

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE



Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Democratic and Members' Services
Emma Duncan
Service Director: Legal and Governance

14:00

New Shire Hall
Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon
PE28 4YE

Red Kite Room
New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4YE

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

- 1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Guidance on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-conduct-code>
- 2. Minutes - 27 June 2023 and Minutes Action Log** **1 - 14**
- 3. Petitions and Public Questions**

KEY DECISION

- 4. Supported Accommodation Services for Young People in Care** **15 - 30**
Aged 16+

DECISIONS

5.	Finance and Monitoring Report - August 2023	31 - 60
6.	Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update	61 - 70
7.	Special Educational Needs Service and Safety Valve Programme Updates	71 - 92
8.	Preparation for Children's Inspection Readiness Activity	93 - 102
9.	Agenda Plan, Training Plan, Committee Appointments and Local Authority School Governor Nominations	103 - 128

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The Children and Young People Committee comprises the following members:

Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Chair) Councillor Michael Atkins (Vice-Chair) Councillor David Ambrose Smith Councillor Anna Bradnam Councillor Alex Bulat Councillor Claire Daunton Councillor Anne Hay Councillor Samantha Hoy Councillor Jonas King Councillor Mac McGuire Councillor Keith Prentice Councillor Alan Sharp Councillor Philippa Slatter Councillor Simone Taylor and Councillor Firouz Thompson Canon Andrew Read (Appointee) Dr Andy Stone (Appointee)

Clerk Name:	Richenda Greenhill
Clerk Telephone:	01223 699171
Clerk Email:	Richenda.Greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Children and Young People Committee: Minutes

Date: 27th June 2023

Time: 2.00pm – 16.55pm

Venue: Red Kite Room, New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald PE28 4YE

Present: Councillors D Ambrose Smith, M Atkins (Vice Chair), A Bradnam, A Bulat, C Daunton, B Goodliffe (Chair), J Gowing, A Hay, K Prentice (to 3.40pm), A Sharp, P Slatter, S Taylor and F Thompson

Co-opted Member:

Dr A Stone, Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

154. Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee 2023/24

The committee noted the appointment of Councillor Bryony Goodliffe as Chair of the committee and Councillor Michael Atkins as Vice Chair for 2023/24. These appointments were made by Council on 16th May 2023.

155. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Hoy, substituted by Councillor J Gowing, Councillors J King and M McGuire, and Canon A Read, the co-opted member representing the Church of England Diocese of Ely.

There were no declarations of interest.

156. Minutes – 25th April 2023 and Minutes Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Officers advised that the Regional Schools Commissioner was provisionally scheduled to attend the meeting on 28th November 2023. The minutes action log was noted.

157. Petitions and Public Questions

No petitions or public questions were received.

Key decisions

158. Implementation of a Post 16 Provision Framework [KD2023/072]

The proposed dynamic purchasing system (DPS) for a Post 16 Framework of Alternative Education Providers was designed to form part of the response to the Post 16 commissioning reviews in 2020 and 2021, alongside the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) strategy and the Safety Valve. Alternative provision for young people with SEND who were unable to access standard provision was currently spot purchased from a variety of Post 16 providers. The establishment of a framework would give more control and consistency over the provision and the process and ensure good value for money. The specification had been co-produced with PinPoint, the local parent and carer forum for children and young people with SEND. Current outcomes were perceived to be fairly low.

In response to questions from Members, officers:

- explained that a digital badge was an electronic record of accomplishments and qualifications.
- acknowledged the need to explain acronyms and technical terms in public reports.
Action required
- stated that officers in the Commissioning team would work with colleagues in the Procurement team to make sure that the opportunity to join the framework was advertised widely and made available to a wide range of potential providers. New providers would also be able to join the framework after it was set up.
- confirmed that the Commissioning team would work with officers in the Transport team and in other local authorities to ensure that transport provision was aligned with further education (FE) opportunities. Access to transport would be a factor in looking at placements, and there was an opportunity to reduce transport needs and costs by having provision available more locally.
- stated that it was expected that the framework would help reduce the number of young people with additional needs who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) by providing more choice and a wider range of FE options.
- stated that a rigorous evaluation and monitoring process would be followed for those joining the DPS, which would include periodic reviews. The contractual arrangements would provide a means to remove providers if required and a robust provider risk tool was already in place.
- confirmed that alternative Post 16 provision for young people with SEND was already provided, but that this was managed on a more ad hoc basis. The DPS would offer a broader range of providers.

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

- welcomed the combination of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) with vocational routes, and asked whether officers were working with the Combined Authority on this, for example in relation to the Multiply programme.
- asked whether driving down costs could impact on providers' viability, particularly voluntary and third sector providers. Officers stated that the pricing schedule would be informed by existing rates and would offer a sustainable rate. Officers provided

support as part of the quality assurance process to make sure that providers' offer was sustainable. Some providers operated at cost, and there was no intention to penalise them.

- Asked whether an annual report would be produced, and whether it would be possible in a year's time to stop the expenditure. Officer stated that they could report back in a year's time if that was members' wish. The expenditure related to statutory provision so it could not be stopped, but the framework could be ended with a return to the current spot purchasing process. **Action required**

The Chair welcomed the link to the adult framework, which she felt would work well.

Co-opted members of the committee were eligible to vote on this item

It was resolved by a majority to:

- a) Approve Cambridgeshire County Council tendering a Post 16 Alternative Education Framework, and thereafter to make calloffs from this framework.
- b) Delegate responsibility for awarding and executing contracts for the provision of Post 16 Alternative Education; starting on the 23rd August 2023 and ending on the 31st March 2024 and has extension periods of 2+ 2 + 1 with a value over 5 years of £10.2 million to align with the Children's External Placement Dynamic Purchasing System to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee.

159. Draft Residential Services Strategy [KD2023/065]

The draft residential services strategy had been produced in response to the increased demand for residential places for children and young people in the County Council's care. This pattern reflected the national position where demand outstripped supply, with research indicating that these sufficiency challenges were unlikely to disappear. The Council had a small number of young people whose complex needs could not be met locally or in a family setting. This could result in them being placed in settings which were not regulated by Ofsted where no suitable provision was offered by the usual providers. Where suitable places could be found these were often outside of the county. The proposal was designed to create the capacity to support these young people safely within Cambridgeshire. The draft residential services strategy sought committee endorsement of this approach. If approved, a costed options report would be developed for consideration at a future meeting.

In response to questions from Members, officers:

- acknowledged that the number of young people in residential care homes was going up while the overall number of children in care in the county was going down. This was due to an increase in those children's complexity of need, and also the increase in numbers of young people coming into care Post 13 as it could be harder to find foster carers for this age group. It remained the Council's aim to place children in care in a home environment wherever possible, but for a small number care in a residential setting was more suited to their needs. Staying in a local care home

would make it easier for them to maintain local links and to transition back home or to local foster care if this became possible.

The Executive Director for Children, Education and Families highlighted the context of the national pressure on residential places, the reduction in Tier 4 placements and the number of experienced foster carers available. Officers saw part of the solution as creating additional residential places closer to home and where Cambridgeshire's children would have first call on available spaces. Alongside this, the county was always looking to recruit new foster carers.

- stated that residential children's homes operated by the private sector were mainly located in areas where property prices were lower and there was a workforce available locally. In Cambridgeshire, this had led to a number of providers locating in Fenland. If the proposed strategy was approved an options appraisal would be carried out to identify the best place to locate services within the county, including looking at where the cohort accessing services was located.
- explained that a decision had been taken around 2016/17 to close council-owned residential children's home due to lack of demand. Since then, the market had changed significantly and competition for places had become a national issue due to scarcity of supply.

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

- asked how long children and young people in the County's care were spending in residential homes. **Action required**
- welcomed moves to bring more services in-house, but expressed concern about the national context.
- commented that they would want to see sufficient funds allocated to the purchase or management of properties to provide good quality, well maintained homes.
- expressed the hope that learning would be taken from the experience of other local authorities.
- suggested that the use of S106 money or charitable giving might be explored.
- endorsed the strategy, describing their wish to avoid the use of unregistered providers. The previous decommissioning of the Council's residential children's homes had in part been due to the difficulty in attracting sufficient skilled staff so this would be an important consideration. Another member concurred, commenting that the Council would be competing with other local authorities and providers for the necessary staff.

Officers stated that an options appraisal would be produced if the strategy was agreed. This would include looking at using either a commissioning process or the Council running the residential settings itself. Local authorities were generally seen as a more attractive employment option. Officers were also looking at ways of supporting working in a residential care setting as a career option.

- Emphasised that the wellbeing of the children and young people in the Council's care was the most important consideration. The report showed that between April 2019 and March 2022 only 21 of the 93 Cambridgeshire children and young people placed in residential homes were located within the county, with the majority of these located in and around the Fenland district.

Councillor Bradnam endorsed the proposals in her capacity as the chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, and welcomed the small size of the units proposed.

Co-opted members of the committee were eligible to vote on this item

It was resolved unanimously to endorse the residential service strategy.

Decisions and monitoring

160. Finance Monitoring Report May 2023

In addition to the May monitoring report, two additional meeting papers were published on 21 June 2023 providing an executive summary of the outturn for 2022/23 and the 2022/23 closedown report.

The outturn for 2022/23 reported the position at the end of the financial year to 31 March 2023. This included an overspend of around £4m on non-dedicated schools grant (DSG) expenditure, which represented a slight reduction from the previous forecast. An overspend of around £11.9m was reported on DSG expenditure.

The May 2023 report was in a new format. In response to member feedback, it included only expenditure relating to children, education and families and the DSG and non-DSG elements were separated out. As the first report of the new financial year it included the roll-forward position on capital expenditure from the previous year and the committee's endorsement was sought for changes to the capital programme budgets from the Business Plan. The changes were set out in Appendix 1 and, if agreed, would go forward to the Strategy and Resources Committee for approval.

In response to questions from Members, officers:

- confirmed that the DSG overspend was at a comparable level with previous years, and reflected an underlying pressure of c£10-11m. The Council had received its first Safety Valve payment, so the cumulative deficit had reduced to c£29m. More detail would be provided on this in future reports as part of the new monitoring process.
- stated that the interest cost on the deficit was an opportunity cost of between £100-500k, but that this represented a notional figure.
- stated that the scale of the overspend reflected a national funding issue. There were 12 local authorities including Cambridgeshire with a Safety Valve agreement, and around half of local authorities were reporting a deficit. The focus was on supporting need appropriately through local action in relation to children and young people with special educational needs. Cambridgeshire's plan had been

signed off by the Department for Education (DfE) and there was no suggestion from Government that the Council had done anything wrong. A report on the Safety Valve programme would be brought to the committee in the autumn.

- confirmed that variations to the capital budget were calculated each year based on slippage. The S106 reduction of c£13m was also due to slippage. The majority of capital projects represented new builds or expansion projects. There was also a small slippage on school refurbishment, but this was likely to be rectified over the summer when the majority of projects took place to minimise disruption.

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

- welcomed the new format of the report, which they found more clear.
- asked whether unfunded pay rises were a cause of concern. The Director of Education stated that the information on this was currently being collated and would be reported in the autumn. More generally, maintained school budgets had reduced, and some deficit budgets would be approved. Officers were seeing some creative solutions to delivering the curriculum and were working closely with schools to support them. A report on school budgets would be going to the Schools Forum in July and a copy would be shared with committee members for information. **Action required**

Co-opted members of the committee were eligible to vote on this item.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Review and comment on the report.
- b) Note and endorse the changes to the capital programme budgets from the Business Plan detailed in Appendix 1 for approval by Strategy and Resources.

The meeting adjourned from 15.53 to 16.05pm.

161. Corporate Performance Report – Children and Young People Committee

Committee members reviewed the Corporate Performance report for Quarter 4 of 2022/23. This covered the period to the end of March 2023.

In response to questions from Members, officers:

- stated that a large number of primary schools were still maintained by the local authority. Officers worked closely with them and also with the academy trusts working locally in relation to school improvement. A number of Ofsted inspections were due, and it was hoped to see that improvement reflected in their assessments. This should be seen against a background of national decline.
- explained that there were a variety of reasons why a child might be made subject to a child protection plan for a second time. It could be that a long period of time had passed between the two instances, or there might have been a change in family circumstances. The proportion of child protection plans for Cambridgeshire

was still good. The key consideration was ensuring that children in need were identified at the right time and that appropriate support was put in place.

- RAG ratings in relation to reading, writing and maths had been suspended as there was no national published data for the past three years due to Covid.
- the target for persistent absences from school had been set historically. Post covid, a significant increase had been seen nationally in persistent absenteeism. It was believed that this related mainly to anxiety issues and respiratory-related conditions. Officers were working hard to address this through school attendance processes. The Council's work on this had recently been reviewed by the Department for Education (DfE) and was found to be good.

It was resolved to note and comment on performance information and take remedial action as necessary.

162. Children, Education and Families – Directorate Risk Register

The directorate risk register was brought to the committee annually for review. The Council's standard process had been followed, with any red rated risks scoring 16 or above being referred to the corporate leadership team for review. Covid risks had been removed and the Children, Education and Families directorate currently had seven red risks.

In response to questions from Members, officers:

- stated that there was a lot of work happening on information sharing in relation to children at risk of exploitation. That work would be continuing to ensure that children were protected. The Executive Director's first impression of the local safeguarding partnership was that good relationships existed between partners and that everyone was fully involved and playing their part.
- work was continuing to deliver three new special schools alongside the new enhanced provision bases. The timing of this was an issue, but officers were doing all they could to make sure sufficient places were available. An update would be provided in the autumn.
- explained that AYSE referred to an assessed and supported year in employment for newly qualified social workers, during which they would have a protected caseload. The new social worker academy would be available during 2023 and would provide support to this group as well as to support the continued professional development of experienced social workers. This was a positive change, and it was hoped this would help support social worker retention. The academy would have a physical base, and further information around anticipated numbers of students would be circulated outside of the meeting. **Action required**

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

- expressed concern at the number of amber and red rated risks. The Council was going through a lot of organisational change, and they were concerned whether there was sufficient capacity to manage that change. Officers stated that the

appointment of the new Director of Children's services whose sole focus would be on Cambridgeshire would be a key factor in reducing that risk. Recruitment to permanent service director roles would also be important and that was happening now. The Council's chief executive was working closely with his counterpart at Peterborough City Council to manage a smooth de-coupling process between the two organisations.

It was resolved to note the current Directorate Risk Register

Other decisions

163. Children's Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2022/23

The annual report for 2022/23 provided details of the feedback and complaints received about children's services during the period covered, together with a breakdown of the number and types of complaints received. This was used internally to identify areas for learning and quality assurance activity. Following feedback from the committee on the last report there was a more equal balance between compliments and complaints. Updated guidance had been received from the Local Government Ombudsman on which complaints should be subject to the statutory process, with the remainder being addressed through the corporate complaints process. During 2022/23 there had been an increase in the number of compliments and enquiries received. The number of Stage 1 complaints had remained fairly stable, but there had been an increase in the number of complaints escalated to Stages 2 and 3. The highest number of complaints had related to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services and the statutory assessment team, with complaints around the timeliness of education, health and care plans reflecting challenges being experienced nationally around this issue.

Committee members welcomed the changes to content and format which had been made in response to feedback on the previous report. The inclusion of case histories was informative and the learning points reassuring.

In response to questions from Members, officers:

- advised the report would be shared with the Children, Education and Families (CEF) Directorate's management team after it had been considered by the committee. Quarterly reports were taken to the also taken to CEF management team meetings, and in future this information would also be shared at service level. It was not currently shared with the Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association, but this could be done and as the team looked at producing more specific reports they could explore something specific around foster carers. **Action required**

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

- spoke of the importance of ensuring that all children and young people had the right nationality status to avoid detention or deportation. They expressed the hope that those born in the United Kingdom were encouraged to follow the citizenship route if they wanted to do that. They were concerned by the case described in the report, but glad that it had been resolved. Officers undertook to confirm outside of

the meeting whether they were confident that no other children were in the same circumstances. **Action required**

- suggested that it was important to manage service users' expectations. Officers acknowledged this, but emphasised that it was important that all complaints were fully investigated.

It was resolved with the consent of the meeting to:

- a) Consider the content of the report and appendix.
- b) Request a further report in 12 months.

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

The Committee reviewed its agenda plan, training plan and appointments. Expressions of interest in the remaining vacancies were welcomed outside of the meeting.

The Chair expressed her thanks to all members sitting on internal advisory groups and panels and outside bodies.

It was resolved to:

- a) Review the committee agenda plan attached at Appendix 1.
- b) Review the committee training plan attached at Appendix 2.
- c) Review the appointments to Outside Bodies within the Committee's remit at Appendix 3.
- d) Review the appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels at Appendix 4.
- e) Appoint Councillor A Bradnam as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee and Councillor M Atkins as Vice Chair for 2023/24.
- f) Note the appointment of Cllr C Daunton to the Cambridgeshire Culture Steering Group on 9th May 2023.

(Chair)

Children and Young People Committee Action Log

Purpose:

This log captures the actions recorded in the minutes of Children and Young People Committee meetings, and updates Members on progress.

Minutes of the Meeting on 30 November 2021

41.	Free School Proposal – Wisbech Secondary School	J Lewis	The Chair endorsed the suggestion that an invitation should be extended to the new Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to meet committee members.	<p>The new RSC, Jonathan Duff, took up post on 1 April 2022 so a meeting in Autumn 2022 would be suggested. Service Director for Education has approached the RSC’s office to agree a date.</p> <p>05.07.22: The Director of Education would provide an update before the Committee’s next meeting.</p> <p>14.09.22: Potential dates have been shared with the RSC’s office.</p> <p>11.04.23: Director of Education to offer dates to the Regional Schools Commissioner.</p> <p>27.06.23: The RSC will attend CYP in November 2023.</p>	Completed
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Minutes of the meeting on 5 July 2022

87.	Proposed approach to developing capacity for school placements for children with SEND	J Lewis	The Director of Education offered a briefing note around teaching assistants and encouraging diversity within this group	<p>26.09.22: Director of Education to review Workforce Census and circulate briefing note. December 2022.</p> <p>22.11.22: The workforce census publication date has been delayed. A briefing note will be circulated when this is available in Spring 2023.</p> <p>15.02.23: Data currently not available.</p> <p>12.04.23: The Department for Education is expected to publish data in June 2023 (exact date TBC). A briefing note to be prepared and circulated by August 2023.</p> <p>12.07.23: This information will be captured in the October committee report on the SEND safety valve.</p>	Completed
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Minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2023

140.	Finance Monitoring Report	<p>Elaine Redding</p> <p>Martin Purbrick</p>	The Interim Executive Director of Children's Services stated that the contract for recruiting international social workers was robust in terms of delivery and quality and included an induction programme to familiarise staff with Council practice and the local area. She would be happy to share more information on this with Committee members outside of the meeting.		
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Minutes of the meeting on 27th June 2023

158.	Implementation of a Post 16 Provision Framework	Martin Purbrick	Officers would be reminded of the need to explain acronyms and technical terms in public reports.		
		Zoe Redfern-Nichols/ Denise Revens	Officers stated that they could report back in a year's time if that was members' wish.	24.07.23: An update will be taken to Spokes in February/ March 2024, for them to decide if a committee report is required.	Completed
159.	Draft Residential Services Strategy	Brian Relph	Asked how long children and young people in the County's care were spending in residential homes.		
160.	Finance Monitoring Report May 2023	Martin Wade	To circulate a copy of the report on schools budget going to the Schools Forum in July.	17.07.23: A copy of the report was circulated to committee members.	Completed
162.	Children, Education and Families Directorate Risk Register	Martin Purbrick	To provide further information around anticipated numbers of students at the new social work academy.		
163.	Children's Feedback and Complaints	Michaela Berry	Officers undertook to confirm outside of the meeting whether they were confident that no other children were in the same circumstances set out in	11.07.23: The Acting Head of Corporate Parenting has confirmed that this has been covered previously with the relevant team and that they have oversight of young people	Completed

	Annual Report 2022/23		Case Study 3: Care Leaver - Raised Expectations Over EU Settled Status Leading to a Loss of Opportunity.	where citizenship is an issue to ensure this doesn't happen again. It will also be revisited at the next team meeting.	
163.	Children's Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2022/23	Jo Shickell	To share copies of annual reports with Cambridgeshire Foster Carers' Association, and to explore producing a more specific report around foster carers.	22.09.23: Copy of Annual Report shared with Interim Service Director, Brian Relph to share. Production of specific report for Foster Carers would be subject to additional resourcing of Complaints Team or for the Fostering Service to produce.	Completed

Supported Accommodation Services for young people in care aged 16+

To:	Children and Young People Committee
Meeting Date:	10 th October 2023
From:	Executive Director for Children, Education and Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	KD2023/70
Outcome:	The Committee is asked to approve the recommissioning of the Supported Accommodation Services pseudo dynamic purchasing system (DPS) Agreement for young people in care aged 16 and 17 years old. This is a five-year contract that will be in line with the new national Ofsted regulation of the service.
Recommendation:	The Committee is recommended to: a) note the re-tendering process for this contract. b) delegate responsibility for awarding and executing a contract for the provision of Supported Accommodation Services pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Agreement for young people in care aged 16 and 17 years old, starting 1 st April 2024 and extension periods to the Executive Director for Children, Education and Families Martin Purbrick
Voting arrangements:	Co-opted members are eligible to vote on this report.

Officer contact:
Name: Tony Parker
Post: Head of Childrens Commissioning
Email: tony.parker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 Supported accommodation is a key service that plays a pivotal role in the care system for young people. It provides accommodation and support services to young people in care aged sixteen and seventeen years old. The service is required to provide support according to the needs of the young people, which is flexible and mutually agreed, working in partnership with other agencies.
- 1.2 The aim of the service is to enable young people to become more independent whilst living in the service, through developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours required to sustain independent living and make a smooth and successful transition to adulthood. The service is required to build resilience and strengthen young people's skills, enabling them to live in the community whilst ensuring they are fully involved in the planning and delivery of their care plans moving forward.
- 1.3 Supported accommodation, also referred to as unregulated accommodation, has been the focus of increased scrutiny from central government and received a lot of media attention. The Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield wrote a report in relation to the sector in the spring of 2020. The number of children and young people in care, placed in these services nationally has increased from 2,900 in 2009 to 6,490 in 2020. It is estimated that there are around 3000 providers operating within this sector nationally. In early 2021 it was confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted that the sector would become subject to National Minimum Standards and that they would engage in a programme to deliver this. In November 2022 Ofsted held webinars that detailed processes that would be implemented to regulate the sector.
- 1.4 The result is that the Department for Education and Ofsted are currently in the process of regulating this sector. Currently, providers are registering with Ofsted and have until 28th October 2023 to register services that are currently operating. The commissioning team have had consistent engagement with the providers and the market in general. The information we have gained from this process is that all the providers offering homes to the young people of Cambridgeshire will be registering with Ofsted.
- 1.5 After this date, it will become illegal for current providers to offer beds to local authorities for young people to live in. Registration will remain open for new providers entering the market. On April 1st 2024, Ofsted will begin the inspection process of all providers who have registered. This will be an ongoing process.
- 1.6 The current framework arrangement has been in place since October 2018 and there are currently 51 providers. The Council is currently using 25 of these providers for placements.
- 1.7 There have been 288 placements (excluding Separated Migrant Children) during the period January 2019 to December 2022. On average the service works with 72 young people per year with the average amount of time a young person spends living in the service, (not including current placements) being 130 days per placement.

- 1.8 For Separated Migrant Children, during service has, on average supported 46 young people per month. The projected average time a young person has spent living in the Supported Accommodation service is 230 days per placement.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The current Supported Accommodation contract went live in October 2018, for an initial period of three years with an option to extend for three further periods of two years and a period of one year, making ten years in total (3+2+2+2+1).
- 2.2 Whilst this current framework has successfully increased the sufficiency of provision for Cambridgeshire, the framework requires recommissioning to ensure that our contractual arrangements are compliant with the new regulations, and to better enable Cambridgeshire to effectively manage the Supported Accommodation market and continue to appropriately increase capacity where it is required.
- 2.3 The current contract allows providers that are not registered with Ofsted to be on the framework. Under the new Ofsted regulations, Local Authorities will no longer be able to place with providers that have not registered.
- 2.4 The retendering process allows the service specification to be reviewed and developed, to reflect the new Ofsted requirements. It gives additional opportunities to financially forecast the impact of these regulations. Every Local Authority has been allocated a Grant from the DFE to support this process. The commissioning team is in discussions to determine how best to support providers offering homes to our young people using this grant money.
- 2.5 The estimated total value of the new pseudo DPS Agreement is between £15,000,000 and £30,000,000. It is important to note that the framework is in place to allow us to call off placements. The annual revenue requirement is funded from the children's commissioning placement budget which is planned for each year in consultation with finance colleagues. There is no capital spend required. The above figure is a range of likely spend for the lifetime of the new pseudo DPS. This figure is not a guaranteed spend. These figures are in line with the existing financial forecast for the current pseudo DPS.
- 2.6 The contract will be a three-year initial term with an option to extend for a further two years, totalling five years. This would give time for the service to embed the new Ofsted requirement and process whilst giving options to make changes at timely points; years three and five.
- 2.7 The service will be split into four lots. Potential providers could bid for one or more lots.

Lot 1 – Supported accommodation and support for eligible and relevant young people and young people in care, aged 16-18. 1 to 4 bedded properties, with specific needs-led support determined per referral.

Lot 2 – Supported accommodation and support for eligible and relevant young people and young people in care, aged 16-18. 5+ bedded properties with generic needs-led support model per property

Lot 3 – Supported accommodation and support for Separated Migrant Children Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (previously referred to as Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young). 1 to 4 bedded properties with generic needs-led support model per property

Lot 4 – Supported accommodation and support for Separated Migrant Children Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (previously referred to as Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young) People. 5+ bedded properties with generic needs-led support model per property

- 2.8 The Commissioning team would be able to work closely with fewer providers in the local area, ensuring that we support them directly with the new Ofsted standards and regulations, engaging with them to increase capacity through partnership working whilst building positive working relationships and better outcomes for our young people.
- 2.9 The Commissioning team will continue to monitor current providers on their service delivery and quality during this transitional stage. This will include supporting them in their preparation for the regulations and process.
- 2.10 The commissioning team has worked in partnership with procurement and colleagues from the legal team A full procurement process and timeline has been developed by the procurement team. The team have ensured that all legal procurement requirements are in place to enable the tender to progress in a timely manner, in line with contractual timeframes.
- 2.11 The contractual times frames are as follows, invitation to tender 16th Oct 2023, deadline for tender return 24th November 2023, evaluation of tenders December 2023, Moderation January 2024, approval and notification of award early February 2024.

3. Alignment with ambitions

- 3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes
- At this stage we are unsure of the impact as the successful providers are unknown however the procurement process will questions providers on how they will support the council with this ambition.
- 3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

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

- The service will provide care and support for children and young people with complex needs and vulnerabilities
- The service will bring together existing health, education and social care provision to provide well organised and timely support for children with the complex needs, reducing the demand and duplication of existing services and ensuring children and young people have cohesive care planning and support across the system
- The service will be well connected to local health services, providing a mutual upskilling of workforce across the health and social care system and reducing demand on respective services.

3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs

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

- The service will provide care and support for children and young people with complex needs and vulnerabilities.
- The service will bring together existing health, education and social care provision to provide well organised and timely support for children with the complex needs, reducing the demand and duplication of existing services and ensuring children and young people have cohesive care planning and support across the system
- The service will be well connected to local health services, providing a mutual upskilling of workforce across the health and social care system and reducing demand on respective services.

3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

- Providers will support young people to engage with Housing Related Support and move on to accommodation services to activity support the young people to transition successfully to adult services.
- The service will provide care and support for children and young people with complex needs and vulnerabilities.

- The service will bring together existing health, education and social care provision to provide well organised and timely support for children with the complex needs, reducing the demand and duplication of existing services and ensuring children and young people have cohesive care planning and support across the system

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

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

- Our finance business partners have agreed that the re-tender of the current, supported accommodation service contract, which is a statutory service, has no capital cost for LA attached. The finances for the revenue for this service are allocated to the children's commissioning budget and will continue to do so for duration of the service.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

- The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 2.10

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

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

- There are no significant legal implications provided that the pseudo DPS Agreement is procured in compliance with all applicable contract procurement regulations
- Any risks associated with the recommissioning services of these service can be mitigated through contract management, quality assurance processes and the leadership and management infrastructure of the successful provider.
- There is a limited risk that provider will not submitted tender applications. The commissioning team has had consistent engagement with the providers and the market in general. These events have mitigated this risk with providers communicating that they want to, continue to offer homes to our young people and grow their services moving forward.
- The information we have gained from this process is that all the providers offering homes to the young people of Cambridgeshire will be registering with Ofsted.
- There is a risk that providers will increase their costs due the new regulations and retender process. The LA have received grant monies from central government to support these fee increases so mitigating this risk.
- The contract risk registered is added as appendix A

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

- In preparation for tender, an EqlA screening has been completed for this service (REF no: CCC550344973)
- This work is related to the provision of services for particular groups which are overrepresented, including: age (16-17), care experience and Separated Migrant Children.
- The model provides an equitable offer of services to children and young people across Cambridgeshire, providing care and support across the county that enables children and young people with varying complexity of needs in a variety of diverse families, to access the care and support that they need both when things are not working well
- Reasonable adjustments and considerations will also be made in relation to the building and asset itself to ensure it provides an inclusive employment environment

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

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

- Regular provider and market engagement events have taken place over the duration of the previous contract.
- The service specification has been developed with the input of young people who currently live in and who have lived in the service in passed

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 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas (See further guidance in Appendix 2):

At this stage we are unsure of the impact for the below implications as the successful providers are unknown however the procurement process will question providers on how they will support the council with this ambition.

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

neutral:

Explanation:

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

neutral:

Explanation:

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

neutral:
Explanation:

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

neutral:
Explanation:

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

neutral:
Explanation:

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

neutral:
Explanation:

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation:

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 Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes
Name of Officer: Claire Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or Pathfinder Legal? Yes
Name of Legal Officer: Emma Duncan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User? Yes
Name of Officer: Fay McCarthy

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: Will Patten

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? Yes
Name of Officer: Raj Laksman

If a Key decision, have any Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer? Yes
Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 None.

Contractual Risk Assessment Matrix – Guidance

This document can be used as guidance for completing the Risk Matrix contained in the Contract Management Toolkit.

Part 1 – Risk Assessment

Contractual Risk	Criticality			
	Low (1)	2	3	High or Critical (4)
<p>(1) Business Continuity Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that if the supplier fails to meet its contractual obligations it will result in the Council's inability to provide a statutory or critical service? (use the Business Continuity matrix in Part 4 to obtain score)</p>	<p>This results in a score of 1 on the Management Business Continuity matrix</p>	<p>This results in a score of 2 on the Management Business Continuity matrix</p>	<p>This results in a score of 3 on the Management Business Continuity matrix</p>	<p>This results in a score of 4 on the Management Business Continuity matrix</p>
<p>(2) Finance/Market Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that the supplier will not be able to deliver against its contractual obligations throughout the contract life (due to financial challenges for instance) and what is the likelihood that an alternative provider could step into its place?</p>	<p>Large supply market with low cost of entry. Simple switching e.g. stationery or furniture etc.</p> <p>Strong financial position with healthy balance sheet</p> <p>Excellent track record of delivery of these types of services</p>	<p>Medium sized market with a number of alternative suppliers</p> <p>Strong financial position with healthy balance sheet</p> <p>Several examples of where this contractor has delivered similar services</p>	<p>Medium sized market with fewer alternative suppliers.</p> <p>Acceptable financial position</p> <p>Limited examples of where this contractor has delivered similar services</p>	<p>The only supplier, or one of only a handful, that can provide this service</p> <p>Heavy CCC dependence e.g. supplies covered by protected rights.</p> <p>Concerning financial position</p> <p>Very Limited track record</p>

				of similar contracts and/or service is innovative and therefore higher risk
<p>(3) Performance Risk (supplier apathy)</p> <p>What is the risk that the supplier may not wish to commit to a high quality of service due to the lack of profit, high risk or unique challenges with providing this type of service?</p>	<p>Needs CCC custom to promote business and keen to retain business.</p> <p>Market is in its infancy and supplier keen to do business and grow share or mature but very profitable. Business is competitive and attractive.</p>	<p>Market is mature but margins are tight and profits being squeezed.</p> <p>Market is mature with good profits and limited competition.</p>	<p>Market is declining with low profits and business is less attractive.</p> <p>Market is declining with reasonable profits but availability of substitutes increasing and the market is becoming less attractive.</p>	<p>Views CCC business as an opportunity to take profit.</p> <p>Market is in decline. Profits are declining there is less incentive to remain in the market.</p>
<p>(4) Contracting Structure Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that the contracting arrangements could lead to increased costs, poor or non-delivery of the service</p>	<p>Contract is between CCC and Supplier(s) only</p>	<p>Shared Framework/DPS with access agreements (CCC Lead Authority)</p>	<p>Joint procurement but separate contracting arrangements</p> <p>Shared Framework/DPS with access agreements (CCC not Lead Authority)</p>	<p>Joint contracting arrangements with multiple partners fundamental to contract</p> <p>Non-CCC Lead Authority</p>
<p>(5) Performance Risk</p> <p>What is the likelihood of the supplier failing to deliver against its obligation due to its history of poor performance?</p>	<p>Contract performance has been acceptable or exceeded expectation.</p> <p>End user is satisfied with service (up to 10% of resident using the service)</p>	<p>Contract performance has been acceptable</p> <p>End user is satisfied but there are a few issues (between 11-30% of residents using the service)</p>	<p>Contract performance has been poor.</p> <p>End user is not really satisfied and requires positive remedial action (between 31-49% of residents using the service)</p>	<p>Performance has regularly been below what is expected with disputes.</p> <p>End user has consistently complained about performance and is actively looking for alternatives (more than 50% of</p>

				residents using the service)
<p>(6) Contract delivery Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that if the supplier fails to deliver against its obligation, it will not be able to be held to account under the terms of the contract?</p>	<p>Yes and all obligations and remedies are documented including KPI's.</p>	<p>Yes and all obligations and remedies are documented but lacking formal monitoring arrangements.</p>	<p>Yes but no clear details on obligations and remedies, not means of monitoring performance.</p>	<p>No written contract is in place.</p>
<p>(7) Health & Safety, Safeguarding Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that this supplier could result in a significant Health and Safety or safeguarding issue?</p>	<p>No direct H&S impact on staff/clients/member of public e.g. Supply of goods. Provision of administrative services.</p> <p>No direct contact with on children & young people or their families and their data</p>	<p>Has contact with and/or impact on staff, clients, member of public etc. but not directly e.g. building maintenance.</p> <p>Safeguarding risks. Have direct contact with children & young people or their families and their data. No safeguarding concerns identified</p>	<p>Delivering a service that directly impacts on staff, clients or member of public e.g. highway maintenance.</p> <p>Safeguarding risks identified and plan being actively managed by service provider</p>	<p>Delivering a service to vulnerable groups e.g. children, vulnerable adults for whom we have a duty of care, e.g. care services.</p> <p>Safeguarding risks identified but not under active management</p>
<p>(8) Reputational Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that the failure of this contract will significantly damage the reputation of the Council?</p>	<p>Contract failure would have no political significance e.g. failure of paper supplier.</p>	<p>Contract failure would have minor level of political significance</p>	<p>Contract failure would have significant level of political importance</p>	<p>Contract failure would be of great political importance to the council e.g. Care Homes or Highways.</p>
<p>(9) Legislative / Regulatory Risk</p>	<p>Regulatory requirement is not applicable</p>	<p>Regulatory requirement – Meets requirements at good or above</p>	<p>Regulatory requirement is at “requires improvement” or equivalent level</p>	<p>Failure to meet regulatory requirements at a “requires</p>

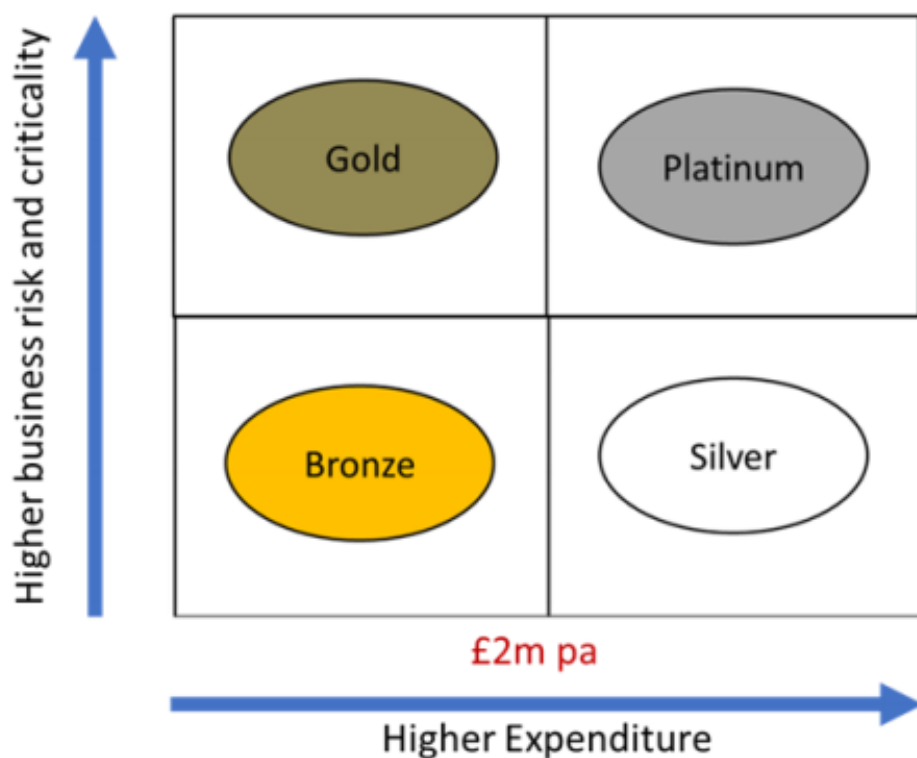
<p>What is the risk that failure or the poor performance of this contract will result negatively on an Ofsted or similar rating?</p>	<p>There are no statutory compliance issues with this contract</p>		<p>but improvements identified/required and/ or rating has dropped</p>	<p>improvement” or equivalent level. Concerns regarding ability to meet improvement plan within timescale</p> <p>This contract has statutory compliance requirements for CCC</p>
<p>(10) Data Risk</p> <p>What is the risk that if the supplier fails to keep data safe, it would result in a significant data breach?</p>	<p>The contractor (or any associated sub-contractors) are not required to create or manage personal data on behalf of the Council</p>	<p>The contractor (or any associated sub-contractors) are required to create or manage a small amounts of personal of data on behalf of the Council and have adequate systems in place</p>	<p>The contractor (or any associated sub-contractors) are required to create or manage significant amounts of personal data on behalf of the Council and have adequate systems in place</p>	<p>The contractor (or any associated sub-contractors) are required to create or manage significant amounts of personal data on behalf of the Council and have outdated or inadequate systems in place</p>

Part 2 - Summary

Contractual Risk	Criticality			
	Low (1)	2	3	High/Critical (4)
Business Continuity				
(1) Business Continuity Risk			3	
(2) Finance/Market Risk		2		
(3) Contract Performance Risk (supplier apathy)		2		
(4) Contracting Structure Risk		2		
(5) Performance Risk		2		
(6) Contract Delivery	1			
(7) Health & Safety & Safeguarding Risk				4
(8) Reputational Risk				4
(9) Legislative / Regulatory Risk				4
(10) Data Risk				4
Total Contract Criticality Score				28 (Max. 40)

Part 3 – Risk Matrix

On completion of the Part 1 and 2 it is now possible to identify the level of risk that a contract holds. All contracts will fit within one of the four classifications as shown in the table below. On completion, please refer back to the Contract Management Toolkit for further guidance and tools to support management of contracts.



Contract Classification	Characteristics/Approach
Bronze (less than 20points and less than £2m pa. contract value)	Low risk, low value. Usually transactional in nature, with loss of service easily restored or replaced, with minimal impact. A light touch approach to contract management is required in most cases.
Silver (less than 20points but more than £2m pa. contract value)	Can be high value but low risk. Buoyant, competitive market. Regular contract monitoring, especially in relation to performance, lowering cost and driving value will be required.
Gold (20points or more but less than £2m pa. contract value)	A challenging marketplace with few suppliers. High levels of supplier engagement required. Regularly ensure business continuity plans are up to date in the event of contract failure.
Platinum (20points and more than £2m pa. contract value)	Typically, this is a major contract. Highly skilled contract manager needed with clear governance in place, good monitoring and strong policies and processes.

Part 4 – Business Continuity Risk Matrix

Contract Risk Score

The table below categorises a contract under the following criteria:

Reliance on providing service; how much does the contract manager rely on this contract to deliver its service?

Impact of failure; does the contract support a service that is critical (i.e. statutory) and/or has a high impact (i.e. safeguarding risk) should that service fail to continuously be delivered?

	Low risk impact of failure	Medium risk impact of failure	High risk impact of failure
No reliance on providing a critical service	1	2	2
Partial reliance on providing critical service	2	3	3
Fundamental reliance on providing a critical service	2	3	4

What is a contract that provides critical service?

The list below gives an indication of the sorts of service that a contract would be delivering for it be considered critical:

- Where it is supporting a statutory service
- Where it is providing important services to vulnerable adults and children
- Where it is supporting important business systems across the organisation
- Where it is providing essential services affecting health and safety

Examples:

- A grounds maintenance contract would score a 1 where:
 - o The contract has no reliance on providing a critical service as grounds maintenance is not a statutory service; and
 - o The impact of failure is 'low' as the impact of failing to undertake grounds maintenance is low compared with other council services.
- An IT contract that supports business systems would score a 3-4 where:
 - o The contract is likely to have a partial or fundamental reliance of providing the service as not having the IT service in place would prevent all or some of parts of the service being able to be delivered; and

Depending on the service the IT system is supporting, the impact of the service failing could be 'medium' (because, for example, it means data cannot be collected in the same way) or 'high' (because, for example, it prevents a system working that allows for safeguarding)

Finance Monitoring Report – August 2023

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 10th October 2023

From: Executive Director: Children, Education and Families
Executive Director: Finance and Resources
Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: To provide the Committee with the August 2023 Finance Monitoring Report for Children, Education and Families.

The report is presented to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the financial position as at the end of August 2023.

Recommendation: Committee members are asked to note the report.

Voting arrangements: Not applicable

Officer contact:

Name: Martin Wade
Post: Strategic Finance Business Partner
Email: martin.wade@cambridgehire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 699733

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 Children, Education and Families (CEF) is attached at Appendix 1. Please note the budgets within Appendix 1 are now being shown gross and net, to provide details of any income or grant funding associated with each policy line, and to align with the presentation within in the business plan. This is the first version of the FMR presenting the budgets in this way and will be refined in the coming months.
- 1.4 The table below provides a summary of the budget within CEF, with further detail being available in Appendix 1:

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Net Budget 2023/24 £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
5,761	Children, Education and Families - Non-DSG	128,845	45,580	8,275	5.1%
4,418	Children, Education and Families - DSG	0	-2,237	4,418	0.0%

Please note: Dedicated schools grant (DSG) and non-DSG functions have been separated to remove confusion and allow greater transparency as part of the ongoing Safety Valve monitoring.

- 1.5 The table below provides a summary of the budgets within the Adults and Public Health FMR which come under the responsibility of the CYP:

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Net Budget 2023/24 £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
0	Children's Commissioning - Staffing	1,293	550	0	0.0%
0	Adults, Health and Commissioning Total	1,293	550	0	0.0%
0	Children 0-5 PH Programme	7,392	1,908	0	0.0%
0	Children 5-19 PH Programme - Non Prescribed	1,814	486	0	0.0%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Net Budget 2023/24 £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
0	Children Mental Health	341	0	0	0.0%
0	Drug & Alcohol Misuse – Young People	415	99	0	0.0%
0	Children's Weight Management	350	0	0	0.0%
0	Childrens Integrated Lifestyles	169	23	0	0.0%
0	Children Health Total	10,481	2,516	0	0.0%

2. Main Issues

2.1 Further details of the Children, Education and Families position, including explanatory narrative and key activity data (KAD) can be seen in Appendix 1.

3. Alignment with ambitions

3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.3 Health inequalities are reduced
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.

- 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 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas:
 - 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.
Status: Neutral
 - 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.
Status: Neutral
 - 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.
Status: Neutral
 - 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.
Status: Neutral
 - 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:
Status: Neutral
 - 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.
Status: Neutral
 - 4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.
Status: Neutral

5. Source documents

- 5.1 None.

Service: Children, Education and Families

Item 5, Appendix 1

Subject: Finance Monitoring Report – August 2023

Date: 14th September 2023

Contents

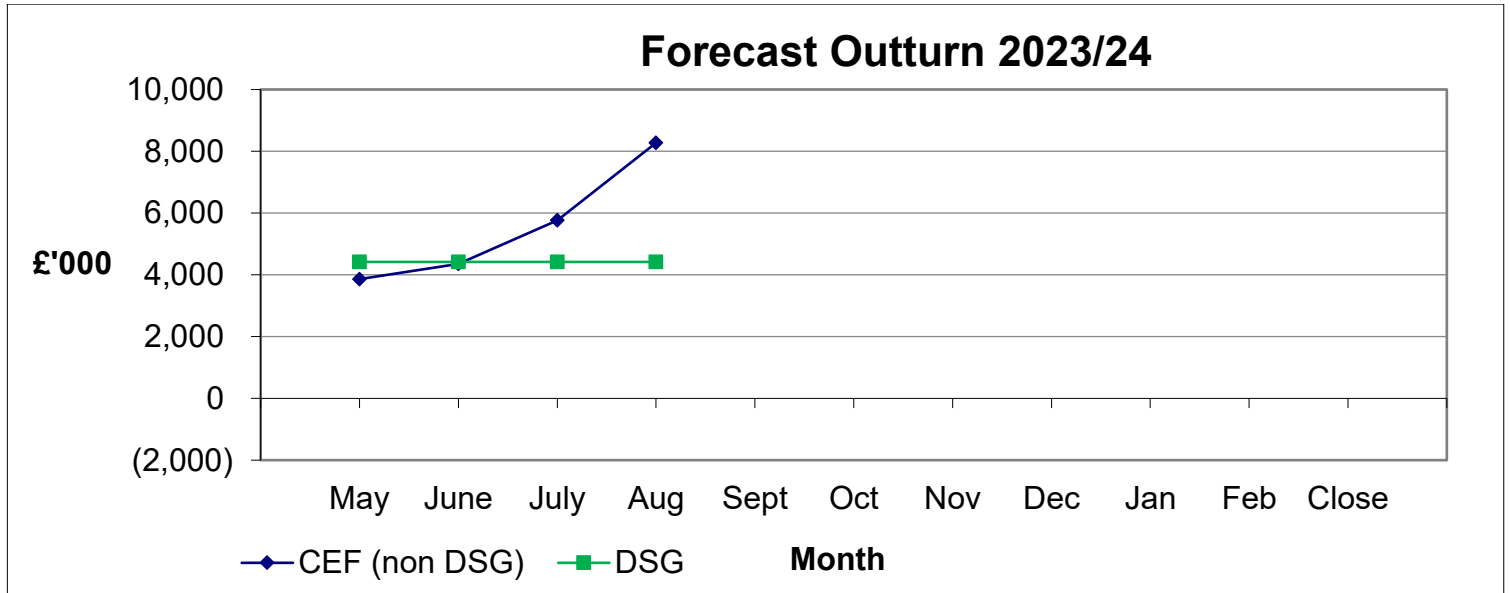
Section	Item	Description
1	Revenue Executive Summary	High level summary of information and narrative on key issues in revenue financial position
2	Capital Executive Summary	Summary of the position of the Capital programme within Children, Education and Families
3	Savings Tracker Summary	Summary of the latest position on delivery of savings
4	Technical Note	Explanation of technical items that are included in some reports
5	Key Activity Data	Performance information linking to financial position of main demand-led services
Appx 1a	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial tables for Children, Education and Families main budget headings
Appx 1b	Service Level Financial Information	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial tables for Children, Education and Families main budget headings
Appx 2	Service Commentaries	Detailed notes on revenue financial position of services that have a significant variance against budget
Appx 3	Capital Appendix	This contains more detailed information about the capital programme, including funding sources and variances from planned spend.
<i>The following appendices are included quarterly as the information does not change as regularly:</i>		
Appx 4	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 5	Technical Appendix	Each quarter, this will contain technical financial information showing: Earmarked reserves Grant income received Budget virements

1. Revenue Executive Summary

1.1 Overall Position

At the end of August 2023, Children, Education and Families is projected to be £8.275m overspent on core funded activities and £4.418m overspend on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) activities.

1.2 Summary of Revenue position by Directorate



1.2.1 Childrens, Education and Families – Non DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
4,267	Commissioning	29,236	-2,336	26,900	10,003	6,002	20.5%
753	Children & Safeguarding	69,242	-14,383	54,860	26,370	1,542	2.2%
741	Education	64,692	-18,225	46,467	13,755	731	1.1%
-0	Executive Director	619	0	619	27	0	0.0%
5,761	Total Expenditure	163,788	-34,943	128,845	50,154	8,275	5.1%
0	Schools	0	0	0	-1,574	0	0.0%
5,761	Total	163,788	-34,943	128,845	48,580	8,275	5.1%

1.2.2 Children, Education and Families – DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
0	Commissioning (DSG)	245	0	245	-184	0	0.0%
5,418	Education (DSG)	115,334	-1,716	113,617	42,144	5,418	4.8%
5,418	Total Expenditure (DSG)	115,579	-1,716	113,862	41,961	5,418	4.8%
-1,000	Schools (DSG)	487,559	0	487,559	76,460	-1,000	-0.2%
-0	Financing (DSG)	0	-601,421	-601,421	-120,658	0	0.0%
4,418	Total (DSG)	603,138	-603,138	0	-2,237	4,418	0.0%

1.3 Significant Issues

The overall position for Children, Education and Families non-DSG budgets to the end of August 2023 is a forecast overspend of £8.275m. The figures include budget rebaselining adjustments approved at Strategy and Resources Committee in July.

Children in Care Placements – A revised forecast of £5.987m is now being reported against Children in Care Placements. We currently have a small number of young people in very high-cost placements which is causing a significant weekly pressure against the budget. If forecast to year-end, these placements would leave us in a significant overspend position, and whilst the service is working hard with relevant agencies to secure placements at more manageable costs, it is proving extremely difficult to secure appropriate regulated placements for these young people, due to a combination of complexity of need and a saturated external market. This has led to an increase in the length of some of the very high cost placements being forecast, which has worsened the forecast overspend position. This position is being carefully monitored and the service is working hard to control cost where possible, including the recently introduced weekly complex placement meeting to track all unregulated and high-cost placements and ensure all agencies are working towards more suitable, stable and cost effective placements for these children. We are also continuing our market engagement with our providers to develop more cost effective arrangements for current and future children needing placements.

Children and Safeguarding – A net forecast overspend of £1.452m is now being reported across Children and Safeguarding. Continuing high levels of agency staffing covering vacancies, along with additional agency project teams are being offset by unallocated budget and unused Social Care Grant reserves from previous financial years. The current context is determined by additional Agency Workers recruited to the Front Door over the last year to manage demand in the system.

A mapping exercise of the functions within the Contact Centre and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was undertaken to determine throughput, volume and practice standards. This identified a streamlined process which will be put in practice from October 2023. This will coincide with a new Agency Head of Service and Agency Service Manager appointed to the MASH. A review within a month of the new process being embedded will determine the required establishment based on volume. The mapping and review of work is being undertaken within a context of de-coupling from PCC.

Additional pressures within the Children's Disability Service as a result of increasing numbers and complexity of need are now also being reported.

Education – A net forecast overspend of £731k is now being reported across Education. There is a £223k pressure due to delays in the implementation of the new ICT system and the resulting impact on the delivery of budgeted efficiency savings. SEND Specialist Services are reporting a forecast of £430k across the Education Psychology (EP) service and SEND Head of Service. The EP service is experiencing a continuing increase in demand for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) which cannot be met from within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. The SEND Head of Service pressure is a result of additional speech and language therapy, and back care training costs.

Home to School Transport - There are increasing concerns around the home to school transport budget areas following the summer procurement rounds. It is anticipated that the majority of tenders will be returned over the coming weeks, however the contracts returned to date are showing between 7 and 8% uplift on the same route previously. Alongside this the growth of children and young people with SEND continues to rise above what is forecast. More information will be available in the coming weeks to determine the overall impact in year.

More positively, this time last year the council were faced with significant contract handbacks, adding to the financial position unfavourably. This year, whilst handbacks have occurred we are not seeing the large scale that was present this time last year.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) –Appendix 1b provides a detailed breakdown of all DSG spend within Children, Education & Families Services. 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 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 2022/23 there was a net DSG overspend of £11.94m, which when added to the existing DSG deficit of £39.32m resulted in a revised cumulative deficit of £51.262m.

As a result of the Safety Valve Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education the local authority received an initial payment of £19.6m in March 2023 which will support the reduction of the overall DSG deficit. Alongside this, a local authority contribution of £2.5m has been applied, resulting in a reduced cumulative deficit of £29.16m brought forward into 2023/24.

To the end of August the reported net DSG forecast remains at £4.418m. However, overall numbers and complexity of need continue to exceed previous forecasts, and as such forecasts will be update to reflect the revised position once pupil data relating to the start of the new academic year becomes available.

2. Capital Executive Summary

At the end of August 2023, the capital programme forecast underspend is zero. The level of slippage and underspend in 2023/24 is currently anticipated to be £0k and as such has not yet exceeded the Capital Variation Budget. A forecast outturn will not be reported unless this happens.

Details of the currently forecasted capital variances can be found in Appendix 3.

3. Savings Tracker Summary

The savings trackers are produced quarterly to monitor delivery of savings against agreed plans. The first quarterly savings tracker for 2023/24 can be found in Appendix 4.

4. Technical note

On a quarterly basis, a technical financial appendix is included as Appendix 5. This appendix covers:

- 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 the directorate from other services, to show why the budget might be different from that agreed by Full Council.
- Service earmarked reserves – funds held for specific purposes that may be drawn down in-year or carried-forward – including use of funds and forecast draw-down.

The first quarterly technical note for 2023/24 can be found in Appendix 5.

5. Key Activity Data

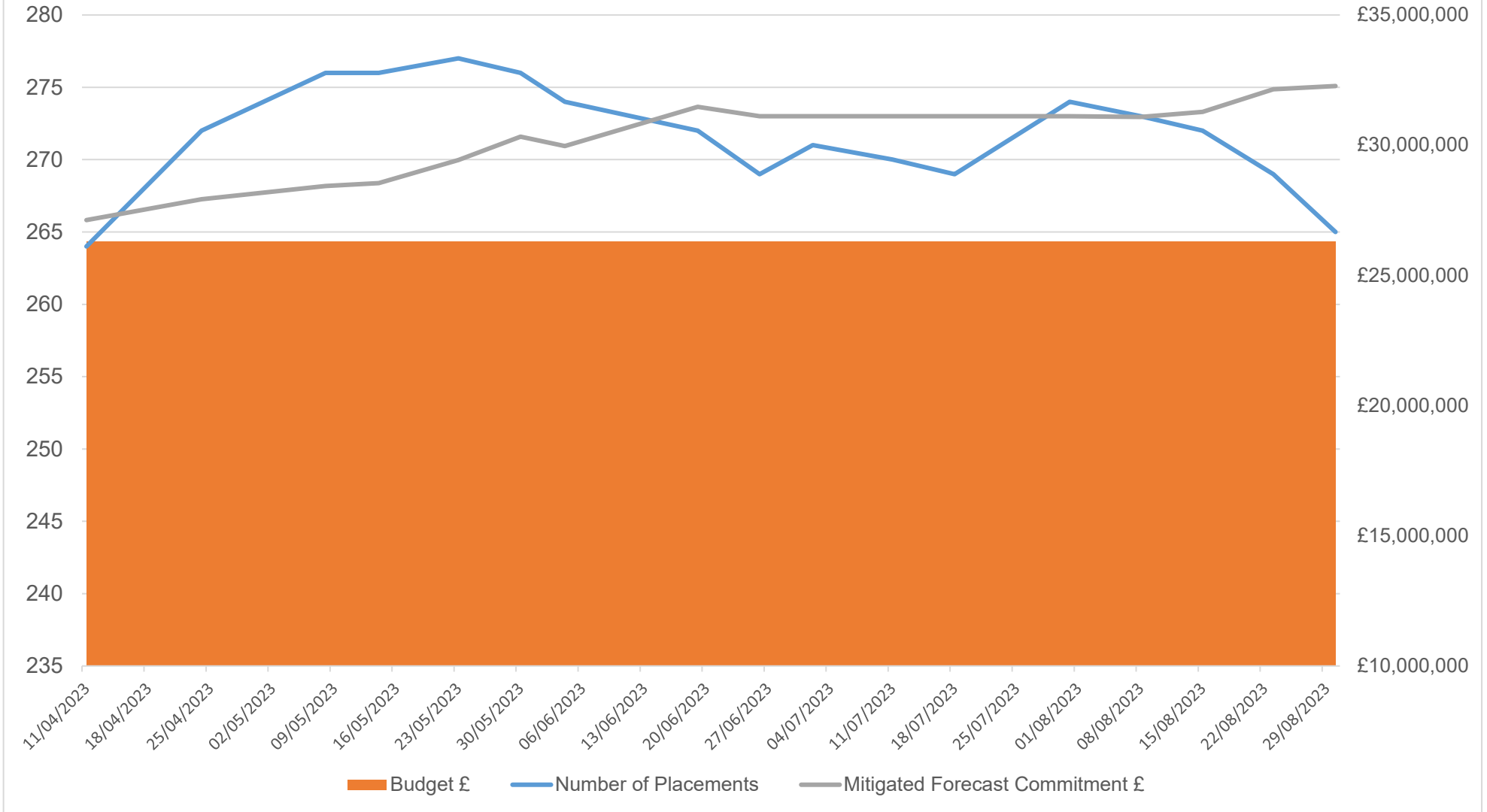
5.1 Key activity data to the end of August 2023 for **Children in Care Placements** is shown below:

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (August 2023)				FORECAST OUTTURN		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements August 2023	Yearly Average	Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted no. of placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Residential - disability	4	£874k	52	£3,277	4	4.01	£764k	£3,654	0.01	£-110k	£377
Residential - secure accommodation	2	£1,449k	52	£8,538	3	2.99	£3,581k	£33,857	0.99	£2,132k	£25,319
Residential schools	6	£509k	52	£1,632	6	5.80	£503k	£1,610	-0.20	£-7k	£-22
Residential homes	51	£10,922k	52	£4,118	48	47.79	£11,738k	£4,913	-3.21	£816k	£795
Independent Fostering	174	£8,153k	52	£901	165	164.23	£7,871k	£959	-9.77	£-282k	£58
Tier 4 Step down	2	£449k	52	£4,318	0	0.23	£31k	£2,232	-1.77	£-419k	£-2,087
Supported Accommodation 16+	18	£2,264k	52	£6,302	33	26.97	£8,374k	£8,441	8.97	£6,109k	£2,140
Supported Living	5	£81k	52	£310	5	4.11	£77k	£326	-0.89	£-4k	£16
Growth/Replacement	2	£373k	52	£3,588	1	1.27	£349k	£17,018	-0.73	£-24k	£13,431
Additional one off budget/actuals	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	£k	£0	-	£k	£0
Mitigations required	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	£-1,016k	£0	-	£-1,016k	£0
TOTAL	265	£26,285k			265	257.40	£32,272k		-6.60	£5,987k	
In-house Fostering	163	£4,119k	56	£450	149	141.09	£3,296k	£370	-22.20	£-823k	£-81
In-house fostering - Reg 24	31	£334k	56	£190	33	32.89	£312k	£182	1.46	£-22k	£-8
Family & Friends Foster Carers	18	£341k	52	£364	13	12.12	£361k	£285	-5.87	£20k	£-79
Supported Lodgings	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	£17k	£0	0.00	£980k	£0
Growth/Replacement							£829k		0.00	£829k	£0
TOTAL	217	£4,832k			196	187.30	£4,815k		-31.29	£k	

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (August 2023)				FORECAST OUTTURN		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements August 2023	Yearly Average	Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted no. of placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Adoption Allowances	87	£1,113k	52	£246	75	75.26	£863k	£220	-11.59	-£249k	-£26
Special Guardianship Orders	298	£2,319k	52	£150	283	279.09	£2,061k	£142	-19.07	-£259k	-£8
Child Arrangement Orders	52	£422k	52	£156	42	42.82	£317k	£142	-9.27	-£105k	-£14
Concurrent Adoption	2	£22k	52	£210	0	0.00	£k	£0	-2.05	-£22k	-£210
Growth/Replacement							£635k	£0	0.00	£635k	£0
TOTAL	439	£3,876k			400	397.17	£3,876k		-41.98	£k	
OVERALL TOTAL	921	£34,993k			861	841.87	£40,963k		-79.87	£5,987k	

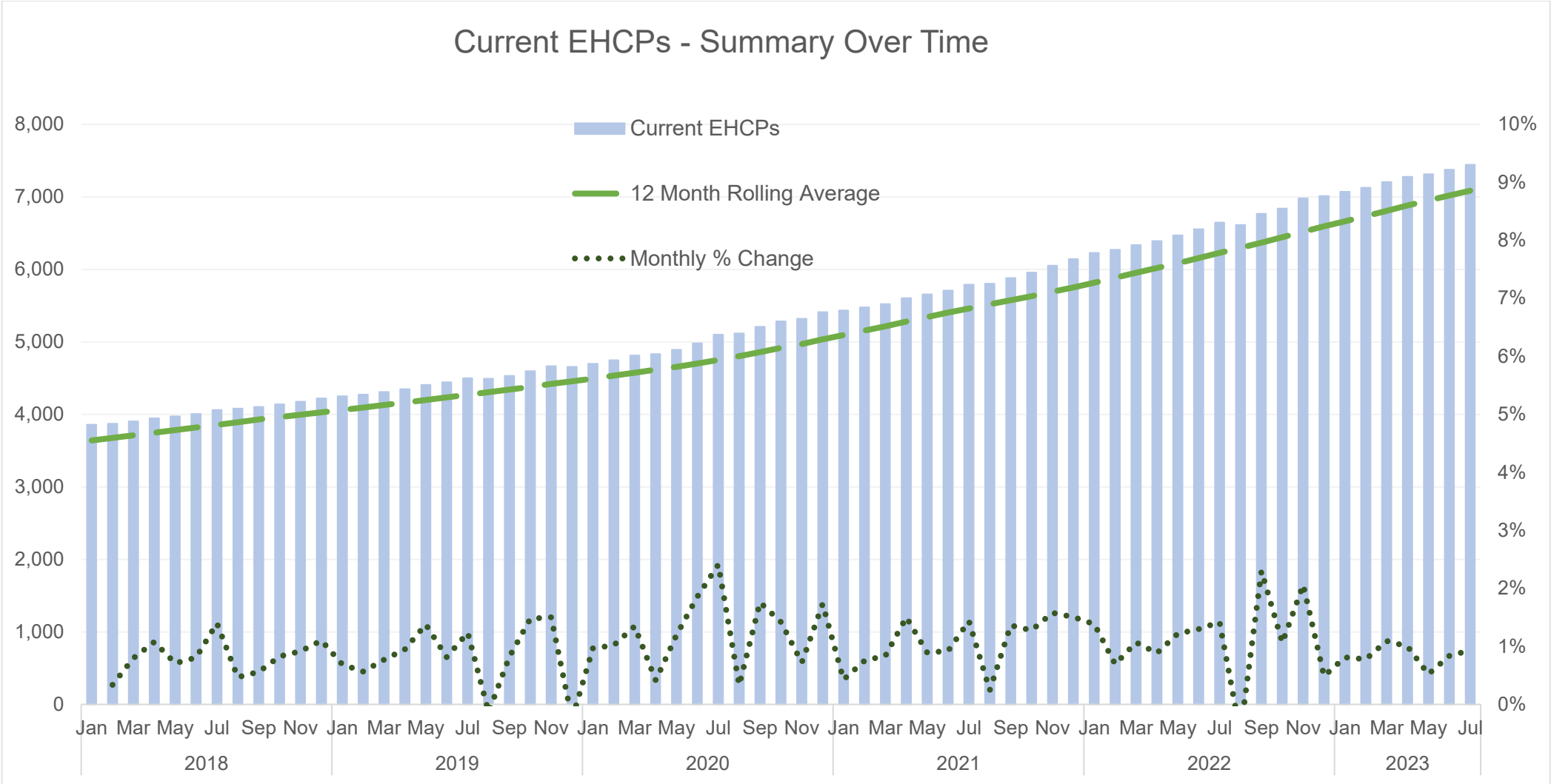
NOTES: In house fostering payments fund 56 weeks as carers receive two additional weeks payment during the summer holidays and one additional week each for Christmas and birthday.

Children in Care External Placements



5.2 Key activity data for **SEN** is currently being update for 2023/24 to reflect the latest position and Safety Valve monitoring.

The graph below shows the current increase in the number of EHCPs over time.



Appendix 1a – Children, Education and Families Detailed Financial Information (non DSG)

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Director of Commissioning								
4,267	CYP	Children in Care Placements	28,601	-2,316	26,285	10,170	5,987	21%
0	CYP	Commissioning Services	635	-20	615	-167	15	2%
4,267		Director of Commissioning Total	29,236	-2,336	26,900	10,003	6,002	21%
Director of Children & Safeguarding								
-520	CYP	Strategic Management - Children & Safeguarding	2,448	0	2,448	1,457	-520	-21%
0	CYP	Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	3,804	-540	3,263	1,335	0	0%
0	CYP	Fostering and Supervised Contact Services	10,197	-327	9,870	3,902	0	0%
-0	CYP	Corporate Parenting	10,304	-7,014	3,290	5,352	-0	0%
1,273	CYP	Integrated Front Door	4,833	-345	4,488	3,346	1,637	34%
0	CYP	Children's Disability Service	9,077	-832	8,245	4,261	340	4%
-0	CYP	Support to Parents	2,191	-2,019	172	-1,747	-0	0%
0	CYP	Adoption	6,104	-668	5,435	2,492	0	0%
0	CYP	Legal Proceedings	2,050	0	2,050	773	85	4%
-0	CYP	Youth Offending Service	2,822	-1,381	1,441	754	-0	0%
0	CYP	Family Safeguarding	5,351	-173	5,178	814	0	0%
-0	CYP	Targeted Support Service	10,061	-1,083	8,978	3,631	-0	0%
753		Director of Children & Safeguarding Total	69,242	-14,383	54,860	26,370	1,542	2%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Director of Education								
223	CYP	Strategic Management - Education	1,301	-119	1,182	1,656	223	17%
-53	CYP	Early Years Service	3,295	-2,383	912	115	-14	0%
-0	CYP	School Improvement Service	2,315	-1,371	944	496	2	0%
0	CYP	Virtual School	2,077	-1,618	459	208	-11	-1%
39	CYP	Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)	2,335	-2,411	-77	-208	39	2%
0	CYP	Cambridgeshire Music	1,709	-1,734	-25	376	-0	0%
0	CYP	ICT Service (Education)	5,645	-5,945	-300	-262	0	0%
0	CYP	Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	4,596	-605	3,991	2,836	0	0%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>								
430	CYP	SEND Specialist Services	4,718	-173	4,545	1,707	430	9%
0	CYP	High Needs Top Up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0%
56	CYP	Alternative Provision and Inclusion	-13	0	-13	118	19	140%
486		SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	4,704	-173	4,532	1,825	449	10%
<u>0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service</u>								
-0	CYP	0-19 Organisation & Planning	1,738	-1,019	719	290	0	0%
-0	CYP	Education Capital	287	-103	184	-4,152	0	0%
-0	CYP	Home to School Transport - Special	21,381	-580	20,801	6,707	-0	0%
46	CYP	Children in Care Transport	1,951	-5	1,946	420	46	2%
0	CYP	Home to School Transport - Mainstream	11,357	-160	11,197	3,448	0	0%
46		0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	36,714	-1,866	34,848	6,713	46	0%
741		Director of Education Total	64,692	-18,225	46,467	13,755	731	1%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
		Executive Director						
-0	CYP	Executive Director	618	0	618	27	0	0%
20	CYP	Central Financing	1	0	1	0	0	0%
20		Executive Director Total	619	0	619	27	0	0%
5,761		Total	163,788	-34,943	128,845	50,154	8,275	5%
		Schools						
0	CYP	Schools Financing	0	0	0	-1,487	0	0%
0	CYP	Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	-88	0	0%
0		Schools Total	0	0	0	-1,574	0	0%
5,761		Overall Total	163,788	-34,943	128,845	48,580	8,275	5%

Appendix 1b – Children, Education and Families Detailed Financial Information (DSG)

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Director of Commissioning								
0	CYP	Commissioning Services	245	0	245	-184	0	0%
4,267		Director of Commissioning Total	245	0	245	-184	0	0%
Director of Education								
-53	CYP	Early Years Service	2,225	0	2,225	690	0	0%
0	CYP	Virtual School	150	0	150	0	0	0%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>								
0	CYP	SEND Specialist Services	7,412	-309	7,103	3,135	0	0%
0	CYP	Funding to Special Schools and Units	43,362	0	43,362	12,291	0	0%
0	CYP	High Needs Top Up Funding	35,739	0	35,739	12,052	0	0%
0	CYP	SEN Placements	16,877	-1,175	15,702	8,461	0	0%
0	CYP	Out of School Tuition	5,035	0	5,035	2,060	0	0%
0	CYP	Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,538	-117	7,421	2,915	0	0%
5,418	CYP	SEND Financing – DSG	-5,619	0	-5,619	285	5,418	96%
5,418		SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	110,345	-1,601	108,743	41,199	5,418	5%
<u>0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service</u>								
0	CYP	0-19 Organisation & Planning	2,214	-115	2,099	255	0	0%
0	CYP	Home to School Transport - Special	400	0	400	0	0	0%
0		0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	2,614	-115	2,499	255	0	0%
5,418		Director of Education Total	115,334	-1,716	113,617	42,144	5,418	7%
5,418		Total	115,579	-1,716	113,862	41,961	5,418	-%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Schools								
0	CYP	Primary and Secondary Schools	446,592	0	446,592	54,659	0	0%
-1,000	CYP	Nursery Schools and PVI	38,475	0	38,475	21,844	-1,000	-3%
0	CYP	Schools Financing	2,492	0	2,492	-42	0	0%
0	CYP	Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	0	0	0%
-1,000		Schools Total	487,559	0	487,559	76,460	-1,000	0%
Financing								
-0	CYP	Financing DSG	0	-601,421	-601,421	-120,658	0	0%
-0		Financing Total	0	-601,421	-601,421	-120,658	0	0%
4,418		Overall Total	603,138	-603,138	0	-2,237	4,418	-%

Appendix 2 – 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) Children in Care Placements

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
28,601	-2,316	26,285	10,170	5,987	21%

Revised overspend primarily due to a small number of young people in very high-cost placements. If forecast to year-end, these placements would result in a more significant overspend position, however, the service is working hard with relevant agencies to secure placements at more manageable costs and therefore we do not expect these to continue for the full year.

2) Strategic Management – Children & Safeguarding

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
2,448	0	2,448	1,457	-520	-21%

Forecasted underspend due to unallocated budget in the Strategic Management budget, and unused Social Care Grant reserves from previous financial years.

3) Integrated Front Door

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
4,833	-345	4,488	3,346	1,637	34%

A recent review of the Integrated Front Door identified the additional capacity recruited to by the previous leadership is still required to meet current demands while the outcome of the recent mapping exercise is embedded within the service. The additional capacity agreed was to manage the joint work between PCC and CCC. Implementation of the recent mapping exercise will start in October to determine actual number of referrals which in turn will determine the establishment. We are not anticipating the establishment will increase.

50% of vacancies within the assessment services are currently filled by agency workers and talks to the budget pressures. We anticipate mitigating these costs with the recruitment of International Social Workers and AYSE's (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment). The previous service structure was not sufficient to meet the demand, and in January 2023, the assessment service had over 270 out of date assessments, and caseloads over 35. To address these issues 2 project teams were agreed initially for 13 weeks then extended for a further 13 weeks to support the service to

address the backlog. The additional capacity provided by the project teams, (at enhanced rates), is ceasing through August and September subject to end dates of contracts for workers. Additional agency staff have been agreed to be recruited at normal rates till November within East and Hunts team to replace the project teams whilst the current service structure is reviewed. Once the mapping work in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is embedded we will have accurate data to determine the workflow to inform the size of the assessment service.

4) Children's Disability

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
9,077	-832	8,245	4,261	340	4%

The Disability Social Care 0-25 Service is currently predicting a forecasted end-of-year overspend of £340k. This has been caused by an accumulation of factors, including a significant increase in new demand (with over 100 new Direct Payments being set up in the past 4 months), and a continued increase in behavioural complexity resulting in 2:1 staffing being required more frequently at our community support services and residential children's homes. In addition, we have had to amend the terms and conditions of our Community Support Service staff to pay them enhancements for weekend work, which has brought them in line with other commensurate council services but has increased our salary costs. The service has also taken steps which, whilst preventing costs to the Children's Placement Budget, have increased the Disability Social Care in-year pressure, such as by utilising the third unfunded bed at our residential children's home (London Road) and funding the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) top-ups to enable children and young people with complex needs to remain living within their family homes. These actions have significantly improved outcomes for the complex children and young people we support, whilst maintaining their right to family life.

5) Legal Proceedings

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
2,050	0	2,050	773	85	4%

There is a forecast overspend in the legal budget of £85k. There has been a noticeable increase within the last four months in the Adolescent, Safeguarding and CIC service. This is due to a significant increase of young teenagers with increasing mental health needs requiring High Court attendance, frequent need to attend court and applications for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLs) and a breakdown of adoption. All threshold decisions for legal are scrutinised by Service Directors. A review of the recent increase in spend is being cross referenced with legal to determine where any savings can be made.

6) Strategic Management - Education

Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actuals	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance
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£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
1,301	-119	1,182	1,656	223	17%

The £223k forecast overspend is due to delays in the implementation of the new ICT system and resulting impact on the delivery of budgeted efficiency savings.

7) SEND Specialist Services

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
4,718	-173	4,545	1,707	430	9%

The Education Psychology service is forecasting a pressure of £338k. The service is experiencing increasing demand which cannot be met from within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. This pressure is due to the significant increase in requests for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) that is impacted SEND services generally. The SEND Head of Service budget is also reporting a forecast pressure of £92k as a result of additional speech and language therapy, and back care training costs.

6) SEND Financing – DSG

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
-5,619	0	-5,619	285	5,418	96%

Budgeted deficit reflective of continuing pressures and increasing demand within the High Needs Block as per Safety Valve management plan. Net of forecast underspends on Central Schools Services Block (CSSB).

7) Nursery Schools and PVI

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
38,475	0	38,475	21,844	-1,000	-3%

Forecast underspend as per Safety Valve management plan.

Appendix 3 – Capital Position

4.1 Capital Expenditure

Original 2023/24 Budget as per BP £000	Committee	Scheme Category	Total Scheme Revised Budget £000	Total Scheme Forecast Variance £000	Budget Carried-forward 2023/24 £000	Budget Re-phasing 2023/24 £000	Revised Budget for 2023/24 £000	Actual Spend (August) £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (August) £000
44,312	CYP	Basic Need - Primary	130,160	0	805	-35,805	9,312	300	-910
104,100	CYP	Basic Need - Secondary	211,776	-1,500	-140	-19,291	84,669	20,363	-2,032
1,904	CYP	Basic Need - Early Years	7,367	0	548	-1,772	680	247	0
3,855	CYP	Adaptations	10,024	0	-183	-1,117	2,555	1,433	-338
3,250	CYP	Conditions Maintenance	27,304	0	805	54	4,109	268	0
780	CYP	Devolved Formula Capital	7,793	0	2,474	-7	3,247	0	0
13,915	CYP	Specialist Provision	46,396	0	2,592	-4,891	11,616	4,998	-220
1,050	CYP	Site Acquisition and Development	1,050	0	0	0	1,050	0	0
750	CYP	Temporary Accommodation	9,250	0	0	0	750	250	0
850	CYP	Children Support Services	7,500	0	0	0	850	0	0
-22,448	CYP	Capital Variation	-54,565	0	0	4,622	-17,826	0	3,500
1,425	CYP	Capitalised Interest	6,958	0	0	-182	1,243	0	0
-1,729	CYP	Environment fund Transfer	-3,499	0	0	0	-1,729	0	0
152,014			407,514	-1,500	6,901	-58,389	100,526	27,860	0

There are no schemes with significant variances (>£250k) either due to changes in phasing or changes in overall scheme costs to be reported this month.

Ref	Service / Committee	Commentary vs previous month	Scheme	Scheme Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Cause	Commentary
1			Basic Need - Primary					
1a	CEF CYP	New	Kennett Primary School	10.12	5.8	-0.80	Phasing	Slippage due to later start on site than expected due to skylarks still nesting. Ecologists to confirm birds have left. Delay start on site from 14.08.23 to 04.09.23 and completion 30.08.24 to 20.09.24.
2			Basic Need - Secondary					
2a	CEF CYP	Prev Month	Northstowe secondary, phase 2	53.45	22.50	-1.50	Underspend	The receipt of milestone 4 report shows saving on original estimate due to risk contingencies including those built in for price volatility.
2b	CEF CYP	New	Witchford Village College	1.38	1.33	-0.53	Phasing	Slippage of between 3-5months due to planning application progressing slower than anticipated.
4			Adaptations:					
4a	CEF CYP	Prev Month	William Westley Primary	0.35	0.34	-0.34	Phasing	This project is being reviewed to establish whether it can be delivered in an alternative way to meet the need for places across the wider area, including whether it can be combined with other planned capital projects. Revised delivery expected to be 2027.

Capital Variations Budget

Variation budgets are set annually and reflect an estimate of the average variation experienced across all capital schemes, and reduce the overall borrowing required to finance our capital programme. There are typically delays in some form across the capital programme due to unforeseen events, but we cannot project this for each individual scheme. We therefore budget centrally for some level of delay. Any known delays are budgeted for and reported at scheme level. If forecast underspends are reported, these are offset with a forecast outturn for the variation budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when rephasing exceeds this budget.

4.2 Capital Funding

Original 2022/23 Funding Allocation as per Business Plan £000	Source of Funding	Budget Carried- forward 2023/24 £000	Budget Revisions 2023/24 £000	Revised Budget for 2023/24 £000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (August) £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (August) £000
2,259	Basic Need	2,627	0	4,886	4,886	0
3,800	Capital maintenance	805	55	4,659	4,659	0
780	Devolved Formula Capital	2,474	-7	3,246	3,246	0
0	Schools Capital	0	0	0	0	0
62,275	S106 contributions	0	-13,160	49,115	49,115	0
16,588	Other Specific Grants	-1,467	0	15,121	15,121	0
0	Other Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
0	Other Revenue Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
67,338	Prudential Borrowing	2,463	-45,053	24,748	24,748	0
-1,026	Prudential Borrowing (Repayable)	0	-224	-1,250	-1,250	0
152,014	Total Funding	6,901	-58,389	100,526	100,526	0

APPENDIX 4 – Savings Tracker

RAG	Directorate	Committee	BP Ref	Title	Planned Savings £000	Forecast Savings £000	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	Forecast Commentary
Black	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.250	Efficiencies resulting from implementation of new IT system	-223	0	223	100%	Delay in implementation of new computer systems means this saving will not be achieved in 2023-24
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.252	Teachers Pensions	-150	-150	0	0%	Complete
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.253	Realign schools partnership and improvement service	-85	-85	0	0%	Achieved
Black	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.254	Children in Care Placements	-1,000	0	1,000	100%	Saving at risk due to significant pressures from very high cost complex placements
Amber	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.255	Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance	-75	-19	56	75%	Delayed consultation means full saving will not be made in 2023-24
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.256	Family Safeguarding Team restructure	-352	-352	0	0%	Saving fully achieved
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.257	Special Guardianship Orders	-150	-150	0	0%	On track
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.268	Transport - Home to School	-570	-570	0	0%	On track
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.6.274	Outdoors Centres	-134	-134	0	0%	On track
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.7.110	Cambridgeshire ICT	-100	-100	0	0%	On track
Green	Childrens	C&YP	A/R.7.111	Cambridgeshire Music	-25	-25	0	0%	On track

APPENDIX 5 – Technical Note

5.1 The table below outlines the additional Children, Education and Families grant income, which is not built into base budgets.

Grant	Awarding Body	Amount £'000
Grants as per Business Plan		
Public Health	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)	454
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	Home Office	6,581
Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	Department for Education (DfE) / Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)	1,875
Supporting Families	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	1,818
Pupil Premium - Virtual School	DfE / ESFA	1,159
RSS Therapeutic Hub	DfE / ESFA	1,000
Youth Offending Good Practice Grant	Youth Justice Board	669
Staying Put	DfE / ESFA	285
Personal Advisor Support to Care Leavers & Homelessness	DfE / ESFA	163
Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant	Police & Crime Commissioner	134
Turnaround Programme 2022-2025	Youth Justice Board	169
Non-material grants (+/- £160k)	Various	245
Total Non-Baselined Grants 23/24		14,553
Financing DSG	DfE / ESFA	113,862
Total Grant Funding 23/24		128,415

The non-baselined grants are allocated across the Children, Education and Families directorates as follows:

Directorate	Grant Total £'000
Children & Safeguarding	11,249
Education	3,244
TOTAL	14,493

5.2 Virements and Budget Reconciliation (Children, Education and Families)

(Virements between Children, Education and Families and other service blocks)

	Period	£'000	Notes
Budget as per Business Plan		344,317	
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	-249,866	People Services restructuring into Children, Education & Families (CEF) and Adults, Health & Commissioning (AHC)
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	-915	Post BP, pre initial budget load adjustments
Commissioning Services	Apr	860	Commissioning Services (shown within CEF rather than AHC)
Children's Disability Service	Apr	8,245	Children's Disability Service (shown within CEF rather than AHC)
LAC Placements	Apr	25,724	LAC Placements (shown within CEF rather than AHC)
Schools Financing	Apr	-20	Transfer final postage budget to centralised postal cost centre
SEND Specialist Services	Apr	-26	Transfer funds for place planning business analyst post to Business Intelligence
Youth Offending Service	May	12	Budget Correction 2023-24 - Pay award element
Strategic Management - Education	May	115	Redistributing central funding for Childrens decoupling
Executive Director CEF	May	334	Splitting Executive Director Budget for Childrens & Adults decoupling
LAC Transport - Home to School	June	240	23/24 Budget resetting PV approved by S&R at July 2023 meeting
LAC Placements	June	561	LAC Placements (shown within CEF rather than AHC) - Budget resetting PV impact
Safeguarding; Children's Centres Strategy; and PSHE	June	-254	Adjust PH income budget to match amounts to be transferred under PH MoU
Children's Centres Strategy and Executive Director CEF	June	-285	Budget for 23/24 funding from PH reserves
Home to School Transport	July	4	Staffing Budget Corrections - Adults and Childrens Transport
Budget 23/24		129,046	

5.3 Children, Education and Families Earmarked Reserve Schedule

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2023/24 £'000	Movements 2023/24 £'000	Q1 Balance £'000	Year End Forecasted Balance £'000	Reserve Description
Adoption	763	0	763	663	Funding to cover CCC legacy adoption costs following transition to a Regional Adoption Agency.
Early Help District Delivery Service – North & South	141	0	141	0	Historical project funding for youth projects to be applied in 2023-24.
Strategic Management - Children & Safeguarding	465	0	465	0	Residual Social Care Grants
Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	308	0	308	108	Local Safeguarding carry forward amount. Annual contributions from internal and external bodies.
Support to Parents	42	0	42	0	Family Hub – Historical project Funding
Youth Offending Service	153	0	137	0	Funding to provide ongoing support to the SAFE Team
0-19 Organisation & Planning	65	0	65	55	Art Collection Restoration Fund. Providing cultural experiences for children and young people in Cambridgeshire
Home to School Transport	426	0	426	283	To cover cost of programme of work to deliver savings in Social and Education Transport
Cambridgeshire Music	94	0	94	0	Reserve to support required works to former School building to make suitable for service
Outdoor Education	47	0	47	0	Reserve to support replacement of equipment

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2023/24 £'000	Movements 2023/24 £'000	Q1 Balance £'000	Year End Forecasted Balance £'000	Reserve Description
Virtual School	12	-12	0	0	Reserve to support identified redundancy cost.
Strategic Management - Education	174	0	174	117	Reserve to support identified redundancy and costs associated with an employment issue.
Pools and Contingencies	256	0	256	59	Schools absence and contingency schemes
Schools Financing	64	0	64	0	Residual school facing grants
Schools	2,694	0	2,694	2,591	Thomas Clarkson Building Schools for the Future PFI and Pilgrim Pathways carryforward
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	5,704	-12	5,692	3,876	

(+) positive figures represent surplus funds.

(-) negative figures represent deficit funds.

Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 10th October 2023

From: Assistant Director, Schools and Settings

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: This paper is to give a current position statement and update on the Early Years funded entitlement and wraparound expansion.

Recommendation: The Children and Young People Committee is recommended to note and comment on the information outlined in this report.

Voting arrangements: No vote required

Officer contacts:

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1. Background

- 1.1 In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced a package of reforms for early years and childcare and a new offer to empower parents, allowing them to progress their careers and support their families. A national key performance indicator will be the number of parents entering the workforce and accessing training.
- 1.2 It is expected by the government that Local Authorities (LA) deliver this agenda locally whilst ensuring we continue to manage the local childcare market, ensure there is sufficient places and quality improvement through advice, support, guidance, and intervention.
- 1.3 The LA will coordinate funding locally and ensure collaboration across the system whilst not negatively impacting on the current childcare market.

2. Main Issues

Early Years Funded Entitlement Expansion

2.1.1 The current Early Years entitlement is –

- 15 hours per week of funded childcare for 2-year-old children where parents meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- 15 hours per week of funded childcare for all 3 and 4-year-old children.
- 30 hours per week of funded childcare for 3 and 4-year-old children of [eligible working parents](#).

2.2 The Government have announced the following –

- from April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week.

2.3 Early years education is key to a child's education and social mobility, with evidence showing that attending a high-quality early year's setting will have a significant positive impact on a child's early development and school readiness. Support with childcare costs is a positive step towards making employment and training more accessible, particularly to those on low incomes.

2.4 To support sector sustainability a one-off, centrally funded, funding uplift from September 2023 has been passported to Cambridgeshire providers (*Figure.1*). Local authorities were not permitted to retain any element of this grant [under the grant conditions](#). The overall cost of places in this period will be dependent on actual place take-up, so although we commit to passport on in full for the September to March period, the treatment for April onwards is subject to review and requires close monitoring. We await further information from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding the new hourly rates and will consult with the Early Years Provider Reference Groups and Schools Forum to agree.

Funding element	DfE increase	Increased funding rate for September 2023 – March 2024*
Three- and four-year-old places	51p per hour	£5.14 per hour
Two-year-old places	£2.00 per hour	£8.12 per hour
Early Years Pupil Premium	4p per hour	£0.66 per hour
Disability Access Funding (DAF)	£53	£881 lump sum
Maintained Nursery School supplementary funding	24p per hour	£4.49 per hour

Figure 1 – Additional funding rates September 2023- March 2024

2.5 The DfE is also consulting on the percentage of Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (EYDSG) that local authorities will be able to retain in the future. Local authorities are currently permitted to retain up to 5% to support delivery of statutory duties associated to the early years and childcare sector but the threshold is likely to reduce following the national consultation process. Cambridgeshire currently passports 96.7% to 97.8% to providers which means we average an annual 3% overall retention rate. The implication of changes to the retention threshold highlights a potential business risk for a service heavily funded through the EYDSG retention element of the grant, at a time when activity is increasing dramatically.

2.6 Cambridgeshire is part of the national early years policy group and childminder policy work contributing to policy and implementation of the expansion programme. There are plans to trail blaze the expansion of early years funded places in some local authority areas.

Wraparound Expansion

2.7 The government has invested £289m over two academic years, from September 2024, to support local authorities to work with out of school childcare providers, schools, and other stakeholders to scale up wraparound childcare provision. This is the first step in the government’s ambition for all parents of primary school children who need it to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm during the term time.

2.8 Cambridgeshire is one of 17 LA’s that have taken part on the co-design programme that are developing wraparound policy and guidance. Guidance for all LAs will be published in October 2023. Individual LA funding allocations will be confirmed in November 2023 and the first grant payment released shortly after. LAs have an opportunity to ‘trail blaze’ and pilot the rollout of the programme from April 2024 if they can demonstrate they are able to do so. All LAs will be expected to roll out the National Wraparound Programme from September 2024.

2.9 Grant criteria have not been decided but it is likely that potential providers, through LA funding mechanisms, will be able to bid in for scoping and set up costs, gap funding in year one and potentially some transport costs. The funding will not cover places and parents will be required to pay for places in all cases with the desired outcome that more parents will return to work. Cambridgeshire has asked for consideration to be given to support for pupil premium children, support for SEND and a bursary system for the first term to support a parent returning to work for the first time.

Delivering on Early Years and Childcare Expansion

- 2.10 An analysis of stakeholder and governance arrangements for current provision has been undertaken. This indicates that most Cambridgeshire schools offer one element of wraparound provision; breakfast club or after school childcare but not all are available to families 8-6 every day in the term time.
- 2.11 The sector remains in the throes of a national, post pandemic recruitment crisis. Salaries are not attractive under the current funding arrangements with roles often paid at minimum wage. Numbers of applicants for roles are rapidly decreasing cross the country as the profession is perceived to be undervalued and poorly paid. The [number of childminders](#) has reduced by half nationally from 56,200 in 2013 to 27,900 in 2023. Cambridgeshire is working with the DfE, Local Government Association (LGA) and No. 10 Delivery Unit (Special Projects), to investigate causation and support national solutions.
- 2.12 Independently, Cambridgeshire has taken a strategic approach and developed a set of key actions to universally raise awareness of early years and childcare as a career and secured funding for relevant qualifications, that we deliver directly at our own training centre. A cross service early years workforce task group has also been developed to audit current activity and devise and implement a rapid response to areas where targeted recruitment is required. In addition, when a private, voluntary, or school setting is at risk of closure, we intervene to support business planning, broker adapted offers and where necessary secure a new provider. Since April 2023, this work has saved approximately 420 childcare places, mitigating against the costs of the local authority becoming provider of last resort, supporting parents to stay in work or training, enabling children to have continuity of care and supporting school readiness. It is likely that whilst the market settles there will be more demand on this function.
- 2.13 The sector is made up of different provider types, not all who have experience of working with children under 3 or who have a background in play for older children. Approximately 41% of Cambridgeshire early years providers have a current offer for 0–2-year-olds, most of these are places paid for directly by parents. This creates a pressure on current funded two's places due to funding rates, whilst this is addressed in the current uplift there is no provider confidence to change their offer until the new permanent hourly rate is announced.
- 2.14 The Early Years Statutory Framework requires practitioners working with the younger age range to have suitable experience of working with under 2s. Children's brains develop rapidly in the 0–2-year-old period making knowledge and understanding of this stage of child development critical for providers. Resources, environment, SEND thresholds and personal care requirements are all different for younger children. This level of knowledge and experience is not widely embedded in all qualifications. A review of the local authority training offer is underway with course development progressing.
- 2.15 Quality wraparound provision requires a child led environment that is play based, offering enriching activities that supports all children attending to thrive. Freely chosen play opportunity improves the cognition, physical, social and the emotional well-being of children. Leaders of wraparound provision require a qualification pathway to support this to ensure that staff are knowledgeable in the work.

- 2.16 National messaging is raising expectation of 9-month-old, funded places and 8-6 wraparound childcare. This is welcomed but it challenges the timing of supply and demand. We have no detail of parental behaviour or confidence in the expansion plans at this stage but once funding is announced we will be seeking this view, via providers in the first instance. Cambridgeshire's Families Information Service is being actively promoted as the first point of contact for families. Accurate information and brokerage are available, including newly recruited SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) support. We have no information about what demand will be and how many of the newly funded places will be taken up by current paying parents. Through our direct work with the DfE, the council is lobbying for financial details to be shared urgently so the sector can position itself commercially and be clear on its offer.
- 2.17 With larger numbers of children accessing early years places earlier, a significant increase in funding will be required to enable settings to make reasonable adjustments to meet children's needs. Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF) is currently used to allow providers to access support and pay for staff. Applying our currently levels of funding to a wider population (9 months to 2 years plus more entitlement in 3- and 4-year-olds) would cost around £1m locally to deliver. The DfE have set up a new EY (Early Years) SEND unit to address these issues, but we have no local information to date.
- 2.18 Furthermore, additional numbers of children in wraparound care needs to respond to a skills shortage, funding, and transport costs. Neither SENIF nor EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) funding supports children outside of their funded hours/school hours. In Cambridgeshire, Childcare Access Funding (CAF) has existed since 2006 to support wraparound care for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), however CAF is not statutory and under review as part of the safety valve work stream.
- 2.19 The Department of Education (DfE) has recently produced an early years and childcare place analysis for Cambridgeshire, described as indicative. The data does not tally with our local childcare assessment data. We are currently mapping the DfE data which does show a potential shortage of places specifically in Littleport, Wisbech, Northstowe, Cambourne and Cambridge City. 0-25 Places Planning are developing a new, three-year modelling tool to support interrogation against expansion requirements with a full comparison planned to be available later this month.
- 2.20 Whilst there is understanding of the requirement, initial information from all provider types, indicates that 67% will not scope any expansion to their offer until they understand what the hourly rate and/or fee guidance will be. We also await news of funding to be allocated to support implementation (including capital funding for wraparound). All work to date has been added to current functions but this cannot be sustained. We plan further stakeholder analysis once we have funding detail.
- 2.21 A review of roles and responsibilities cross relevant service teams has been undertaken to ensure we are using the right skills set in the right place ensuring we are agile and effective in our response, therefore supporting families and providers to the best of our ability.
- 2.22 As the paper outlines, there remains significant uncertainty over how this policy will be implemented and received locally. A paper will be presented at the next committee outlining an updated needs analysis, position statement including grant allocation, progress towards implementation, and identified risks against the delivery of statutory duties.

3. Alignment with ambitions

3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes.

To support the service and sector a task and finish group of advisers are looking at tangible ways to support the Council's commitment to reach net zero targets. This has included the development of a service pledge of 10 commitments that can be applied to the work of all colleagues in the service. In addition, a sector facing webpage is being developed which will provide curriculum support and guidance alongside resources specifically for the Early Years and Childcare sector and signposting to online support, local events, and community opportunities. This ensures that the provision developed as part of the expansion workstreams are supported to work, with the local authority as partners in our net zero ambition.

3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable

There are no significant implications for this ambition, however development activity, consultation and training events will be online preventing the need for travel.

3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

A high-quality early years and childcare system supports the foundation of every aspect of development- physical, intellectual, and emotional. It is where the foundations of behaviours are established. This expansion programme supports a higher number of families engaging with the system through attendance at a setting. Integrated working (BSIL) with Education, Health, Public Health, Family Hubs, Social Care, and other stakeholders will continue to ensure we make every contact in the early years count.

3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs

Supporting our youngest children and those of primary age to develop independence and life skills is key to high quality early year and childcare provision. We support practitioners to build a curriculum and play environment that supports children and families independence, regulation, and confidence. We work to support effective and clear systems to make access to provision easier, building a behaviour of self service. Training planning and development activity will support this principle throughout implementation of the expansion programme.

3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

The overarching performance indicator for this workstream is an increase in the number of parents taking up employment and/or attending training that will support them to work in the future. Working with providers and settings throughout implementation we will monitor a number of factors including the number of children that transfer to a funded place from a currently parent paid place, the flexibility providers can offer to support various work patterns, the impact on employment options of term time only places, the sustainability of settings in rural areas where take up can be low, costs independent providers charge for individual places, occupancy costs academies and maintained schools charge third party providers, how childminders can be recruited as part of a 'place' based offer and gather data to capture

the overall impact of the offer. In addition, we will continue to lobby for a simpler early year's eligibility system that supports flexible funding at various points in the term.

- 3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised

Funding childcare places is a necessary investment in social infrastructure and essential to unlock growth as we work through a cost-of-living crisis. It is predicted that the early years and childcare expansion programme will have a significant impact on GDP and forecasts that, nationally, by 2027-28 around 60,000 people will enter employment who otherwise could not afford to do so. It is important that we understand and track the Cambridgeshire context in more detail and remain focused, alongside this work, on closing the attainment gap and sustaining provision in disadvantaged areas where it is harder for parents to be charged for additional hours.

- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

An increased number of children will have access earlier to high quality early years places, and primary aged children will be able to access wraparound provision. In the early years, a child's main way to develop confidence, resilience and an aptitude for lifelong learning is through play and positive interactions with adults. Wraparound provision that supports older children's play equally builds self-confidence and self-esteem, releases trauma and emotions and develops problem solving. Policy makers suggest that families, in general, who are supported to return to paid employment will be less reliant on benefits and have less risk of poor health outcomes and mental health conditions. These factors support the whole family dynamic Children will build a habit of attendance in education and an aspiration for attainment.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications

At the current time, the implications on funding are not completely understood. The LA role is focused on market facilitation rather than the physical delivery of provision through builds. We will however have to consider in areas where places are already limited and in new communities how the new government aspirations are delivered through the planning process. It is likely that we will need to secure additional capacity in funding administration, new development, advisory and training roles. Suggested costings have been provided to the DfE as part of their grant considerations.

- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

A framework to support new providers into the Cambridgeshire market is established and will be used to underpin the expansion workstream as required. Childminding support is currently a commissioned service that is due to be tendered at the end of 2023. These are both fully supported by corporate procurement.

- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implication

Ensuring access and compliance with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 0-19 and the Equality Act 2010 is embedded in early years and childcare regulation. Furthermore, all of Cambridgeshire's early years and childcare providers agree through our local agreement to have a trained Equalities Named Coordinator. This means any developments linked to this programme will be considering the impact on all children including those with protected characteristics and will undergo an equality impact assessment.

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

Expansion of Early Years Childcare and wraparound care will contribute to the delivery of one of the four priorities of the ICS Health & Wellbeing Strategy – 'Ensure our children are ready to enter education' as articulated in 2.3. It also contributes to the overarching ambition of improving outcomes for all children [Health & Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy | CPICS Website](#) .

4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: We have yet to receive the full guidance to understand the implications.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? No

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? No

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or Pathfinder Legal? No

Name of Legal Officer: Emma Duncan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?

Yes

Name of Officer: Faye McCarthy

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: Kate Parker

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 [Budget 2023 - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2023/03/23/budget-2023-the-education-hub/)

[Early years supplementary grant 2023 to 2024: conditions of grant for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\).](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/early-years-supplementary-grant-2023-to-2024-conditions-of-grant-for-local-authorities)

Special Educational Needs Service and Safety Valve Programme Updates

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 10th October 2023

From: Executive Director of Childrens, Education and Families

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: To note the updates provided on SEND in the County, SEND Transformation and Safety Valve Agreement.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to note the updates provided on SEND in the County, SEND Transformation and Safety Valve Agreement.

Voting arrangements: Not applicable

Officer contact:

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

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with an overview of the current position around Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) in Cambridgeshire. Nationally there remains significant challenges on the SEND system with increased demand, complexity of need and funding challenges. The government has signalled the need for changes through its recent response to its Green Paper on SEND and locally we are working hard to drive the focus on early intervention and prevention.
- 1.2 The report also covers some the Safety Valve process with the Department for Education which was agreed in March 2023.

2. Main Issues

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service Update

- 2.1 The service continues to see high levels of demand within SEND, in line with most local authorities nationally. The challenges coming from Covid-19, the rise in the cases of mental health related challenges and complexity of need continue to raise is a concern. We also believe that the pressure of funding continues to lead to schools seeking further support from the Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) process.
- 2.2 The demand for SEND provision has placed significant pressures on local authority services and whilst we continue to have challenges in terms of recruiting and retaining highly specialist and skilled staff e.g. education psychologists, the service has continued with its commitment to meet statutory deadlines and work with families and schools to establish support at the earliest opportunity. The volume of work however has impacted on our ability to meet the deadline for issuing EHCPs. Our data at the end of May outlines the following –
- The number of open EHCPs received to date this year has exceeded previous forecasts and is currently 7,294 open cases (31 May 2023), a rise of 12.7% compared to the same period in 2022.
 - The number of new initial requests received is increasing in comparison to the previous year (+22.6% increase). There has been a slight increase in the proportion of new initial requests received from the under 5 age group, while those from the 5-10 and 16-19 age groups have seen a slight decrease. In June and July, the number of requests has continued to increase.
 - The numbers of new EHCPs being issued appears to be slowing compared to 2022 (+2% increase). There has been a slight increase in the proportion of new EHCPs issued to the under 5 and 11 to 15 age groups. The proportion of new EHCPs issued due to Social, Emotional & Mental Health primary need has increased significantly compared to previous years.
 - The overall number of EHCP review meetings held shows a slight increase (2.6%) compared to the previous year, and the proportion of EHCP reviews being completed in timescale is increasing.
 - The number of ceased EHCPs is beginning to increase as reviews are undertaken. We have seen a particular change in the 16+ cohort. The proportion of EHCPs ceased due to the young person not wishing to engage in education increased significantly

compared to previous years.

- 2.3 The table below outlines the rise in open EHCPs since 2018. The increase represents a 84% increase in EHCP within 5 years.

Year	Open EHCP as at May
2018	3,974
2019	4,409
2020	4,890
2021	5,655
2022	6,470
2023	7,315

The latest performance position will be included as part of the quarterly committee performance report.

Safety Valve Programme

- 2.4 At the end of the financial year, Cambridgeshire has an accumulated deficit of £51.2m on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Negotiations began with the Department for Education (DfE) in May 2022 with Cambridgeshire County Council entered into a [Safety Valve agreement with the DfE in March 2023](#). The Safety Valve programme provides additional resources to Local Authorities to deliver a sustainable position for our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, without impairing their education.
- 2.5 These agreements, hold the local authorities to account for delivery of reforms to their high needs systems, so that they can function sustainably and therefore in the best interests of the children and young people they serve. These local authorities will be expected to reach an in-year balance on their DSG as quickly as possible, and over time eliminate their deficits. The agreements are closely monitored, and if the conditions set in the agreements are not being met, funding is withheld.

The agreement is based on the following funding arrangements:

- Revenue contribution of £49m from the DfE to support the repayment of the deficit, supported by a contribution of £9m from the Council's reserves.
- A further £11.3m for capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites.
- Two new special free schools for Cambridgeshire to be established in March (opening September 2026) and Gamlingay (opening September 2025). Significantly, there are also new free schools being established in Bedfordshire and Norfolk which will potentially reduce the number of children accessing our specialist provision from outside of the county.

2.6 We established our SEND Transformation Programme in 2021 to have a focus on delivering better services, with early intervention. This programme formed the basis of our proposal to the DfE and now aligns with the Safety Valve Programme conditions, which are:

- Improve decision making on awarding Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) through developing a more consistent and transparent multi-agency decision making process.
- Develop a special schools outreach model to facilitate supporting children and young people with SEND in mainstream provision.
- Review current tuition packages to ensure appropriate and successful reintegration to mainstream school settings.
- Develop a model of investment in ordinarily available provision to support schools in meeting need without an EHCP. This will include developing a system for funding which will provide consistent resources and support across a graduated approach to need including those pupils without an EHCP.
- Review the Needs Assessment and Post-Assessment process to ensure appropriate and consistent provision is put into place.
- Strengthen processes around mediation and dispute resolution in order to reduce the requirement for tribunals.
- Increase independence of children and young people by targeting reviews to ensure provision is appropriate, meets needs and promotes independence.
- Continue offering free access to SEND District Team support to identify training needs, emerging themes and focus less on individualised support and more on upskilling staff knowledge and skills in all areas of SEND.

2.7 The programme agreed aims to balancing our budget by the end of the 2026/27 financial and give us a solid foundation going forward. In response to this programme and the subsequent management of the deficit

2.8 The profile of contribution is shown in the table below –

Year	DfE Safety Valve Funding
22-23	£19.6m
23-24	£5.88m
24-25	£5.88m
25-26	£5.88m
26-27	£11.76m

2.9 As a result of meeting the milestones for the agreement, we received £19.6m from the DfE and contributed £2.5m from reserves to leave a net deficit of £29.1m at the end of the 22/23 financial year.

2.10 Our strategy for managing the number of children and young people receiving individual funding from the High Needs Block is through our SEND Transformation Programme. The overriding principle of our SEND Transformation Programme, in line with our joint SEND Strategy, is early prevention, ensuring support is in place as early as possible to support children and young people and their families with their needs, where possible without the need for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Our vision is that children and young

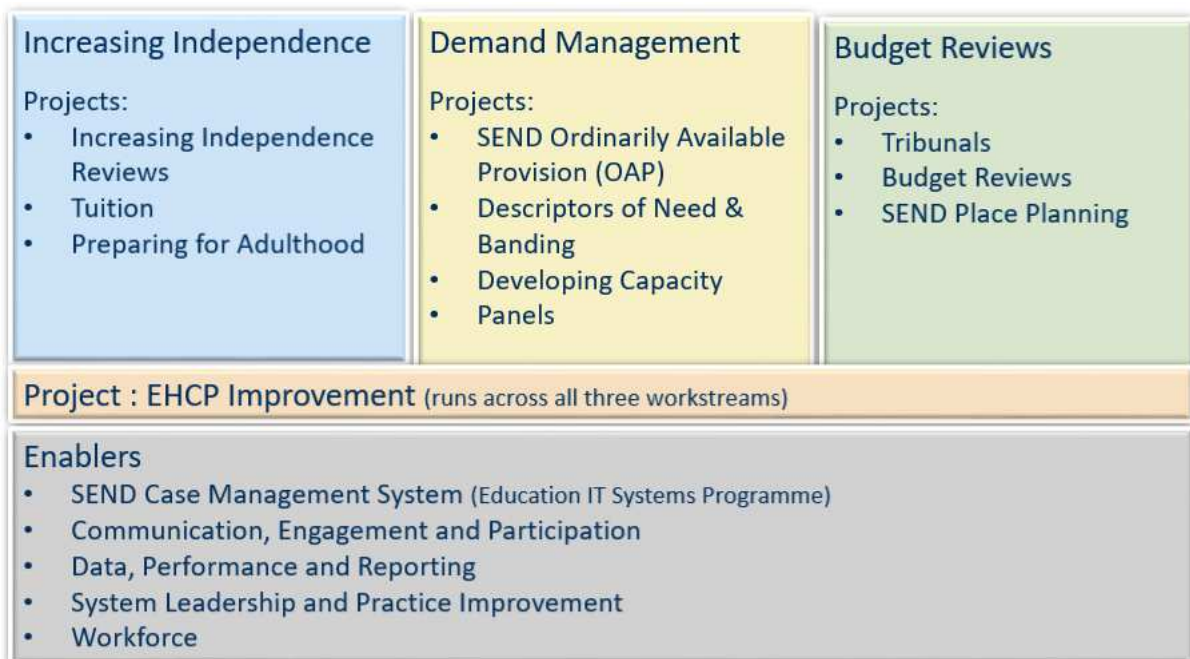
people with SEND will have their needs and outcomes more effectively met at all stages of their journey through the system.

2.11 Through roll-out of strengths-based practice within the system children, young people and their families will be at the heart of all conversations - with an emphasis on their strengths, outcomes and aspirations. By reviewing our Bandings & Descriptor workstream, we will set out clearly how settings can meet the needs of children and young people, ensuring that support is proportionate and enables young people to take steps towards independence. We will be re-structuring our specialist support services, to ensure a focus on early intervention and de-escalation of need. Through increased co-production, promotion and engagement with our SEND Support /Ordinarily Available provision offer, clearly setting out our expectations around Preparing for Adulthood, we will ensure that more young people either transition into independence (if their education is complete or the outcomes of their EHCP have been met) or into other support outside the EHCP process.

2.12 Cambridgeshire is committed to ensuring better outcomes for children and young people with SEND which in turn will mean that the cost to support them reduces. Our transformation work acknowledges that whilst cost reduction remains a key factor of success, outcome improvements are placed front and centre. Our established SEND Transformation principles will continue to underpin the programme, these are:

- Investing in early years and earlier prevention
- Embedding a focus on outcomes
- Developing a system-wide view and working with partners to shape and deliver change
- Measuring and sharing our impact
- Involving parent carers to help inform and shape the transformation programme.

2.13 The programme can be broken down into the following workstreams –



- 2.14 The Safety Valve agreement commits Cambridgeshire to report to the DfE's Funding Policy Unit (FPU) in writing on the progress towards the savings targets and conditions set in the agreement. The Department will use this tri-annual reporting to monitor the progress of the agreement conditions. The agreement also commits Cambridgeshire to highlight to FPU any difficulties in carrying out the agreement as soon as they arise.
- 2.15 The first monitoring was submitted to the DfE on 12 June 2023 and our position showed around £170k variance from the original planned position. Further monitoring reports are required by 15 September and 15 December 2023. The monitoring reports will include progress against the conditions of the grant and a financial dashboard detailing various metrics relating to demand and cost. We have an established SEND Transformation Programme Board which is monitoring performance of the programme in line with the Safety Valve Agreement.
- 2.16 Key headline activity from June/September 2023 monitoring reports are -
- The Cambridgeshire SEND Ordinarily Available online toolkit has been developed and launched, providing a wealth of information and guidance for professionals to support children and young people with SEND in early years settings, primary and secondary mainstream schools. [SEND OAP Toolkit - Learn Together.](#)
 - Cambridgeshire SEND Information Hub (Local Offer) improved site and refreshed content has been launched. [SEND Information Hub \(Local Offer\).](#) This will mean that parents will be able to access support their need directly rather than through other channels.
 - Mainstream banding (categorising need) is being trialed at Post Assessment Panel. This has led to greater consistency in decision making. In addition, should an application be declined at panel, parents and schools are offered a post panel meeting to work with the family and school to establish how the school will support the child or young person.
 - If an EHCP application is declined at Panel, the SEND District teams now undertake an assessment and provide support to the family and school at the earliest possible opportunity. The aim of this enhanced support process is so children and young people get support sooner, improve parent confidence and support schools to meet need appropriately at SEND support. In addition, the SEND District Teams are provide a complimentary rolling training programme to all schools to help support them in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEN.
 - A pilot has been undertaken to deliver outreach support to those children and young people with special education needs in mainstream provision. Feedback from the pilot is being analysed and the model reviewed before a provision launch in Spring 2024.
 - A number of SEND Transformation Parent Carer engagement events have been held. Extensive feedback was captured, and this is being used to inform our planning.
 - We have recruited our 'Increasing Independence' lead and they are taking up post in July, to plan and lead work on targeted reviews to ensure provision is proportionate, meets need and promotes independence.
 - Further successful recruitment campaigns have resulted in an EHCP Improvement Operational Lead, Systems Leadership Coordinator and two Senior Alternative Provision Monitoring Officers. These changes give us capacity to deliver the required change.
 - We have commenced our discovery work around annual reviews as part of our EHCP Improvement project. We are using seconded school SENCOs to deliver this work.

- Budget holders identified for all High Needs Block budget lines, training provided and monthly meetings with finance to be held, ensuring robust financial management.
- 2.17 Capacity for specialist provision has been a major challenge for us and the release of funding in the Safety Valve Proposal will support greater provision in the County. Approval was received for two new special free schools in the county, a 210-place, multiple needs school in March and a 60-place school in Gamlingay for children with Social Emotional Mental Health needs aged 11 to 16. The process to appoint a sponsor has commenced and a briefing session has been held for academy trusts. The newly built and expanded provision at Riverside Meadows Academy in Wisbech opened in September 2023 and we are on track to open the new area special school at Prestley Wood in September 2024.
- 2.15 Three social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) primary phase resourced provisions are progressing, with intention to open between January and Easter 2024 and expressions of interest have been received for primary phase autism resourced provision. These are currently being assessed for suitability. Further resourced provision is required at primary schools in the north and east of the county and at secondary schools. The expression of interest window for both has been extended to invite further interest and direct, targeted conversations are ongoing to encourage interest from schools in ideal geographical locations. A potential barrier to progress, is the presumption that new SEND provision, under DfE requirements, is not set up in schools with requires improvement status. We are awaiting a response regarding the potential implications of seeking to go ahead with setting up resourced provision in such schools, where they show the required drive to improve and in agreement with the DfE for academy schools.
- 2.16 In addition we are actively delivering these schemes -
- A 50-place expansion of Highfield Littleport Academy is progressing towards starting on site.
 - The 63-place expansion of Samuel Pepys has started on site.
 - The 60-place expansion of Martin Bacon Academy through satellite provision at Swavesey Village College (40 places) and an extension post 16 block co-located with Northstowe Secondary College (20 places) are being progressed.
- 2.17 To support the SEND transformation programme and to ensure the Local area response to the SEND agenda is robust, we have updated our governance arrangements following the separation of People Services from Peterborough. The proposed governance system will keep the 'system' accountable in terms of providing the right support in the right place at the right time in line with the vision of the Government's recently launched SEND and Alternative Plan:
- “We have set out a vision for a SEND and alternative provision system where decisions are made, collectively and consistently by partnerships and informed by robust data and evidence. This will be underpinned by strengthened accountabilities for all those responsible for local delivery”.*
- 2.18 The new multi-agency structure will ensure leaders from across the system have sight of current priorities and projected financial and performance reporting to ensure they have the right information to inform their strategic decision making. Targets, performance indicators, outcomes and measures will be scrutinised throughout the structure to ensure all

organisations are performing and working together to deliver the best outcomes possible for children and young people with SEND.

2.19 The Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB), supported by a number of multi-agency boards, groups and other working parties that will support the delivery of the Executive’s functions and priorities and is chaired by the Council’s Section 11 Officer. The first board meeting took place on 17 July 2023 and agreed a number of key actions to include further mapping of accountabilities and priorities of the CSEB and the Child & Maternity Partnership, to limit duplication. The terms of reference of this group can be found in Appendix 1.

National Policy Changes

2.20 In March 2023, the government published their response to the Green Paper as the- [SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](#).

2.21 The DfE have established a national SEND and Alternative Provision Implementation Board to support the changes. This includes 2 Ministers, the Children’s Commissioner and stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds including Local Authorities. Locally, Mark Vickers, CEO of Olive Academies (who operate bases in Cambridge and Wisbech) represents the AP/SEND CEO Network.

2.22 The Government’s response outlines a series of objectives between now and 2025. The position against the 2023 objectives both nationally and locally can be seen below -

Objective for 2023	Update on National Position	Local Response
Set up engagement across education, health and care during spring 2023 to develop national standards		Our Ordinarily Available toolkit set a local standard to support the development of a national standard. These will be developed in line with government changes.
Establish the change programme’s regional expert partnerships to test out proposals. Start testing elements of the national standards with regional expert partnerships.	Bedford Borough Council has been designated as the lead for the Eastern Region.	We are actively engaged with the regions SEND partnership.
Introduce local SEND and alternative provision partnerships that bring together partners to plan and commission support for children and young people with SEND and in alternative provision. Work with areas, through the change programme, to create	No guidance has yet been received on expectation and membership of these or details of the change programme.	We have introduced the Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB) and agreeing priorities between partners in the local area. Our transformation programme is heavily linked to the SEND and AP plan and

Objective for 2023	Update on National Position	Local Response
evidence-based local inclusion plans.		the evidence base in the response to this.
Start testing an approach to improve information available to families by providing them with a tailored list of suitable settings. This will be co-produced with children, young people and their families.		We have updated our Local Offer for parents. We have also undertaken a review of all provision in readiness for a more targeted focus on settings.
Announce the successful schools which will be opened as part of the new special and alternative provision free schools.	Announcements took place in June and August.	Our two new special schools were announced in August. The process of appointing a sponsor to operate the schools have commenced.
Launch a pilot to consider the evidence required to access flexibilities to standard English and mathematics requirements for apprenticeships. Support the Department for Work and Pensions' Adjustment Passport pilot. Start to build capacity and strengthen the quality of the supported internship programme. This includes training job coaches and making sure all local authorities have access to a supported employment forum.		Our preparation for Adulthood workstream is looking at different routes for young people into education, community provision and into Adult Services.
Undertake a review of the initial teacher training and early career frameworks. Fund up to 5,000 early years staff to gain an accredited level 3 early years special educational needs co-ordinator qualification. Launch a research project to develop our evidence base on current school approaches for teaching assistants.	The new National Professional Qualification will not commence until September 2024	We continue to provide support for schools to access the NASENCO qualification and we will work with our Teaching School Hub to ensure we have a full offer and high take up within Cambridgeshire. We have commenced work on looking at improving recruitment to TA roles.
Publish local and national inclusion dashboards.		We have produced and will be distributing our new SEND on a Page data analysis to help schools understand their cohort and inclusion.

Objective for 2023	Update on National Position	Local Response
Require every integrated care board to have a named executive board member lead accountable for SEND.		Carol Anderson, Chief Nursing Officer, is the lead for the ICB.
<p>Deliver updated Ofsted and Care Quality Commission area SEND inspections.</p> <p>Give the Secretary of State for Health greater powers through the Health and Care Act 2022.</p> <p>Set up an expert group to support the development of a bespoke national alternative provision performance framework.</p> <p>Improve advice and guidance for families on mediation and update the professional standards for SEND mediators.</p>	Awaiting more information from the Government	<p>We currently have a local AP directory which has quality assured providers. This allows schools to commission provision based upon individual children's need.</p> <p>Our commissioning team is reviewing our arrangements for mediation and the outcomes from all perspectives.</p>
<p>Increase core school funding by £3.5 billion in 2023 to 2024. Almost £1 billion of that increase will go towards high needs.</p> <p>Support local authorities through the delivering better value and safety valve programmes.</p> <p>Publish a response to the consultation on the schools national funding formula.</p> <p>Make significant progress in developing new approaches to funding alternative provision.</p>	<p>Provisional DSG allocations have been released.</p> <p>We await an update on SEND Funding which was no part of the national funding formula response.</p>	<p>Cambridgeshire has received a £2.9m (2.8%) increase in its provisional funding for 2024/25. This is significant lower than previous years but not unexpected.</p> <p>We are actively engaged in the safety valve programme.</p>
Re-examine the state's relationship with independent special schools.		We continue to maintain good relationships with all independent schools in Cambridgeshire and those outside who we commission.

3. Alignment with ambitions

- 3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes

The provision of more specialist provision in local areas means that we should place less reliance on transporting children around their county to access suitable provision.

- 3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable

The provision of more specialist provision in local areas means that we should place less reliance on transporting children around their county to access suitable provision.

- 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

Our focus on early intervention and prevent means that children and young people get the support they need earlier and will reduce the need for greater intervention at a later date.

- 3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs

Developing our support around preparation for adulthood will ensure that more young people transition successful into adult hood and are support in more independent settings and they can access more community provision.

- 3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised

Local Area Planning for SEND and new specialist provision ensure equity of access for all and choice for parents which is beyond the current level of opportunities.

- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

The report sets out the implications relating to children and young people.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications

The funding for SEND from a combination of Dedicated Schools Grant and council funding. The current arrangements outlined in the report form part of the medium term financial and any pressures / new investments will be considered in future budget rounds.

- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The SEND Transformation Programme will require procurement processes to deliver some of the key workstreams. Where appropriate, these will be brought back to the Committee for agreement.

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

We work closely with all our partners to deliver SEND. This includes early years setting, schools, colleges, parents and children and young people. We have positive working relationships with our parent carer forum, Pinpoint, who play a critical role supporting parent and supporting and challenging leaders across all services on delivering SEND outcomes.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

Children and Young People with SEND are among the most vulnerable in society. These proposals will contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy ambition to improve outcomes for children and reduce inequalities, specifically in relation to two of the four priorities 'Ensuring children are ready to enter and exit education, prepared for the next phase in their lives' and 'Promote early intervention and prevention measures to improve mental health and wellbeing'.

4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation: The new special schools in Cambridgeshire will be delivered by the Department for Education. Their specification require all new buildings shall achieve net zero carbon in operation. The Contractor shall provide roof coverage of photovoltaic (PV) panels.

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: It is not anticipated that these recommendations will have either a positive or negative impact related to this implication.

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: It is not anticipated that these recommendations will have either a positive or negative impact related to this implication.

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: It is not anticipated that these recommendations will have either a positive or negative impact related to this implication.

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: It is not anticipated that these recommendations will have either a positive or negative impact related to this implication.

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: It is not anticipated that these recommendations will have either a positive or negative impact related to this implication.

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: It is not anticipated that these recommendations will have either a positive or negative impact related to this implication.

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 Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes
Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or Pathfinder Legal? Yes or No
Name of Legal Officer: Emma Duncan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?
Yes or No
Name of Officer: Faye McCarthy

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 Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?
Yes
Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 [Green Paper as the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](#) .

Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

July 2023

1. CONTEXT

The Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB) recognises collective accountability for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities to achieve outstanding outcomes within Cambridgeshire.

The CSEB ensures a clear line of sight for holders of statutory responsibilities on the duties of the local area for children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 and amplified in the Code of Practice published jointly by the Department for Health and the Department for Education. Additional duties for promoting the wellbeing of adults are set out in the Care Act 2014.

PARTNERSHIP AMBITION

Cambridgeshire's vision is that children and young people with SEND will have their needs and outcomes more effectively met at all stages of their journey through the system.

“We have high aspirations for all our children and young people and want to ensure they have the right support, that it is provided in the right place and at the right time so that they can thrive and be the best they can be.”

SEND Strategy 2019-2024

The CSEB is committed to ensuring children and young people with SEND:

- Lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, having choice and control over decisions about their health, education, employment, friendships and relationships.
- Achieve in line with, or better than, expectation in their early years, school, further education and training.
- Successfully participate in the community and access meaningful occupation, employment and life-long learning opportunities.

The commitments that underpin how we work together describe an agreed culture that is crucial to the success of the delivery of our SEND Strategy. These commitments form a pledge to our way of working and are based on seven important outcomes



2. OBJECTIVES

Promoting the partnership ambition, the CSEB has strategic oversight of:

- effectiveness of arrangements that enable children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families to be heard and to influence services that affect their lives. It will also consider the barriers to these arrangements.
- effectiveness of the SEND sufficiency planning in informing the local offer for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- production of a local area strategy and action plan for further improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- effectiveness of how special educational needs and/or disabilities are identified, assessed and met – including the effectiveness of multi-agency decision making and safeguarding
- effectiveness of the SEND Information Hub in improving outcomes, including commissioning arrangements and the contribution of the voluntary sector
- effectiveness of arrangements for workforce development
- robust financial and performance monitoring (including monitoring of the Safety Valve agreement conditions)

- compliance with statutory reporting requirements for SEND
- publication of an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of local area arrangements for SEND

3. SCOPE / JURISDICTION

The CSEB is an overarching group that has overview of standards and quality with regard to special educational needs and disabilities within Cambridgeshire. It has no independent decision-making powers. The Joint Child Health Commissioning Board has direct oversight of all commissioning intentions and priorities for children and young people in Cambridgeshire – any SEND strategies / plans shaped, influenced and monitored by the CSEB will require approval through the CYP Committee and/or ICS Children and Maternity Partnership (Accountable Business Unit), as well as wider Council and partnership approval processes.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- Michael Hudson, Executive Director: Finance and Resources / Section 151 Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council - Chair
- Cllr Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of CYP Committee, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Martin Purbrick, Executive Director: Children, Education and Families (DCS), Cambridgeshire County Council
- Patrick Warren-Higgs, Executive Director for Adults, Health and Commissioning, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Jonathan Lewis, Service Director Education, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Will Patten, Service Director Commissioning, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Matthew Winn, Chief Executive - Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
- Fran Cox, Assistant Director Education Planning and Inclusion, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Jo Hedley, Head of SEND 0-25, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Head of Childrens Commissioning, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Anna Wahlandt, Strategic Lead for Alternative Provision, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Helen Gregg, Head of Education Operations, Cambridgeshire County Council
- School Representatives – primary and secondary:
 - Chair of Cambridgeshire Primary Heads Association or rep (CPH)
 - Chair of Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads Association or rep (CSH)

- Chair of Cambridgeshire Special heads forum or rep
- Carol Anderson, Chief Nursing Officer, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System
- Karlene Allen, Deputy Director of Maternity and Childrens Commissioning / Deputy Chief Nurse, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System
- Siobhan Weaver, Designated Medical Officer, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System
- Jyoti Atri, Director of Public Health, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Healthwatch Representative
- Sarah Conboy, Chief Executive, Pinpoint (local parent carer forum)
- Amanda Barrett, Associate Director of Nursing and Quality, CYPF Directorate, CPFT
- Andrew Mailer, Business Intelligence Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Martin Wade, Childrens Accountant, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Governor (Special School) Representative

Substitutions are at the discretion of the Chair and by agreement prior to each meeting.

Corresponding Members:
 Early years services
 Further Education colleagues

5. CHAIR

The role of the chair is to ensure that the business of meetings is conducted efficiently and effectively, and that decisions are made and noted as required. Taking account of the views of Executive Members, the Chair may make recommendations to stakeholders. These recommendations are independent of the constituent members.

6. SECRETARIAT

This role is provided by the Local Authority. Materials are circulated at least one week in advance of meetings and will be treated as confidential. Minutes are circulated within one month of meetings. All communication outside of meetings is conducted by email.

7. FREQUENCY

The CSEB will ordinarily meet three times a year.

8. DELIVERABLES

The specific outputs required of the Executive include:

- minutes of meetings
- communications to stakeholders on key issues, concerns and recommendations
- a published local area strategy / plan for SEND
- an annual report on the effectiveness of local area arrangements for SEND

9. ACCOUNTABILITY, GOVERNANCE AND ESCALATION

The CSEB is a partnership governance arrangement convened by the Local Authority and Integrated Care System. Individual members are responsible for the accountability and governance arrangements of their own organisations. The membership of the Executive provides a direct line of communication to the Joint Health & Wellbeing Board.

CSEB members can identify and suggest agenda items for future focus/discussion and action.

Agenda items can be added to the Annual Planning Framework.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

All documentation including reports and minutes relating to the CSEB are strictly confidential unless marked public.

11. RESOURCES AND BUDGET

The CSEB does not hold a budget. Venue costs for meetings are met by the hosting organisation. Staffing costs for attending Strategic SEND Executive meetings are met by each organisation.

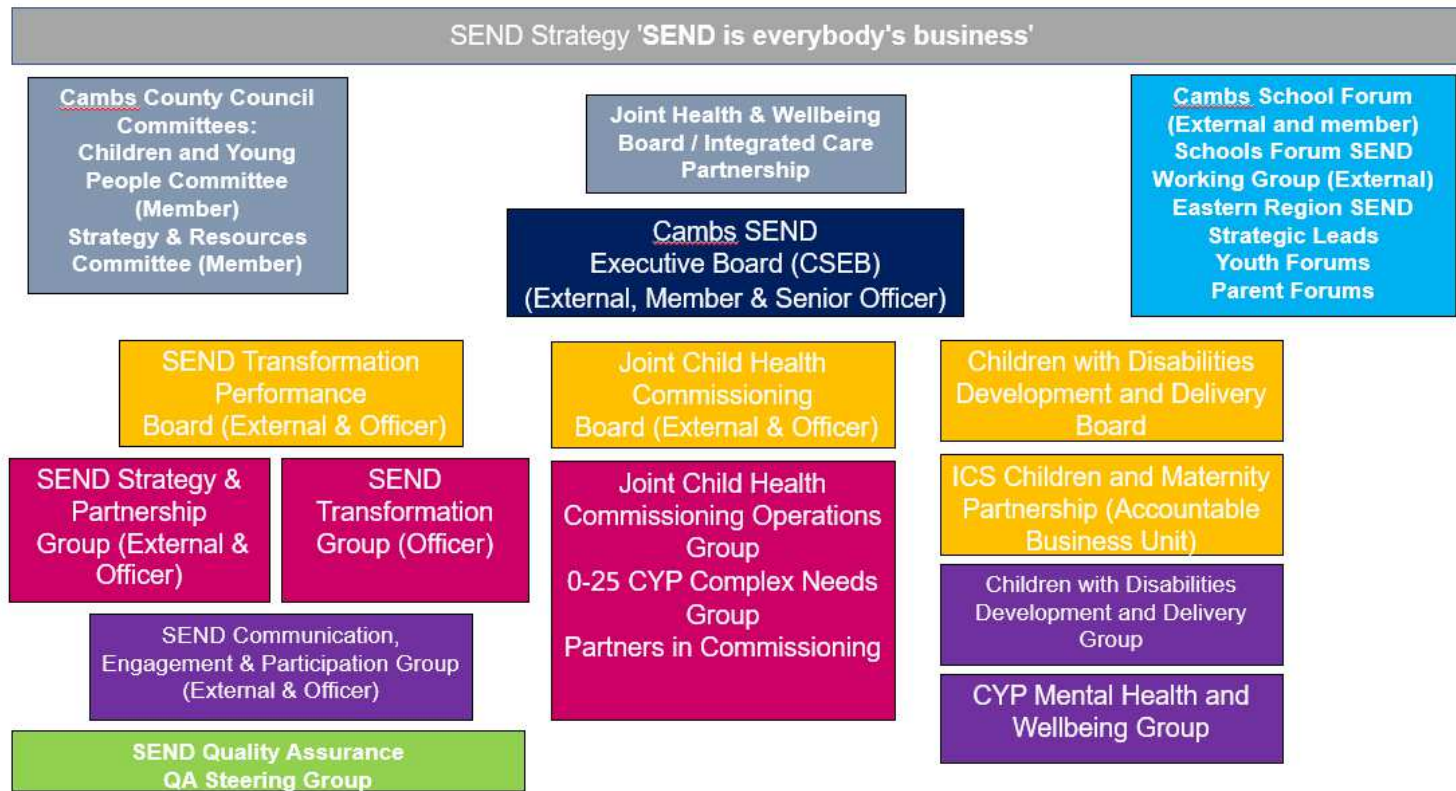
12. REVIEW DATE

The CSEB Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.

Approved:

Review Date:

Appendix A. SEND Governance, Partnership and Decision-Making Arrangements



Appendix B.

Cambs SEND Executive Board Annual Work Plan

Strategic SEND Executive Meeting Dates	Terms of Reference Objectives	Mechanism for scrutiny e.g. reports	Lead
<u>Each meeting.</u>	Effectiveness of arrangements for workforce development.	To be planned for in local area strategy and themed reports as required	LA SEND Lead ICB Lead
	Performance monitoring.	SEND 0-25 Dataset reports, Safety Valve Monitoring Reports and Quality Assurance Reports. Themed reports – areas of scrutiny / challenge.	Performance Leads. Service Leads.
	Effectiveness of how special educational needs and / or disabilities are identified, assessed and met – including the effectiveness of multi-agency decision making.	Report on the findings of case audit, child and family feedback and locally agreed practice standards. EHCP Quality Assurance Report. Decision making forum reports (scheduled throughout year). Themed reports on areas of challenge / scrutiny.	Head of Service / Service Leads.
	Effectiveness of arrangements that enable children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities and their families to be heard and to influence services that affect their lives.	Update reports from stakeholder groups	Parent Carer Forum, Childrens Advocacy Provider
	Effectiveness of the SEND Sufficiency statement in informing the local offer for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.	SEND Sufficiency Statement to inform strategy / developments refresh beyond 2023. Reports on: SEND Transformation, Early Years 0-5, Education Outcomes, Sendiass Position Statement. SEND Capital Projects, High Needs Funding Update, Preparing for Adulthood, EHCP Quality Assurance Report	Commissioning Service Lead. Service Leads.

March 2021.	Production of a local area strategy for further improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.	Approval of local area SEND strategy to be consulted upon / submitted to Strategic Send Executive by 2024 Themed reports identified by the Strategic SEND Executive.	LA and ICS Send Leads. Parent and Carer Forum.
June 2020.	Effectiveness of the SEND Information Hub in improving outcomes, including commissioning arrangements and the contribution of the voluntary sector.	SEND Information Hub review report. SEND Dataset Report – areas of focus.	HoS / Service Leads.

Preparation for Childrens Inspection Readiness Activity

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 10 October 2023

From: Martin Purbrick, Executive Director Children, Education and Families

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: The Children and Young People Committee are being asked to consider the level of readiness being undertaken to prepare for future Government inspections of children's services

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

Note the preparations for future Government inspections of children's services, as detailed in the report.

Voting arrangements: Not applicable

Contact:

Name: Martin Purbrick
Post: Executive Director Children, Education and Families
Email: martin.purbrick@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:

1. Background

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council was last the subject of a judgement Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection in [January 2019](#). The resultant Ofsted judgement from that inspection was one of 'Requires Improvement'. Ofsted uses classifications for its judgements. 'Inadequate'; 'Requires Improvement'; 'Good' and 'Outstanding'.
- 1.2 Since 2019, Ofsted have undertaken two focus visits, one in February 2020 (subject was children in care) and the most recent in March 2022 (subject was children in need and children subject to a protection plan).
- 1.3 In addition, Cambridgeshire were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in March 2017 under the Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection (non-judgement inspection) and most recently, Cambridgeshire's Youth Justice Services were inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation in August 2023 (judgement inspection) – the inspection report is currently going through HMIP's quality assurance process and a full briefing will be prepared for the Children and Young People's Committee once the final report has been published.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to provide an update regarding the current position of Children's and Education Services regarding readiness for the next ILACS and Area SEND inspections, which are currently expected to take place during 2024.

2. Main Issues

Local Authority Inspection of Childrens Services (ILACS) Framework Outline

- 2.1 The [Ofsted Inspection Framework](#) uses a 'proportionate and risk-based' inspection schedule that varies according to the most recent performance rating of the local authority. The components of this approach are judgement inspections, which can be standard or short, and generally occur every three years or focused visits, which occur in the period between inspections (a visit may be replaced by a joint targeted area inspection (JTAI). Notification will be given in advance of an inspection or visit, and inspection teams will generally consist of four inspectors (plus an education inspector and a social care regulatory inspector for two days) for inspections and two inspectors for visits.
- 2.2 Standard (judgement) inspections will last for up to two weeks and short (judgement) inspections for up to one week. Focused visits will normally be for two days.
- 2.3 Local authorities will receive an overall effectiveness rating of outstanding, good, requires improvement to be good, or inadequate. Key judgements will also be made in the following areas:
 - to help and protect children.
 - the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home.
 - the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption.
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers.

Inspectors will also evaluate:

- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.
- the impact they have on the lives of children and young people.
- the quality of professional practice.

Area SEND Inspection Framework

- 2.4 In April 2023 a new [Local Area SEND Framework](#) was published. Devised jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) the revised arrangements have been implemented with immediate effect. The framework sets out the purpose and principles of inspection and its statutory basis, along with the inspection approach, model, frequency, and timing. The handbook sets out the evaluation criteria that inspectors use to make judgements, and examples of the kinds of evidence they gather and activities they carry out to evaluate the local area's arrangements for children and young people with SEND.
- 2.5 Inspections evaluate how well members of a local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. 'Local area partnership' refers to those in education, health and care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area
- 2.6 Inspections evaluate arrangements for all children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 covered by the SEND code of practice, including those who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and those who receive special educational needs (SEN) support. The scope of the inspection covers children and young people who live in the local authority area but attend education settings or receive services outside of the local authority's geographical boundaries. However, it does not cover those who live in other local areas but attend an education setting within the local authority's boundaries.
- 2.7 The inspection will consider whether local authorities' approach to commissioning and overseeing alternative provision arrangements for children and young people in the local authority area meets their duties as set out in section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and in statutory guidance.
- 2.8 The purpose of this inspection framework is to provide an independent, external evaluation of the effectiveness of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND and, where appropriate, recommend what the local area partnership should do to improve the arrangements. The inspection system includes:
- Full inspections, which evaluate and report on the impact of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND.
 - Monitoring inspections, which evaluate and report on progress in areas where Ofsted and the CQC have identified areas for priority action at a full inspection. Monitoring inspections may also be carried out at the discretion of Ofsted and the CQC where serious concerns have been identified.
 - Engagement meetings between Ofsted and the CQC's representatives and representatives of the local area partnership to review the partnership's self-evaluation and action plan and discuss what is happening in the area, including any challenges and how leaders are addressing them.

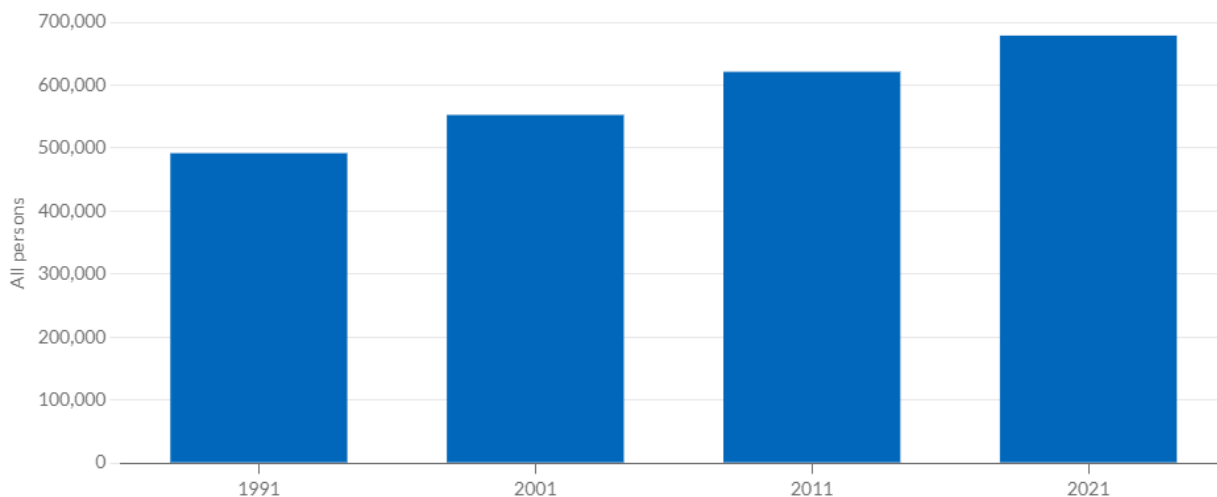
- Area SEND thematic visits to a small number of areas, with the aim of investigating a particular aspect of the SEND system in depth. Ofsted and the CQC will share learning from these visits in national reports.

2.9 There are three outcomes:

- The Local area partnership's arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.
- The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.
- There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.

The current position – Children, Education and Families

- 2.10 Whilst inspectorates apply a context-free approach to evaluating Children's Service i.e., they do not necessarily take into account wider contextual factors, it is vitally important it is understood the background against, and landscape within, which improvement is required is exceptionally challenging.
- 2.11 A significant period of time (since the 2019 ILACS judgement inspection) has been spent under pandemic-conditions. This placed significant strains on safeguarding services across the nation, forcing them to operate in ways that they were not used and stripped of many of the protective factors for children and families that would usually be there (e.g., schools). It also placed understandable pressure on frontline social work services to maintain services and effectively safeguarding children and young people in ways that they were not ordinarily used to. These factors have been further exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, with already low levels of resilience amongst many of our families pushed beyond breaking point.
- 2.12 Cambridgeshire is a growing county with pockets of deprivation, which is leading to growing demand on services. All districts population grew by a larger percentage than the England average (6.2%) between 2011 and 2021. Cambridge City had the highest increase 12.2%, East Cambs lowest increase 7.5%. Most deprivation is within the northern areas of the county but there are pockets of deprivation within Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.



2.13 The Social Care and Education workforce markets are under enormous pressure and Childrens and Education Services in Cambridgeshire continue to feel the impacts of this. Recruitment remains a challenge locally and nationally. Services work hard to contain budgets as best as they can, but this is increasingly difficult in a competitive recruitment climate and, in particular, a placements and provider market that has seen very significant inflation in costs over recent years.

2.14 Despite these challenges, children and education services continue to support families to make positive changes and to focus persistently on service improvements, with some stand out features including:

- Social Care Academy launching in November 2023
- Fully recruited experienced permanent senior leadership team
- Focus on Cambridgeshire social care practice following decoupling
- A full review of our Quality Assurance processes embedding a journey of continuous learning and improvement.
- Social workers and leaders continue to be passionate about doing their best for vulnerable children and families with a high staff morale.
- A comprehensive training and career progression pathway offer.
- A high support high challenge quality assurance approach, with robust quality assurance activities informing improvement plans.
- Safety Valve Programme funding from the Department for Education which has provided additional resources to deliver a sustainable position for our children and young people with SEND, without impairing their education.
- Process mapping and updated front door processes.

2.15 Our Self Evaluation is clear about where our focus needs to be in the coming months, setting out as it does our priorities for 2023/24. These are: -

- Improved timeliness and better evidenced decision making at the front door.
- Ensuring the child's voice is evident in our assessments and plans.
- Clear and well understood pathways for supporting children at risk of exploitation.
- Improving workforce stability.

- Improved impact of Quality Assurance processes to drive forward service development.
- Better quality and better recording of supervision.
- Supporting the Safety Valve process.
- Improving timeliness and quality of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP's).

Inspection Readiness

- 2.16 In order to prepare for these two key inspection frameworks, a considerable amount of work is taking place to ensure services are delivering/performing across the system.
- 2.17 Monthly inspection preparation groups (including a multi-agency group for the Area SEND inspection). These groups bring together senior managers across children and education services into one 'reflective' space to talk through preparations. These managers then deliver key messages throughout their teams to ensure all staff are kept informed of key activity.
- 2.18 Each month, the groups receive updates on the inspectorates/frameworks, members provide position updates on readiness across their services, focused discussions take place on planned themes, review of risks and members receive feedback on impact of inspection activity, peer reviews, service reviews and audits.
- 2.19 In addition, the groups co-ordinate a number of activities to support with readiness, to include:
- Persistent and unerring focus on improving services.
 - Essex "full system diagnostic" as Sector Led Improvement Partner.
 - Regular 'mock runs' of key datasets to prepare staff when under inspection conditions and check data quality/accuracy.
 - Monthly analysis of the Childrens Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) to ensure data matches our systems. The ChAT was developed by a group of LAs and Ofsted to better visualise the data that is shared between the local authority children services and Ofsted during an inspection.
 - Refresh of service improvement plan and self-assessment – key headlines will be communicated throughout all children and education services with feedback/responses fed into the preparation group and service plans.
 - Circulation of inspection briefing pack for children and education services (to include ILACS factsheet, notification process flowchart, preparation briefing and presentation) to support team managers/head of service to discuss 'what to expect' during an inspection, general expectations of staff, inspectorate behaviour 'dos and don'ts' etc.
 - Position statements are being written for each service area identifying strengths, areas for improvement, key improvement activity, impact etc which will be discussed at the monthly preparation groups and fed into improvement activities.
 - Regular highlight reports to be discussed at director management team and service improvement meetings.

- 2.20 In November 2023, the Local Government Association (LGA) will undertake a SEND system peer review. The fundamental aim of each challenge is to support councils, integrated care boards, and their partners, which includes parents/carers, to reflect on and improve the lived experience and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. A feedback report from the Local Government Association (LGA) will follow the peer review and this will be tabled at a future Committee meeting, supported with an action plan.

3. Alignment with ambitions

- 3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

Ensuring children and their families get the right help at the earliest opportunity will mean that they are best placed to achieve their full potential as residents of Cambridgeshire

- 3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

Ensuring children and their families get the right help at the earliest opportunity will mean that they are best placed to achieve their full potential as residents of Cambridgeshire.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications –

A negative Ofsted inspection will have a detrimental effect on the Council's ability to recruit permanent staff which in turn will have an impact on the Council revenue budget.

An unstable workforce increases the risk of poor case planning for children and this in turn will mean children do not achieve the best they can.

- 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 is a risk of negative regulatory inspection if there is no inspection readiness or ongoing improvement activity.
- 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 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas (See further guidance in Appendix 2):
 - 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.
Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation: Neutral
 - 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.
Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation: Neutral
 - 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.
Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation: Neutral
 - 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation: Neutral
 - 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:
Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation: Neutral
 - 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status:
Explanation: Neutral

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Positive/neutral/negative Status:

Explanation: Neutral

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 Head of Procurement and Commercial?

Name of Officer:

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

Name of Legal Officer: Emma Duncan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?

Name of Officer:

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Name of Officer:

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

Name of Officer: Martin Purbrick

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Name of Officer:

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

Name of Officer:

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 None.

Children and Young People Committee Agenda Plan

Published on 2 October 2023

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
10/10/23	1. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable	28/09/23	02/10/23
	2. Special Education Needs and Disabilities Safety Valve Programme and Service Update	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	3. Supported Accommodation services for young people in care aged 16+	C Howard	KD2023/70		
	4. Ofsted Inspection Preparation	M Purbrick	Not applicable		
	5. Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update	C Holliman	Not applicable		
28/11/23	1. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable	16/11/23	20/11/23

	2. Transport Strategy	F Cox	Not applicable		
	3. Young Carers' Service Tender	H Andrews	Not applicable		
	4. Children's Residential Strategy Options Paper	C Howard	Not applicable		
	5. Quarterly Performance Report (Q1/2)	H Parkinson	Not applicable		
	6. Regional Schools Commissioner	J Duff	Not applicable		
	7. Business Planning	M Purbrick	Not applicable		
	8. Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23	M Berry	Not applicable		
	6. Regular Review of Methodology for Estimating Demand For Education Provision Arising From New Housing Developments	F Cox/ Alan Fitz	Not applicable		
16/01/24	1. Schools and Early Years Revenue Funding Arrangements 2024/25	J Lewis	KD2024/003	04/01/24	08/01/24
	2. Determined Admissions Arrangements for the 2024/2025 academic year	F Cox	Not applicable		
	3. School Uniform Costs	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	4. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	5. Fire Sprinkler Systems in Schools: Annual Report	I Trafford	Not applicable		
	6. Risk Register	D Revens	Not applicable		
12/03/24	1. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable	29/02/24	04/03/24
	2. Quarterly Performance Report (Q3)	H Parkinson	Not applicable		

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

The training plan provides details of training sessions which have taken place during the current Council and topics for potential future training sessions and visits.

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
1.	Children & Young People Committee induction	To brief Members of the role and responsibilities of the Children and Young People Committee	High	15.06.21 12.00-2.00pm	Executive Director: People and Communities	Teams	All CYP Members	Cllrs Ambrose Smith Atkins Bywater Bradnam Bird Bulat Coutts Daunton Goodliffe Gowing Hay Hoy Prentice Kindersley M King J King Sharp Slatter Thompson Taylor van de Ven	63%

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
	Member Induction Programme: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	To brief new and returning Members and Substitute Members on the responsibilities of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	High	12.07.21	Nicola Curley/ Myra O'Farrell	Teams	Members and Substitute Members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	Cllrs Ambrose Smith Bird Bradnam Bulat Goodliffe M King Slatter van de Ven	60%
2.	Safeguarding	To brief Members on safeguarding issues and responsibilities	High	08.10.21	Director of Children's Services	Teams	All Members	Cllrs Bulat Goodliffe Taylor Thompson Bird Bradnam Coutts Cox Condron Gowing Nethsingha van de Ven Meschini	40%
3.	Corporate Parenting and the Fostering Service		High	22.10.21 10.00am - 12.30pm	Assistant Director: Regional Adoption and Fostering	Virtual	All Members	Cllrs Atkins Bulat Goodliffe Hay Slatter Taylor	60%

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
								Kindersley Nethsingha van de Ven	
4.	Ofsted – Inspection Framework – Key areas of focus in assessing quality	<p>Cambridgeshire children's services will have a focussed visit from Ofsted at some time in 2022, and a graded inspection in 2023. The aim:</p> <p>Introduce to the framework for inspection used by Ofsted</p> <p>How we ensure that we are prepared for inspections.</p>	Director of Children's Services	02.12.21 12pm – 1pm	Director of Children's Services	Virtual	CYP Members and Corporate Parenting sub committee		
5.	Education - FINANCE	Members gain a clear understanding of education funding and council decision making.		10 th Jan 2022 12.30 – 2pm	Service Director: Education & Strategic Finance Business Partner	Teams	All CYP Members	Atkins, Bulat, Goodliffe, Daunton, Coutts, Meschini, Bywater, Slatter,	34%

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
								Taylor, M King, Bradnam	
6.	Education - SEND	<p>Outline of session: What is SEND?</p> <p>SEND Support in schools and settings</p> <p>Exclusions</p> <p>Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)</p> <p>High Needs Block and EHCP Demand in Cambridgeshire</p> <p>Cambridgeshire's SEND Transformation Programme</p>		17 th January 2022 12.30 – 2 pm	Assistant Director: SEND & Inclusion	Teams	All CYP Members		
7.	Performance Management Framework	An introduction to the Performance Management Framework and review of the Children	Medium	24.02.22	Service Director: Education		All CYP Members invited		

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
		and Young People's Committee's key performance indicators.							
8.	Place Planning 0-19; Admissions, Attendance, Elective Home Education (EHE), Children in Entertainment, Children in Employment	<p>To brief Members about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council's statutory responsibilities with regard to commissioning educational provision and DfE guidance which informs decisions on design and build projects the roles and responsibilities of internal and external partner organisations, including the DfE, Multi-Academy 	Medium	1 March 2022	Head of Place Planning 0-19	Teams	All Members		

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
		Trusts and the Diocesan Boards for Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the business planning processes involved in commissioning educational provision 							
	Education - Attainment	Members gain a clear understanding of the assessment system used in schools.		23 rd March 2022 12 – 1.30 pm	Service Director: Education	Teams	All CYP Members	Cllrs Atkins, Daunton, Bulat, Coutts, Hay, Kindersley, M King, Taylor	50%
9.	Supporting the mental and emotional health needs of children in care/on the edge of care	To introduce CYP Members and the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee to the clinical framework and how it supports our foster carers and		7 th April 2022 1.30 – 2.30	Assistant Director Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	Virtual	CYP Members and Corporate Parenting Sub Committee	Cllrs Atkins, Bradnam, Goodliffe, M King, Hay, Hoy and Slatter	60%

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
		contributes to the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.							
10.	Journeys for children in care including types of placements, placement matching and seeking permanent placements	To gain an understanding of the various placement types offered to our children and young people in care that supports them achieving permanence.		4 th May 2022 12.30 – 2.00	Assistant Director for Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist your Peoples Service	Virtual	All Members		
11	The Role of the Foster Carer	To introduce CYP Members and the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee to the role of the Foster Carer, and the part they play in impacting positively on the lives of children in care		21 October 2022 – confirmed & booked 12pm-1pm	Ricky Cooper Fiona Van Den Hout	Virtual	All Members	Cllrs: G Wilson, C Daunton, A Whelan, H Cox Condron, S King, A Bradnam, A Bulat, S Taylor, B Goodliffe	40%

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
12	Family Hubs	To expand on report to CYP committee in May 2022 and explain plans for roll out		25 th November 2022 1pm-2pm	Jenny Goodes Lisa Riddle	Virtual	All CYP members Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee		
13	Contextual Safeguarding	To brief member on contextual safeguarding approach		Postponed Date to be re-issued.	Ricky Cooper Anna Jack	Virtual	All members		
14	Children and Maternity Collaborative and Integrated Care System	Awareness raising of new health provision		Postponed Date to be re-issued.	Director of Children's Services/Raj Lakshman	Virtual	All CYP members Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee		
15	Meeting with - (Young People's Council)			TBC 2022/23	Service Director: Children's	Virtual	All CYP Members invited		
16	Commissioning Services – what services are commissioned and how our			TBC 2022/23	Service Director: Children's / Head of		All CYP Members invited		

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
	services are commissioned across Children Services				Children's Commissioning				
17	Visit Family Safeguarding Team			TBC 2022/23	Head of Safeguarding		All CYP Members invited		
18	The role and scope of Children's Commissioning within Cambridgeshire	How Cambridgeshire's needs are Analysed to inform recommendations made to internal governance boards, and ultimately Committees. How we work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to Plan and develop services responding to gaps in need and themes in demand. What we Do to deliver this need, via		22 June 23 12-2	Head of Services Children and Commissioning		All Members		

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
		open and transparent procurement activity How we Review both internal and externally commissioned services to evidence value for money, positive outcomes and to continually shape service delivery.							
18.	Estimating Demand for Education Provision Arising from New Housing Developments			28.09.23	Alan Fitz	Teams	CYP members and substitutes	Cllrs Ambrose Smith, Atkins, Bulat, Count, Coutts, Daunton, Goldsack, Goodliffe, Hay, Read, Slatter, Stone, Thompson,	59%

	Subject	Desired Learning Outcome/ Success Measures	Priority	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Attendance By	% of elected members of the Committee attending
19.	Education Transport			TBC					

For more information contact [Emma Nederpel](#)

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr M Atkins (LD) 2. Cllr A Bulat (Lab) 3. Cllr C Daunton (LD) 	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Matthew Gunn Head of Service, Cambridgeshire Music</p> <p>01480 373830 matthew.gunn@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 Committee.</p>	6	n/a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr M Atkins (LD) – Vice Chair* 2. Cllr A Bradnam (LD) – Chair* 3. Cllr A Bulat (Lab) 4. Cllr A Hay (Con) 5. Cllr M MacGuire (Con) <p>*The Chair and Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee are selected and appointed by the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee from within the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee's membership. .</p>	<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
<p>Educational Achievement Board</p> <p>For Members and senior officers to hold the Children, Education and Families directorate to account to ensure the best educational outcomes for all children in Cambridgeshire.</p>	3	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr M Atkins 2. Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab) 3. Cllr S Taylor (Ind) 4. Cllr S Hoy (Con) 	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers)</p> <p>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.</p>	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>	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p> <p>To advise on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education.</p> <p>In addition to the three formal meetings per year there is some project work which requires members to form smaller sub-committees.</p> <p>The SACRE Constitution calls for the appointment of four elected members based on political proportionality.</p>	3 per year (usually one per term) 1.30-3.30pm	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor A Bulat (Lab) 2. Councillor S King (Con) 3. Councillor P Slatter (LD) 4. 1 vacancy (Con)* 	<p>Amanda Fitton SACRE Adviser</p> <p>Amanda.Fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
SACRE meetings require the presence of an elected Member in order to be quorate.				
<p>Virtual School Management Board</p> <p>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.</p>	Termly	1	1. Councillor B Goodliffe (Lab)	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Edwina Erskine Business Support Officer – Administration Services Team Cambridgeshire’s Virtual School for Looked After Children (ESLAC Team)</p> <p>01223 699883 edwina.erskine@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People's Committee

Appointments to outside bodies, partnership liaison and advisory groups

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
<p>Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Foundation Trust Quarterly Liaison Group</p> <p>The Adults and Health Committee invited CYP to nominate up to three representatives to attend quarterly liaison meetings with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust. Any appointments will be made by the Adults and Health Committee.</p>	4	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Goodliffe (Lab) 2. Cllr Bulat (Lab) 	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Richenda Greenhill Democratic Services Officer 01223 699171 Richenda.Greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire Music Hub</p> <p>A partnership of school music providers, led by the County Council, to deliver the government's National Plan for School Music.</p>	3	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor M Atkins (LD) 2. Councillor F Thompson (LD) 	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Matthew Gunn Head of Cambridgeshire Music 01480 373500/ 01480 373830 Matthew.Gunn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs</p> <p>To provide training and social facilities for young members of the community.</p>	6	1 + substitute	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Bulat (Lab) <p>Substitute: Cllr N Shailer (Lab)</p>	Unincorporated Association Member	<p>Jess Shakeshaft cambsyoungefarmers@outlook.com</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
<p>Cambridgeshire Schools Forum</p> <p>The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum exists to facilitate the involvement of schools and settings in the distribution of relevant funding within the local authority area</p>	6	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (Lab) 2. Cllr Claire Daunton (LD) 3. Councillor S Taylor (Ind) 	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Tamar Oviatt-Ham Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>01223 699715668</p> <p>Tamar.Oviatt-Ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>East of England Local Government Association Children's Services and Education Portfolio-Holder Network</p> <p>The network brings together the lead members for children's service and 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. 	4	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab) 2. Vacancy 	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Cinar Altun</p> <p>Cinar.altun@eelga.gov.uk</p>
<p>F40 Group</p> <p>F40 (http://www.f40.org.uk) represents a group of the poorest funded education authorities in England where government-set cash</p>	As required	1 +substitute	<p>Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Lab)</p> <p>Substitute: Vacancy</p>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994</p> <p>Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
allocations for primary and secondary pupils are the lowest in the country.					
<p>Safeguarding Children Partnership Board</p> <p>Safeguarding Partnership Boards have been established by 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.</p>	4	1	<p>Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Lab)</p> <p>It is a requirement that the Lead Member for Children's Services sits on the Board.</p>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Joanne Procter Head of Service Children and Adults Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Joanne.Procter@peterborough.gov.uk 01733 863765</p>
<p>March Educational Foundation</p> <p>Provides assistance with the education of people under the age of 25 who are resident in March.</p>	3 – 4	1 For a period of five years	Councillor John Gowing (Con)	Trustee of a Charity	
<p>Needham's Foundation, Ely</p> <p>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 attending or have at any time</p>	2	2	<p>1 Cllr Whelan (LD) 2 Cllr Coutts (LD)</p>	Trustee of a Charity	

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
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	1. Councillor P McDonald (LD)	Trustee of a Charity	
Trigg's Charity (Melbourn) Trigg's Charity provides financial assistance to local schools / persons for their educational benefit.	2	1	Councillor S van de Ven (LD)	Unincorporated Association Member	

For noting only:

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, but all county councillors are encouraged to consider whether this is something for which they might wish to be considered. More information is available from Michaela.Berry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Appointees are required to complete the Panel's own application process.	2 all-day panel meetings a month	1	Appointees: 1. Councillor S King (Con) 2. Councillor A Hay (Con)	Brian Relph Interim Service Director for Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People's Services. Brian.Relph@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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School Governance Team

LA Governor Nominations/Appointments

April 2023

- No Nominations

May 2023

- Histon Early Years Centre – Jacqueline Wade

June 2023

- Little Paxton Primary – Caroline Entwistle
- Colville Primary – Dele Makinde
- Pendragon Primary – Thomas Pinnock
- Steeple Morden Primary – Victoria Hutter
- Hemingford Grey – Julia Elliott

July 2023

- Milton Road Primary – Bayan Parvisi

