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Performance Report

Quarter 3

2023/24 financial year

Children and Young People Committee

Governance & Performance
Cambridgeshire County Council
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Key



Data Item	Explanation
Target / Pro Rata Target	The target that has been set for the indicator, relevant for the reporting period
Current Month / Current Period	The latest performance figure relevant to the reporting period
Previous Month / previous period	The previously reported performance figure
Direction for Improvement	Indicates whether 'good' performance is a higher or a lower figure
Change in Performance	Indicates whether performance is 'improving' or 'declining' by comparing the latest performance figure with that of the previous reporting period
Statistical Neighbours Mean	Provided as a point of comparison, based on the most recently available data from identified statistical neighbours.
England Mean	Provided as a point of comparison, based on the most recent nationally available data
RAG Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red – current performance is off target by more than 10% • Amber – current performance is off target by 10% or less • Green – current performance is on target by up to 5% over target • Blue – current performance exceeds target by more than 5% • Baseline – indicates performance is currently being tracked in order to inform the target setting process • Contextual – these measures track key activity being undertaken, to present a rounded view of information relevant to the service area, without a performance target. • In Development - measure has been agreed, but data collection and target setting are in development
Indicator Description	Provides an overview of how a measure is calculated. Where possible, this is based on a nationally agreed definition to assist benchmarking with statistically comparable authorities
Commentary	Provides a narrative to explain the changes in performance within the reporting period
Actions	Actions undertaken to address under-performance. Populated for 'red' indicators only
Useful Links	Provides links to relevant documentation, such as nationally available data and definitions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
20.0%	↓	36.0%	32.3%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
21.3%	21.5%	Red		

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the level of re-referrals into children's social care. A re-referral could mean that the child's needs were not previously fully met, or a significant incident has occurred to change their circumstances.

This measure is expressed as a percentage of children, with a referral to social care, within the reporting month, who have had a previous referral to social care which opened within the last year.

A referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by children's social care. It is in respect of a child who is currently not assessed to be in need. New information relating to children who are already assessed to be a child in need is not counted as a referral.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

X = The number of children with a referral who also have a previous referral starting within the last 12 months.

Y = The number of children with a referral this month.

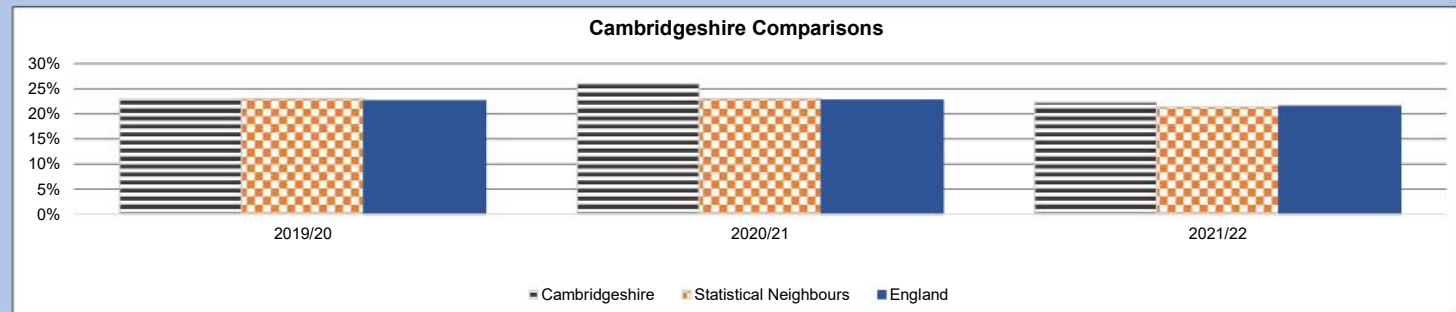
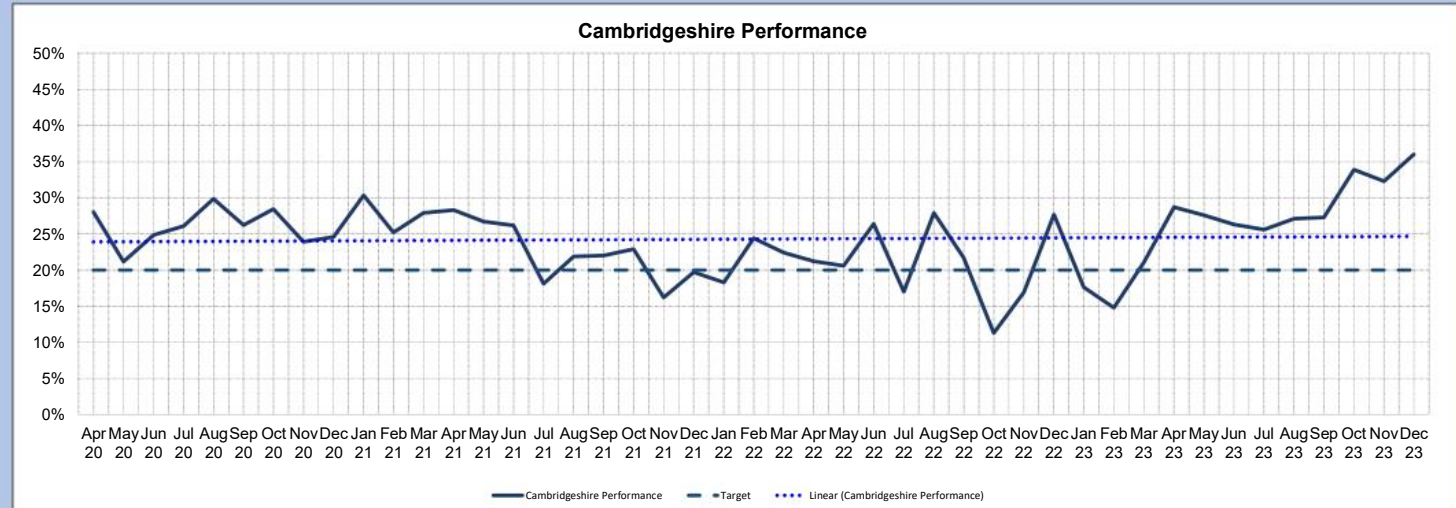
Sources: Department for Education; Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT); Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

[Department of Education - Children in Need Statistics](#)



Commentary

The re-referral rate over the last 12 months is slightly higher than statistical neighbours. There has been significant leadership change within the MASH and Assessment Service over the last 12 months meaning the application of threshold has not always been consistent. Analysis of this data needs further scrutiny.

Actions

Work with the Policy and Insight Team is underway to confirm how data is collated i.e. contacts to referrals. An improvement plan is in place with MASH to ensure timely referrals to Assessment Teams. Application of threshold is being reviewed to ensure consistency.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
21.1	↓	23.9	22.5	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
38.1		42.1		Red

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the number of children at risk of significant harm within the county. A Child Protection Plan is put in place where a child is at risk of significant harm. This plan sets out the action needed to keep the child safe and to promote their welfare. This measure is expressed as the rate of children with a Child Protection Plan, at month end, for every 10,000 population (0-17).

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 10,000$$

Where:

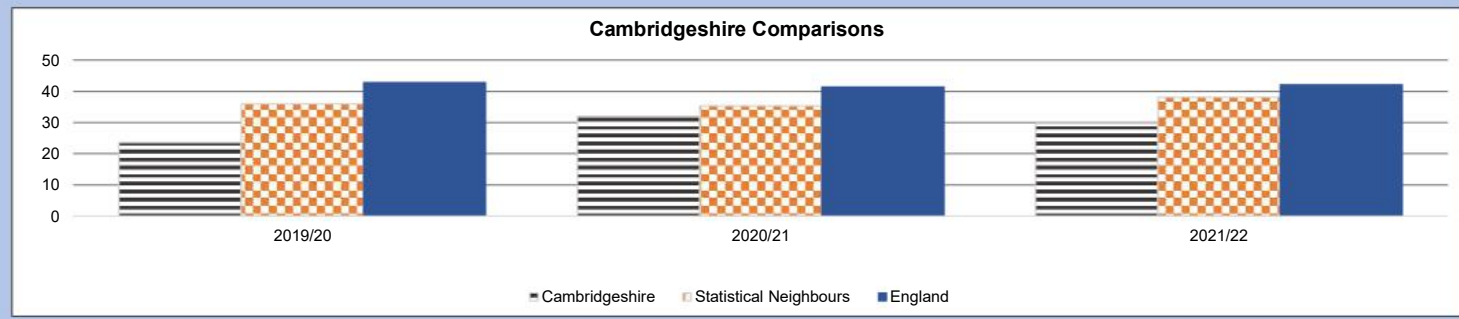
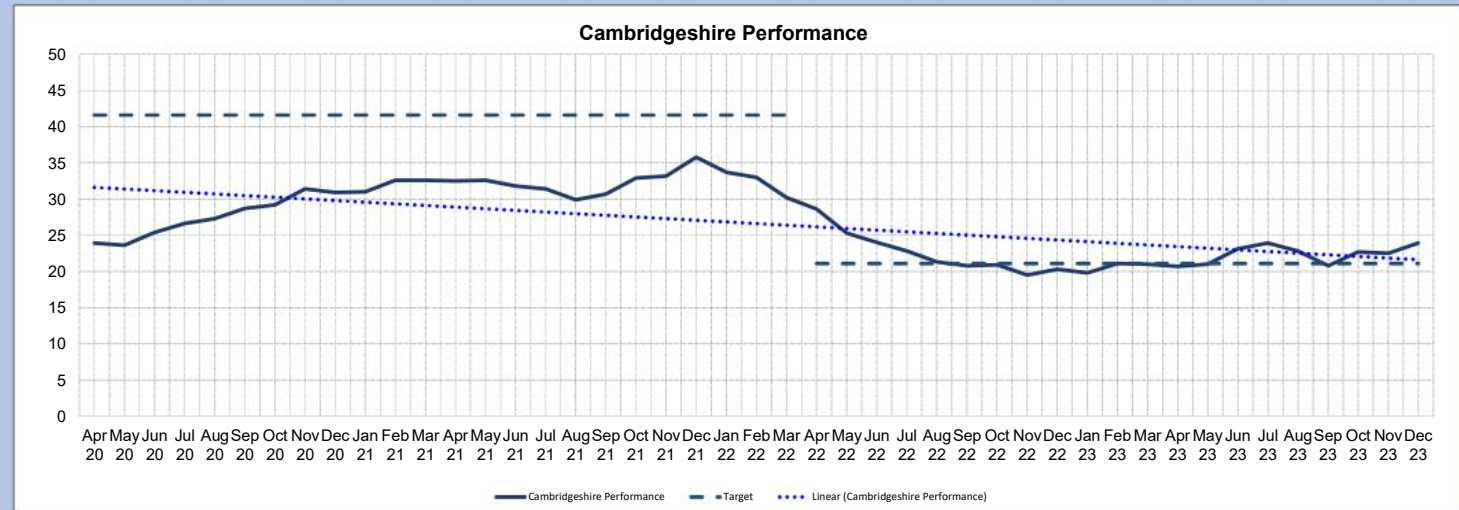
X: The number of children with a Child Protection Plan at month end.

Y: The population of 0 to 17 year old children.

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

- [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)
- [The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)
- [Department of Education - Children in Need Statistics](#)



Commentary

As at the end of December, Cambridgeshire County Council have a rate of 50 per 10,000 this has increased by 1.9 over the last year. Nationally the rate is 70 per 10,000.

Actions

The service continues to review care planning for children to ensure that alternative permanency options are fully explored at the earliest opportunity.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
40.0	↓	50.0	49.9	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
53.1	67.0	Red		

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the number of children who are in the care of the local authority. This measure is expressed as the number of children in care as a rate for every 10,000 children aged 0 to 17. Children in care include all children being looked after by a local authority:

1. Children subject to a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989.
2. Children looked after on a voluntary basis through an agreement with their parents under section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 10,000$$

Where:

X = The number of children in care at month end.

Y = The population of 0 to 17 year old children.

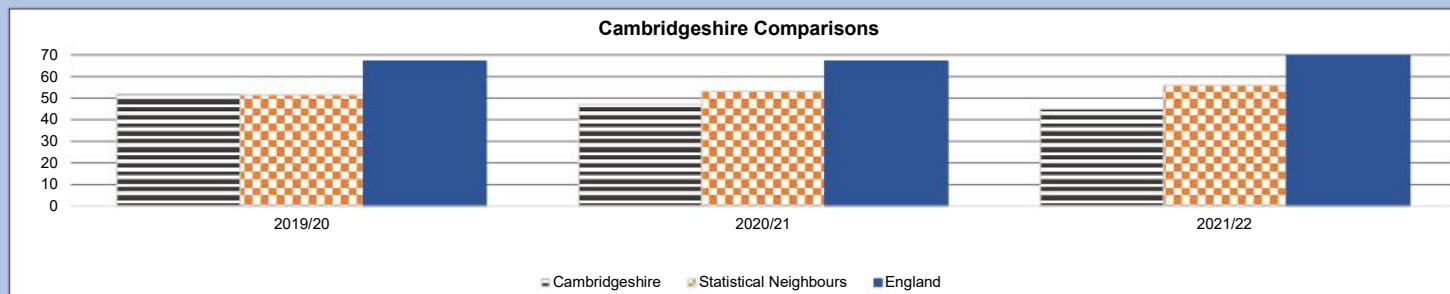
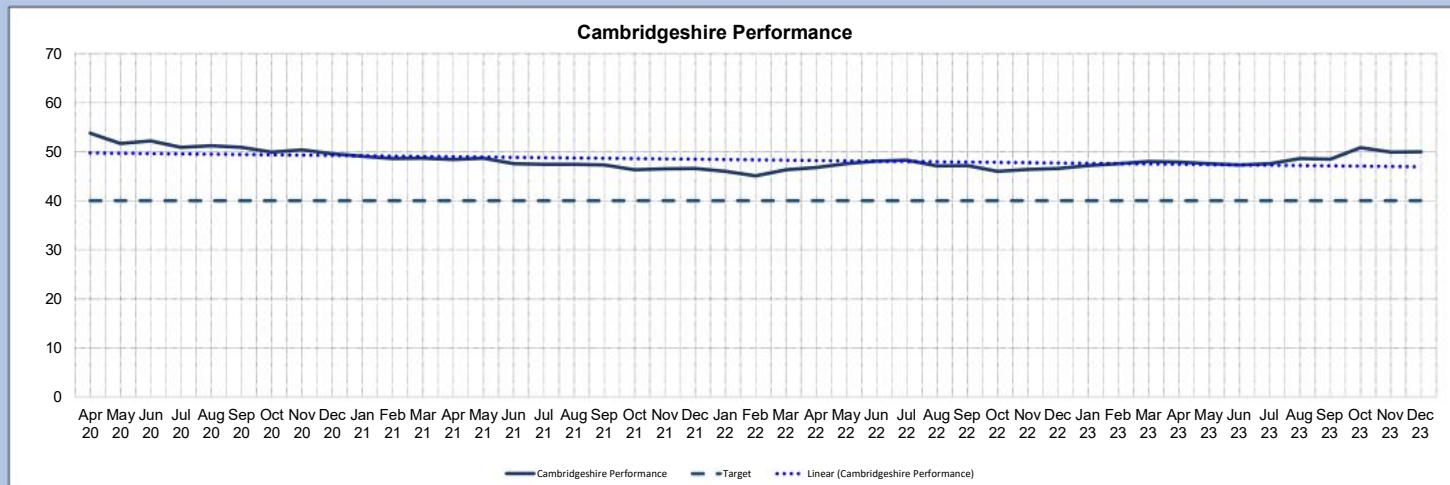
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

[Department of Education - Children in Need Statistics](#)



Commentary

There has been a rise in the numbers of children in care, however Cambridgeshire is still below statistical neighbours and considerably below the England average. There has been an increase in older adolescents with increasingly complex needs such as self harm, risk of exploitation, challenging behaviour, severe trauma, and ASD. These children remain longer within care and so add to the increasing numbers. The service continue to identify children who are at risk and have continued to progress children to adoption and special guardianship orders which has helped to keep the numebr of children lower. This is against the national trend which has seen a dip in the numbers of adoption. There has also been a post-covid increase in the needs of younger children 8-11 years with a significant number requiring more complex care arrangements and so slowing their moving on from the care systems.

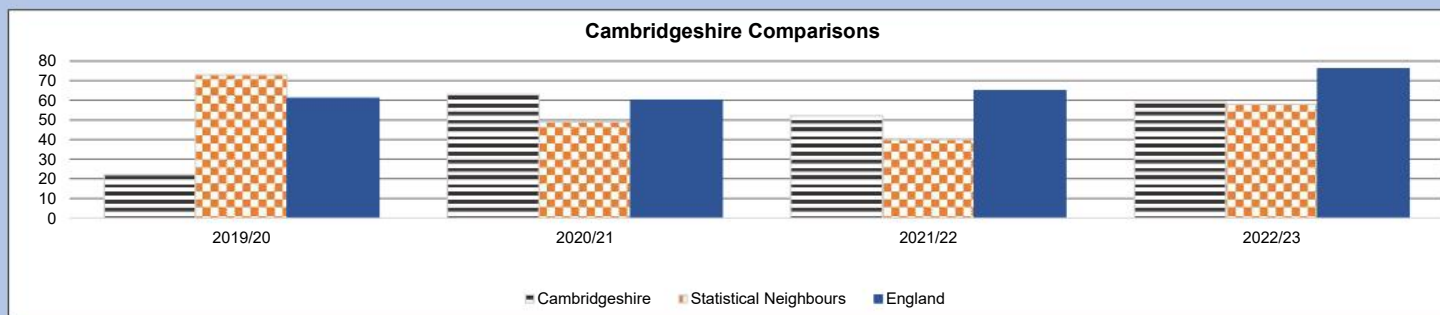
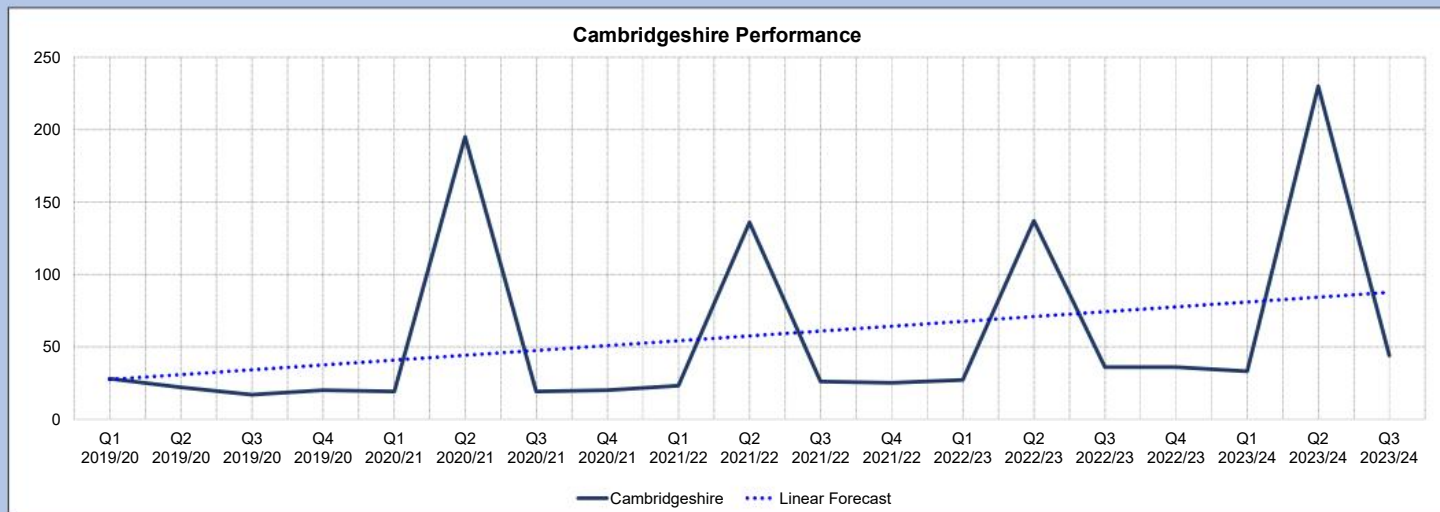
Actions

The service has set up a placements panel to track cases and ensure children do not drift in the care system. The service is refreshing its sufficiency strategy and creating a board to oversee it to deliver a range of placement choice to assist children to have their needs met and move through the system. The service continues to work hard to find adoptive and SGO placements for children. Working with our CAMHS partners and our in house clinical service to look at strengthening pathways to support young people with self-harming behaviour.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
Contextual	↓	44.0	230.0	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean England Mean		RAG Rating		
58.0 76.0		Contextual		

Indicator Description

Number of young people aged 16&17 who have a current Education, Health and Care Plan and are either Not in education, employment or training (NEET) or their situation is not known as a ratio per 10,000 people.



Commentary

The actual number of SEND young people who are NEET or not known situation is 69 young people with a % of 9.2% of all SEND young people aged 16-17. These figures are higher than previous years and have been steadily increasing over last 3 years. Part of the strategy that is being developed is to improve the amount of provision that is available for young people who are unable to attend the mainstream further education provision. The number of alternative education provision for post 16 has been declining in recent years and this has impacted on the NEET figures for SEND young people.

Useful Links

- [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)
- [The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
100.0%	↑	100.0%	100.0%	Unchanged
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
100.0%		97.7%		Green

Indicator Description

This indicator shows how many children are attending state funded nursery schools which have been judged, by Ofsted inspection, to be Good or Outstanding.

This measure is expressed as the percentage of children in all state funded nursery schools, at month end.

Calculation:

$(X/Y)*100$

Where:

X = The number of children attending state funded nursery schools judged as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection.

Y = All children attending state funded nursery schools where the school has had an Ofsted inspection.

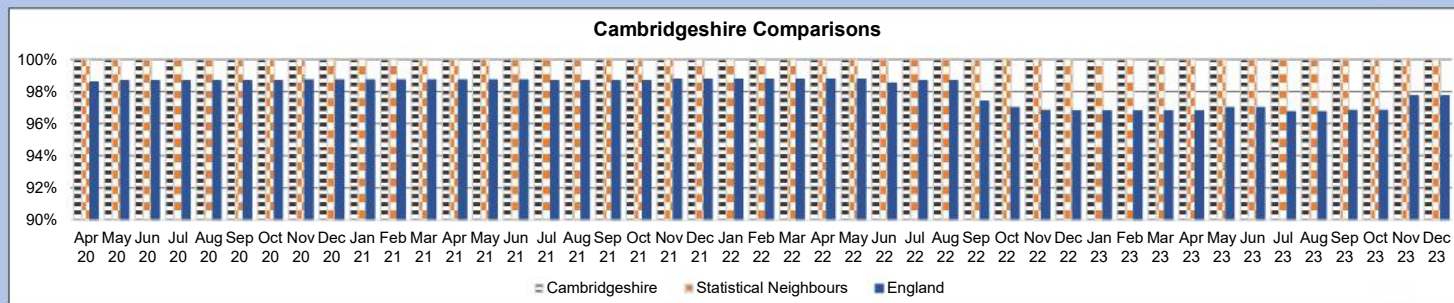
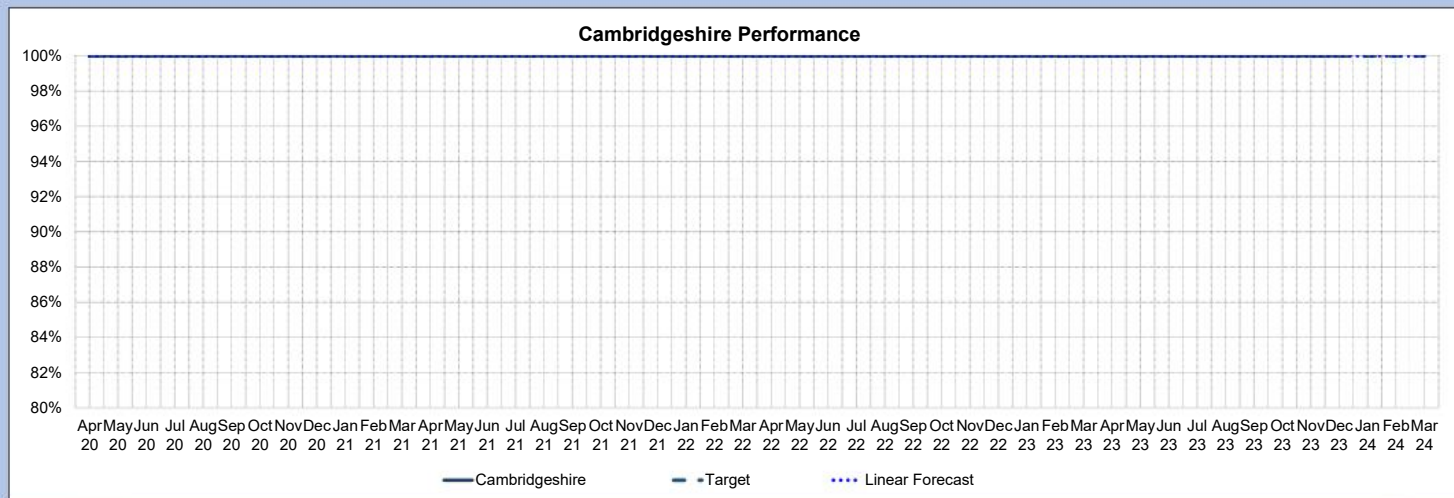
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Ofsted Management Information webpage for state funded school inspections and outcomes](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The service continue to provide support to our nursery school leaders who are working hard to maintain standards despite significant financial pressures. The impact of lower numbers is beginning to impact upon capacity in schools. The service is working with the Nursery Headteachers to look at sustainable models to protect their provision.

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
90.0%	↑	91.2%	90.2%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
91.4%		92.4%		Green

Indicator Description

This indicator shows how many children are attending state funded primary schools which have been judged, by Ofsted inspection, to be Good or Outstanding.

This measure is expressed as the percentage of children in all state funded primary schools, at month end.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

X = The number of children attending state funded primary schools judged as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection.

Y = All children attending state funded primary schools where the school has had an Ofsted inspection.

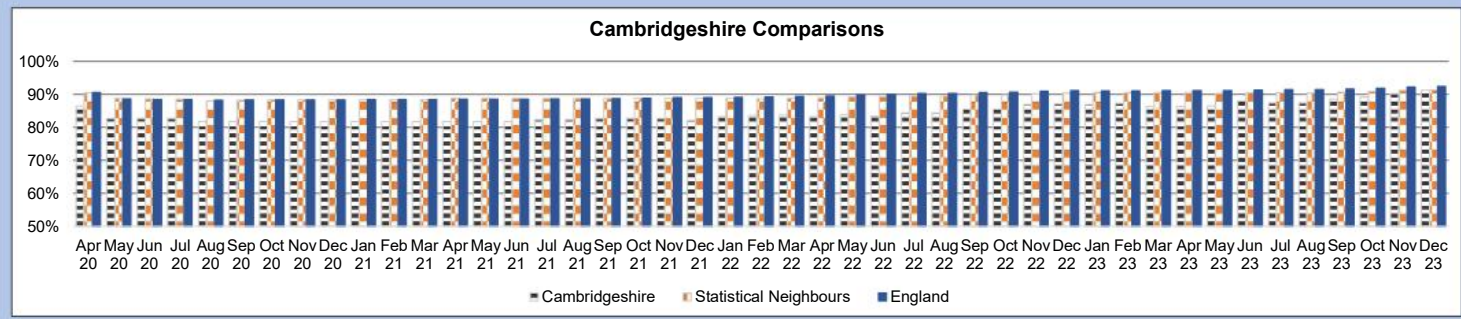
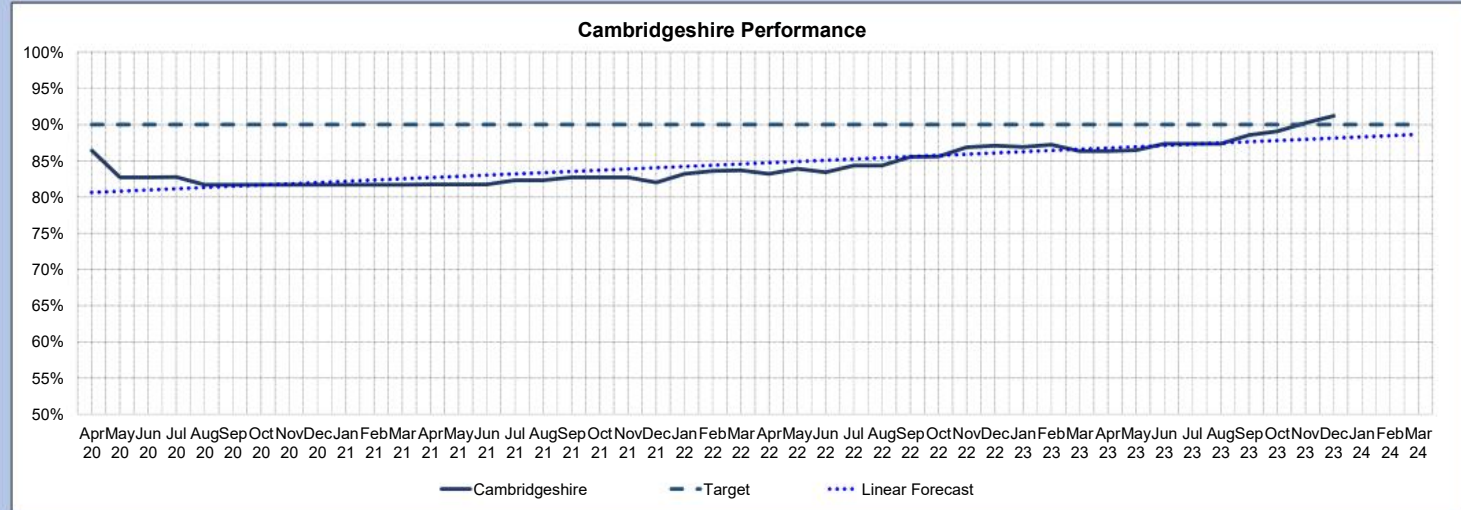
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Ofsted Management Information webpage for state funded school inspections and outcomes](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The ongoing improvement in the percentage of schools good or better is hugely encouraging. There are a large number of schools awaiting inspections especially in the academy sector where they are now over 3 years since they joined a trust. The service continue to work closely with maintained schools to ensure schools are ready for inspection including review safeguarding and the schools self evaluation. Where there is not the assurance that a school will achieve good, the service is intervening to ensure rapid improvement in performance. This can include issuing warning notices, providing additional support or looking at other structural changes to provide capacity. The service has secure judgement on all of our schools and the last year the service was accurate in all of assessments for schools. The service continue to work closely with academies to ensure improvement.

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
90.0%	↑	79.8%	79.8%	Unchanged
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
91.2%		85.2%		Red

Indicator Description

This indicator shows how many children are attending state funded secondary schools which have been judged, by Ofsted inspection, to be Good or Outstanding.

This measure is expressed as the percentage of children in all state funded secondary schools, at month end.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

X = The number of children attending state funded secondary schools judged as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection.

Y = All children attending state funded secondary schools where the school has had an Ofsted inspection.

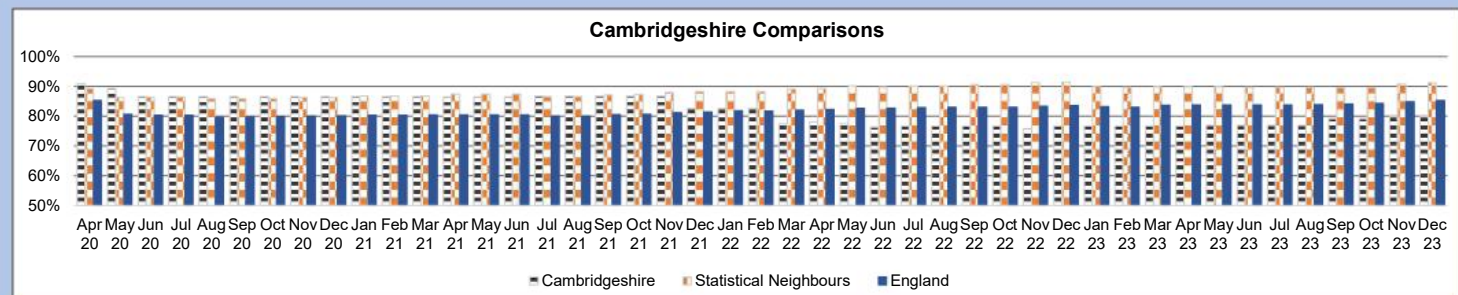
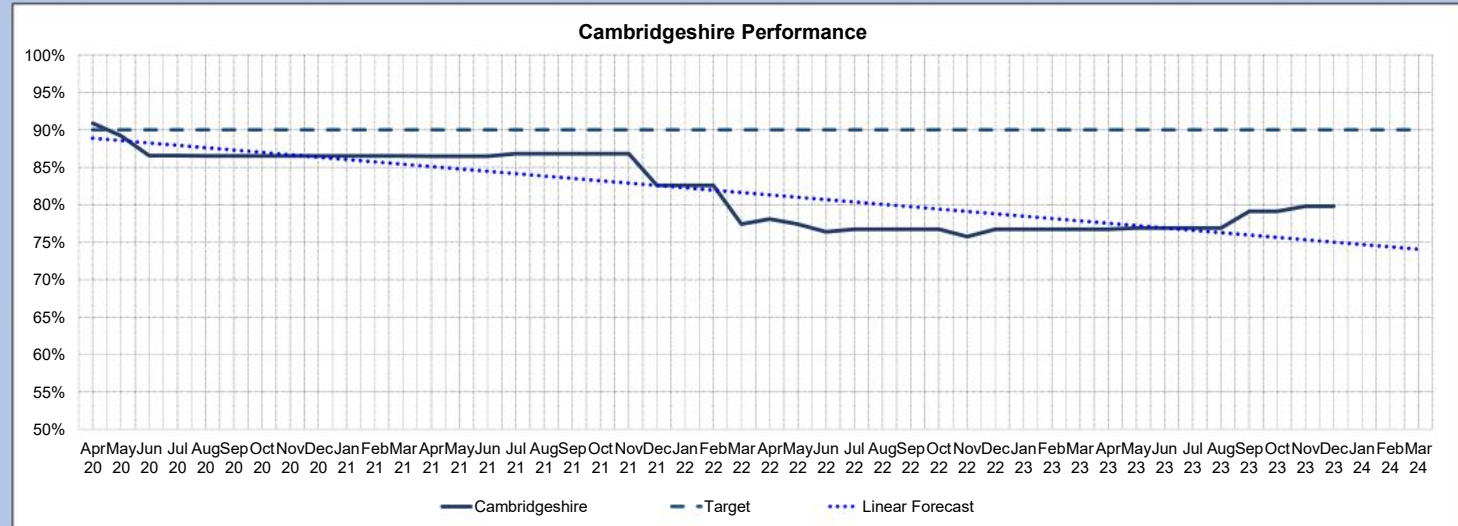
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Ofsted Management Information webpage for state funded school inspections and outcomes](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

All secondary schools in the county are Academies. All but two schools are part of multi-academy trusts with the remaining two set up as single academy trusts (SATs). The overall level of schools which are good or better is of concern. However, the 7 requires improvement schools are all due inspection this academic year. Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads association have identified the need to work more closely together on key elements of school improvement.

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
100.0%	↑	87.8%	87.8%	Unchanged
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
92.1%		93.0%		Red

Indicator Description

This indicator shows how many children are attending state funded special schools which have been judged, by Ofsted inspection, to be Good or Outstanding.

This measure is expressed as the percentage of children in all state funded special schools, at month end.

Calculation:

$(X/Y)*100$

Where:

X = The number of children attending state funded special schools judged as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection.

Y = All children attending state funded special schools where the school has had an Ofsted inspection.

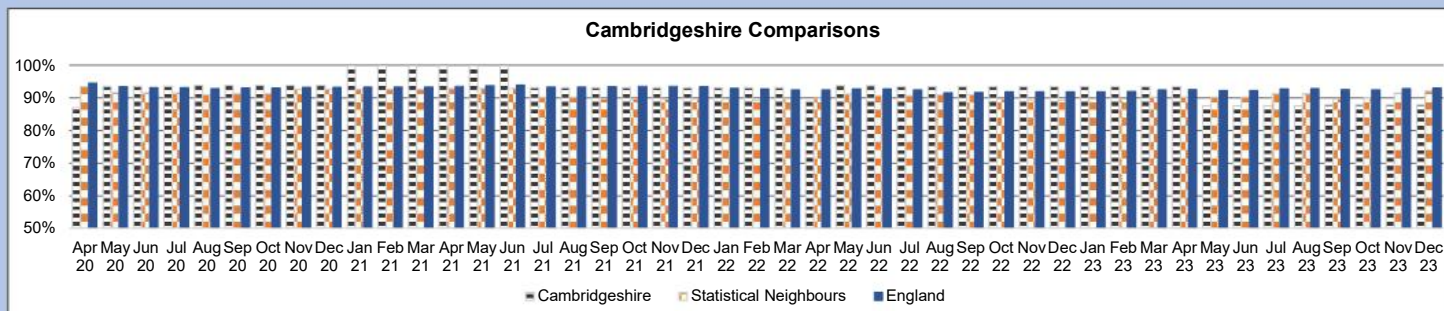
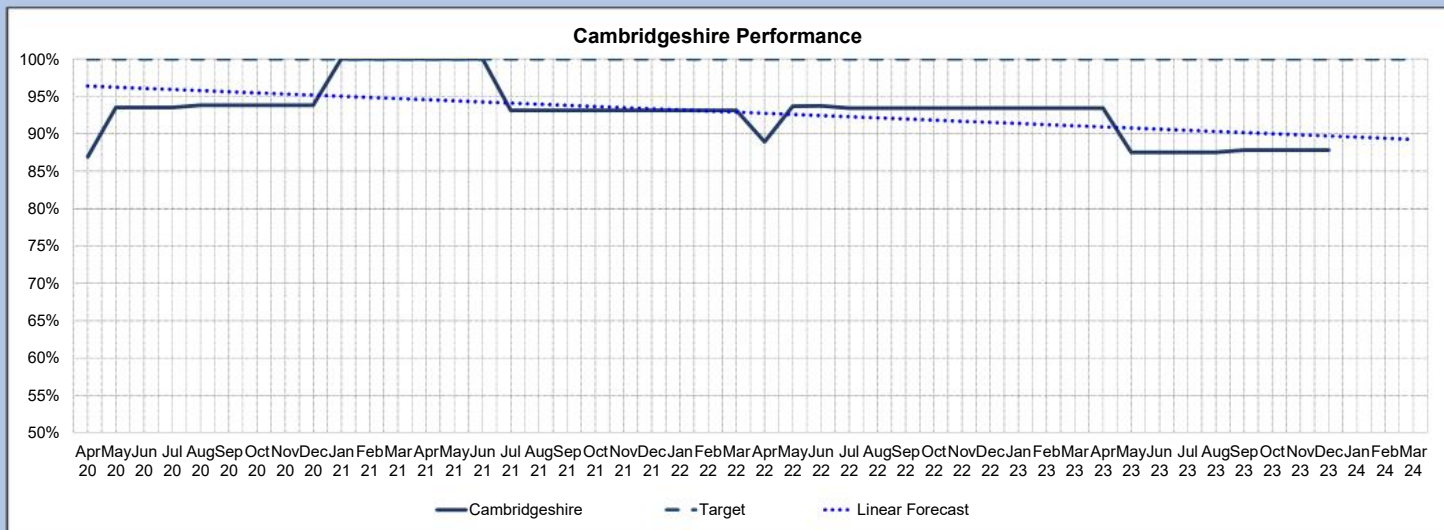
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Ofsted Management Information webpage for state funded school inspections and outcomes](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

There is strong work between special schools in Cambridgeshire. One school, which requires improvement, has recently moved Trust and is making positive progress towards 'good'. There is one school from 2019 that has a legacy judgement of 'inadequate'. An inspection is due imminently and the service is positive this will improve its grade.

Actions

Indicator 11: Percentage of 2 year olds taking up the universal entitlement (15 hours)

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March 2024

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Term	Previous Term	Change in Performance
75.0%	↑	78.3%	71.1%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
79.0%		74.0%		Green

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the proportion of children benefitting from some funded early education.

All 4 year olds have been entitled to a funded early education place since 1998. In 2004 this was extended to all 3 year olds. From September 2013, the entitlement to 15 hours of funded early education every week was extended to 2 year olds. This was to meet the Department for Education's eligibility criteria.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

X = The number of 2 year olds taking up places.

Y = All of the 2 year old population eligible for funded early education.

NB: Where they are receiving funded provision at more than one provider, they have only been counted once. This is a unique count of children.

The estimated number of eligible children is derived from data supplied to the Department for Education by the Department for Work and Pensions in November 2016 on the number of children believed to meet the benefit and tax credit eligibility criteria.

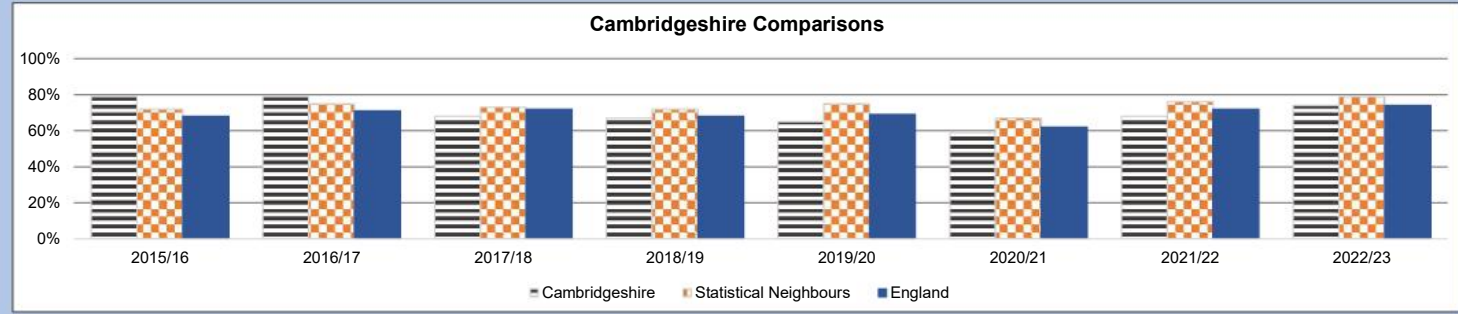
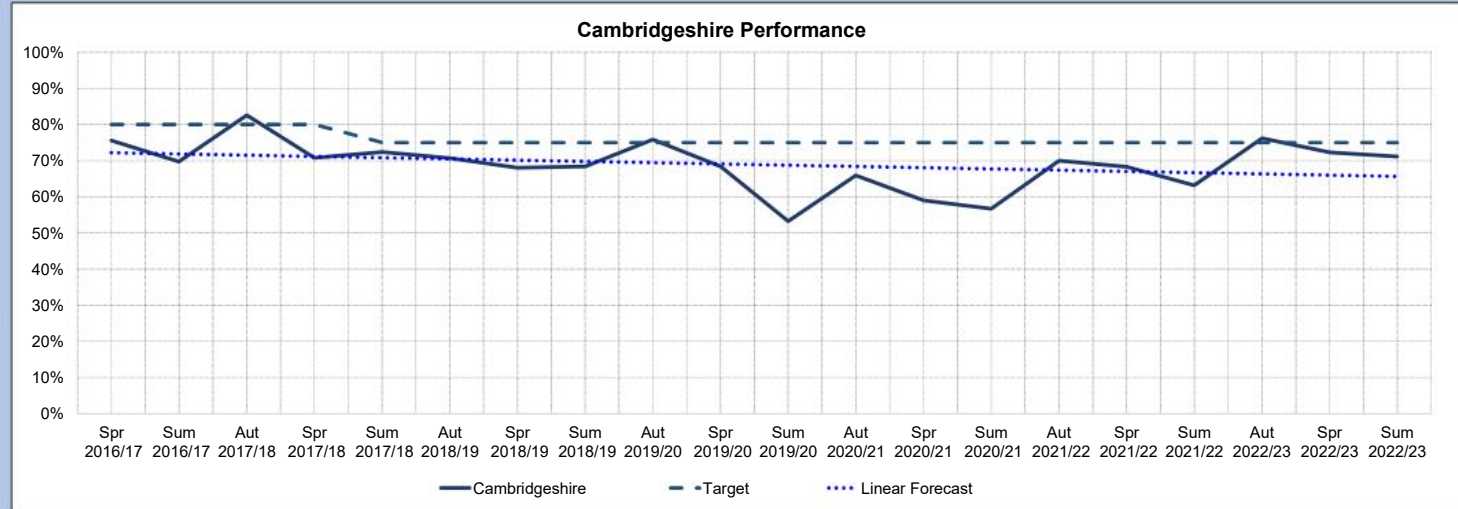
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: Childcare and Early Years](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The data for Autumn 2022/23 has been updated. The data for 2023/24 will not be available until July 2024.

"The proportion of families taking up their two-year funded offer is increasing, however there are barriers to accessing provision. The current percentage of children taking up Funded Two places in Cambridgeshire is 73.5%, which is slightly below the national percentage of 73.9%. In comparison to our statistical neighbours Cambridgeshire is 8th out of 11 statistical neighbours in 2023. Current take-up is approximately 71% for autumn term. Data from the Education Capital & Place Planning Team shows that Cambridgeshire has a good spread of providers allowing funded two year olds to access places in their provision. There are however some gaps in capacity in the far south of the county, and also in the East Cambridgeshire villages. The service has identified a number of barriers including -

- Families unsure how to use their free entitlement code when they receive it or not aware they can use the code with a childminder,
- Settings not offering places to children under a given age e.g. 2 years 6 months or 2 years 9 months, meaning they can't use the code for an additional term,
- Data provided by DWP not matching our data, or having incorrect contact details so we can't let parents know they are eligible."

Actions

Indicator 116: Rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10,000 of population under 18

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March 2024

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
25.0	↓	37.0	44.0	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
41.1	44.8	Red		

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the level of referrals into children's social care.

A referral is made when there are concerns expressed about the safety and wellbeing of a child.

This measure is expressed as the number of referrals to children's social care for every 10,000 population under 18. A referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by children's social care. It is in respect of a child who is currently not assessed to be in need. A referral may result in:

1. An initial assessment of the child's needs
2. The provision of information or advice
3. The referral to another agency
4. No further action

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 10,000$$

Where:

X = The number of referrals to social care within the month.

Y = The population of 0 to 17 year old children.

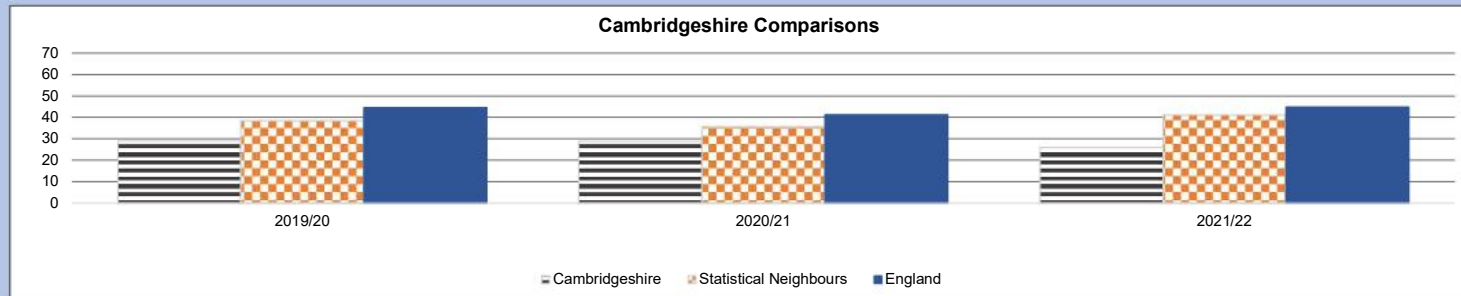
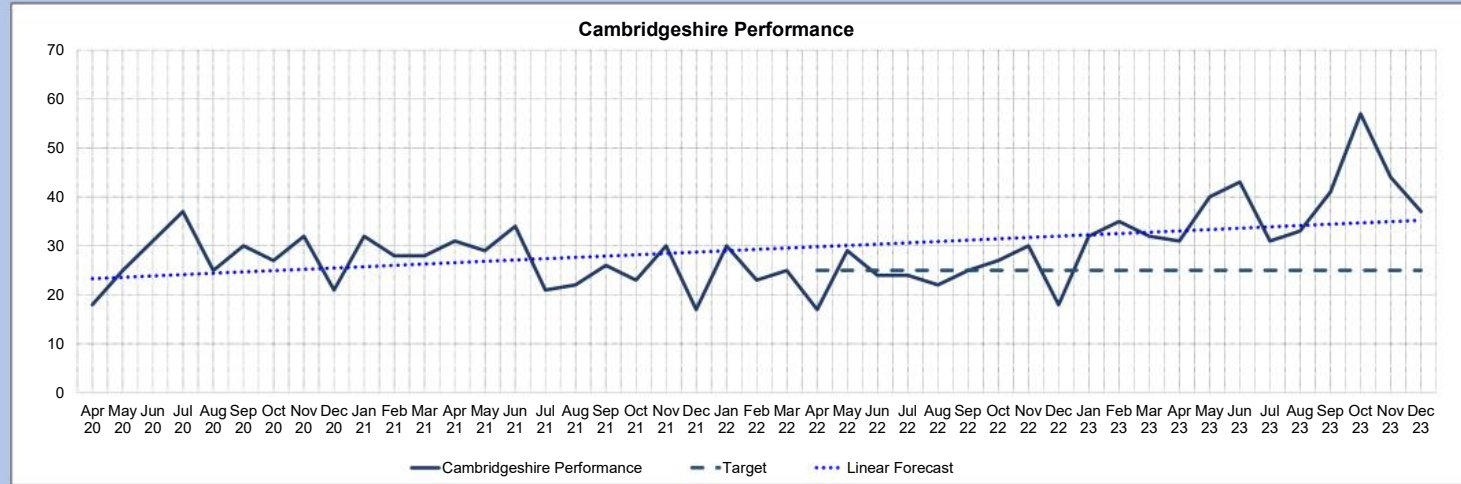
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

[Department of Education - Children in Need Statistics](#)



Commentary

The number of referrals remains higher than the expected target and higher than statistical neighbours. There has been significant leadership change within the last 12 months, this is evidenced within the graph demonstrating an increase in referrals, this is in part due to changes of threshold and referral mechanisms into MASH and ongoing work with partner agencies. There is a high number of referrals from partner agencies where consent has not been obtained by partners.

Actions

A mapping exercise was completed with the Contact Centre, MASH and assessment to streamline the referral process, this remains under constant review. A revised threshold document has been agreed with the Safeguarding Board. Work with partners to reinforce the need to obtain consent is ongoing. A Team Manager and Senior Practitioner from the MASH will be co-located with the Contact Centre to support with decision making where consent is not obtained.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
21.0%	↓	30.6%	30.5%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
24.6%	23.3%	Red		

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the number of children at risk of significant harm for a second or more times. Re-registration of a child indicates that the actions to reduce the risk of harm were not successful or significant event has occurred to change their circumstances.

This measure is expressed as a percentage of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan at any time during the year, who had previously been the subject of a Child Protection Plan, or on the Child Protection Register of that council.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) \times 100$$

Where:

X = The number of children with a Child Protection Plan at month end, who have had a previous child protection plan.

Y = The number of children with a Child Protection Plan, at month end.

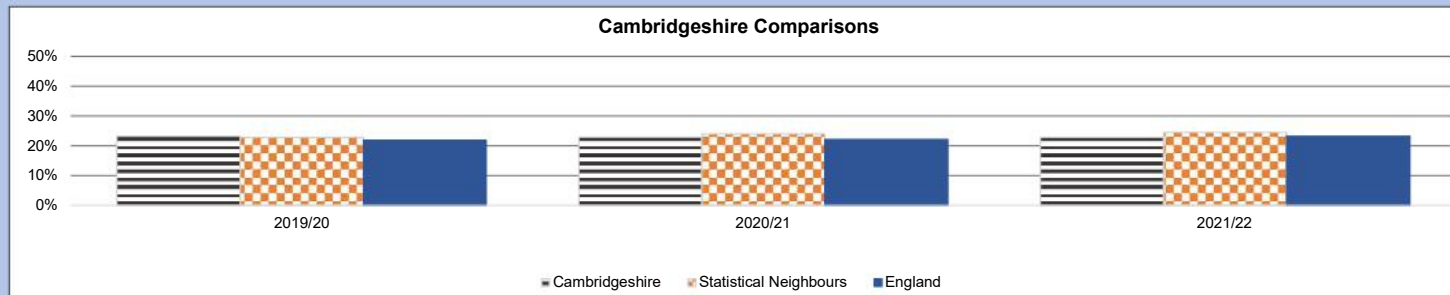
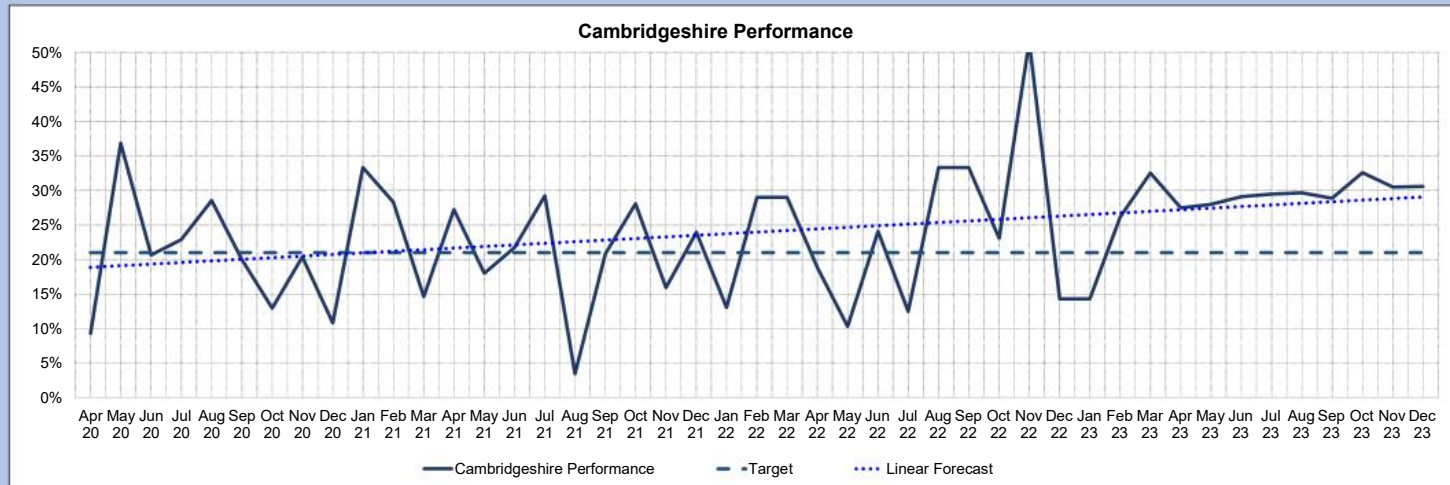
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

[Department of Education - Children in Need Statistics](#)



Commentary

The number of children subject to child protection planning for the second time has improved this month, however remains higher than stated target. The number of children subject to child protection planning for a second time is likely to correlate with the increased number of re-referrals and referrals, this is likely linked to significant change in leadership over the last twelve months and consistent application of threshold.

Actions

Work within the MASH and consistent application of threshold will continue to be reviewed.

Indicator 118: Number of young first time entrants to the criminal justice system, per 10,000 of population

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March 2024

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
3.9	↓	3.5	3.0	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
1.0		1.2		Blue

Indicator Description

This indicator is a Youth Justice Board National measure. It shows the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system where first time entrants are defined as young people (aged 10 to 17) who receive their first substantive outcome. These are outcomes relating to a youth caution, youth conditional caution or court disposal. The measure is expressed by the rate for every 10,000 population.

Calculation:

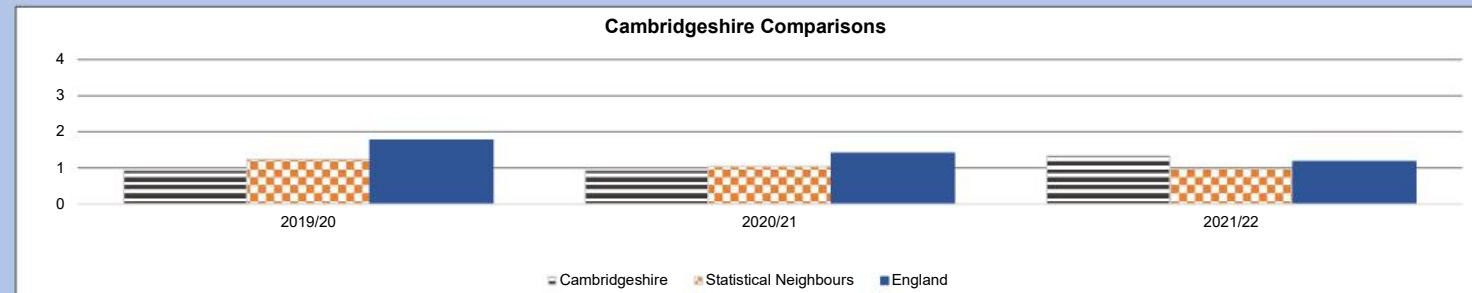
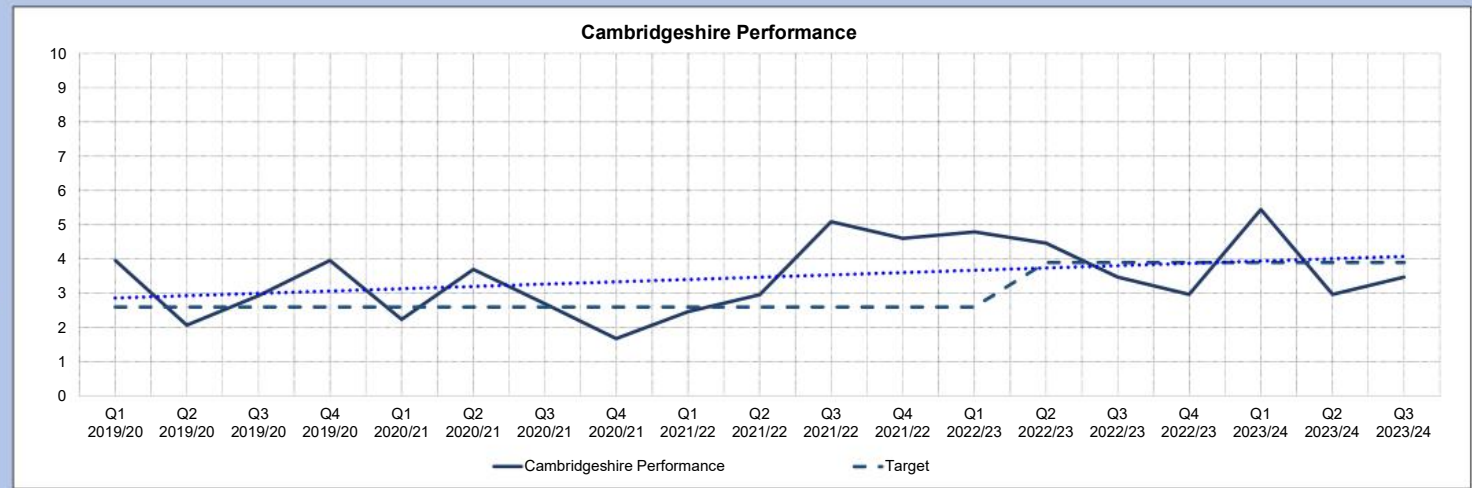
$$(X/Y) * 10,000$$

Where:

X = The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 in the month.

Y = The population of 10 to 17 year old children.

Sources: Ministry of Justice; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.



Commentary

Although there has been a slight increase for this quarter from last quarter Cambridgeshire's figures remain relatively lower than regional and national comparators. This is very likely to be strongly linked to the Diversion Support Team / Turnaround work that specifically focusses on prevention activity. The team started delivering interventions at the start of this financial year and consequently it is very likely that the work with these young people will have had an impact on the FTE figures being seen now.

Useful Links

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

[Department of Education - Children in Need Statistics](#)

Actions

Cambridgeshire Youth Justice are expanding their offer of out of court diversionary disposals to those children who do not admit their offences when interviewed. Usually a child would be summonsed to court in these circumstances but in line with the latest national guidance we will be offering the opportunity for these children to engage with us to avoid being prosecuted (and potentially becoming a FTE). It is hoped that this will impact positively on our FTE numbers with immediate effect.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
70.0%	↑	5.19%	5.21%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG rating
31.7%		49.1%		Red

Indicator Description

Education, Health and Care plans for children and young people aged up to 25 were introduced on 1st September 2014. This was part of the Special Educational Needs and Disability provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014.

This indicator shows the percentage of Education, Health and Care plan assessments completed within 20 weeks. It includes exception cases.

Calculation:

$(X/Y) \times 100$

Where:

X = The number of Education, Health and Care plan assessments issued within the month that took 20 weeks or less to complete. This number includes exception cases.

Y = The number of Education, Health and Care plans assessments issued within the month.

The Cambridgeshire County Council target of 70% was set in June 2018. This was when this indicator was included in corporate performance reporting. Before this, no target was set.

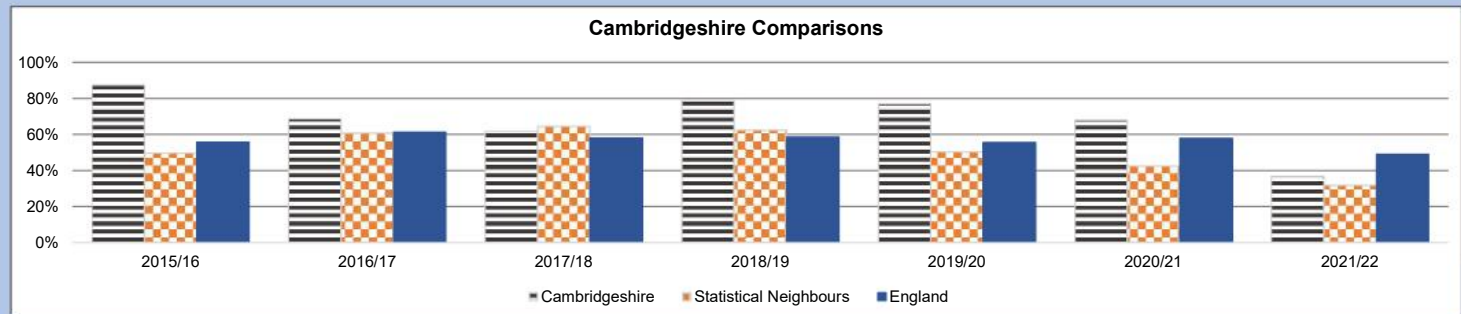
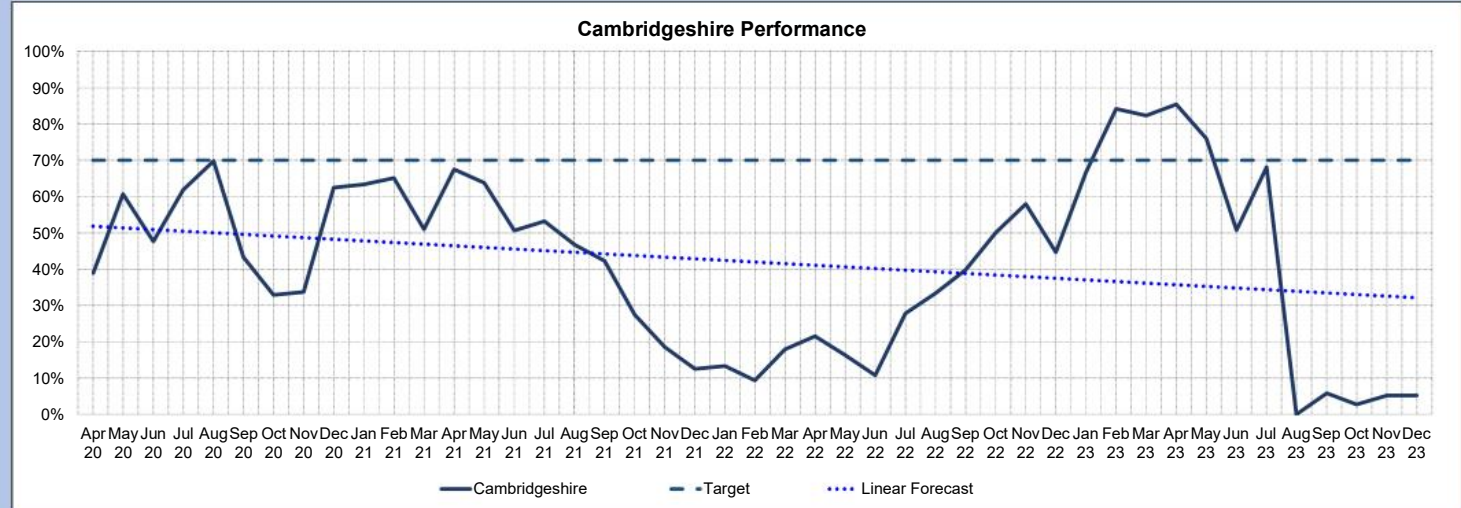
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: Special Educational Needs](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

Please be aware that this data was originally taken from spreadsheets produced by the service, the data has now been updated to match the data in the monthly SEN Dashboard so the numbers will be different from previously published reports. The data for 22-23 will not be available until June 2024.

"The challenge of demand is significant. The service has experienced a 18.5% increase in the number of EHCPs since April 2022 and has seen a doubling of EHCP assessment requests in the space of 12 months. The challenge has been compounded by the lack of SAT and Education Psychologist capacity and awaiting new specialist capacity to be available in the county.

The performance in the year to date remains above the national average and the service are working hard to ensure timeliness improves but not at the cost of quality. Performance on the 20 week KPI have improved significantly in Jan with 50% of plans being completed within the statutory timeframe.

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
Contextual	↓	296.0	294.0	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG rating
520.0		524.0		Contextual

Indicator Description

Number of young people academic age 16 and 17 who are Not in Education, employment or training (NEET) or their situation is not known as a ratio per 10,000 people.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*10,000$$

Where:

X = The number of young people aged 16&17 who are NEET/Unknown.

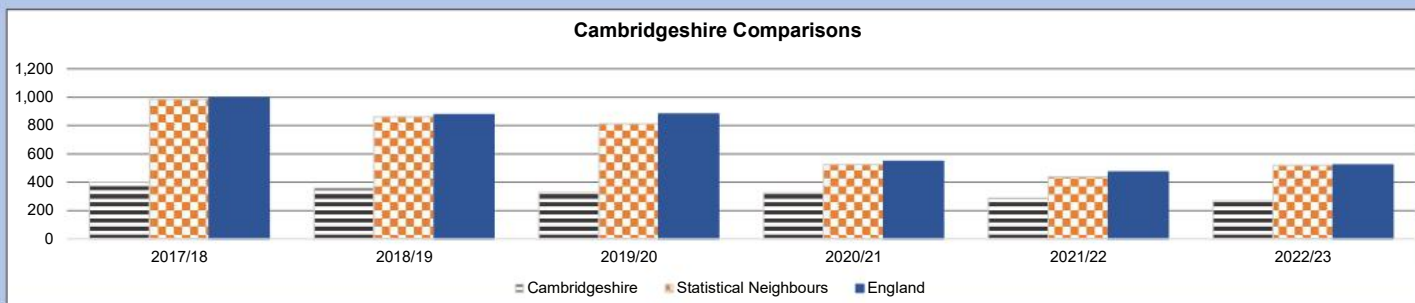
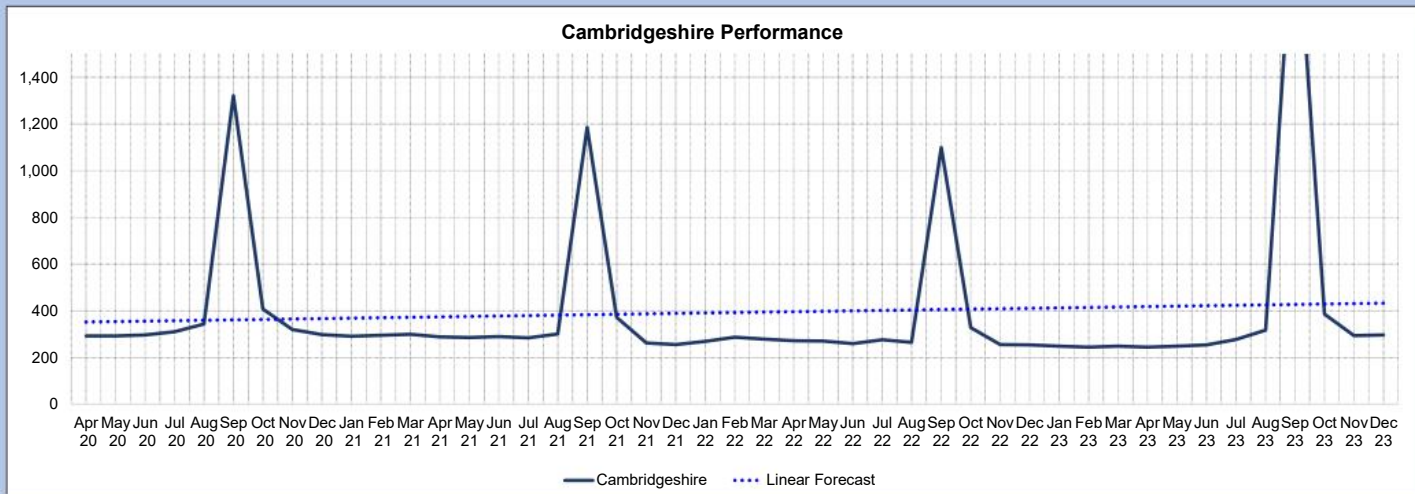
Y = The population of 16&17 year old children.

Sources: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Children's Team

Useful Links

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The number of young people with a situation of NEET or not known in December 2023 was 463 making a % of 3.4%. In comparison with other LA's across the country, Cambridgeshire are in 1st Quintile which is an excellent result.

Cambridgeshire's NEET figures over the last few years have stayed stable, however the figures this year have increased slightly. Other local authorities are also reporting on increases of NEET figures as well. There has been a number of alternative training provisions and funding stopping over the last few years and this has had an impact on the NEET figures. The strategy that is being developed includes a key strategic objective to identify more provision for young people who cannot attend mainstream further education provision.

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
65.0%	↑	57.9%	58.0%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
58.9%	59.8%	Red		

Indicator Description

This indicator measures the attainment of children, in state-funded schools, at the end of Key Stage 2.

This measure is expressed as the percentage of children in all state funded schools at end the end of the academic year.

Calculation:

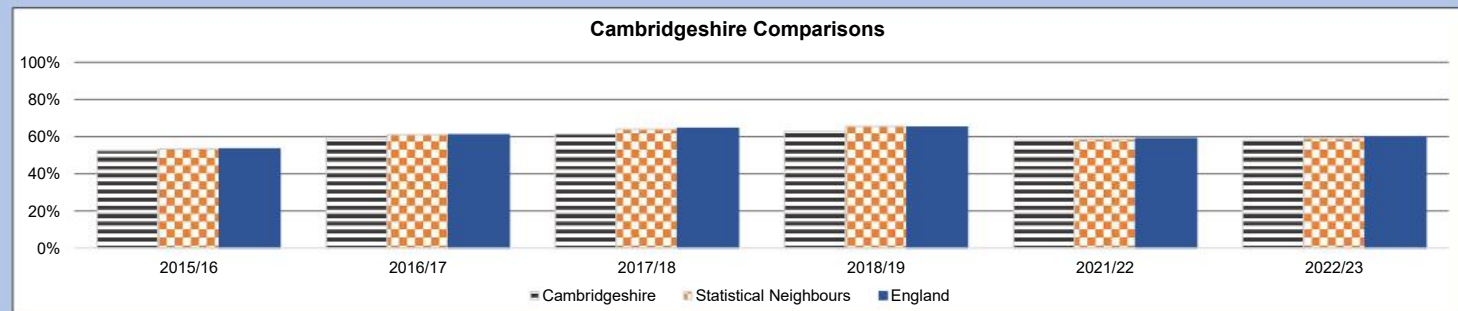
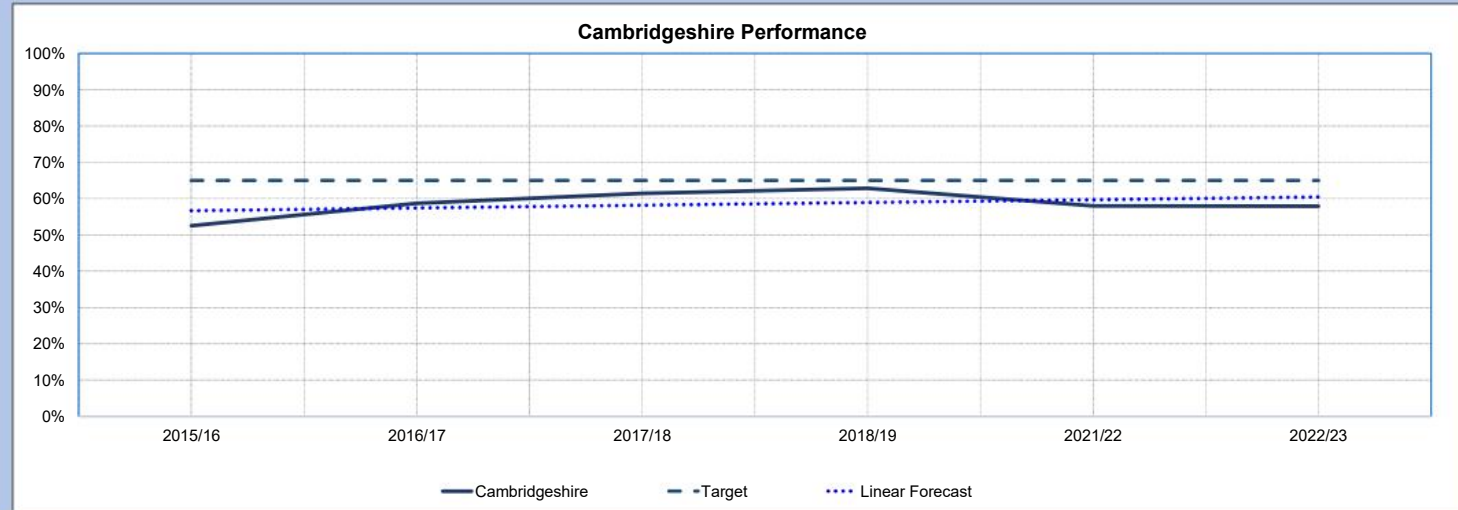
$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

X = The number of children at the end of Key Stage 2 with a valid result showing they have reached the expected standard in all three subjects.

Y = The number of children at the end of Key Stage 2 with a valid result.

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.



Commentary

This has been updated with the DfE's revised data for 22-23 which was released in November 2023. Writing is both the national and local area of focus. The service is are working closely with the local teaching school hub to support LA maintained and academy schools to improve their writing outcomes.

Useful Links

- [Department for Education Statistics: Key Stage 2](#)
- [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)
- [The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
50.1	↑	51.7	52.7	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
50.5		48.9		Green

Indicator Description

Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. These include:

1. English. Double weighted if the combined English qualification, or both language and literature are taken.
2. Maths. Double weighted.
3. Three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate.
4. Three further qualifications that can be GCSE (including English Baccalaureate subjects).
5. Any other non GCSE qualifications on the Department for Education approved list. This measure is expressed as an average score derived from the scores of children in all state funded schools at end the end of the academic year.

Calculation:

X/Y

Where:

X = The sum of all pupils Attainment 8 scores

Y = The number of children at the end of Key Stage 4 with a valid Attainment 8 score.

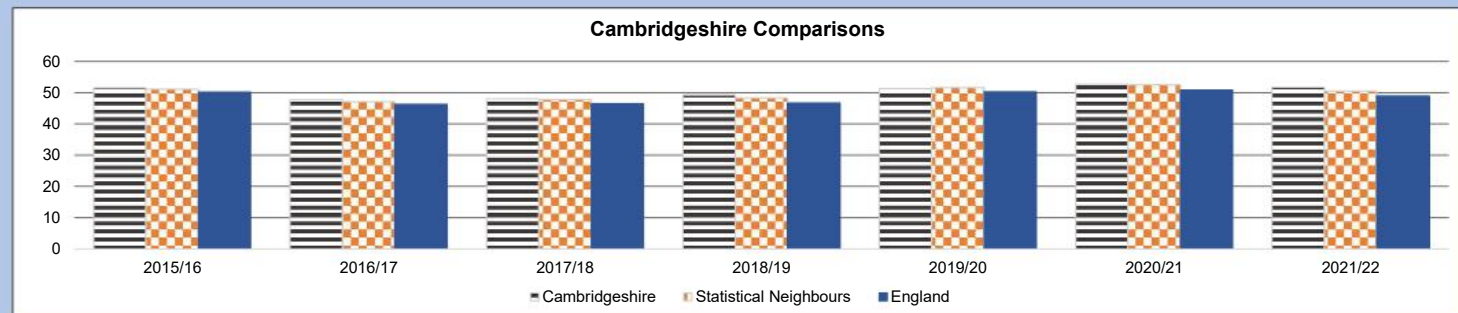
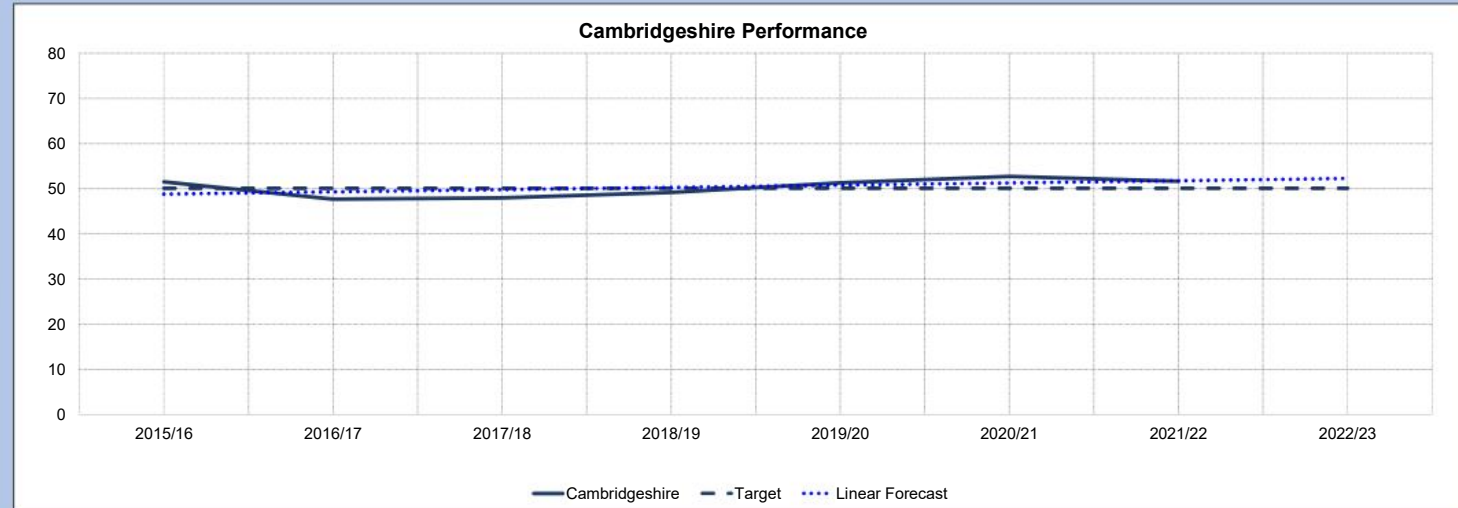
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: Key Stage 4](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The final data for 22-23 will not be available until February 2024.

Actions

Indicator 132: Percentage of persistent absence (All children)

[Return to Index](#)

March 2024

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
8.5%	↓	21.2%	10.6%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
21.3%		22.5%		Red

Indicator Description

In law, parents of children of compulsory school age (5 to 16) are required to make sure their children receive a suitable education by regular attendance at school. Failure to follow this law can lead to prosecution.

Local authorities are responsible in law for making sure that pupils attend school. Schools are required to take attendance registers twice a day. Once at the beginning of the morning session and once during the afternoon session.

In their register, schools are required to say whether pupils are present, away on an approved educational activity, or are absent. Where a pupil of compulsory school age is absent, schools have to show if their absence is authorised or unauthorised by the school.

Since the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year, pupils have been identified as persistent absentees if they miss 10% or more of their possible sessions.

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

X = The number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees.

Y = The number of enrolments.

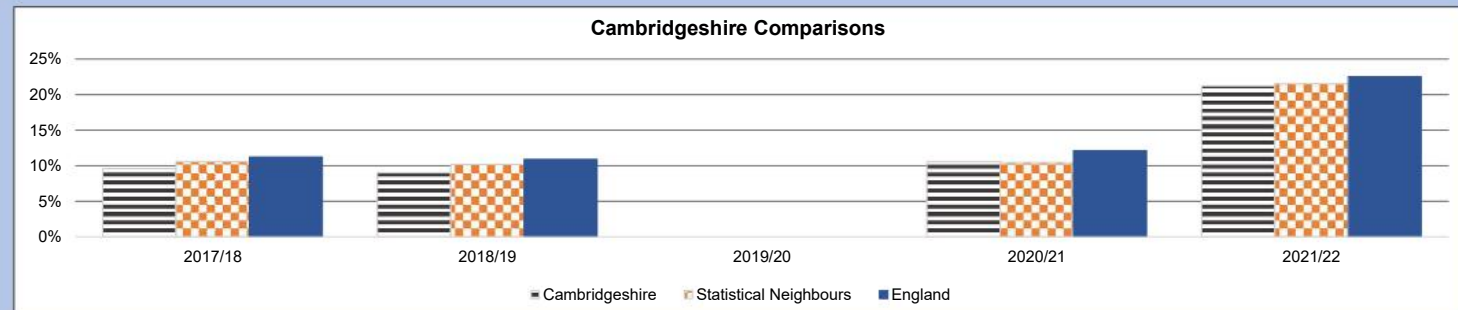
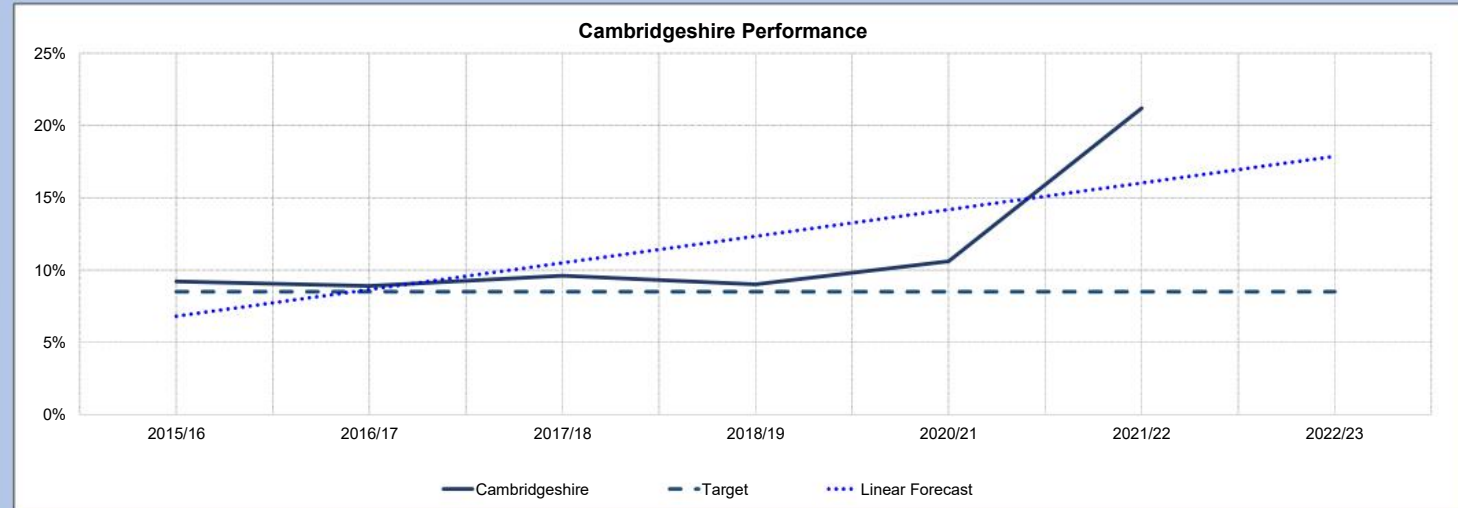
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Departement for Education Statistics: Pupil Absence](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The data for 22-23 will not be available until March 2024.

"Data for the 22/23 academic year will be included in the next performance update. Previous narrative is included below.

The absence data collected for the 2020/21 academic year was the first absence data collected via the school census covering the pandemic. From 1 September 2020 schools were expected to be open throughout the Autumn term although in some schools, where there was a case of coronavirus, pupils were sent home in bubbles to self-isolate. The data for both 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes absences where a pupil could not attend school due to COVID 19 which includes: pupils who were self-isolating; pupils who were advised to shield; pupils quarantining; and class bubbles. Due to this, the DFE suggest caution should be taken with comparisons across years.

The DFE attribute the increase in persistent absences across England in the 2021/22 academic year to an increases in illness absence (including positive COVID cases that may have required isolation up to ten days)."

Actions

Indicator 133: Percentage suspensions (All children)

[Return to Index](#)

March 2024

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
3.7%	↓	6.2%	4.1%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
5.9%		6.9%		Red

Indicator Description

A suspension refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion period is completed.

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) \times 100$$

Where:

X = The number of suspensions recorded across the whole academic year.

Y = The number of pupils (sole and dual main registered) on roll as at census day in January of the academic year.

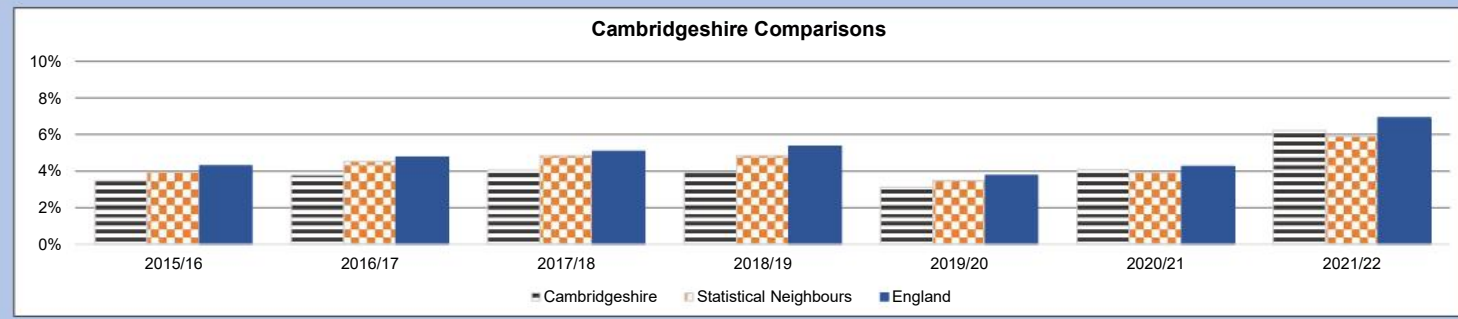
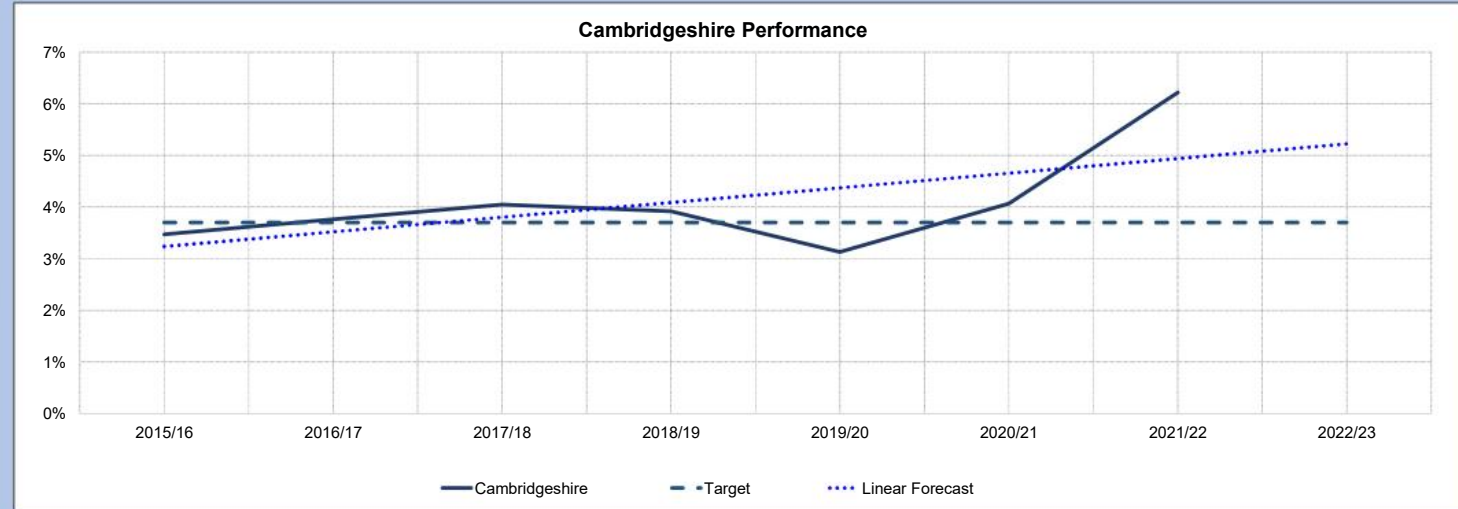
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: Exclusions](#)

[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

[The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)



Commentary

The data for 22-23 will not be available until July 2024.

"Cambridgeshire has seen growth in suspension as the implications of Covid and more challenging behaviour in schools are seen. As a result of the cost-of-living crises, increasing numbers of disadvantaged children from poorer backgrounds are being suspended and are therefore not meeting expected school standards. The growth in suspensions are below national levels of increase but slight above our statistical neighbours.

For primary, the approach around Cambridgeshire therapeutic thinking is to support schools to use a therapeutic approach to understanding and analysing behaviour, considering past experiences to create pro-social and positive relationships between children and adults. This approach is based on an equitable and inclusive offer for all children.

For secondary, the BAIP (Behaviour Attendance Improvement Partnership) model which devolves funds for Appropriate Alternative Education from the High Needs Block to schools is used. It is for Head teachers to control the decision-making process by giving Heads direct financial control of the budget. Key benefits of the BAIP model are localised decision making, collaboration and working in partnership between Heads, historically low levels of permanent exclusions and peer challenge on managing behaviour."

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
93.0%	↑	94.8%	95.0%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
92.3%	92.5%	Green		

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the proportion of applicants for primary school places which have received preferred offers.

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

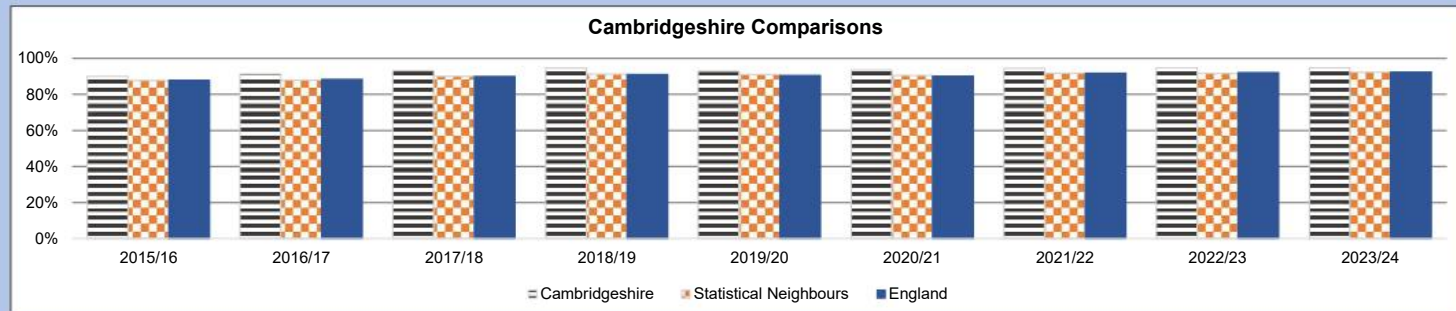
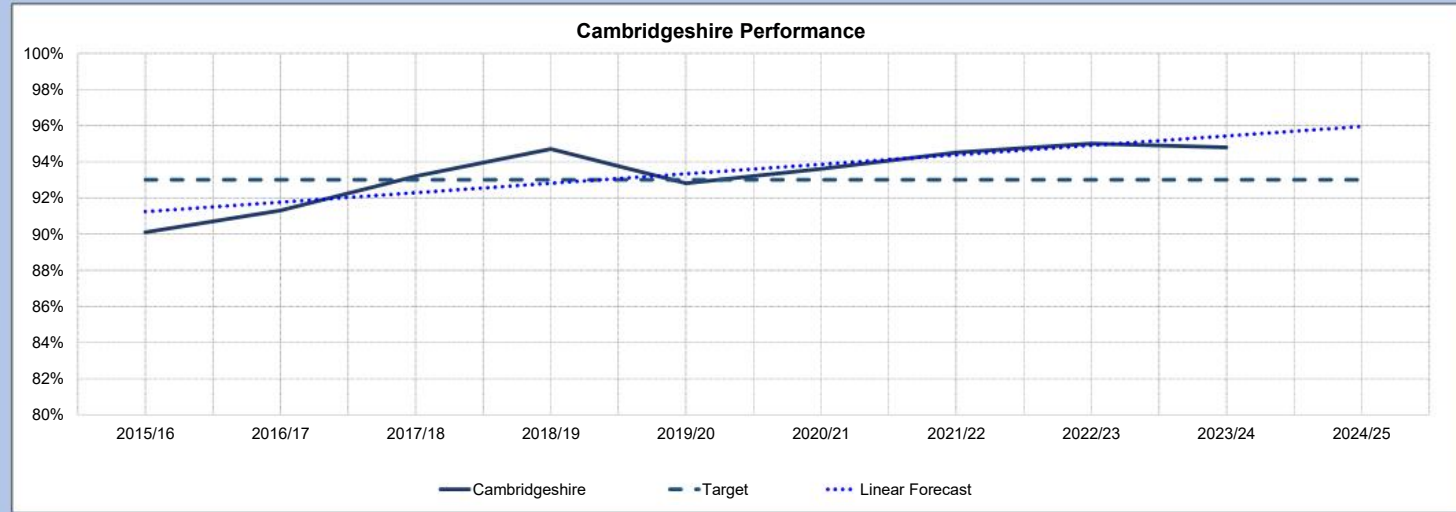
$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

X = The number of children receiving a place at their first choice school.

Y = The number of applications received.

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.



Commentary

Overall the demand for primary school places fell in 2022 due to a lower birth rate. 6457 children were included in the allocation, down from 6568 the previous years. The service continue to see a higher level of parental choice (outside of catchment area). The service's planning focuses on ensuring a local place for a local child rather than meeting parental preference. The service been working hard on reviewing surplus capacity as part of the small school strategy to make sure there is a balance between availability of places and financial viability.

The breakdown of the allocation round is below (2021 round shown in brackets)

- 1st Preference 94.8% 6,122 (95.1% 6,249)
- 2nd Preference 3.4% 218 (3.1% 202)
- 3rd Preference 0.5% 33 (0.6% 37)
- Directed 1.3% 84 (1.2% 80)

Early indication within the 2 primary school allocation round are that numbers will continue to fall with another low birth rate year.

Useful Links

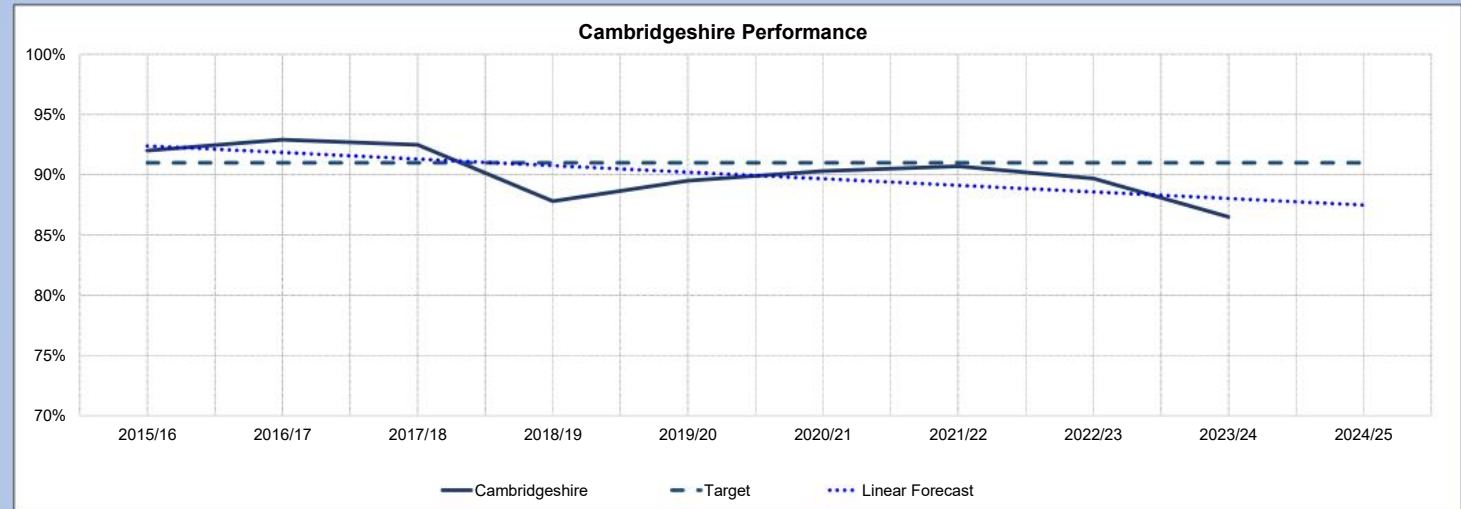
- [Department for Education Statistics: School Applications](#)
- [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)
- [The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

Actions

Indicator 135: Percentage receiving place at first choice school (Secondary)

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
91.0%	↑	86.5%	89.7%	Declining

Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating
85.5%	82.6%	Amber



Indicator Description

This indicator shows the percentage of applicants for Year 7 places for entry at the start of the new academic year, who were allocated their first choice school. This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

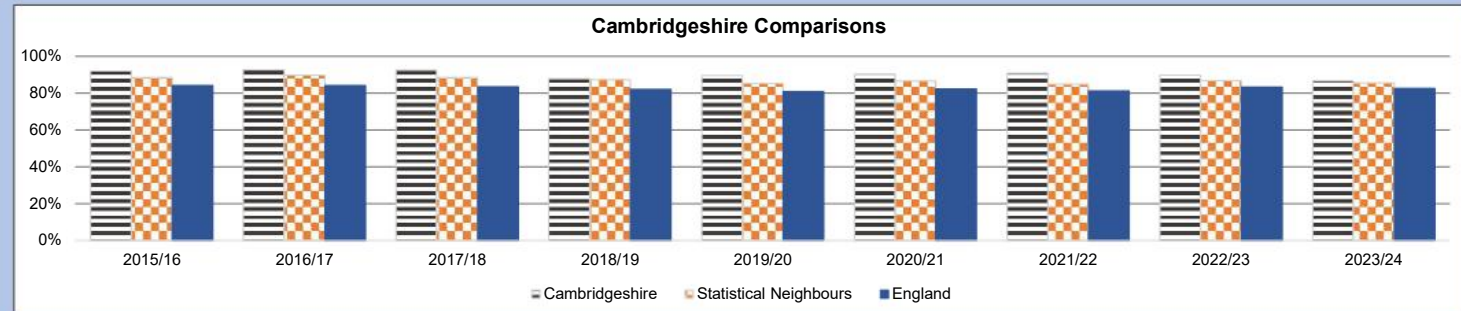
$(X/Y) * 100$

Where:

X = The number of children receiving a place at their first choice school.

Y = The number of applications received.

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.



Commentary

7413 young people were allocated in Cambridgeshire for September 2023. This is a 6% increase (430 applications) from the previous year. More children however achieved their first preference than in the previous year but the overall proportion was lower. The key challenge area was in Cambridge City where a higher than normal number of children transfer from primary to secondary. The proportion of children entering the independent sector was lower than in previous years. This may be as a result of capacity changes in the sector or the cost of living crisis. As a result, the service negotiated further places in the City to avoid children and young people being directed a significant distance away from their homes. Meeting parental preference is challenging where there is a lower level of surplus places and this is reflected in the position presented. The breakdown of the position is shown below (2022 intake shown in brackets) -

1st Preference 87% 6,459 (90% 6,285)
 2nd Preference 6.5% 484 (5.3% 369)
 3rd Preference 1.8% 135 (1.9% 132)
 Directed 4.5% 335 (2.8% 197)

Early indications for Sept 24 are that although numbers are starting to fall, there is still a pressure for school places in the City and Fenland area. Officers are working to unlock additional places with the DiE and local secondary schools.

Useful Links

- [Department for Education Statistics: School Applications](#)
- [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)
- [The local area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association](#)

Actions