

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE



Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Democratic and Members' Services
Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

14:00

Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

**Multi Function Room, New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald,
Huntingdon PE28 4YE
[Venue Address]**

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press by appointment only

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

1. Change to Committee Membership

To note that Councillor M McGuire has replaced Councillor S Bywater as a member of the Children and Young People Committee, and that Councillor S Bywater has replaced Councillor J Schumann as a substitute member of the committee.

2. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Guidance on declaring interests is available at
<http://tinyurl.com/cc-conduct-code>

3. Minutes - 29 June 2021 and action log

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4. Petitions and Public Questions

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KEY DECISIONS

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Reparation Services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | 19 - 26 |
| 6. | Tender for Early Years Provision in Arbury, Cambridge City | 27 - 34 |

DECISIONS

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The Children and Young People Committee comprises the following members:

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

COVID-19

The legal provision for virtual meetings no longer exists and meetings of the Council therefore take place physically and are open to the public. Public access to meetings is managed in accordance with current COVID-19 regulations and therefore if you wish to attend a meeting of the Council, please contact the Committee Clerk who will be able to advise you further.

Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Chair) Councillor Maria King (Vice-Chair) Councillor David Ambrose Smith Councillor Michael Atkins 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) Flavio Vettese (Appointee)

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

Children and Young People Committee: Minutes

Date: 29 June 2021

Time: 2.13pm – 3.50pm

Venue: University of Cambridge Sports Centre, Philippa Fawcett Drive,
Cambridge CB3 0AS

Present: Councillors M Atkins, A Bulat, S Bywater, C Daunton, B Goodliffe (chair),
J Gowing, A Hay, S Hoy, J King, M King (vice chair), K Prentice, A Sharp,
P Slatter, S Taylor and F Thompson

Co-opted Members:
Canon A Read, Church of England Diocese of Ely
F Vettese, Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

Apologies: Councillor D Ambrose Smith, substituted by Councillor J Gowing

1. Notification of the Chair and Vice Chair

Councillor Bryony Goodliffe was appointed Chair of the Children and Young People Committee and Councillor Maria King appointed Vice Chair by Council on 18 May 2021 by Council for the municipal year 2021/22.

2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were reported as stated above. There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair offered congratulations to Mr Read on his appointment as Canon.

3. Minutes – 9 March 2021 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

A public question had been received on the action log from Mrs Lara Davenport-Ray, a resident of St Neots. A copy of the question had been circulated to committee members electronically in advance of the meeting and published on the [Council's website](#).

Mrs Davenport-Ray expressed concerns around secondary school provision in St Neots. Thousands of new homes were planned in developments at Wintringham Park and Loves Farm East and in her view there were insufficient secondary school places available to meet the need these would create. The Hunts Post had reported that the Council had undertaken a feasibility study and the action log showed that a briefing

note had been circulated to members of the committee with the action marked as closed. Mrs Davenport-Ray asked that the feasibility study should be shared with the community if it had been completed. If it was not complete, she asked that the briefing note provided to the committee should be shared in the interests of clarity and transparency.

There were no questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Director of Education stated that the feasibility study was complete. A number of options were available and council officers were working with the academy trusts responsible for Longsands and Ernulf Academies on these. The Department for Education (DfE) had identified a viable site for additional secondary school provision in St Neots and there was an approved free school, but the DfE's plans for this were not yet known. However, the demographic forecasts over the planning period suggested that the existing published admission number (PAN) of 522 pupils would meet future need, with the exception of two school years where pupil numbers would exceed this figure. It was proposed to work with schools on how this could be addressed in the two years concerned. The briefing note provided to the committee would be updated and made publicly available. **Action required**

The action log was noted

4. Petitions and Public Questions

No petitions had been received. One public question was heard in relation to secondary school provision in St Neots (minute 3 above refers).

5. Children and Young People Agenda Plan and Training Plan

The Committee reviewed its agenda plan and training plan.

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

- expressed concern about the move to quarterly meetings, noting that the provisional January 2022 meeting date had already been confirmed.
- noted that the safeguarding training being offered as part of the Member Induction Programme was being rescheduled. The Chair commented that there was safeguarding training available on the Council's intranet and asked that a link be sent to committee members. **Action required**

The Committee noted and commented on the agenda plan and training plan.

6. Children's Occupational Therapy in Cambridgeshire Community Services

The Committee's approval was sought to change an interim cash injection into children's occupational therapy services into a permanent and recurring uplift in funding

of £496k from 2022/23 onwards. This request was made in the expectation of a 50% increase in the number of education, health and care plans (EHCPs) being issued during the next 10 years.

A Member expressed their thanks to officers for their hard work on this issue over a considerable period of time.

The Chair stated that she was aware of the interim support which had previously been made available and was pleased to be able to continue that work.

It was resolved unanimously to:

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

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

7. Finance Monitoring Report

The Committee was advised that it was relatively early in the financial year and that most budgets were currently forecasting a balanced position. However, there was a continued pressure on the outdoor education budget which was due primarily to the impact of Covid. Pressure on the dedicated schools grant (DSG) had also been growing for a number of years due to the increasing number of pupils with education, health and care plans (EHCPs) and the complexity of their needs. Officers were continuing to work with the Department for Education (DfE) to manage the deficit, but at present there was a cumulative deficit of £26.4m to be carried forward into 2021/22 and an underlying forecast in-year pressure of £11.2m relating to high needs. The Children in Care placement budget was currently within budget and trend analysis showed a continuing reduction in overall numbers of children in care in Cambridgeshire. However, the complexity of the needs of those children and young people who were within the care system was increasing which was leading to increased costs. Appendix C to the report set out a number of proposed changes to the 2021/22 Business Plan Capital Budgets which the Committee was invited to recommend to the Strategy and Resource Committee for approval.

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

- asked about the increase in referrals of children and young people. Officers undertook to provide this information outside of the meeting. **Action required**
- highlighted that the East Cambridgeshire Adult Service Development Grant on page 80 of the agenda document pack stated that the scheme had been removed in February 2020, but it still showed a budget. Officers undertook to look into this outside of the meeting and provide an update. **Action required**
- asked how the cumulative pressure on school places arising from multiple small housing developments was managed. The Service Director for Education stated

that the Council published a tariff-based approach to new developments. Developers were not always asked to make contributions where sufficient school places already existed, but the Education Place Planning Team evaluated all housing schemes to ensure that sufficient places would be available and used community infrastructure levy (CIL) arrangements where appropriate. However, this did not guarantee that a place at a specific school would be available.

- asked for more information on the £11.2m grant funding variance shown in the summary forecast table. Officers stated that an in-year pressure of £11.2m was forecast and that the grant was due to the cumulative deficit on the DSG rolling forward. It was suggested that using more columns in future reports would make this more clear. **Action required**

The Vice Chair thanked the previous Chair Councillor Bywater for the review of outdoor education which had been carried out previously. Outdoor education created a financial pressure on council funds, but was also of great social value to children and young people across the county. Finding a sustainable way forward on this issue was a priority for the Joint Administration.

It was resolved unanimously to:

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

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

8. Service Director Report: Education

The Service Director for Education stated that the number of Covid cases was continuing to increase and preventative measures remained in place which adhered to national guidance. School attendance within Cambridgeshire remained good and was within the top 10% nationally. He described the response to the Covid crisis from Cambridgeshire's school leaders and early years settings as magnificent. Schools were working hard to support GCSE and A level students and the committee would be provided with an overview of the teacher assessed grades (TAGs), but there would be no nationally published results. He anticipated another difficult summer for those involved in education, but there was a real commitment from staff to make support available to those students who might not achieve the results they hoped for.

The Council continued to face significant financial challenges in relation to education. Discussions with the Department for Education (DfE) had continued throughout Covid and the Department was comfortable with how the Council was managing its education funding, but the actual level of funding remained low and the pressures were significant. This included a significant increase in the number of families seeking education, health

and care plans (EHCPs) for their children and proposals would be brought to the committee in the autumn seeking to meet need earlier in order to improve children's outcomes without the need for an EHCP. Data was also being collated on gaps in learning. A mixed picture was emerging which was being explored with the Regional Schools Commissioner and partner organisations including the Diocesan bodies. The outcome of this work would also be brought to a future meeting.

Small schools remained an issue of particular concern and it was hoped that Government would respond to this challenge through the sparsity factor. Cambridgeshire remained one of the lowest funded local authorities for education and there was a need to continue to press for sufficient levels of funding to ensure equality of opportunity across the area.

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

- noted that the Children's Commissioner had highlighted the impact of Covid on children's mental health and asked what was being done to address this in Cambridgeshire. Officers stated that there had been investment in this area due to Covid and that the Psychology team was rolling out support to children in schools. Support was also being provided to school staff and headteachers in recognition of the pressures which they faced. The Executive Director: People and Communities stated that this issue was a big challenge. The Council had recently re-commissioned its mental health services and a leaflet would be issued setting out the new arrangements. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) was the lead provider and was working with the voluntary sector to create a seamless pathway and one stop shop for services.
- asked about breakfast club provision and sufficiency and asked for a list of the schools which offered this. Officers undertook to provide details and stated that provision was being monitored. **Action required**
- asked about the impact of the Fenland Opportunity Area. Officers stated that, after a slow start, there had been a significant improvement over time in the collegiate way headteachers were working together and on social, emotional and mental health work. A local member commented that was not necessarily their experience.
- asked whether the need for whole class bubbles to self-isolate when a Covid case was reported could be replaced with daily testing. Officers stated that they were awaiting Government direction on this.
- asked how many small schools there were in Cambridgeshire and where they were located. Officers stated that there was no absolute definition, but it was generally accepted to be schools with less than 100 children on roll. Work was being taken forward to support shared resources and procurement exercises where appropriate to drive down costs. These small schools were located across the county and details would be provided outside of the meeting. **Action required**
- noted the Joint Administration's stated aim to improve the relationship between the local authority and academies and asked what the relationship was like currently.

The Service Director for Education stated that the relationship was strong and collaborative.

- asked what further work was being done in relation to the findings of the local authority survey of schools. Officers stated that this would focus on clear school improvement priorities and the role of the local authority in relation to both maintained and academy schools. A report would be brought to the committee later in the year.
- queried the maximum possible deficit on the dedicated schools grant (DSG) over three to five years, the estimated cost of financing the deficit and how some local authorities had managed to have their deficit written off. The Service Director for Education stated that the cumulative deficit across that period was likely to be in the region of £60m. There was high demand at present and this was particularly evident in relation to social, emotional and mental health needs relating to Covid. The Council's practice in seeking better value for services was in line with that of other local authorities, but he was not willing to compromise children's outcomes which remained the top priority. The Committee might wish to consider how the Council engaged with Government on this issue in future. The cost of financing the deficit was currently around £200k per year, but this was changing all the time. There was no published process for having the deficit written off. Instead, local authorities were invited to apply and Cambridgeshire had not been invited.

The Vice Chair stated that Government funding of the High Needs Block would be a top level challenge and a priority going forward. The Joint Administration was keen to work with all Members, local politicians and families on this and to unite to deliver tangible solutions.

The report was noted.

9. Supporting Vulnerable Families

A revised report was published on 28 June 2021 following a Government announcement on funding and a copy was circulated to all members of the Committee electronically. The report contained a revised recommendation which invited the Committee to consider whether to refer a request for up to £537k of funding to the Strategy and Resource Committee to fund supermarket vouchers and wider support to families during the summer holidays.

The Council had been running a range of schemes since Christmas to support children and families. With the Government's furlough scheme drawing to a close and an increase in deprivation being seen it was proposed to continue to offer support to families across the summer holidays at a rate of £3 per day. The same eligibility criteria would apply with those in receipt of free school meals, pupil premium payments and post-16 bursaries all eligible for support. In addition, it was proposed to offer wider support to those families just above the threshold to receive free school meals but who were also struggling. The remaining monies from previous voucher schemes had been used in this way and it was proposed that this should continue. In addition, 2000 places

would be offered through the Holiday Activities and Food Fund (HAF) in addition to the voucher scheme.

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

- asked whether there were any limitations on what the vouchers could be used to buy, for example alcohol or tobacco products. Officers stated that eight supermarkets were taking part in the scheme. Of these, two placed no restrictions on what the vouchers could be used to buy.
- commented that the requirement to wear branded uniform at some schools created additional expense for parents and asked whether the Council had any influence on this. Officers stated that this was an area of national attention and that legislation was currently being explored around limiting the cost of school uniforms. The Council would remind schools of the financial challenges which many families faced and the Service Director for Education undertook to discuss with the Service Director for Adults and Communities what support might be made available on a case by case basis.
- asked whether any data was available around the uptake of previous voucher schemes amongst different ethnic groups. Officers stated that around 95% of vouchers had been accessed, but that the ethnic background of those doing so was not known. A request had been made to see if this data could be made available in future. The voucher offer had been translated into a number of languages in the past, but officers would be happy to look at any suggestions for additional ways of bringing this to the attention of more communities.
- expressed frustration that some families in most need of support were not able to access the voucher scheme. An example was given of low paid workers who were struggling to meet the costs of childcare. Officers stated that they were looking at siblings being able to access support and that any surplus places on the HAF scheme would be made available to those in need.
- asked about managing expectation going forward when similar schemes might not be available. The Service Director for Education stated that the intention was to transition away from voucher schemes towards the support provided by the Hub. The letter to parents advising them about the voucher scheme would make clear that there would be a tapering of this support if no further Government funding was to be made available.

The Chair expressed her thanks to the Service Director for Education and his team on their work on this issue.

It was resolved by a majority to:

Refer the request for up to £537k of funding to support supermarket vouchers and wider support to families during the summer holidays to the Strategy and Resource Committee for decision.

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

10. Cambridgeshire Sufficiency Strategy

The Committee was advised that the Council had a statutory duty to have a sufficiency strategy in place to minimise the number of children coming into care and to ensure that sufficient places were available for those who were taken into care. Around 70% of the children and young people in the Council's care were placed with foster carers which was consistent with the national average of between 70-72%. The number of in-house foster carers within this group had increased over previous years and now represented just over half of all foster carers and officers were looking to increase this figure further. Work was underway to look at encouraging foster carers to support older children and young people and consideration was also being given to a business review around the provision of a residential children's home. There was high demand for the residential places available through the independent sector and costs were increasing significantly. The Council had run its own residential children's homes in the past and these had not been particularly successful, but it might be timely to look at this again.

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

- thanked Cambridgeshire residents for responding to the campaign to recruit more in-house foster carers.
- asked whether the mentoring scheme for young people in care would be continuing beyond the pilot project and encouraged Members to take part if it was. Officers confirmed that they would want to see this continue.
- asked that any new residential children's homes should not be located in Fenland as there were already a number of independent providers located there. The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding stated that it was unlikely that any new provision would be located in Fenland given the existing provision there which would also impact on the workforce available, but that any decision would be brought to the Committee.
- asked what lessons had been learned from the Council's previous experience of running residential homes. Officers stated that previous homes had relatively high occupancy levels of six or more young people. Current thinking favoured smaller households of two or three young people with a more specialised approach.
- commented that foster carers were doing an incredible job and were to be commended. The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding echoed this sentiment.
- welcomed the actions listed, but asked how the success of these was measured. The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding stated that outcomes were measured all of the time. Distance to placements and the number of in-house foster carers were amongst the most fundamental of these.
- asked whether the Council would consider helping with housing to enable foster carers to take on an additional child or children. The Service Director for Children and Safeguarding stated that he would not rule this out, but more typically the Council might contribute to the cost of an extension for established foster carers

making a permanent home for a young person with a charge over the cost on a sliding scale over time.

- commented that foster carers undertook significant amounts of training and should be treated as professionals. Another Member suggested that it would be useful for the Committee to receive training on the work of foster carers. The Chair agreed.

Action required

It was resolved unanimously to:

Adopt the sufficiency strategy included as Appendix 1 to the report.

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

11. Children and Young People Committee Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

The Committee reviewed the proposed appointments to outside bodies and internal advisory groups and panels. Members were advised that the Executive Director: People and Communities had exercised her delegated authority to appoint to vacancies within the committee's remit outside of meetings in consultation with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair to appoint Councillor Anna Bradnam as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee and Councillor Philippa Slatter as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2021/22 on 18 June 2021. The Committee was further advised that the appointment of Council representatives to the Fostering Panel was being put on hold pending consideration of the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

In addition to the appointments included in the published papers the Adults and Health Committee had invited the Children and Young People Committee to nominate up to three representatives to attend quarterly liaison meetings with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust. Details of these and all other remaining vacancies would be circulated to Spokes with an invitation to submit nominations.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- i. Review and agree the appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix 1.
- ii. Review and agree the appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels, as detailed in Appendix 2.
- iii. Note the appointment of Councillor Anna Bradnam as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee and Councillor Philippa Slatter as Vice Chair for 2021/22;
- iv. Note the Local Authority School Governor appointments for spring term 2021 as detailed in Appendix 3.

- v. Delegate, on a permanent basis between meetings, the appointment of representatives to any vacancies on outside bodies and internal advisory groups and panels within the remit of the Children and Young People Committee to the Executive Director: People and Communities, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee.

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

(Chair)

Children and Young People Committee Action Log

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

Minutes of the meeting on 15 September 2020

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
349.	Service Director's Report: Education	Jonathan Lewis	Asked for more information on the progress on the SEND recovery strategy. The Service Director for Education undertook to bring a report on this to a future meeting when more information was available.	<p>20.09.20: This will be included as part of the November Service Director Report.</p> <p>30.10.20: An update will be provided in the new year to coincide with the wider consultation which will be undertaken on SEND funding changes.</p> <p>03.09.21: This will be included in the Service Director for Education's report in November 2021.</p>	On-going

Minutes of the meeting on 10 November 2020

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
371.	Early Help, Older Children and Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Development	Lou Williams/ Nicola Curley	To circulate the ISOS report and arrange a workshop with ISOS for committee members. This may be opened up to other councillors.	08.01.21: The ISOS report will be circulated when available and the workshop arranged after that. This has been overtaken a little by events. With the agreement of the Chair, a briefing is to be prepared that will describe how the work of the Isos partnership has fed into the development of the early help strategy that in turn is one of the fundamental building blocks for the development of the Children and Maternity Collaborative. This can then be shared with Spokes. A workshop/ training event will follow.	Briefing to be completed by end September 2021 with workshop to follow

Minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2021

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
387.	School Building Standards and Specifications	Ian Trafford	Attention was drawn to the design process for Alconbury Weald to meet the Council's new targets in this area, which would identify the costs and the necessary business case to support the investment of the additional capital spend it might require. Members requested details of the costs for the Alconbury Weald development when available. It was noted that the Committee could receive a	01.02.21: The project milestone report (MS2) which will include design proposals and costs for meeting the Council's new environmental standards, will be available in late March 2021. The approach to the design is a complex issue and will comprise a significant level of technical detail. Consideration will be given to a general presentation/ seminar for Members to explain the approach taken.	No further action

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
			report at its meeting in the spring at the end of the milestone 2 process.	<p>14.06.21: MS2 on Alconbury signed off. Officers to advise on timing of a CYP member seminar to brief members on the approach taken.</p> <p>15.06.21: The update may be addressed through a wider Member briefing on buildings, sustainability and carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>08.07.21: A corporate briefing is being arranged on the issue of sustainability of buildings and net zero energy buildings which will be open to all Members.</p>	
388.	Schools and Early Year's Funding Arrangements	Jonathan Lewis	It was proposed to target additional funds at the Early Years' sector through the Covid grant or DSG in order to meet sufficiency requirements going forward. Members would receive a briefing note on this proposal.	29.03.21: This will be distributed to Members in April 2021.	

Minutes of the meeting on 9 March 2021

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
404.	Best Start in Life Update	Lou Williams	The Chairman asked for a further update to be brought to the committee in the summer.	03.09.21: This is to be included in the briefing in as referenced under minute 371 above.	As for minute 371 and can be closed as a separate action

Minutes of the meeting on 29 June 2021

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
3.	Minutes 9 March 2021 and Action Log	Jonathan Lewis	The committee briefing note on St Neots secondary school provision would be updated and made publicly available.	04.08.21: The updated briefing note was circulated electronically to members of the committee and to the public speaker who asked a question about this on 29 June 2021.	Completed
5.	CYP Agenda Plan and Training Plan	Lou Williams	A link to the safeguarding training available on the Council's intranet would be circulated to committee members.	08.07.21: Link sent to all members and substitute members of CYP and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee by email on 8 July 2021.	Completed
7.	Finance Monitoring Report	Martin Wade	Officers undertook to provide details of the increase in referrals of children and young people outside of the meeting.	09.08.21: Awaiting data from the Business Intelligence team. 06.09.21: Information circulated electronically to committee members.	Completed
		Martin Wade	A Member highlighted that the East Cambridgeshire Adult Service Development Grant on page 80 of the agenda document pack stated that the scheme had been removed in February 2020, but it still showed a budget. Officers undertook to look into this outside of the meeting and provide an update.	09.08.21: The committee paper referred to in the appendix was taken in February 2021, rather than February 2020 hence the requirement to remove the remaining budget.	Completed
		Martin Wade	A Member suggested that using more columns in the summary	09.08.21: The summary table has now been updated to separate out the actual spend and forecast relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant	Completed

Minute	Report title	Lead officer	Action	Response	Status
			forecast table in future reports would make this more clear.	(DSG). The cumulative DSG deficit is disclosed as an earmarked reserve within the annual accounts.	
8.	Service Director's Report Education	Jonathan Lewis	Officers undertook to provide a list of schools offering breakfast clubs outside of the meeting.	03.09.21: This will be included in the Service Director for Education's report in November 2021.	On-going
		Jonathan Lewis	To provide details of the location of the county's small schools.	03.09.21: This is being collated and will be circulated once complete.	On-going
10.	Cambridgeshire Sufficiency Strategy	Ricky Cooper/ Fiona van den Hout	A training session on the work of foster carers to be arranged for committee members.		

Children and Young People Committee - 14 September 2021

Item 4: Petitions and Public Questions

This petition relates to Item 8: Home to School Transport. The petition was originally submitted in February 2020 as proposals relating to home to school transport were due to be considered by the Children and Young People Committee in April 2020. Consideration of this issue was subsequently postponed due to Covid-19.

Text of the petition titled ' Please keep the after school transport for Cambridgeshire children with additional needs' containing 1889 signatures

It has been recently reported that Special school transport services could be axed due to Cambridgeshire County Council funding issues. This is terrible news and another blow to children and families here in our local community . I meet these families on a daily basis in my work, at the hospital, out in the community and visiting them in schools .

As a local Councillor and as an advocate fighting for the very best public services for all children I have been approached by many families who fear that a cut in current service provision to after school transport will have a detrimental effect on their children's already limited opportunities to socialise, play and develop as children.

The reasons why we need to keep this important transport service are best explained by the words of a mum, Nadia, who is worried how her daughter Chloe will be affected

"I am a parent of a non-verbal, disabled child with complex health needs that attends, enjoys and is cared for at after school club. I am thoroughly dismayed to learn that Cambridgeshire County Council are considering making cuts to the transport to these invaluable services that benefit the most vulnerable children in our communities. While attempting to justify the proposed cuts, CCC states that it is unfair that those with additional needs attending mainstream school do not receive after school transport. I believe that it is important to consider that if a child can cope and thrive in a busy mainstream school then it is quite possible, they are able to attend and enjoy mainstream activities/social opportunities in mainstream society.

Our children cannot.

After School Clubs are often the only opportunity that our children get to spend time with friends and peers outside of the structured, task and target orientated school day. After School Clubs provide a safe, familiar and accessible place for our children to simply hang out with their peers with staff that are familiar, skilled and trained in their needs. Most importantly they get to do this without their parents or carers. Visiting friends in

their homes is often not possible due to wheelchair access. Accessing leisure centres, play areas is often not possible because of anxieties and sensory issues. Our children do not get the opportunity to play at the park, meet at the pitch, play for their team on a Saturday morning, go to ballet class or have sleepovers.

At Samuel Pepys, St. Neots, after school club attendance is limited to one afternoon a week for most, further increasing the value of this club to our children.

Removing or charging for the transport will make attendance at afterschool clubs difficult or impossible for many families. This will then further reduce the already incredibly limited opportunities our children receive for social opportunities and increasing their independence.

We all know how fleeting childhood is and how important friendships are.

Children with disabilities needs are assessed and awarded Direct Payments to help them access social opportunities/activities in their communities and provide families with respite from their caring responsibilities. Unfortunately, large proportions of these personal budgets go unused and are claimed back by Cambridgeshire County Council each year. The main reasons for this are the difficulties in finding appropriate, experienced and trained carers to attend to our children's needs. So, essentially their assessed needs of having social opportunities/activities continue to be unmet. While Social Care has been proactive in trying to solve these issues by further spending on private companies (Perfect PA, Care.com) to assist families in finding support, the current availability of social carers continues in its national crisis.

To further limit opportunities for children and families by removing or pricing transport from the current cost effective, valuable service that is accessible, familiar and safe for our children seems incredibly cruel and very short sighted. "

Thank you for taking the time to read to the end of this explanation as to why a petition is now necessary.

There is a process of consultation already underway . The Cambridgeshire County Council children and young people committee is scheduled to take the final decision in April. We want to present this petition and speak at that meeting to convince the committee that the continuation of this invaluable transport service is in the best interests of these children and families and for the community as a whole

Thank you for your support

Chloe and Nadia

and

Cllr Dr Nik Johnson

Recommissioning of Appropriate Adult (PACE) Service and Reparation Services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

From: Children and Families Commissioning Manager, Helen Andrews

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: KD2021/035

Outcome: The recommissioning of Appropriate Adult services will safeguard the rights and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults detained in Police custody.

The recommissioning of reparation services will prevent further offending by enabling young people to realise the consequences of their behaviour and make amends for what they have done to either the victim(s) and/ or community.

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

- a) Agree the recommissioning and procurement of Appropriate Adult (Police and Crime Evidence) services and Reparation Services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; and
- b) Delegate authority to the Executive Director: People and Communities to commit funding at the time of the award of the contract.

Officer contact:

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Member contacts:

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

Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

1. Background

- 1.1 This paper deals with two services to be procured and awarded contracts through a single procurement process. The two services are: The Appropriate Adult (Police and Crime Evidence Act) Services and Reparation Services.
- 1.2 The Appropriate Adult service ensures that every young person and vulnerable adult in detention at a police station has their rights and welfare safeguarded when no parent, guardian or other adult carer is available to fulfil this role. Under section 38 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Youth Offending Service (YOS) has a statutory duty to provide appropriate adults for children (aged 10 to 14) and young people (aged 15 to 17).
- 1.3 This duty does not apply to vulnerable adults. However, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes of Practice states that vulnerable people, including those who have a mental illness, learning disability, brain injury or autism spectrum condition should have an appropriate adult present to prevent miscarriages of justice.
- 1.4 Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Peterborough City Council (PCC) Youth Offending Service and Adult Social Care, and Cambridgeshire Constabulary are co-commissioners and funders of the Appropriate Adult service. The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) supports the re-commissioning process too.
- 1.5 Reparation is an integral part of the restorative justice process. Reparation is included in the Youth Justice Reforms introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. Reparation is a structured way of making amends for the offence and the harm done. This service will provide a wide range of reparation activities and opportunities for young people to learn new skills and offers qualifications that help a young person towards a career.
- 1.6 CCC and PCC Youth Offending Service (YOS) are the commissioners and funders of the Reparation Service. The annual budget for Reparation services is £90,000.
- 1.7 The Appropriate Adult Services contract and the Reparation Services contract are both currently delivered by YMCA Trinity Group across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These contracts will end on the 31st of July 2022. The recommissioning of both services will ensure the seamless continuity of services.

The Recommissioning and Procurement Process

- 1.8 The re-commissioning of the Appropriate Adults Services and Reparation Services is to enter a contractual arrangement for an initial three years with an option to extend for a further two-year period. PCC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary have delegated their commissioning responsibility and delivery of this function for this contract to Cambridgeshire County Council. Funding will transfer to CCC accordingly. CCC is therefore acting as lead commissioner for both contracts and will enter into contractual arrangements on the Councils' and Constabulary's behalf.

- 1.9 The total value of the Appropriate Adult five-year contract will be in excess of the £500,000 procurement threshold and is a key decision. The Children and Young People's Committee is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director: People and Communities to award funding at the point of award which will be in May 2022.
- 1.10 The recommissioning of both services has offered the opportunity for market engagement to seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders, such as Liaison and Diversion services who also work with detainees, as well as local and national providers. Commissioners have contacted other local authorities to benchmark and compare services, budgets and service delivery models. Young people known to the Youth Offending Service have been consulted on their experiences too. All of this is informing the drafting of service specifications for both contracts.
- 1.11 The final service specification will be ready by October 2021, for an open tender process with a tender going live in November 2021. The contract will be awarded in late February 2022 followed by three months for mobilisation. The new service will start 1 August 2022. The Council's Procurement Category Manager will provide specialist advice and ensure the Council obtains best value for money through a thorough procurement process. The Category Manager will also ensure compliance with UK and European legislation which governs the procurement of services. LGSS will provide Legal Services, for example drawing up Terms and Conditions for this contract.
- 1.12 Procuring both the Appropriate Adult Services and the Reparation services through a single tender process, offers providers an opportunity to bid for one or both services. This approach rationalises the procurement process as providers often have the expertise to deliver both services.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 During the first Covid 19 lockdown, appropriate adults were required to continue to meet detainees face to face. From April and June 2020, 14 YMCA Trinity Group (YMCA) volunteers, YMCA staff and staff redeployed from Reparation services supported, in person, 184 young people and 267 vulnerable adults detained at five police stations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Normally, 52 volunteers would do this level of work but many of these volunteers were either shielding or self-isolating. The ongoing Covid restrictions further highlighted the weakness of a volunteer model as YMCA experienced an 80% reduction in the volunteers available to deliver this service. Sessional staff had to be employed which increased service costs. Other appropriate adult providers told us they too have moved away from working with volunteers and now use employed staff only.
- 2.2 The provider market that can deliver Appropriate Adult services is very small. Nationally, two thirds of service provision are delivered by two organisations. The remainder, like Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have a local provider delivering the Appropriate Adult services. All the providers that took part in our market testing independently priced their models based on our data. All quoted prices of over £200,000 per annum and double the current available budget.

- 2.3 Following discussions and enquiries with other local authorities, market testing, and pricing analysis, four options for commissioning Appropriate Adult services were examined. This included bringing the Appropriate Adult service into the YOS. The risks outweighed the benefits (for both Appropriate Adult and Reparation services) and are outlined in the following points:
1. Delivering a 24/7 service 365 days per year providing face to face appropriate adult support across both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire would be very costly to set up within the YOS as there would not be the additional infrastructure for delivering such a service in parallel with similar internal ones. The Appropriate Adult service was previously delivered internally in the YOS some 10 years ago but was commissioned externally as it was possible to deliver the service more effectively, to a higher standard and with a very substantial saving. Almost all Youth Offending Teams (YOT) across the country externally commission Appropriate Adult services for the same reason and given the increasing expectations and demands on Appropriate Adult services they would be far more costly to deliver internally. Out of 150 YOTs, only a hand full are still delivering Appropriate Adult services internally. It is likely that these few will be externalised in due course.
 2. YOS focus in criminal justice system is with young people up to the age of 17. Vulnerable adults are not part of YOS work. Commissioners explored YOS only delivering the statutory element to children and young people. The risk with this option is that this could undermine the statutory requirement on partners to cooperate. Section 38 (1,2) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the statutory partners and places upon them a duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services.
 3. The National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) set the standards for Appropriate Adult services. It stresses the importance of Appropriate Adults being independent from the Police. This includes actual or perceived lack of independence from policing. The risk is YOS is perceived as not being independent enough and of reducing the effectiveness of appropriate adult provision and/or reducing the legitimacy of the justice system by: creating conflicts of interest, limiting trust and engagement from service users and the community.
 4. The way in which our early help and youth offending services are delivered in the coming years will be reviewed in line with the development of the Maternity and Children's Collaborative. Including a large-scale area of direct delivery into the Youth Offending Service would risk complicating this process and may also disrupt delivery of the Appropriate Adult service.
- 2.4 The Options Appraisal analysis showed that whether the Appropriate Adult service is procured through the market or brought into the Youth Offending Service it will require additional investment. Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Councils have agreed in principle to a budget for this service of up to £245,400 per annum.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

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

- The Appropriate Adult service model ensures the welfare and rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults detained in police custody.
- The Reparation service works with young offenders enabling them to face the consequences of their actions and develop positive interests that motivate them to change their behaviours and not reoffend.

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

There are no significant implications for this priority in Appropriate Adult services.

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- Reparation service works with young offenders enabling them to realise the consequences of their behaviour and improve their life chances through accredited courses and life skills development. The service provides the opportunity for young people to gain nationally approved qualifications from Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) an Educational Charity.

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

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- Appropriate Adult services prevent miscarriages of justice by ensuring the rights and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adult detained in custody. Appropriate adults safeguard the interests and entitlements of children and vulnerable adult being supported (National Standards 1.2 and 2.3).
- Reparation activities often benefit the community rather than a victim. Activities include locally based activities such as environmental projects and workings with local charities.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 1.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in Section 1.9, 2.3 and 2.4

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 1.5, 1.6,1.7,1.8,1.9 and 2.2

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 1.8

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

- Appropriate adults and reparation staff are recruited from a range of diverse backgrounds.
- Reparations services are required to develop a portfolio of meaningful, locally based reparation projects sensitive to the diverse needs and abilities of young people undertaking these activities as well as to the victims and the local communities.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 1.7

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

neutral Status:

Explanation:

- All bidders are asked in the tender documentation about their net zero carbon emissions, social value and their contribution to energy efficiency.
- Many of reparation activities are outdoors, e.g., Huntingdon Allotment Project, Westraven Community Gardens, Nene Park gardens, and an animal sanctuary. Other activities woodworking and arts activities take place in charity owned buildings.

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

neutral

Explanation:

- The National Appropriate Adult Network sets the standards of practices. The service is required to provide an appropriate adult as soon as possible after a police request is made. This is normal within one-hour and always within two hours. The expectation is that appropriate adults are recruited in locations from which they can realistically meet this attendance response time.
- All reparation placements are required to be undertaken within a reasonable distance from the young person's home address, i.e. less than 45 minutes away. While the service does not provide the transport, it does ensure young people are safely transported to and from reparation sessions and encourages the use of appropriate transport.
- All bidders are asked in Tender documentation about their net zero carbon emissions.

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

Positive Status:

Explanation: Reparation services projects include conservation projects that are enhancing natural habitats such as wildlife in gardens, and offer biodiversity training, forest school and bush craft skill to young people.

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Neutral:

Explanation: not applicable

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

neutral:

Explanation: not applicable

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

neutral Status:

Explanation: not applicable

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

neutral Status:

Explanation: not applicable.

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 CCC Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

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

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Wendy Ogle-Welbourn

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Not applicable

Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

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

Name of Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents

5.1 [National Standards for the development and provision of Adults Schemes in England and Wales 2018 \(National Appropriate Adult Network\)](#)

5.2 [There to help 3 - The identification of vulnerable adult suspects and application of the appropriate adult safeguard in police investigations 2018-19](#)

Tender for Early Years Provision in Arbury, Cambridge City

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 14th September 2021

From: Executive Director: People & Communities

Electoral division(s): Arbury, Cambridge City

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: KD2021/059

Outcome: To approve the initiation of a tender process to secure a new childcare provider in Arbury, Cambridge City.

Recommendation: To give approval to launch a tender process to secure a new childcare provider to deliver early years and childcare from 38 Carlton Way, Cambridge, CB4 2DE.

Officer contact:

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Member contacts:

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

1. Background

1.1 The Council's Statutory Duties

The Childcare Act 2006 placed specific sufficiency duties upon Local Authorities (LAs), including to secure:

- sufficient and suitable childcare places to enable parents to work, or to undertake education or training which could lead to employment.
- sufficient and suitable early years places to meet predicted demand; and
- free early years provision for all 3 and 4-year olds of 15 hours per week 38 weeks per year (570 hours per year).

1.2 The Education Act 2011 extended LAs' duties to include an entitlement of 570 hours of free early education per year for eligible two-year olds, from the term following their second birthday.

1.3 The Childcare Act 2016 further extended LAs' duties such that, since September 2017, children aged three and four from working families who meet the qualifying criteria (Appendix 1), have been entitled to an additional 570 hours of free childcare, providing them with a total of 1040 hours of free childcare (equivalent to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks per year).

1.4 Funding to EY providers for these places is made by the Council as part of the Early Years (EY) single funding formula, from the EY block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The funding allocation is based on the number of hours childcare provided.

2. Early Years provision in Arbury

2.1 In 2013, the former caretaker's bungalow at Arbury Primary School in Cambridge was identified as surplus to the school's needs. As the Council had an identified need for early years places in this part of the City, the decision was taken to convert it to make it suitable for delivery of early years education and childcare.

2.2 In 2013 a tender process was undertaken and the Early Years Alliance (EYA), at the time known as the Pre-School Learning Alliance, was the successful applicant. Due to the lengthy building works undertaken the EYA opened the setting in 2015.

2.3 The Arbury setting currently has capacity for up to 37 2 to 4-year olds, at one time. Offering care from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. This allows up to 74 children to access their 15-hour free entitlement or up to 37 children to take up their extended entitlement.

2.4 EY places in Cambridge City are in high demand. The latest available data indicates that the number of places required in the north of the City exceeds the total of 1,169 15-hour childcare places currently available, of which 83 are in the Arbury catchment area and 74 are provided by Arbury Pre-School. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the settings in the North of the City along with the demographic forecasts of EY children in the area and the number of children entitled to funded childcare.

- 2.5 The demographic data for the Arbury Primary School catchment area indicates a potential shortfall of 133 available places of, however, as not all parents take up their entitlement and some take up their entitlement out of catchment, the current available combined capacity of the Arbury setting and local childminders is sufficient to meet demand. Should this change, officers will endeavour to develop additional places to meet the need.
- 2.6 The EYA has advised the Council that they no longer wish to manage and operate the EY setting in Arbury. They would like to cease operating the setting effective from July 2021 but may be willing to delay this to prevent an interruption in service to families. Therefore, a tender is required to identify a new childcare provider. A tender is a lengthy process which takes 3 - 4 months to complete. In addition to this, time must be allowed for the new childcare provider to register with the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) prior to opening. This is a legal requirement which can take up to 6 months. However, the 6-month period is often reduced if the successful applicant is an existing EY provider
- 2.7 In order to continue to be able to meet its statutory sufficiency duty the Council cannot afford to lose the well-attended, centrally located setting in Arbury.
- 2.8 The tender specification will require the new childcare provider to run the setting for a minimum of 5 years. The potential value of the contract over the 5-year lease period has been calculated as between £740,601.00 and £756,732.00. The Council's Constitution defines a key decision as one which 'results in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings in a single transaction, in excess of £500,000.' Therefore, given the potential contract value it is necessary to seek Committee approval to carry out the tender process. Appendix 3 sets out the detailed calculations for the contract value.
- 2.9 Given the potential time required for tendering, Ofsted registration and Committee approval there is a risk that in cases such as this, the notice period of 3 months required of an EY provider, is insufficient to carry out all the necessary processes and to ensure that there is no loss of service to families. Such a loss would not only cause considerable upheaval to children and parents, but it would also place at risk the Council's ability to meet its statutory EY sufficiency duty.
- 2.10 For the reasons set out above officers will return to the Children and Young People's (CYP) Committee in the autumn of 2021 with options to reduce the time required to tender and streamline the process, whilst continuing to meet procurement regulations.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do
The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 2.4, as it is important that parents can access a childcare place in their community.
- 3.2 A good quality of life for everyone
This corporate priority is explicit throughout the report as it relates to early years provision, which not only supports children to learn, thrive and achieve their full potential but also supports parents to learn and to work.

- 3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full
This corporate priority is explicit throughout the report as it relates to early years children gaining access to early years education which will support their learning and development. This is key to securing optimal outcomes for all children, as well as supporting their wellbeing and playing an important role in safeguarding them.
- 3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment
This corporate priority is evident in paragraph 2.4 in the report, which relates to early years provision within the community. This supports parents to access childcare close to home and therefore reduces the need to travel.
- 3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us
High quality early years provision plays a role in caring for and safeguarding all children who access it. The provision referred to within the report covers EY education for funded 2-year olds, 3- and 4-year olds and childcare for the children of working families.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
The process to seek a new provider would be undertaken in line with the Council's procurement procedures.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications
The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.7 and 2.8
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications
Sufficient good quality early years provision is essential in securing better outcomes for all groups within the community.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications
The Council will send a letter to parents of children who access the current setting, to inform parents of the changes and how they can continue to access their free EY entitlement. Support will also be provided to both the existing and new provider to ensure that parents remain fully informed throughout the process and are aware of the changes.
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement
The Local Member for Arbury has been fully briefed on this matter.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- There is good evidence that Early Years settings can do much to promote good nutrition and physical activity especially when habits are being formed.
 - There are strong links between education and health.
 - Improving school readiness is part of the Public Health Outcomes Framework

- 4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas (See further guidance in Appendix 2): This will depend on the successful childcare provider. Assurance relating to requirements for minimising carbon, will be sought via the social value questions in the tender.
- 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The service will operate from Cambridgeshire County Council Premises and the successful provider will not have the ability to influence this.
- 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: There is no transport related to this tender.
- 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: There is limited outdoor space attached to this property, assurance that it will be sought that it will be maintained in an appropriate manner.
- 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: There is limited opportunity to make a significant difference.
- 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: There is limited opportunity to make a significant difference.
- 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: There is limited opportunity to make a significant difference.
- 4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive
Explanation: Providers will be encouraged to influence those in their care about climate change and positive behaviour relating to this. This will help build resilience in our communities.

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?

Yes

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

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

Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Jon Lewis

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

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

Name of Officer: Jon Lewis

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 [Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities \(Department for Education June 2021\)](#)

Extended entitlement criteria, for working parents to access an additional 570 hours of childcare.

- 1 Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- 2 Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage and less than £100,000 per year

Early Years settings by catchment including capacity.

Catchment	Setting	Capacity	No of 15 hour EY places required*
Arbury Primary School	Arbury Pre-School	74	
Arbury Primary School	3x Childminders	9	
SUBTOTAL		83	216
Mayfield Primary School	Under 5's Roundabout	84	
Mayfield Primary School	1x Childminder	3	
SUBTOTAL		87	149
Milton Road Primary School	Cambridge Day Nursery	82	
Milton Road Primary School	Butterfly Day Nursery	52	
Milton Road Primary School	1x Childminder	3	
SUBTOTAL		137	202
St Luke's CofE Primary School	Smiths Children	45	
St Luke's CofE Primary School	Sunflower Nursery, Cambridge	45	
SUBTOTAL		90	142
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	Clarence House Cambridge	38	
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	Playlanders Playgroup	27	
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	Peek A Boo Nursery	25	
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	Snap! 4 Kids Nursery, Cambridge	106	
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	Chestnut Nursery @ Chesterton	99	
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	Shirley Community Pre-School	>49	
Chesterton Primary School / Shirley Shared	10x Childminders	30	
SUBTOTAL		>374	314
Kings Hedges Primary School	Moonbeams Pre-School	40	
Kings Hedges Primary School	3x Childminders	9	
Kings Hedges Primary School	Kings Hedges Nursery	100	
SUBTOTAL		149	192
Orchard Park Community Primary School	Orchard Park Primary School Nursery Class	52	
SUBTOTAL		52	94
The Grove Primary School	Colleges Nursery School Day Nursery	120	
The Grove Primary School	Rainbow Playgroup	41	

The Grove Primary School	6x Childminders	18	
SUBTOTAL		179	165
University of Cambridge Primary School	N/A	N/A	
TOTALS		1151	1474

*this includes the extended entitlement.

	0 Y/O's	1 Y/O's	2 Y/O's	3 Y/O's	4 Y/O's	15 Hr Places required	30 Hr Places required	Total places required
Arbury	80	70	71	77	84	120	48	216
Mayfield	49	44	45	68	54	83	33	149
Milton Road	80	54	62	82	89	112	45	202
St Luke's	59	45	47	43	46	78	32	142
Chesterton / Shirley	120	88	102	123	107	174	70	314
Kings Hedges	75	58	65	65	56	106	43	192
Orchard Park	41	31	27	30	39	52	21	94
Grove	64	57	44	61	64	91	37	165
UoCPS	9	40	35	29	25	46	19	84
Total	577	487	498	578	564	862	348	1558

Appendix 3

Two financial models have been considered

Table 1 – Potential maximum revenue, Model A

Age of Children	Maximum places at setting	Maximum funded hours generated per year	Funding Rate*	Maximum annual Revenue
2 years old	16	570	£5.57	£50,798.40
3-4 years old	21	1,140	£4.20	£100,548.00
Annual total:				£151,346.40
Total revenue over 5 years				£756,732.00

Table 2 – Potential maximum revenue, Model B

Age of Children	Maximum places at setting	Maximum funded hours generated per year	Funding Rate*	Maximum annual Revenue
2 years old	18	570	£5.57	£57,148.20
3-4 years old	19	1,140	£4.20	£90,972.00
Annual total:				£148,120.20
Total revenue over 5 years				£740,601.00

*Hourly rate for funded 2 year olds, £5.57

*Hourly rate for funded 3 and 4 year olds, £4.20

Finance Monitoring Report – July 2021

- To: Children and Young People Committee
- Meeting Date: 14 September 2021
- From: Executive Director: People and Communities
Director of Public Health
Chief Finance Officer
- Electoral division(s): All
- Key decision: No
- Forward Plan ref: Not applicable
- Outcome: To provide the Committee with the July 2021 Finance Monitoring Report for People and Communities and Public Health.
- The report is presented to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the financial position as at the end of July 2021.
- Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:
- a. Review and comment on the report.
 - b. Note the Section 256 arrangement in respect of the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS).
 - c. Note the Section 76 agreement in respect of Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT).
 - d. Note the Section 75 agreement in respect of Occupational Therapy (OT).

Officer contact:

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Member contacts:

Names: Councillor Bryony Goodliffe / Councillor Maria King
Post: Chair / Vice-Chair
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1. Background

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

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual July 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
-0	Children's Commissioning	22,414	5,668	1,250
0	Communities & Safety - Central Integrated Youth Support Services	382	-25	-16
-0	Children & Safeguarding	59,375	13,035	-1,259
796	Education – non DSG	37,242	10,364	791
0	Public Health - Children's Health	9,317	2,267	0
796	Total Expenditure	128,729	31,308	767
0	Grant Funding (excluding Dedicated Schools Grant etc.)	-17,777	-2,904	0
796	Total Non-DSG	110,952	28,404	767
0	Commissioning – DSG	245	0	0
11,244	Education – DSG (incl. contribution to combined budgets)	90,528	27,622	11,244
11,244	Total DSG (Ringfenced Grant)	90,773	27,622	11,244

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

2. Main Issues – Revenue

- 2.1 At the end of July 2021, the overall P&C position shows a forecast underspend of £426k; around 0.1% of budget, whilst Public Health is reporting an underspend of £1,027k; 2.1% of budget. The budgets within the remit of CYP are currently forecasting an overspend of £782k (excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant).

2.1.2 The significant issues relating to CYP, as highlighted in the main FMR are:

Children's - Despite a relatively stable position in the number of Children in Care (CiC) we are seeing increasing cost pressures due to changes in complexity of need, and continuing cost inflation within the sector resulting in an in year forecast pressure of £1.25m. Since April we have seen a rise of 7 young people in residential homes, representing a 20% increase in numbers, and a 33% increase in overall financial commitment. Weekly cost for this type of provision is significantly higher than foster care, so any shift towards residential will have significant impact on the budgetary position. Higher cost placements are reviewed regularly to ensure they are the correct level and step downs can be initiated appropriately; however we are continuing to see an increase in demand for this placement type. We are also seeing the impact of Tier 4 step-downs which can lead to high placement costs, and demand for this placement type is also expected to rise.

Despite further pressures within the Children's Disability Service (£400k), the current forecast overspend across Children's (including the CiC placement budget held in Commissioning) has been offset by underspends in the Fostering and Supervised Contact Service (-£884k), Corporate Parenting (-£400k) and Adoption Allowances (-£375k).

Outdoor Education is forecasting a revised in-year overspend of £681k due to school residential visits not being allowed until mid-May and a reduction in numbers in order to adhere to Covid-19 guidance.

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

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

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

2.1.3 Other information:

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS) - A Section 256 agreement (which allows Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to enter into arrangements with local authorities to carry out activities with health benefits) is now in place with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG in relation to the receipt of funding towards CCC's Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS).

The SENDIAS Service provides impartial information, advice and support to parents carers and young people with special educational needs & disabilities. The Section 256 agreement with the C&P CCG therefore ensures, as per statutory obligation, that CCC's SENDIASS Service is jointly funded by the C&P CCG alongside the Local Authority. The C&P CCG approved their funding contribution, of £41,500, to CCC's SENDIASS Service in 2021; to commence for the 2021-22 financial year.

As the C&P CCG are contributing to both Peterborough City Council and CCC's SENDIAS Services, therefore the Section 256 itself relates to both Peterborough & Cambridgeshire's SENDIAS Services; the combined contribution from the C&P CCG is therefore £83,000 for the 2021-22 financial year. Both services operate on an in-house basis (within the respective Local Authorities) but serve a vital impartial function for children & young people with SEND and their families. The Section 256 relates to both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire's services due to the strategic direction for there to be a joint SENDIAS Service across Peterborough & Cambridgeshire.

Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) – Section 76 of the NHS Act 2006 enables joint health and social care funding, and allows local authorities to make payments, as in this case for service contributions, to NHS bodies to support specific additional NHS services, where this ensures a more efficient use of resources.

An extension of the S76 agreement in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CPCCG) to deliver an integrated SaLT service to children and young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been produced. The agreement covers the initial period from 1st April 2021 to March 2022 and thereafter, subject to annual review, until 31 March 2024. The annual cost for each LA is £236,794.

Occupational Therapy (OT) - As presented at the June CYP committee the Section 75 OT agreement with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) will primarily fund the SEND provision [namely education, health and care plan (EHCP) assessment, advice and tribunal] and the additional funding supporting the social care elements [namely housing adaptations, disabled facilities grants and assessments]. The annual value for 2021/22 is £506k and is funded from a combination of existing funding and reserves. Ongoing funding of £741k per annum is required from 2022/23 with CYP committee previously supporting the requirement for additional permanent funding of £496,000 from 2022/23 onwards. This will be taken forward through the business planning process.

2.3 Capital

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

Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (July 21) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Outturn Variance (July 21) £000
P&C	-5,805	-5,805	3,492	60.2%	0
Total Spending	-5,805	-5,805	3,492	60.2%	0

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

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

4. Significant Implications

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

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

There are no significant implications within this category.

5. Source documents

5.1 None

6. Appendices

6.1 An accessible copy of Appendix B - People and Communities and Public Health Finance Monitoring Report July 2021 is available on request from martin.wade@cambridgehire.gov.uk

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

Commissioning Directorate

Strategic Management – Commissioning – covers all of P&C

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

Children’s Commissioning

Children in Care Placements

Commissioning Services

Community & Safety Directorate

Youth and Community Services

Children & Safeguarding Directorate

Strategic Management – Children & Safeguarding

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

Fostering and Supervised Contact Services

Corporate Parenting

Integrated Front Door

Children’s Disability Service

Support to Parents

Adoption Allowances

Legal Proceedings

Youth Offending Service

District Delivery Service

Children’s Centres Strategy

Safeguarding West

Safeguarding East

Early Help District Delivery Service –North

Early Help District Delivery Service – South

Education Directorate

Strategic Management - Education

Early Years’ Service

School Improvement Service

Schools Partnership Service

Outdoor Education

Cambridgeshire Music

ICT Service

Redundancy & Teachers Pensions

SEND Specialist Services (0-25 years)

SEND Specialist Services

Funding for Special Schools and Units

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

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

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

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

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

Subject: Finance Monitoring Report – July 2021

Date: 13th August 2021

Key Indicators

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

Contents

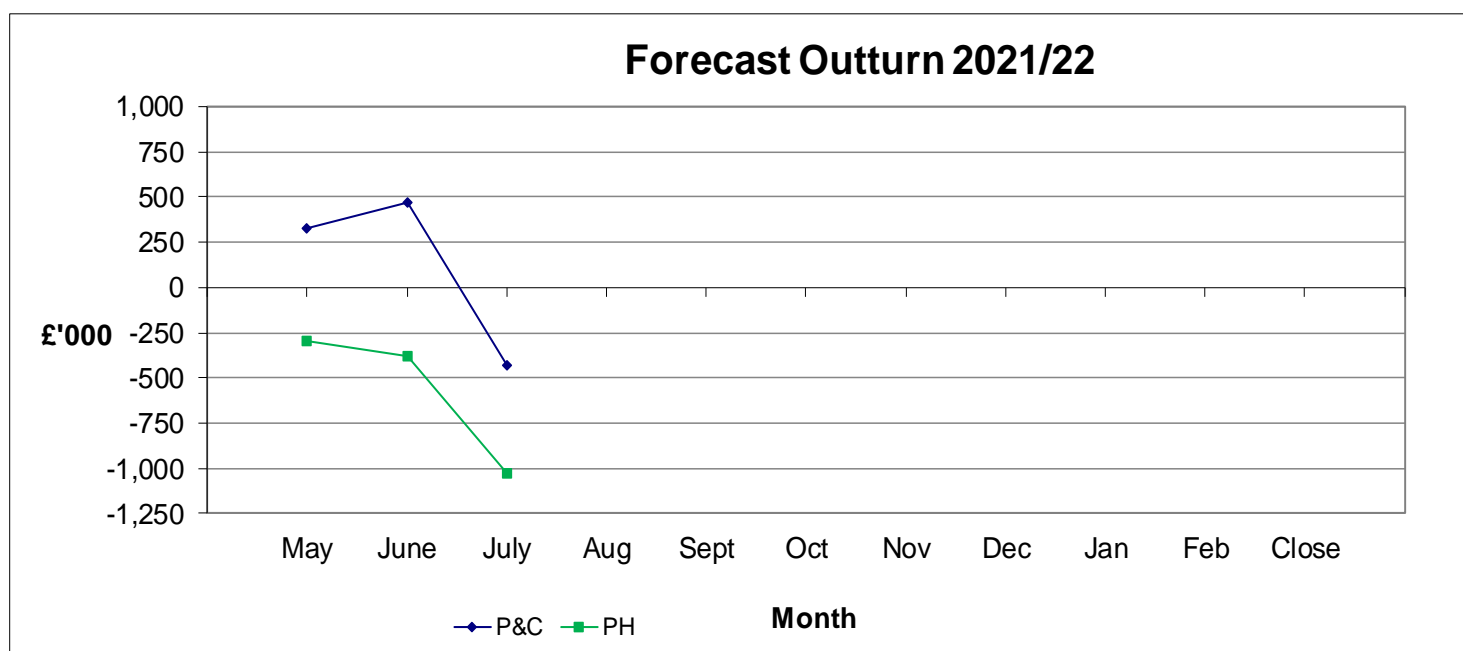
Section	Item	Description	Page
1	Revenue Executive Summary	High level summary of information: By Directorate By Committee Narrative on key issues in revenue financial position	2-7
2	Capital Executive Summary	Summary of the position of the Capital programme within P&C	8
3	Savings Tracker Summary	Summary of the final position on delivery of savings	8
4	Technical Note	Explanation of technical items that are included in some reports	8
5	Key Activity Data	Performance information linking to financial position of main demand-led services	9-14
Appx 1	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial tables for P&C main budget headings	15-17
Appx 1a	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial table for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) main budget headings within P&C	18
Appx 2	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial table for Public Health main budget headings	19
Appx 3	Service Commentaries	Detailed notes on financial position of services that are forecasting a significant variance against budget	20-26
Appx 4	Capital Appendix	This will contain more detailed information about P&C's Capital programme, including funding sources and variances from planned spend.	27-29
<i>The following appendices are not included each month as the information does not change as regularly:</i>			
Appx 5	Savings Tracker	Each quarter, the Council's savings tracker is produced to give an update of the position of savings agreed in the business plan.	30-31
Appx 6	Technical Appendix	Twice yearly, this will contain technical financial information showing: Grant income received Budget virements into or out of Service reserves	

1. Revenue Executive Summary

1.1 Overall Position

People and Communities reported an underspend of -£426k at the end of July.

Public Health reported an underspend of -£1,027k at the end of July.



1.2 Summary of Revenue position by Directorate

1.2.1 People and Communities

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual £000	Outturn Variance £000	Outturn Variance %
-191	Adults & Safeguarding	174,603	42,533	-1,095	-0.6%
-53	Commissioning	41,560	10,924	1,294	3.1%
561	Communities & Partnerships	11,577	2,532	487	4.2%
-0	Children & Safeguarding	59,375	13,035	-1,259	-2.1%
796	Education - non DSG	38,953	11,562	791	2.0%
11,244	Education - DSG	89,528	26,622	11,244	12.6%
-644	Executive Director	3,079	277	-644	-20.9%
11,714	Total Expenditure	418,675	107,486	10,819	2.6%
-11,244	Grant Funding	-118,599	-38,020	-11,244	9.5%
469	Total	300,076	69,465	-426	-0.1%

1.2.2 Public Health

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual £000	Outturn Variance £000	Outturn Variance %
0	Children Health	9,317	2,267	0	0.0%
0	Drugs & Alcohol	5,918	1,342	0	0.0%
-10	Sexual Health & Contraception	5,290	519	-212	-4.0%
-10	Behaviour Change / Preventing Long Term Conditions	3,714	607	-378	-10.2%
-27	Falls Prevention	87	0	-27	-31.7%
0	General Prevention Activities	13	-1	0	0.0%
0	Adult Mental Health & Community Safety	257	16	0	0.0%
-332	Public Health Directorate	23,761	2,318	-410	-1.7%
-380	Total Expenditure	48,356	7,068	-1,027	-2.1%

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

1.3 Summary by Committee

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

1.3.1 Adults & Health Committee

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual July 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
-191	Adults & Safeguarding	174,603	42,533	-1,095
-53	Adults Commissioning (including Local Assistance Scheme)	18,512	5,041	44
-380	Public Health (excl. Children's Health)	39,039	4,801	-1,027
-624	Total Expenditure	232,153	52,376	-2,078
0	Grant Funding (including Improved Better Care Fund, Public Health Grant etc.)	-54,415	-40,558	0
-624	Total	177,738	11,818	-2,078

1.3.2 Children and Young People Committee

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual July 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
-0	Children's Commissioning	22,414	5,668	1,250
0	Communities & Safety - Central Integrated Youth Support Services	382	-25	0
-0	Children & Safeguarding	59,375	13,035	-1,259
796	Education – non DSG	37,953	10,563	791
0	Public Health - Children's Health	9,317	2,267	0
796	Total Expenditure	129,441	31,507	782
0	Grant Funding (excluding Dedicated Schools Grant etc.)	-17,777	-3,923	0
796	Total Non-DSG	111,664	27,584	782
0	Commissioning – DSG	245	0	0
11,244	Education – DSG (incl. contribution to combined budgets)	90,528	27,622	11,244
11,244	Total DSG (Ringfenced Grant)	90,773	27,622	11,244

1.3.3 Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual July 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
561	Communities and Partnerships	11,195	2,557	487
561	Total Expenditure	11,195	2,557	487
0	Grant Funding (including Adult Education Budget etc.)	-3,989	-2,552	0
561	Total	7,206	5	487

1.3.4 Cross Cutting P&C Policy Lines

Forecast Variance Outturn (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual July 21 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
-0	Strategic Management – Commissioning	389	215	0
-644	Executive Director	3,079	277	-644
-644	Total Expenditure	3,468	492	-644
0	Grant Funding	0	0	0
-644	Total	3,468	492	-644

1.4 Significant Issues – People & Communities

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

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

At July 2021, the forecast P&C outturn is an underspend of -£426k; around 0.1% of budget. This reflects services' best estimates of their financial position at this point in time but remains very uncertain. Unlike last year, we have had the opportunity to estimate and budget for some expected pressures from the pandemic this year. The Council also has un-ringfenced grant funding from central government to meet Covid pressures across the whole Council which is held centrally and reported in the Integrated Finance Monitoring Report.

P&C will receive specific grant funding from government to deal with aspects of the pandemic as well which is included in the numbers in this report. The £3m infection control and testing grant is being passed to social care providers, and has been topped-up by a similar amount to cover the second quarter, and our first three months' of lost income from fees and charges will be met by a grant.

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

1.4.1 Adults

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

At the end of July, Adults are forecasting an underspend of £1,051k (0.5%), with pressures in some disability and mental health services more than offset by an underspend forecast in Older People's services.

The financial and human impact of Covid-19 has been substantial for Adult Services, overspending in 2020/21 because of the need to provide additional support to care providers, disrupted savings delivery, and rising needs of people receiving care. Some adults who were previously supported at home by friends, family and local community services have not been able to secure this support during Covid due to visiting restrictions during lockdown. This has increased reliance on professional services; the ability to focus on conversations about the use of technology, community support or other preventative services have been restricted due to the refocusing of staffing resources towards discharge from hospital work and supporting care providers. Many vulnerable adults have developed more complex needs during lockdown as they have not accessed the usual community-based services or early help services. We are expecting the longer-term financial impact of this to be very large.

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

We will review in detail on a quarterly basis the activity information and other cost drivers to validate this forecast position, and so this remains subject to variation as circumstances change. In particular, a budget rebaselining exercise will be undertaken at the mid-year point to assess the full impact of Covid on the numbers of older people being supported.

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

1.4.2 Children's

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

- Due to the lockdown and lack of visibility of children, referrals to Children's saw a significant reduction; we predicted that there would be demand building up with a need for an increase in staff costs resulting from an increase in the number of referrals, requiring assessments and longer term working with families, whose needs are likely to be more acute, due to early support not having been accessed, within both early help and children's social care.
- We have seen an increase in the numbers of referrals of children and young people with more complex needs. This has been the case in other areas and signals that there is likely to be an increase in demand both in terms of volumes and complexity of need.
- Despite a relatively stable position in the number of Children in Care (CiC) we are seeing increasing cost pressures due to changes in complexity of need, and continuing cost inflation within the sector resulting in an in-year forecast pressure of £1.25m. Since April we have seen a rise of 7 young people in residential homes, representing a 20% increase in numbers, and a 33% increase in overall financial commitment. Weekly cost for this type of provision is significantly higher than foster care, so any shift towards residential will have significant impact on the budgetary position. Higher cost placements are reviewed regularly to ensure they are the correct level and step downs can be initiated appropriately; however, we are continuing to see an increase in demand for this placement type. We are also seeing the impact of Tier 4 step-downs which can lead to high placement costs, and demand for this placement type is also expected to rise.
- Despite further pressures within the Children's Disability Service (£400k), the current forecast overspend across Children's (including the CiC placement budget held in Commissioning) has been offset by underspends in the Fostering and Supervised Contact Service (-£884k), Corporate Parenting (-£400k) and Adoption Allowances (-£375k).

1.4.3 Education

Education – A number of services within Education have lost income as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some areas have been able to deliver services in different ways or have utilised their staff and/or buildings to provide support to other services to mitigate the overall impact. Outdoor Education is currently forecasting an in-year overspend of £681k due to school residential visits not being allowed until mid-May and a reduction in numbers in order to adhere to Covid-19 guidance.

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

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

Due to the continuing increase in the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and the complexity of need of these young people the overall spend on the High Needs Block element of the DSG funded budgets has continued to rise. At the end of 2020/21 the High Needs

Block overspent by approximately £12.5m, which was in line with previous forecasts. However, there were a number of one-off underspends in other areas of the DSG which resulted in a net DSG overspend of £9.7m to the end of the year.

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

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

1.4.4 Communities

The Coroners service is reporting a revised pressure of £175k mainly as a result of additional costs related to Covid-19.

Public Library Services are reporting an increased pressure of £333k as a result of a reduction in income related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.4.5 Executive Director

The Executive Director line is forecasting an underspend of £644k, due to a large provision for spend on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for service delivery expected to partly not be required as central government has extended its cost-neutral PPE scheme for councils into 2021/22 aligning it with the current phasing of restrictions easing.

1.5 Significant Issues – Public Health

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

In 2020/21, the pandemic caused an underspend on many of PH's business as usual services. Much of the directorate's spend is contracts with or payments to the NHS for specific work, and the NHS' re-focussing on pandemic response and vaccination reduced activity-driven costs to the PH budget. This is continuing into the first part of 2021/22 with indications that spend is currently below budgeted levels, and a risk of remaining so through the current financial year. In addition, with the unprecedented demand for public health staff across the country, recruitment is proving difficult resulting in underspends on staffing budgets. Service demand is difficult to predict and will be kept under review.

2. Capital Executive Summary

2021/22 In Year Pressures/Slippage

At the end of July 2021, the capital programme forecast underspend continues to be zero. The level of slippage and underspend in 2021/22 is currently anticipated to be £3,492k and as such has not yet exceeded the revised Capital Variation Budget of £5,805k. A forecast outturn will not be reported unless this happens.

Funding

The following changes in funding since June 2021 have occurred:

- Prudential borrowing increased by £152k as a result of changes in the capital variation budget.

Cost Changes

Capital Variation: £152k reduction in scheme provision to take into account revisions to the capital plan since the Business Plan was agreed, this subsequently resulted in an overall increase to prudential borrowing requirement.

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

3. Savings Tracker Summary

The savings tracker is produced quarterly to monitor delivery of savings against agreed plans. The first savings tracker of 2021/22 is shown in Appendix 5.

4. Technical note

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

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

5. Key Activity Data

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

5.1 Children and Young People

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

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (July 21)				VARIANCE		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements July 21	Yearly Average	Forecast Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted no. of placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Residential - disability	7	£1,204k	52	3,307.62	8	6.27	£1,092k	3,190.23	-0.73	-£112k	-117.39
Residential - secure accommodation	1	£365k	52	7,019.23	0	0.00	£k	0.00	-1.00	-£365k	-7,019.23
Residential schools	10	£1,044k	52	2,006.99	7	6.90	£535k	1,735.45	-3.10	-£508k	-271.54
Residential homes	35	£6,028k	52	3,311.90	42	39.68	£8,263k	4,187.55	4.68	£2,235k	875.65
Independent Fostering	230	£10,107k	52	845.04	221	218.44	£9,805k	872.67	-11.56	-£302k	27.63
Tier 4 Step down	0	£k	0	0.00	1	0.83	£132k	3,134.50	0.83	£132k	3,134.50
Supported Accommodation	20	£1,755k	52	1,687.92	22	18.07	£1,666k	1,495.66	-1.93	-£89k	-192.26
16+	8	£200k	52	480.41	4	2.32	£41k	270.68	-5.68	-£159k	-209.73
Supported Living	3	£376k	52	2,411.58	4	2.49	£399k	2,954.62	-0.51	£23k	543.04
Growth/Replacement	0	£k	0	0.00	0	0.00	£396k	0.00	-	£396k	0.00
Additional one off budget/actuals	0	£k	0	0.00	0	0.00	£k	0.00	-	£k	0.00
Mitigations required	0	£k	0	0.00	0	0.00	£k	0.00	-	£k	0.00
TOTAL	314	£21,078k			309	295.00	£22,328k		-18.49	£1,250k	
In-house Fostering	240	£5,103k	56	382.14	217	212.29	£4,394k	364.04	-27.71	-£708k	-18.10
In-house fostering - Reg 24	12	£121k	56	179.09	3	4.92	£50k	203.33	-7.08	-£71k	24.24
Staying Put	36	£210k	52	111.78	42	42.29	£227k	114.49	6.29	£17k	2.71
Supported Lodgings	9	£80k	52	171.01	7	6.50	£53k	176.87	-2.5	-£27k	5.86
TOTAL	240	£5,103k			259	254.58	£4,725k		-21.42	-£788k	
Adoption Allowances	97	£1,063k	52	210.16	90	88.33	£1,099k	223.19	-8.67	£36k	13.03
Special Guardianship Orders	322	£2,541k	52	151.32	282	285.05	£2,174k	144.54	-36.95	-£366k	-6.78
Child Arrangement Orders	55	£462k	52	160.96	54	52.97	£425k	155.33	-2.03	-£36k	-5.63
Concurrent Adoption	3	£33k	52	210.00	1	1.00	£11k	210.00	-2	-£22k	0.00
TOTAL	477	£4,098k			427	427.35	£3,710k		-8.67	-£388k	
OVERALL TOTAL	1,031	£30,279k			995	976.93	£30,763k		-48.58	£73k	

NOTES:

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

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

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

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

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

Provision Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (July 21)					FORECAST	
	No. pupils	Expected in-year growth	Average annual cost per pupil (£)	Budget (£000) (excluding academy recoupment)	No. Pupils as of July 21		% growth used	Average annual cost per pupils as of July 2021		Forecast spend (£)	Variance (£)
					Actual	Variance		Actual (£)	Variance (£)		
Mainstream top up *	1,913	174	8,130	16,155	2,292	379	318%	7,073	-1,057	16,155	0
Special School **	1,326	121	10,755	20,904	1,497	171	242%	9,656	-1,099	20,904	0
HN Unit **	202	n/a	13,765	3,182	217	15	n/a	13,291	-474	3,182	0
Out of School Tuition ****	84	n/a	45,600	3,834	179	95	n/a	40,771	-4,829	3,834	0
SEN Placement (all) ***	243	n/a	53,464	13,012	263	20	n/a	49,475	-3,989	13,012	0
Total	3,768	294	-	57,087	4,448	680	330.83%	-	-	57,087	0

* LA cost only

** Excluding place funding

*** Education contribution only

5.2 Adults

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

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

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

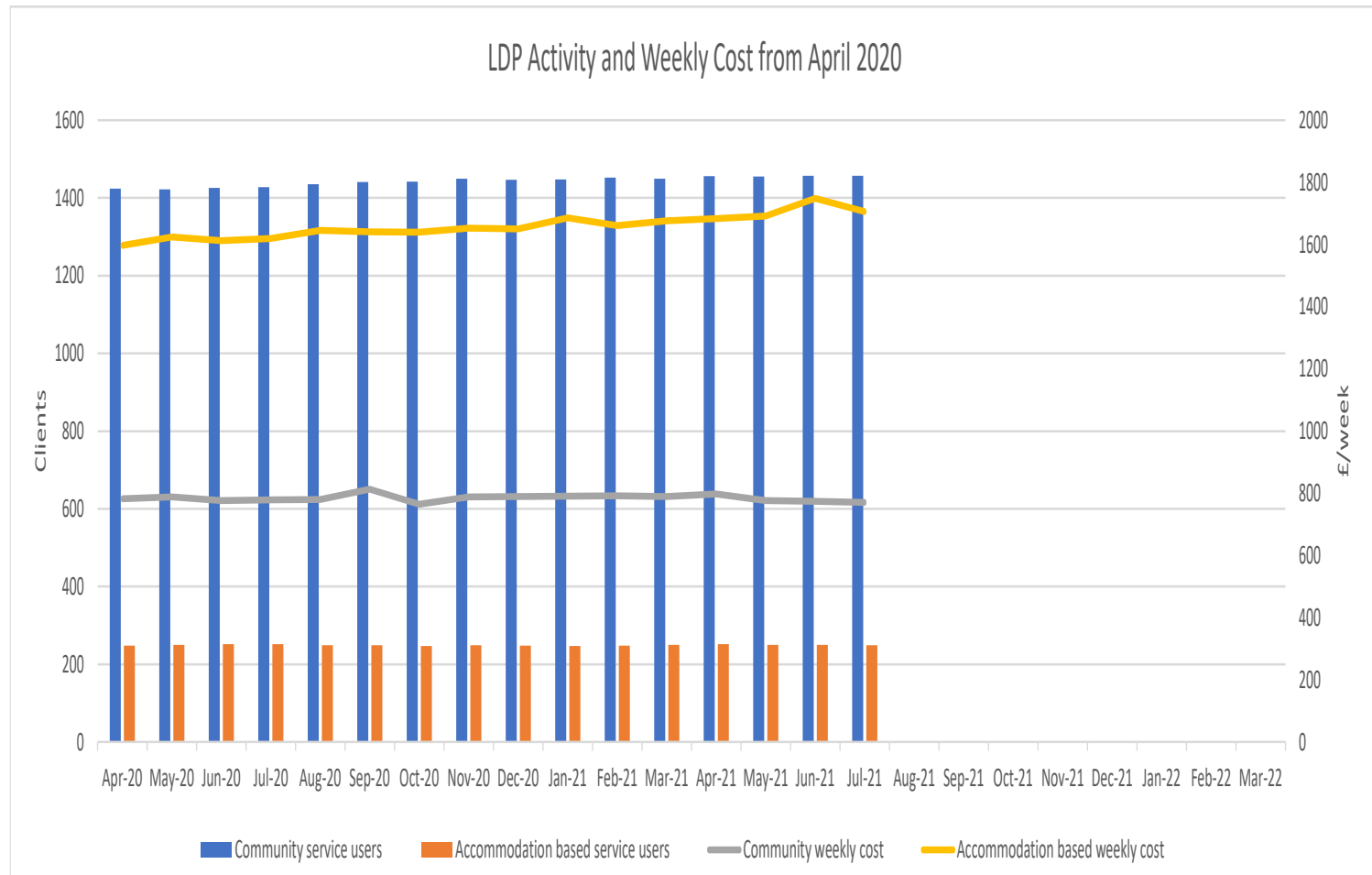
The direction of travel (DoT) compares the current month's figure with the previous month.

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

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

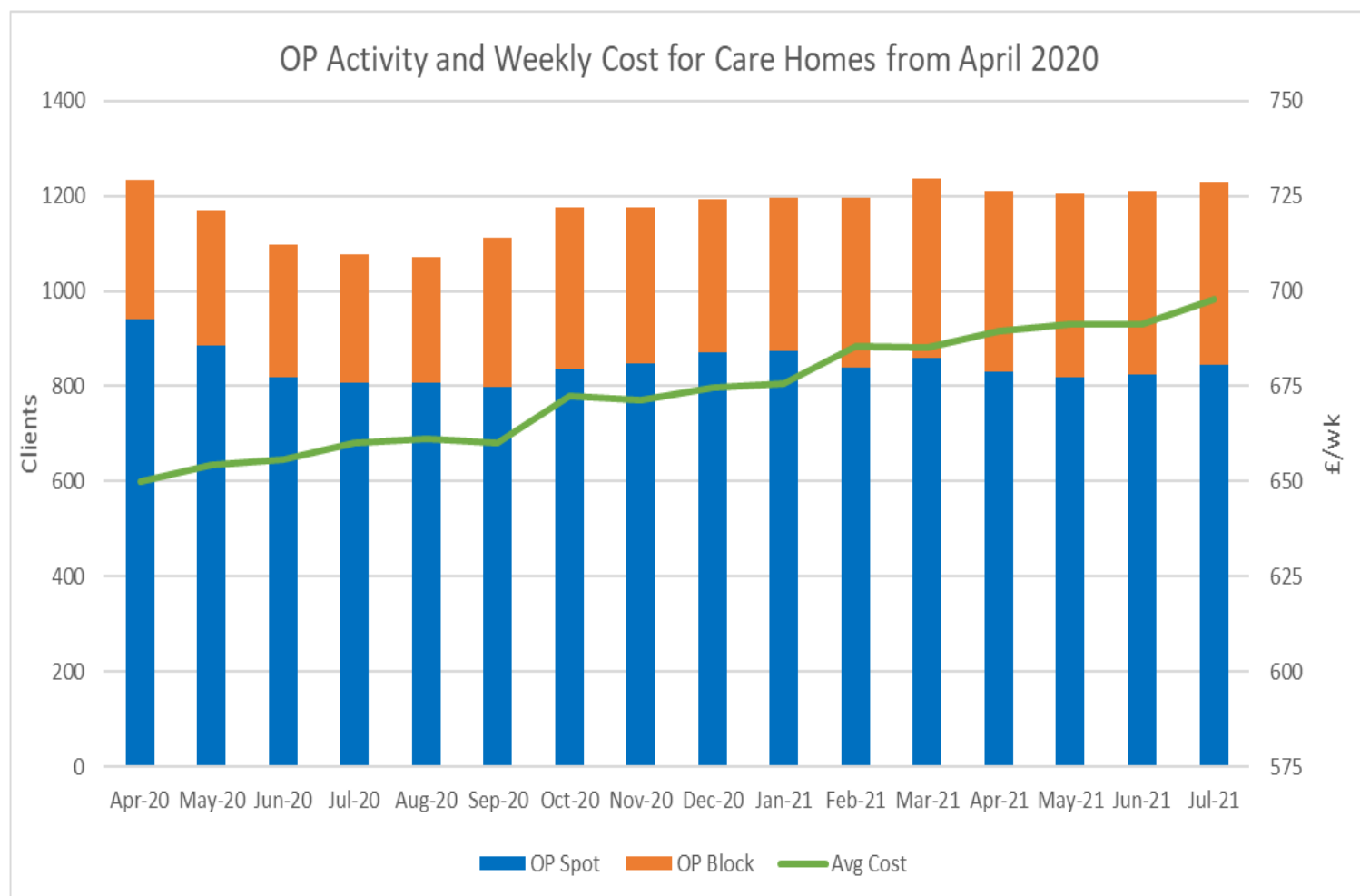
Learning Disability Partnership	BUDGET			ACTUAL (July 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected	Budgeted	Annual	Current				Total spend/	D	Variance
	No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Average Unit Cost (per week)		Current Care Packages	D	Average Unit Cost (per week)	D			
Accommodation based										
~Residential	251	£1,759	£24,664k	241 ↓		£1,851 ↑		£25,476k ↑		£811k
~Nursing	6	£2,385	£813k	6 ↔		£2,385 ↔		£807k ↓		-£6k
~Respite	154	£855	£382k	5 ↓		£761 ↓		£393k ↑		£10k
Accommodation based subtotal	411	£1,109	£25,860k	252		£1,827		£26,676k		£816k
Community based										
~Supported Living	456	£1,338	£35,160k	427 ↓		£1,363 ↑		£35,639k ↑		£479k
~Homecare	386	£380	£6,342k	341 ↓		£395 ↑		£6,432k ↑		£90k
~Direct payments	403	£446	£8,874k	356 ↓		£434 ↓		£8,867k ↓		-£7k
~Live In Care	15	£2,033	£1,709k	14 ↓		£1,948 ↓		£1,552k ↓		-£157k
~Day Care	437	£175	£4,146k	376 ↓		£183 ↑		£4,260k ↑		£114k
~Other Care	57	£86	£856k	52 ↓		£100 ↑		£849k ↓		-£7k
Community based subtotal	1,754	£598	£57,087k	1,566		£621		£57,599k		£512k
Total for expenditure	2,165	£695	£108,806k	1,818		£788		£84,274k ↓		£1,328k
Care Contributions			-£4,396k					-£4,735k ↑		-£339k

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



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

Older People	BUDGET			ACTUAL (July 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D T	Total spend/ income	D T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	410	£672	£14,554k	370	↑	£642	↑	£14,437k	↑	£117k
~Residential Dementia	517	£657	£17,722k	439	↓	£666	↑	£17,759k	↓	£37k
~Nursing	290	£808	£12,639k	263	↑	£741	↑	£12,962k	↓	£322k
~Nursing Dementia	203	£809	£8,541k	155	↑	£850	↑	£8,759k	↑	£218k
~Respite	41	£679	£1,584k	41				£1,305k	↓	£278k
Accommodation based subtotal	1,461	£694	£55,041k	1,268		£675		£55,223k		£182k
Community based										
~Supported Living	320	£368	£5,603k	355	↑	£151	↑	£5,603k	↓	£k
~Homecare	1,510	£230	£18,320k	1,263	↑	£243	↑	£18,669k	↑	£348k
~Direct payments	160	£320	£2,465k	148	↓	£355	↑	£2,580k	↓	£114k
~Live In Care	30	£822	£1,250k	28	↑	£878	↑	£1,315k	↑	£65k
~Day Care	267	£54	£763k	73	↑	£69	↓	£756k	↑	£7k
~Other Care			£163k					£403k	↑	£240k
Community based subtotal	2,287	£243	£28,564k	1,867		£237		£29,326k		£761k
Total for expenditure	3,748	£419	£83,605k	3,135		£414		£84,548k	↑	£944k
Care Contributions			-£23,528k					-£24,747k		-£1,219k



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

Physical Disabilities	BUDGET			ACTUAL (July 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D T	Total spend/ income	D T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	33	£905	£1,611k	37	↑	£938	↑	£1,519k	↑	-£92k
~Residential Dementia	4	£935	£195k	8	↔	£651	↓	£177k	↑	-£18k
~Nursing	38	£1,149	£2,438k	47	↓	£943	↑	£2,264k	↓	-£175k
~Nursing Dementia	3	£1,192	£192k	4	↓	£973	↑	£160k	↑	-£33k
~Respite	2	£685	£114k	9		£204		£75k	↓	-£39k
Accommodation based subtotal	80	£1,010	£4,550k	105		£839		£4,195k		-£356k
Community based										
~Supported Living	7	£843	£551k	40	↑	£333	↓	£559k	↑	£9k
~Homecare	389	£257	£5,326k	440	↑	£247	↓	£5,487k	↑	£160k
~Direct payments	285	£398	£5,279k	272	↓	£394	↑	£5,094k	↓	-£185k
~Live In Care	35	£862	£1,627k	39	↑	£861	↑	£1,752k	↑	£124k
~Day Care	21	£85	£94k	23	↓	£90	↑	£103k	↔	£8k
~Other Care			£4k	1	↔	£60	↔	£3k	↑	-£1k
Community based subtotal	737	£341	£12,882k	815		£325		£12,998k		£116k
Total for expenditure	817	£406	£17,432k	920		£383		£17,192k	↓	-£240k
Care Contributions			-£2,154k					-£2,409k		-£255k

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

Older People Mental Health	BUDGET			ACTUAL (July 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D T	Total spend/ income	D T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	32	£717	£1,010k	35	↑	£687	↑	£1,085k	↑	£75k
~Residential Dementia	28	£755	£860k	32	↑	£712	↑	£992k	↑	£132k
~Nursing	23	£826	£943k	24	↑	£784	↓	£1,015k	↑	£72k
~Nursing Dementia	69	£865	£2,788k	66	↓	£833	↑	£2,791k	↓	£3k
~Respite	3	£708	£42k	0	↓	£0	↓	£40k	↓	-£2k
Accommodation based subtotal	155	£792	£5,643k	157		£768		£5,922k		£279k
Community based										
~Supported Living	9	£340	£111k	12	↑	£279	↓	£111k	↑	£k
~Homecare	68	£221	£693k	77	↑	£208	↓	£789k	↓	£96k
~Direct payments	9	£273	£116k	10	↑	£307	↑	£153k	↑	£37k
~Live In Care	8	£1,079	£455k	9	↑	£1,058	↓	£484k	↑	£29k
~Day Care	4	£47	£k	3	↓	£41	↓	£k	↔	£k
~Other Care	2	£6	£1k	3	↑	£61	↑	£3k	↑	£2k
Community based subtotal	100	£293	£1,376k	114		£283		£1,540k		£164k
Total for expenditure	255	£596	£12,662k	271		£564		£13,384k	↑	£722k
Care Contributions			-£958k					-£965k		-£6k

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

Adult Mental Health	BUDGET			ACTUAL (July 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential	58	£794	£2,369k	59	↑	£798	↑	£2,471k	↑	£102k
~Residential Dementia	6	£841	£267k	3	↓	£619	↓	£126k	↓	-£142k
~Nursing	10	£788	£427k	13	↑	£851	↑	£556k	↑	£129k
~Nursing Dementia	3	£686	£112k	2	↓	£755	↑	£86k	↓	-£26k
~Respite	1	£20	£k	1	↔	£20	↔	£k	↔	£k
Accommodation based subtotal	78	£783	£3,176k	78		£789		£3,239k		£63k
Community based										
~Supported Living	113	£181	£1,812k	109	↑	£246	↑	£2,189k	↑	£376k
~Homecare	135	£113	£1,333k	136	↑	£100	↑	£1,248k	↓	-£85k
~Direct payments	14	£364	£263k	13	↓	£385	↓	£256k	↑	-£7k
~Live In Care	2	£1,030	£109k	2	↔	£117	↓	£124k	↑	£15k
~Day Care	4	£66	£42k	4	↑	£66	↑	£41k	↓	£k
~Other Care	0	£0	£10k	2	↑	£16	↑	£17k	↑	£7k
Community based subtotal	268	£161	£3,569k	266		£173		£3,876k		£307k
Total for expenditure	346	£301	£9,920k	344		£313		£10,353k	↑	£433k
Care Contributions			-£393k					-£250k		£143k

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

Autism	BUDGET			ACTUAL (July 2021/22)				Forecast		
Service Type	Expected No. of Care Packages 2021/22	Budgeted Average Unit Cost (per week)	Annual Budget	Current Care Packages	D o T	Current Average Unit Cost (per week)	D o T	Total spend/ income	D o T	Variance
Accommodation based										
~Residential			£98k	1	↔	£1,424	↔	£90k	↓	-£7k
~Residential Dementia										
Accommodation based subtotal			£98k	1		£1,424		£90k		-£7k
Community based										
~Supported Living	18	£469	£429k	12	↑	£901	↑	£613k	↑	£184k
~Homecare	19	£151	£149k	19	↑	£149	↓	£83k	↓	-£67k
~Direct payments	19	£299	£297k	19	↑	£274	↓	£318k	↑	£20k
~Live In Care			£142k	0	↔	£0	↔	£k	↔	-£142k
~Day Care	18	£65	£62k	15	↔	£66	↑	£56k	↓	-£6k
~Other Care	2	£29	£3k	2	↔	£60	↓	£7k	↑	£4k
Community based subtotal	77	£262	£1,083k	67		£298		£1,076k		-£7k
Total for expenditure	78	£278	£1,181k	68		£314		£1,257k	↑	-£22k
Care Contributions			-£54k					-£32k		£22k

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

Appendix 1 – P&C Service Level Financial Information

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual July 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Adults & Safeguarding Directorate						
-52	1	Strategic Management - Adults	-6,243	-9,111	-471	-8%
0		Transfers of Care	2,007	729	0	0%
0		Prevention & Early Intervention	9,437	3,827	0	0%
0		Principal Social Worker, Practice and Safeguarding	1,592	571	-21	-1%
0		Autism and Adult Support	1,575	699	-0	0%
0		Adults Finance Operations	1,778	542	-97	-5%
Learning Disabilities						
0	2	Head of Service	5,458	1,262	-143	-3%
-310	2	LD - City, South and East Localities	38,040	11,876	24	0%
233	2	LD - Hunts & Fenland Localities	33,130	10,289	1,416	4%
614	2	LD - Young Adults	9,530	3,448	107	1%
0	2	In House Provider Services	7,378	2,441	-196	-3%
-125	2	NHS Contribution to Pooled Budget	-21,717	-10,859	-280	-1%
412		Learning Disabilities Total	71,819	18,456	927	1%
Older People and Physical Disability Services						
0	3	Physical Disabilities	16,321	4,994	-300	-2%
-50	4	OP - City & South Locality	24,159	7,573	-81	0%
-400	4	OP - East Cambs Locality	8,591	2,088	-498	-6%
-150	4	OP - Fenland Locality	13,233	3,491	-498	-4%
-400	4	OP - Hunts Locality	15,933	4,035	-924	-6%
-1,000		Older People and Physical Disability Total	78,237	22,182	-2,300	-3%
Mental Health						
-60	5	Mental Health Central	1,846	421	-60	-3%
163	5	Adult Mental Health Localities	6,055	1,993	490	8%
345	5	Older People Mental Health	6,500	2,226	437	7%
449		Mental Health Total	14,401	4,639	867	6%
-191		Adults & Safeguarding Directorate Total	174,603	42,533	-1,095	-1%
Commissioning Directorate						
0		Strategic Management –Commissioning	389	215	0	0%
0		Access to Resource & Quality	1,257	409	-0	0%
0		Local Assistance Scheme	300	-27	0	0%
Adults Commissioning						
-53		Central Commissioning - Adults	13,943	4,136	-5	0%
0		Integrated Community Equipment Service	2,018	44	93	5%
0		Mental Health Commissioning	2,251	888	-44	-2%
-53		Adults Commissioning Total	18,212	5,068	44	0%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual July 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Children's Commissioning						
0	6	Children in Care Placements	21,078	5,259	1,250	6%
0		Commissioning Services	323	0	0	0%
0		Children's Commissioning Total	21,401	5,259	1,250	6%
-53		Commissioning Directorate Total	41,560	10,924	1,294	3%
Communities & Partnerships Directorate						
0		Strategic Management - Communities & Partnerships	199	-64	-21	-11%
250	7	Public Library Services	3,741	1,275	333	9%
0		Cambridgeshire Skills	2,178	441	0	0%
0		Archives	369	112	0	0%
0		Cultural Services	314	63	0	0%
0		Registration & Citizenship Services	-641	-275	0	0%
311	8	Coroners	1,808	621	175	10%
0		Trading Standards	694	0	0	0%
0		Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service	2,057	498	0	0%
0		Think Communities	476	-113	0	0%
0		Youth and Community Services	382	-25	0	0%
561		Communities & Partnerships Directorate Total	11,577	2,532	487	4%
Children & Safeguarding Directorate						
0		Strategic Management - Children & Safeguarding	2,755	951	0	0%
0		Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	2,516	570	0	0%
0	9	Fostering and Supervised Contact Services	10,000	2,792	-884	-9%
0	10	Corporate Parenting	7,794	1,821	-400	-5%
0		Integrated Front Door	4,146	1,121	0	0%
0	11	Children's Disability Service	6,775	2,765	400	6%
0		Support to Parents	1,101	-376	0	0%
0	12	Adoption	5,588	1,063	-375	-7%
0		Legal Proceedings	2,050	520	0	0%
0		Youth Offending Service	1,769	314	-0	0%
District Delivery Service						
0		Children's Centres Strategy	55	0	0	0%
0		Safeguarding West	1,029	472	0	0%
0		Safeguarding East	4,741	-1,743	0	0%
0		Early Help District Delivery Service –North	4,491	1,296	0	0%
0		Early Help District Delivery Service – South	4,566	1,469	0	0%
0		District Delivery Service Total	14,881	1,495	0	0%
0		Children & Safeguarding Directorate Total	59,375	13,035	-1,259	-2%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual July 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Education Directorate						
0		Strategic Management - Education	1,630	585	-0	0%
32		Early Years' Service	3,634	920	31	1%
29		School Improvement Service	999	432	29	3%
0		Schools Partnership service	642	573	-0	0%
684	13	Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)	-77	309	681	883%
0		Cambridgeshire Music	0	-148	0	-%
0		ICT Service (Education)	-200	-713	0	-%
0		Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	3,727	524	-0	0%
SEND Specialist Services (0-25 years)						
0		SEND Specialist Services	10,845	3,317	0	0%
0		Funding for Special Schools and Units	34,846	8,129	0	0%
0		High Needs Top Up Funding	28,846	7,196	0	0%
0		Special Educational Needs Placements	13,846	4,816	0	0%
0		Out of School Tuition	3,834	1,122	0	0%
0		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,317	2,478	0	0%
11,244	14	SEND Financing – DSG	-11,244	0	11,244	100%
11,245		SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	88,290	27,059	11,244	13%
Infrastructure						
50		0-19 Organisation & Planning	3,097	764	50	2%
0		Education Capital	178	-14	0	0%
0		Home to School Transport – Special	14,864	4,359	0	0%
0		Children in Care Transport	1,587	389	0	0%
0		Home to School Transport – Mainstream	10,111	3,144	0	0%
50		0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	29,836	8,644	50	0%
12,040		Education Directorate Total	128,482	38,185	12,036	9%
Executive Director						
-644	15	Executive Director	1,793	277	-644	-36%
0		Lost Sales, Fees & Charges Compensation	1,266	0	0	0%
0		Central Financing	21	0	0	0%
-644		Executive Director Total	3,079	277	-644	-21%
11,714		Total	418,675	107,486	10,819	3%
Grant Funding						
-11,244	16	Financing DSG	-90,773	-26,441	-11,244	-12%
0		Non Baselined Grants	-27,826	-11,579	0	0%
-11,244		Grant Funding Total	-118,599	-38,020	-11,244	9%
469		Net Total	300,076	69,465	-426	0%

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

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual July 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Commissioning Directorate						
Children's Commissioning						
0		Commissioning Services	245	0	0	0%
0		Children's Commissioning Total	245	0	0	0%
0		Commissioning Directorate Total	245	0	0	0%
Children & Safeguarding Directorate						
District Delivery Service						
0		Early Help District Delivery Service –North	0	0	0	0%
0		Early Help District Delivery Service – South	0	0	0	0%
0		District Delivery Service Total	0	0	0	0%
0		Children & Safeguarding Directorate Total	0	0	0	0%
Education Directorate						
-0		Early Years' Service	1,768	583	0	0%
0		Schools Partnership service	150	0	0	0%
0		Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	0	0	0	0%
SEND Specialist Services (0-25 years)						
0		SEND Specialist Services	7,280	2,054	0	0%
0		Funding for Special Schools and Units	34,846	8,129	0	0%
0		High Needs Top Up Funding	28,846	7,196	0	0%
0		Special Educational Needs Placements	13,846	4,816	0	0%
0		Out of School Tuition	3,834	1,122	0	0%
0		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,242	2,373	0	0%
11,244	14	SEND Financing – DSG	-11,244	0	11,244	100%
11,244		SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	84,649	25,690	11,244	13%
Infrastructure						
-0		0-19 Organisation & Planning	2,561	350	0	0%
0		Home to School Transport – Special	400	0	0	0%
-0		0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	2,961	350	-0	0%
11,244		Education Directorate Total	89,528	26,622	11,244	13%
11,244		Total	89,773	26,622	11,244	13%
0		Contribution to Combined Budgets	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Schools						
0		Primary and Secondary Schools	402,484	41,387	0	0%
0		Nursery Schools and PVI	36,692	14,546	0	0%
0		Schools Financing	-529,949	-86,622	0	0%
0		Pools and Contingencies	0	-219	0	0%
0		Schools Total	-90,773	-30,907	0	0%
11,244		Overall Net Total	0	-3,284	11,244	-%

Appendix 2 – Public Health Summary FMR

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £'000	Ref	Service	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Actual July 21 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Children Health						
0		Children 0-5 PH Programme	7,271	1,818	0	0%
0		Children 5-19 PH Programme - Non Prescribed	1,705	449	0	0%
0		Children Mental Health	341	0	0	0%
0		Children Health Total	9,317	2,267	0	0%
Drugs & Alcohol						
0		Drug & Alcohol Misuse	5,918	1,342	0	0%
0		Drug & Alcohol Misuse Total	5,918	1,342	0	0%
Sexual Health & Contraception						
0		SH STI testing & treatment - Prescribed	3,750	357	0	0%
-10	17	SH Contraception - Prescribed	1,096	154	-212	-19%
0		SH Services Advice Prevention/Promotion - Non-Prescribed	444	8	0	0%
-10		Sexual Health & Contraception Total	5,290	519	-212	-4%
Behaviour Change / Preventing Long Term Conditions						
0		Integrated Lifestyle Services	1,980	418	0	0%
0		Other Health Improvement	426	161	-0	0%
-10	18	Smoking Cessation GP & Pharmacy	683	19	-180	-26%
0	19	NHS Health Checks Programme - Prescribed	625	10	-198	-32%
-10		Behaviour Change / Preventing Long Term Conditions Total	3,714	607	-378	-10%
Falls Prevention						
-27		Falls Prevention	87	0	-27	-32%
-27		Falls Prevention Total	87	0	-27	-32%
General Prevention Activities						
0		General Prevention, Traveller Health	13	-1	0	0%
0		General Prevention Activities Total	13	-1	0	0%
Adult Mental Health & Community Safety						
0		Adult Mental Health & Community Safety	257	16	0	0%
0		Adult Mental Health & Community Safety Total	257	16	0	0%
Public Health Directorate						
-294	20	Public Health Strategic Management	457	0	-294	-64%
-38	21	Public Health Directorate Staffing & Running Costs	2,234	770	-116	-5%
0		Test and Trace Support Grant	1,064	331	0	0%
0		Enduring Transmission Grant	2,606	19	0	0%
0		Contain Outbreak Management Fund	15,590	188	0	0%
0		Lateral Flow Testing Grant	1,811	1,009	0	0%
-332		Public Health Directorate Total	23,761	2,318	-410	-2%
-380		Total Expenditure before Carry-forward	48,356	7,068	-1,027	-2%
Funding						
0		Public Health Grant	-26,787	-15,490	0	0%
0		Test and Trace Support Grant	-1,064	-1,064	0	0%
0		Enduring Transmission Grant	-2,606	-2,606	0	0%
0		Contain Outbreak Management Fund	-15,590	-15,590	0	0%
0		Community Testing Grant	-1,811	-300	0	0%
0		Other Grants	-498	-404	0	0%
0		Grant Funding Total	-48,355	-35,454	0	0%
-380		Overall Net Total	0	-28,386	-1,027	0%

Appendix 3 – Service Commentaries on Forecast Outturn Position

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

1) Strategic Management - Adults

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
-6,243	-9,111	-471	-8%

Funding from government grants for Adult Social Care is held centrally and is offsetting increased pressures in Learning Disabilities which have emerged this month.

2) Learning Disabilities

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
71,819	18,456	927	1%

The Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) budget is forecasting an overspend of £1,207k at the end of July. The Council's share of the overspend per the pooled arrangement with the NHS is £927k. This is an increase of £670k (£515k for the Council's share) on the position reported in June.

The overspend is largely due to the price of care packages for service users with very complex needs increasing well above the prices we have seen in previous years. We have had two people transition into Young Adults services with very complex health needs, requiring care packages costing significantly more than we have previously paid for similar packages. Additionally, one of our providers who offers specialist placements to service users who cannot easily be placed elsewhere has substantially increased their rates on care packages for our existing service users placed with them. This latter pressure has caused the majority of the increase in forecast outturn since June.

Previously we were reporting that the majority of the overspend was in Young Adults. However, in July there were a number of transfers from the Young Adults service to the other LDP teams, as well as an out of area case transferred to their host local authority. This has not affected the overall LDP forecast but means the overspend has shifted into the LDP locality budgets this month, although the cost of transitions from children's services could still cause us a pressure in this service if the trend for more costly placements for complex cases continues.

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

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

Adults Commissioning are also developing an LD Accommodation Strategy that will enable them to work with the provider market to develop the provision needed for our service users, both now and looking to future needs. This should lead to more choice when placing service users with complex needs and consequently less cost pressure in this area.

3) Physical Disabilities

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
16,321	4,994	-300	-2%

Physical Disabilities are forecasting an underspend of -£300k for July.

Previously identified pressures resulting from increased demand for community-based care have been recognised through the business planning process and are manageable within current budget. A peak in demand for bed-based care in the last quarter of 2020/21 has now reversed, resulting in the reported underspend, in conjunction with an increase in income due from clients contributing towards the cost of their care.

4) Older People

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
61,916	17,188	-2,000	-3%

Older People's Services are forecasting an underspend of -£2.0m at the end of July. As was reported throughout 2020/21, the impact of the pandemic has led to a notable reduction in the number of people having their care and support needs met in care homes, and this short-term impact has carried forward into forecasting for 2021/22.

There is considerable risk and uncertainty around the impact the pandemic will have on both medium- and longer-term demand. There is a growing number of people who have survived Covid, being left with significant needs that we will need to meet, and many vulnerable adults have developed more complex needs as they have not accessed the usual community-based services or early help services due to lockdown. The impact on delayed health care treatments such as operations will impact individual needs and health inequalities negatively. CCG's are working through backlogs in continuing health care, the impacts of this are not yet fully in our system. As restrictions are ending, we are seeing a significant increase in the referrals reported by the Long-Term care teams, since the start of the year, and this is beginning to be reflected in reported commitments. The emerging demand for services has led to an increase in income due from clients contributing towards the cost of their care, improving the reported financial position.

There has also been an increase in referrals and requests to Adult Early Help, Safeguarding Referrals and Mental Health Act Assessments. Hospital Discharge systems continue to be pressured. We do expect some substantial cost increases as both NHS funding is unwound fully in 2021/22 and the medium-term recovery of clients assessed as having primary health needs upon hospital discharge returning to social care funding streams.

The reported financial position includes allowance for the above factors. We will continue to review in detail activity information and other cost drivers to validate this forecast position. This remains subject to variation as circumstances change and more data comes through the system.

5) Mental Health Services

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
14,401	4,639	867	6%

Mental Health Services are reporting an overspend of £867k for July.

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

In addition, pressure is emerging in community based-care with a number of high-cost supported living placements being made by Adult Mental Health services since the start of the year. It has previously been reported that Mental Health care teams are experiencing a significant increase in demand for AMHP services, and the anticipated increase in the provision of packages for working age adults with mental health needs may now be manifesting in reported commitment.

We will continue to review in detail the activity information and other cost drivers to validate this forecast position. This remains subject to variation as circumstances change and more data comes through the system.

6) Children in Care Placements

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
21,078	5,259	1,250	6%

External Placements Client Group	Budgeted Packages	31 July 2021 Packages	Variance from Budget
Residential Disability – Children	7	8	+1
Child Homes – Secure Accommodation	1	0	-1
Child Homes – Educational	10	7	-3
Child Homes – General	35	42	+7
Independent Fostering	230	221	-9
Tier 4 Step down	0	1	+1
Supported Living	3	4	+1
Supported Accommodation	20	22	+2
16+	8	4	-4
TOTAL	314	309	-5

External Placements is currently forecasting an overall pressure of £1.25m. Despite a relatively stable position in the number of CiC, we are seeing increasing cost pressures due to changes in complexity of need, and continuing cost inflation within the sector. Since April we have seen a rise of 7 young people in residential homes, representing a 20% increase in numbers, and a 33% increase in overall financial

commitment. Weekly cost for this type of provision is significantly higher than foster care, so any shift towards residential will have significant impact on the budgetary position. Higher cost placements are reviewed regularly to ensure they are the correct level and step downs can be initiated appropriately; however, we are continuing to see an increase in demand for this placement type. We are also seeing the impact of Tier 4 step-downs which can lead to high placement costs, and demand for this placement type is also expected to rise.

7) Public Library Services

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
3,741	1,275	333	9%

The Public Library service is forecasting an overall £333k overspend. This is a £83k increase on last month and represents the change in advice in relation to Covid and venue use.

The remaining restrictions likely until December mean we are unlikely to see the return to anywhere near pre-pandemic booking levels and so forecasts have been adjusted to represent maintaining the income we have been able to achieve until resumption of services in January allow for slightly more optimistic income forecasts.

We continue to seek new revenue lines with some bright spots such as the Visa service, income from Bus pass applications and the use of the library in Ramsey as local bank offer, as well as the resumption of a project to roll out card payments to more libraries.

However, the service is already managing budget pressures unrelated to Covid through the management of vacancies to reduce our staff spend by £160k from the full budgeted amount as well as a reduction in the stock fund and other expenses. So further mitigation would require a review of service provision.

8) Coroners

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
1,808	621	175	10%

The Coroners Service is forecasting a pressure of £175k which can be attributed to Covid-19. This is a result of:

- Required changes to venues to make them Covid-19 compliant.
- Increased costs of postmortems owing to additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and more staff required to reflect the high risk nature of potential Covid-19 related deaths.

This is an improvement on the previous month due to additional budget being agreed to address the underlying pressures in the service caused by the increasing complexity of cases referred to the Coroner in the jurisdiction, leading to longer investigation and inquest durations.

9) Fostering and Supervised Contact Services

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
10,000	2,792	-884	-9%

The Fostering and Supervised Contact service is forecasting an underspend of -£884k

The foster carer budget is under spending by £802k, this is due to the budget being built for a higher number of placements (236) than the service currently holds (208) and also a lower average cost than budgeted. Associated Foster carer mileage claims are also down mainly impacted by Covid. There is a further £82k underspend across the Link carers, Supported Lodgings and Staying Put budget lines.

10) Corporate Parenting

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
7,794	1,821	-400	-5%

Corporate Parenting are forecasting an underspend of -£400k

In the UASC/Leaving Care budgets activity undertaken in the service to support moves for unaccompanied young people to lower cost but appropriate accommodation and the decision by the Home Office to increase grant allowances from 1 April 2020 has contributed to an improved budget position.

11) Children's Disability Service

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
6,775	2,765	400	6%

Disability Social Care is forecasting an overspend of £400k.

This is due to the in-sourcing of Children's Homes which was taken on with a known £300k pressure from the previous provider. In addition to this, staff who TUPE'd over on the previous provider's Terms and Conditions, are opting to apply for new vacancies which are being advertised under CCC Terms and Conditions, causing additional budget pressures. Furthermore, under CCC Terms and Conditions certain posts (e.g. night support staff) are entitled to 'enhancements' at an additional cost to the service.

Actions being taken:

The position remains under review and future funding requirements are being explored.

12) Adoption

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
5,588	1,063	-375	-7%

The Adoption Allowances budget is forecasting an underspend of -£375k.

During this reporting year the service has, and will continue to have, a number of young people in care turning 18 years old and for the majority of children this will see the special guardianship allowances paid to their carers ceasing. The Council also introduced a new allowance policy in April 2020 which clearly set out the parameters for new allowances and introduced a new means test in line with DfE recommendations that is broadly lower than the previous means test utilised by the Council. We are however recently starting to see more challenge in the court process with regard to allowances post order so will continue to focus on this area of activity to ensure allowances received by carers are in line with children's needs and family circumstances.

13) Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
-77	309	681	-%

The Outdoor Centres outturn forecast is a £681k pressure. This is due to the loss of income as a result of school residential visits not being allowed until mid-May and a reduction in numbers following the relaxation of lockdown in order to adhere to Covid-19 guidance. More than 50% of the centres' income is generated over the summer term and so the restricted business at the start of the financial year has a significant impact on the financial outlook for the year. Approximately 70% of the lost income until June can be claimed back through the local Government lost fees and charges compensation scheme. The figures above also allow for the small number of staff still being furloughed.

14) SEND Financing DSG

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
-11,244	0	11,244	100%

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

15) Executive Director

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
1,793	277	-644	-36%

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

16) Financing DSG

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
-90,773	-26,441	-11,244	-12%

Above the line within P&C, £90.8m is funded from the ring-fenced DSG. Net pressures will be carried forward as part of the overall deficit on the DSG.

17) SH Contraception - Prescribed

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
1,096	154	-212	-19%

This includes Long Acting Reversible Contraception that is commissioned from GPs whose payments are based on unit cost and activity. Due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the GP involvement in the Vaccination Programme activity has remained lower than planned.

18) Smoking Cessation GP & Pharmacy

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
683	19	-180	-26%

Planned activity and spend for Stop Smoking Services has not been achieved due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the GP involvement in the Vaccination Programme activity has remained lower than planned. GP payments are made based on unit cost and activity.

19) NHS Health Checks Programme - Prescribed

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
625	10	-198	-32%

GP Health Checks are commissioned from GPs and as with other GP commissioned services payment is based on unit cost and activity. Planned activity has not been achieved due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the GP involvement in the Vaccination Programme activity.

20) Public Health Strategic Management

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
457	0	-294	-64%

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

21) Public Health Directorate Staffing and Running Costs

Budget 2021/22	Actual July 21	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000	%
2,234	770	-116	-5%

The underspend on staffing and running costs is due to vacant posts. The current national demand for public health specialists is making recruitment very difficult and repeat advertising is being required for some posts leading to the forecast underspend across the staffing budgets.

Appendix 4 – Capital Position

4.1 Capital Expenditure

Original 2021/22 Budget as per BP £'000	Scheme	Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Actual Spend (July 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (July 21) £'000	Total Scheme Revised Budget £'000	Total Scheme Variance £'000
	Schools					
12,351	Basic Need - Primary	11,719	1,742	-649	199,036	-435
11,080	Basic Need - Secondary	5,822	427	-1,722	236,548	219
665	Basic Need - Early Years	1,578	2	-980	7,273	-300
1,475	Adaptations	1,141	137	-1	6,988	0
3,000	Conditions Maintenance	5,947	462	0	24,215	0
813	Devolved Formula Capital	2,036	0	0	7,286	0
2,894	Specialist Provision	3,367	720	-210	24,661	-134
305	Site Acquisition and Development	305	39	0	455	0
1,000	Temporary Accommodation	1,000	23	0	12,500	0
675	Children Support Services	675	0	0	5,925	0
12,029	Adult Social Care	10,719	7	0	51,511	0
3,353	Cultural and Community Services	4,064	756	70	6,285	0
-5,957	Capital Variation	-5,805	0	3,492	-52,416	0
905	Capitalised Interest	905	0	0	4,699	0
44,588	Total P&C Capital Spending	43,473	4,316	0	534,966	-651

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

Northstowe Secondary

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

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

New secondary capacity to serve Wisbech

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

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

LA Early Years Provision

Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Outturn (July 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (July 21) £'000	Variance Last Month (June 21) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ Overspend £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Reprogramming / Slippage £'000
1,365	100	-1,265	0	-1,265	-300	-965

Slippage as a number of schemes have been delayed with works now expected in 2022/23. The scheme is expecting a £300k underspend which offsets the additional funding request for conversion of the former Melbourn caretaker's accommodation for early years provision.

Meldreth Caretaker House

Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Outturn (July 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (July 21) £'000	Variance Last Month (June 21) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ Overspend £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Reprogramming / Slippage £'000
15	300	285	0	285	0	285

Slippage in the scheme as work is expected to progress and complete earlier than anticipated.

Other changes across all schemes (<250k)

Revised Budget for 2021/22 £'000	Outturn (July 21) £'000	Outturn Variance (July 21) £'000	Variance Last Month (June 21) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ Overspend £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Reprogramming / Slippage £'000
		-839	-949	110	-281	-558

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

P&C Capital Variation

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

Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (July 21) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Outturn Variance (July 21) £000
P&C	-5,805	-5,805	3,492	60.2%	0
Total Spending	-5,805	-5,805	3,492	60.2%	0

4.2 Capital Funding

Original 2021/22 Funding Allocation as per BP £'000	Source of Funding	Revised Funding for 2021/22 £'000	Spend - Outturn (July 21) £'000	Funding Variance – Outturn (July 21) £'000
0	Basic Need	976	976	0
3,113	Capital maintenance	6,060	6,060	0
813	Devolved Formula Capital	2,036	2,036	0
0	Schools Capital	0	0	0
5,699	Adult specific Grants	4,699	4,699	0
16,409	S106 contributions	16,409	16,479	70
0	Other Specific Grants	2,709	0	-2,709
0	Other Contributions	0	0	0
0	Capital Receipts	0	0	0
21,175	Prudential Borrowing	13,205	15,844	2,639
-2,621	Prudential Borrowing (Repayable)	-2,621	-2,621	0
44,588	Total Funding	43,473	43,473	0

Appendix 5 – Savings Tracker

The savings tracker is reviewed quarterly and measures the delivery of the savings below. Most of these are new savings for 2021/22 agreed by Council in the business plan, but the pandemic interrupted delivery of some savings in 2020/21 which are still deliverable and so have been retained.

Savings Tracker 2021-22

Quarter 1

	Forecast Savings 2021-22 £000						
	-7,837	-1,070	-1,642	-1,657	-1,663	-6,031	1,806

RAG	Reference	Title	Committee	Original Saving 21-22	Current Forecast Phasing - Q1	Current Forecast Phasing - Q2	Current Forecast Phasing - Q3	Current Forecast Phasing - Q4	Forecast Saving 21-22	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	Direction of travel	Forecast Commentary
Green	A/R.6.114	Learning Disabilities Commissioning	Adults & Health	-250	0	-62	-62	-126	-250	0	0.00	↔	On track
Red	A/R.6.176	Adults Positive Challenge Programme - demand management	Adults & Health	-2,339	-125	-585	-585	-585	-1,879	460	19.67	↓	The pandemic continues to impact on the delivery of this demand management saving, particularly in the Reablement workstream as that service continues to support the NHS
Green	A/R.6.179	Mental Health Commissioning	Adults & Health	-24	-6	-6	-6	-6	-24	0	0.00	↔	On track.
Green	A/R.6.185	Additional block beds - inflation saving	Adults & Health	-606	-152	-151	-152	-151	-606	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	A/R.6.186	Adult Social Care Transport	Adults & Health	-250	0	-100	-100	-50	-250	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	A/R.6.187	Additional vacancy factor	Adults & Health	-150	-40	-40	-40	-30	-150	0	0.00	↔	On track.
Green	A/R.6.188	Micro-enterprises Support	Adults & Health	-30	0	0	-15	-15	-30	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	A/R.6.210	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People: Support Costs	C&YP	-300	-75	-75	-75	-75	-300	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	A/R.6.211	Adoption and Special Guardianship Order Allowances	C&YP	-500	-125	-125	-125	-125	-500	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	A/R.6.212	Clinical Services; Children and young people	C&YP	-250	-62	-62	-62	-64	-250	0	0.00	↔	On track
Black	A/R.6.255	Children in Care - Placement composition and reduction in numbers	C&YP	-246	0	0	0	0	0	246	100.00	↔	Due to increasing pressure around placement mix and complexity of need, we do not anticipate meeting this saving target.
Black	A/R.6.266	Children in Care Stretch Target - Demand Management	C&YP	-1,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	100.00	↓	Due to increasing pressure around changes in placement mix and complexity of need, we do not anticipate meeting this saving target
Green	A/R.6.267	Children's Disability: Reduce overprescribing	C&YP	-50	-50	0	0	0	-50	0	0.00	↑	On track
Green	A/R.6.268	Transport - Children in Care	C&YP	-300	-75	-75	-75	-75	-300	0	0.00	↔	On track
Amber	A/R.6.269	Communities and Partnership Review	CSMI	-200	-25	-25	-25	-25	-100	100	50.00	↓	Under review
Green	A/R.7.105	Income from utilisation of vacant block care provision by self-funders	Adults & Health	-150	-37	-38	-37	-38	-150	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	A/R.7.106	Client Contributions Policy Change	Adults & Health	-1,192	-298	-298	-298	-298	-1,192	0	0.00	↔	On track

Quarter 1

Forecast Savings 2021-22 £000						
-7,837	-1,070	-1,642	-1,657	-1,663	-6,031	1,806

RAG	Reference	Title	Committee	Original Saving 21-22	Current Forecast Phasing - Q1	Current Forecast Phasing - Q2	Current Forecast Phasing - Q3	Current Forecast Phasing - Q4	Forecast Saving 21-22	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	Direction of travel	Forecast Commentary
Green	E/R.6.033	Drug & Alcohol service - funding reduction built in to new service contract	Adults & Health	-63	-16	-16	-16	-16	-63	0	0.00	↔	On track
Green	E/R.6.043	Joint re-procurement of Integrated Lifestyle Services	Adults & Health	-17	-4	-4	-4	-4	-17	0	0.00	↔	On track

Key to RAG ratings:

Total saving	Over £500k	100-500k	Below 100k
Black	100% non-achieving	100% non-achieving	100% non-achieving
Red	% variance more than 19%	-	-
Amber	Underachieving by 14% to 19%	% variance more than 19%	% variance more than 19%
Green	% variance less than 14%	% variance less than 19%	% variance less than 19%
Blue	Over-achieving	Over-achieving	Over-achieving

Home to School Transport

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

From: Executive Director: Children and Young People

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: To set out the Council's statutory responsibilities in respect of home to school transport, alongside those elements within the Council's existing travel assistance policy which are currently operated on a discretionary basis. The report also highlights both planned and current workstreams aimed at reducing the pressure on the Home to School transport budget.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider whether the Council should continue to exercise its discretion and provide support to families in line with its current published policy or whether officers should be commissioned to undertake a review of any of the discretionary elements.
- b) With particular regard to the provision of free transport to the After School Clubs which are run by five of the County's Area Special Schools, to approve the proposal to proceed to consultation on withdrawing this discretionary support with effect from September 2022.
- c) Approve the proposal to undertake a detailed review of routes currently deemed as unavailable (unsafe) for a child to walk to school, accompanied as necessary, by an adult.
- d) Note the Independent Travel Training pilot project and, in particular, its focus on supporting young people to gain greater independence as they approach adulthood.
- e) Note and comment on the criteria which have been proposed for adoption to inform future decisions on Parental Transport Budgets.

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1. Background

Statutory Responsibilities

- 1.1 Parents and carers have a duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that their children attend school and to make the necessary travel arrangements, including accompanying them where appropriate on their journey to and from school. Parents and carers are also responsible for their children until they arrive at school and after they leave at the end of the school day.

There are, however, certain circumstances under which the Council has a duty to make travel arrangements. The legal parameters relating to home to school/college transport for children and young people of statutory school age are set out in Sections 508, 509 and schedule 35B of the 1996 Education Act as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Section 508B requires the Council to make such travel arrangements they consider necessary to facilitate the attendance at school for 'eligible children', set out within Schedule 35B of the Act. Eligible children are categorised as those;

- whose nearest suitable school is beyond 2 miles (if below the age of 8) or beyond 3 miles (if aged between 8 and 16);
- who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school as a result of mobility issues associated with their Special Education Need and/or Disability (SEND);
- who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to their nearest suitable school because of the nature of the route they would have to use to get to and from that school.

- 1.2 The Council must also provide free transport where pupils are entitled to free school meals or their parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credits if;

- The nearest suitable school is beyond 2 miles (for children over the age of 8 and under 11).
- The school is between 2 and 6 miles (if aged 11-16 and there are not more than three or more suitable nearer schools), the school is between 2 and 15 miles and is the nearest suitable school preferred by parents/carers on the grounds of religion of belief (aged 11-16).

1.3 Discretionary Powers

Section 508C provides the Council with the discretionary powers to go beyond their statutory duties and pay the whole or any part of reasonable travel expenses for children not eligible under Section 508B. It is for each Council to decide whether and how to apply and employ these discretionary powers. The Council currently uses its discretionary powers to operate a number of schemes which are set out in detail in section 2 of this report.

1.4 Appeals process

The Council operates a two stage appeals process which families may follow if they consider there to be fault in the way the Council has applied its policy or if they believe there to be exceptional circumstances which should be taken into account. The first stage is an officer review of the original case, and any subsequent information submitted by the appellant. The appellant receives a written decision within 20 working days. Should the appellant remain unhappy with the outcome, they may request the appeal continue to stage two, whereby the case is heard by the Member Service Appeals Committee, or by the County Resourcing Panel (for children/young people with SEND), within 40 working days. There is no further appeal against the stage two appeal decision, however, an appellant may raise a complaint with the Local Government Ombudsman, if they feel there was fault in how their appeal was considered.

2. Main Issues

Discretionary Policy Elements

2.1 Extended Walking Distance: Pupils aged 8-11

The Council has historically used its discretionary powers to extend the statutory two-mile 'walking distance' to include children from the age of 8 up to the point at which they transfer to secondary school at age 11, so in practice the Council operates a primary/ secondary split in terms of the walking distance criterion, rather than an under 8/ over 8 split. This recognises the fact in Cambridgeshire, children transfer from primary to secondary school at age 11.

2.2 Temporary/Discretionary Travel Assistance

The Council has operated a long-standing policy of considering requests for discretionary travel assistance, in order to support the most vulnerable families in time of need in cases where the child would not normally meet the criteria for assistance. This includes the consideration for assistance in the following circumstances:

- Where a pupil has been subject to a managed move or permanent exclusion.
- Where a family is forced to move into emergency temporary accommodation or made homeless.
- Where a family has been forced to move home during their child's GCSE studies.
- Other cases of extreme vulnerability, as supported by relevant professionals.

The Council has supported in excess of 100 families during the 2020/21 academic year, from the above categories.

2.3 Post-16 Travel Assistance

The Council has no statutory duty to provide free or subsidised post-16 travel assistance. However, in compliance with Section 508F of the 1996 Education Act, the

Council must prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport, or other support, that it considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training. Under this duty, the Council should consider the appropriateness of assistance available for students living in rural areas, so that they are not financially disadvantaged, due to increased travel distances and costs.

- 2.4 There are separate policies for mainstream Post-16 students (aged 16-19) and for SEND students (aged 16-25). These policies are subject to regular scrutiny and review. Historically, the Council's mainstream transport policy was to provide subsidised travel assistance for Post-16 students living more than 3 miles from and attending their Nearest Appropriate Sixth Form Centre (NAC). The costs for this assistance were further subsidised for those who met a qualifying low-income criterion.
- 2.5 As a part of the Council's Business Planning process in 2015, a review of that Post-16 Policy was undertaken. The outcome of which was that the CYP Committee approved a recommendation that, with effect from September 2016, the Council would only provide subsidised travel assistance for students who met the qualifying low-income criteria and were attending their NAC. Those students are required to make a financial contribution, as set out in section 2.10.
- 2.6 Post-16 travel assistance is also available for students who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and attend their NAC. These students must live more than 3 miles from this centre or be unable to walk this distance as a result of their SEND. They must also be unable to access their Post-16 centre by public transport or on foot. Eligible students are required to make a financial contribution, in certain circumstances, as set out in section 2.10.
- 2.7 Children in Care and Care Leavers (aged 16-19), attending and living more than 3 miles from their NAC, remain eligible for free travel assistance.
- 2.8 Those students who do not meet the qualifying criteria for subsidised assistance are offered the opportunity to purchase spare seats on existing Council contracted school bus routes. These seats are sold on a term-by-term basis and are subject to availability. The cost of these seats is set out in section 2.10.
- 2.9 Students are also signposted directly to colleges and commercial operators who offer discounted rates on their services for Post-16 students. These discounts currently include;
 - 50% discount on rail travel.
 - Discounted termly/annual Stagecoach Student Rider ticket for Post-16 students on Cambridgeshire routes.
- 2.10 The current costs for Mainstream and SEND students are set out below;

Post-16 Students	Post-16 Mainstream	Post-16 SEND Termly / Annual Costs	Post-16 Children in Care Termly / Annual Costs
Low income eligible students	£130 / £380	£0	£0
Other eligible students	N/A	£215 / £645	£0
Spare Seat Costs for non-eligible students	£260 / £780	£260 / £780	£260 / £780

2.11 Students who do not meet the qualifying criteria for travel assistance are also signposted towards the Government's 16-19 Bursary Fund. This fund is in place to support the most vulnerable 16-19 year olds to continue in their education. The fund is managed directly by each college or sixth form and includes 2 elements;

- Guaranteed bursaries of £1200 a year for the most vulnerable students i.e. those Children in Care, Care Leavers and receiving income support in their own right.
- Discretionary bursaries for any student staying on in education and training who, as determined by schools, colleges and training providers, face genuine financial barriers to help with costs such as transport, food or equipment.

2.12 Personal Transport Budgets

Personal Transport Budgets (PTBs) are discretionary payments to parents/carers of children eligible for home to school transport under the Council's policy in exchange for full responsibility for transporting them safely to and from school.

2.13 Payments are calculated using a flat rate fee of £0.40 per mile for four journeys (home to school and return x 2) per school day. If there is a more cost-effective option (such as a shared transport arrangement), a PTB will not normally be agreed.

2.14 Every year there are cases where the amount a parent/carer would be paid via a PTB using the flat rate fee represents a significant saving to the Council compared to that of commissioning a taxi, but the parent/carer opts not to accept the PTB because they do not consider it to be sufficient to cover their costs. For example, a child or young person's SEND are such that they require a passenger assistant to accompany them on the journey to and from school.

2.15 Officers have identified the following criteria which they are seeking the CYP Committee's approval to adopt as the basis for calculating enhanced PTB payments in order to increase the number of parents/carers who take up this option and reduce the number of high cost, single occupancy taxi arrangements which the Council is currently required to put in place. This would also recognise the benefits to the child of being transported by an adult or adults with whom they are familiar and who understand and can respond to their particular needs.

- The child has severe medical needs which, during the course of a transport journey, could result in them needing immediate medical attention.
- The child's behaviour presents significant risk to other passengers in the vehicle and/or other transport users.
- The need for a second adult to accompany and support the child.
- The cost per mile of providing a taxi would be far greater than paying the parent/carer a PTB despite the home to school journey distance being very short.
- Family circumstances, for example the need to get other siblings to and from school, complexity of childcare arrangements or working arrangements.
- Other considerations, for example, the age, height and/or weight of the child and their mobility.
- The availability of an Occupational Therapist or other specialist assessment.

2.16 Transport to After School Clubs

2.17 Since 2011, the Council has been funding the cost of transport to enable children and young people attending some of the County's area special schools to stay on beyond the end of the school day and participate in after school activities. The Council also provides funding from its High Needs Block towards the cost of running this after school provision in the order of £20,000 per school per year.

2.18 These arrangements were put in place following the conclusion of a pilot project undertaken in 2010 involving Granta Special School in Linton.

2.19 The Council expects to spend £78,280 on providing transport to the After School clubs run by five of Cambridgeshire's Area Special Schools in 2021/22. Those schools are:

- Castle in Cambridge (16 students, approximate cost £9,880)
- Granta in Linton (14 students, approximate cost £14,820)
- Highfields Academy in Ely (9 students, approximate cost £21,470)
- Samuel Pepys in St Neots (11 students, approximate cost £18,240)
- Spring Common Academy in Huntingdon (8 students, approximate costs £13,870)

For the 58 students for whom free transport is being provided, this breaks down to an annual average cost per student of £1350.

2.20 This cost is in addition to that of transporting them to enable them to attend school. This is because the opportunity for shared transport arrangements is much more limited due to which children and young people participate in the After School activities, on which days.

2.21 This is discretionary spend and the Council does not provide or fund similar arrangements for children and young people attending other special schools or those attending mainstream schools who have additional needs and/or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). However, it is recognised that the current arrangements provide parents with both respite and childcare.

- 2.22 At its meeting on 21 January 2020, the CYP Committee gave its approval to a recommendation to consult parents/ carers and the five Area Special Schools on a proposal to cease providing free transport to the After School clubs with effect from 1 September 2020.
- 2.23 The consultation was launched on 3 February and ran for six weeks to 27 March 2020. By the deadline, a total of 34 responses had been received. The majority (16) were from parents of a child using one of the After School clubs, with a further 2 from children. 13 responses were received from school staff. Many of the respondents commented on the positive benefits to children and their families of being able to access the After School provision. These included the opportunities it creates for socialisation, developing life skills, increasing independence and confidence. A number of parents also made reference to the fact that their children are isolated from their local communities because their needs are such that they can only attend specialist provision, some distance from their homes. If they were no longer able to attend After School provision, this would segregate them further and would be a form of discrimination.
- 2.24 The original proposal was to seek the Committee's views on the consultation feedback and secure a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal to cease funding transport effective from September 2020 at the committee meeting in April 2020.
- 2.25 In February 2020, the then Councillor Dr Nik Johnson submitted a petition together with a joint proposer relating to the provision of transport to After School clubs at special schools,. The intention had been for this be considered by the Committee at its meeting in April 2020. However, in recognition of the significant impact the COVID pandemic was having on children's education, it was agreed with the then Chair of the Committee that it would not be appropriate to proceed with the proposals, but to revisit these at a later date. As a consequence, the petition has not, to date, been heard or considered by the Committee. In line with the commitment made to the petitioners at the time, they have been advised that a report which is relevant to their petition would be considered by the Committee in September 2021. It is expected that a request will be received from the petitioners to speak at the Committee meeting and present their petition.
- 2.26 Subject to the Committee's views on this discretionary transport arrangement and the issues identified with regard to equality of opportunity, officers judge that it would be both right and appropriate to undertake a new consultation with parents/ carers and the schools affected, given the time which has elapsed. We would also seek to widen the consultation to include those schools and families whose children participate in After School clubs run by the County's other special schools, who do not currently benefit from this discretionary assistance. The proposal is that the consultation would be on the basis of ceasing the provision of free transport to the five After School Clubs effective from September 2022.

Current and Planned Transport Projects

2.27 Independent Travel Training

The nationally recognised trend of escalating financial pressures from reducing budgets and rising costs, in a time where complexity of need is also increasing, is

placing increasing pressures on the Council in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities for providing transport to and from educational establishments. In addition to the national trends, Cambridgeshire has the further challenges associated with the rural nature of the county, together with a limited number of operators with specialist vehicles and difficulties in recruiting passenger assistants (PAs). The Covid pandemic has exacerbated these challenges with some smaller contractors having ceased operating.

- 2.28 In October 2019 the General Purposes Committee agreed to release up to £408k of Transformation investment to identify and deliver savings in home to school and social care transport, including the introduction of independent travel training (ITT) assessments to reduce demand and promote independence. A combination of lengthy tendering processes and Covid-related demands upon officers and the wider transport service delayed the start of the project to September 2021.
- 2.29 ITT, successfully embedded by many Local Authorities (LAs) across the country, is a method for enabling children and young people with SEND to travel independently, allowing students to overcome their own personal barriers to travel and supporting access to the community and education, enhancing confidence as well as career and social opportunities and removing the need for LAs to provide costly specialist transport.
- 2.30 In June 2019 there were 183 SEND pupils travelling to school in individual taxis, with greater numbers travelling in low occupancy vehicles, sometimes with PAs. The programme of ITT aims to give pupils the skills to transition from these high-cost low-occupancy vehicles and travel independently, whether this be walking, travelling on a public bus or travelling on an existing, shared home to school transport route.
- 2.31 Following a full competitive tender process National Star College (NSC) has won the contract to run an ITT pilot programme in Cambridgeshire. NSC will use its ITT training programme known as 'Lift' to train 50 pupils during this two-year pilot project and provide two years of engagement with schools ensuring that the principles of independent travel training are embedded and supported in the curriculum. Cambridge Regional College (Cambridge and Huntingdon bases), Castle Special School (Cambridge) and Highfields special academies at Ely and Littleport will take part in the pilot. Suitable cohorts of students from these establishments have been identified and training will start in earnest. If the pilot is successful, further cohorts will be identified as well as ITT being automatically offered to those parents requesting travel assistance to school for their children.
- 2.32 Independent travel is key to independent living, accessing employment and preparation for adulthood. The reliance upon social care services in the future by those who are travel trained, will be reduced and in some cases removed altogether. Hence, the officers leading this pilot programme are working closely with representatives from Adult Social Care, to maximise the pilot's potential for positive impact on wider Council service budgets. The link to this service will be key to identifying cohorts of young people who could undertake and benefit from travel training and sustain those skills into adulthood.
- 2.33 The programme will cost a total of £192,964 across the two-year pilot. We would expect to see cumulative savings for at least 5 years, with initial part year savings of

£150k in 2021/22 but in 2022/23 would anticipate some of the forecast £267k savings being taken to create ongoing budget for the programme. This would allow the programme to become part of “Business as Usual” and ensure that the savings made in prior years are sustained.

2.34 Safe Routes to School

The Council publicises, within its Home to School Transport Assistance Policy, criteria for determining whether a route is deemed available for children/young people to walk along to their nearest or catchment school, accompanied by an adult as necessary.

2.35 The legal definition of an available walking route is “*A route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, can walk with reasonable safety. A route does not fail to qualify as “available” because of dangers that would arise if the child remained unaccompanied*” (Essex vs Rogers 1987).

2.36 Where a route which is under distance for the purposes of school transport (2 miles for primary-aged pupils and 3 miles for secondary-aged pupils) is not deemed to be “available” the Council has a duty to provide transport to and from school.

2.37 The Council has operated a long-standing invest to save programme, where existing routes, previously assessed as unavailable are reviewed, and funding is allocated for improvements to create an “available” walking route to school. This investment enables the withdrawal of Council-funded transport, generating future budgetary savings.

In order to review a walking route a safety assessment is first undertaken by a Road Safety Officer, in line with the Council’s published criteria (set out in Appendix A). Should the assessment conclude that the route meets the criteria, a further independent Risk Assessment is then commissioned. These assessments collectively assist officers in determining whether the withdrawal of existing transport provision is the appropriate course of action. Due to the rural nature of many parts of Cambridgeshire, there will always be a need to provide travel assistance on those routes which will never meet our criteria for an available walking route.

2.38 As and when a decision is taken to withdraw existing transport provision, on the grounds of a newly available walking route, this decision is first discussed with the relevant stakeholders including the school and local Member(s). The families affected by this decision are then informed, ensuring sufficient notice (at least 1 school term) is provided of the change. Families are also informed of their right of appeal against the decision to the Member Service Appeals Committee, as outlined in section 1.4.

2.39 Within the last 10 years, the Council has undertaken a series of high-profile route reviews. Of the 13 reviews undertaken only 4 were unsuccessful with transport remaining in place. The latter involved co-ordinated campaigning and successful appeals to the Member Service Appeals Committee against the withdrawal decision. A further 10 routes have been identified for possible review in the future.

2.40 Officers’ recommendation is that a wholesale review of all routes currently deemed to be unavailable (unsafe) for a child or young person to walk to school, accompanied by

an adult as necessary, be undertaken starting in the spring of 2022 with a Road Safety Officer assessment in each case. The review would involve working with Highways colleagues to identify the potential for invest to save projects such as improvements to footpaths and cycleways which, once complete, would enable routes to be redesignated as safe.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

There are no significant implications for this priority.

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

- Within the last 12 months we have seen a 23% increase in the number of families becoming eligible for Free School Meals. A number of the discretionary elements, within the Council's Home to School Travel Assistance Policy, help support and provide continuity for the County's most vulnerable children/young people, and those families with the lowest incomes.

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

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

- All schools must have a Travel Plan which promotes sustainable transport choices and encourages families to plan their journeys and builds/strengthens links with the local community. Plans are written with teachers, parents, students, governors and the local community.
- A travel plan is also required for planning applications for development sites e.g. for new schools, school expansion projects, residential areas and leisure facilities.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

- For many vulnerable children living in Cambridgeshire their school can be their main point of continuity. The Council must balance the need to reduce the burden on the Home to School Transport budget against its role in supporting continuity and opportunity for those children and young people who are most in need.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant resource implications in 2.16. to 2.26. In addition, demographic changes continue to exert significant pressure on both the mainstream and SEND budgets as evidenced below:

Year	Pupils in Cambridgeshire Schools	% increase in pupil numbers	Anticipated Expenditure (£)
2020/2021	81,909		9,223,445
2021/2022	82,393	0.59%	9,277,984
2022/2023	82,902	0.62%	9,335,211
2023/2024	83,434	0.64%	9,395,189
2024/2025	83,992	0.67%	9,457,981
2025/2026	84,575	0.69%	9,523,652
2026/2027	85,184	0.72%	9,592,271

The number of children with SEND for whom the Council is providing home to school transport has increased by 7.7%, which in turn, has led to increased transport costs of 6.23% in excess of inflation. Officers have used this information to revise demand bids as part of the Business Planning process to reflect the continuing trend in the annual budget.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

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

- All education transport is contracted through procurement frameworks established in accordance with the Council's approved processes

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

- S149 Equality Act 2010 ('The Act') places a duty on LAs to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people and to eliminate discrimination. As such the Council has a duty to ensure that its policies, practices, procedures and services do not discriminate against disabled people.
- Section 6 of the Act defines disability and section 20 defines the duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people are not discriminated against.
- The Council is under a legal duty to publish a policy that reflects these provisions and to comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The current transport arrangements, as set out within sections 2.16 to 2.26 of this report, are not equitable as transport to attend After School clubs is only provided to children and young people attending five out of the eight area special schools in Cambridgeshire. Children and young people attending one of the three Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) schools and those with EHCPs attending mainstream schools do not receive such support. The proposed consultation will explore what other means families, not currently in receipt of this support, use to facilitate their child's attendance at After School clubs, including the use of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), where eligible.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

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

- The withdrawal of existing school transport provision is an emotive and challenging process, which is highly resource intensive and often met with a counter campaign by the communities involved.
- With specific reference to the provision of free transport to the After School clubs, any further consultation regarding the discontinuation of this support should take into consideration feedback previously received, as set out in section 2.23 of this report.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

As set out in section 2.26, if agreed by the Committee, a consultation would need to be undertaken with parents, schools and local Members regarding any proposal to cease providing free transport to the five After School clubs. It is likely that the majority of members will have a family living in their ward, currently accessing this provision, who would be affected should the decision be taken to cease providing free transport effective from September 2022.

4.7 Public Health Implications

It is Council policy that schools:

- Should be sited as centrally as possible to the communities they serve, unless location is dictated by physical constraints and/or the opportunity to reduce land take by providing playing fields within the green belt or green corridors.
- Should be sited so that the maximum journey distance for a young person is less than the statutory and the Council's discretionary walking distances (3 miles for secondary school children, 2 miles for primary school children).
- Should be located close to public transport links and be served by a good network of walking and cycling routes.

With specific regard to sections 2.16 to 2.26 of this report, parents and the families of those children and young people who attend and participate in this After School provision are likely to benefit in terms of respite. The children and young people themselves also benefit in terms of their own health and well-being.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Neutral status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Neutral Status:

Schools on new developments are located to be accessible by walking and cycling.

Where families express a preference to attend a school outside their catchment they are encouraged, where possible, to travel by sustainable means including public transport.

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

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

negative Status:

Explanation: There is a risk that any change to the Council's existing policies, which reduces the level of support currently offered, could lead to a greater number of parents transporting their children in individual cars.

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

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

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

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

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

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes or No

Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

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

Name of Officer: Hazel Belchamber on behalf of Jonathan Lewis

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

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

Not received at the time of submission
Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 [Cambridgeshire home to school travel assistance policy](#)

5.2 [Cambridgeshire Policy Statement for Post-16 Students in Full-Time Learning 21-22](#)

5.3 [Department for Education Home to School Travel and Transport Statutory July 20214 Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Accessibility

6.1 An accessible version of this report is available on request from Stephanie.Miller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Factors considered by the Council in assessing availability of routes within walking distance

1.0 The child/young person

- (a) the age of the child/young person;
- (b) any disabilities the child/young person may have.

NB The child/young person is expected to be accompanied by an adult, as appropriate.

2.0 The route

The Council will conduct a detailed assessment the route. In line with guidance issued by the Road Safety Great Britain and Local Authority Road Safety Officer (LARSOA) best practice guidance. This will be undertaken at the times of day that pupils would be expected to use it to travel to and from school and, where appropriate, will include a vehicle gap analysis of roads to cross.

- (a) If a public footpath, totally separated from roads is available, it must normally be made up with a hard surface, for example, tarmac, gravel etc. to be acceptable as a route (in all weather).
- (b) The presence of suitable refuges adjacent to a road, for example, a verge.
- (c) The volume, speed and type of traffic.
- (d) Visibility, for example, sharp bends with a high hedgerow or bank, or overhanging trees or branches that might obscure fields of vision for the pedestrian or motorist.
- (e) Accident record of the route at the times of day children/young people would be expected to use it to get to and from school.

There would normally need to be a combination of factors present for the route to be unavailable for an accompanied child/young person.

3.0 The following are examples of potential hazards which the Council considers to be acceptable to an accompanied child/young person:

- (a) Lonely routes
- (b) Moral danger
- (c) Unmanned level crossings
- (d) Roads to be crossed
- (e) Limited street lighting
- (f) Canals, rivers or ditches running along part or the whole of the route

The legal definition of an 'available route' is a route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, can walk and walk with reasonable safety to school. It does not fail to qualify as 'available' because of dangers which would arise if the child were unaccompanied. (*Essex CC v Rogers [1986]*)

Covid-19 Local Support Grant – Summer Holiday Support – Procurement of Voucher Scheme

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 14th September 2021

From: Executive Director: People and Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: The Children and Young People Committee are being asked to note the procurement process for the LA Covid-19 Support Grant. The grants aimed to support vulnerable families with food during the summer holidays.

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

- a) Note the decision made under emergency powers by the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council to undertake the allocation of supermarket vouchers via Wonde for the summer holiday period.
- b) Endorse the model of support outlined in section 2 to mainstream the Covid support for vulnerable families from October 2021 half term onwards.

Officer contact:

Name: Jonathan Lewis

Post: Service Director Education

Email: Jonathan.lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Names: Councillors B Goodliffe and M King

Post: Chair/Vice-Chair

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

Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

1. Background

- 1.1 On the 21st June 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions wrote to all Local Authorities to outline an extension to the Covid Local Support Grant for the period from the 21st June to the 30th September. A further £1.374m of grant funding was made available to Cambridgeshire. Throughout the pandemic, the council has made available to vulnerable families an offer of supermarket vouchers and wider support with food, clothing etc using this grant. The council has no direct mechanism for allocating vouchers to parents and had previously worked with an external organisation to allocate this funding.
- 1.2 A paper was brought to the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee on 29 June 2021 which outlined how the council would use this money to allocate to vulnerable families. The approach was also outlined and agreed in Strategy and Resources Committee on the 6 July 2021. At the time of publication of these reports we did not have in place the procurement approach to allocate these vouchers.

	£'000
Funding	
DWP Grant Received	1,374
Additional Council Funding (agreed by CYP Committee and S&R Committee in June / July)	537
Proposed allocation	
Estimated cost of Providing Voucher Scheme	(1,611)
Wider Family / Community Support	(300)

- 1.3 This paper seeks to provide Members with an overview of the final allocation of vouchers and our procurement approach. Owing to the timescales to ensure vouchers could be allocated in time for the start of the holidays, urgency procedures were followed under Part 4.4(a) (The Procedure for Taking Urgent Decisions) of the County Council constitution.
- 1.4 We expect this to be the final grant received from government. The paper also outlines our proposed support for vulnerable families moving forward and how it will be mainstreamed within the existing council and partners structures.

2. Main Issues

Procurement of Summer Holiday Vouchers

- 2.1 Owing to the timescales involved, it was necessary to seek a contract exemption to provide supermarket vouchers in time for the first voucher to be distributed on the 23 July 2021.
- 2.2 In December 2020, we engaged with three suppliers who can distribute vouchers through their system once data from schools has been provided and uploaded into their system. A number of providers offer this service and do not charge an administrative fee. We have also reviewed a new Crown Procurement Framework RM6255 Voucher Scheme, this framework is designed to be used for Voucher Schemes, but due the short notice of the

grant and urgent nature of the issuing of the funds to enable the conditions of the grant to be satisfied it was not possible to use the framework.

2.3 We were also concerned about the risk for any potential disruption in timescales by setting up a new supplier. As a result, we decided to proceed with our existing provider called Wonde (operating as EVouchers) for the following reasons -

- Wonde has successfully been used by all our schools, considerably reducing the administrative burden on them to lawfully collate their eligible pupil data and provide it to us to then distribute free school meals (FSM) vouchers.
- Wonde have an effective system that allows us to make payments to families who are not accessing schools (in early years settings) through securely uploading data into their system. This will ensure accuracy and a timely response to ensure the vouchers are with families in the rounds to date.
- The need to share substantial amounts of personal data creates GDPR issues but with Wonde already being able to access the majority of this data, in a secure manner, again, the burden to install protective security measures to supply the data to the council is substantially reduced. The system they operate integrates with schools' management information systems which means less data handling for the Council.

2.4 We have reached this decision as this substantially reduces the administrative burden and associated cost on both the Local Authority and our schools, which means more resources can be allocated for families (there is provision in the Grant to charge administrative costs but we are fully committed in our funding).

2.5 As part of the discussion we undertook with Wonde, vouchers will be bought at less than face value – we will be paying 99p in the £1 for the vouchers covering 7 supermarkets. Parents will be able to choose what supermarket they would like.

2.6 Following the agreement by the Chief Executive (and publishing of the decision on 14 July 2021), £1.54m of vouchers have been allocated (at the time of writing this report) as follows -

- 32725 vouchers of £42 to families with eligible pupils in schools
- 4050 vouchers of £42 to families with eligible children attending early years settings
- 250 vouchers for £42 to families with eligible pupils not on a school roll or in an independent school.

Mainstreaming the Covid-19 Local Support

1.7 In addition to the direct voucher scheme, the Winter Grant Scheme provided us with an opportunity in Cambridgeshire to reach those who needed support with food, fuel, or other essential supplies through the winter months. It also simultaneously presented an opportunity to link individuals and families with longer term support who otherwise may not have known about or felt confident enough to seek it.

1.8 The approach to delivering this in Cambridgeshire has been one of partnership working with public sector, voluntary sector partners and communities, recognising that those who live and work locally are often best placed to identify those in need of support. The Grant enabled an increased investment into our universal preventative services to support

households facing financial hardship. A Direct Award scheme was also set up to give community groups and other public sector partners the ability to provide immediate support with food, fuel, or other essential supplies to those in their community who are experiencing financial hardship, whilst also linking them to longer term support. This hybrid model of delivery has enabled us to reach those who we may not otherwise have reached, through local networks.

- 1.9 This way of working reflects the Think Communities principles of person-centred, place-based and system working to support individuals and families. We have also seen the benefit of the 'hub' model of working, which at times has included proactive contact to families and individuals (not waiting for them to find/come to us) and helping families and individuals navigate the system to access the support they need, be it debt advice, housing problems or support to self-isolate due to COVID-19. It also recognises the importance of addressing and alleviating the presenting 'symptoms' of poverty (i.e., that people have food on the table, can heat their homes and can access other essential supplies) in order to effectively engage more preventative forms of support and opportunities that may increase social mobility.
- 1.10 When the grant was first announced, the County Hub had to work quickly with Education colleagues and partners from across the system to establish a process that would ensure the funds would reach those most in need. However, as we consider what a longer-term model might look like, it presents an opportunity to build on the recommendations of the interim Winter Support Evaluation and how the system is responding to the pandemic. A few key recommendations from the evaluation include:
- Retaining a trusted platform established by the COVID-19 County Hub as an open door and an easily accessible point of contact and resource for residents struggling to address/manage the issues they're facing
 - Recognising and working to better understand and support the cohort of people identified as newly experiencing economic hardship
 - Further strengthening links between schools, early years settings and our communities to increase local knowledge of support
- 1.11 Similar approaches have been taken in other local authorities such as Gateshead who are testing an approach to enabling people to thrive by working with people holistically rather than treating each interaction as a transaction to resolve the immediate presenting need. This enables residents to get an early intervention before their needs escalate.¹
- 1.12 As part of our local pandemic response, various work/research projects have highlighted the projected demand that we will see as a result of increased hardship. Already through this grant funding we have been introduced to many households that have previously not asked for help and therefore this model of delivery presents an opportunity to tackle any challenges early, prevent and reduce any escalated demand and enable people to thrive.
- 1.13 Whilst the school meal vouchers met a clear need successfully, with the learning from the hub since March 2020 we identified that needs presenting, often as a result of the

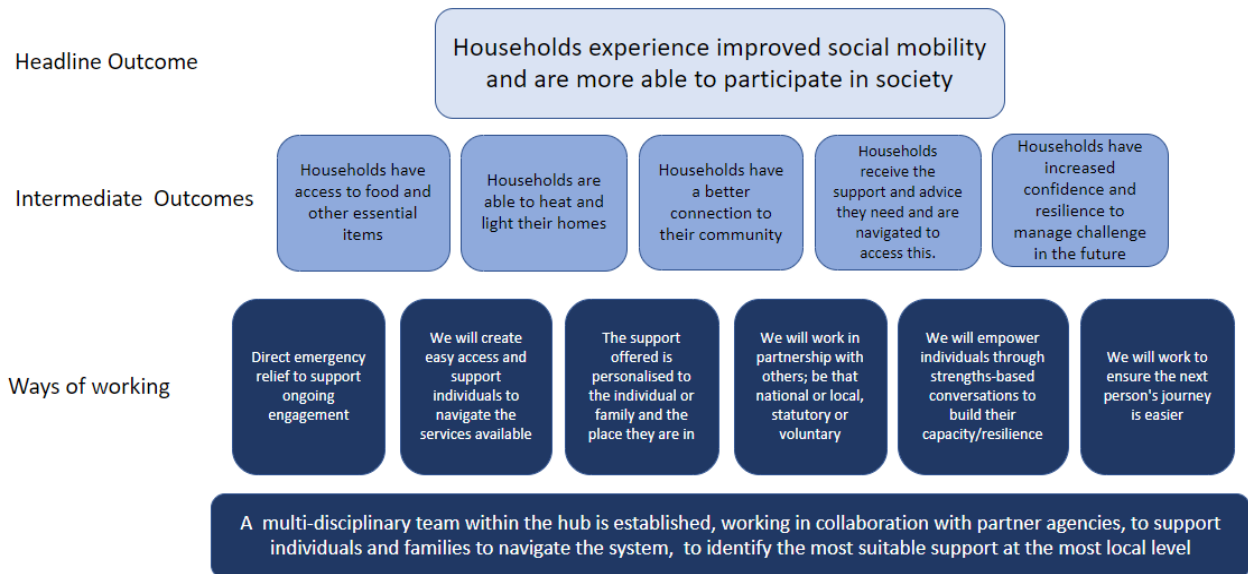
¹ [\(41\) Bespoke Public Services - Learning from Gateshead's Prototypes - YouTube](#)

pandemic, are complex. For this reason, a range of support options, tailored to people and place was required.

Proposal for Ongoing Support to Vulnerable Families

1.14 Below is a high-level overview of the model of delivery and an indication of the outcomes that would be achieved:

Model



2.15 The key elements of this model include:

- The County Hub acting as a central point providing personalised navigation support for families that are struggling to navigate the early intervention/preventative system, and to enable them to access local community-based support – this element of the model has begun already, being implemented with Wisbech Foodbank and Fenland District Council as a pilot. One of the Fenland community connectors is regularly working out of Wisbech Foodbank and linking families into Fenland District Council and the County Hub as appropriate. The County Hub is staffed and funded until April 2022, at which point we will transition to a model where mainstreamed Think Communities officers fulfil the Hub's function
- A direct award scheme that is accessible to key partners across the system (specifically at a local/community level), that enables emergency food/fuel/cash awards to be made for households in need to further enable and encourage their engagement. This approach is currently funded until at least the October half-term, but, as part of the Think Communities investment being considered, there is a £400k budget to enable core activities to be delivered from which a recurring allocation into an ongoing direct award scheme can be made

- Investment into existing infrastructure to manage the projected demand. The scale of the projected demand is difficult to quantify at this point while many of the pandemic's economic support schemes are still in place and while the pace of the economic recovery is still unknown. Anecdotally food support organisations locally have seen increased demand throughout the pandemic and looking back to the 2007/2008 economic crisis, we saw increases in unemployment each year for the following six. We are anticipating a particular spike in demand following the end of September, as far as we currently know, due to a number of factors:
 - the furlough scheme is due to end
 - the energy price cap is due to increase by an average £150 per household per year
 - the temporary £20 increase in Universal Credit payments is due to end
 - financial and other support for those required to self-isolate is due to end

2.16 Whilst, through the grant, we have the foundations in place across the system to implement this way of working, there are still several things that will need to happen to ensure the model is embedded effectively as a longer-term solution. Some of these we have started developing as part of the work with Fenland District Council and Wisbech Foodbank; others will need to wait until we expand the service more widely. Identified workstreams to develop the service are included below:

- Building buy-in and understanding across the system – whilst it is a recognised gap currently, it is important that engagement takes place across the system to ensure partners and communities understand this offer in the context of what else is available
- Re-establishing the longer-term relationships of the hub network
- Exploring how this can be operationalised across each district/local area including what existing teams/organisations can support
- Identifying/establishing routes to access the service
- Developing a process to identify the cohort that will be supported through this model e.g., data matching versus referrals
- Building the resource within the hub to be able to manage the demand
- Delivering training to enable hub staff to provide the navigation role to the system
- Further building the tools/basket of opportunities for the hub to use with residents (a summary of many of those services is attached in appendix 1)
- Reviewing existing infrastructure/services to ensure they're accessible to and able to respond to this new and increased demand – e.g., access points/how well they're known/public perception
- Maintaining investment into the current universal system e.g., CAB/CLAS etc. This is core funded activity, and a new procurement exercise will soon launch to extend the provision further
- Continuing a funded direct award scheme to ensure financial support reaches people in need quickly
- Introducing systems to enable effective case management
- Establishing effective data sharing arrangements that will apply beyond the current emergency arrangements

- Developing an outcome/impact measurement tool
- Developing an evaluation/learning framework for the service

2.17 The model set out takes the learning developed throughout the pandemic, and the positive features from the different ways we are supporting households who are struggling, to create a mainstreamed approach that can provide both the immediate support residents may need if they are in crisis with the medium to longer term support they need to recover from the effects of the pandemic. It will sit alongside broader recovery-related activity, as well as forming a major part of the delivery of the Joint Administration's priorities, including decentralisation, improving social mobility, and addressing inequalities.

2.18 The model can be delivered using existing resources, alongside the Think Communities investment being put forward as part of the budget build for 2022/23 and beyond.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

- The funding will support the most vulnerable families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.
- The process is means tested so we are targeting funding at the areas of greatest need.
- Through working through communities, we will create a sustainable model to support vulnerable families.

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

- The funding will support the most vulnerable families on low income to support feeding their children during the school holidays.
- The new model of support will help those most challenged families in the community.

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

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

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

- There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

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

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The resources for the voucher scheme were considered in the report of the 29th June to the CYP Committee and the 6th July at the S&R Committee. No additional funding is required to implement the new model.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

Advice and guidance was sought throughout this process.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Appropriate council processes were followed to seek the exemption from Council procurement regulations for the voucher scheme.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Not applicable.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The scheme has been well communicated to parents and across the media. An email helpline has been operating since schools closed to ensure all eligible families are supported.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Not applicable.

4.7 Public Health Implications

Enabling families to have sufficient, nutritious food is essential to enable the Best Start in life for children and helps to support Public Health priorities. We would be keen to explore opportunities to promote healthy food choices within the new hub model. The evaluation should consider whether the vouchers are being used as intended- i.e to purchase nutritious food for families and at ways to promote healthy eating.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

Not applicable.

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

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes
Name of Officer: Henry Swan

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

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

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

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

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

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

N/A

Name of Officer:

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 [Report to the Children and Young People Committee 29 June 2021](#)

5.2 [Chief Executive's decision - Covid-19 local support grant - summer holiday support - procurement of voucher scheme](#)

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 - Basket of Services Information for Members in Cambridgeshire

7. Accessibility

7.1 An accessible version of this report is available on request from Denise.Revens@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Basket of Services Information for Members in Cambridgeshire

June 2021

Key themes

- Countywide vs. District vs. Place – Community Groups
- Health & Wellbeing
- Provision of services for people with additional needs (Physical/LD/SEND)
- Long-term impact of Covid-19 and recovery planning
- Financial support (individuals and businesses)
- Education
- Adult Services
- Children's Services (Families centres, youth centres)
- Housing
- Waste
- Environment & Climate Change
- Transport
- Environmental Health
- Registrations (death, birth, weddings, civil ceremonies)
- Local Nature Reserves
- Training rooms
- Libraries
- Covid-19

Cambridge City

Council Tax

Bins/waste

Parking

Planning applications

Housing

Allotments/Community Gardens

Arts/culture

Sports & fitness

Grants & Funding

Markets

Pest Control

Transport Schemes

Home energy & water use

Cycling & Walking

East
Cambridgeshire

Benefits & Allowances

Planning & Building Control

Environmental

Council Tax

Waste & Street Cleaning

Housing & Community Services

Parking

Communities & Wellbeing

Fenland

Bins, waste & recycling

Environment

Business

Housing

Council Tax

Community

Planning

Licensing

Transport & streets

Huntingdonshire

Bins & Waste

Planning

Housing

Leisure

Council Tax

Licensing

Streets, parking & transport

Benefits

Environmental Issues

Business

People & Communities

South Cambridgeshire

Coronavirus

Planning

Benefits

Bins

Nature & Climate Change

Building control

Planning

Business

Council Tax

Community Development

Housing

Land Charges

Environment

Licensing

Business rates

Sport, Health & Wellbeing

South Cambs Services

	Service	Contact Details	Other information
	Royston Foodbank	Royston Evangelical Church, York Way, Royston, SG8 5US 07999 538961	OPENING TIMES Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9am - 11am
Foodab	Cambourne Distribution Centre	Old Blue School, Eastgate, Cambourne, CAMBS, CB23 6DZ	OPENING TIMES Thu 10:00 - 12:00
	Cottenham Distribution Centre	Cottenham Baptist Church, 156-158 High Street, Cottenham, CB24 8RX	Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies. Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138 or visit their website P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190 ECDC – Community Support Network email covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555 Fenland Council Community Support Network email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321
	Waterbeach Distribution Centre	Waterbeach Baptist Church, Chapel St., Waterbeach, CB25 9HR	Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies. Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138 or visit their website P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190 ECDC – Community Support Network email covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555 Fenland Council Community Support Network email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321

Cambridge City Services

Theme	Service Professional	Contact Details	Other information
	Place-based Coordinator		
	Social Prescriber		<p>A part of personalised care and support Gives people more choice and control</p> <p>“No decision about me without me”</p> <p>Reduces health inequalities – long-term conditions, support with mental health, loneliness, complex needs. Reduces pressure & assists in demand management in General Practice, A&E social care & other services Supports self-care, self-management and prevention, personal & community resilience</p>
Foodbank	Cambridge Food Bank	2 Orwell House, Orwell Furlong, Cambridge, CB4 0PP 07772 538628 http://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk info@ccfb.org.uk	Central office
	St Paul's Church	Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1JP	OPENING TIMES Mon 16:00 - 17:30 Fri 14:30 - 16:30
	Church of the Good Shepherd	Mansel Way, Arbury, Cambridge, CB4 2ET	OPENING TIMES Thu 11:00 - 13:00
	Christ Church Trumpington Church Centre	14 Alpha Terrace, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9HT	OPENING TIMES Fri 11:00 - 13:00
	C3 Centre	C3 Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, CB1 3HW	OPENING TIMES Fri 10:30 - 14:00
	Chesterton Methodist Church	1 Ashfield Road, Cambridge, CB4 1RW	OPENING TIMES Tue 10:00 - 12:00

East Cambs Services

Theme	Service	Contact Details	Other information
	Place-based Coordinator		
	Social Prescriber		<p>A part of personalised care and support Gives people more choice and control</p> <p>“No decision about me without me”</p> <p>Reduces health inequalities – long-term conditions, support with mental health, loneliness, complex needs.</p> <p>Reduces pressure & assists in demand management in General Practice, A&E social care & other services</p> <p>Supports self-care, self-management and prevention, personal & community resilience</p>
Foodbank	Ely Foodbank	<p>[Office Address Only] c/o 10 Chapel Street, Ely, Cambs, CB6 1AD</p> <p>01353 468626</p> <p>http://elyfoodbank.org.uk</p> <p>info@elyfoodbank.org.uk</p>	
	Ely Distribution Centre	Countess Free Church, Chapel Street, Ely CB6 1AD	<p>Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138 or visit their website</p> <p>P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190</p> <p>ECDC – Community Support Network email covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555</p> <p>Fenland Council Community Support Network email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321</p>
	Soham Distribution Centre	Soham Methodist Church, 60 Berrycroft, Berrycroft Lane, Soham, CB7 5BL	<p>Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies.</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138 or visit their website</p> <p>P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190</p> <p>ECDC – Community Support Network email covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555</p> <p>Fenland Council Community Support Network email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321</p>

Huntingdonshire Services

Local Food Support

Service	Contact Details	Other information
Godmanchester Foodbank	Godmanchester Baptist Church, Godmanchester, PE29 2BJ 01480 277 239 admin@gbcfoodbank.org.uk	<p>Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies.</p> <p>Our foodbank works with a number of different agencies, such as Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors. To find out more about the agencies that hold our vouchers and how you can get help, please contact us.</p> <p>Please call 0344 245 1292 to speak to Rural Citizens Advice Huntingdonshire, a referral partner of Godmanchester Foodbank, who will be able to issue you with a food bank voucher if necessary.</p>

Basket of Services: COVID-19 General Information

Potential Query/Detail	Support channels	What support do they offer?
General enquiries inc CEV	County Hub - https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Covid19_Reaching_Out or 0345 045 5219 Districts -	The Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is impacting everyone's lives and Cambridgeshire County Council is working with partner district and city councils and other partner organisations to ensure that the most vulnerable in our region are well cared for.
Vaccinations – general info/hesitancy?	119 – Public Health Advice GP	The NHS is currently offering the COVID-19 vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus. In England, the vaccine is being offered in some hospitals and pharmacies, at local centres run by GPs and at larger vaccination centres. More centres are opening all the time. The order in which people will be offered the vaccine is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
Vaccination Transport	County Hub (communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)	Residents in need of transport to get to Covid-19 vaccination appointments are being reminded that help is hand. As part of work to support the ongoing vaccination programme, Cambridgeshire County Council is highlighting transport providers and taxi firms which can get people to and from appointments. Anyone in need of transport should visit our Covid vaccination webpage .
Self-isolation	County Hub Self-Isolation Support Team 119 – Public Health Advice Pandemic Medication Delivery Service (until 30th June 2021)	A commitment has been made by councils across Cambridgeshire to support everyone who needs help to self-isolate as part of efforts to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Basket of Services: Covid-19 Food Supplies

Potential Query/Detail	Support channels	What support do they offer?
Emergency Food & other essential items support	<p>County Hub (communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Districts (Ways to contact us - South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk) customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk info@fenland.gov.uk enquiries@cambridge.gov.uk mail@huntingdonshire.gov.uk Peterborough city council 01733 747474)</p> <p>Schools (can offer food bank vouchers) Local Charities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambs- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLAS (Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme - Cambridgeshire County Council) Emmaus (emmaus.org.uk/cambridge/) Cambridge Re-use (www.cambridgereuse.org.uk/) • Peterborough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CareZone (01733 575083 Or through CAB and others) <p>Supermarket information British Legion (for service personnel serving now or in the past and their families)</p>	<p>District councils should be able to link in with local community initiatives to connect with food banks and other sources of essential items of support.</p> <p>Some schools can give out food bank vouchers. And if a child has free school meals the school may be able to support with uniform or other school essentials (possibly school trips)</p> <p>Cambridge and Peterborough charities have helped people access household items including furniture and sometimes white goods, some for free, others at a reduced cost.</p>
Foodbanks	<p>Cambridge City Foodbank Trussel trust https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/</p>	
Community Fridges		
Hygiene items	Local Libraries	Local Libraries across the county have supplies

Basket of Services 1: COVID-19 Financial Support

Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Test and Trace support payment	<p>National Test and Trace Support Payment</p> <p>Peterborough: www.peterborough.gov.uk/selfisolationpayment</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire: www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/self-isolation-payment/</p> <p>Huntingdonshire: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/testandtracesupport</p> <p>Fenland: www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment</p> <p>Cambridge: www.cambridge.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment</p> <p>East Cambs: https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/test-and-trace-support-payment</p> <p>Local Discretionary Hardship Fund: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>You might be able to get a payment of £500 if you've been told to self-isolate because of coronavirus (COVID-19) and you cannot work from home.</p> <p>You must be employed or self-employed to get the payment.</p> <p>You need to claim within 28 days of your first day of self-isolation.</p>
Employment	<p>Furlough - GOV.UK - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p>	<p>If you cannot maintain your workforce because your operations have been affected by coronavirus (COVID-19), you can furlough employees and apply for a grant to cover a portion of their usual monthly wage costs where you record them as being on furlough.</p>
Business	<p>Business grants - GOV.UK - https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19#support-for-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-restrictions</p>	<p>A full range of business support measures have been made available to UK businesses.</p>

Basket of Services 2: Finances

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Finances	Debt Support	<p>CAB (Debt and money - Citizens Advice)</p> <p>Step Change (Free Debt Helpline & Online Advice. Contact StepChange)</p> <p>Breathing Space</p> <p>Christians Against Poverty (CAP) (Christians Against Poverty Debt Counselling Charity (capuk.org)) (0800 3200 006)</p> <p>The Bridge Church St Ives (01480 498802 debtadvice@thebridgechurch.co.uk)</p> <p>HAMA Huntingdon (01480 418 886 help@huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk)</p> <p>Money Advice Service (0800 138 7777)</p> <p>National Debt line (Debt advice Free debt advice National Debtline National Debtline)</p>	<p>CAB- Advice on many aspects, including debts and benefits and budgeting.</p> <p>Step change – confidential and expert debt advice and money guidance, individual solutions, long term solutions.</p> <p>Money matters- Money advice centre</p> <p>CAP- Debt advice, advocacy and personal support. Until debt free.</p> <p>The Bridge- debt advice and counselling.</p> <p>HAMA – confidential debt advice service</p>
	Benefits	<p>Caring Together (01480 499090 hello@caringtogether.org)</p> <p>Benefits welfare Officer</p> <p>DWP</p> <p>CAB (Benefits - Citizens Advice)</p>	<p>Caring together- Supporting carers of all ages and homecare services.</p>
	Budgeting	<p>Money Matters (0141 445 5221 advice@money mattersweb.co.uk)</p> <p>Christians Against Poverty (Christians Against Poverty Debt Counselling Charity (capuk.org)) (0800 3200 006)</p> <p>HAMA Huntingdon (01480 418 886 help@huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk)</p> <p>Money Advice</p> <p>Work Coaches</p> <p>CAB (Budgeting - Citizens Advice)</p>	<p>Money matters- Money advice centre</p> <p>CAP- Debt advice, advocacy and personal support. Until debt free. They also run a money course.</p> <p>HAMA – confidential debt advice service</p>
	Help with utility bills	<p>Stay Well (needs to be a professional referral)</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>Going direct to your supplier (warm home discount)</p> <p>CAB(Debt and money - Citizens Advice)</p>	

Basket of Services 3: Adults

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Adult Services	Have a concern for another person	Report abuse of a vulnerable adult	Investigate reports of abuse of vulnerable adults
	Staying Independent/ Technology Enabled Care	<p>Technology Enabled Care Service (TEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking steps to reduce the risk of falls will help you stay independent for longer. This includes strength and balance exercises. Stay Stronger for Longer- Be Well website. Aids and devices can help with mobility, getting out and about, and getting things done around the house. Technology-enabled care can help you to live independently by monitoring your activity and alerting someone if you need help. You can make changes to your home to make it safer and easier for you to remain living there. Moving to a home which better meets your needs may mean that you can remain in your own home for life. Assess your housing needs and get personal recommendations at Housing Options for Older People (HOOP). Could your local community support you with things like lunch clubs, exercise classes and meal delivery services? The district nurse can help you to manage medical conditions from home. This includes pressure care and provision of hospital beds, where eligible. 	<p>The TEC team provides guidance, training and advice to citizens and professionals. When appropriate, we can loan assistive technology to support the independence and safety of people living in Cambridgeshire. We can also provide reassurance and support for family members.</p> <p>This can include things like fall detectors, door alarms, medication prompts, Lifeline and home activity sensors.</p>
	Support for Carers	Full details of the carers offer can be found here Caring Together works with Cambridgeshire County Council to offer a variety of support and advice that matters to you as a carer.	<p>This support continues during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information, advice and guidance Remote support and virtual activities Homecare (this is a chargeable service) Providing caring packs including personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic Carers may be eligible to benefit from a carer break, delivered by the Caring Together homecare team, at no cost to them help with transport to an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination <p>Telephone: 0345 241 0954 Email: hello@caringtogether.org</p>
	Adults Early Help	The Adult Early Help team have been in place since April 2016 and receive all requests for social care and support for anyone over the age of 18. The team consists of Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Coordinators from a variety of backgrounds. We offer support	ASC services can be contacted via this online form or on 0345 045 5202

Basket of Services 4: Children's, Education

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Children's Services	You have concerns for a child		<p>If you think you and your family might benefit from some support, you should ask a professional who you know. This could be your doctor, or a teacher at your child's school. They can tell you more about Early Help.</p> <p>You can also contact the Early Help Hub: early.help@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call: 01480 376 666 (office hours). If you don't know who to ask for help.</p> <p>Sometimes a professional may approach you, and ask whether you would like to talk about Early Help and how it could help your family.</p>
	Early Years	County council Apply for Education Welfare Benefits - Introduction - Self (achieveservice.com)	
	Child & Family Centres	<p>Child and Family Centres - Fenland Tel: 01354 750 359 Email: Childandfamilycentre.fenland@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Child and Family Centres - Huntingdonshire Tel: 01480 372 700 Email: Childandfamilycentre.hunts@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Child and Family Centres - East Cambs Tel: 01353 611 594 Email: Childandfamilycentre.east@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Child and Family Centres - South Cambs Tel: 01954 286 012 Email: Childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Child and Family Centres - Cambridge City Tel: 01223 728 118 Email: Childandfamilycentre.city@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Our Child and Family Centres offer groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0-19. As well as our network of Child and Family Centres, we provide activities, groups, events and courses in libraries, churches and other community locations across the county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support groups run by family workers • Information and advice about education and childcare • Employment, training and benefits advice • Drop-in play sessions • Child development and special needs • Parenting courses • A meeting place for parents, carers and childminders • Parent led sessions and groups • Dads' groups • Health services such as midwives and health visitor clinics <p>There is a simple registration form online & information about classes can be found on the directory</p>

Education	General Advice	School Settings School Governors	All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours a week of free early years education for 38 weeks of the year. Some 2 year olds from families on low incomes are also entitled to free early years education.
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Basket of Services 5: Health & Wellbeing

Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Registering with GP	https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/ If you have problems registering with a GP surgery, call the NHS England Customer Contact Centre on 0300 311 22 33	
Support with Mental Health	Education support (Teachers and school support staff 08000 562 561) British Legion (for service personnel serving now or in the past and their families) MIND (info@mind.org.uk 0300 1233393) CPFT (Psychological Wellbeing Service (IAPT) Self-Referral CPFT NHS Trust 0300 300 0055) (Psychological wellbeing service. Cambridge wellbeing service available to self referral for counseling) Keep your head (Keep Your Head Mental Health Service (keep-your-head.com)) Education support (Teachers and school support staff 08000 562 561) Local GP NHS mental health plans - Every Mind Matters One You (www.nhs.uk)	
Counselling and Bereavement	Cruise Bereavement Care (BetterHelp - Help us match the right counselor for you) Lifecraft (Welcome - Lifecraft 0808 808 21 21) Stars – for young people facing grief (01223 863 511 Refer A Child – Talk to Stars) Cornerstone (Cornerstone Care in Confidence : Cornerstone Care in Confidence (pregnancyadvice.org.uk) 01480 457 711) Pregnancy crisis (Huntingdon and Cambs) Embrace (for young people aged 12-18 who have been a victim of or a witness to a serious crime) Counselling - Embrace - CVOC The Bridge Church, counselling for anyone (admin@thebridgecounsellingcentre.co.uk 07895 730 599)	
Loneliness	Caring together (Carers) FACT befriending clubs Fenland (info@cotransport.org 01354 661 234) HACT Befriending clubs Huntingdon (info@cotransport.org 01480 411 114) Age Uk befriending service (Befriending services Combating loneliness Age UK or 0800 678 1602) for those over 50	

Basket of Services 6: Libraries

Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Libraries	<p>Detail of current opening times and location of libraries across the county can be found on the Libraries Directory of Services Page</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Library Services can be accessed online. You can join Cambridgeshire Libraries, search for titles, and read books, without leaving home. Access eBooks and eComics, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers and Online Reading Groups.</p> <p>The Library Presents</p> <p>The Mobile Library Service is now on the move again.</p>	<p>We deliver through a network of 33 Static, 3 Mobile Libraries plus 11 Library Access Points run by volunteer partners.</p> <p>The Library Service is more than the network of physical assets. A growing area is our digital offer comprising digital content (books to read and listen to); digital experiences e.g. live author chats ; Engage events/talks for people; live cultural experiences as part of our ACE funded The Library Presents programme.</p> <p>The Library Presents is a programme of arts activities, online and in locations around Cambridgeshire. We hope you will find the events and activities interesting, exciting or just pure fun. There is something for all ages across a range of art forms including; music, drama, art, dance, storytelling, comedy, puppetry, magic, animation and digital arts. A new programme will launch in Spring 2021, for now enjoy some videos from the archive.</p> <p>If you have any questions or comments, please email us at thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or telephone 01223 706 779.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire currently has three mobile libraries stopping at 364 locations in 85 villages and communities throughout the county. It's a great place for catching up with friends and colleagues whilst supporting a local community resource. We visit most locations once a month, for example the first Tuesday of the month. We will be visiting on the same times and days of the week as before. Find a mobile library stop.</p>

Basket of Services 7: Housing, Business, Waste

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Housing	General support with housing	<p>Districts Housing support Teams (Housing - Peterborough City Council)</p> <p>Cambridge P3 floating Support (P3 - Changing lives every day (p3charity.org))</p> <p>Chorus Housing (info@chorushomesgroup.co.uk 0345 266 9760) BPHA (info@bpha.org.uk 0330 100 0272) South Cambridgeshire Housing Hundred Housing (info@hhs.org.uk 01223 315 036) CHS Group (0300 111 3555) Riverside ECHG (How to contact Riverside) Jimmys Night Shelter (info@jimmyscambridge.org.uk 01223 576085) Sanctuary Housing Association (Contact us Sanctuary Housing - Affordable and Social Housing (sanctuary-housing.co.uk) 0800 131 3348) Muir Group (info@muir.org.uk 0300 123 1222) Cross Keys Homes (Contact details for Customer Services and CKH Customer Central Cross Keys Homes 01733 385 000)</p>	
	Hoarding	<p>Fire Service Safeguarding (Concerned? Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board (safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk))</p>	
	Financial Support	<p>City & South Adviceline Freephone: 08082 787808 any time between 9.00 - 5.00 from Monday to Friday</p> <p>Hunts & Fenland Our Adviceline service is open from 9:30 in the morning to 3:30 in the afternoon, Monday to Friday. 0808 278 7807</p>	<p>Cambridge and District Citizens Advice is a registered charity that provides free advice and support to any member of the public on problems they face in their everyday lives. We also undertake research and campaigning work in order to improve the policies and practices that affect our clients.</p> <p>We offer help in relation to a wide range of social welfare areas. We can help you enforce employment rights, manage your money, improve your housing, and access benefit entitlements. We also promote consumer rights, such as protecting people from scams and rogue traders.</p>
	Council Tenants Support	<p>Council tenants - Cambridge City Council Housing advice - Peterborough City Council</p>	

Basket of Services 8: Leisure, Transport

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Leisure	Nature and Parks	My Cambridgeshire National Trust	
	Sports Centres	Kelsey Kerridge Vivacity Huntingdonshire Leisure Centres One Leisure	
Transport	Public Transport	Community Transport FACT (info@cotransport.org 01354 661 234) HACT (info@cotransport.org 01480 411 114) Community Car Scheme (Community Transport - Cambridgeshire County Council) Cycle to work scheme - https://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/ National Rail	
	Parking permits and fines	If you have any problems using the online form, ask a family member or friend to assist you with your application. Alternatively please call 0345 045 5204 to speak to the Blue Badge Team for help over the phone.	A Blue Badge is a disabled parking permit. It helps people with disabilities or health conditions park closer to their destination. To qualify for a Blue Badge, you must have an enduring and substantial disability.
	Highways – reporting a problem	https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways	To report a highways fault that poses an immediate danger to the public , please read the guidance on reporting a highways emergency . Examples of highways emergencies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manholes or gratings that are missing • Traffic signalled junctions or crossing, all lights out, damaged street lights, traffic signals, lit bollards and lit signs where wires are exposed • Debris, including mud, stones or oil on the road • Fallen tree or branch blocking part or all the road or path • Extensive flooding resulting in road being impassable • Large dead animals - eg cattle / deer / horse causing obstruction • Overhead cables fallen across the highway • Potholes - only deep potholes on busy A roads and main distributor roads that cause a danger to the public will be treated as an emergency • Road signs, safety fences, guardrails and other street furniture damaged so they are a direct danger or obstruction to the road • Structure collapse - for example, bridge / culvert / wall / fences / scaffold / hoarding

Basket of Services 9: Environment & Climate

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Environment & Climate issues	Pest Control	<p>Huntingdonshire - http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environmental-issues/pest-control/</p> <p>East Cambs – call 01353 665555 or email customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk</p> <p>South Cambs - www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/pest-control/</p> <p>Peterborough - Animals, wildlife & pests - Peterborough City Council</p> <p>Fenland - https://www.fenland.gov.uk/pest-control</p> <p>Cambridge City - Cambridge City Council › pest-control</p>	<p>Huntingdonshire - Our expert pest control technician can provide advice and treatments on getting rid of pests from your home</p> <p>East Cambs – Does not offer a pest control service but officers can be contacted by phone for advice</p> <p>South Cambs – Does not offer a pest control service, has information of who to contact on website</p> <p>Peterborough – Website directs you to most appropriate organisation</p> <p>Fenland - The Council does not provide a pest control service, website directs you to most appropriate organisation</p> <p>Cambridge City - Our experienced and qualified team provides a discreet and professional pest-control service. Contact us if you live in Cambridge and have a pest concern, or if you need a single pest treatment. We can treat the following pests free of charge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockroaches • Mice • Rats
	Pollution, Noise and Nuisance	<p>Huntingdonshire - http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environmental-issues/noise-nuisance-pollution/air-quality/</p> <p>East Cambs - 01353 665555_or email customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk</p> <p>South Cambs_- www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/pollution/noise-nuisance/</p> <p>Peterborough - Noise & nuisances - Peterborough City Council</p> <p>Environmental Protection - Peterborough City Council</p> <p>Fenland - https://www.fenland.gov.uk/nuisance https://www.fenland.gov.uk/airquality https://www.fenland.gov.uk/flytipping</p> <p>Cambridge City - Cambridge City Council › pollution-noise-and-nuisance</p>	<p>Huntingdonshire - We can investigate complaints about issues that are a ‘statutory nuisance’ under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.</p>

Basket of Services 10: Employment, Training & Skills, Other

Theme	Potential Query/Detail	Support Channels	What support do they offer?
Employment, Training, Skills	Seeking Employment	Adult skills offer – awaiting further information from Tanya Meadows DWP – Work Coaches GOV.UK	
	Support to access education, training and skills		
	Apprenticeships	CRC (Apprenticeships - Find your perfect role - Cambridge Regional College (camre.ac.uk)) UCAS (Apprenticeship jobs Cambridgeshire (ucas.com))	

Cambridge City information

Covid-19 information

Foodbanks

Cambridge City's foodbanks work using a voucher referral system. Please call please call **0808 2082138** for free (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) will issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.

Self-isolation Support

Fenland: www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment
Local Discretionary Hardship Fund: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Vaccinations (transport support & other info)

For general advice on vaccinations call 119
If someone has no transport to attend their vaccination appointment contact communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Loss of income

Job Centre Plus in Cambridge can provide support with employment and benefits Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01223 545016
<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/cambridge-jobcentre>

Citizen's Advice Bureau

Universal Credit – Help to claim 0800 144 8 444 (Freephone)
Mon-Fri 8am – 6pm

Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Help with CLAS applications - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Help for Businesses

If someone's business has been affected by the pandemic contact the district council on 01223 457000 or
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-for-businesses>

Furlough Information - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Toiletries, sanitary wear and household supplies

Personal hygiene packs are available from Cambridge Central & Cherry Hinton libraries.

For more information on opening times call [0345 045 5200](tel:03450455200)
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

A Area concerns

Access to digital/internet

Connecting Cambridgeshire
<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>
Cambridge Online 0845 458 0192 or 01223 300407
<https://cambridgeonline.org.uk/cambridgeshire-digital-partnership/>

Community Safety

To learn more about local community safety initiatives and report concerns, including anti-social behaviour locally.

Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/community-safety>

Fly tipping/littering

To report concerns contact Cambridge City Council 01223 457000

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/report-flytipping>

Homelessness

Call Cambridge City Council 01223 457000

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/homeless-people>

Shelter provide free housing advice to those facing or experiencing homelessness 0808 800 4444

Parking

Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/parking>

Transport, Roads & Cycleways

To report concerns about roads contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5212
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways>

For information on Community & Public Transport
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking>

Information on cycleways in the county can be found here
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling>

Cambridge City information

E Education

Early Years Learning & Childcare

For more information on early years services, including funding for childcare. Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 1360
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning>

The Cambridgeshire Online Directory provides general information on local early years and childcare settings
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/?f.Classification%7Cclassification=Childcare>

Free School Meals

Families on certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. For more information
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

Education Welfare Benefits Team 01223 703 200
ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Primary & Secondary Schools

For information on schools and education, including term dates, school admissions and transport.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning>

School Admissions 0345 045 1370
School Bus Passes 0345 045 5208

Adult Learning & Skills

Cambridgeshire Skills provide adult skills and learning, offering a range of courses.
Admissions Team on 01353 613013
or email cambals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://www.cambals.co.uk/>

F Family

Adult Services

For information, advice and support for adults, including reporting concerns for someone's welfare, enable someone to live independently and requesting assessment.
0345 045 5202
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults>

Carers

Details of support for carers
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/looking-after-someone>
Caring Together (work with CCC) 0345 241 0954
hello@caringtogether.org

Children & Families

For information, advice and support for children, including family & parenting support, concerns for a child's welfare and fostering & adoption.
0345 045 5203 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families>

Child & Family Centres

Child and Family Centres offer groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0-19.

Child and Family Centres - Cambridge City Tel: 01223 728 118
Email: Childandfamilycentre.city@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Special Education Needs and/or disabilities

Local Offer All local authorities working with their partners must publish information about how children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported in their area. This is known as the local offer.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/about-cambridgeshire-s-local-offer>

Sight and hearing loss support

Cambridge County Council provide a range of information.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/support-for-sight-and-hearing-loss-and-disabilities>
0345 045 5202 careinfo@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Food

Cambridge City's foodbanks work using a voucher referral system. Please call please call **0808 2082138** for free (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) will issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.

Other local support can be accessed via Cambridgeshire online directory
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/>

Cambridge City information

H

Home

Housing Support

Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/housing>

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on a range of housing matters 0808 278 7807
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advice/housing-advice/>

Tenants & Landlords

Information for tenants is available from Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/housing-options>

Information for landlords can be found here
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/guide-for-landlords>

Utility Bills

If someone is having problems pay their bills, they should may contact with their supplier.

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on utility bills <https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/>

Waste Collection

All household waste collection queries are managed by Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-rubbish>

L

Local Activities

Leisure & Sports Centres

More information on the centres can be accessed from Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sport-and-fitness>

Parks & Open Spaces

More information on the centres can be accessed from Cambridge City Council 01223 457000

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/parks-and-playgrounds>

Libraries

For information on libraries in your area including opening times, mobile library services and library online contact Cambridgeshire County Council 0345045225
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

M Mental Health

Bereavement & Counselling

Cruise Bereavement Care 0808 808 1677 <https://www.cruise.org.uk/>
Stars – for young people facing grief 01223 863 511

Loneliness

There is a range of information on the Cambridgeshire County Council website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/connect-with-your-local-community/tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

Miscellaneous

NHS Mental Health Support 0808 196 3494 -<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>
Samaritans 116 123 jo@samaritans.org <https://www.samaritans.org/>
Mind 0300 123 3393 <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Money

Debt & General Advice

Cambridge & District CAB provide advice on all matter relating to debt 08082 787808 <https://www.cambridgecab.org.uk/>

Money Advice Service is a national support offer 0800 138 7777
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en>

Employment support

Job Centre Plus in Cambridge can provide support with employment and benefits Telephone: 0845 604 3719 Textphone: 01223 545016

<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/cambridge-jobcentre>

N

New to the Area (Key contacts)

Cambridge City Council 01223 457000
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk>

CCC 0345 045 5200 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

East Cambridgeshire information

Covid-19 information

Food banks/ Community fridges

Ely & Soham foodbanks work using a voucher referral system. To get support residents require a voucher issued by local agencies.
Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138
or <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>
P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190
ECDC – Community Support Network
email covid19@eastcamb.gov.uk or 01353 665555

Toiletries, sanitary wear and household supplies

Personal hygiene packs are available from Ely & Soham Libraries
For more information on opening times call [0345 045 5200](tel:03450455200)
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

Self-isolation Support

East Cambs: <https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/content/test-and-trace-support-payment>
Local Discretionary Hardship Fund: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Loss of income

Job Centre Plus in Ely can provide support with employment and benefits [0800 169 0190](tel:08001690190)
<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/ely-jobcentre>
Rural CAB
Universal Credit – Help to claim 0800 144 8 444 (Freephone)
Mon-Fri 8am – 6pm
Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm
Help with CLAS applications - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Vaccinations (transport support & other info)

For general advice on vaccinations call 119
If someone has no transport to attend their vaccination appointment contact communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Help for Businesses

If someone's business has been affected by the pandemic contact the district council on 01353 665555 or
<https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/covid/coronavirus-information-businesses>
Furlough Information - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

A Area concerns

Access to digital/internet

Connecting Cambridgeshire
<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>
Cambridge Online 0845 458 0192 or 01223 300407
<https://cambridgeonline.org.uk/cambridgeshire-digital-partnership/>

Community Safety

To learn more about local community safety initiatives and report concerns, including anti-social behaviour locally.

East Cambs District Council Telephone: 01353 665555
<https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/content/community-safety>

Fly tipping/littering

To report concerns contact East Cambs District Council on 01353 665555
<https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/>

Homelessness

East Cambs District Council Telephone: 01353 665555
Email: housingservices@eastcamb.gov.uk

Shelter provide free housing advice to those facing or experiencing homelessness 0808 800 4444

Parking

East Cambs District Council Telephone: 01353 665555
Email: <https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/content/visitor-car-parks-and-parking>

Transport, Roads & Cycleways

To report concerns about roads contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5212
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways>
For information on Community & Public Transport
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking>
Information on cycleways in the county can be found here <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling>

East Cambridgeshire information

E Education

Early Years Learning & Childcare

For more information on early years services, including funding for childcare. Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 1360
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning>
The Cambridgeshire Online Directory provides general information on local early years and childcare settings
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/?f.Classification%7Cclassification=Childcare>

Free school meals

Families on certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. For more information
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>
Education Welfare Benefits Team 01223 703 200
ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Primary & Secondary Schools

For information on schools and education, including term dates, school admissions and transport.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning>
School Admissions 0345 045 1370
School Bus Passes 0345 045 5208

Adult Learning & Skills

Cambridgeshire Skills provide adult skills and learning, offering a range of courses.
Admissions Team on 01353 613013
or email cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://www.cambsals.co.uk/>

F Family

Adult Services

For information, advice and support for adults, including reporting concerns for someone's welfare, enable someone to live independently and requesting assessment.
0345 045 5202
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults>

Carers

Details of support carers
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/looking-after-someone>
Caring Together (work with CCC) 0345 241 0954
hello@caringtogether.org

Children & Families

For information, advice and support for children, including family & parenting support, concerns for a child's welfare and fostering & adoption.
0345 045 5203 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families>

Child & Family Centres

Child and Family Centres offer groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0-19.
Tel: 01353 611 594
Email: Childandfamilycentre.east@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Special Education Needs and/or disabilities

Local Offer All local authorities working with their partners must publish information about how children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported in their area. This is known as the local offer.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/about-cambridgeshire-s-local-offer>

Sight and hearing loss support

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/support-for-sight-and-hearing-loss-and-disabilities>
0345 045 5202 careinfo@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Food

Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies.
Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138
or <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>
P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190
ECDC – Community Support Network email covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555
Fenland Council Community Support Network
email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321

East Cambridgeshire information

H

Home

Housing Support

East Cambs District Council Housing Support
01353 665555 Email: housingservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
The are community hubs, in Ely, Soham and Littleport, however, they are currently closed due to the pandemic. All enquiries should be directed to the contact above.

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on a range of housing matters
<https://www.citizensadvicerruralcambs.org.uk/advice/housing-advice/>

Tenants & Landlords

East Cambs District Council provide advice to both tenants & landlords 01353 665555
<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/guide-tenants-and-landlords>

Utility Bills

If someone is having problems pay their bills, they should may contact with their supplier.

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on utility bills <https://www.citizensadvicerruralcambs.org.uk/advice/>

Waste Collection

All household waste collection queries are managed by East Cambs District Council 01353 665555
<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/waste-collections-and-street-cleansing>

L

Local Activities

Leisure & Sports Centres

More information on the centres can be accessed from East Cambs District Council 01353 665555
<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sports/leisure-centres-sports-facilities>

Parks & Open Spaces

More information on the centres can be accessed from East Cambs District Council 01353 665555
<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/parks-and-open-spaces>

Libraries

For information on libraries in your area including opening times, mobile library services and library online contact Cambridgeshire County Council 0345045225
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

M

Mental Health

Bereavement & Counselling

Cruise Bereavement Care 0808 808 1677 <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
Stars – for young people facing grief 01223 863 511

Loneliness

There is a range of information on the Cambridgeshire County Council website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/connect-with-your-local-community/tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

Miscellaneous

NHS Mental Health Support 0808 196 3494
<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>
Samaritans 116 123 jo@samaritans.org <https://www.samaritans.org/>
Mind 0300 123 3393 <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Money

Debt & General Advice

Rural CAB with provide advice on all matter relating to debt
Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Money Advice Service is a national support offer 0800 138 7777
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en>

Employment

Job Centre Plus in Ely can provide support with employment and benefits
0800 169 0190 <https://www.jobcentre.co.uk/ely-jobcentre>

N

New to the Area (Key contacts)

East Cambs District Council 01353 665555 <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk>
CCC 0345 045 5200 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Fenland information

Covid-19 information

Food banks/ Community fridges

Wisbech foodbank work using a voucher referral system. To get support residents require a voucher issued by local agencies.

Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138

or <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190

Fenland Council Community Support Network

email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321

Self-isolation Support

Fenland: www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment

Local Discretionary Hardship Fund: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Loss of income

Job Centre Plus in Wisbech can provide support with employment and benefits [0800 169 0190](tel:08001690190)

<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/wisbech-jobcentre>

Rural CAB

Universal Credit – Help to claim 0800 144 8 444 (Freephone)

Mon-Fri 8am – 6pm

Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Help with CLAS applications - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Vaccinations (transport support & other info)

For general advice on vaccinations call 119

If someone has no transport to attend their vaccination appointment

contact communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Help for Businesses

If someone's business has been affected by the pandemic contact the district council on 01354 654321 or

www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice

Furlough Information - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Toiletries, sanitary wear and household supplies

Personal hygiene packs are available from Wisbech & March

Libraries. For more information on opening times call [0345 045 5200](tel:03450455200)

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

A Area concerns

Access to digital/internet

Connecting Cambridgeshire

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>

Cambridge Online 0845 458 0192 or 01223 300407

<https://cambridgeonline.org.uk/cambridgeshire-digital-partnership/>

Fly tipping/littering

To report concerns, contact Fenland District Council on 01354 654321

[Contact us - Fenland District Council](https://www.fenland.gov.uk) - www.fenland.gov.uk

Parking

Fenland District Council Telephone: 01354 654321

www.fenland.gov.uk/carparks

Homelessness

Fenland District Council - Telephone: 01354 654321

Email: housingadvice@fenland.gov.uk

Shelter provide free housing advice to those facing or experiencing

homelessness 0808 800 4444

Transport, Roads & Cycleways

To report concerns about roads contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5212

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways>

For information on Community & Public Transport

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking>

Information on cycleways in the county can be found here

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling>

Community Safety

To learn more about local community safety initiatives and report concerns, including anti-social behaviour locally.

Fenland District Council Telephone: 01354 654321

www.fenland.gov.uk/communitysafety

Fenland information

E Education

Early Years Learning & Childcare

For more information on early years services, including funding for childcare. Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 1360
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning>

The Cambridgeshire Online Directory provides general information on local early years and childcare settings
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/?f.Classification%7Cclassification=Childcare>

Free School Meals

Families on certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. For more information
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>
Education Welfare Benefits Team 01223 703 200
ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Primary & Secondary Schools

For information on schools and education, including term dates, school admissions and transport.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning>
School Admissions 0345 045 1370
School Bus Passes 0345 045 5208

Adult Learning & Skills

Cambridgeshire Skills provide adult skills and learning, offering a range of courses.
Admissions Team on 01353 613013
or email cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://www.cambsals.co.uk/>

F Family

Adult Services

For information, advice and support for adults, including reporting concerns for someone's welfare, enable someone to live independently and requesting assessment.
0345 045 5202
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults>

Carers

Details of support carers
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/looking-after-someone>
Caring Together (work with CCC) 0345 241 0954
hello@caringtogether.org

Children & Families

For information, advice and support for children, including family & parenting support, concerns for a child's welfare and fostering & adoption.
0345 045 5203 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families>

Child & Family Centres

Child and Family Centres offer groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0-19.
Tel: 01353 611 594
Email: Childandfamilycentre.fenland@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Special Education Needs and/or disabilities

Local Offer All local authorities working with their partners must publish information about how children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported in their area. This is known as the local offer.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/about-cambridgeshire-s-local-offer>

Sight and hearing loss support

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/support-for-sight-and-hearing-loss-and-disabilities>
0345 045 5202 careinfo@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Food

Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies.
Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138
or <https://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk/>
P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190
ECDC – Community Support Network
email covid19@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555
Fenland Council Community Support Network
email covid19@fenland.gov.uk or 01354 654321

Fenland information

H

Home

Housing Support

Fenland District Council Housing Advice
01354 654321 - <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/housingadvice>

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on a range of housing matters
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advice/housing-advice/>

Tenants & Landlords

Fenland District Council offer free and confidential housing advice for residents and landlords - 01354 654321

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/housingadvice>

www.fenland.gov.uk/landlordadvice

Utility Bills

If someone is having problems pay their bills, they should may contact with their supplier.

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on utility bills <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advice/>

Waste Collection

All household waste collection queries are managed by Fenland District Council - 01354 654321

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling>

L

Local Activities

Leisure & Sports Centres

More information on the centres can be accessed Fenland District Council - 01354 654321
<https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/partners/fenland-district-council/>

Parks & Open Spaces

More information on the centres can be accessed from Fenland District Council - 01354 654321
<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/parks>

Libraries

For information on libraries in your area including opening times, mobile library services and library online contact Cambridgeshire County Council 03450455225
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

M

Mental Health

Bereavement & Counselling

Cruise Bereavement Care 0808 808 1677 <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
Stars – for young people facing grief 01223 863 511

Loneliness

There is a range of information on the Cambridgeshire County Council website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/connect-with-your-local-community/tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

Miscellaneous

NHS Mental Health Support 0808 196 3494
<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>
Samaritans 116 123 jo@samaritans.org <https://www.samaritans.org/>
Mind 0300 123 3393 <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Money

Debt & General Advice

Rural CAB with provide advice on all matter relating to debt
Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Money Advice Service is a national support offer 0800 138 7777
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en>

Employment

Job Centre Plus in Wisbech can provide support with employment and benefits 0800 169 0190 -
<https://www.jobcentre.co.uk/wisbech-jobcentre>

N

New to the Area (Key contacts)

Fenland District Council - 01354 654321 <https://www.fenland.gov.uk>

CCC 0345 045 5200 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Huntingdonshire information

Covid-19 information

Food banks/ Community fridges

Godmanchester foodbank works using a voucher referral system. Please call 0344 245 1292 to speak to Rural Citizens Advice Huntingdonshire, a referral partner of Godmanchester Foodbank, who will be able to issue you with a food bank voucher if necessary.

Self-isolation Support

Fenland: www.fenland.gov.uk/testandtracepayment
Local Discretionary Hardship Fund: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Vaccinations (transport support & other info)

For general advice on vaccinations call 119
If someone has no transport to attend their vaccination appointment contact communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Toiletries, sanitary wear and household supplies

Personal hygiene packs are available from Huntingdon, St Ives & Ramsey libraries.

For more information on opening times call [0345 045 5200](tel:03450455200)
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

Loss of income

Job Centre Plus in Huntingdon can provide support with employment and benefits Telephone: 0843 509 2446 Textphone: 0845 608 855

<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/huntingdon-jobcentre>

Citizen's Advice Bureau

Universal Credit – Help to claim 0800 144 8 444 (Freephone)

Mon-Fri 8am – 6pm

Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Help with CLAS applications - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Help for Businesses

If someone's business has been affected by the pandemic contact the district council on 01480 388388 or

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/business/>

Furlough Information - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

A Area concerns

Access to digital/internet

Connecting Cambridgeshire

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>

Cambridge Online 0845 458 0192 or 01223 300407

<https://cambridgeonline.org.uk/cambridgeshire-digital-partnership/>

Fly tipping/littering

To report concerns contact Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environmental-issues/fly-tipping/>

Parking

Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/parking/>

Homelessness

Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/>

Shelter provide free housing advice to those facing or experiencing homelessness 0808 800 4444

Transport, Roads & Cycleways

To report concerns about roads contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5212

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways>

For information on Community & Public Transport

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking>

Information on cycleways in the county can be found here

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling>

Community Safety

To learn more about local community safety initiatives and report concerns, including anti-social behaviour locally.

Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/crime-and-community-safety/>

Huntingdonshire information

E Education

Early Years Learning & Childcare

For more information on early years services, including funding for childcare. Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 1360
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning>

The Cambridgeshire Online Directory provides general information on local early years and childcare settings
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/?f.Classification%7Cclassification=Childcare>

Free School Meals

Families on certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. For more information
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>
Education Welfare Benefits Team 01223 703 200
ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Primary & Secondary Schools

For information on schools and education, including term dates, school admissions and transport.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning>
School Admissions 0345 045 1370
School Bus Passes 0345 045 5208

Adult Learning & Skills

Cambridgeshire Skills provide adult skills and learning, offering a range of courses.
Admissions Team on 01353 613013
or email cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://www.cambsals.co.uk/>

F Family

Adult Services

For information, advice and support for adults, including reporting concerns for someone's welfare, enable someone to live independently and requesting assessment.
0345 045 5202
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults>

Carers

Details of support carers
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/looking-after-someone>
Caring Together (work with CCC) 0345 241 0954
hello@caringtogether.org

Children & Families

For information, advice and support for children, including family & parenting support, concerns for a child's welfare and fostering & adoption.
0345 045 5203 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families>

Child & Family Centres

Child and Family Centres offer groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0-19.
Child and Family Centres – Huntingdonshire Tel: 01480 372 700
Email: Childandfamilycentre.hunts@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Special Education Needs and/or disabilities

Local Offer All local authorities working with their partners must publish information about how children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported in their area. This is known as the local offer.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/about-cambridgeshire-s-local-offer>

Sight and hearing loss support

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/support-for-sight-and-hearing-loss-and-disabilities>
0345 045 5202 careinfo@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Food

Godmanchester foodbank works using a voucher referral system. Please call **0344 245 1292** to speak to Rural Citizens Advice Huntingdonshire, a referral partner of Godmanchester Foodbank, who will be able to issue you with a food bank voucher if necessary.

Other local support can be accessed via Cambridgeshire online directory
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/>

Huntingdonshire information

H Home

Housing Support

Huntingdonshire District Council Housing Support 01480 388218
Email: housingservices@eastcambs.gov.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on a range of housing matters 0808 278 7807
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advice/housing-advice/>

Tenants & Landlords

Information for tenants is available from Huntingdonshire District Council Housing Support 01480 388218
Email: housingadvice@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Information for landlords can be found here
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing/advice-for-landlords/>

Utility Bills

If someone is having problems pay their bills, they should may contact with their supplier.

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on utility bills <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advice/>

Waste Collection

All household waste collection queries are managed by Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/>

L Local Activities

Leisure & Sports Centres

More information on the centres can be accessed from Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388 <https://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/leisure/>

Parks & Open Spaces

More information on the centres can be accessed from Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388
<https://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/leisure/parks-nature-reserves-and-green-spaces/>

Libraries

For information on libraries in your area including opening times, mobile library services and library online contact Cambridgeshire County Council 0345045225
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

M Mental Health

Bereavement & Counselling

Cruise Bereavement Care 0808 808 1677 <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
Stars – for young people facing grief 01223 863 511

Loneliness

There is a range of information on the Cambridgeshire County Council website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/connect-with-your-local-community/tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

Miscellaneous

NHS Mental Health Support 0808 196 3494 <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>
Samaritans 116 123 jo@samaritans.org <https://www.samaritans.org/>
Mind 0300 123 3393 <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Money

Debt & General Advice

Rural CAB with provide advice on all matter relating to debt
Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm
Huntingdon Area Money Advice 01480 418866
<https://www.huntsmoneyadvice.co.uk/>

Money Advice Service is a national support offer 0800 138 7777
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en>

Employment

Job Centre Plus in Ely can provide support with employment and benefits
0800 169 0190 <https://www.jobcentre.co.uk/ely-jobcentre>

N New to the Area (Key contacts)

Huntingdonshire District Council 01480 388388
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk>

CCC 0345 045 5200 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

South Cambridgeshire information

Covid-19 information

Food banks/ Community fridges

Cottenham, Cambourne, Waterbeach and Royston foodbanks work using a voucher referral system. To get support residents require a voucher issued by local agencies.

Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138

or <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190

South Cambridgeshire Council Community Support Network

email duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713398

Toiletries, sanitary wear and household supplies

Personal hygiene packs are available from Cambourne Library. For more information on opening times call [0345 045 5200](tel:0345 045 5200)

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

Self-isolation Support

South Cambridgeshire: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/self-isolation-payment/>

Local Discretionary Hardship Fund: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Loss of income

Job Centre Plus in Cambridge can provide support with employment and benefits 0845 604 3719

<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/cambridge-jobcentre>

Rural CAB

Universal Credit – Help to claim 0800 144 8 444 (Freephone)

Mon-Fri 8am – 6pm

Debt advice - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Help with CLAS applications - 0807 278 7807 Mon-Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

Vaccinations (transport support & other info)

For general advice on vaccinations call 119

If someone has no transport to attend their vaccination appointment

contact communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Help for Businesses

If someone's business has been affected by the pandemic contact South Cambs district council on 03450 450 500 or

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>

Furlough Information - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

A Area concerns

Access to digital/internet

Connecting Cambridgeshire

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>

Cambridge Online 0845 458 0192 or 01223 300407

<https://cambridgeonline.org.uk/cambridgeshire-digital-partnership/>

Community Safety

To learn more about local community safety initiatives and report concerns, including anti-social behaviour locally.

South Cambs District Council Telephone: 03450 450 500

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/crime-anti-social-behaviour-and-community-safety/>

Fly tipping/littering

To report concerns contact South Cambs District Council on 03450 450 063

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/envirocrime/reporting-envirocrime/>

Homelessness

South Cambs District Council Telephone: 03450 450 051

Email: duty.housing@scambs.gov.uk

Shelter provide free housing advice to those facing or experiencing homelessness 0808 800 4444

Parking

South Cambs District Council Telephone: 03450 450 500

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/roads-and-transport/parking-in-our-area/>

Transport, Roads & Cycleways

To report concerns about roads contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5212

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways>

For information on Community & Public Transport

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking>

Information on cycleways in the county can be found here

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/cycling>

South Cambridgeshire information

E Education

Early Years Learning & Childcare

For more information on early years services, including funding for childcare. Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 1360
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning>

The Cambridgeshire Online Directory provides general information on local early years and childcare settings
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/?f.Classification%7Cclassification=Childcare>

Free School Meals

Families on certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. For more information
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>
Education Welfare Benefits Team 01223 703 200
ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Primary & Secondary Schools

For information on schools and education, including term dates, school admissions and transport.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning>
School Admissions 0345 045 1370
School Bus Passes 0345 045 5208

Adult Learning & Skills

Cambridgeshire Skills provide adult skills and learning, offering a range of courses.
Admissions Team on 01353 613013
or email cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://www.cambsals.co.uk/>

F Family

Adult Services

For information, advice and support for adults, including reporting concerns for someone's welfare, enable someone to live independently and requesting assessment.
0345 045 5202
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults>

Carers

Details of support carers
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/looking-after-someone>
Caring Together (work with CCC) 0345 241 0954
hello@caringtogether.org

Children & Families

For information, advice and support for children, including family & parenting support, concerns for a child's welfare and fostering & adoption.
0345 045 5203 <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families>

Child & Family Centres

Child and Family Centres offer groups, events, activities, courses and support for families with children aged 0-19.
Tel: 01954 286 012
Email: Childandfamilycentre.south@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Special Education Needs and/or disabilities

Local Offer All local authorities working with their partners must publish information about how children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported in their area. This is known as the local offer.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/about-cambridgeshire-s-local-offer>

Sight and hearing loss support

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/support-for-sight-and-hearing-loss-and-disabilities>
0345 045 5202 careinfo@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Food

Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from our foodbank, you will need a voucher issued by local agencies.
Citizens Advice Bureau 0808 2082 138
or <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/cambs/>
P3 Floating Support 0115 850 8190
South Cambridgeshire Council Community Support Network
email duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713398

South Cambridgeshire information

H

Home

Housing Support

South Cambs District Council Housing Support
03450 450 051

Email: duty.housing@scambs.gov.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on a range of housing matters

<https://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk/advice/housing-advice/>

Tenants & Landlords

South Cambs District Council provide advice to both tenants & landlords 03450 450 051

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice/help-with-housing/housing-advice-service/>

Utility Bills

If someone is having problems with paying their bills, they should may contact with their supplier.

Citizen's Advice Bureau provide information, advice and guidance on utility bills <https://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk/advice/>

Waste Collection

All household waste collection queries are managed by South Cambs District Council 03450 450 063

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/>

L

Local Activities

Leisure & Sports Centres

More information on the centres can be accessed from East Cambs District Council 03450 450 500

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sport-health-and-wellbeing/things-to-get-you-out-and-active-in-south-cambs/sports-centres-and-facilities/>

Parks & Open Spaces

More information on the centres can be accessed from South Cambs District Council 03450 450 500

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sport-health-and-wellbeing/things-to-get-you-out-and-active-in-south-cambs/local-parks-and-nature-reserves/>

Libraries

For information on libraries in your area including opening times, mobile library services and library online contact Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 5225

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

M Mental Health

Bereavement & Counselling

Cruise Bereavement Care 0808 808 1677 <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
Stars – for young people facing grief 01223 863 511

Loneliness

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Miscellaneous

NHS Mental Health Support 0808 196 3494

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>

Samaritans 116 123 jo@samaritans.org <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Mind 0300 123 3393 <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Money

Debt & General Advice

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<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/cambridge-jobcentre>

N

New to the Area (Key contacts)

South Cambs District Council 03450 450 500

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/>

Cambridgeshire County Council 0345 045 5200

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Service Director Report: Children and Safeguarding

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 14th September 2021

From: Director of Children's Services

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: The Committee is being asked to consider current performance of children's services and the extent to which we are delivering good outcomes for vulnerable children in Cambridgeshire.

The Members of the Committee have the information required to assess the continued improvement of service for vulnerable children and young people in Cambridgeshire.

Recommendation: Committee is being asked to:

- a) Note the information relating to the performance of children's services in Cambridgeshire, and;
- b) Note that while numbers of children in care continue to decline, a number of factors are resulting in an increase in placement costs, and;
- c) Note the actions being explored to address placement availability for children and young people in care.

Officer contact:

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

Member contacts:

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

1. Background

- 1.1. This report provides Members with an overview of key performance information within early help and children's safeguarding services.
- 1.2. The report also draws on available qualitative information about the service in order, which when considered alongside performance information, provides an indication of where children's services are on their improvement journey towards an Ofsted rating of being 'Good' overall. At the last graded inspection in January 2019, children's services were described as 'Requiring Improvement to Be Good', but with a sub-judgement of 'Good' for leadership and management.

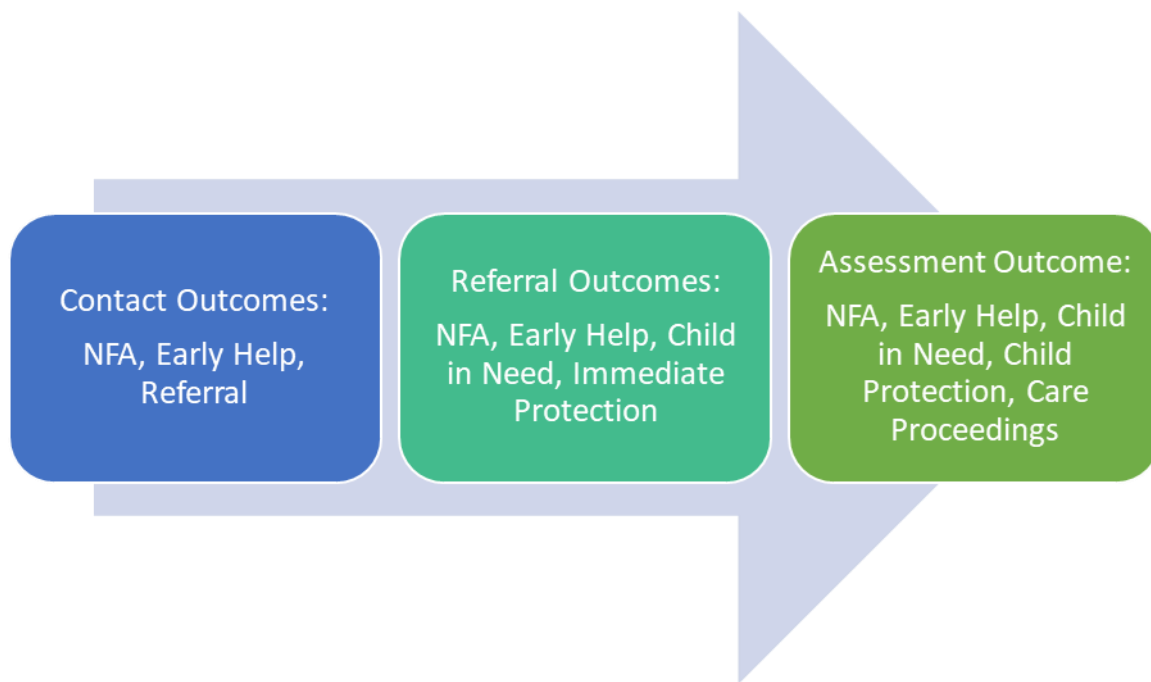
2. Main Issues

- 2.1. There have been many reports from a number of areas about how children's services have come under increasing pressure as a result of the pandemic. The position in Cambridgeshire is one where we are continuing to see high levels of demand for many of our services, and while the overall picture in terms of simple volume is not entirely clear as yet, what we are seeing is that the number of requests for support for children, young people and their families have remained high as we enter the school holidays – this is a time of year when we would normally expect to see significant reductions in such requests.
- 2.2. What has become clear is that there has been an increase in the complexity of need among those children and young people who are open to children's social care services. Overall numbers open to the statutory children's social care service have remained relatively stable, but we have seen a significant increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans. Part of the reason for this increase has been children coming to the attention of services later than they might otherwise have been as they have been less visible during lockdown periods.
- 2.3. There have also been some staffing challenges over recent months, with an increased difficulty in sourcing locum social workers for some parts of the service. We are working with our suppliers to address these issues where we can, and a focused piece of work to refresh our permanent recruitment strategy is also underway.
- 2.4. The main section of the report begins with some information about how referrals to children's services are managed, including how those that indicate that a child may be at risk of significant harm are identified, through the work of our Customer Service Centre and the Integrated Front Door. The following sections provide more detailed analysis of key performance and qualitative information about the operation of children's services, including our early help service.

How we respond to concerns or questions about children and young people

- 2.5. All enquiries [which are sometimes known as 'contacts'] about children and young people from the public or from other professionals come through the Cambridgeshire customer service centre. Many enquiries/contacts are dealt with at this point, and may result in signposting to voluntary or community sector organisations or the provision of advice.

- 2.6. Customer services pass some enquiries/contacts about children and young people that they cannot resolve to the Integrated Front Door, which includes the Early Help Hub and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- 2.7. The Customer Service Centre also manages enquiries about children and young people living in Peterborough, and the Integrated Front Door is a fully shared service across the two authorities. This approach benefits both authorities in that we are able to offer a wholly consistent response to those referring partner agencies that operate across the greater Cambridgeshire area [notably the police and health, but also some Multi-Academy Trusts], as well as delivering a more efficient service than would be the case if each authority was to provide the facilities independently.
- 2.8. The Early Help Hub will respond to requests for support to children, young people and families who do not meet the thresholds for statutory social care services. The Hub works with partner agencies to identify a lead professional, who can provide coordinating support to the family. This will usually be a person who knows the family or child well; a health professional or teacher, for example.
- 2.9. Where it is clear from the information provided about a child or young person that they are likely to reach statutory thresholds for children's social care, the enquiry or contact is passed to the assessment service as a referral.
- 2.10. Where the information about a child or young person indicates that there may be risks and/or a need for support by children's social care, but this is not quite clear, the contact is passed as a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, or MASH. The MASH includes colleagues from health, education and police services, as well as from children's social care. Information gathered from these other agencies might confirm the concerns and that there is a need for an assessment or other form of support from children's social care. Equally, it may be that information from partner agencies means that the level of concern is reduced, and that the needs of the child or young person can be supported through early help services.
- 2.11. Children receiving a service from children's social care will either be a child in need, defined under s.17 of the Children Act 1989, or a child in need of protection, defined under s.47 of the Children Act 1989. Children with disabilities receive support services under s.17 unless they are also at risk of harm. The possible outcomes at each stage of this process are summarised in the diagram below:



2.12. We must have parental consent to offer early help or child in need services to children and young people. The fact that a parent declines to provide consent is not sufficient grounds for a child to become subject to a child protection plan or for the authority to issue court proceedings.

Early Help

2.13. The vast majority of children and young people thrive through the support of their families, by accessing universal services provided by community health and schools, as well as through community groups and so on. Occasionally, a child, young person or their family may need some additional support; very often, this can also be met through their existing relationships with trusted professionals they know well – health visitors, school teachers, teaching assistants and so on.

2.14. Local authorities have a statutory duty to coordinate early help services, as opposed to being required to directly deliver these. Cambridgeshire has been able to retain a significant directly delivered early help service, through child and family centres, family support workers and young people’s workers. Some of the funding for these services comes from the Government in the form of payment by results, previously through the Troubled Families programme, which has been replaced by a programme called Supporting Families.

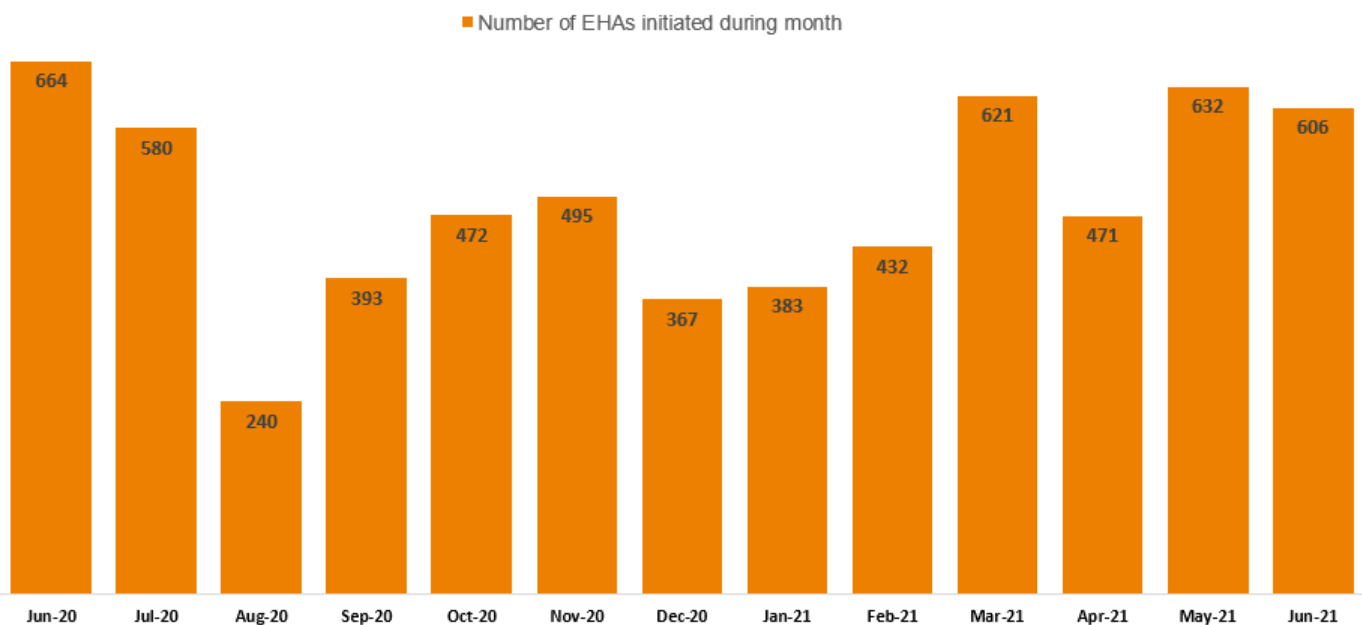
2.15. Our approaches to early help, as set out in the Best Start in Life approach and subsequently, the Strong Families, Strong Communities strategy for early help services are both fundamental building blocks in the programme to establish and the Children and Maternity Collaborative, with a footprint across the greater Cambridgeshire area. This footprint is in line with the broader Integrated Care System, of which the Children and Maternity Collaborative is a part.

2.16. Integrated Care Systems are in place to support the development of closer coordination and collaboration between health, local authority and other partner agency services in both adults and children’s services, and are part of the broader health system re-shaping of the role of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

2.17. The Cambridgeshire Integrated Care System has two place-based Integrated Care Partnerships, which are based on the footprints of the acute hospitals as opposed to local authority boundaries. Maintaining the benefits of coterminosity will mean that the way in which community based early help services are delivered will need to take the Integrated Care System and Partnership footprints into account.

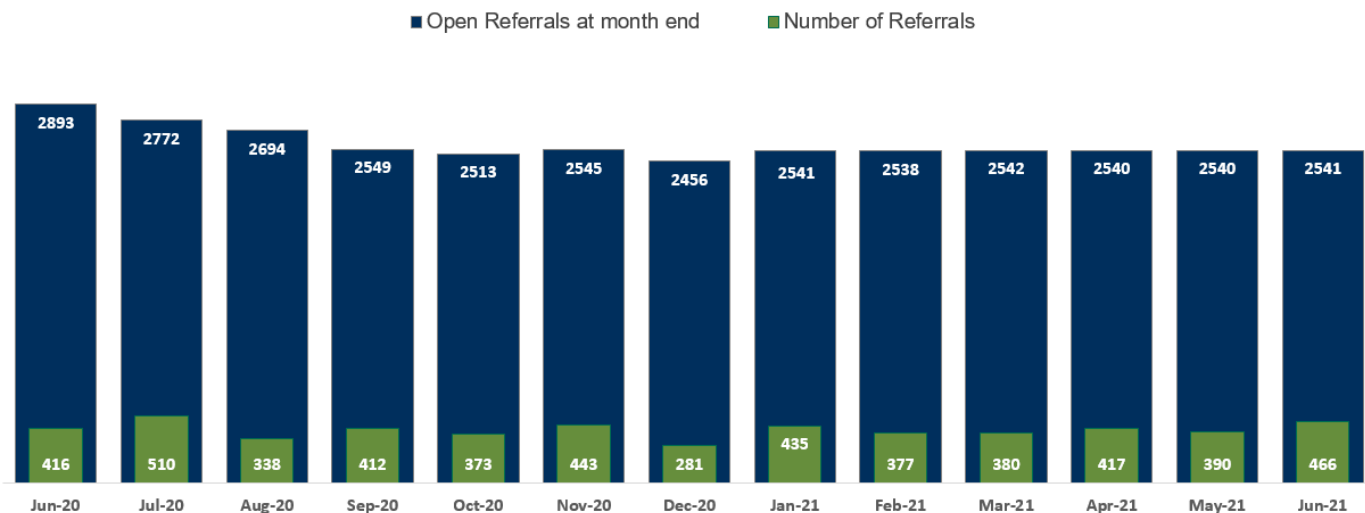
Key Performance Information: Contacts, Referrals, Early Help & Assessments

2.18. The chart below shows the number of early help assessments that are started in any one month. Early help assessments are initiated where it seems likely that a child, young person or their family will need support from more than one agency, or when their support needs are unclear. They are usually completed by practitioners who know the child or family well, and are completed with the family. A number are completed by our directly employed practitioners, but many are also completed by staff in partner agencies including schools and health:



2.19. Given that schools are among the largest identifiers of children and young people with additional support needs, it is not surprising that there were drops in December and January of this year. Actual numbers remain slightly lower than the position 12 months ago, although it should be noted that schools have always taken a very pro-active approach to identifying and supporting vulnerable pupils, even during times when they were offering largely virtual engagement.

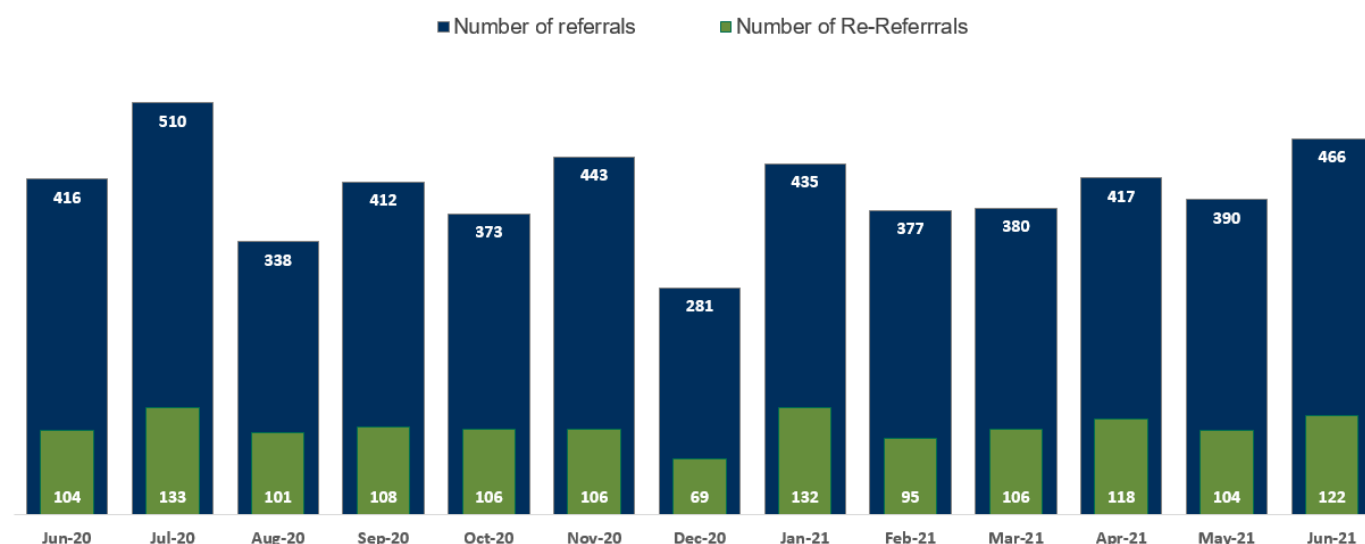
2.20. The chart below shows the numbers of referrals over the last 12 months, together with the total number of children and young people open to children’s social care services:



2.21. As can be seen from the above, we saw an increase in June 2021 in the number of children and young people we accepted as referrals into the service. There are often peaks in referrals at the beginning and ending of school terms; school staff who are concerned about a child may well want to refer in prior to the long summer break because the child will be less visible, for example. Referrals also tend to be higher after children return to school after a break. The number of referrals in the chart can be seen to be broadly following this pattern.

2.22. The overall number of children and young people open to the service has remained broadly steady since the beginning of the 2020 academic year. This is good news in one aspect of managing demand, but it should be noted that the complexity of needs being referred into the service has increased, which has put pressure on a service where we also have some staff vacancies in some of our key teams.

2.23. The next chart shows the proportions of re-referrals into the service:



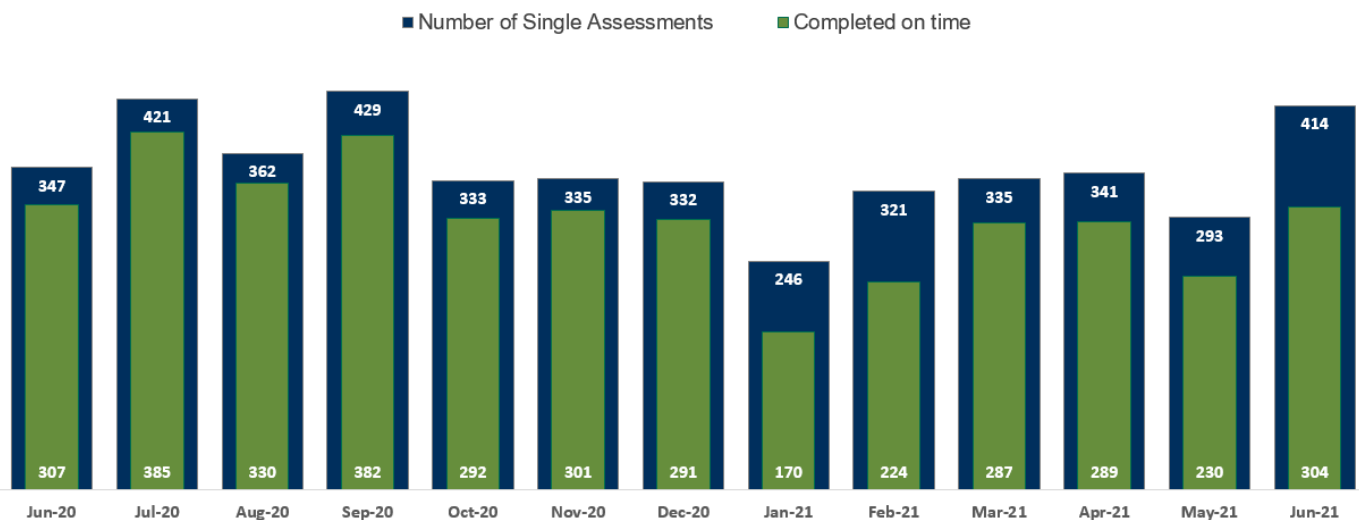
2.24. This indicator measures the percentage of children referred to us who have been previously referred in the last 12 months. At a year to date average of 27%, this is above our target of 23%, which is also the England average and average of our statistical neighbours. This is an area where improvement is needed. A re-referral rate that is too high might indicate that we

have not dealt with the original referral in a way that has resulted in concerns for children being resolved.

2.25. Our view here is that we have more to do to improve the consistency of our assessments, and that improvements in this area will see a reduction in our re-referral rate. Many of our assessments are good, but not all of them thoroughly address the issues identified. Where this leads to a recommendation of stepping down to early help services, it is more likely that the child will be re-referred if the original issues have not been fully addressed.

2.26. We have slightly revised the remits of our heads of service as part of our approach to improving consistency in this area. We now have a head of service who is responsible for the Integrated Front Door and Assessment teams across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This change brings dedicated focus to achieving consistency in terms of assessments while enabling the heads of service for the Family Safeguarding teams to concentrate on the longer term work of these teams.

2.27. The next chart indicates the timeliness of completion of our single assessments:



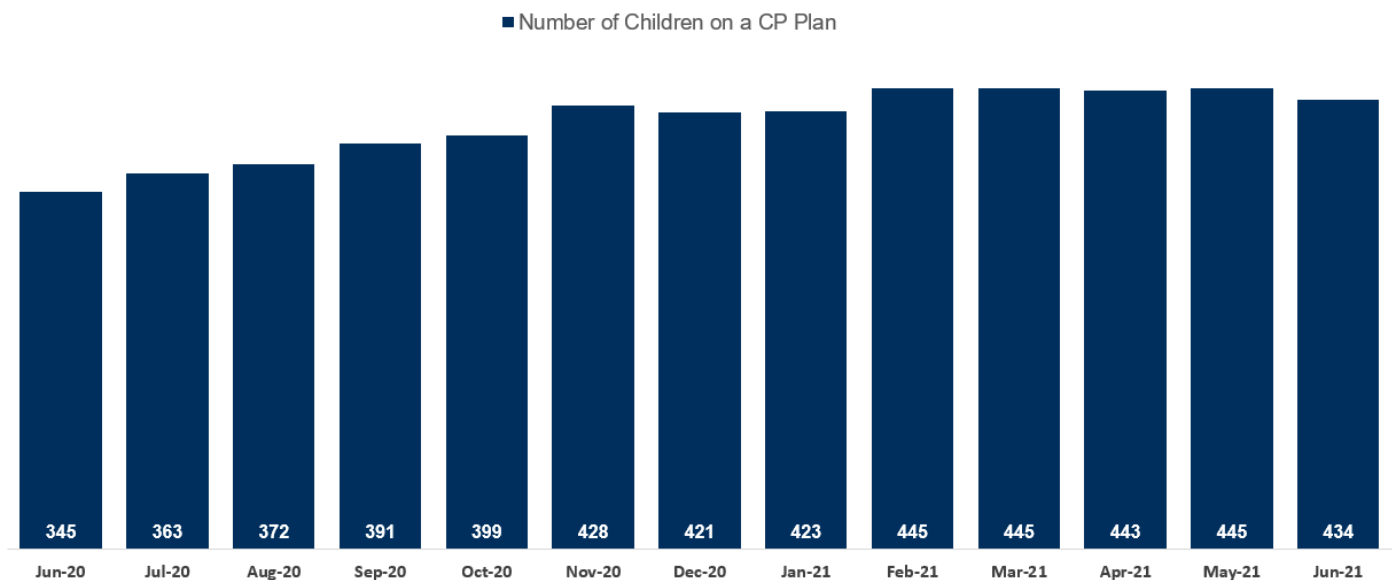
2.28. Single assessments should be completed within 45 working days. The current year to date completion rate is that 78.5% were completed within this time frame. This is below performance by our statistical neighbours [[84%] and considerably below our stretch target of 90%. There have been some particular challenges in recruitment in some of our assessment teams over the last few months, with shortages in both team manager roles as well as social worker roles. This has contributed to the recent downturn in completion rates.

2.29. At the time of preparing this report, we were beginning to see this situation improve, with a small number of permanent applicants as well as an increase in the availability of locum social workers. Assessment work attracts particular individuals, who only want to undertake very short term work and who enjoy the lack of predictability inherent in any assessment team, making the market for staff in this area particularly competitive. More information about what we are doing to improve recruitment and retention can be found later in this report.

Child Protection and Family Safeguarding

2.30. Where an assessment of a child or young person concludes that there is a need for a longer term piece of work to resolve issues within the family, the child's case will move through to our multi-disciplinary Family Safeguarding teams.

- 2.31. Family Safeguarding is an approach that was initially developed in Hertfordshire. Adult facing practitioners are seconded into existing children’s social work teams. These practitioners are expert at working with parents who have emotional or mental ill health needs, are living in domestically abuse relationships, or who have substance misuse issues or problematic alcohol misuse. These adult practitioners work alongside parents in order to support them to make the changes they need to make so that they can provide the stability, love and care that their children need.
- 2.32. The Family Safeguarding approach in Cambridgeshire is funded by a DfE grant that meets additional staffing costs for a period of time while the model is embedded; once fully operational, the model is expected to be self-funding through the need to have fewer children in care. The model launched in March 2020, just before the pandemic took hold. Despite the challenges, it has been implemented mostly very successfully. Some staffing challenges remain in certain areas of the authority, however.
- 2.33. The chart below shows the number of children and young people who are subject to a child protection plan in Cambridgeshire:



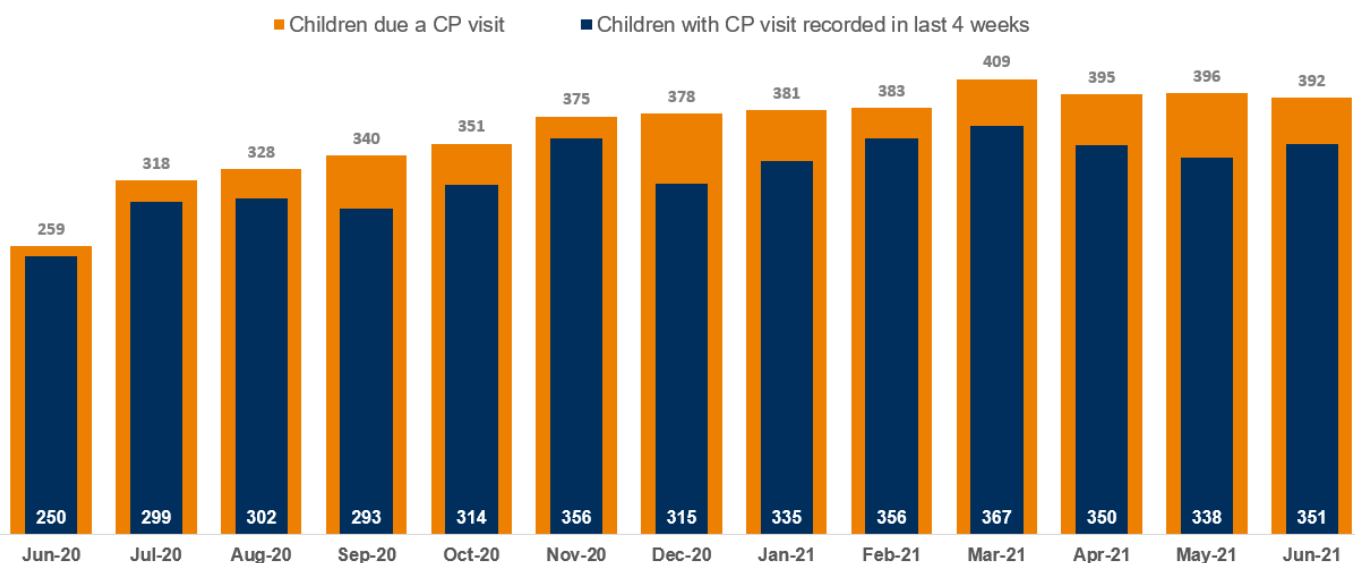
- 2.34. Children who are the subject of a child protection plan are the [relatively] small number of children that all partners agree are at greatest risk of significant harm in the community. Over the course of the pandemic, we have seen a steady increase in numbers of children and young people subject to child protection plans. There are a number of factors behind this increase. One of these is that it has taken longer to complete some work with families during lockdown periods. While social workers were continuing to visit during these periods, many partner agencies were engaging families virtually.
- 2.35. Our experience has been that virtual working has been a good way of engaging some families and take up of some services has been better in some circumstances – but this is mostly where support needs have been less complex. For families with the most complex needs, virtual engagement has not proved to be as effective as face to face work.
- 2.36. Another reason behind the increase is related to the fact that fewer children are being brought into care, as we work proactively with more families where risks are high through the Family Safeguarding approach. An increase in the level of risk being managed in the community in

this way would be expected to result in an increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans.

2.37. But it is also clear that we are seeing a continuing impact of children and young people having been less visible during periods of lockdown. While clear trends in numbers of referrals during the lockdown have been difficult to discern, the complexity of needs and risks facing children open to the service have increased. We are probably working with the same children, but in other circumstances, those children would have been referred earlier, and we would have been more likely to have been able to work with families under child in need procedures rather than child protection procedures.

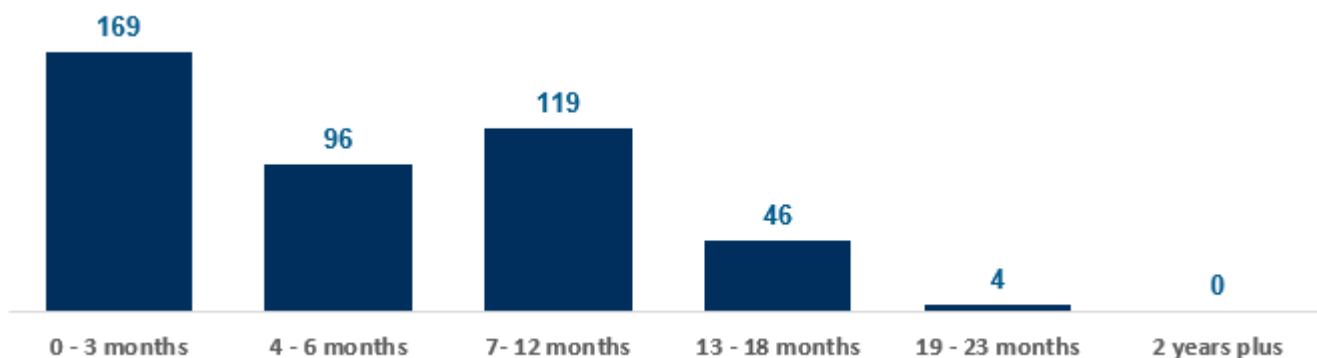
2.38. It is encouraging that this steady increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan has appeared to have levelled off in the last two months. Our service will continue to engage families and provide the multi-disciplinary support that Family Safeguarding offers and do all we can to ensure that children remain safely with their families. That said, it is worth noting that in usual times, around 30-40% of children subject to child protection plans will come into care. These are not usual times, of course, and we have yet to see an increase in children in care numbers, but there are clear risks that such an increase may follow.

2.39. The following chart shows the proportion of visits to children subject to child protection plans who are visited within timescales:



2.40. Current performance is that 90% of visits due in June were undertaken within the required timescales. This is below our stretch target of 98% but seen in the context of the increase in numbers, is reasonable performance. It is inevitable that some visits do not take place; social workers may be unwell, for example, or have other short notice demands on their times such as needing to go to court on other cases. Some families may cancel visits for legitimate reasons. Others may cancel because they are seeking to avoid scrutiny. The important issue here is that managers know which families fall into the latter category, meaning that assertive action can be taken where needed.

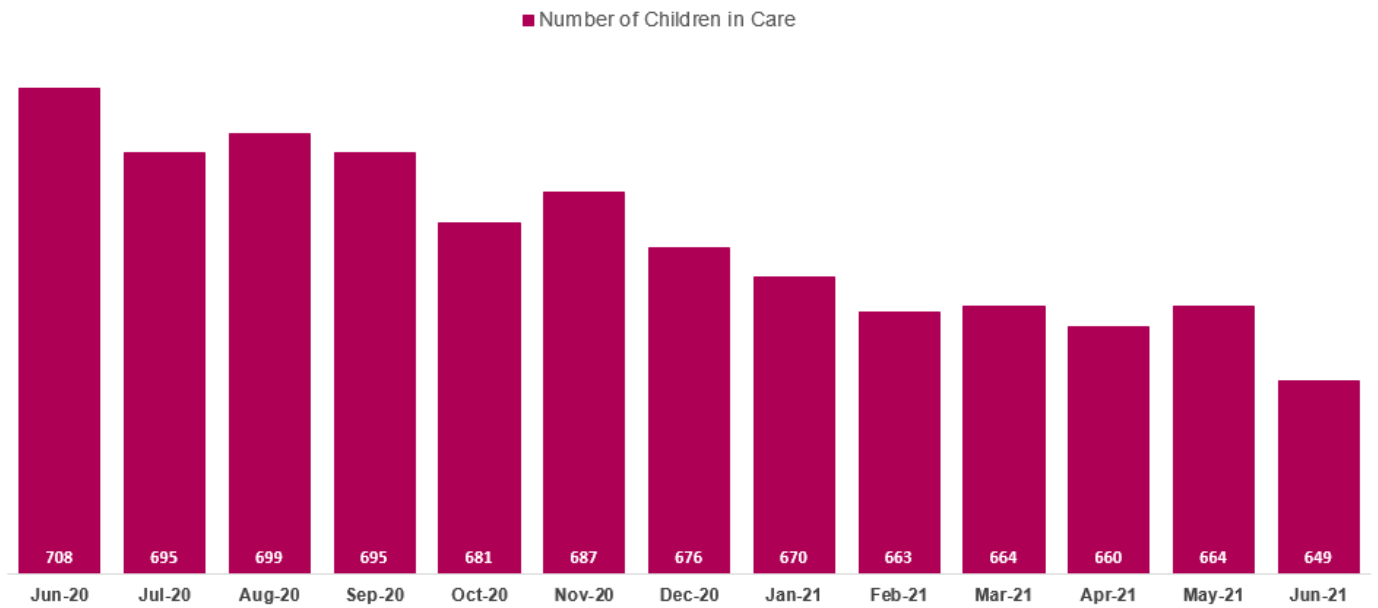
2.41. The following chart shows how long children had been subject to a child protection plan as of the end of June 2021:



- 2.42. In most circumstances, children should not be subject to a child protection plan for longer than 12 months. This is because 12 months should be long enough to establish whether a family can provide the care a child needs or not. In the case of the latter, action should be taken to identify alternative care arrangements for the child. This could be through adoption, fostering, or a permanent placement with a relative under a Special Guardianship Order. In almost all of these outcomes, the process begins with an application to the courts for a care order.
- 2.43. There has been an increase in the number of children subject for plans for between 13 and 23 months; this relates to the point made above that virtual working has been less effective for families facing very complex issues. We will begin to see over the next three months the extent to which the higher overall numbers, and the increase in numbers of children subject to a child protection plan, feed into higher numbers of children coming into care.

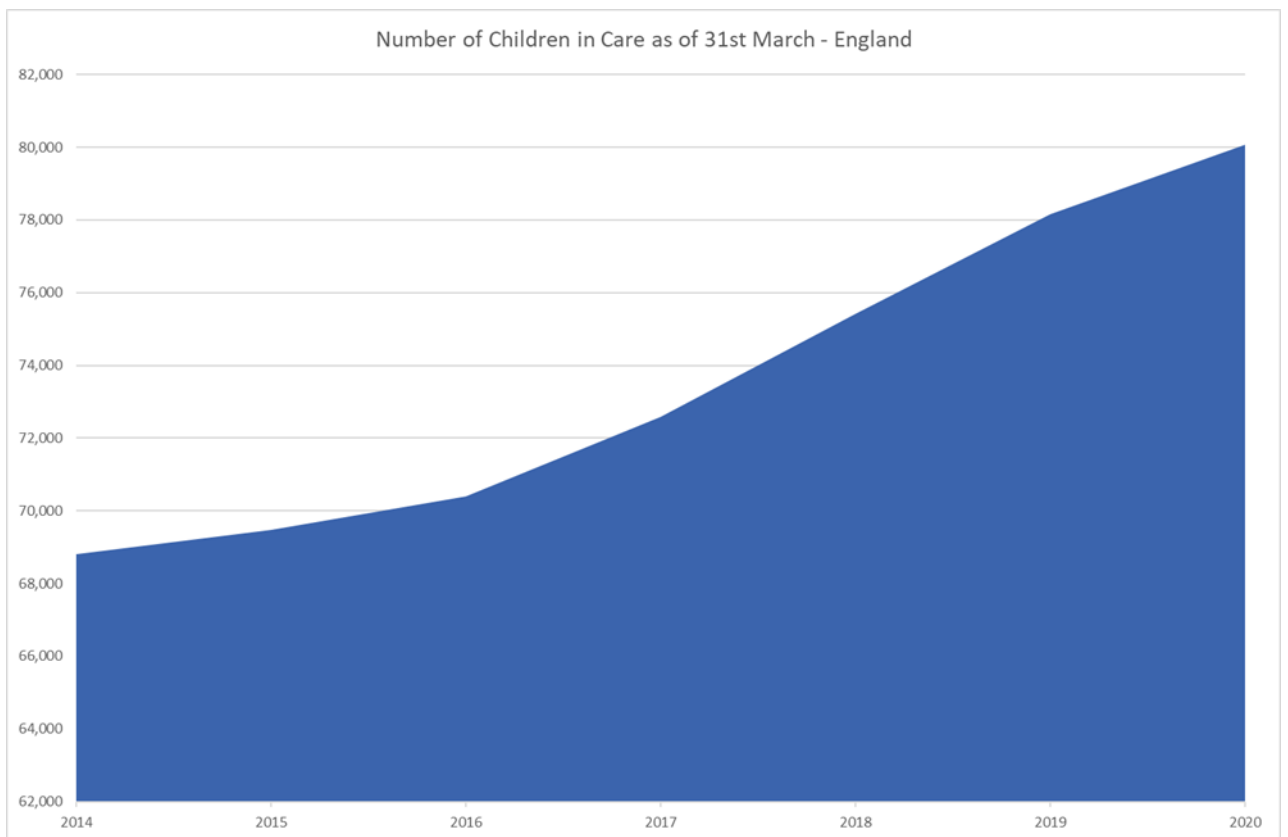
Children and young people in care

- 2.44. Prior to the wide ranging review of the model of delivery in children's social care, completed at the end of 2018, there had been a year on year increase in numbers of children coming into care in Cambridgeshire. Once those changes had become established, that increase was reversed, and the number in care has continued to decrease following the implementation of the Family Safeguarding model.
- 2.45. The chart below shows the recent history of children in care numbers in Cambridgeshire, compared with our statistical neighbour and England average:
- 2.46. The chart below shows the actual number of children and young people in care:



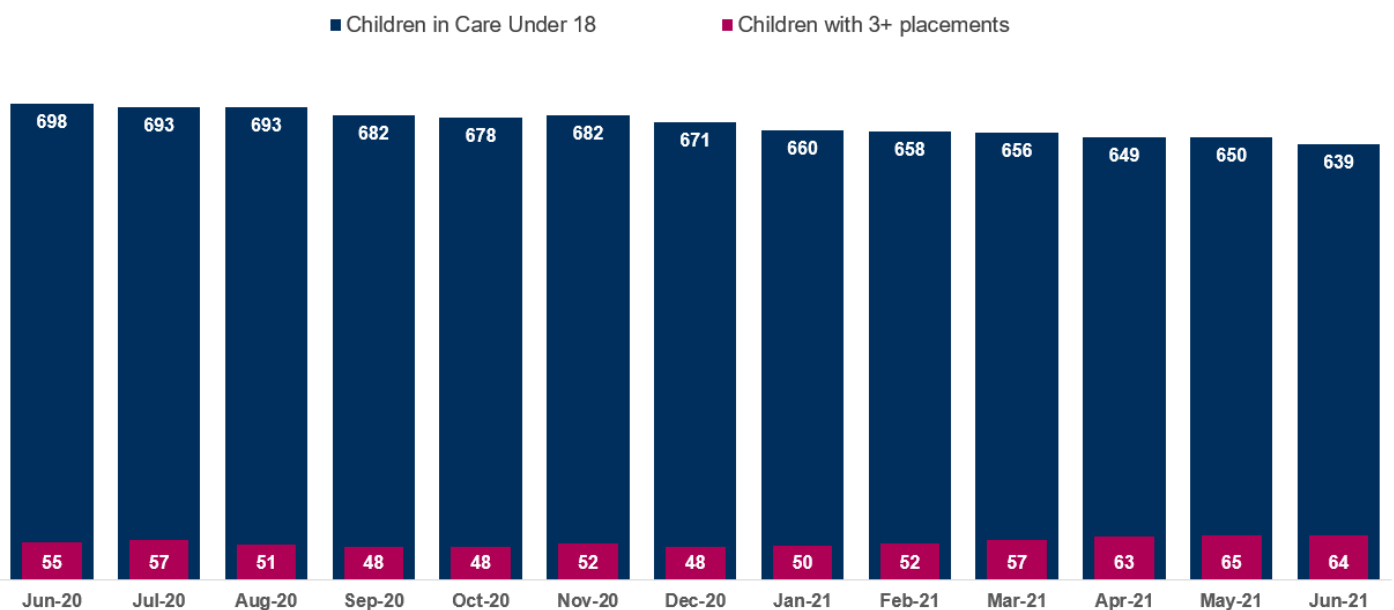
2.47. The trend continues to be generally downward and in ordinary circumstances, I would expect to see overall numbers move to around 600-620 by the end of the current financial year, followed by either a steady state or a continued slow reduction in numbers during 2022/23.

2.48. Recently published national data shows that the number of children in care continued to increase during the 2019/2020 financial year:



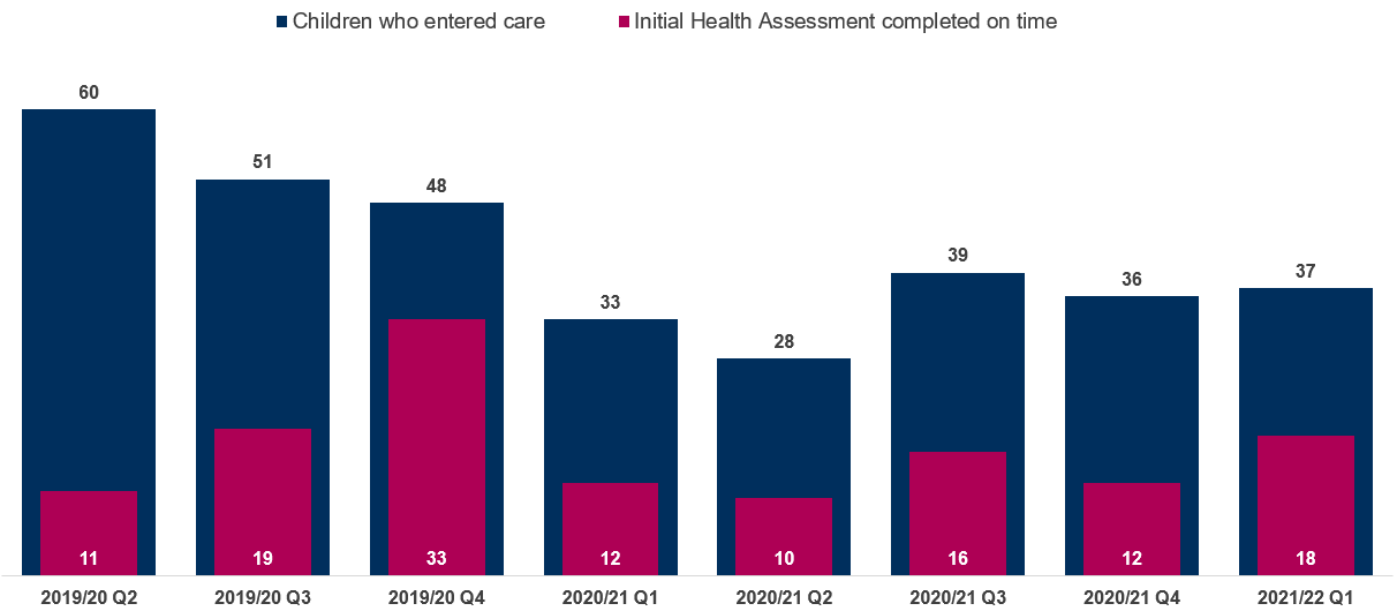
2.49. This national increase continues to result in a growing shortage of placements for children and young people in care that is affecting all local authorities, including Cambridgeshire.

- 2.50. As noted in the above discussion about numbers of children subject to child protection plans, however, these are not ordinary circumstances. The picture as far as overall numbers of children in care will not become clear until later in the year, when we can begin to evaluate the impact of higher numbers of children subject to child protection plans.
- 2.51. For children who do need to come into care, the best outcomes are generally associated with a move to permanent family based care through either adoption or permanent care with a relative [or close family friend] under a Special Guardianship Order. The majority of children who leave care to adoption or special guardianship are in care for only a relatively short period.
- 2.52. For children who remain in care longer, the best outcomes are associated with placement stability. The chart below shows the percentage of children in care who have had three or more placement moves in the last 12 months:



- 2.53. Our current performance, where 10% of children in care have experienced three or more placement moves in the last 12 months is better than the average of our statistical neighbours at 12%, but remains a little higher than we would ideally like to see. Authorities that are performing consistently well in this area achieve a figure of around 7%. Any lower indicates that thresholds into the care system, particularly for older young people, are too low, since it would be expected that a proportion of children in care will have very challenging care needs and will therefore experience changes in placements as arrangements break down. Good performance in this area relies on positive and proactive care planning, which is an area of continued focus for improvement in Cambridgeshire, as discussed in more detail below.
- 2.54. The current challenge for the local authority is the rapidly increasing cost of children's care placements, in part driven by the continued national growth in numbers of children in care as mentioned above. New Independent Fostering Agency foster placements are now in the region of £1,000 per week – this is at least £150 per week more than the cost 18 months previously. Residential placement costs have also escalated. After deducting contributions from education and health made towards some residential placements, the average cost of all current residential placements is around £3,800 per week. Residential placements made since the beginning of January 2021 have averaged around £4,450 per week after contributions from health and education partners – an increase of almost 20%.

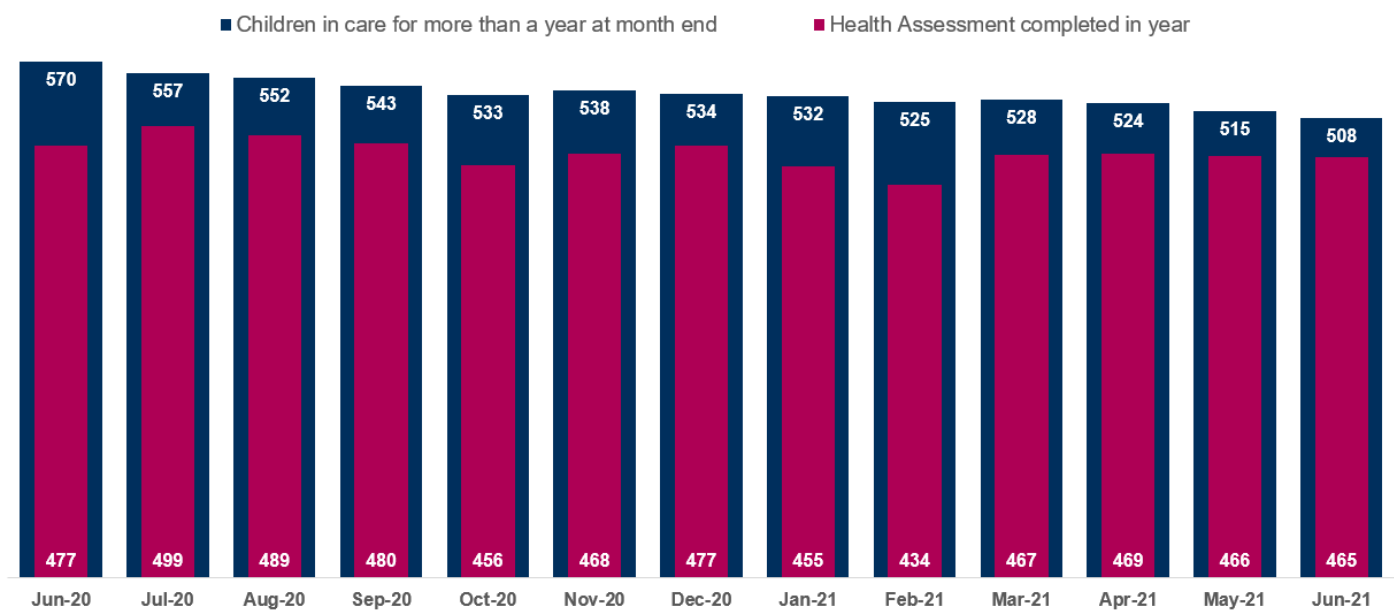
- 2.55. To some extent, these cost increases relate to an increasing complexity of need among our children in care. As overall numbers of children in care in an authority reduce, a higher proportion of those remaining in care have more complex needs, increasing unit costs of providing placements that can meet those needs. A more significant factor, however, is the acute shortage of placements for children in care nationally, which has been driving cost increases.
- 2.56. Shortages in placements for children in care are the subject of a national focus. The children's homes regulations were drafted as part of the Children Act 1989 and much has changed since that date. Regulations are currently being re-drafted with the aim of making it easier for new providers to enter the residential market, and for those providers to offer a more flexible form of care. Current regulations are based on the notion of a fixed building, with registered manager, providing medium and longer term care for a small group of children or young people.
- 2.57. Many young people who require specialist care may need something that is very different from this, and need it very quickly – a solo placement that can be set up very quickly by trusted and registered providers, for example. Under current regulations, such placements need to be registered through Ofsted, a process that takes a long time to complete.
- 2.58. Government has also announced capital funding for local authorities to provide their own residential children's homes. This funding would need to be match funded by the local authority. In line with the Council's sufficiency strategy, a business case in relation to developing our own residential provision is taking place, and this could include the authority making a bid for capital funding. The Committee will be kept informed of developments in this area as things progress, and any final decision will rest with Committee.
- 2.59. In the here and now, however, escalating costs of provision are now resulting in a clear budget pressure estimated as £1.25M on the external placement budget, despite reduced numbers of children in care. Robust budget management in other parts of the service means that this in-year pressure can be managed providing that there are no further increases. Any overspend in the current financial year will, however, have consequences for placement budgets in 2022/23.
- 2.60. The budget pressure this year should be seen in the context of the £1.25M saving target against placement costs for 2021/2, following delivery of around £2.6M in savings in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.61. Pressures and shortages of external fostering and residential placements also emphasise the need for us to continue our work with existing in-house foster carers to ensure that more feel able and confident to look after slightly older children and young people than they have done to date. The make-up of our population of children in care, as noted above, is changing and is becoming older, with more complex needs and fewer babies and very young children are now coming into care. We are also doing all we can to continue our recruitment campaigns so that we can continue to increase the number of our foster carers.
- 2.62. The following chart shows the proportion of children who come into care for the first time and who have an initial health assessment within the first 28 days:



2.63. This has been an area where performance has needed to improve and an area of focus for the Corporate Parenting sub-committee. It is a complicated area in that for an assessment to be completed within the required timescale, children’s services must inform health colleagues of the details of the child as well as supplying the required consents. Health colleagues then need sufficient time to arrange an appointment that is convenient for the carers.

2.64. We have re-modelled the system, with changes implemented at the beginning of this year; almost 50% of initial health assessments were carried out within the right timeframe in the first quarter, which while needing to improve further, is a significant improvement on preceding quarters.

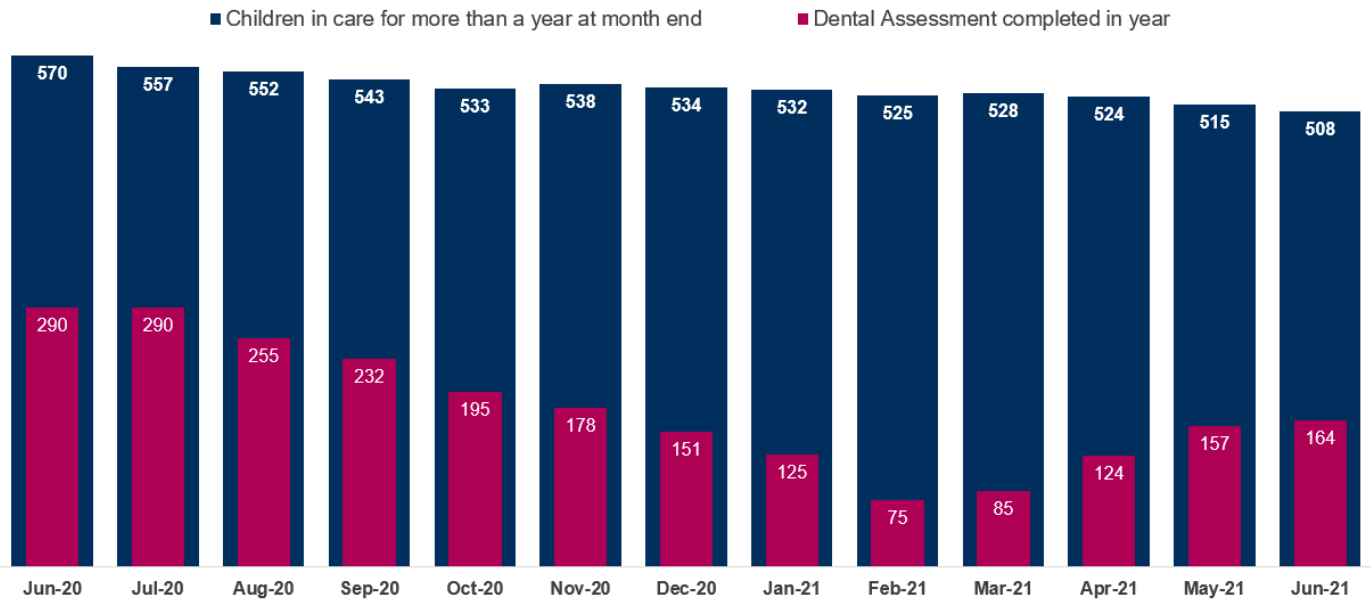
2.65. Children and young people in care should also have an annual health assessment. The following chart provides information on the proportion of children in care accessing their annual health assessment on time:



2.66. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, performance in this area has remained good, with current performance at 91.5% of annual health assessments being completed on time. A

number of older young people in care will often decline a health assessment, meaning that any performance over 90% is very good.

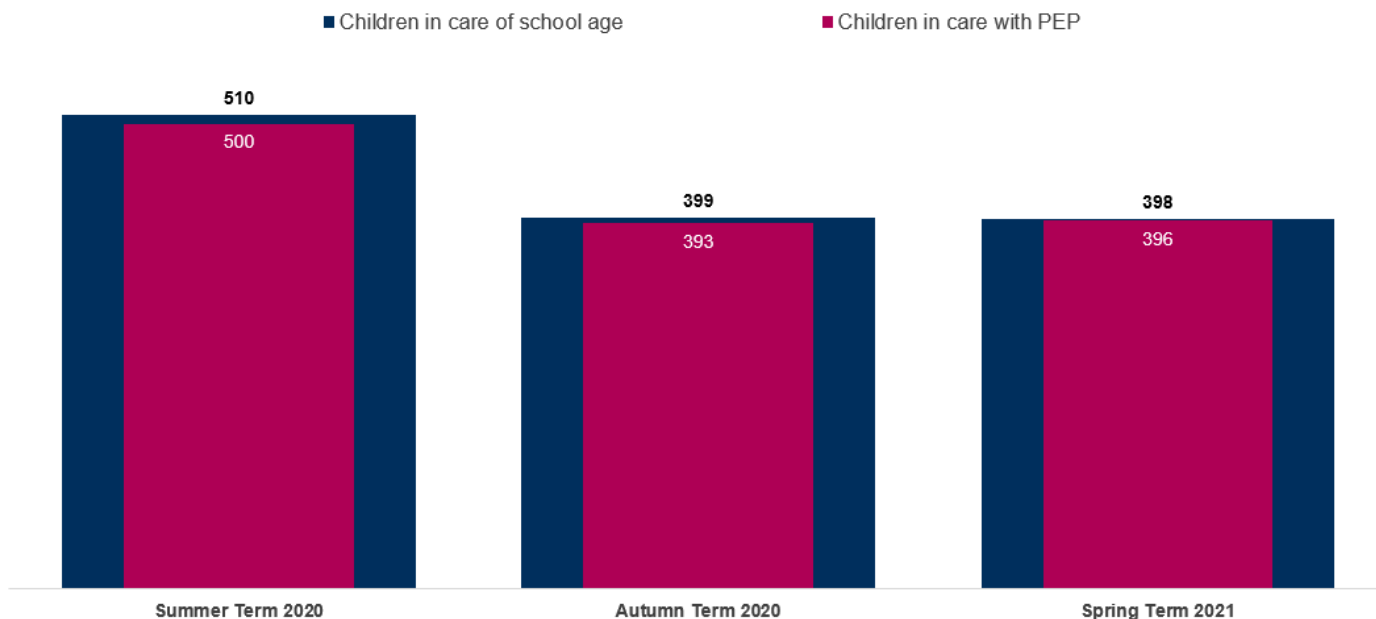
2.67. One area where the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant affect is in the area of dental health checks, as is shown by the following chart:



2.68. It is encouraging that performance in this area is beginning to improve again as the pandemic restrictions ease; this is an area where we will do all we can to support children and young people to access appropriate dental health care. It should be noted that any child in care in need of urgent dental treatment during the lockdown has been able to access this with the support of our health partners.

2.69. The virtual school provides support to all children and young people in care. The role of the virtual school is to support the best possible educational outcomes by acting as a powerful advocate for children in the care system, and through the provision of additional support and funding as may be required.

2.70. All eligible children and young people in care should have a Personal Education Plan, or PEP. These set out the personalised aims and objectives for the child and describe any additional support that may be needed in order to achieve those aims. The chart below shows the proportion of children in care with a PEP:



- 2.71. Data for this indicator is collected termly and as can be seen from the above, performance is consistently good in this area, with the most recent data showing that 99% of all eligible children and young people have a PEP in place.
- 2.72. There is considerable activity taking place in relation to support to our care leavers, and particularly work to ensure that as many as possible remain in suitable accommodation having left care. Our current position is that 90% of all care leavers up to the age of 21 are in suitable accommodation; our target is for this to increase to 95% by the end of the current financial year, which would place us just ahead of our regional and statistical neighbours.
- 2.73. There will always be a small proportion of young people not in suitable accommodation; for some, this is a matter of choice – although our personal advisers do all they can to persuade care leavers to access suitable accommodation. For very small numbers at any one time, the accommodation may not be suitable because they are in custody or in hospital.

Children and young people with disabilities

- 2.74. This service sits within the Adult Social Care directorate. This is because the majority of children eligible to access the service will continue to receive a service as adults. Placing the service for children within the adult service therefore helps to avoid disruption at the point when a young person transitions into adulthood.
- 2.75. Children and young people with disabilities and their families have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. Additional vulnerabilities have resulted in it being unsafe for many to attend school for longer than their peers, for example. Many formal and informal supports to families have been reduced or become unavailable, or families have been reluctant to access usual forms of support because of their concerns about their child's additional vulnerabilities.
- 2.76. Our services have worked very closely with parents, parent-carer organisations, children, young people and remaining services so as to provide as much support as possible. Our short breaks' residential provision have offered a range of very creative support services to families affected by Covid-19, including providing care to children who have had Covid-19 themselves. As the pandemic continued, we introduced a dynamic Covid-19 risk assessment

that considered all available sources of support to the child and family in order that we could prioritise those in most need to access the reduced short break services available.

- 2.77. For other families, we introduced a 're-direction of funding' approach, whereby children's personal budgets that had been associated with short breaks could instead be used by families to purchase other forms of support, with the agreement of the worker. Some families chose to purchase garden play equipment, for example.
- 2.78. The service promotes the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) in order to increase the child/young person's independence and to prepare them for adulthood. Any review of a child or young person's care package includes a discussion around the full range of TEC available, and how this might enable them to meet their desired outcomes (such as being able to access public transport independently by using one of the Travel Apps, or combatting anxieties by using one of the sensory pets – such as the very realistic and popular robotic Sensory Cats, which purr and provide a sense of warmth.) This has been particularly useful during and following the pandemic when anxieties have been raised for many children and young people.

Quality of practice and recruitment and retention of experienced staff

- 2.79. The above information is mostly focused on performance information. While it is important to understand what data is telling us about the likely quality of the service we offer to vulnerable children, young people and their families, it is also important that we understand the quality of those services.
- 2.80. A quality assurance service, reporting to an Assistant Director, plays a key role in this area. This service is shared with Peterborough. Quality is gauged by a number of activities including regular case file audits, audits that look at how practice addresses certain themes – how we respond to young people who are regularly going missing, for example – and regular dip-sampling of decisions made at key points across the system.
- 2.81. Where children are the subject of a child protection plan or are in care, an independent chair or reviewing officer also becomes involved. These experienced members of staff chair the child protection conferences or review meetings for children and young people in care, but also play an active role in ensuring that the agreed actions in relation to the child's plan are being addressed in a timely way. They monitor progress of plans between meetings and there is a case alert system in place that allows these officers to flag any concerns they may have about the progress of a plan for any child or young person.
- 2.82. Themes from audits, dip sampling, case alerts and from complaints and compliments all feed through into regular practice workshops that are delivered through the quality assurance service, with the focus being on improving practice and outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.83. Clearly, our aim is for us to make sufficient progress in improving our services to achieve and overall grade of 'Good' from Ofsted at our next graded inspection. The following table summarises Ofsted inspection outcomes for Cambridgeshire children's services over the last 10 years:

Year	Type of Inspection	Outcome
2012	Inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children	Inadequate
2014	Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers	Good overall, but ' Requiring Improvement to be good ' in the sub-judgement of Children in need of Protection
2019	Inspection of children's social care services	Requiring Improvement overall but Good for Leadership

- 2.84. Although the overall outcome from the 2014 inspection was good, the sub judgement for children in need of protection was 'Requiring Improvement'. This sub-judgement is usually a limiting one – i.e. the overall outcome cannot be better than sub-judgement grade for children in need of protection. Regardless of this apparent anomaly, it remains the case that the most important aspect of children's services – the ability to keep children safeguarded – has not been assessed by the regulator as being Good in Cambridgeshire at any time in the last 10 years, illustrating the challenge in achieving a good rating for this sub-judgement.
- 2.85. At the last graded inspection of children's services in January 2019, the overall grade was that children's services 'Required Improvement to be Good'. The sub-judgement for leadership and management was 'Good', however. This inspection took place just after the reorganisation of children's services away from the previous Unit model to the current structure. Ofsted inspectors said that this reorganisation had been managed extremely well, and that the reorganisation had clearly been necessary in order to ensure that the service would be in a position to improve.
- 2.86. The grade 'Requires Improvement to be Good' is a broad band; depending on where children's services are on that band, they can make considerable improvements and still be assessed as requiring improvement. Children's services had a long way to travel to be good overall in January 2019; we have made significant improvements in the consistency of service delivery since then, but are not yet consistently good in all areas.
- 2.87. One area where there is a continued need to improve consistency of practice is in the area of care planning for children and young people in care. Under the old unit system, this was an area of practice that had been neglected, and it is taking time for a thoroughly proactive approach to care planning to become embedded. The needs of children in care change over time, meaning that care plans also need to consistently evolve. Less proactive care planning can result in issues developing in placements. If these are not addressed quickly enough, the stability of the placement can be at risk.
- 2.88. Another example of where we continue to have work to do in improving consistency relates to the quality of our assessments. Children's social care has a statutory duty to complete an assessment of any child who we believe may be in need or in need of protection. While many of our assessments are good, not all sufficiently analyse all of the circumstances. A number of specialist risk assessment tools are available to support this process, for example when understanding the impact of persistent neglectful parenting, but these are not yet used consistently.

- 2.89. We welcome external scrutiny as part of our improvement journey. As members of the Eastern Region of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, we are part of the regional sector-led improvement programme. This includes a variety of programmes in place to support improved practice which includes a programme of peer reviews.
- 2.90. As an authority in the 'Requiring Improvement' category, Cambridgeshire is able to access peer reviews through the eastern region. These independent reviews focus on particular aspects of practice – usually where the local authority is aware that improvements are required. Peer reviews result in a short report that summarises areas where the authority is performing well and making recommendations for improvement. This peer review framework has considerable credibility with our regulator, Ofsted.
- 2.91. At least one peer review will be programmed in between now and the next full inspection by Ofsted. In addition Ofsted has indicated strongly that they will undertake a focused visit in Cambridgeshire before the next full inspection takes place. These external and independent activities combined with our own continuous assessment of the quality of our services, are important aspects of ensuring that we are continuing on our improvement journey to delivering consistently good quality services to vulnerable children and young people, and identifying or confirming areas where continued focus is required.
- 2.92. As noted earlier in this report, our assessment teams have experienced some staffing challenges over recent months affecting experienced qualified social workers and team managers in particular. Assessment teams are challenging places to work; they do not suit everyone. The shortage of experienced front line staff and managers is a national issue and we are reliant on supplementing vacancies through the use of agency social workers. As the pandemic has continued, the availability of agency social workers has also reduced. Where we have vacancies, it is inevitable that there will be an impact on the quality and timeliness of work.
- 2.93. We are working on a refreshed recruitment campaign that will draw on what is special about working for Cambridgeshire County Council, while also ensuring that we are doing all we can to retain the staff that we have. Cambridgeshire has a good track record of promoting from within, which is clearly very positive in terms of retention, although does not add to the number of employed staff across the Council.
- 2.94. We are also exploring whether there are any other actions that can be taken to ease access to affordable housing for some groups of staff, recognising the high cost of housing in some parts of the County in particular. This is a complex area, and work is at an early stage, but there has been a positive response from key stakeholders including district councils.

Ofsted framework and likely future inspections

- 2.95. The current inspection framework includes focussed visits that take place between graded inspections. Ofsted also meets once a year with senior officers in each authority for what is called an annual conversation. While all inspection activity, including focussed visits, are unannounced, an indication of likely future inspection activity is sometimes offered during the annual conversation.
- 2.96. The Cambridgeshire annual conversation took place in May 2020. Ofsted indicated that the usual inspection programme is running about 12 months' behind as a result of the disruption caused by the pandemic. Inspectors also indicated that Cambridgeshire would receive a

focussed visit before any graded inspection is to take place, meaning that a graded inspection is unlikely before the end of the 2022 calendar year.

- 2.97. Focused visits, as the name suggests, involve inspectors looking at a small part of the overall service. This is intended as a supportive process, helping local authorities to strengthen practice in key areas before any graded inspection. These visits result in a letter summarising areas of strengths and areas for development, but no grade is awarded.

Concluding remarks

- 2.98. This report aims to provide a comprehensive summary of the progress being made in children's services in securing consistently good outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.99. While our current assessment is that children's services remain in need of improvement in order to be good, the service continues to benefit from stable leadership, and the different areas of the service are all now developing well. Consistency of practice does need to continue to improve in some areas.
- 2.100. Some of our managers continue to need some support to develop their full potential in their roles. The important thing is that we know the areas on which continued focus is required, and that we have strong mechanisms in place to steadily improve practice and outcomes for children and young people in Cambridgeshire.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

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

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

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

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

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

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

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

- As noted in the main body of the report, an increase in placement costs for children and young people in care, partly associated with an increase in complexity of their needs, has meant that there is a projected overspend of around £1.25M on the external placement budget. Coincidentally, this is equal to the savings target applied for the current financial year.
- An in year pressure of this amount can be managed through re-allocation of other underspending budgets, but any overspend this year will have implications for budgets in the following financial year. Ensuring sufficient resourcing is a focus of the current business planning process.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implication

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implication

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.7 Public Health Implications

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

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

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Roger Brett

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

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

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

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Lou Williams

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Christine Birchall

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

Name of Officer: Lou Williams

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 None

Business Planning Proposals for 2022-27 – Opening update and overview

- To: Children and Young People committee
- Meeting Date: 14 September 2021
- From: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director for People and Communities
Tom Kelly, Chief Finance Officer
- Electoral division(s): All
- Key decision: No
- Outcome: The Committee is asked to consider:
- The current business and budgetary planning position and estimates for 2022-27
 - The principal risks, contingencies and implications facing the Committee and the Council's resources
 - The process and next steps for the council in agreeing a business plan and budget for future years
- Recommendation: The Committee being asked to:
- a) Note the overview and context provided for the 2022-23 to 26-27 Business Plan.
 - b) Comment on the list of proposals (set out in section 5.3) and endorse their development.

Officer contact:

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Post: Executive Director
Email: Wendi.Ogle-Welbourn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 728192

Member contacts:

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

1. Overview

1.1 The Council's Business Plan sets out how we will spend our resources to achieve our vision and priorities for Cambridgeshire, and the key outcomes we want for the county and its people. The business plan contains a five-year financial plan including estimates of investments, pressures and savings over the whole period. The business plan now under development is for 2022-27. It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to set a balanced budget ahead of each new financial year.

1.2 On 9 February 2021, Full Council agreed the Business Plan for 2021-2026. This included a balanced budget for the 2021/22 financial year with the use of some one-off funding but contained significant budget gaps for subsequent years as a result of expenditure exceeding funding estimates. These budget gaps (expressed as negative figures) were:

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
balance	-£22.2m	-£14.7m	-£15.1m	-£12.0m

1.3 Since the 2021-26 business plan was produced, the Council has had a change of political leadership. Following Council elections in May 2021, a Joint Administration of the Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Independent groups was formed, with a Joint Agreement explaining the policy ambitions of the new administration. The Joint Agreement prioritises COVID-19 recovery for all of Cambridgeshire and puts healthy living and bringing forward targets to tackle the climate emergency, central to its agenda. It also signals a commitment to form strong and positive partnerships as members of the Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership in the areas of public health, support for business, climate change, public transport, and building affordable, sustainable homes. This first business plan will begin to put into effect this new set of policies.

1.4 The impacts of COVID-19 on the Council have been unprecedented and the pandemic remains a key factor and uncertainty in planning our strategy and resource deployment over the coming years. The Council has taken a central role in coordinating the response of public services to try and manage the complex public health situation, impact on vulnerable people, education of our children and young people and economic consequences. Looking ahead we know that challenges remain as the vaccination programme progresses and winter illnesses re-emerge. We are already seeing the impacts of the pandemic on our vulnerable groups as well as those who have become vulnerable as a result of health or economic impact of the pandemic. Longer term there will be significant increases and changes in the pattern of demand for our services alongside the economic aftereffects. The Council is committed to ensuring that communities across Cambridgeshire emerge from the pandemic with resilience and confidence for the opportunities and challenges that face us.

1.5 During 2020-21, the Council received significant additional funding and compensation from government and the NHS in order to effectively respond to the pandemic. Whilst the financial settlement for the response to date has been sufficient, predicting the on-going implications and financial consequences of COVID-19 remains challenging, particularly in terms of the impact on demand for council services. The 2021-26 budget includes estimates for these pressures in 2021/22 and experience of 2021/22 so far suggests these estimates were reasonable as the Council is not forecasting a significant variance against its budget in the current year. These will remain under review as new data is available. Significant pressures are expected in future years beyond 2021/22 and details of how each service's

specific demand pressure estimates for 2022-27 have been made are within section 4. It is especially important this year that we keep these estimates under review as circumstances are so changeable over the course of this year.

- 1.6 All service committees will consider their relevant revenue business planning proposals in December, at which point they will be asked to endorse proposals to January Strategy and Resources Committee as part of the consideration for the overall Business Plan. These proposals are currently being developed and will each have a robust implementation plan in place and allow as much mitigation as possible against the impact of current financial challenges. Where proposals reflect joint initiatives between different directorate areas and joined up thinking these will go before multiple Committees to ensure appropriate oversight from all perspectives.
- 1.7 Within the current context, the scope for traditional efficiencies has diminished, therefore the development of the Business Plan is focused on a range of more fundamental changes to the way we work. Some of the key themes driving the current thinking are;
- Economic recovery – Although we know that the UK economy is now rebounding from the impact of the pandemic, and overall Cambridgeshire is well placed to support growth and economic resilience, we also know that there have been severe financial consequences for some sectors and individuals. There have been impacts on employment and household income levels for many across Cambridgeshire. The stress and anxiety caused by worrying about money, or not having enough money to maintain the right housing or buy basic necessities or afford basic utilities, is an important factor that affects demand for many of our services. Economic recovery is therefore at the heart of improving outcomes for people and managing demand for Council services.
 - Prevention and Early Intervention – We need to support people to remain as healthy and as independent as possible as well as reduce the health inequalities that have been exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. This is all the more important in anticipation of latent demand generated by or delayed by the impacts of the pandemic. It is about working with people and communities to help them help themselves or the person they care for or their community e.g. access to advice and information about local support, asset building in communities and access to assistive technology. We saw communities rise to the challenges of the pandemic and support networks appearing to gather around those who needed it. We must continue to build on this and look at how we further support these networks and groups to continue, and where public services are needed, it is about ensuring support is made available early so that people's needs do not escalate.
 - Decentralisation – In support of the need to manage demand and enable people to remain living in their own homes in their local communities and delay the need for more specialist services, investment in our Think Communities approach is paramount. Harnessing the capacity within our local district and parish councils, the voluntary, community and faith sectors, volunteers and local place-based health, County Council and blue light services will enable us to build place-based support services wrapped around our vulnerable people and communities; which will reduce or delay the need for more specialist expensive services and build resilient and sustainable communities where people feel proud to live.

- Environment - Putting climate change and biodiversity at the heart of the council's work. As a council, we will aim to move forward the net zero target for Cambridgeshire County Council towards 2030, developing clear actions for delivery of our Climate Change and Environment Strategy and enabling service and investment decisions to be made in this context.
- Social Value - With a strong focus on outcomes and impact for our communities, we will be working with our public, private, voluntary and community partners to achieve our joint ambitions. We will seek to invest using social value criterion and reflect outcomes, including health, living wage and employment, and local, circular economies within our procurement, spending and organisational activities.

1.8 Besides the pandemic, the other major risks and uncertainties in setting budgets for 2022-27 include the potential for national policy changes, such as reform of social care funding, the lack of a multi-year funding settlement from government, the availability and sustainability of supply chains and resources, and changing patterns of demand for our services that has been a longer-term trend. The Council must make its best estimate for the effect of known pressures when setting its budget and retain reserves to mitigate against unquantifiable risks.

1.9 Coinciding with the election of the new administration, during July and August the Council participated in a corporate peer challenge, facilitated by the Local Government Association, whereby experienced officer and member peers from elsewhere in the sector considered the Council's current position in order to recommend improvements. The peer challenge had a focus on the Council's financial planning and resilience and the emerging indications are that the peer challenge will support the planned approach to business planning which includes addressing:

- Devise a strategic approach to business planning for Cambridgeshire as a place
- Ensure budget planning addresses the medium- term budget gap and incorporates contingency planning
- Ensure that budget plans contain a multi-year strategy for Council tax
- Review This Land (property company)
- The capital strategy needs a stronger focus with a more robust prioritisation process for scheme approval, scheme delivery confidence and financing plans
- Develop the plan to address the annual overspend and cumulative deficit within the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant

2. Building the Revenue Budget

2.1 As we have a five-year budget, the first four years of the new business plan already have a budget allocation. We revise the estimates for pressures first to confirm the budget needed to deliver the same level of service and add in any new pressures or investment proposals. These budget changes are presented first to service committees, and overall there will be a gap between our budget requirement and the funding available.

2.2 We then work to close the budget gap through savings and efficiency initiatives, identification of additional income and revision of pressure estimates, presenting these further changes to committees later in the year. Ultimately, a balanced budget needs to be set by 1 March 2022.

- 2.3 The Council needs to draw on a range of approaches in order to arrive at a balanced budget, produce an overall sustainable financial strategy and meet the Joint Administration’s policy objectives. This will include considering benchmarking and external information in order to identify opportunities for Cambridgeshire and using a zero-based or outcomes focused outlook where appropriate in order that resources can be aligned to priorities.
- 2.4 The Council remains subject to significant financial constraints and uncertainties heightened by the pressures arising from the pandemic. We cannot rely on an uplift in core funding from government or a continuation of pandemic related support and therefore difficult choices will continue prioritising efficiencies, productivity improvements, investment in prevention and generation of income ahead of reducing service levels or short-term financing solutions.

The following sections detail specific changes to budget estimates made so far.

- 2.5 In June 2021, Strategy & Resources Committee agreed some changes to 2021/22 budgets, including holding £1.7m to offset the budget gap in 2022/23.
- 2.6 Inflation - Inflation can be broadly split into pay, which accounts for inflationary costs applied to employee salary budgets, and non-pay, which covers a range of budgets such as energy, transport, insurance and waste, with regard to relevant national inflation indices. This covers all of the material effects of inflation on Council expenditure.
- 2.7 Total Net inflation, including staffing and non-staffing, are as follows:

Service Block	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	2026-27 £'000
People & Communities (P&C)	5,011	4,651	5,383	5,439	5,497
Place & Economy (P&E)	1,765	1,818	1,884	1,926	1,994
Corporate & Managed Services	922	725	748	780	822

- 2.8 The inflationary pressures in the above table and all figures set out in the subsequent sections of this report are provided on an incremental basis. Positive figures indicate an increase on the budget required in the previous year or a reduction in income. Negative figures indicate a reduction on the budget required in the previous year or an increase in income. The figures show the impacts of each proposal on the budget gaps for the relevant financial years.
- 2.9 Demand - It is recognised that service costs are driven by the number of service users, levels of need, as well as cost and method of delivery of the support. Where appropriate this will be outlined in greater detail below. This table summarises the demand funding estimates for 2022-27:

Service	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
People & Communities (P&C) - Adults	10,109	11,567	11,427	11,137	11,137
P&C – Children’s	3,144	2,781	3,138	3,545	4,005
P&C – Communities	57	61	66	71	76
Place & Economy (P&E) – Waste	266	308	272	245	238

For 2022-23, this is £1.2m more than was in the 2021-26 business plan.

These demand projections include:

- The number of older people receiving council funded services increasing by 5%
- The average cost of a care package for a person with learning disabilities increasing by 2.5% more than inflation due to rising needs, and that 41 new service-users will receive care as they transition from children’s services
- The number of children requiring council-funded transport to special schools will increase by 7.8% in line with the unprecedented rise in the number of Education Health and Care Plans
- The cost of children in care placements which, although numbers remain reasonably static, continues to increase due to the increased complexity of need and a shortage of available places as care numbers rise nationally
- The county’s rising population will result in a 2% increase in waste sent to landfill

2.10 Other Pressures - The Council is facing several cost pressures that cannot be absorbed within the base funding of services. Some of the pressures relate to costs that are associated with responses to the pandemic, the introduction of new legislation and others as a direct result of changes to contractual commitments. New pressures are set out below, and those relevant to each committee are detailed in section 4 below.

2.11 Some changes to funding estimates have been made where appropriate given the latest information available.

2.12 Overall, these revisions to budget estimates have resulted in a current budget gap for 2022-23 of £23.4m, a £2.9m increase in the gap since the 2021-26 business plan. The changes that have been applied to reach that revised gap are:

£000	2022-23	2023-24
Gap per February 2021 Full Council	22,175	14,700
Pressures funded at Strategy & Resources Committee in July	956	
Downward budget adjustments at S&R in July	-2,651	
Revised gap after S&R rebaselining	20,480	14,700
Demand and Inflation		
Adults demand refresh	1,581	3,108
CYP demand refresh	222	-877
CSMI demand refresh	-3	-3
Waste disposal COVID demand funding not required	-638	
Inflation refresh	-852	
Adults care uplifts strategy refresh	182	1,445

Pressures		
Occupational Therapy – Children's (delivered with NHS partners)	490	
Property Team - Resourcing	209	
Information Management– Children's Social Work Police Requests	54	
Guided Busway defects (pending litigation)	1,300	-650
SEND teams capacity requirement (current demand)	565	
Waste and odour permit conditions	2,684	-1,600
Expansion of Emergency Response Service (Adults)	185	
Additional capacity in Learning Disability Young Adults Team	150	
Children's Disability	400	
Funding		
Capital receipts flexibility to continue until 2024-25	-1,982	
Uplift in Better Care Fund to meet Adults pressures	-750	
P&E Income – faster return to pre-COVID levels	-866	
Revised gap after updates at September Committee	23,411	16,123
Change	2,931	1,423

Scrutiny and review of all of the above items will be repeated prior to submission to the December committee cycle in order to ensure estimates remain current and necessary.

- 2.13 It is important to bear in mind that the 2021-26 business plan included some savings for future years. These are already budgeted in and therefore form part of the budget gap calculation. The feasibility of these savings is being reviewed, and any changes will affect the budget gap. The level of savings already in the business plan are:

Ref.	Saving	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
A/R.6.176	Adults Positive Challenge Programme	-100	-100		
A/R.6.177	Cambridgeshire Lifeline Project	-10	-122	-50	
A/R.6.179	Mental Health Commissioning	-24			
A/R.6.180	Review of commissioning approaches for accommodation based care	-350	-375		
A/R.6.185	Additional block beds - inflation saving	-583	-456	-470	-484
A/R.6.188	Micro-enterprises Support	-133			
A/R.6.189	Learning Disability Partnership Pooled Budget Rebaselining	-2,574			
A/R.6.267	Children's Disability: Reduce overprescribing	-100	-100		

3. Budget Setting Considerations

- 3.1 To balance the budget in light of these pressures set out in the previous section and uncertain Government funding, savings, additional income or other sources amounting to **at least** £23.4m are required for 2022-23, and a total of around £75m across the full five years of the Business Plan.

- 3.2 The actions currently being undertaken to close the gap include:

- Reviewing all existing business plan proposals, and in particular pressures and investments to ensure these are accurate, up-to-date and appropriately mitigated.
- Reviewing all income generation opportunities and deployment of grant funding
- Identifying any areas across the organisation we could potentially look to find additional efficiencies or productivity whilst ensuring outcomes are maintained.
- Costing areas which we wish to invest in- for example areas identified as part of the Joint Agreement action plan, prioritising those that will improve outcomes and prevent escalating demands or costs facing Council budgets.

Chairs and Vice-Chairs are leading engagement with Services to identify initiatives to be recognised in the business plan and receiving detailed budget briefing. This will enable identification of areas of the budget subject to the most risk and sensitivity and where there is opportunity for collaboration and new approaches to lead to improved or more cost-effective outcomes.

- 3.3 Additionally, the Council has worked closely with local MPs in campaigning for a fairer funding deal for Cambridgeshire and this will be renewed following a motion passed at the July meeting of Full Council. We argued that given how much the Cambridgeshire economy was supporting the Treasury that a new approach to business rates that enabled councils to retain a greater element of the local tax take would help to underwrite the costs of supporting that growth. The implementation of both the multi-year CSR and the localization of business rates have been deferred on several occasions. With the pandemic and the uncertainty over the national position we cannot expect this position to change in the short term. However, it is important to recognise that the Government have used one off interventions of additional finance in Adult Social Care and Highways to negate some of the growing pressure on Councils.
- 3.4 There are also a small number of financing options that may be available to the Council to contribute towards closing the gap for 2022-2023:
- Additional central Government funding *may* be forthcoming in response to the pandemic and previously announced funding (such as Roads Fund and support for Social Care) rolled forwards. The peer challenge has rightly cautioned the Council about assuming any such funding will be realised.
 - Funds could be re-allocated on a one-off basis from reserves. Whilst this would contribute to reducing the pressure for the 2022-2023 financial year, the pressure would be delayed until the next financial year as the option to use this funding could not be used again. The Chief Finance Officer's professional view is that the General Fund balance should not be reduced from its current level in view of the risks the Council is currently facing. Members are also reminded that the Council is currently carrying a deficit of £26m in the high needs block of DSG, as it stands the ringfence for this item will lapse in 2023, meaning that the Council may need to fund this locally from its own reserve. This primarily leaves the amounts currently earmarked as:
 - Transformation Fund (currently £24m unallocated)
 - Pandemic-related carry forward (currently £21m)

- Additionally, there are smaller service specific levels of reserve held in Public Health and Adult Social Care.

Any use of the reserves listed above is only a temporary solution which would reduce the Council's ability to respond to any future national or local challenges and compound the savings ask in future years. We know that there will be long-range impacts of the pandemic where deployment of grant funds received to date could be carefully planned. The Joint Administration will want to consider its approach to reserves as part of a refreshed budget strategy.

- There is an option to increase the planned levels of council tax (see paragraph 3.6)

3.5 There are a number of additional risks and assumptions with potential impacts on the numbers above. These will be monitored closely and updated as the Business Plan is developed to ensure that any financial impacts are accurately reflected in Council budgets:

- The National Joint Council pay scales have not been confirmed for 2022-23 onwards and it is possible that the agreed uplifts will be greater than those modelled.
- Movement in future year pressures. We are putting monitoring measures in place so we can put in place mitigations before trigger points are met. This is particularly relevant to demand led budgets such as children in care or adult social care provision.
- IT pressures – work is underway to quantify a potential impact on the IT & Digital Service, predominantly related to hardware and software costs and the costs of data facilitating remote working.

3.6 The level of savings required is based on a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept and a 0% increase in Council Tax. This potential to increase ASC precept has been carried forward from 2021-22. It is likely, therefore, that the Council will be presented with the option to increase general Council Tax by not less than a *further* 1.99% in 2022-23, on top of the 2% ASC precept carried forward. The value of a 1.99% increase in the Council Tax equates to additional revenue of £6.1m. With general inflation higher than in recent years, it is possible that the government may permit a higher general council tax increase, or announce an Adult Social Care precept potential for a further year. In those scenarios the Council tax potential would increase further.

4. Business Planning context for Children and Young People committee

4.1 Children's Services & Education

4.1.1 High levels of demand across the system are continuing due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. While there has not been a particular impact on overall numbers open to children's social care services, the complexity of children and young people's needs has increased, for example, numbers of children subject to a child protection plan. These are the children and young people who are at greatest risk within the community and while our Family Safeguarding teams are working constructively and positively with all children and young people open to our services, we may begin to see an increase in the number of

children in care following on from this increase in numbers of children subject to child protection plans.

Numbers of children in care have continued to reduce, albeit at a slower rate, and are now in line with the average of our statistical neighbours. What we are seeing, however, is an increase in the relatively small numbers of young people with the most complex needs among that child in care population, and a consequent increase in the unit costs of providing care.

Children and young people with disabilities and their families have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, with many sources of informal and formal support being much less available. While this position is changing as restrictions have been lifted, many families are tired and have less resilience as a result of the impact over this period.

Demand for our early help services remains high; again, families have been cut off from informal support from extended family and friendship networks; children and young people have faced increased isolation, and mental health issues for parents and children and young people have been a particular concern. We do not expect these issues to be resolved quickly, and so expect the need for support services across the system to remain high for the foreseeable future.

4.1.2 COVID-19 has meant the work of the Education Directorate has expanded significantly to provide advice and guidance to all schools and early years settings, whilst many of our statutory functions continue. It has been a hugely challenging time where teams across the Council have stood up to this challenge and worked beyond expectations to ensure our children, staff and communities are protected. This challenge continues into the autumn, but we are starting to move towards the recovery phase and the focus on closing gaps that have occurred during the disruption of the last 18 months.

There are emerging pressures in Education in the support for vulnerable pupils. We have seen significant increases in requests for statutory assessment for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and pressure on inclusion and behavioural support services as children have returned to schools.

Many parents, particularly those with children with SEND remain anxious about the return to school. This has led to an increased number of requests for Personal Transport Budgets to be provided to enable those parents to arrange their own transport to and from school in preference to their children travelling in a shared transport arrangement. Such requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Monitoring of attendance will continue to be a priority, in particular supporting schools who experience high levels of persistent absence.

Planning for the longer term is challenging at the current time, however, the following key focus areas have been identified for the Directorate:

- Commission eight new schools to meet our growth requirements over the next five years. This will be undertaken through the Council's free school presumption processes and by providing support, where appropriate, to Multi-academy Trusts with free school bids submitted direct to the Department for Education (DfE).

- Develop and implement a school improvement strategy to ensure that we exceed the national average in all outcomes and top our statistical neighbours list. Focus areas:
 - Improving Key Stage 2 outcomes. All other areas have seen significant improvements and more schools becoming good and outstanding.
 - Challenge and support to Academy Trusts over their performance.
 - Continuing to 'close the gap' for our pupil premium children. Whilst we are already doing this at a faster pace than other Local Authorities, the gap remains one of the largest in the country. With more children becoming eligible for pupil premium, we need to continue to develop and refine our approach further.
- Ensure there is a sustainable approach to operating our smallest schools. This may involve consideration of different models for delivery, and we are working with the Church of England Diocese of East Anglia (in recognition of the fact that the majority of our smallest schools are church schools), to ensure we can continue to support these schools in their communities. Cambridgeshire schools are funded 145th out of 151 Local Authorities and this is affecting all children. We are hoping that changes to the national funding formula and the inclusion of a revised sparsity factor (rurality) will help our schools with their current budgetary challenges.
- Develop an action plan for improving prevention and early intervention for children with SEND and reduce the need for statutory processes. This will include developing more locally based, school-based provision as part of the continuum of support for children with additional needs and increasing the skills and abilities within mainstream schools to support more children utilising a trauma-informed approach.
- Ensure we effectively respond to the Ofsted Inspection of SEND services expected to take place in 2022. The last inspection took place in 2017.
- Sustain the improvements achieved to date in Fenland through the Opportunity Area to ensure academic performance continues to improve.
- Build a strong Local Authority-led family of maintained schools to deliver and sustain outstanding school improvement and a culture of self-improvement.

4.1.3 COVID-19 continues to put significant pressure on service delivery. These pressures continue to be regularly monitored, understood, and mitigated as appropriate. We are seeing varying patterns of impact on service provision, which are hard to extrapolate into a longer-term trend. This makes long term planning very uncertain at the moment, making it very difficult to accurately forecast demand. Current data across Children's services highlights the following key areas:

- Increasing demand for early help services.
- Increase in child protection plans by 37%, as latent demand starts to become visible. In turn, there is a risk that we will see an increase in the numbers in care as a result of this.
- Increase in young people in care with more complex needs, which can cost up to c. £250k per annum for one child.
- A national increase in care costs as demand for placements continues to outstrip supply.
- Increasing numbers of children and young people in Tier 4 inpatient provision liable for section 117 (Mental Health Act) after care support on discharge requiring complex levels of support from children's and health services.
- Increased demand for specialist provision for Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) and Autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) has put pressures on specialist

school provision and we are beginning to see a greater number of children being referred for external special school placements.

- EHCPs (Education Health and Care Plans) continue to increase, and we could see a 47% increase in the number of EHCPs by 2031 based on current trends.
- An increase of 7.7% in the number of children with SEND for whom the Council is providing home to school transport, which in turn, has led to increased transport costs of 6.23% in excess of inflation.

4.1.4 Much of the impact of COVID-19 for vulnerable families, children and young people was not immediate and continues to surface. Harm will continue to emerge over time as a result of children not being educated in school during periods of lockdown, together with limited opportunities for play and social development. Impact will be greatest for:

- Families with fewer means, lower job security or less secure housing.
- Families struggling with routines, possibly compounded by increased financial stress.
- Children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups* where the impact of COVID-19 has been more severe.
- Young people of secondary age already disaffected at school.
- Children and young people with SEND.
- Those children at acute need of safeguarding, who have been less visible to schools, early years, and health services during the pandemic.
- LGBTQ+ families and young people. LGBTQ+ people are at higher risk of mental ill health due to discrimination experienced. This is further impacted for young people by COVID-19 and non-acceptance or violence within the home and loss of support networks. LGBTQ+ young people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds experienced higher rates of homelessness. LGBTQ+ families had more adverse impacts financially with parents/carers being more likely to work in a job sector impacted by COVID-19 resulting in furlough, job losses and increased poverty.
- Refugee and Migrant Children: Children in families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), Children in families of EEA nationals, children in asylum seeking families etc.

*CCC understands the term 'black and minority ethnic groups' has limitations - we have used it here as a commonly used term to ensure consistency with other public bodies

4.1.5 It is likely that additional early help, social care and placement funding will be needed across the 2021/22 and 22/23 financial years since the lockdown and closure of schools has extended beyond the timeframe envisaged at the time they were developed. The assumption is that these costs will be met from MCHLG funds; if this is not the case, they will become pressures.

5. Overview of Children and Young People Committee's draft revenue programme

5. Children's Services

5.1.1 The following Budget Pressures for 2022-23 have currently been identified:

	2022-23	2023-24
Pressures		
Occupational Therapy – Children's (SEND provision primarily)	490	
Children's Disability	400	

5.1.2 Despite a relatively stable position in the number of Children in Care (CiC), we are seeing increasing cost pressures due to changes in complexity of need, and continuing cost inflation within the sector resulting in an in-year forecast pressure of £1.25m. Since April we have seen a rise of 7 young people in residential homes, representing a 20% increase in numbers, and a 33% increase in overall financial commitment. Weekly cost for this type of provision is significantly higher than foster care, so any shift towards residential will have significant impact on the budgetary position. Higher cost placements are reviewed regularly to ensure they are the correct level and step downs can be initiated appropriately; however, we are continuing to see an increase in demand for this placement type. We are also seeing the impact of Tier 4 step-downs which can lead to high placement costs, and demand for this placement type is also expected to rise. We therefore anticipate that this will present an additional pressure in the region of c. £2.2m for 2022-23 budgets.

5.1.3 Current Priorities

Children's services' continued focus on prevention and early intervention is key to managing demand and delivering cost avoidance opportunities as we move forward. Some of the key areas of focus to support this, include:

- **Early Help:** focused support – virtual and face-to-face, tailored to local communities to:
 - o Support parenting after disruption to family life as a result of the pandemic and a lack of informal and formal support for families including new parents.
 - o Provide mental and emotional help for young people.
 - o Integrated approach to support vulnerable young people at risk of the poorest outcomes, including criminal and sexual exploitation, offending and experiencing barriers into employment, training and education.

Effective delivery in this area will depend on establishing the Children and Maternity Collaborative, detailed below.

- **Family Safeguarding:** provides support to parents who have mental and emotional health issues, misuse drugs or alcohol and/or are in domestically abusive relationships to make lasting change and provide safe homes for their children. This integrated multi-disciplinary approach continues to prove effective in safeguarding children at greatest risk, and reducing the numbers coming into care. Cambridgeshire was awarded £4.1m funding from the DfE to develop this approach over a two-year period. The funding meets the cost of the additional adult practitioners seconded into Children's safeguarding teams, along with training, development, and systems costs. Current forecasts are that the grant will meet the costs of the adult practitioners until the end of the 2022/3 financial year. Reduced numbers of children in care, and hence lower placement costs, have in other Authorities more than met the additional cost of the model once established.

- **SEND Commissioning:** Our Joint SEND Strategy with Peterborough City Council incorporates three key themes, as outlined in the diagram in section 5.2.1:
 - SEND is everyone's business
 - Identify and respond to needs early
 - Deliver in the right place at the right time

In support of this, we are recommissioning our model for SEND provision following a review of overnight and residential short breaks provision. The outcomes of this will:

- Ensure greater choice and control to families
- Ensure resilience and stability with Council budgets
- Offer best value for money and best use of resources across education, health and social care
- Explore whether commissioning arrangements in place currently provide young people with the best possible outcomes

Phase one, which has seen the insourcing of three existing Council homes, is complete. The focus is now on phase two, which will address the reform of the service to meet future demands.

- **Establishing a Children and Maternity Collaborative:**

The Council has retained a relatively well-resourced early help offer; we need to ensure it is deployed to maximum effect, targeted at those most in need, while supporting key partners to identify emerging issues early, and prevent a situation worsening. This outcome is particularly important, given the expected continuing increase in demand for support services as children, young people and their families due to the long-term impact of the disruption brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our approaches to early help, as set out in the Best Start in Life and subsequently, the Strong Families, Strong Communities strategy for early help services are both fundamental building blocks in the programme to establish the Children and Maternity Collaborative, with a footprint across the greater Cambridgeshire area. This footprint is in line with the broader Integrated Care System, of which the Children and Maternity Collaborative is a part.

Integrated Care Systems are in place to support the development of closer coordination and collaboration between health, local authority and other partner agency services in both adults and children's services and are part of the broader health system re-shaping of the role of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Cambridgeshire Integrated Care System has two place-based Integrated Care Partnerships, which are based on the footprints of the acute hospitals as opposed to local authority boundaries. Maintaining the benefits of coterminosity will mean that the way in which community-based early help services are delivered will need to take the Integrated Care System and Partnership footprints into account.

Successful development of the Integrated Care System will improve outcomes for

children, young people, and their families by helping to ensure that agencies working in this area are better able to coordinate the support and interventions they provide through the continuing development of joint planning of support services.

5.2 Education

5.2.1 Current Priorities – Investments and Pressures

COVID-19 is very much still part of our daily work. However, we have begun to focus on wider areas which will contribute to our work and objectives moving forward, financial investment to support our priorities is paramount.

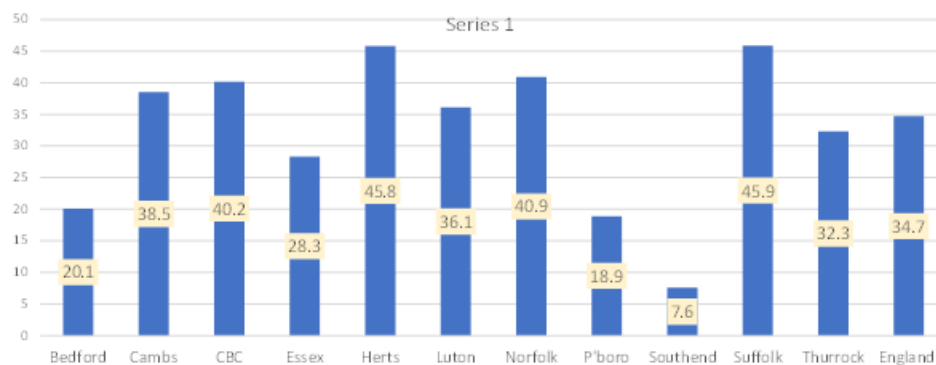
- The Council receives funding to support the costs of SEND via the high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The challenge of the high needs block can be seen in the table below. Despite a huge amount of work in 2020/21, the savings strategies which have been implemented have only served to stop the overspend continuing to increase; the significant overspend of around £27m still remains. We have lobbied Government for additional funding, but nothing has been forthcoming to date. We are finalising a recovery plan and have worked closely with the DfE over the challenges we face. Our aim is to bring our spend in line with the annual budget in the next three years. We will continue pushing our case for DfE ‘safety valve’ funding to write off our deficit. Other authorities have received this funding.

	High Needs Block Income Received £000	High Needs Budgeted Expenditure* £000	High Needs Actual Expenditure £000	In-Year High Needs Overspend £000
2017/18	64,339	65,006	69,632	4,626
2018/19	67,160	68,360	77,196	8,836
2019/20	68,843	71,041	82,619	11,578
2020/21	75,410	76,627	89,163	12,536
2021/22 Forecast	83,419	85,138	96,382	11,244

We have had the provisional budget for 2022/23 and Cambridgeshire will get an increase of around £8.2m to support the increased demand in the high needs block. This will still mean there may be as much as an £8m deficit to fund, especially as we are seeing an increase in demand for services and support following return to school. A Plan B has been developed which seeks to improve prevention and early intervention for children with SEND. A number of workstreams have been developed to seek to further reduce spend and improve service quality. We are currently working closely with Impower and Business Intelligence Directorate to cost the programme but there is a need for additional support and backfill for staff to deliver this effectively. It may be possible to fund some of these costs against the DSG but there will be some general fund requirements. A further paper will be brought to Joint Management Team on these costs when available.

- Addressing the lack of capacity within SEND services to support the volume of requests for EHCPs. We have seen a 38.5% increase in numbers of children in three years and despite investment in the team, we cannot keep pace with the volume of

work. The statutory assessment process takes capacity from across the service. We also need further capacity to transform service areas to provide better outcomes and reduce spend. Our growth in SEND numbers has been exceptional since the reforms in SEND in 2014, but our overall rate of growth in recent years has been similar to other shire counties, showing the challenges we face nationally. A permanent increase in the base budget for the service of £565k per annum is needed so we can keep pace with our statutory responsibility. A huge amount of work is currently underway to look at savings / transformation in SEND. However, any efficiency saving is likely to be offset as primary-age children reach secondary school age as numbers are currently lower in secondary than primary. We are also expecting an Ofsted inspection of our SEND services in 2022. This will focus on these areas.



- Supporting schools with the continued challenge of COVID-19. This is likely to remain until Spring 2022 due to vaccination roll out with children and the impact of the Delta variant in school-age children.
- We have not yet seen the full impact of COVID-19 on families and vulnerable children and young people – inclusion, behaviour, complex SEND needs and mental health challenges are emerging. We will need to respond to this and broker additional services to support children. We do not currently have any additional funding for this.
- Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on pupils' learning. This will not be established nationally until next year with the first set of published performance data. We will be collecting information from schools this term to inform our understanding of where children are against national expectations and to help schools to plan their response.
- Procure a provider and deliver a voucher scheme for all eligible children from vulnerable families for the 2021 Summer holidays.
- Recruit to vacancies across the service - we have been unable to recruit to several key roles within the team including the Assistant Director for School and Setting Improvement. To deliver current and future priorities, we need further capacity.
- We have recently undertaken a revisit of our survey of schools after three years. This has shown significant improvement in the creditability of the Authority but also highlighted a number of areas for further development. This will form part of our action plan moving forward.
- Deliver the education elements of the joint administration agreement. This includes ensuring sufficiency of breakfast club provision, supporting schools to remain maintained by the Local Authority and looking at sustainability funding for Nursery schools. Fully costed action plans will be written for all of these areas.

- Increasing the take up for free school meal entitlement especially for families who now meet the low-income criteria as a result of COVID-19. We also want to increase the take up of 2-year-old funded places and the early years pupil premium (3- and 4-year-olds) as we know settings are losing out on financial support which is vital to support catch up in these establishments.
- Ensure attendance continues to be high across all groups including a focus on vulnerable groups. We will also offer advice to parents who are considering elective home educating their children in line with the new requirement brought in during COVID-19.
- Implementation of our Invest to Save Independent Travel Training project which is aimed at providing young people with additional needs with the skills and confidence to become more independent and support them with the transition to adulthood.

5.3. Savings Opportunities – Children’s and Education

5.3.1 Savings Opportunities

The service has currently identified a potential c. £250k saving in relation to Special Guardianship Orders for 2022-23 and is continuing to review further opportunities for savings and cost avoidance, with a view that these will be presented at December committee.

Despite pressures there are a number of additional proposals currently being considered. These include significant focus on a range of cost avoidance strategies through our SEND transformation programme that will focus on increasing resilience across the whole system as well as maintaining the quality of delivery and ensuring positive outcomes for children and young people, further fostering opportunities, home to school transport and maximisation of government funding.

Work will continue and those considered appropriate for implementation will be worked into Business Cases and Equality Impact Assessments (EqlAs) accordingly. These will be reviewed during the December Committee.

5.4 Capital Programme

The P&C capital plan is a ten-year rolling capital programme. The very nature of capital planning necessitates alteration and refinement to proposals and funding during the planning period. Work is currently being undertaken to review projects included within the plan to ensure that the early years of the Business Plan provide robust, detailed estimates of schemes. The review will also ensure that the Council’s Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2020–2025 is being met. The outcomes of the review will be brought to members later in the planning process.

6. Next Steps

6.1 The high-level timeline for business planning is shown in the table below.

November / December	Business cases go to committees for consideration
January	Strategy and Resources Committee will review the whole draft Business Plan for recommendation to Full Council
February	Full Council will consider the draft Business Plan

7. Alignment with corporate priorities

The purpose of the Business Plan is to consider and deliver the Council's vision and priorities and section 1 of this paper sets out how we aim to provide good public services and achieve better outcomes for communities, whilst also responding to the changing challenges of the pandemic. As proposals are developed, they will consider the corporate priorities:

- 7.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do
- 7.2 A good quality of life for everyone
- 7.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full
- 7.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment
- 7.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

8. Significant Implications

8.1 Resource Implications

The proposals set out the response to the financial context described in section 4 and the need to change our service offer and model to maintain a sustainable budget. The full detail of the financial proposals and impact on budget will be described in the financial tables of the business plan. The proposals will seek to ensure that we make the most effective use of available resources and are delivering the best possible services given the reduced funding.

8.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications for the proposals set out in this report.

8.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The proposals set out in this report respond to the statutory duty on the Local Authority to deliver a balanced budget. Cambridgeshire County Council will continue to meet the range of statutory duties for supporting our citizens.

8.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

As the proposals are developed ready for December service committees, they will include, where required, Equality Impact Assessments that will describe the impact of each proposal, in particular any disproportionate impact on vulnerable, minority and protected groups.

8.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

Our Business Planning proposals are informed by the CCC public consultation and will be discussed with a wide range of partners throughout the process. The feedback from consultation will continue to inform the refinement of proposals. Where this leads to significant amendments to the recommendations a report would be provided to Strategy and Resources Committee.

8.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

As the proposals develop, we will have detailed conversations with Members about the impact of the proposals on their localities. We are working with members on materials which will help them have conversations with Parish Councils, local residents, the voluntary sector and other groups about where they can make an impact and support us to mitigate the impact of budget reductions.

8.7 Public Health Implications

We are working closely with Public Health colleagues as part of the operating model to ensure our emerging Business Planning proposals are aligned. Public Health colleagues are key partners in the Children and Maternity collaborative of the ICS, Best Start in Life and Strong Families, Strong Communities strategies.

8.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

The climate and environment implications will vary depending on the detail of each of the proposals which will be coming to committee later for individual approvals (currently scheduled for November / December committees). The implications will be completed accordingly at that stage.

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 CCC Head of Procurement?

Yes

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

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

Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Beatrice Brown

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Matthew Hall

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Julia Turner

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

9. Accessibility

- 9.1 An accessible version of this report is available on request from Tessa.Adams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Children and Young People Committee Agenda Plan

Published on 1 September 2021

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
14/09/21	1. Change to committee membership	R Greenhill	Not applicable	02.09.21	06.09.21
	2. Recommissioning of Appropriate Adult (PACE) Service and Reparation Services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	H Andrews	KD2021/035		
	3. Tender for Early Years Provision in Arbury, Cambridge City	H Belchamber	KD2021/059		
	4. Covid-19 Local Support Grant – Summer Holiday Support – Procurement of Voucher Scheme	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	5. Home to School Transport	H Belchamber	Not applicable		

Committee date	Agenda item	Lead officer	Reference if key decision	Deadline for draft reports	Agenda despatch date
	6. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	7. Business Planning	W Ogle-Welbourn	Not applicable		
	8. Service Director's Report: Children and Safeguarding	L Williams	Not applicable		
[19/10/21] Reserve date				07/10/21	11/10/21
30/11/21	1. Business Planning: Revenue and Capital Budgets	L Williams/ J Lewis	Not applicable	18/11/21	22/11/21
	2. Framework Contract for Specialist Tree Services	J German	KD2021/061		
	3. Establishment of a New Primary School at Waterbeach Barracks Development	R Lewis	Not applicable		
	4. Service Director's report: Education	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	5. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	6. Performance Report	H Parkinson	Not applicable		
	7. Schools and Early Years Funding Arrangements 2021/22	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	8. Annual Safeguarding Report	J Procter	Not applicable		
	9. Annual Customer Services Report	J Shickell	Not applicable		
	10. Risk Register	D Revens	Not applicable		
18/01/22	1. Schools and Early Years Funding Arrangements 2021/22	J Lewis	KD2022/004	06/01/21	10/01/21

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

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

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

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

	Subject	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Notes
Corporate Induction Programme						
1.	Children & Young People Committee induction	15 June – 12-2pm	<i>Service Director Children's & Education</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	CYP Members	
2.	Safeguarding	Date tbc	Directors & Safeguarding leads in Adults, Children's, & Education	Virtual	All members	
3.	Corporate Parenting Sub-committee induction	12 July – 12-2pm	<i>Service Director Children's</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	Corporate parenting members	
4.	Local Government Finance session 1	30 June – 12-2pm	Head of Finance	Virtual	All members	
5.	Community Connectors	14 July – 12-2pm	Service Director Communities & Partnership	Virtual	All members	
6.	Local Government Finance Session 2	1 Sept – 12-2pm	Head of Finance	Virtual	All members	
7.	Local Government Finance Session 3	16 Nov – 12-2pm	Head of Finance	Virtual	All members	
Training requested by CYP						

	Subject	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Notes
8.	The work of foster carers	TBC	Assistant Director: Regional Adoption and Fostering			Requested by the Committee at CYP on 29.06.21
Suggested Additional training for CYP Members						
9.	ISOS report and Development of the Early Help Strategy and Children and Maternity Collaborative	TBC	Service Director: Children and Safeguarding			Reported to CYP via the action log 14.09.21
10.	Meeting with - (Young People's Council)	August (tbc)	<i>Service Director: Children's</i>	Virtual	All CYP Members invited	
11.	Place Planning 0-19; Admissions, Attendance, Elective Home Education (EHE), Children in Entertainment, Children in Employment	Sept (tbc)	<i>Head of Place Planning 0-19</i>		All Members	
12.	Schools Funding	Sept (tbc)	<i>Service Director Education / Finance Business Partner</i>		All CYP Members invited	
13.	Special Educational Needs - strategy, role and operational delivery	October (tbc)	<i>Assistant Director: SEND</i>		All CYP Members invited	
14.	Commissioning Services – what services are commissioned and how our services are commissioned across Children Services	Nov (tbc)	<i>Service Director: Children's / Head of Children's Commissioning</i>		All CYP Members invited	

	Subject	Date	Responsibility	Nature of Training	Audience	Notes
15.	Visit Family Safeguarding Team	Dec (tbc)	<i>Head of Safeguarding</i>		All CYP Members invited	
16.	Understanding Educational Performance	Jan (tbc)	<i>Service Director: Education</i>		All CYP Members invited	

An accessible version of this report is available on request from Denise.Revens@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People Committee

Appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

1. Appointments made since the Children and Young People Committee (CYP) on 29 June 2021 by the Executive Director: People and Communities, under delegated authority and in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of CYP and CYP Spokes, shown in *italics*.
2. The Committee is invited to appoint Councillor Philippa Slatter as its third appointee to the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
3. One vacancy remains: a third CYP nominee to sit on the Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Foundation Trust Quarterly Liaison Group. The appointment will be made by the Adults and Health Committee.

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 A Bulat (tbc) (Lab) 2. Councillor M Atkins (LD) 3. <i>Cllr H Cox Condron (Lab)</i> 	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
<p>Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee</p> <p>The Sub-Committee has delegated authority to exercise all the Council's functions relating to the delivery, by or on behalf of, the County Council, of Corporate Parenting functions with the exception of policy decisions which will remain with the Children and Young People's Committee. The Chairman/ Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman/Chairwoman of the Sub-Committee shall be selected and appointed by the Children and Young People Committee.</p>	6	n/a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr A Bradnam (LD) - Chair 2. Cllr P Slatter (LD) – Vice Chair 	<p>Richenda Greenhill Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>01223 699171</p> <p>Richenda.greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Educational Achievement Board</p> <p>For Members and senior officers to hold People and Communities to account to ensure the best educational outcomes for all children in Cambridgeshire.</p>	3	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr B Goodliffe (LAB) 2. Cllr M King (LD) 3. Cllr S Taylor (Ind) 4. Cllr S Hoy (Con) 	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994</p> <p>Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Fostering Panel</p> <p>Recommends approval and review of foster carers and long term / permanent matches between specific children, looked after children and foster carers. It is no longer a statutory requirement to have an elected member on the Panel. Appointees are required to complete the Panel's own application process.</p>	2 all-day panel meetings a month	1	<p>Proposed appointees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor S King (Con)* 2. Vacancy* <i>(on hold pending the outcome of work on Panel recruitment following a peer review of the Fostering Panel in June 2020)</i> <p>*Subject to successfully completing the Panel's own application process.</p> <p>Appointments on hold pending consideration of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.</p>	<p>Ricky Cooper Assistant Director, Regional Adoption and Fostering</p> <p>01223 699609</p> <p>Ricky.Cooper@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
<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>There is a statutory requirement under the 1988 Education Act for three councillors to be appointed from three of the main political parties.</p>	3 per year (usually one per term) 1.30-3.30pm	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor K Prentice (Con) 2. Councillor A Bulat (Lab) 3. Vacancy – Councillor P Slatter is nominated for appointment 	<p>Amanda Fitton SACRE Adviser</p> <p>Amanda.Fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
<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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor A Bulat (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>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
				01223 699883 edwina.erskine@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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><i>The Adults and Health Committee has 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.</i></p>	4	Up to 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Goodliffe (Lab) 2. Councillor M King (LD) 3. Vacant 	Other Public Body Representative	Kate Parker Head of Public Health Business Programmes Kate.Parker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 01480 379561
<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 S Taylor (ind) 	Other Public Body Representative	Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Matthew Gunn Head of Cambridgeshire Music 01480 373500/ 01480 373830 Matthew.Gunn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
<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	1. Cllr Bulat (Lab)	Unincorporated Association Member	Contact Democratic.Services@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<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	1. Cllr Bryony Goodliffe (Lab) 2. Cllr Claire Daunton (LD) 3. Councillor S Taylor (Ind)	Other Public Body Representative	Tamar Oviatt-Ham Democratic Services Officer 01223 699715668 Tamar.Oviatt-Ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<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 	4	2	1.Cllr M King (LD) 2 Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab)	Other Public Body Representative	Cinar Altun Cinar.altun@eelga.gov.uk

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
appointments.					
F40 Group F40 (http://www.f40.org.uk) represents a group of the poorest funded education authorities in England where government-set cash allocations for primary and secondary pupils are the lowest in the country.	As required	1 +substitute	Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Lab) Substitute: <i>Councillor M King (LD)</i>	Other Public Body Representative	Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education 01223 727994 Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Local Safeguarding Children's Board LSCBs have been established by the government to ensure that organisations work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. In Cambridgeshire this includes Social Care Services, Education, Health, the Police, Probation, Sports and Leisure Services, the Voluntary Sector, Youth Offending Team and Early Years Services.	4	1	Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Lab) It is a requirement that the Lead Member for Children's Services sits on the Board.	Other Public Body Representative	Joanne Procter Head of Service Children and Adults Safeguarding Board Joanne.Procter@peterborough.gov.uk 01733 863765
Manea Educational Foundation Established to provide grants and financial assistance for people up to the age of 25 years living within the Parish of Manea.	2	1	Councillor D Connor (Con)	Unincorporated association member	Contact Democratic.Services@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
March Educational Foundation Provides assistance with the education of people under the age of 25 who are resident in March.	3 – 4	1 For a period of five years	Councillor John Gowing	Trustee of a Charity	Contact Democratic.Services@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
persons for their educational benefit.					