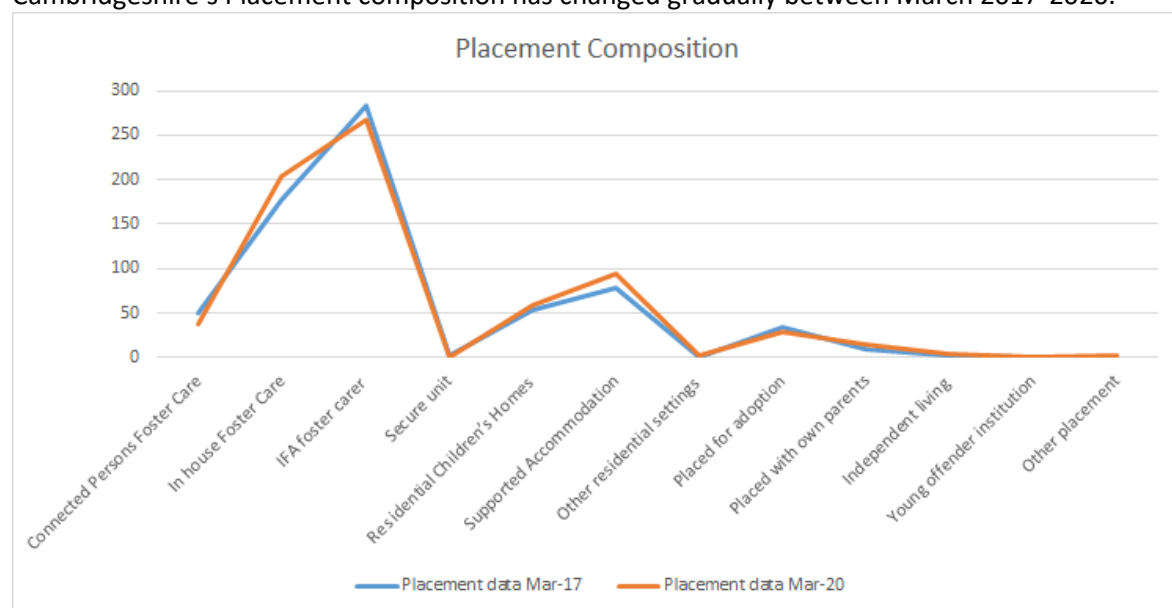
Children's Collaboratives and Integrated Care Systems do not involve large scale re-organisation of services. They are about improving the joint planning and provision of services so that they are able to adopt a holistic approach to meeting need, reducing the requirement for more complex interventions that often also have poorer outcomes.

The approach to Early Help as described in Strong Families, Strong Communities: securing best outcomes for children & young people is also about effective co-ordination of services across the partnership, assessing and meeting need flexibly, so this fits extremely well with the overarching goals of the Children's Collaborative.

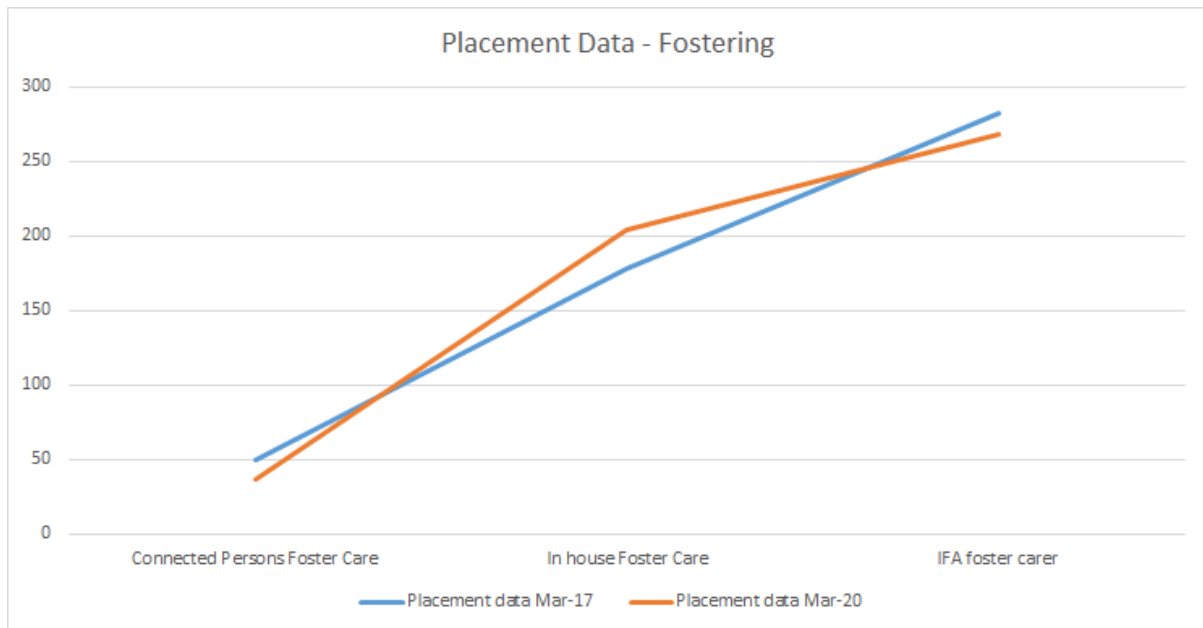
We are now ready to begin the process of implementing the recommendations of Strong Families, Strong Communities: Securing best outcomes for children & young people. This is an important step towards our overall ambition of delivering seamless services to vulnerable children, young people and their families, for the benefit of all.

3.4 Placement Composition

Cambridgeshire's Placement composition has changed gradually between March 2017-2020.



With foster care placements particularly, the development of the in house service can be seen with a reduction in IFA placements and increase with in house placements, when comparing cohorts from 2017 to 2020. This trend has continued into the 2020-21 period, with 27% of placements made in that period to in house fostering placements (150 placements), and 19% of placements made to IFA foster carers (104 placements).



3.5 Financial Composition

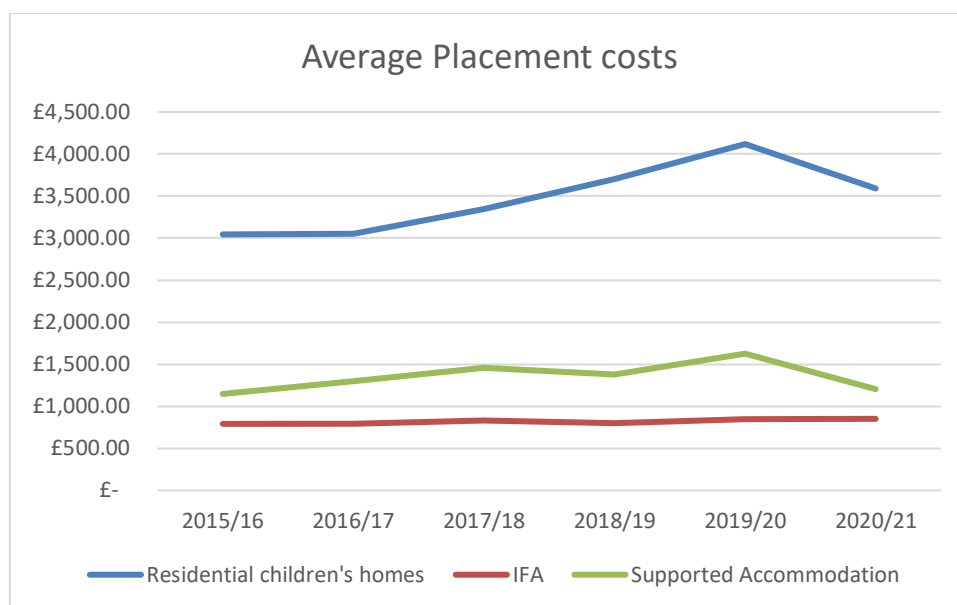
Cambridgeshire County Council continues to face financial challenges, affected by overall reductions in spending public spending while also seeing an increase in demand for services.

3.5.1 External Placements Budget

The External Placement Budget for Children in Care in the 2020 / 21 financial year was £21,703,000 (this excludes in house provisions and UASC budgets which are kept separate for Home Office funding purposes). The External Placements budget includes:

- External Fostering Placements (IFA)
- External Residential Children's Homes (including specialist residential homes for children with disabilities)
- Secure Accommodation Placements
- Residential School Placements for Children in Care
- Supported Accommodation
- Supported Living arrangements

Over recent years Cambridgeshire's spend on external 'purchase' placements (i.e. fostering, children's homes, supported accommodation) has increased by approximately £2 million; this is considered to be the result of increased Children in Care populations in recent years, compounded by lack of capacity to meet demand within in house provision.



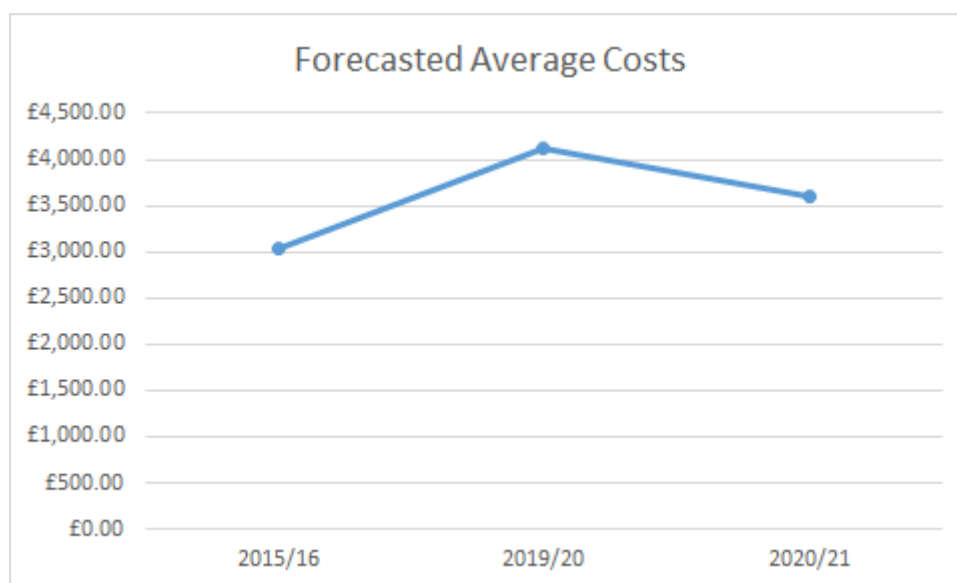
Cambridgeshire has seen a continual increase in weekly placement costs since 2015 / 16. The weekly cost for external foster placements has increased from £792 in 2015 / 16 to £847 in 2019 / 20. Cambridgeshire has seen a significant increase in the weekly cost of children’s residential placements; £3044 in 2015 / 16 increased to £4118 in 2019 / 20. According to data provided by the Independent Children’s Homes Association (ICHA), providers are reporting an increase in fee rate changes since June 2015; two-thirds of providers are reporting increases however 42% of these are within the 0-5% range of increase. Cambridgeshire have continued to see increases in average weekly IFAs fees into the 2020-21 financial year, but notably the average residential children’s home fees have reduced over the past two financial years -

Table 3

	2015/16	2019/20	2020/21
IFA	£792	£847	£850
Residential	£3044	£4118	£3593

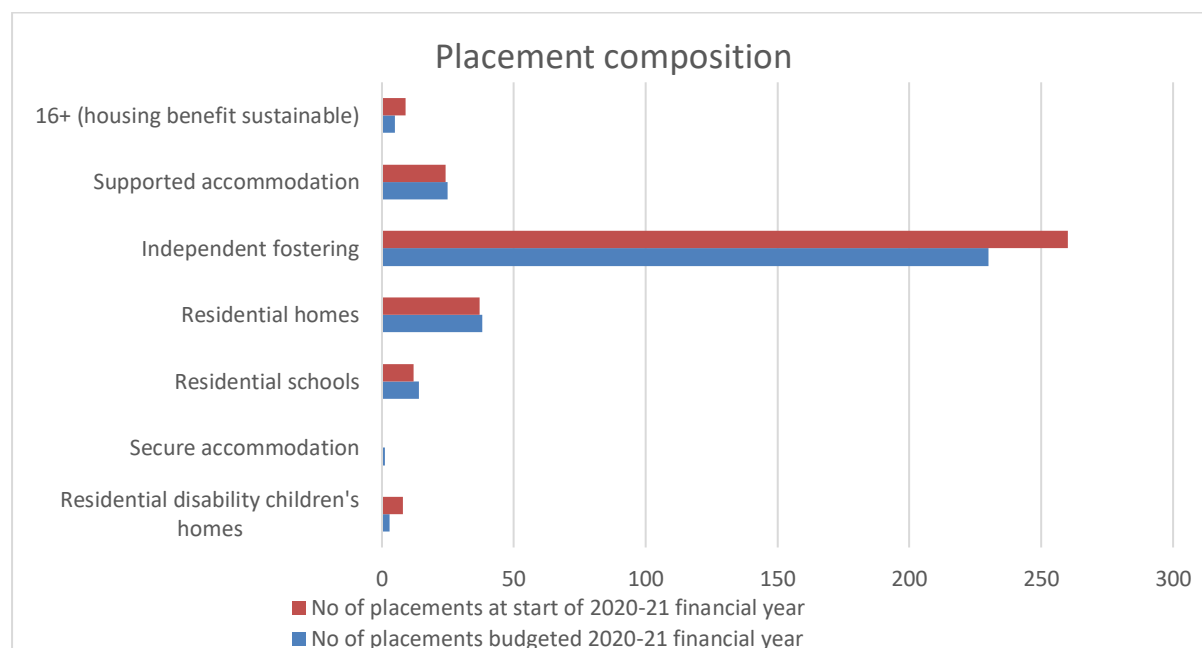
The reduction in the average weekly fee for residential placements is considered to be largely contributable to the implementation of the Children's External Placements Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS – more information available at sections 4.1 and 4.2). The average weekly fees under the DPS are lower than spot purchased placements, and as the DPS has matured, into 2020-21 we have seen a reduction in the number of spot purchased placements made, and an increased use of DPS providers to meet the needs of our children and young people requiring residential children’s home services.

Information shows that a degree of complexity of a child’s needs, and therefore a requirement for additional staffing and resources, has a strong influence on fees. Secondary to this, the pressures of increases in National Living Wage and pension contributions also sees an influence on the increase of fees.



To support in achieving a balanced budget in future financial years there needs to be a change in placement composition. More than 36% of Cambridgeshire's children in care are placed with Independent Foster Care Agency (IFA) carers; to support the Local Authority to meet both its duty to ensure good quality placement matches are available for children, and that financial duties are met. The pressure caused as a result of the proportion of IFA placements can be seen with the number of budgeted placements against the opening placement numbers at April 2020.

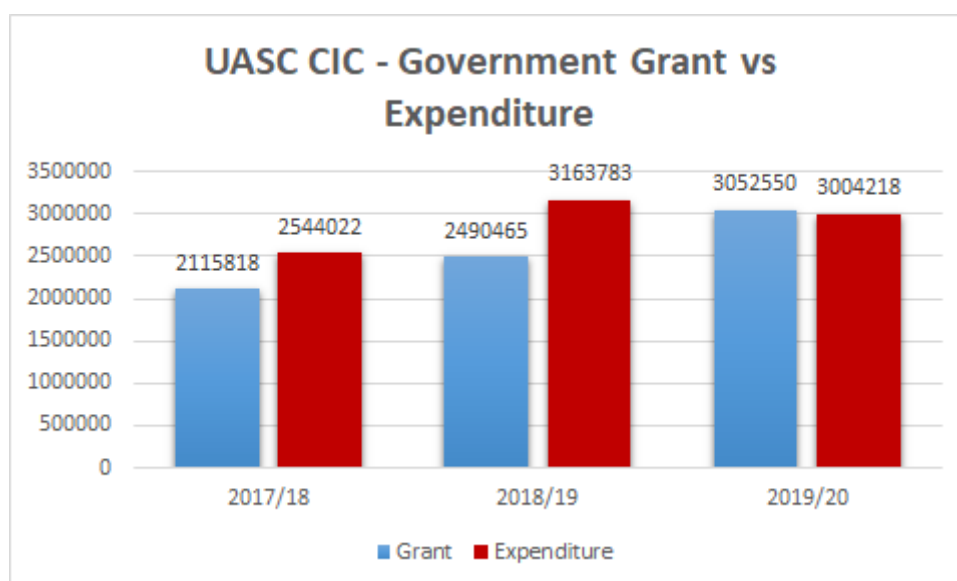
Cambridgeshire's in house fostering service must endeavour to increase available carers to support the local authority to manage this challenge. It is acknowledged that this will be a longer term endeavour, and that in all situations, suitability of local placements and robust matching will continue to take priority.



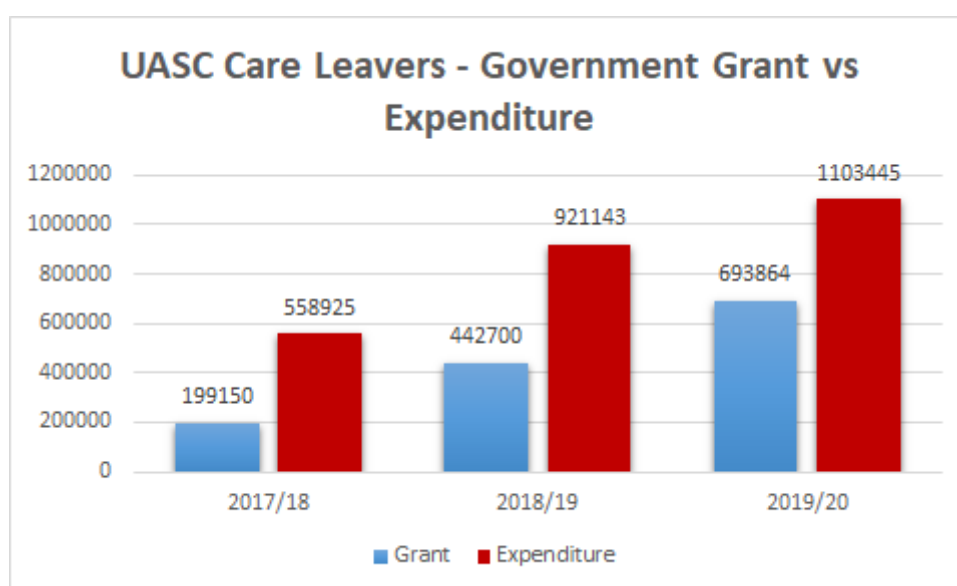
Furthermore, the Authority will use providers available via the DPS and Supported Accommodation Framework to support in reducing average placement fees; utilising cost effective creative placement options and bespoke packages, specific to children and young people's needs.

3.5.2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) budget

Local Authorities receive a set fee per young person from central Government to meet all costs for the accommodation and support of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, this cost is not dependent on the young person's needs.



In 2017-18 and 2018-19 expenditure for UASC placements exceeded the government grant. As a result, a comprehensive review of placements was undertaken, alongside an increase in the amount of home office decisions and the progression of human rights assessments for UASC's. This accounted for a budget underspend as at 31 March 2020 for UASC under 18 years old.



Expenditure for UASC care leavers has continued to exceed the allocated budget, resulting in a combined overspend of £360k in the 2019-20 financial year. To work towards a balanced budget, Cambridgeshire has continued to work with local providers to identify local accommodation options for UASC's over 18 years of age, which will be sustainable following a decision on status, such as leave to remain/refugee status.

Spend for the 2020-21 period is not currently available, but increases to the Government grant for UASC Care Leavers is expected to result in a balanced budget position in future financial years.

4 Current provision

4.1 Fostering

4.1.1 Externally Commissioned Provision

Cambridgeshire County Council has an in house fostering service and commissions provision from external agencies via the Children's External Placements Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The DPS began in April 2019 for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for a number of further periods, not exceeding a total of 10 years.

The DPS offers Cambridgeshire and Peterborough access to 41 Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) providers (as at March 2020); these providers have over 2700 registered carers nationally and are registered to provide 5600 placements. It should be noted that this demonstrates the number of registered carers and approved fostering 'beds' cumulatively across the DPS occupied and vacant, but as you would expect availability changes on a daily basis. The majority of this provision is out of area, and Commissioning are working with both in house and local IFA providers to develop the availability of local, good quality fostering homes for our Children and Young People.

“ *We were made to feel very welcome by our new foster carers. It can be confusing moving into a new placement, I know I was shy and nervous and not sure what to do. Luckily the new foster carers knew how to welcome us and that meant we could get settled quicker and feel more ourselves. Their response was definitely reassuring.* ”

Nationally the fostering market is significantly impacted by a lack of supply to meet demand coupled with an aging foster carer population; despite the potential for Cambridgeshire to access in excess of 5000 placements, vacancies are not consistently readily available. During the 2019/2020 period, Cambridgeshire made 197 placements with IFA providers, for some children this will have meant one or more placements within that period within IFA provision, 85% of these were to providers under the DPS.

The DPS has supported Cambridgeshire to ensure good quality ; 98% of IFA providers on the DPS at March 2020 were judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

4.1.2 In House Fostering

Cambridgeshire's in house fostering provision has implemented a comprehensive recruitment strategy which will increase the number of approved carers, with a focus on developing provision for those young people aged 11+. Whilst there has been a small increase in the cohort of approved foster carers, there continues to be a need to recruit carers, particularly for young people in the 11-17 age group, sibling groups and young people with a range of complex needs.

“Stability and support are important to young people going into care and would help them to reduce stress, worry less and give them peace of mind”

203 placements were made to Cambridgeshire’s In house fostering service in the 2019/20 period; of these 49 in house placements made in 2019/20 ended in 7 days or less, and 18 of the 49 were as a result of young people ceasing to be Looked After. This represents a need for Cambridgeshire’s in house service to continue to develop resilient carers, and sufficient capacity to meet the needs of these young

people who previously have experienced short term placements, often not in accordance with a planned transition or ceasing to be looked after.

4.1.3 Fostering Placements

In Cambridgeshire as at March 2020, 71% of Children in Care were living in a fostering placement (including in house, connected persons and IFA placements). This has reduced slightly (from 74% in March 2017) and is representative of the reduction of Cambridgeshire’s Children in Care population. The development of Cambridgeshire’s in house fostering service has led to a subsequent increase in in house placements (15% increase in in house placements since 2017).

Of the total IFA placements as at 30/3/2020 -268 placements accounted for 38% of the Children in Care population.

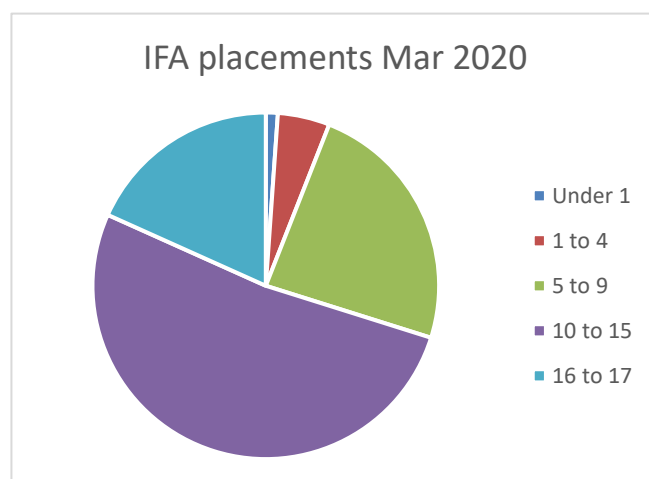
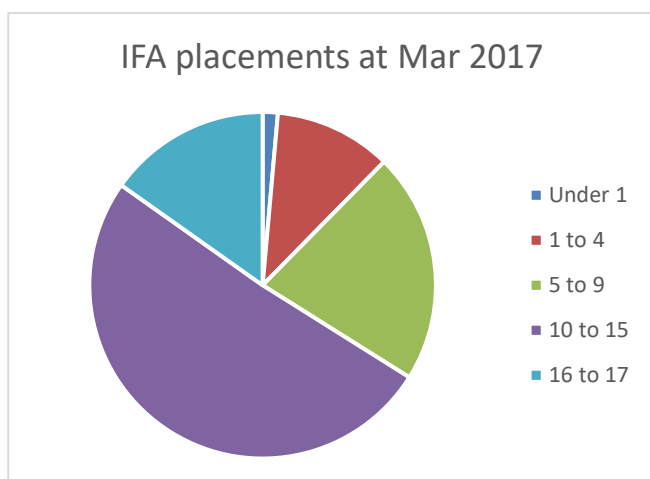
This is especially reflected in our 10 years to 15 years population which makes up 19% of our overall CiC Population [714], and accounts for 52% of IFA placements [139] and 41% of in house fostering placements [100].

“Being able to visit and spend time with the new family and have a sleepover before the move helped. It is important to have time to adjust to the new environment. Put yourselves in our shoes.”

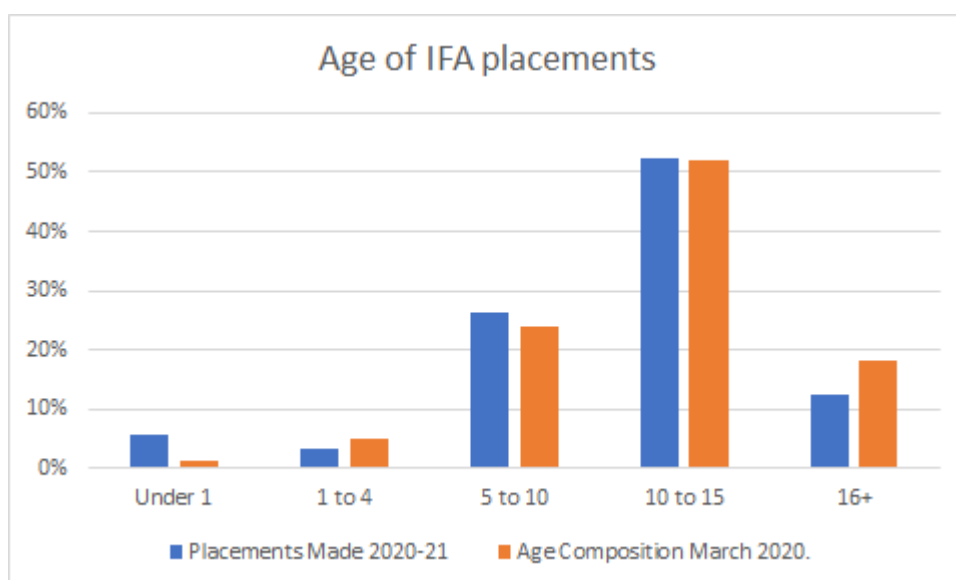
Table 4

Age composition of IFA Placements

	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
Under 1	4	5	6	3
1 to 4	31	25	28	13
5 to 9	61	56	72	64
10 to 15	144	163	161	139
16 to 17	43	45	66	49
Total	283	294	333	268



The age profile of placements made within the 2020-2021 period to IFA's largely correlates with the age composition at March 2020. The majority of placements made were for young people aged 11+ (65% of the 88 placements made). A small proportion of placements for children under 1 were made in this period, though these were all parent and child fostering placements.



4.1.4 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 1

Fostering	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of availability of local foster carers. - Lack of availability of foster carers able to meet the needs of older children and young people, and those young people with complex and challenging behaviours. - Fostering placement breakdowns, and short term 'bridging' placements, affecting stability for children and young people. 	
Actions Required	Impact

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development of Cambridgeshire's In House Fostering Service, with focus on recruitment of carers to support older children and young people, and those young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours in our local area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of local provision, which in turn will offer greater stability to children and young people requiring short, medium or long term placements (as opposed to bridging placements).
In house Fostering	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of in house foster carers required, with particular focus on resilient foster carers able to offer placements to older children and young people and those with complex needs/challenging behaviours. 	
Actions Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued successful recruitment of foster carers for Cambridgeshire's In House Fostering Service 	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of local foster carers to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire children and young people in care. Support demand pressures, enable children and young people to maintain networks and have their needs met by local services close to home.
Local Provision	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for greater in area, good quality, local placements available via the DPS, to meet the needs of our children and young people and adhere to our sufficiency duty. 	
Actions Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all local Fostering Agencies have an awareness of the DPS, how Cambridgeshire source placements, and how to submit a tender to join the DPS. Engagement with those providers who offer local provision to promote exploring vacancies with Cambridgeshire prior to other Local Authorities Manage the market to encourage IFAs to develop services in area. 	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of local provision will support children and young people to live in 'in area' provisions (where is it suitable to do so). Children and young people are better supported to maintain local networks, education provision, health services, specialist health provision [Camhs]. Increased opportunity for permanency/rehabilitation. Reduction incosts and resources associated with out of area placements.

4.2 Residential Children's Homes

4.2.1 Externally Commissioned Provision

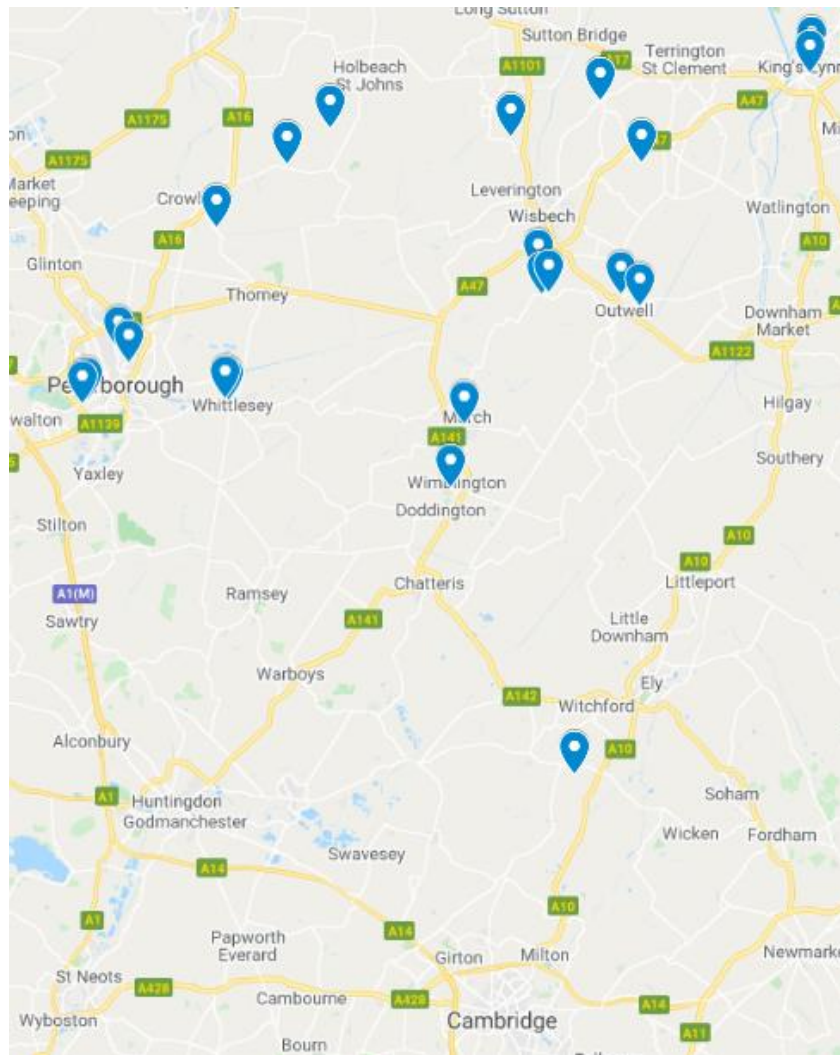
Cambridgeshire County Council [and Peterborough City Council] operate a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the provision of Residential Children's Home's.

As of April 2020, 35 providers have joined the DPS offering access to approximately 400 residential children's homes across the UK.



**approximate locations have been used to maintain anonymity of placements whilst also providing visual representation of the local and national services available to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough young people.*

Despite this, there continues to be a small number of independent children's residential homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; there are 26 currently registered in area with Ofsted, of which 21 are on contract children's residential homes, an increase of 18% since 2018. Those DPS providers with residential children's homes within the boundaries of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough mostly have provisions in the Peterborough and Fenland area. There are no DPS residential children's homes in the city of Cambridge or surrounding areas.



**approximate locations have been used to maintain anonymity of placements whilst also providing visual representation of the local and national services available to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough young people.*

Information provided by DPS providers has suggested that they are receiving a high number of referrals nationally on a weekly basis. This is also reported by the Independent Children's Home Association (ICHA); feedback from which suggests a large number of referrals are inappropriate given the services offered – e.g female 15 year old referred to the provider when they offer male only provision.

Our strategic commissioning imperative for the management and development of our DPS, will be that services are categorised by needs group i.e. homes which specialise in Emotional Behavioural Difficulties, Sexualised Behaviour, Boys only, 11-16 years old etc. This will allow for targeted placement finding, whilst ensuring that the Local Authority remains compliant from a Procurement perspective.

As the current market for children's residential homes is fluid, our commissioning priority must be to ensure there continues to be access to a wide range of available services locally, thereby allowing for the best possible match to be identified when placement finding. Whilst there is sufficient capacity within the DPS, categorising provisions by needs group will support more effective commissioning. . Commissioning have identified gaps in available provision, and we are working with strategic

providers to develop services locally to meet the needs of our children and young people. Recently, Cambridgeshire have been approached by a Local Provider, seeking to develop three homes in area, accessible via our DPS; further evidencing progress in improving access to local provision for Cambridgeshire Children and Young People.

Having good choices of placements helps young people to feel in control of their future and that they have the power to make their own decisions.

Further information on how to apply to the Children's External Placements DPS can be found on Contracts Finder:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/7a20abf2-cf9f-4dfb-8ebf-5ec39c9b3628>

4.2.2 Residential Children's Home Placements

Cambridgeshire has a lower than average proportion of Children in Care living in Residential Children's Homes, and this has remained consistent over previous years. The majority of Cambridgeshire's young people in Residential provisions are aged 10 – 15 and 16 – 17.



Residential Children's Homes				
	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
<i>Under 1</i>	1 (parent & child residential service)	0	0	0
<i>1 to 4</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>5 to 9</i>	3	6	8	4
<i>10 to 15</i>	32	41	29	31
<i>16 to 17</i>	17	16	25	23

Through experience, we know that many of Cambridgeshire's children and young people in residential children's homes present with complex and challenging behaviours, including aggression, exploitation and complex mental health needs. Data demonstrating children's presenting needs are discussed with providers via referrals, on an individual basis, but currently, this information is not recorded in a way that can easily be extracted. Going forward, commissioning will collate this

information, and in doing so will better be able to support providers in identifying gaps in provisions to meet the ongoing needs of our children and young people locally, where appropriate.

In the period April 2020 – March 2021 25 placements were made with Residential Children’s homes provisions, equating to 6% of all placements made. This is a slight reduction, compared to the proportion of Children in Care living in these provisions; it is considered that this is likely a result of the Covid-19 impact in this timescales.

This does include a small number of young people who access Residential Shared Care provision as part of a short break service, and more information about this cohort is available within the *Children with Disabilities* Sufficiency Statement.

4.2.3 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

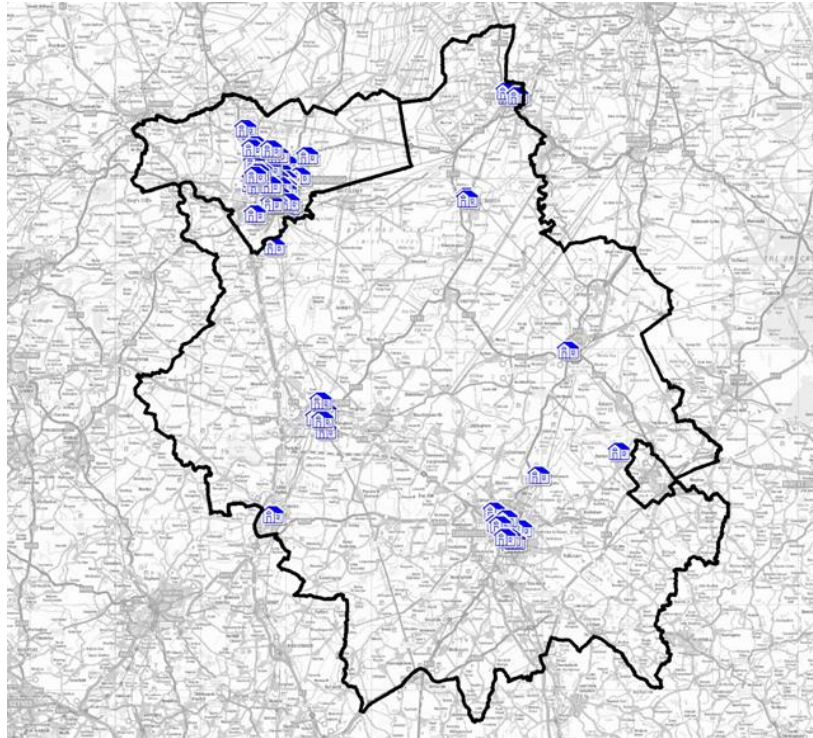
Summary 2

Residential Children’s Homes	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current DPS providers are not consistently able to meet the needs of our children and young people requiring residential provision in area. 	
Actions Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options appraisal to consider the development of an inhouse residential service provision/bespoke commissioned provision. • Engagement with current providers to scope development of services • Development of locally available provision, to include gaps in current market • Ensure that local providers, who meet quality thresholds for the DPS, are encouraged to join DPS • Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s) • Develop quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people 	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased availability of good quality, local residential provision to meet the range of needs of Cambridgeshire children and young people. • Explore opportunities to stimulate the market within the scope of currently commissioned contract (i.e DPS) • Explore opportunities to use current contract (DPS) to ‘call off’ targeted mini-competition(s) for specialist provisions to meet the needs of these cohorts of young people • Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service • Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of young people, which will in turn inform future commissioning activity

4.3 Supported Accommodation

4.3.1 Externally Commissioned Provision

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough operate a Framework for Supported Accommodation services for Young People in Care aged 16+. The Framework commenced in October 2018 for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for a number of further periods, not exceeding a total of 10 years; the local authority is extending the Framework for its initial extension period to September 2023 with further reviews thereafter. As at April 2020 there are 40 providers on the framework offering supported accommodation services across the UK.



**approximate locations have been used to maintain anonymity of placements whilst also providing visual representation of the local and national services available to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough young people.*

Twenty-five of the forty framework providers offer in county provision across 92 locations. The geographical locations of in county provisions are local to areas with good transport and education links. Areas such as the Fenlands, Peterborough and Cambridge City have a higher concentration of supported accommodation services. Whilst Huntingdon has similar transport and education links, there is a significantly smaller amount of supported accommodation provisions; this is likely due to a number of factors such as the limited diversity within the local community, lack of easy access to local amenities and the local college does not offer ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses.

“Young people can feel isolated and alone in their placements, so being close to all of the essential amenities and services helps them to feel supported.”

To facilitate increasing provision in preferred locations, and in response to discussions with providers about the varying costs of services in different parts of the County, the Supported Accommodation Framework enables providers to tender pricing per area. Average prices on our supported accommodation framework vary substantially across lots and locations; this matrixed pricing structure has supported providers to appropriately cost provision, and to meet demand for provision in those areas with higher housing costs.

“Having the option to live somewhere with good job opportunities and transport links helps to put young people in the best possible position to live a successful life”

Table 5

	All Locations	Cambs city	Pboro	Fenland	East Cambs	South Cambs	Hunts	Out of County	Ave.
Lot 1	£916.92	£822.80	£621.71	£700.40	£720.40	£736.40	£693.67	£605.50	£768.03
Lot 2	£874.47	£1,036.47	£675.00	£1,027.50	£687.50	£687.50	£687.50	£710.00	£843.67
Lot 3	£767.78	£726.33	£505.29	£656.40	£686.40	£703.00	£704.25	£460.67	£684.66
Lot 4	£825.77	£894.09	£422.50	£1,027.50	£625.00	£625.00	£625.00	£347.50	£759.66
Ave.	£832.36	£861.54	£560.22	£778.14	£694.92	£707.83	£690.69	£514.45	£756.29

Further information on how to apply to the Supported Accommodation Framework can be found on Contracts Finder:

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=ca481a3d-333c-ea11-80fc-005056b64545&p=4d8cb5a5-74dc-e511-810e-000c29c9ba21>

4.3.2 Supported Accommodation Placements

Since 2017, in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, there has been a continued increase in the population of young people in supported accommodation provisions; this increase correlates with an increase in Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population aged 16+.

Table 6

	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20
<i>Residential accommodation not subject to Children's Homes Regulations*</i>	79	67	84	95

**Residential accommodation not subject to Children's Home Regulations includes unregulated accommodation like Supported Lodgings but the majority of these placements are supported accommodation.*

This trend is not forecast to continue, and is anticipated to reduce going forward. Cambridgeshire is forecasting a decline in demand for these services, over the duration of this statement.

4.3.3 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 3

Supported Accommodation	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure availability of good quality, local provision. - Ensure use of supported accommodation is assessed as appropriate for the young person and supports their journey to independence. - Ensure that young people are supported to achieve positive outcomes, including preparation for independent living and adulthood. 	
Actions Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop provider peer support network • Continue to embed quality assurance processes; risk assessment tool to be 	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers are able to share good practice

<p>developed for Supported Accommodation to improve prioritisation of visits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care have launched a 'Stepping Out' tool to support providers and young people in capturing independence skills, which has been launched with providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted use of quality assurance and contract monitoring visits, will enable Commissioning to support providers to make any necessary improvements to service delivery. • Universal tool to reflect independence skills will create uniformity across providers, and enable tools to travel with young people, enabling a continuity of support relating to independence skills.
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4.3.4 Staying Close, Staying Connected - SC,SC.

Cambridgeshire are working in partnership with Break Charity, a local provider who are leading a DfE pilot project 'Staying Close, Staying Connected'. This project has been funded by the Department for Education and aims to change the way that care leavers are supported as they leave residential care, and encourage them to achieve positive outcomes in independence. Young people aged 16+ who have previously lived in a residential children's home are eligible for the project. Break are also in the process of piloting an expansion of this project to support those young people who have not previously resided in a residential children's home.

SCSC enables young people aged 16+, to move into local accommodation (staying 'close' to an area of their choosing); accommodation is provided by Registered Social Landlords, and support provided by the Charity and Local Authority professionals.

The project is being independently evaluated by the University of York and the University of East Anglia, and is currently due to end in March 2022. Cambridgeshire is working with Break and the other partners in the project (including Peterborough City Council and Norfolk County Council) to consider sustainability plans for the project post March 2022. Cambridgeshire have referred 55 young people to the project during its lifetime; of these 21 young people have moved into the project.

“As well as making young people feel welcome and settled in their placement, it is also really important that placements support young people to prepare for the next step in their lives, whether that be a new placement or moving into independent accommodation. This helps young people to feel like they are moving forward instead of starting all over again”

“One young 39 person said of the project “they’ve changed me as a person for the better. All young people who have been through care deserve this.”

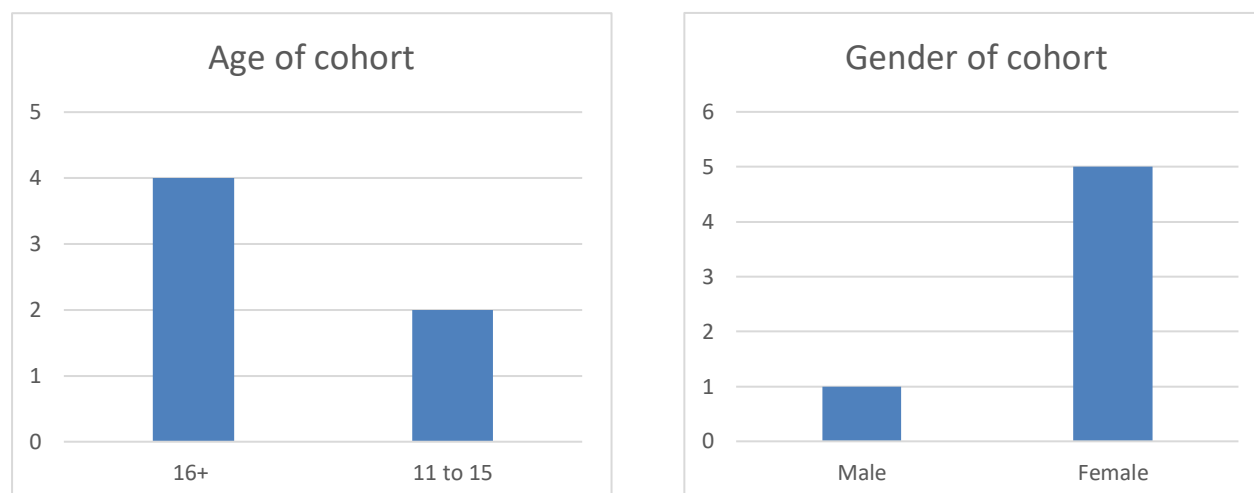
4.4 Discharge from Tier 4 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

4.4.1 Placements

Recently, Cambridgeshire has seen both a significant increase in the number of children and young people (under the age of 18) who are being admitted to an NHS England Tier 4 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (T4 CAMHS) provision and for whom under S117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 are eligible for social care aftercare support, be this community based or via placement options as a child/young person becoming looked after at the point of discharge. Within the 2020/21 period, at the time of writing (November 2020), Cambridgeshire's need for placements for this cohort of young people has increased by 500% compared to 2019/20.

The majority of placements required are for females, and for young people aged 16 and 17 years.

Four of these young people were placed in specialist residential children's homes, and two within Supported Living provisions. Currently Cambridgeshire's contractual provisions neither explicitly exclude nor require provision to meet the needs of this cohort of young people.



4.4.2 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 4

Transitioning from Tier 4 CAMHS provisions	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Current DPS providers are not consistently able to meet the needs of this cohort of young people within area.	
Actions Required <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement with current providers to scope development of local service options [community based and residential]• Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s)• Develop quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore opportunities to stimulate the market within the scope of currently commissioned contract (i.e DPS)• Scope opportunities to deliver multi-agency wrap-around services within the young person's local community and maintain where possible, their remaining at home

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to use current contract (DPS) to 'call off' targeted mini-competition(s) for specialist provisions to meet the needs of this cohort of young people • Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service • Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of young people, which will in turn inform future commissioning activity
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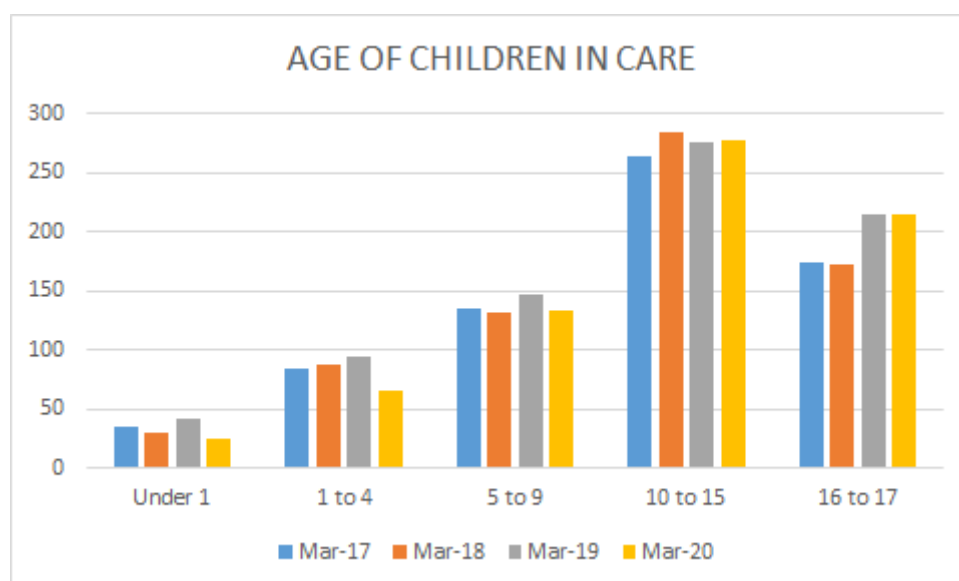
5

Population Composition

5.1 Age

The age breakdown of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population has remained relatively consistent in recent years; the only significant changes have occurred within the under 5 population (decreasing by 5%), and the 16+ population (increasing by 5%).

Cambridgeshire has consistently had a relatively high proportion of Children in Care aged 16 & 17; at 31/03/2020 30% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population were aged 16+; however, this trend is forecast to reduce in future years. Cambridgeshire's 14 and 15 year olds have historically been a relatively significant proportion of the wider Children in Care population, which in conjunction with the number of young people aged 16+ who become Children in Care in year has contributed to a growing 16+ population. However, we now see that the 14 & 15 year old population of children in care is declining, and in turn we expect the number of Children in Care aged 16 & 17 to reduce in the coming years.



5.2 Gender

Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population has remained relatively consistent; at March 2017 57% of the population were male, and at March 2020 58%. This trend is relatively stable when looking at the gender composition of placements made in year too; 59% of placements made in the April – March 2020 period were for boys.

The primary difference in gender is seen within the cohort of young people placed in residential children's homes and supported accommodation for which 73% and 87% of the cohort are male (respectively).

5.3 Ethnicity

Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population is predominantly white (77% at March 2020), this has remained relatively consistent over previous years. However, when considered against the wider Cambridgeshire population there is evident inconsistency; Cambridgeshire's population is 1% black and 1.8% mixed, though young people from these communities are over 13% of Cambridgeshire's children in care population.

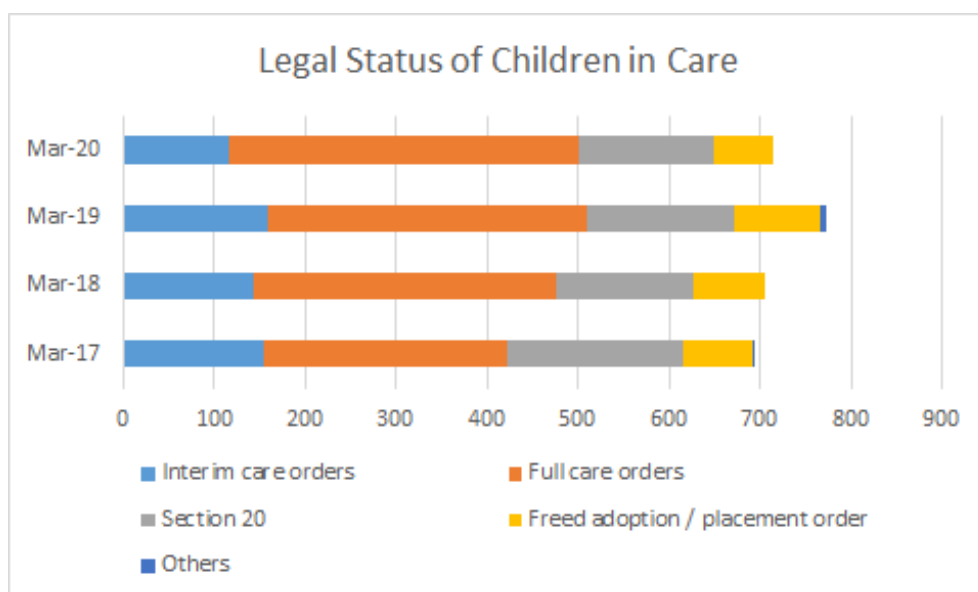
Nationally, the Children in Care population is 75% white (a reduction from 77% in 2015); this reduction is thought to have been impacted by the increased UASC population nationally, and may provide some explanation for the disparity in portions of young people with black and mixed ethnicities across Cambridgeshire, and within the Children in Care population.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Not stated / not yet obtained</i>	0	0	0	24
<i>White</i>	555	563	600	547
<i>Mixed</i>	43	60	54	54
<i>Asian or Asian British</i>	20	21	15	19
<i>Black or Black British</i>	23	29	46	41
<i>Other ethnic groups</i>	51	33	57	29

Currently there is insufficient data available as to the ethnicity of carers recruited to support Cambridgeshire Children and young people. There is an evident need to ensure that a similar profile of foster carers are recruited to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire Children in Care, supporting cultural matches to be achieved for children and young people.

5.4 Legal Status

As of the 31st March 2020, 54% of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population were accommodated under a full care order; a substantial increase of 15% from 2017. Conversely, both the proportion of young people accommodated with parental agreement [Section 20], without an order and the proportion of the population who are subject to court proceedings have declined (16% and 21% respectively).



This does however, demonstrate a continued need for a blend of short-, medium- and long-term placements to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire's Children whilst in care.

5.5 Length of Time in Care

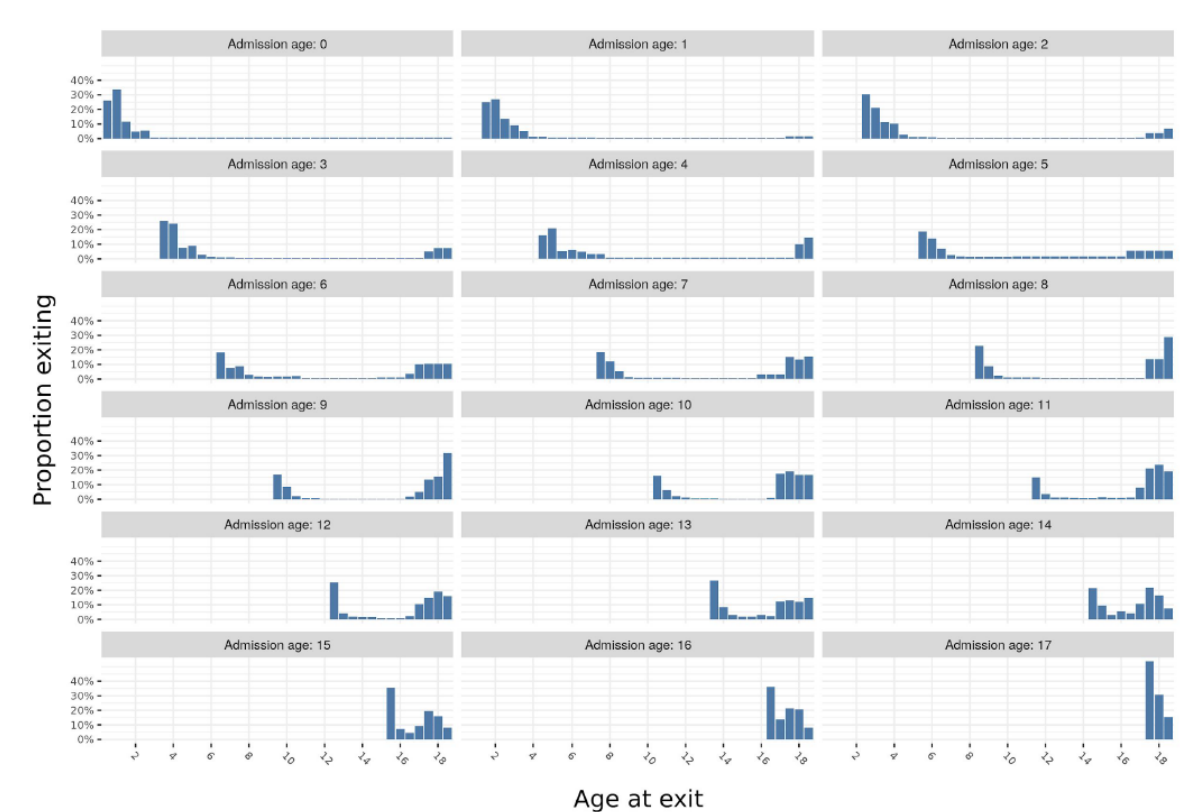
The composition of Cambridgeshire's Children in Care population has shifted in recent years, with a reduction in the proportion of children in care for less than 6 months at March. This is in part due to the implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model and increased use of Public Law Outline, which has reduced the numbers of children in care proceedings.

Table 7

Length of time in care

	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-5 months	161	125	145	91
6 up to 12 months	110	126	116	86
1 - up to 2 years	111	148	157	156
2 - 5 years	161	155	195	217
5+ years	149	152	159	164

Research suggests that in Cambridgeshire the length of time that children remain in care is primarily bimodal (from ages 2 to 15); some children leave care relatively soon after becoming looked after, whereas others are forecast to stay in care until 18.



There is scope to further explore mechanisms for supporting children and young people to remain at home where it is safe and suitable to do so. Cambridgeshire has recently developed a Family Group Conference service; which will support the reduction of children becoming looked after by supporting family networks to identify mechanisms to appropriately safeguard children in the family or extended family home.

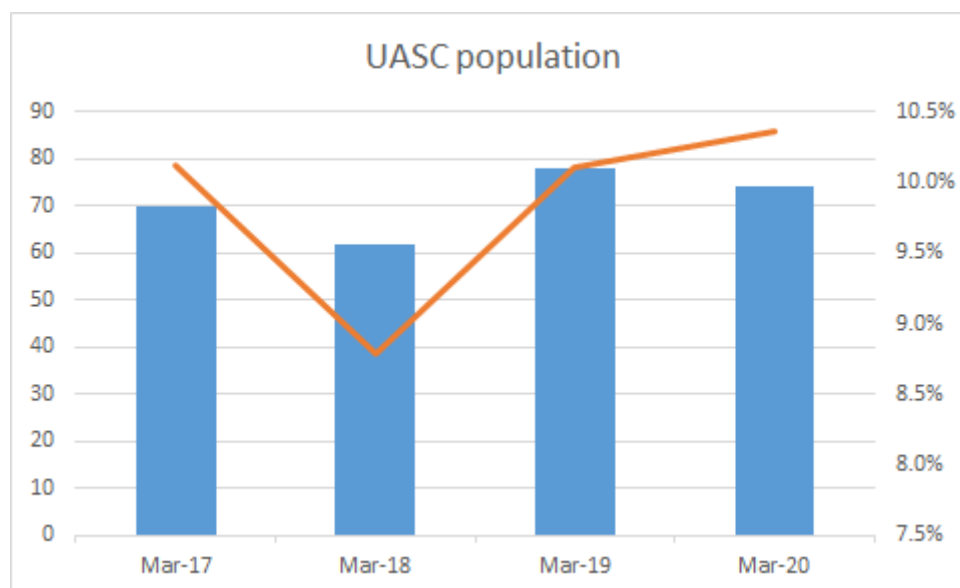
5.6 Location

Where it is safe to do so, Cambridgeshire's strategy is to support children and young people in care to live close to their home communities. However, recent challenges with the availability of suitable provision locally has seen a rise in the proportion of children and young people placed more than 20 miles from home (increased by 24% since 2017). It should be noted, that due to the size of the County, more than 20 miles from home may constitute an in-area placement.

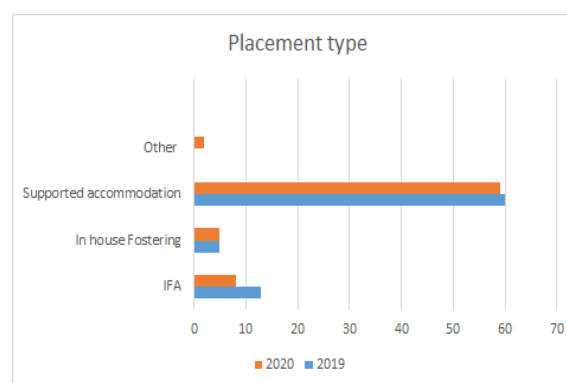
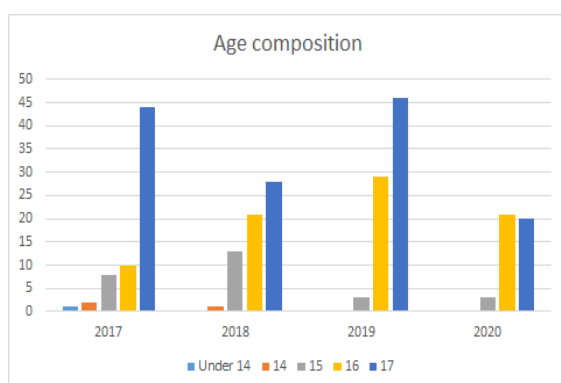
Of the 819 placements made in the 2019-2020 period 55% were in county. 69% of the 370 out of county placements were in bordering neighbouring authorities, which support young people to maintain links to local networks and education; the majority of out of county placements were fostering and supported accommodation placements. Property prices in Cambridgeshire, especially Cambridge City are amongst the highest outside of London in the UK. This impacts on availability of space for families who may otherwise consider fostering but are not able to secure property. This suggests that we are unlikely to see a growth in a variety of placements being offered within Cambridge City.

5.7 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Cambridgeshire's Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) population has been relatively consistent, since the initial increase in 2015. At March 2020, 10.4% of Cambridgeshire Children in Care population were UASC, from 10.1% since 2017.



To ensure that Local Authorities are not facing an unmanageable number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to accommodate and support, central government has developed a voluntary agreement for Local Authorities to ensure the 'fairer distribution of unaccompanied children across all local authorities'.¹ This agreement places a ceiling on Authorities for the number of unaccompanied children they must accommodate before those young people are transferred to the responsibility of other Local Authorities. For Cambridgeshire this equates to 95 unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people².



The majority of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people are assessed as being 16 and 17 years old and are placed in supported accommodation provision. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Supported Accommodation Framework was developed in response to this trend; with specific Lots

¹

² 0.07% of Cambridgeshire's 0-18 population

designed to ensure that the needs of this group of vulnerable young people are met. This includes ensuring that young people's social, cultural and legal requirements are met and supported, as well as ensuring (wherever it is safe and suitable to do so) that young people are not placed at a significant distance from their home Authority.

80% of Cambridgeshire's UASC population are placed in supported accommodation provision. Cambridgeshire's Supported Accommodation Framework provides 33 providers who specifically offer support and accommodation tailored to the needs of UASC; the majority of these services are located in Peterborough. Cambridgeshire continues to work with providers to ensure that accommodation and support is available in county and in suitable locations i.e. close to public transport links, access to educational settings providing English as a Second or Foreign Language (ESOL) courses, access to cultural facilities etc.

At March 2020, the majority of Cambridgeshire's Unaccompanied young people were male (70 of 74); have travelled from a range of home countries (see below table 9); the majority of whom identify as Muslim or Christian (table 10).

Table 8

Home country	
AFGHANISTAN	5
ALBANIA	2
ERITREA	17
ETHIOPIA	9
IRAN	14
IRAQ	12
KUWAIT	1
MOROCCO	1
PAKISTAN	1
PALESTINE	1
SUDAN	7
SYRIA	2
VIETNAM	2

Table 9

Religion	
Muslim	46
Christian	10
Roman Catholic	1
Buddhist	1
Not known/None	16

5.8 Care Leavers

Cambridgeshire is committed to supporting our Care Leavers to feel safe and supported and know where, or who to go to for information, advice and help. Cambridgeshire's Care Leavers Local Offer encompasses the following areas:

- Employment
- Education
- Accommodation
- Health and Wellbeing
- Financial
- Relationships and Participation

Further information about the Local Offer is available [here](#)

Cambridgeshire's Care Leaver population has increased substantially since 2017 to 416.

Table 10

	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2020
<i>Number of Care Leavers</i>	324	371	410	416

81% of Cambridgeshire's care leaver population are in contact with Children's Social Care; an increase from 75% in 2017. This increase is positive, however, Cambridgeshire is committed to improving this percentage..

The proportion of Cambridgeshire's Care Leavers who are in suitable accommodation has increased from 67% in 2017 to 72% in 2020.

Housing Related Support Services can offer Care Leavers accommodation as they progress towards independent living. Currently Cambridgeshire have 14 Housing Related Support Services across the county offering accommodation to young people (including Care Leavers). This service is currently being recommissioned, pending a consultation, market testing and review of delivery models.

Engagement in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is a further measure that supports us to identify outcomes for our Care Leaver population. EET figures nationally have seen a decline from 2011 – 2015, with figures beginning to rise from 2016 onwards. EET for Cambridgeshire's care leavers has increased from 62% in 2017 to 65% in 2020. EET continues to be a priority for Cambridgeshire for our Care Leavers; Cambridgeshire's Care Leavers Local Offer includes a focus on supporting young people to engage in education, employment and training (amongst others).

5.9 Summary of findings, actions required and impact:

Summary 5

Population Composition	
Challenges/Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people aged 10-15 are the largest age group within the looked after population. - Boys and young men are over represented at 59% of the looked after population. - 25% of the looked after population report an ethnic identity other than white in a geographical area where white UK is 90%+ - 45% of all placements are made outside of county - 28% of care leavers are not in suitable accommodation and 35% are not in education, employment or training 	
Actions Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted recruitment of foster carers to offer placements to children and young people 11+ and males. • Targeted recruitment of foster carers from diverse ethnic backgrounds • Targeted work with in-house and external suppliers to increase number of fostering households. 	Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More appropriate matching of demand with supply and increased placement stability. • Increase in placements where the child or young person's ethnicity and culture is reflected. • More Cambridgeshire children and young people kept within county and close to their own networks and supports.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with external providers encourage development of appropriate residential children's homes within Cambridgeshire for Cambridgeshire young people. • Scope viability of developing in-house residential options. • Encourage the development of social and other housing models with associated support for young people leaving care. • Develop links with local colleges, employers and training providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are stable and safe housing for young people to move into as they move to independence. • There are the right opportunities for young people leaving care to receive education, training and progress into worthwhile careers.
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6 Recommendations

6.1 Summary of recommendations

This Strategy has identified that though much has been and continues to be done, Cambridgeshire County Council is committed to building further to ensure the very best outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers. To this end, a commitment from the Authority is given to the following actions.

Area	Actions	Impact
Co-production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that feedback is actively sought from children and young people throughout all stages of the commissioning cycle. • Create opportunities for engagement with young people including reviewing of current services. • Ensure that a variety of tools for capturing the voices of children and young people are available, having regard to age, accessibility and language. • Ensure that any updates to the Children in Care pledge includes Commissioning's commitment to the sufficiency of good quality provision in our local area, and scope of placement choice in area reflective of the needs of our in Care population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned services are reflective of the feedback shared by those young people accessing services. • Ensure all services directly delivered or commissioned are reflective of the input of our children in care population in their design and delivery. • Ensure that we have the right placements, in the right locations in our authority area.
Fostering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development of Cambridgeshire's In House Fostering Service, with focus on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased availability of local provision, which in turn will offer greater stability to

	recruitment of carers to support older children and young people, and those young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours in our local area.	<p>children and young people requiring short, medium or long term placements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people better able to maintain networks and have their needs met by local services close to home.
Step down from residential provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued recruitment of in house foster carers who are interested in supporting young people back into family based accommodation Engagement with IFA providers to develop 'bridge to foster' type provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Care Plans, children and young people able to move to family based care which is research linked to most positive outcomes.
Out of County Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all local Fostering Agencies have an awareness of the DPS, how Cambridgeshire source placements, and how to submit a tender to join the DPS. Engagement with those providers who offer local provision to promote exploring vacancies with Cambridgeshire prior to other Local Authorities Manage the market to encourage IFAs to develop services in area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of local provision will support children and young people to live in 'in area' provisions (where is it suitable to do so). Children and young people are better supported to maintain local networks, education provision, health services, specialist health provision. Increased opportunity for permanency/rehabilitation. Reduction oncosts and resources associated with out of area placements.
Residential Children's Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options appraisal to consider the development of an inhouse residential service provision/ bespoke commissioned provision. Engagement with current providers to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of good quality, local residential provision to meet the range of needs of Cambridgeshire children and young people.

	<p>scope development of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of locally available provision, to include gaps in current market Ensure that local providers, who meet quality thresholds for the DPS, are encouraged to join DPS. • Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s). • Develop quality of data recorded for this cohort of young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service • Improved understanding of the specific needs, themes and trends pertaining to this cohort of young people.
Supported Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop provider peer support network. • Continue to embed quality assurance processes; risk assessment tool to be developed for Supported Accommodation to improve prioritisation of visits. • Launched of 'Stepping Out', a tool to support providers and young people in capturing independence skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers are able to share good practice • Targeted use of quality assurance and contract monitoring visits, will enable Commissioning to support providers to make any necessary improvements to service delivery. • Universal tool to develop independence skills and create uniformity across providers. A resource to travel with young people.
Transition from Tier 4 provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to stimulate the market within the scope of currently commissioned contract (i.e. DPS) • Scope opportunities to deliver multi-agency wrap-around services within the young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased range and choice of placement options as close as possible to home communities and supports.

	<p>person's local community and maintain where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage current providers to scope development of local service options [community based and residential] • Engagement with regional Local Authorities to scope opportunities for locally commissioned provision(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased incentives for providers, and potentially reduction in financial risk, with a multi-authority commissioned service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted recruitment of foster carers to offer placements to children and young people 11+ and males. • Targeted recruitment of foster carers from diverse ethnic backgrounds • Encourage the development of social and other housing models with associated support for young people leaving care. • Develop links with local colleges, employers and training providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More appropriate matching of demand with supply and increased placement stability. • Increase in placements where the child or young person's ethnicity and culture is reflected. • There are stable and safe housing for young people to move into as they move to independence. • There are the right opportunities for young people leaving care to receive education, training and progress into worthwhile careers.

Each of the actions listed above has a SMART Action Plan with staff accountable to timelines to ensure that all actions that can be taken for those in or leaving the care of Cambridgeshire Council are completed in the most effective, timely manner and to the highest possible quality levels.

7 Conclusion

Abi, one of our Young Inspectors, said within the foreword of this document that ensuring that children and young people are involved in decisions that involve them is essential. Cambridgeshire are committed to ensuring that children and young people are engaged throughout commissioning processes; coproduction will be woven throughout commissioning. We are committed to ensuring that young people's views are not only sought, but that we can share the outcomes and impact of this coproduction with young people.

“ Really listen to the young person's needs, wants and desires and take them into consideration throughout every process. ”

One of the many benefits to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's close working relationship is the opportunity to identify common areas of need across the two Authorities. This Sufficiency Statement will be considered alongside Peterborough City Council's Sufficiency Statement, and where there are shared gaps and challenges we will endeavour to resolve these for both Authorities, in partnership with professionals, children, young people, their families and providers.

Cambridgeshire's commissioning intentions are governed by the Joint Commissioning Board; a partnership body across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. This Board is responsible for ensuring Commissioning activity is undertaken in line with budgetary and strategic priorities.

Commissioning intentions will be communicated via our [website](#), and via procurement portals where this is appropriate and in accordance with regulations.

Action plans will be developed to review progress in achieving the measures identified throughout this document. We will ensure that Cambridgeshire is able to provide a range of local, appropriate and sufficient placements and services to meet the needs of our Children and Young People in Care.

In the late Summer / early Autumn of 2021, an updated version of this document will be published, with revised data sets following the publication of Statutory data at March 2021.

Appendix A – Glossary

CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health service. An NHS provision to meet mental health needs of children and young people
Connected Person	A person known to a child, young person or their family who may be able to offer care following sufficient assessment
DPS/ Dynamic Purchasing System	A framework for the supply and purchase of placements with independent fostering agencies and residential children's homes
IFA	Independent Fostering Agency
Link Foster Carer(s)	A foster carer who offers short breaks through foster care, usually to a child or young person with disabilities
SMART	An acronym that stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child/ Children

Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 29 June 2021

From: Executive Director: People and Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable

Outcome: To appoint to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels.

It is important that the Council is represented on a wide range of outside bodies to enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Children and Young People Committee:

- (i) review and agree the appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (ii) review and agree the appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels, as detailed in Appendix 2.
- (iii) note the appointment of Councillor Anna Bradnam as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee and Councillor Philippa Slatter as Vice Chair for 2021/22;
- (iv) note the Local Authority School Governor appointments for spring term 2021 as detailed in Appendix 3.
- (v) delegate, on a permanent basis between meetings, the appointment of representatives to any vacancies on outside bodies and internal advisory groups and panels within the remit of the Children and Young People Committee to the Executive Director: People and Communities, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee.

Officer contact:

Name: Richenda Greenhill
Post: Democratic Services Officer
Email: Richenda.greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 699171

Member contacts:

Names: Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Chair) and Councillor Maria King (Vice Chair)
Email: Bryony.Goodliffe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

1. Background

- 1.1 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels are agreed by the relevant Policy and Service Committee. Details of the Children and Young People Committee's appointments to Outside Bodies are attached at Appendix 1 and its appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels at Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People Committee (CYP) is also responsible for appointing the Chair and Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee from the members of the Sub-Committee appointed by Council. In order to expedite these appointments, the Executive Director for People and Communities exercised her delegated authority to appoint Councillor Anna Bradnam as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee and Councillor Philippa Slatter as Vice Chair for 2021/22 on 18 June 2021, in consultation with CYP Spokes.
- 1.3 CYP receives termly notification of Local Authority School Governor appointments and nominations. Details of the Governor appointments made in Spring Term 2021 are attached at Appendix 3 for noting.
- 1.4 The Committee agreed on 22 May 2018 to delegate, on a permanent basis between meetings, the appointment of representatives to any outstanding outside bodies, groups, panels, within the remit of CYP, to the Executive Director: People and Communities, in consultation with the Chair of CYP. Any appointments made under this delegation would be reported to the Committee at its next meeting. The Committee is recommended to confirm that delegation today.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The outside bodies where appointments are required are set out in Appendix 1 to this report. The previous representative(s) is indicated for information. It is proposed that the Committee should agree the new appointments to these bodies.
- 2.2 The internal advisory groups and panels where appointments are required are set out in Appendix 2 to this report. The previous representative(s) is indicated. It is proposed that the Committee should agree the new appointments to these bodies.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

It is important that the Council is represented on a wide range of outside bodies to enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations.

- 3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

There are no significant implications for this priority.

- 3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full
- 3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

There are no significant implications for this priority.

- 3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 There are no significant implications within these categories

Resource Implications

Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Equality and Diversity Implications

Engagement and Communications Implications

Localism and Local Member Involvement

Public Health Implications

Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

5. Source documents

- 5.1 [Membership of Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels](#)

Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People Committee

Appointments to outside bodies, partnership liaison and advisory groups

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
Cambridgeshire Music Hub A partnership of school music providers, led by the County Council, to deliver the government's National Plan for School Music.	3	2	Proposed appointees: 1. Councillor M Atkins (LD) 2. Councillor S Taylor (Ind)	Other Public Body Representative	Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Matthew Gunn Head of Cambridgeshire Music 01480 373500/ 01480 373830 Matthew.Gunn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs To provide training and social facilities for young members of the community.	6	1	Proposed appointee: 1.	Unincorporated Association Member	Jess Shakeshaft cambsyoungfarmers@outlook.com
Cambridgeshire Schools Forum The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum exists to facilitate the involvement of schools and settings in the distribution of relevant funding within the local authority area	6	3	Proposed appointees: 1. Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (Lab) 2. Cllr Claire Dauntton (LD) 3. Councillor S Taylor (Ind)	Other Public Body Representative	Tamar Oviatt-Ham Democratic Services Officer 01223 699715668 Tamar.Oviatt-Ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
East of England Local Government Association Children's Services and Education Portfolio-Holder Network The network brings together the lead members for children's service and	4	2	Proposed appointees: 1.Cllr M King (LD) 2 Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab)		

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
<p>education from the 11 strategic authorities in the East of England. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give councils in the East of England a collective voice in response to consultations and lobbying activity • provide a forum for discussion on matters of common concern and share best practice • provide the means by which the East of England contributes to the work of the national LGA and makes best use of its members' outside appointments. 				Other Public Body Representative	<p>Cinar Altun</p> <p>Cinar.altun@eelga.gov.uk</p>
<p>F40 Group The F40 Group represents a group of the poorest funded education authorities in England where government-set cash allocations for primary and secondary pupils are the lowest in the country.</p>	As required	1 +substitute	<p>Proposed appointee:</p> <p>Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (Lab)</p> <p>Substitute:</p>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
Local Safeguarding Children's Board LSCBs have been established by the government to ensure that organisations work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. In Cambridgeshire this includes Social Care Services, Education, Health, the Police, Probation, Sports and Leisure Services, the Voluntary Sector, Youth Offending Team and Early Years Services. It is a requirement that the Lead Member for Children's Services sits on the Board.	4	1	Previous appointee: Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (Lab)	Other Public Body Representative	Joanne Procter Head of Service Children and Adults Safeguarding Board Joanne.Procter@peterborough.gov.uk 01733 863765
Manea Educational Foundation Established to provide grants and financial assistance for people up to the age of 25 years living within the Parish of Manea.	2	1	Proposed appointee: Councillor D Connor (Con)	Unincorporated association member	
March Educational Foundation Provides assistance with the education of people under the age of 25 who are resident in March.	3 – 4	1 For a period of five years	Proposed appointee: Councillor John Gowing	Trustee of a Charity	
Needham's Foundation, Ely Needham's Foundation is a Charitable Trust, the purpose of which is to provide financial assistance for the provision of items, services and facilities for the community or voluntary aided schools in the area of Ely and to promote the education of persons under the age of 25 who are in need of financial assistance and who are resident in the area of Ely and/or are	2	2	Proposed appointee: 1 Cllr Whelan (LD) 2 Cllr Coutts (LD)	Trustee of a Charity	

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
attending or have at any time attended a community or voluntary aided school in Ely.					
Shepreth School Trust Provides financial assistance towards educational projects within the village community, both to individuals and organisations.	4	1	Proposed appointee: 1. Councillor P McDonald (LD)	Trustee of a Charity	
Soham Moor Old Grammar School Fund Charity promoting the education of young people attending Soham Village College who are in need of financial assistance or to providing facilities to the Village College not normally provided by the education authority. Biggest item of expenditure tends to be to fund purchase of books by university students.	2	1	Proposed appointee: Councillor M Goldsack (Con)	Unincorporated Association Member	
Trigg's Charity (Melbourn) Trigg's Charity provides financial assistance to local schools / persons for their educational benefit.	2	1	Proposed appointee: Councillor S van de Ven (LD)	Unincorporated Association Member	

Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People Committee

Appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
<p>Cambridgeshire Culture Steering Group</p> <p>The role of the group is to give direction to the implementation of Cambridgeshire Culture, agree the use of the Cambridgeshire Culture Fund, ensure the maintenance and development of the County Art Collection and oversee the loan scheme to schools and the work of the three Cambridgeshire Culture Area Groups. Appointments are cross party.</p>	4	3	<p>Proposed appointees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr A Bulat (tbc) (Lab) 2. Councillor Michael Atkins (LD) 3. 	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee</p> <p>The Sub-Committee has delegated authority to exercise all the Council's functions relating to the delivery, by or on behalf of, the County Council, of Corporate Parenting functions with the exception of policy decisions which will remain with the Children and Young People's Committee. The Chairman/ Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman/Chairwoman of the Sub-Committee shall be selected and</p>	6	n/a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr A Bradnam (LD) - Chair 2. Cllr P Slatter (LD) – Vice Chair 	<p>Richenda Greenhill Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>01223 699171 Richenda.greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
appointed by the Children and Young People Committee.				
Educational Achievement Board For Members and senior officers to hold People and Communities to account to ensure the best educational outcomes for all children in Cambridgeshire.	3	5	Proposed appointees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (LAB) 2. Cllr M King (LD) 3. Cllr S Taylor (Ind) 4. 5. 	Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Fostering Panel Recommends approval and review of foster carers and long term / permanent matches between specific children, looked after children and foster carers. It is no longer a statutory requirement to have an elected member on the Panel. Appointees are required to complete the Panel's own application process.	2 all-day panel meetings a month	1	Proposed appointees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor S King (Con)* 2. Vacancy* <i>(on hold pending the outcome of work on Panel recruitment following a peer review of the Fostering Panel in June 2020)</i> <p>*Subject to successfully completing the Panel's own application process.</p> <p>Appointments on hold pending consideration of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.</p>	Ricky Cooper Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering 01223 699609 Ricky.Cooper@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) The Joint Committee provides an opportunity for trade unions to discuss matters of mutual interest in relation to educational policy for Cambridgeshire with elected members.	2	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vacancy 2. Vacancy 3. Vacancy 4. Vacancy 5. Vacancy 6. Vacancy <p><i>(appointments postponed pending submission of proposals on future arrangements)</i></p>	Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) To advise on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education. In addition to the three formal meetings per year there is some project work which requires members to form smaller sub-committees.	3 per year (usually one per term) 1.30-3.30pm	3	Proposed appointees: 1. 2. 3.	Amanda Fitton SACRE Adviser Amanda.Fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Virtual School Management Board The Virtual School Management Board will act as “governing body” to the Head of Virtual School, which will allow the Member representative to link directly to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.	Termly	1	Proposed appointees 1.	Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Edwina Erskine Business Support Officer – Administration Services Team Cambridgeshire’s Virtual School for Looked After Children (ESLAC Team) 01223 699883 edwina.erskine@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Local Authority Governor Schedule - Nominations/Appointments

January 2021

- Eastfield Infant and Nursery – Mrs Angie Dickinson
- Foxton Primary – Mr Joseph Sherry
- Harston and Newton Community Primary – Mrs Margaret Greeves

February 2021

- Arbury Primary – Mrs Olly Day

March 2021

- Ely St John's Community Primary – (Councillor) Mrs Elisabeth Every (re-appointment)
- Hemingford Grey Primary – Mrs Hannah Gill
- Kettlefields Primary – Mr Timothy Owen (re-appointment)
- Meridian Primary – Mr Peter Newton (re-appointment)

