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Performance Report

Quarter 2

2023/24 financial year

Children and Young People Committee

Governance & Performance
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Key



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

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
20.0%	↓	27.3%	27.1%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
21.3%		21.5%		Red

Indicator Description

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

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

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

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

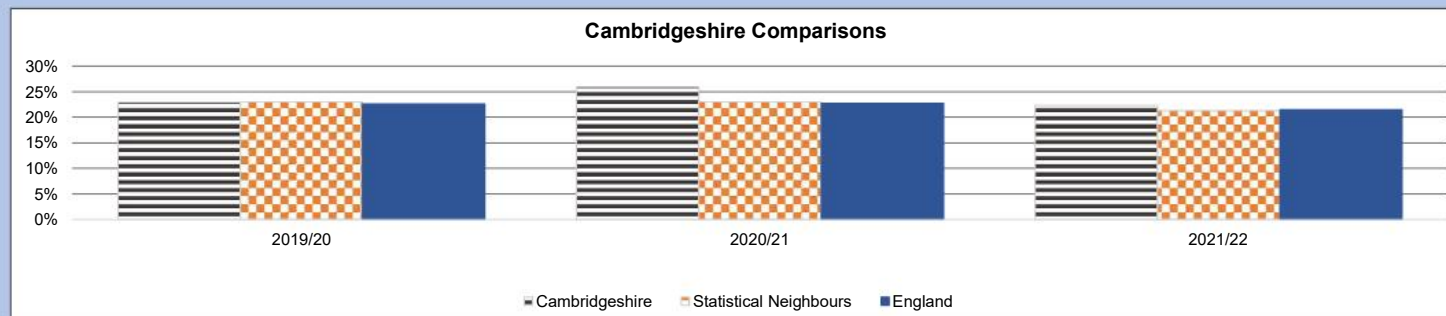
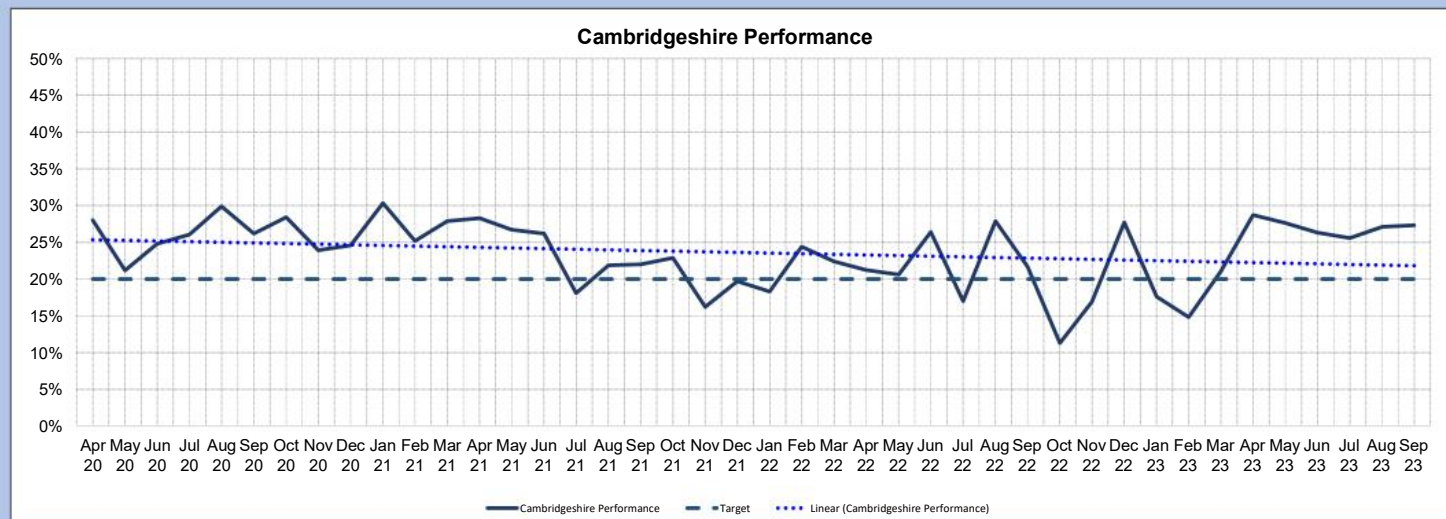
Sources: Department for Education; Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT); Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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

Actions

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

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
21.1	↓	20.8	22.8	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean 38.1		England Mean 42.1		RAG Rating <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Green</div>

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the number of children at risk of significant harm within the county.

A Child Protection Plan is put in place where a child is at risk of significant harm. This plan sets out the action needed to keep the child safe and to promote their welfare.

This measure is expressed as the rate of children with a Child Protection Plan, at month end, for every 10,000 population (0-17).

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

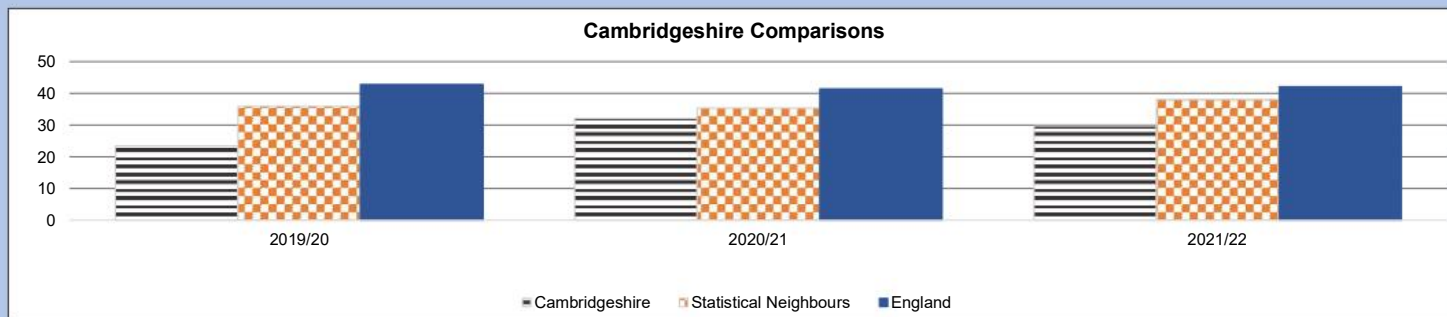
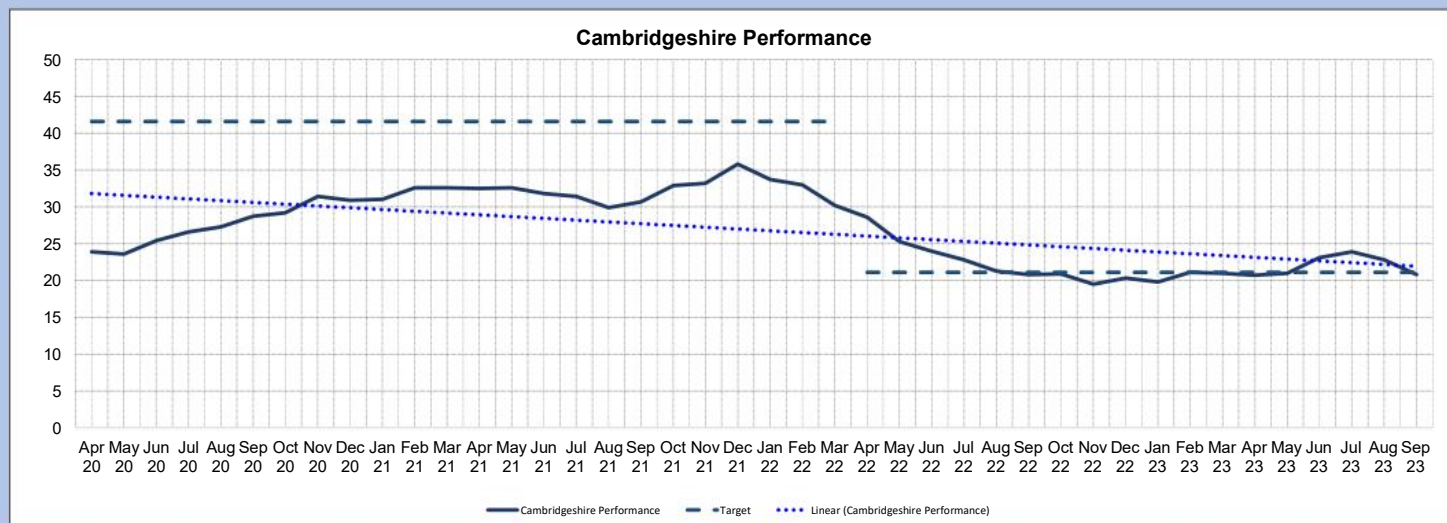
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

The number of children subject to Child Protection Planning remains within target and comparable to statistical neighbours. This shows consistent application of threshold and demonstrates good partnership working.

Actions

This area of work will continue to be monitored and reviewed

Indicator 3: The number children in care every 10,000 population under 18

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November 2023

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
40.0	↓	48.5	48.6	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
53.1	67.0	Red		

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) \times 10,000$$

Where:

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

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

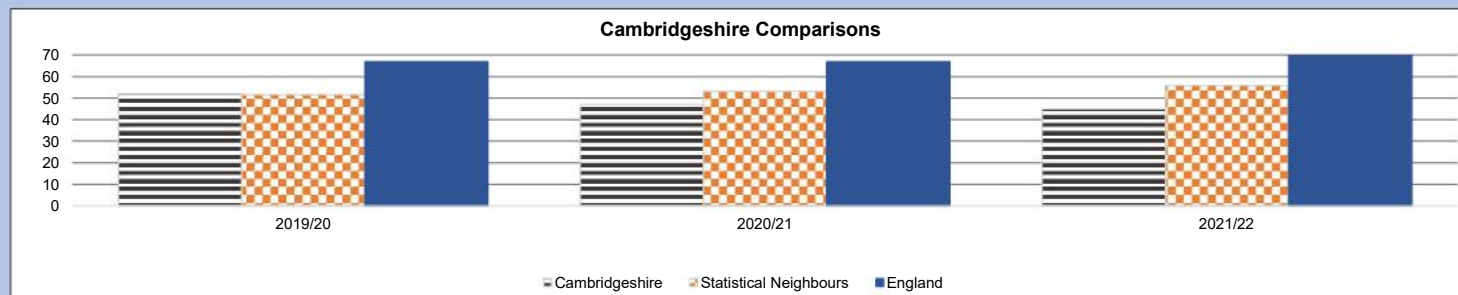
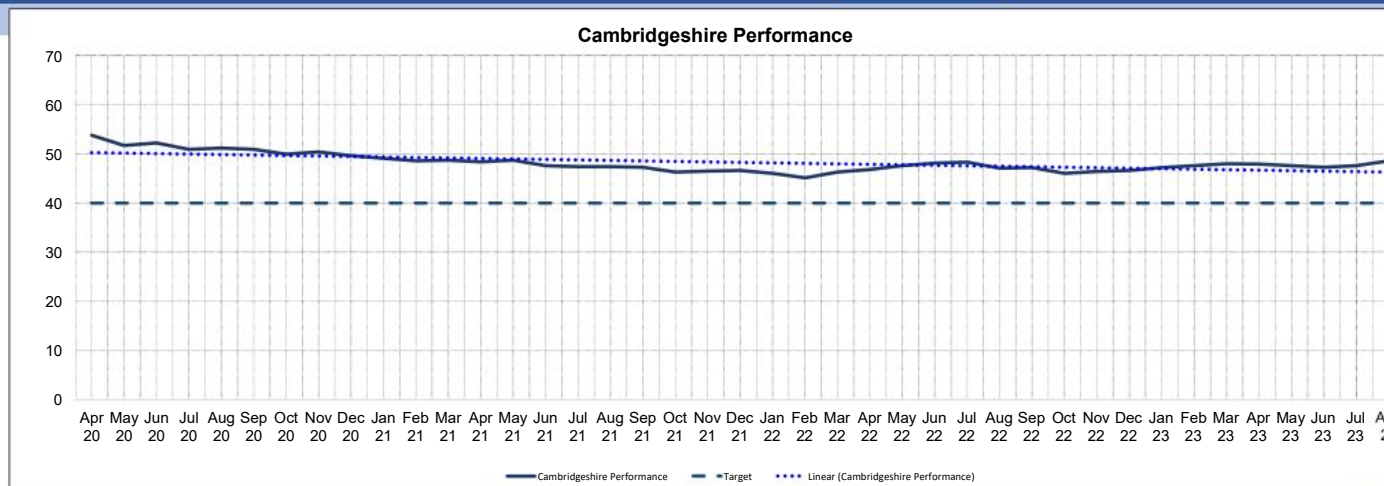
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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

Actions

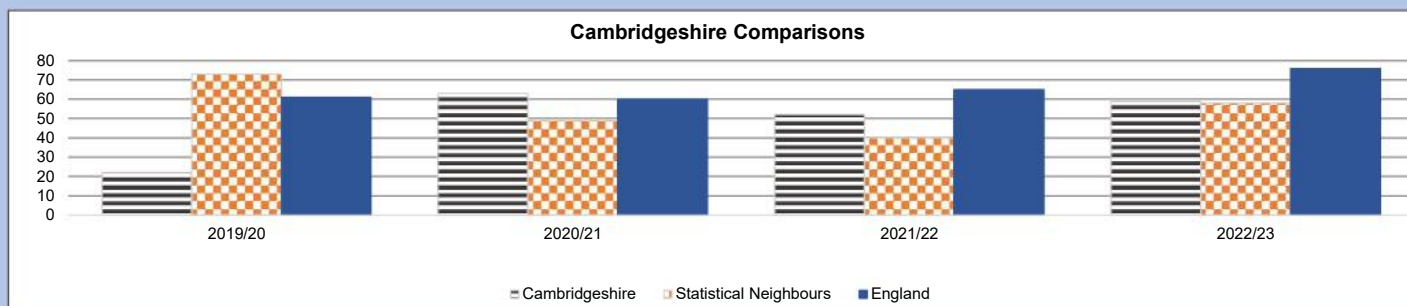
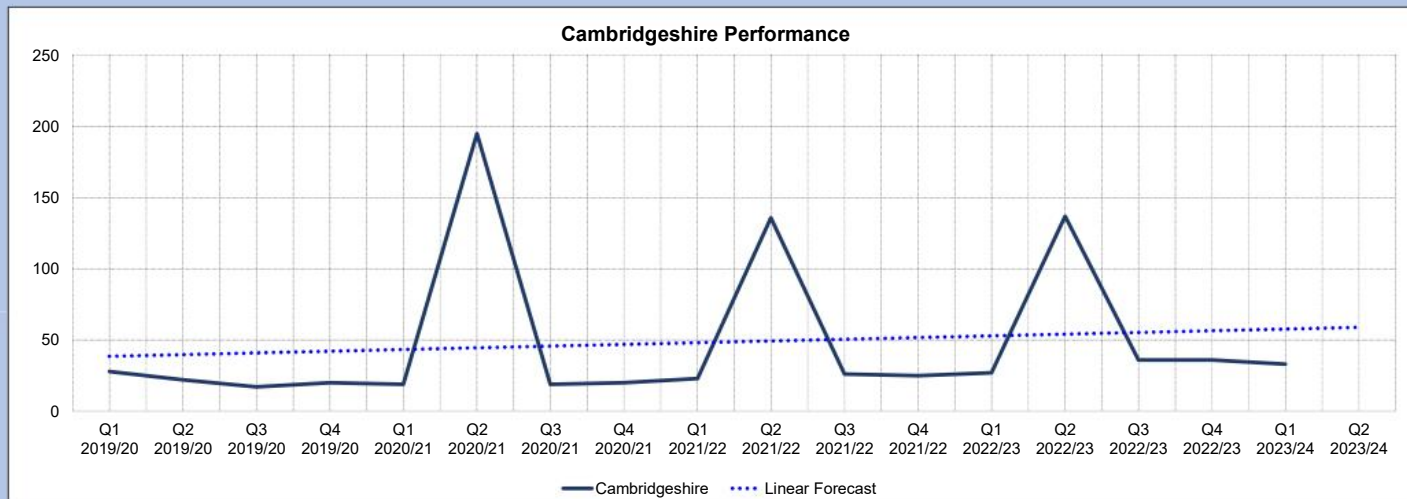
The service has set up a placements panel to track cases and ensure children do not drift in the care system. We are refreshing our sufficiency strategy and creating a board to oversee it to deliver a range of placement choice to assist children to have their needs met and move through the system. The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

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
Contextual	↓	33.0	36.0	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
58.0	76.0	Contextual		

Indicator Description

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

The data for Q2 23-24 will not be available from NCCIS until November 2023; population estimates prior to 2022-23 were based on the ONS population estimate but there has been a delay in releasing these figures so for 2022-23 population estimates are based on the 2021 census



Commentary

Q2 data was not available when this report was written. Further updates will be provided in Q3 Performance Report.

Useful Links

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

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

Actions

Indicator 7: Ofsted - Pupils attending schools that are judged as Good or Outstanding (Nursery Schools)

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November 2023

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
100.0%	↑	100.0%	100.0%	Unchanged
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
100.0%		98.6%		Green

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

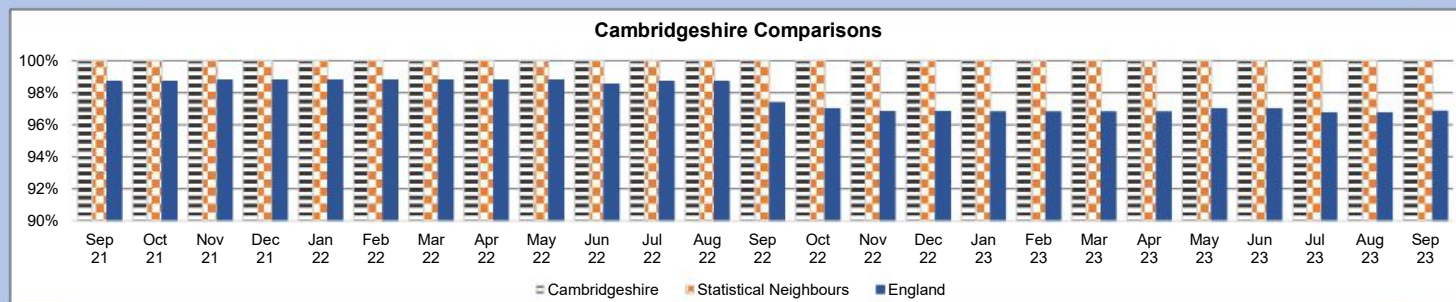
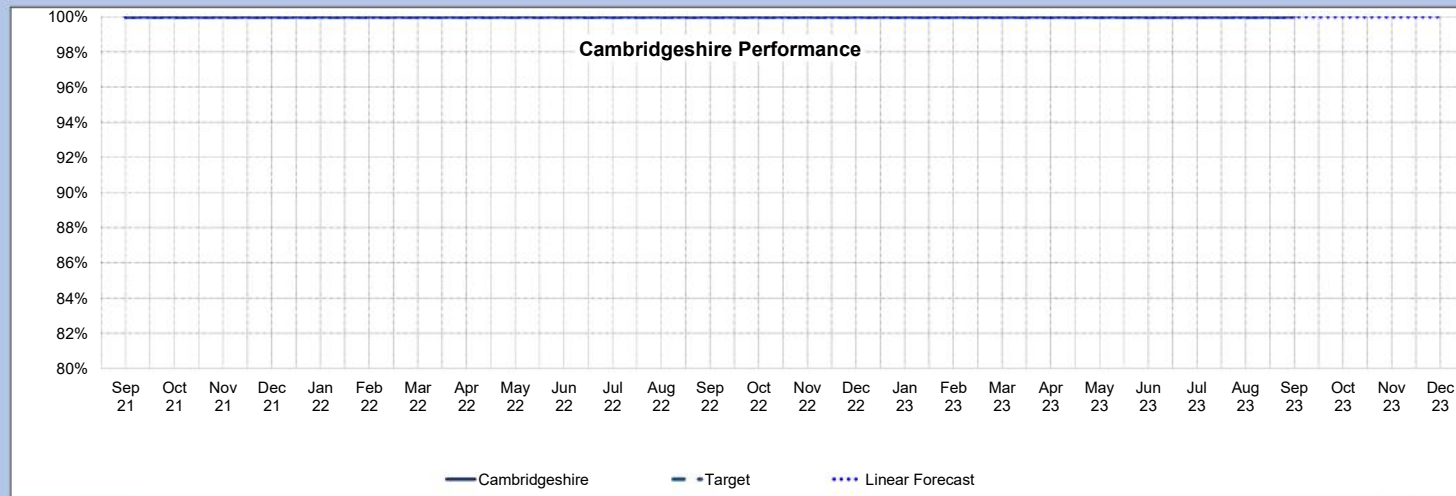
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
90.0%	↑	88.5%	87.4%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
90.7%		91.7%		Amber

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

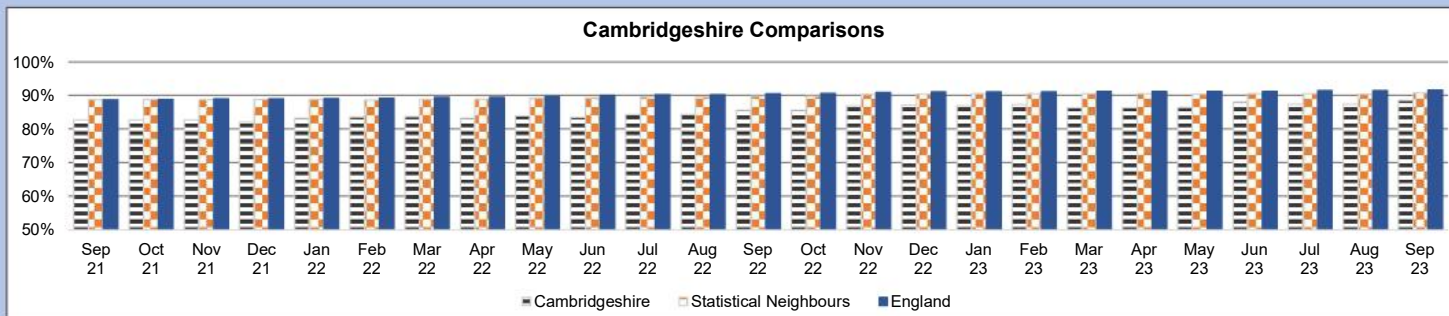
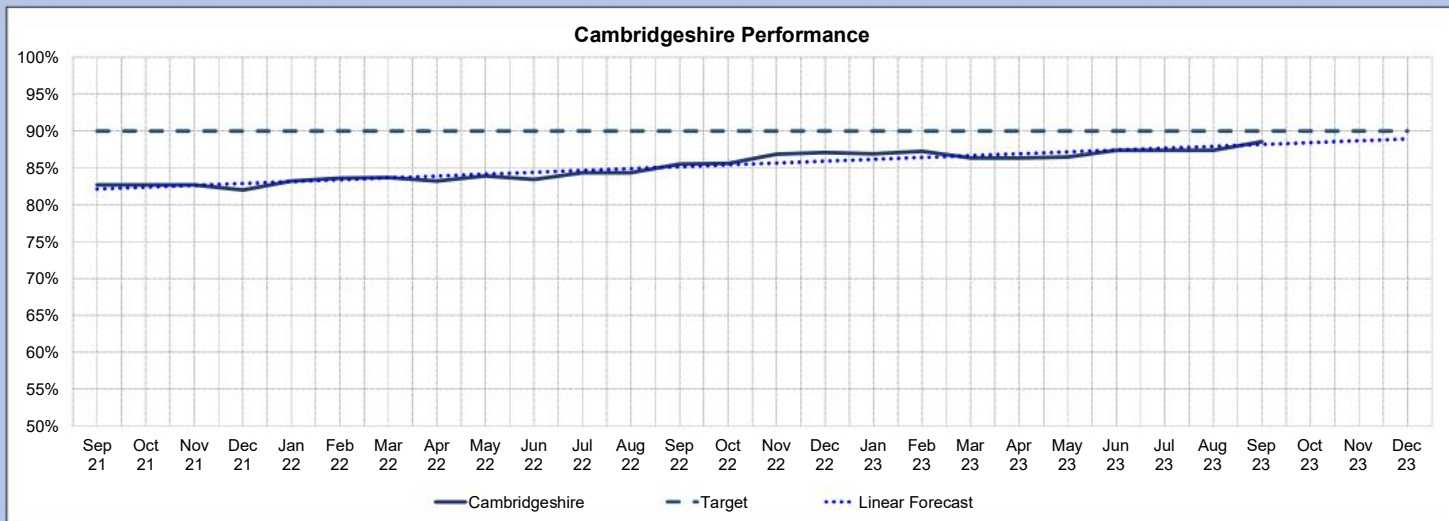
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

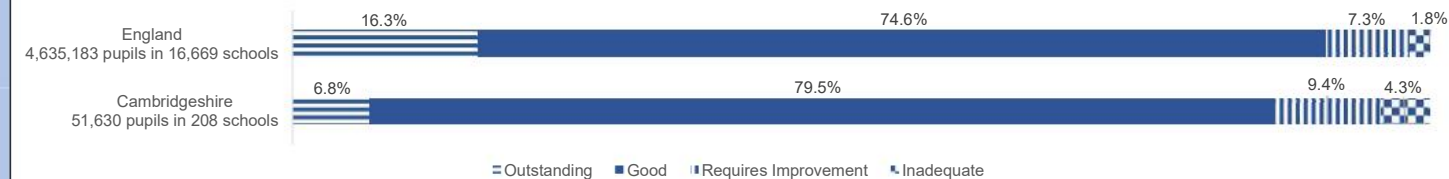
[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

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



Commentary

The ongoing improvement in the percentage of schools good or better is hugely encouraging. There are a large number of schools awaiting inspections especially in the academy sector where they are now over 3 years since they joined a trust. We continue to work closely with maintained schools to ensure schools are ready for inspection including review safeguarding and the schools self evaluation. Where we dont have assurance that a school will achieve good, we are intervening to ensure rapid improvement in performance. This can include issuing warning notices, providing additional support or looking at other structural changes to provide capacity. We have secure judgement on all of our schools and the last year we have been accurate in all of our assessments for our schools. We continue to work closely with academies to ensure improvement.



Actions

Ongoing reporting to the Education Achievement Board on our actions to deliver improved outcomes. A paper on educational outcomes will come to CYP in January showing the performance across the county against regional and national performance.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
90.0%	↑	79.1%	76.9%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
89.5%		84.1%		Red

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

$(X/Y)*100$

Where:

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

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

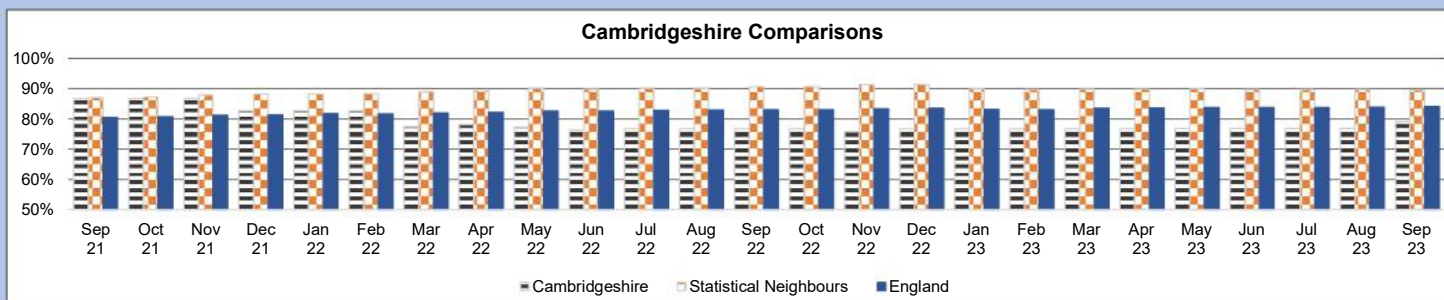
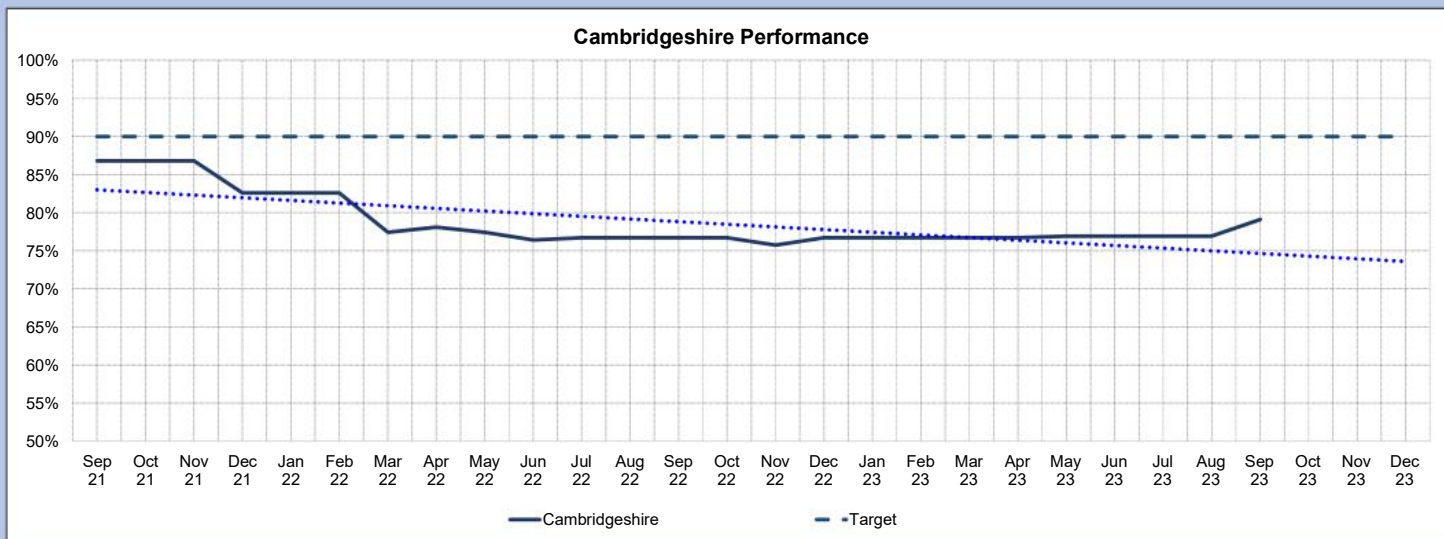
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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



Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
100.0%	↑	87.8%	87.5%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
89.7%		92.6%		Red

Indicator Description

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

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

$(X/Y)*100$

Where:

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

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

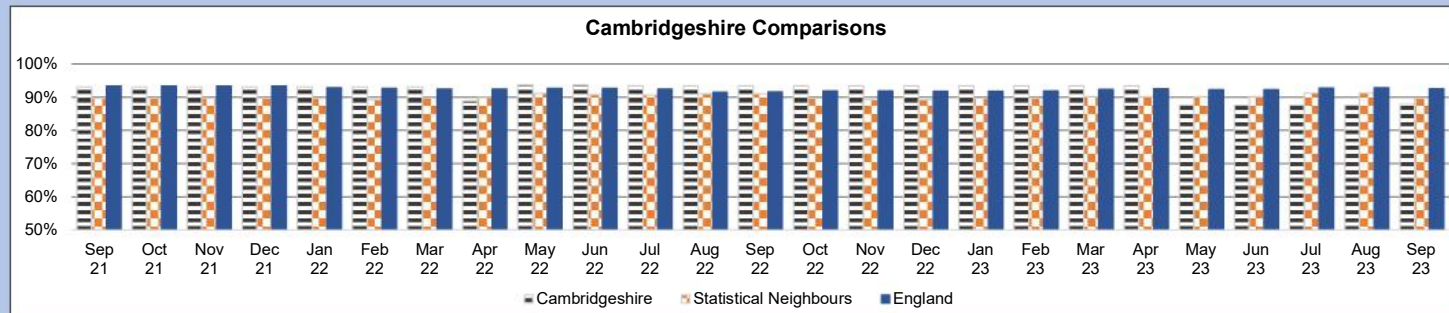
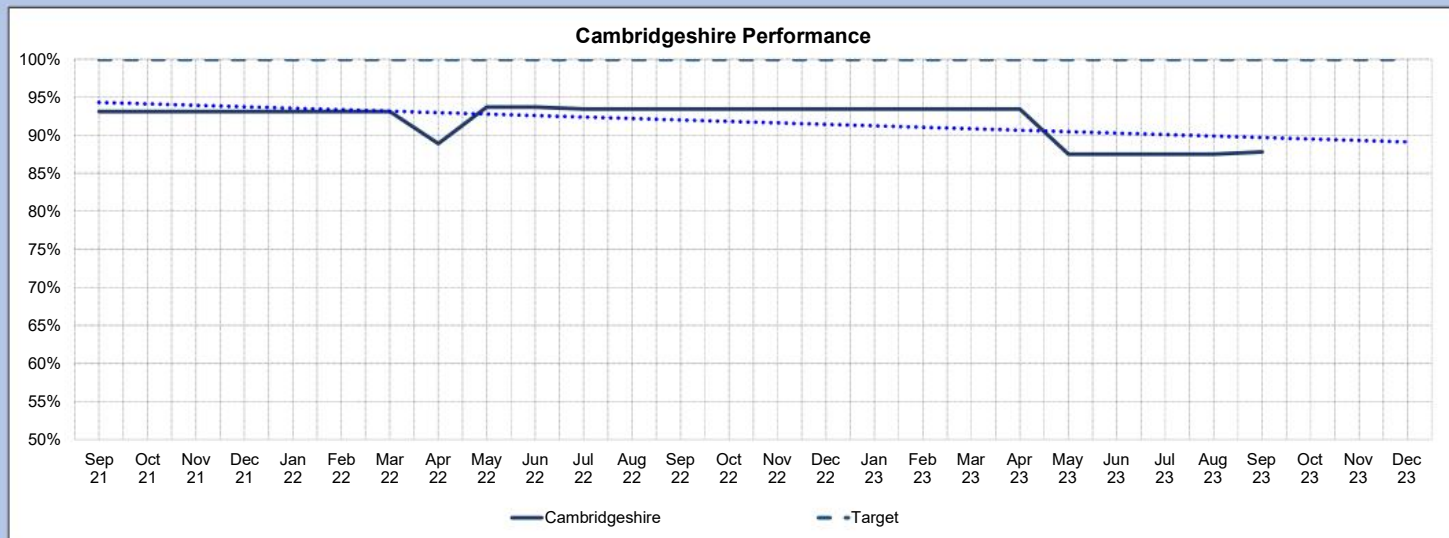
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Term	Previous Term	Change in Performance
75.0%	↑	71.1%	72.3%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean 79.0%		England Mean 74.0%		RAG Rating Amber

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

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

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

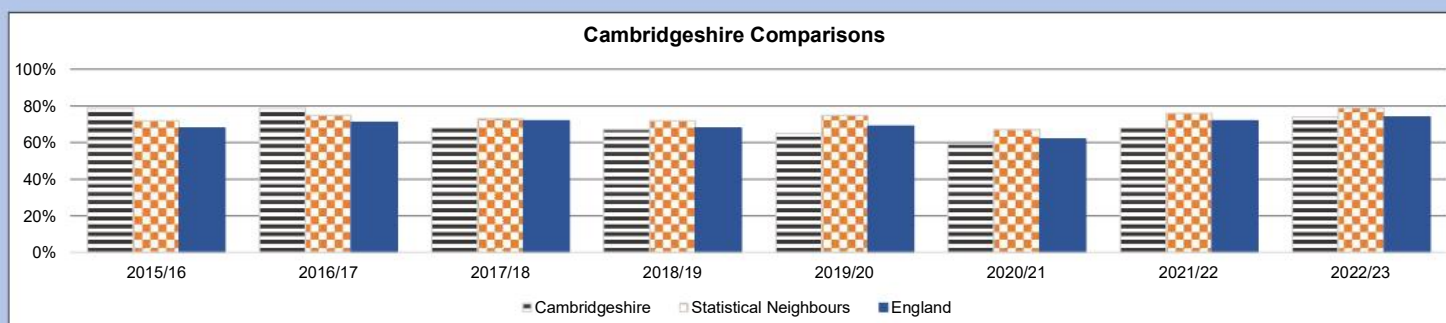
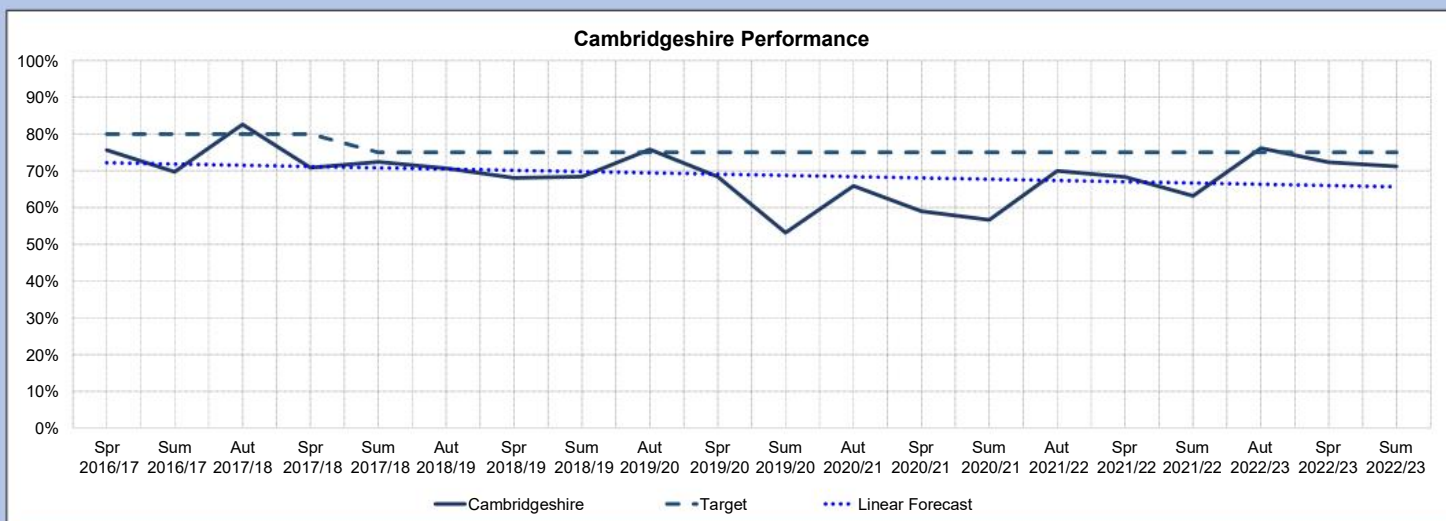
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

The proportion of families taking up their two-year funded offer is increasing, however there are barriers to accessing provision. The current percentage of children taking up Funded Two places in Cambridgeshire is 73.5%, which is slightly below the national percentage of 73.9%. In comparison to our statistical neighbours Cambridgeshire is 8th out of 11 statistical neighbours in 2023. Current take-up is approximately 71% for autumn term.

Data from the Education Capital & Place Planning Team shows that Cambridgeshire has a good spread of providers allowing funded two year olds to access places in their provision. There are however some gaps in capacity in the far south of the county, and also in the East Cambridgeshire villages.

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

Actions

- Current actions underway to reduce/remove barriers:
- A communication group has been established to unify and target comms to parents.
 - Our Family Information Service to identify where children cannot take up places due to age restrictions. The EY service will work with settings to understand reasoning for restrictions and whether these can be changed
 - Our Education Welfare Benefits service are working with Targeted Support to match data across systems to ensure more accurate details used.

- Further Recommended actions:
- Contact statistical neighbours with higher percentage take up to find out how they advertise, and support take up.
 - Compare postcodes of children eligible for funding with geographical provision and approach providers in geographic areas with little or no access to funded 2 provisions.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
25.0	↓	41.0	33.0	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
41.1	44.8	Red		

Indicator Description

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

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

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

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

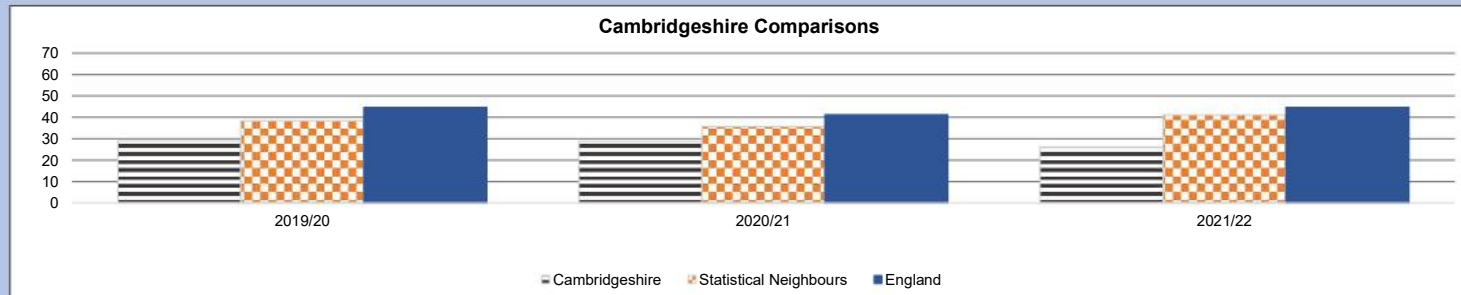
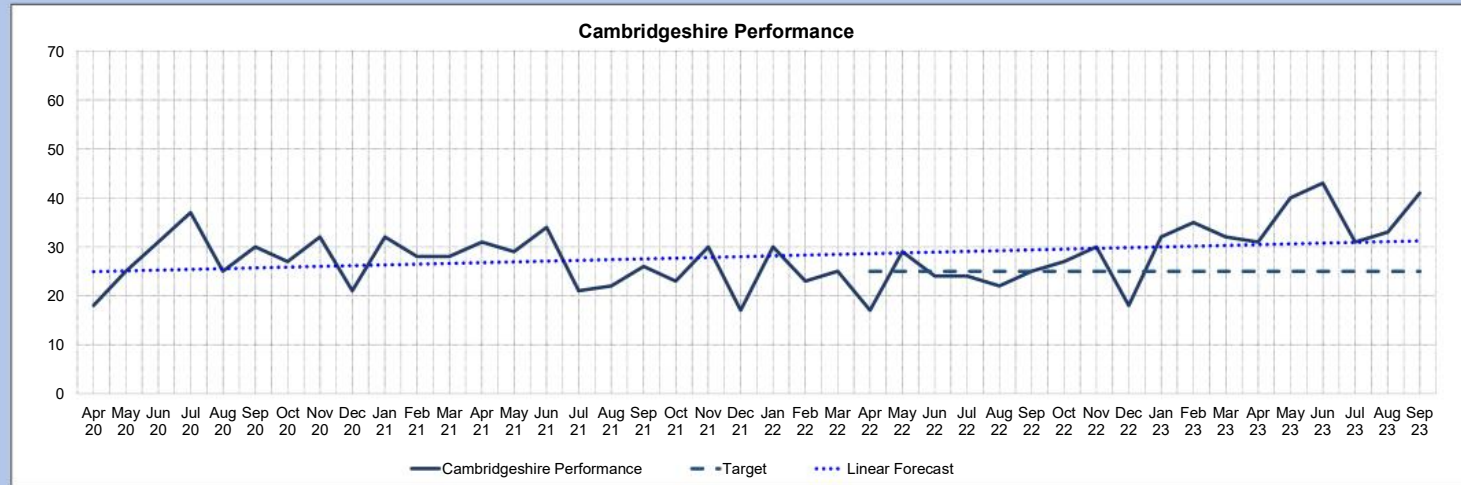
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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



Commentary

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

Actions

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

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
21.0%	↓	28.9%	29.6%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating		
24.6%	23.3%	Red		

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

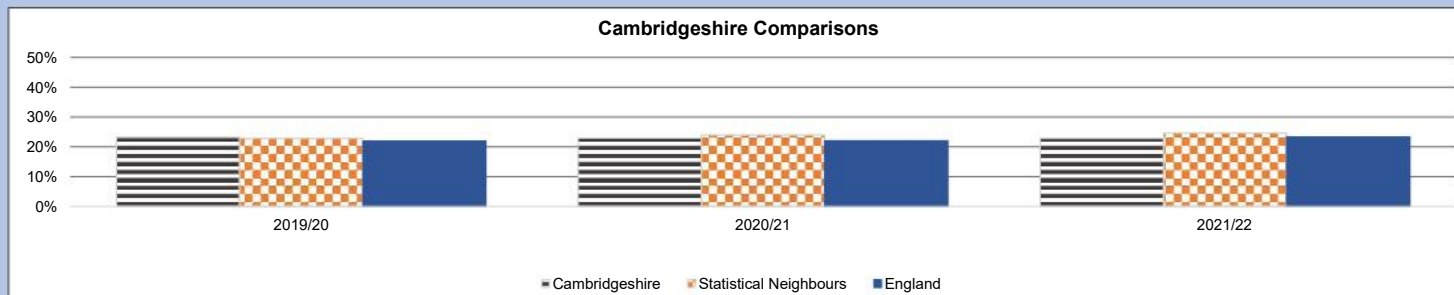
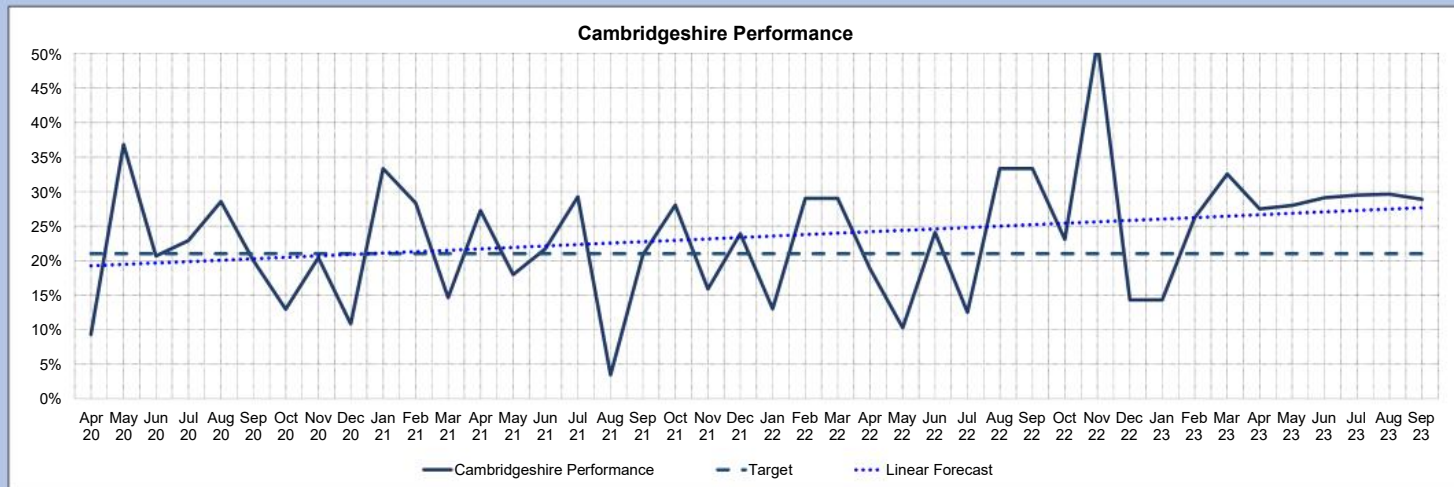
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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



Commentary

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

Actions

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

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

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November 2023

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
3.9	↓	3.0	5.5	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean 1.0		England Mean 1.2		RAG Rating Blue

Indicator Description

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

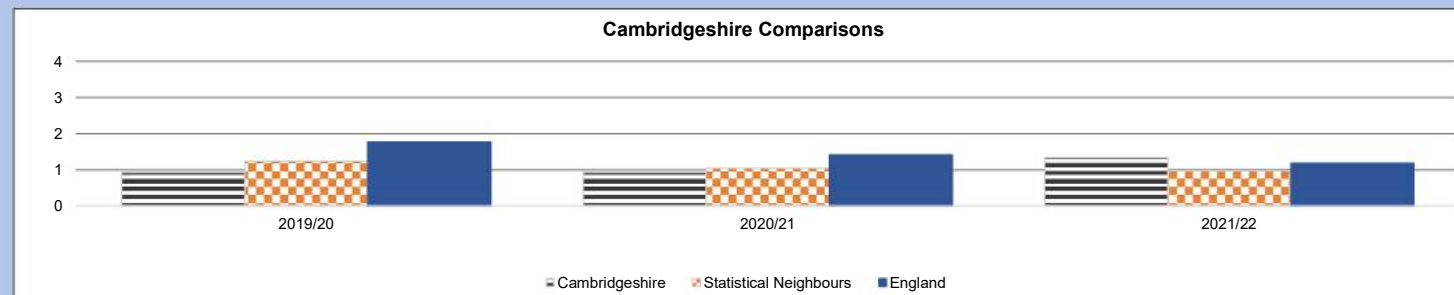
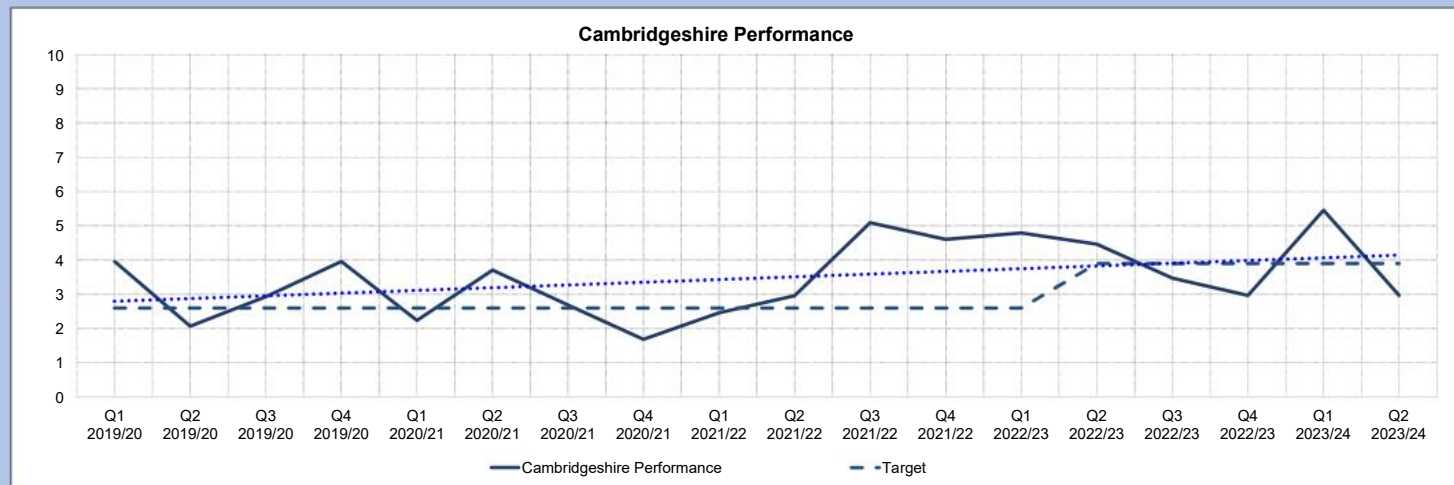
Sources: Ministry of Justice; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

Cambridgeshire's figures have tended to be relatively lower than regional and national comparators until the last year. Over the last 4 quarters, 3 of them have been at the lower level approximately equivalent to the period from 2019 to 2022. It is certain that Covid will have had an impact on the first time entrants (FTEs). It is also likely though that there was an impact from the increased caseloads over the last 18 months which have meant that it has been necessary to reduce the number of prevention interventions delivered. This reduction would have directly impacted on the FTEs with prevention input being very likely to reduce the chances of a young person becoming a FTE in the Criminal Justice system. It is very encouraging to see this quarters reduction as it is at a lower level than any recent quarter and is very likely to be strongly linked to the Diversion Support Team / Turnaround work that specifically focusses on prevention activity. The team started delivering interventions at the start of this financial year and consequently it is very likely that the work with these young people will have had an impact on the FTE figures being seen now.

Actions

Indicator 128: Percentage of Education, Health and Care plan assessments completed within timescale

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
70.0%	↑	5.8%	0.0%	Improving
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG rating
31.7%		49.1%		Red

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

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

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

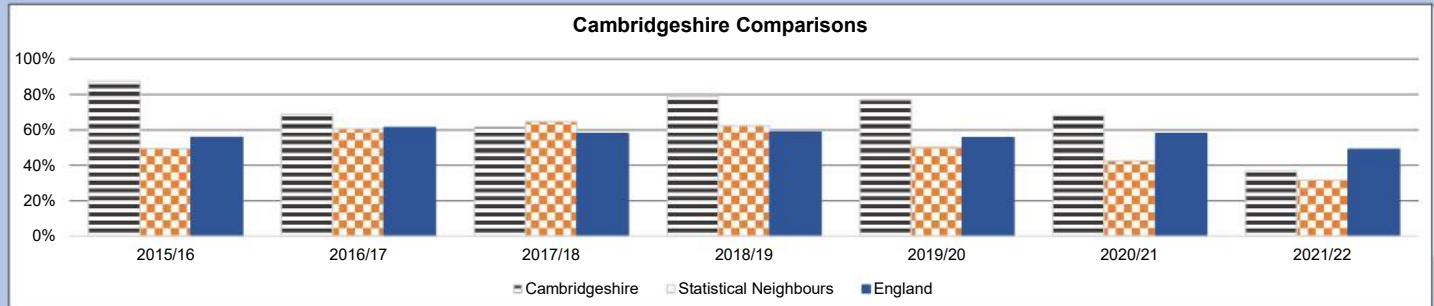
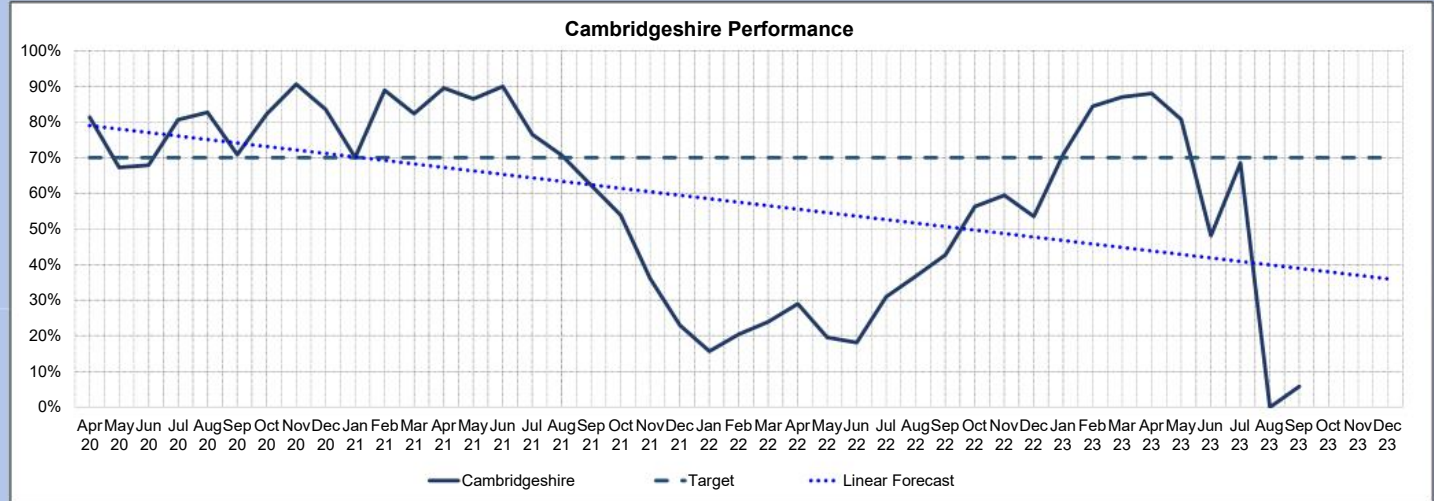
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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

The performance in the year to date remains above the national average and we are working hard to ensure timeliness improves but not at the cost of quality. The figures for July, August and September are under review as the statutory timescale can be increased by 4 weeks where an extended holiday period is covered. Performance is monitored on a monthly basis by a performance board and reported to our partnership board on a termly basis.

Actions

Continued review of position. There is a performance and finance group which review the position on a monthly basis. We are currently using locum Education Psychologists and agency staff in the s

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
Contextual	↓	317.0	277.0	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG rating		
520.0	524.0	Contextual		

Indicator Description

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

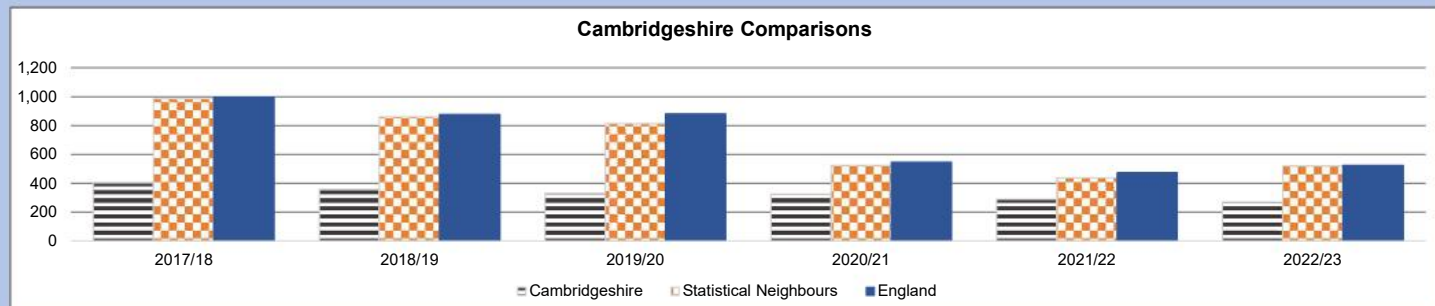
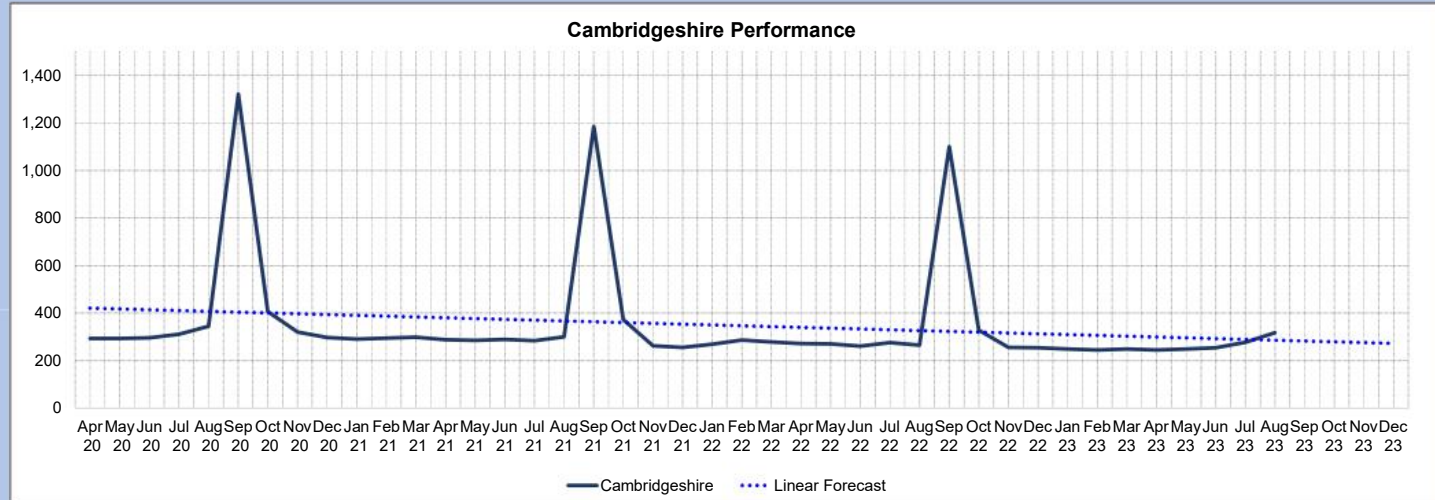
The data for September 2023 will not be available from NCCIS until November 2023; population estimates prior to 2022-23 were based on the ONS population estimate but there has been a delay in releasing these figures so for 2022-23 population estimates are based on the 2021 census.

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

Useful Links

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

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



Commentary

Cambridgeshire NEET and Not Known figure (3% and 397 young people) is favourable compared to our regional and statistical neighbours. This is largely due to our excellent Not Known figure which enables Cambridgeshire to perform in the top (1st) quintile nationally. NEET figures are increasing from this time last year however ongoing work will enable more opportunities and providers to be offering appropriate provision to meet the needs of those young people who are or could become NEET. The reforming of a NEET Strategy group for Cambridgeshire and development of a Cambridgeshire cross directorate NEET Strategy is well under way.

Actions

Completion of cross directorate NEET Strategy for Cambridgeshire to be completed by December and then to be signed off by relevant Senior Management groups and committees across the council to then be launched.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
65.0%	↑	57.1%	62.8%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
58.3%		58.1%		Red

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

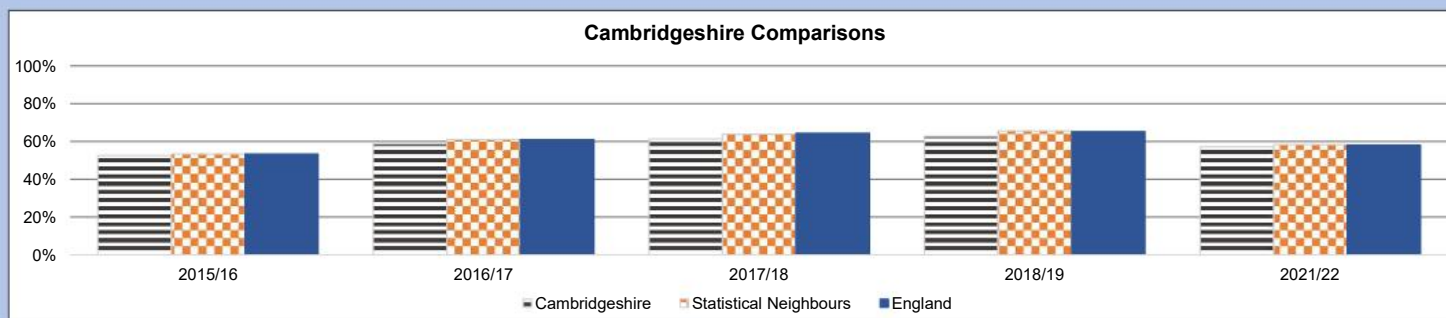
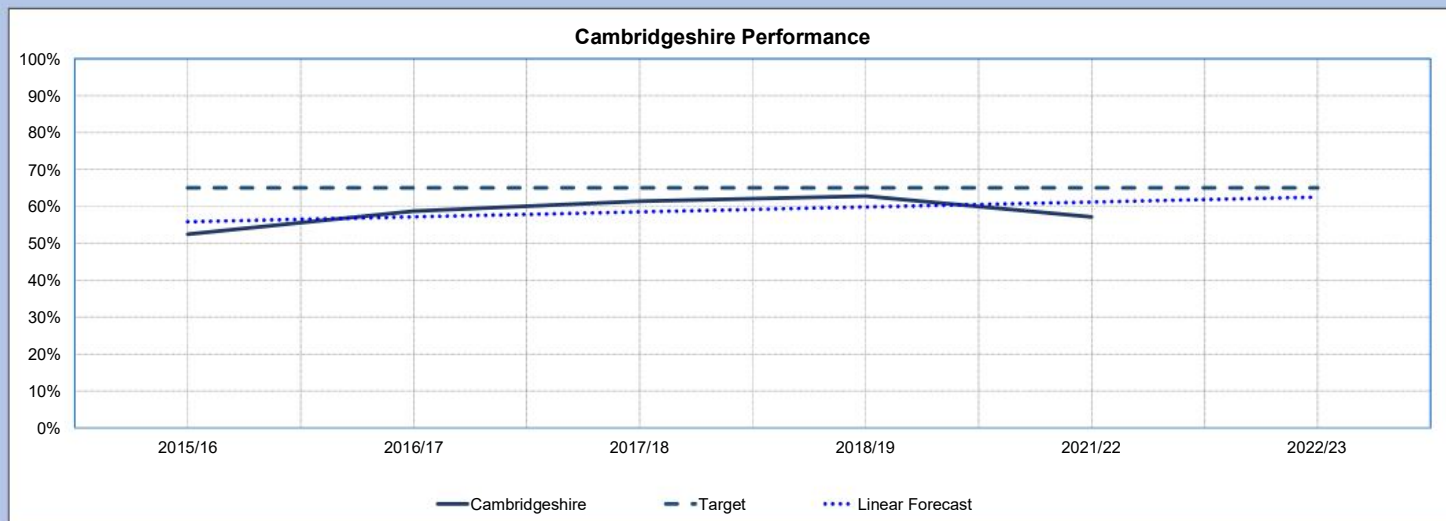
Where:

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

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

The final data for 22-23 will not be available until December 2023.

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



Commentary

Validated results for 2022/23 academic year will be shared with the CYP committee in January

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: Key Stage 2](#)

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

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

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
50.1	↑	51.7	52.7	Declining

Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating
50.4	48.9	Green

Indicator Description

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

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

Calculation:

X/Y

Where:

X = The sum of all pupils Attainment 8 scores

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

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

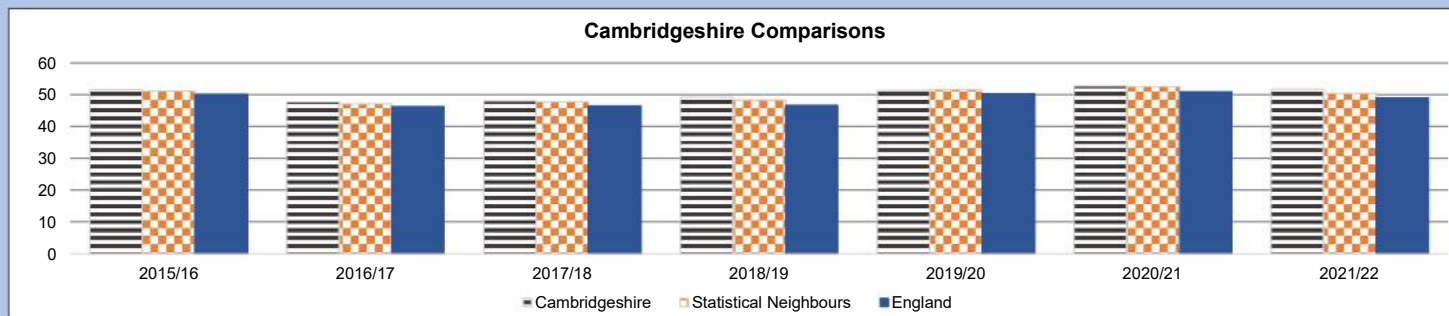
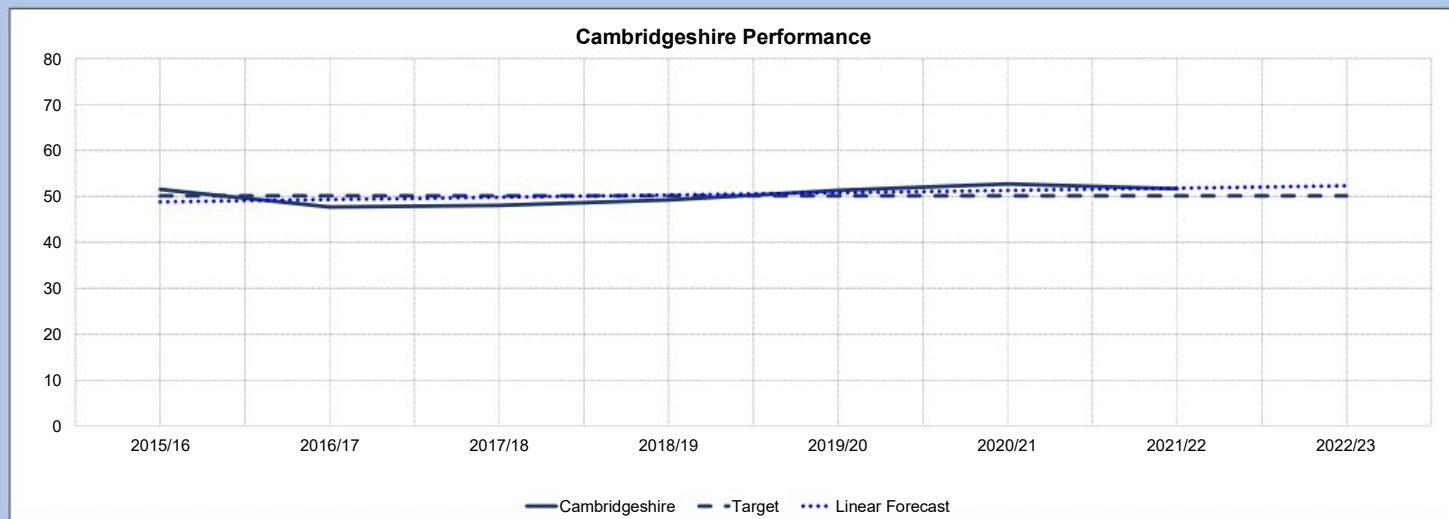
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

Validated results for 2022/23 academic year will be shared with the CYP committee in January

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
8.5%	↓	21.2%	10.6%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean 21.3%		England Mean 22.5%		RAG Rating <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">Red</div>

Indicator Description

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

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

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

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

X = The number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees.

Y = The number of enrolments.

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

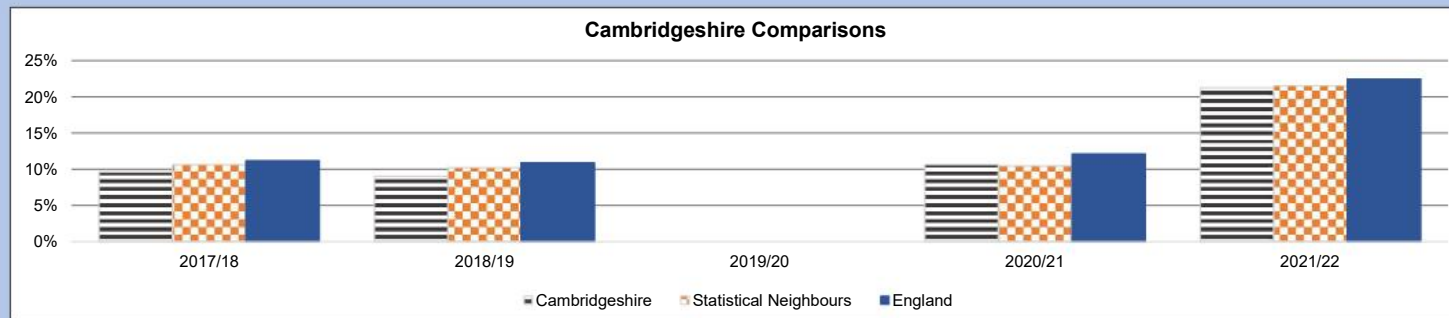
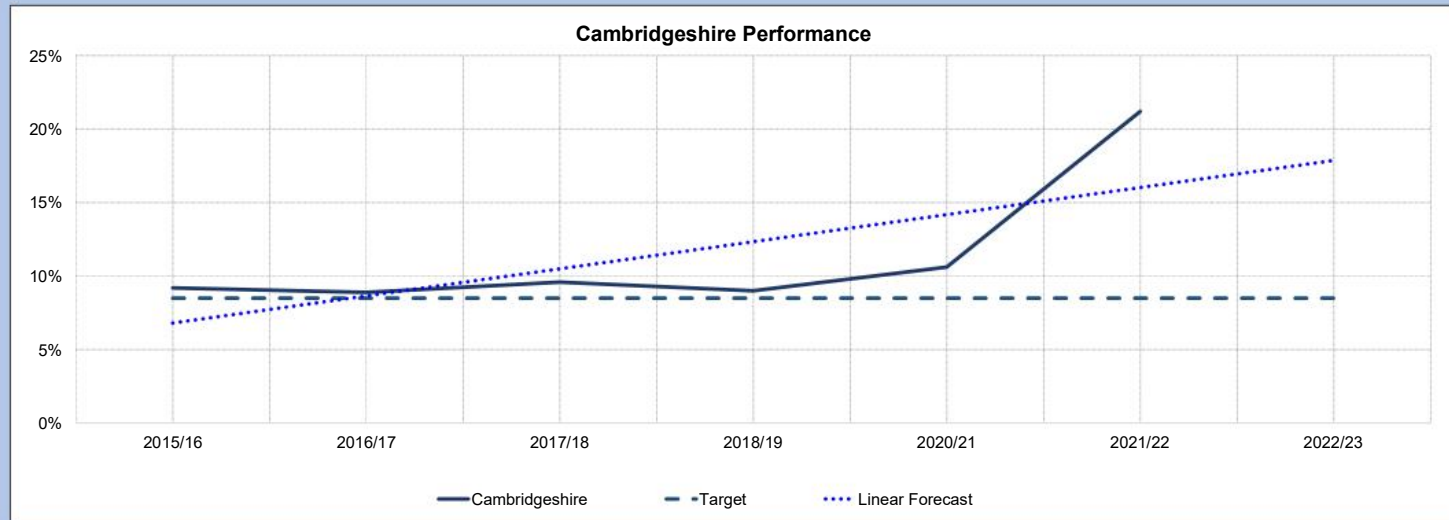
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

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

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

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



Commentary

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

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

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

Actions

The Attendance Service continues to provide interventions and support. This support aims to help schools understand the issues that cause persistent absence. It also makes sure schools intervene early to target support in the right way.

The service recently developed a weekly school helpline. This provides advice and guidance on several attendance related issues. The helpline will increase its operations during the autumn term to help schools with Covid related issues.

To encourage schools to critically reflect on their own progress and performance in relation to pupil attendance, the Attendance Service developed a comprehensive self assessment tool. This tool supports schools to determine ways to improve attendance and manage lateness. Updates have been made to add the Ofsted framework, a checklist for military families and a redesign for use with multi academy trusts

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

Indicator Description

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

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

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

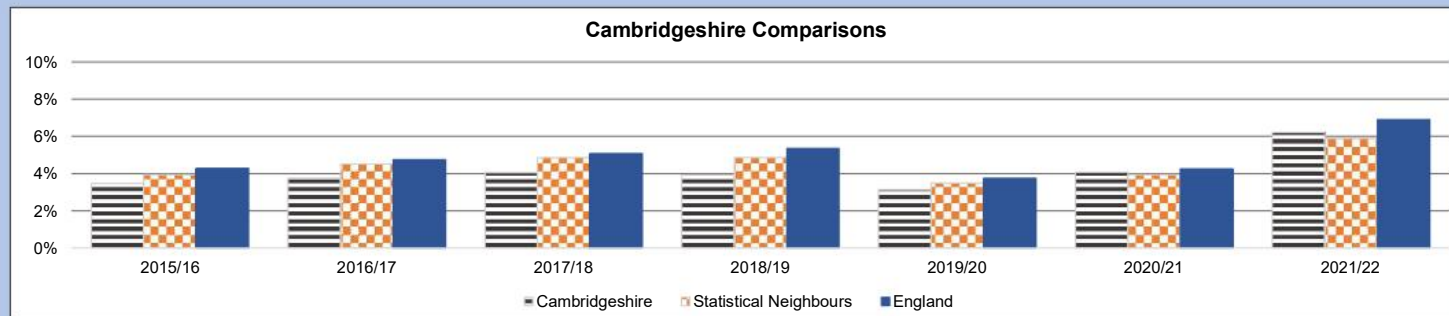
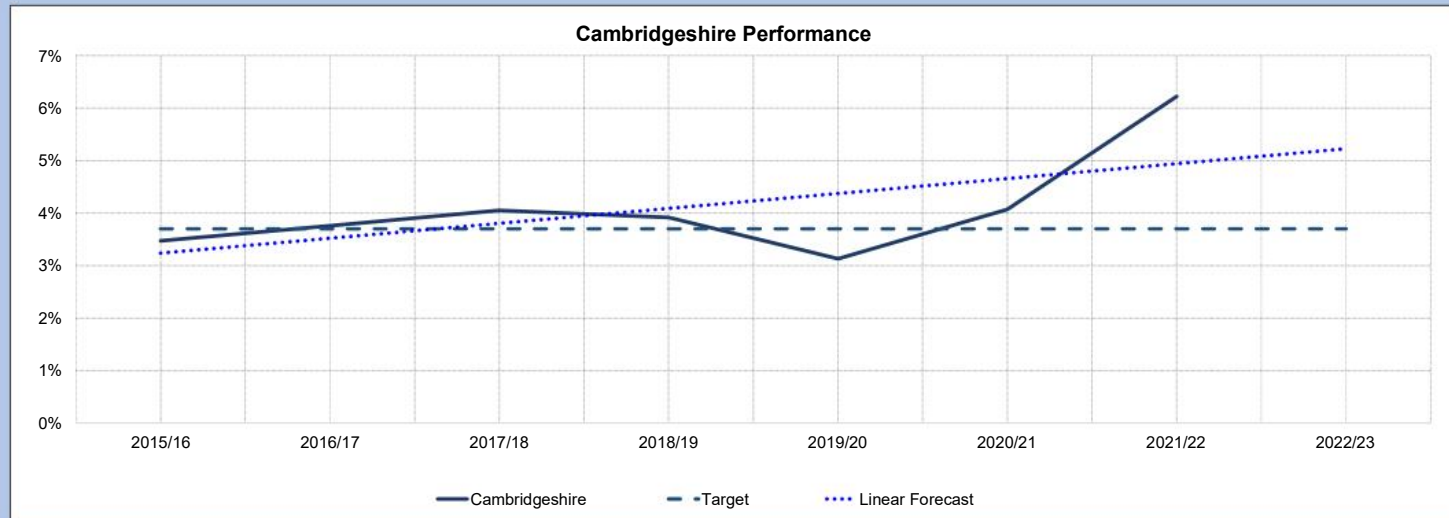
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: Exclusions](#)

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

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



Commentary

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

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

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

Actions

We continue to monitor suspension and permanent exclusion data, taking appropriate follow up when required. Our plans for new models will be consulted on with schools as part of our SEND transformation programme.

Indicator 134: Percentage receiving place at first choice school (Primary)

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
93.0%	↑	94.8%	95.0%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean 92.3%		England Mean 92.5%		RAG Rating <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Green</div>

Indicator Description

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

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

Y = The number of applications received.

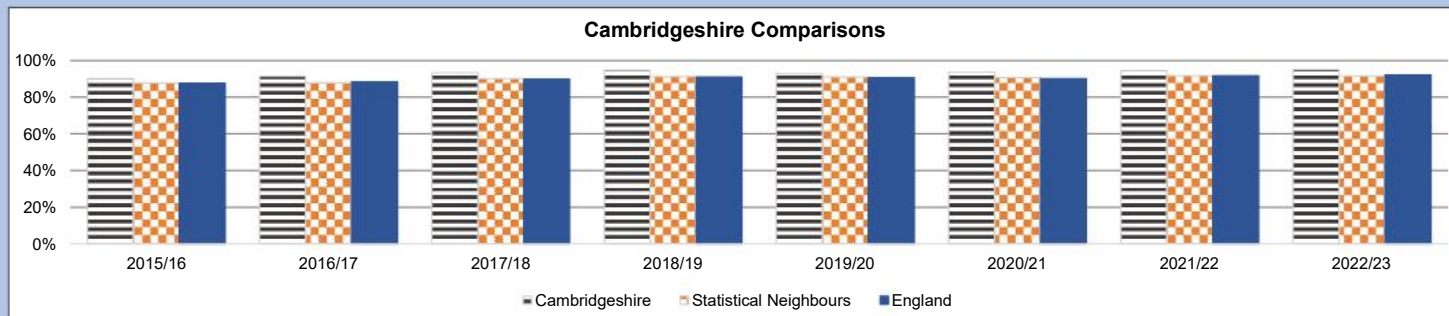
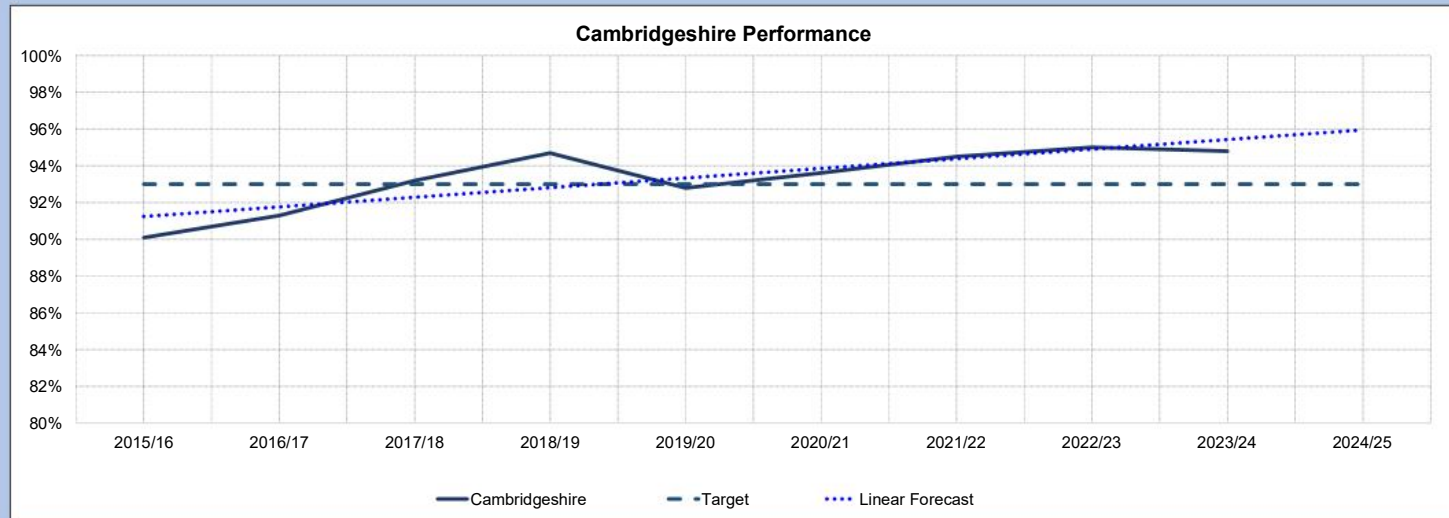
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: School Applications](#)

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

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



Commentary

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

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

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

Actions

New demographic forecasts have been sent to schools. The service continues to work with schools at an individual level to ensure there is sufficient provision whilst ensuring there is not an oversupply of places.

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Year	Previous Year	Change in Performance
91.0%	↑	86.5%	89.7%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean 85.5%		England Mean 82.6%		RAG Rating Amber

Indicator Description

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

Calculation:

$(X/Y) \times 100$

Where:

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

Y = The number of applications received.

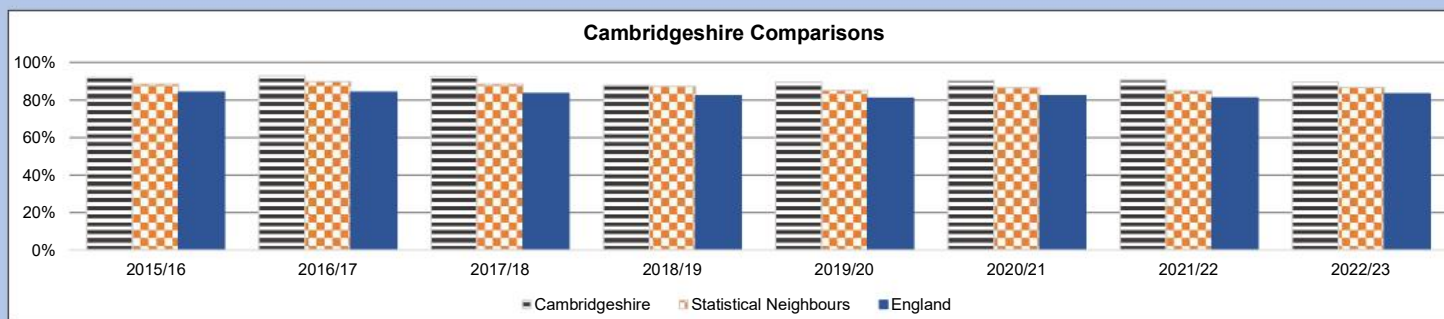
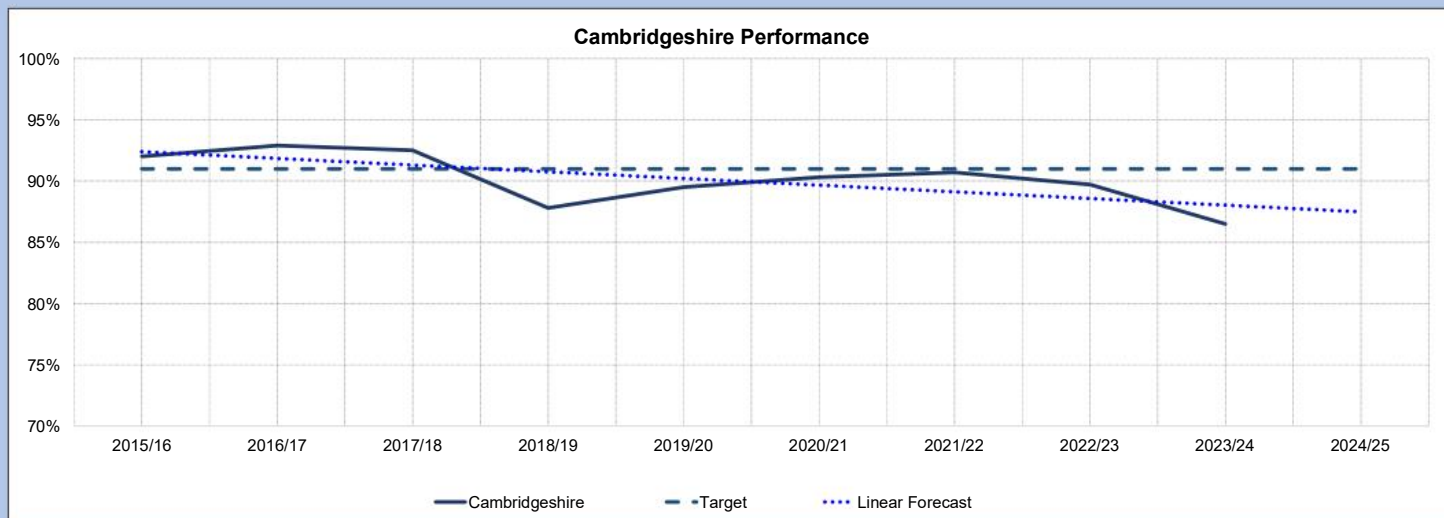
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

Useful Links

[Department for Education Statistics: School Applications](#)

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

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



Commentary

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

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

Actions

We are reviewing our updated demography position and will run an early draft allocation to establish if there are pressure points across the county. Our demographic forecasts suggest a lower intake for the next 2 years.