

Produced on: 18 September 2024



# Performance Report

## Quarter 1

### 2024/25 financial year

#### Children and Young People Committee

Governance & Performance  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
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## Key



| Data Item                               | Explanation   |
|---|---|
| <b>Target / Pro Rata Target</b>         | The target that has been set for the indicator, relevant for the reporting period   |
| <b>Current Month / Current Period</b>   | The latest performance figure relevant to the reporting period  |
| <b>Previous Month / previous period</b> | The previously reported performance figure  |
| <b>Direction for Improvement</b>        | Indicates whether 'good' performance is a higher or a lower figure  |
| <b>Change in Performance</b>            | Indicates whether performance is 'improving' or 'declining' by comparing the latest performance figure with that of the previous reporting period   |
| <b>Statistical Neighbours Mean</b>      | Provided as a point of comparison, based on the most recently available data from identified statistical neighbours.  |
| <b>England Mean</b>                     | Provided as a point of comparison, based on the most recent nationally available data   |
| <b>RAG Rating</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Red</b> – current performance is off target by more than 10%</li> <li>• <b>Amber</b> – current performance is off target by 10% or less</li> <li>• <b>Green</b> – current performance is on target by up to 5% over target</li> <li>• <b>Blue</b> – current performance exceeds target by more than 5%</li> <li>• <b>Baseline</b> – indicates performance is currently being tracked in order to inform the target setting process</li> <li>• <b>Contextual</b> – these measures track key activity being undertaken, to present a rounded view of information relevant to the service area, without a performance target.</li> <li>• <b>In Development</b> - measure has been agreed, but data collection and target setting are in development</li> </ul> |
| <b>Indicator Description</b>            | 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   |
| <b>Commentary</b>                       | Provides a narrative to explain the changes in performance within the reporting period  |
| <b>Actions</b>                          | Actions undertaken to address under-performance. Populated for 'red' indicators only  |
| <b>Useful Links</b>                     | 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%                             | ↓                         | 27.0%               | 25.0%          | Declining             |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b> |                           | <b>England Mean</b> |                | <b>RAG Rating</b>     |
| 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 provide 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.

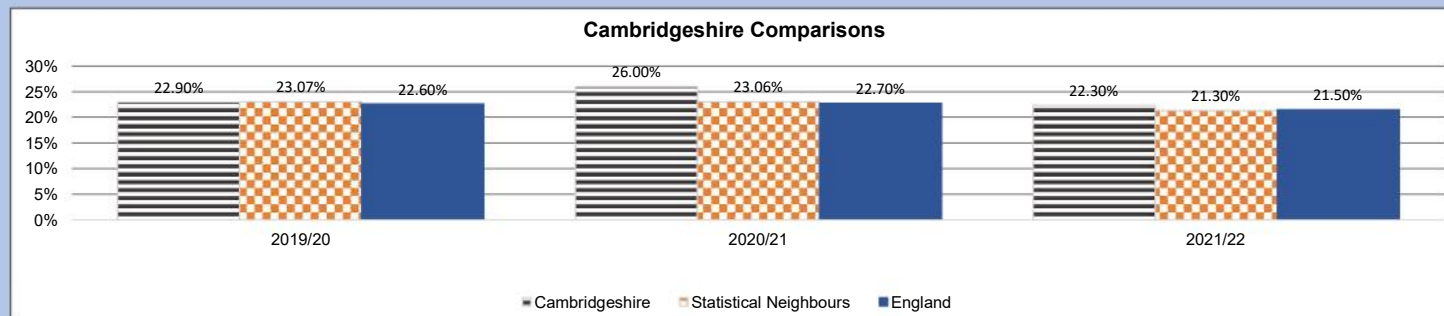
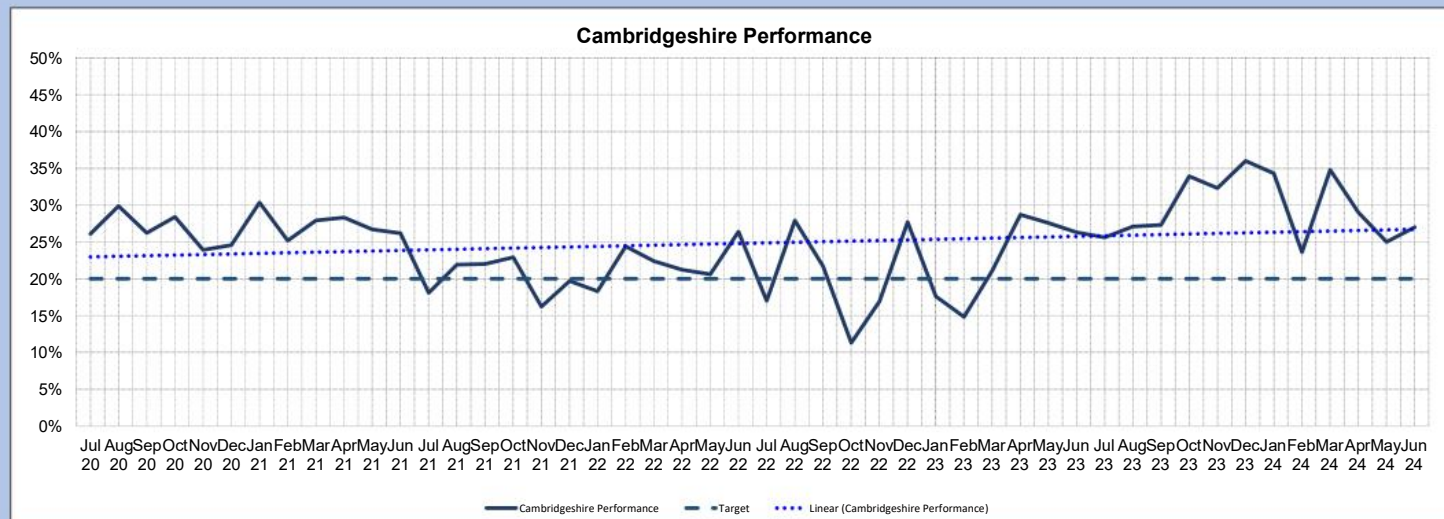
Sources: Department for Education; Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT); Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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 have been inconsistent between 25%-34% which is above our neighbours' statistical mean of 21.3%. Audits in August completed by Quality Assurance suggest that threshold application is improving and the quality of assessment in some cases are good whilst some are inconsistent with significant delays in the assessment being completed. Whilst this feedback is encouraging about the progress being made, there will need to be continued focus on assessment analysis and the use of family chronologies so that there is a more consistent response to the risk and needs identified in referrals and a reduction in re-referrals.

**Actions**

- Quality Assurance unit and the service to undertake a further audit of re-referrals to support the focus and identified areas of improvement.
- The service will work with L&D to roll out further training on the importance of using chronology and analysis in reaching an informed decision on cases and focusing on the risk of cumulative harm to children.B22
- Continued focus on ensuring that case transfers are smooth so that there is better joined up work when case work is transitioning from one team to another. Similarly, when cases are stepping down to services, there is Continued focus on the Quality of handovers to support relationship building and assist the receiving worker in focusing on the identified needs of the family.

| Target                                    | Direction for Improvement | Current Month               | Previous Month | Change in Performance   |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
| 21.1                                      | ↓                         | 31.4                        | 32.0           | Improving   |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b><br>38.1 |                           | <b>England Mean</b><br>42.1 |                | <b>RAG Rating</b><br><div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">Red</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.

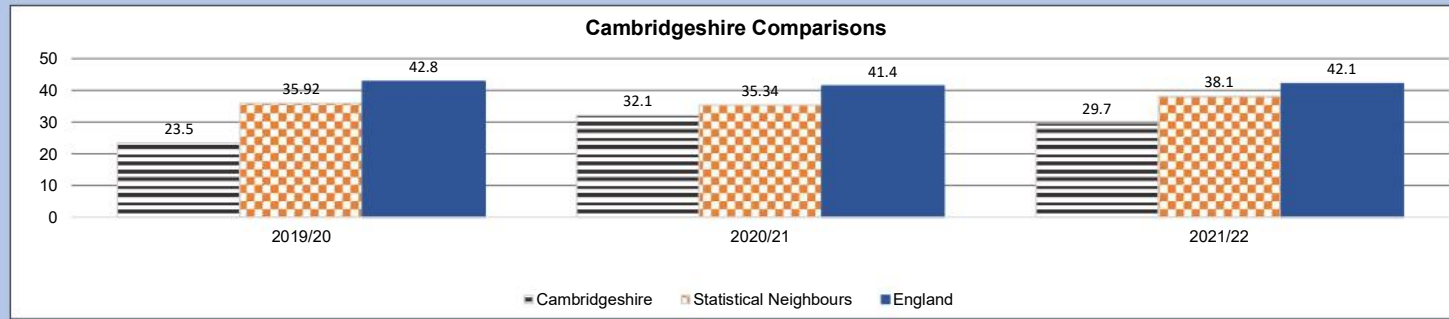
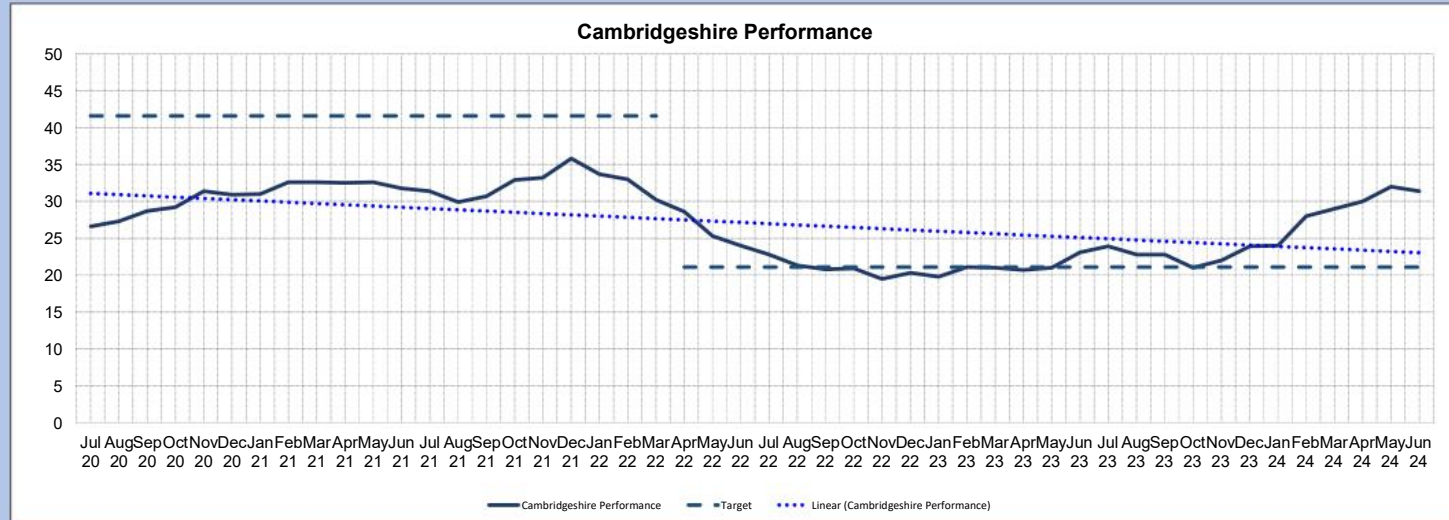
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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**

At the end of Q1 2024 the number of Cambridgeshire children per 10,000 subject to a CP Plan was in the higher range when comparing this figure with statistical numbers, smaller is deemed to be better. During October 2023 there was a rise in numbers which plateaued during December 2023 and January 2024. A further rise in numbers was seen during February 2024 and May 2024 with a slight decline June 2024. Work undertaken to help understand the rise in numbers has shown that whilst some Initial Child Protection Conferences requested result in a Child In Need Plan these numbers are low indicating the correct children are being brought to an Initial Child Protection Conference and made subject to a CP Plan. On going work will continue to understand children's journeys and previous involvement by the service and partners.

**Actions**

| Target                            | Direction for Improvement | Current Month     | Previous Month | Change in Performance |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 40.0                              | ↓                         | 47.8              | 47.0           | Declining             |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b> | <b>England Mean</b>       | <b>RAG Rating</b> |                |                       |
| 53.1                              | 67.0                      | <b>Red</b>        |                |                       |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

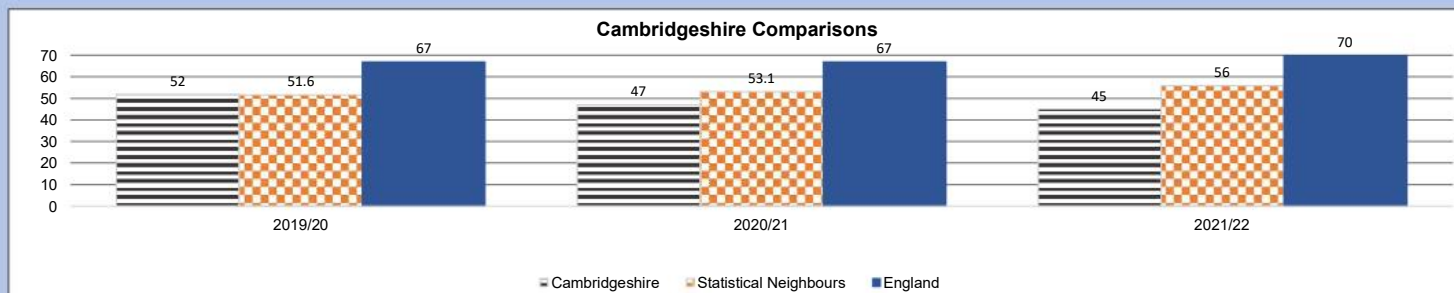
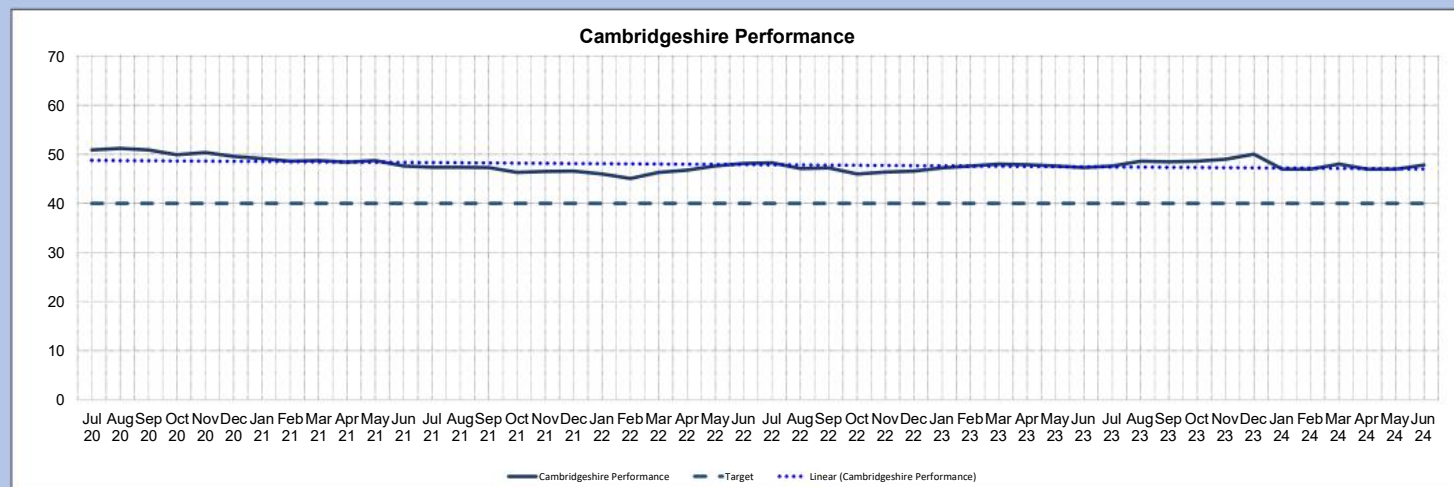
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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**

The number of children in care continues to slowly rise, although Cambridgeshire remains below both its statistical neighbours and the England average. A significant rise has been observed in older adolescents with complex needs who have experienced considerable trauma, who present with challenging behaviours. The service are proactive in supporting our children through long-term care arrangements and, where required we commissions specialist services to provide timely support and facilitate recovery. In parallel, the service consistently explores reunification options where appropriate. The service strives to secure permanency for children at the earliest opportunity through adoption plans or applications for Child Arrangements Orders or Special Guardianship Orders.

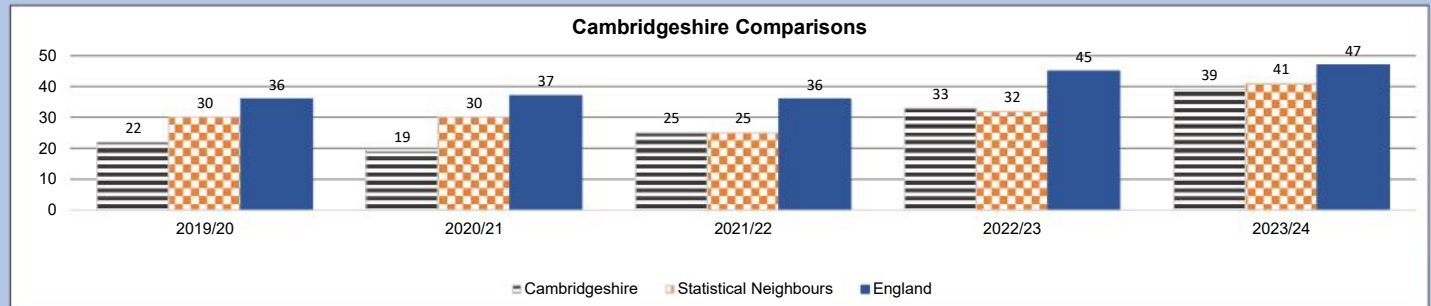
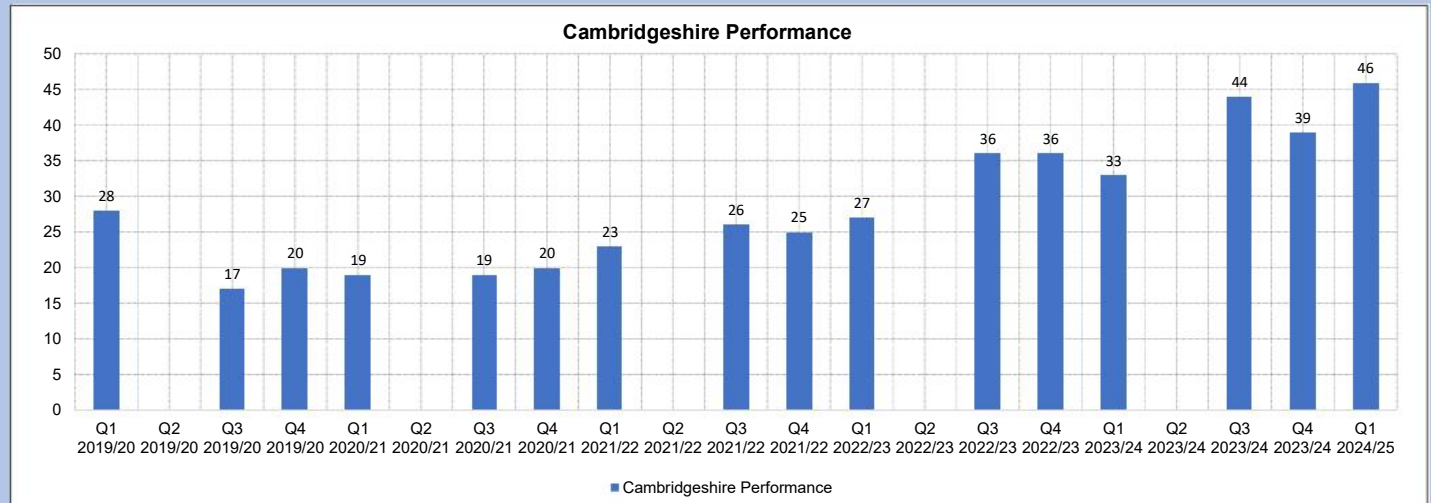
**Actions**

The service continues to review children's placements at the weekly panel to track cases and ensure children are provided the right support at the right time. The service continues strive to find adoptive and SGO placements for children. Where possible family options such as connected persons assessments are completed. We continue to have a focus on reunification at the earliest opportunity where it is safe to do so.

| Target                     | Direction for Improvement | Current Quarter   | Previous Quarter | Change in Performance |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Contextual                 | ↓                         | 46.0              | 39.0             | Declining             |
| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean              | RAG Rating        |                  |                       |
| 41.0                       | 47.0                      | <b>Contextual</b> |                  |                       |

**Indicator Description**

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



**Commentary**

The actual number of SEND young people who are NEET or not known situation is 69 young people with a % of 9.3% of all SEND young people aged 16-17. This is an increase of 7 young people and 1.0% from last quarter. These figures are higher than previous years and have been steadily increasing over last 3 years. The figures this quarter are positive in comparison with local and statistical neighbours average which are 11.0% and 10.0% respectively. Part of the reason for increased numbers in NEET is due to lack of suitable provision for post 16 especially foundation learning and alternative education provision. The number of alternative education provision for post 16 has been declining in recent years and this has impacted on the NEET figures for SEND young people. A new Post 16 commissioning framework is being developed which will hopefully help to improve these figures together with the work being developed Countywide around our approach to increasing provision to support young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.

**Useful Links**

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

**Actions**



| Target | Direction for Improvement | Current Month | Previous Month | Change in Performance |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 100.0% | ↑                         | 100.0%        | 100.0%         | Unchanged             |

| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean | RAG Rating |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 100.0%                     | 97.9%        | Green      |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$(X/Y)*100$

Where:

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

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

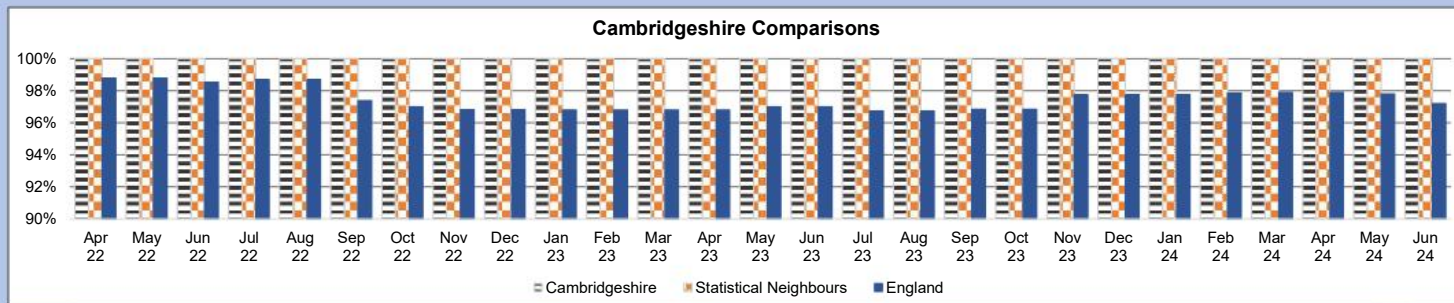
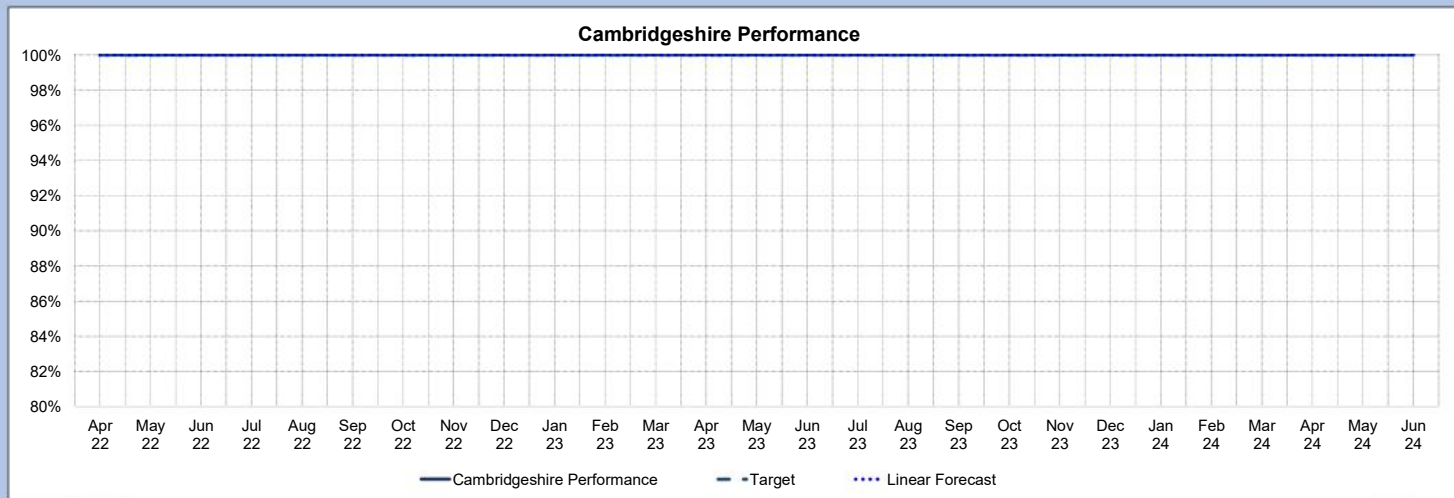
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

There are 7 maintained nursery schools in Cambridgeshire. All have been judged by Ofsted to be either Good or Outstanding.

One maintained nursery school was inspected in Q1 and achieved a Good outcome, following an ungraded Section 8 inspection in the previous year.

**Actions**

| Target                                     | Direction for Improvement | Current Month                | Previous Month | Change in Performance   |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 90.0%                                      | ↑                         | 91.9%                        | 92.4%          | Declining   |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b><br>92.2% |                           | <b>England Mean</b><br>92.9% |                | <b>RAG Rating</b><br><div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Green</div> |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

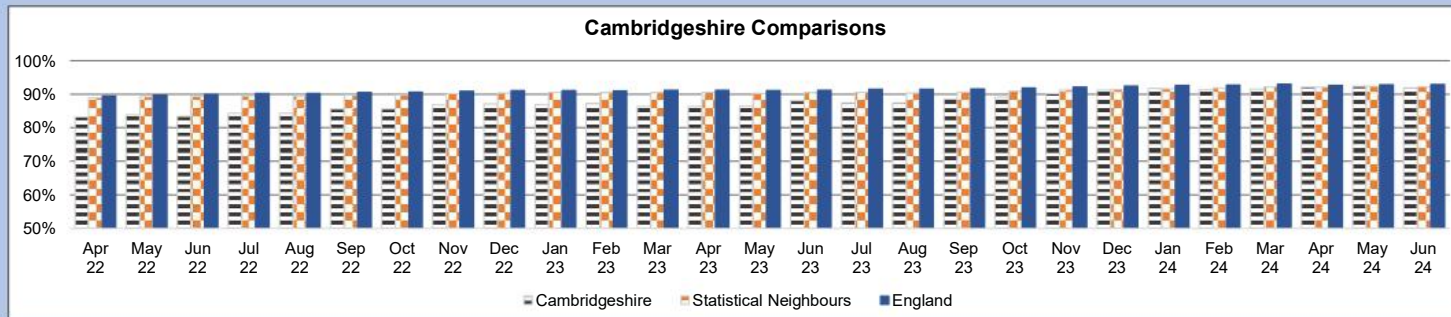
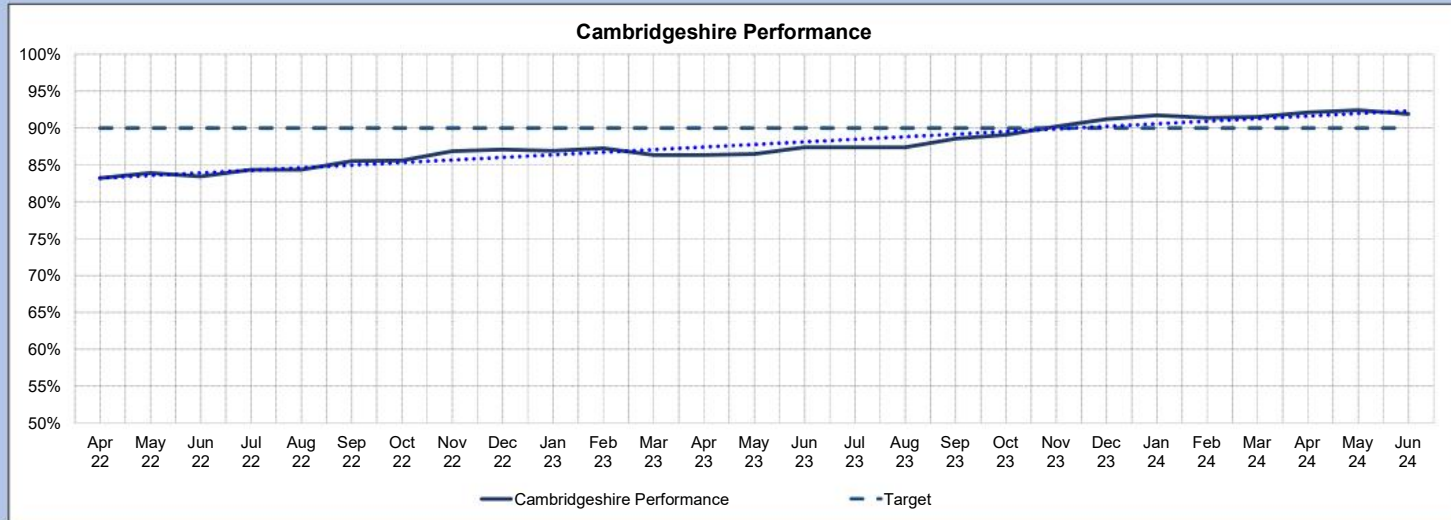
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

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

**Actions**



| Target | Direction for Improvement | Current Month | Previous Month | Change in Performance |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 90.0%  | ↑                         | 91.3%         | 84.4%          | Improving             |

| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean | RAG Rating |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 91.6%                      | 85.5%        | Green      |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$(X/Y)*100$

Where:

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

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

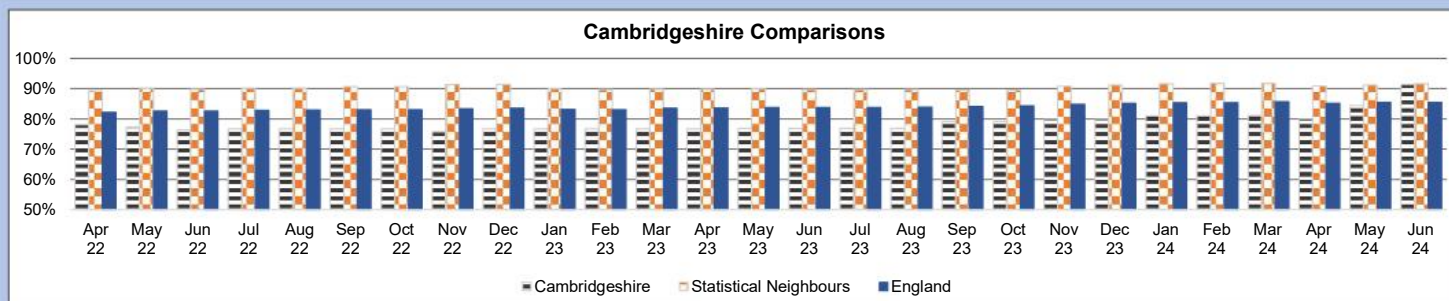
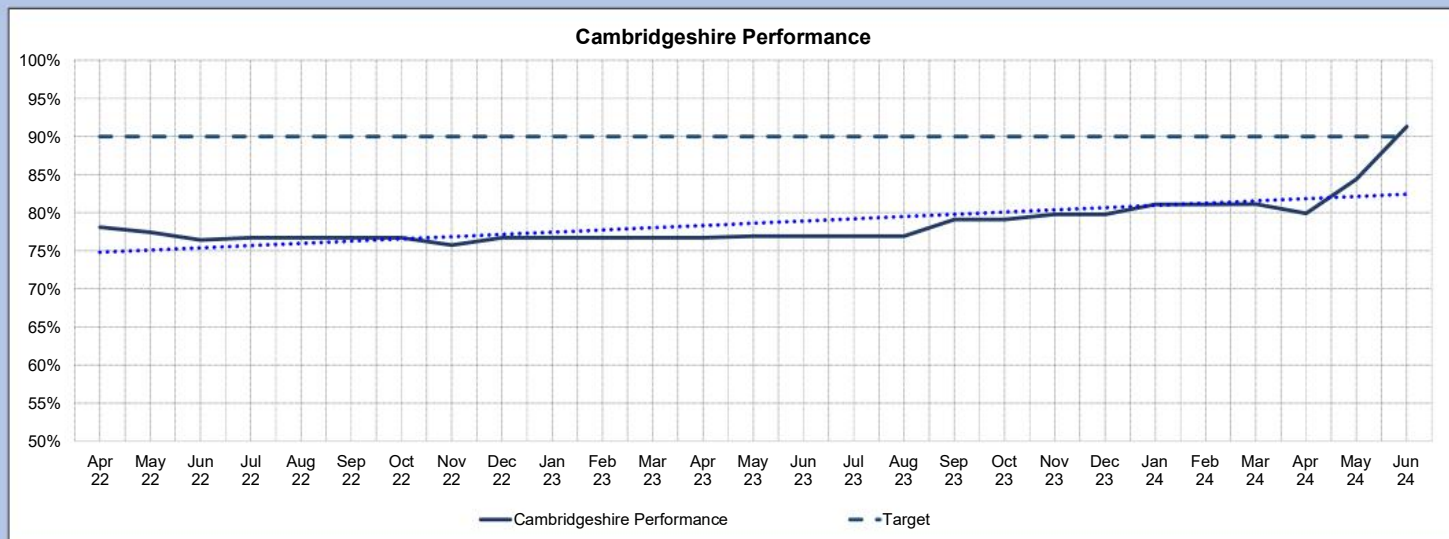
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

All secondary schools in the county are Academies. All but two schools are part of multi-academy trusts with the remaining two set up as single academy trusts (SATs). The overall level of schools which are good or better is of concern. The service is awaiting publication of Ofsted reports from two schools who were previously judged as requiring improvement. 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% | ↑                         | 62.9%         | 88.5%          | Declining             |

| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean | RAG Rating |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 89.2%                      | 92.0%        | Red        |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

$(X/Y) \times 100$

Where:

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

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

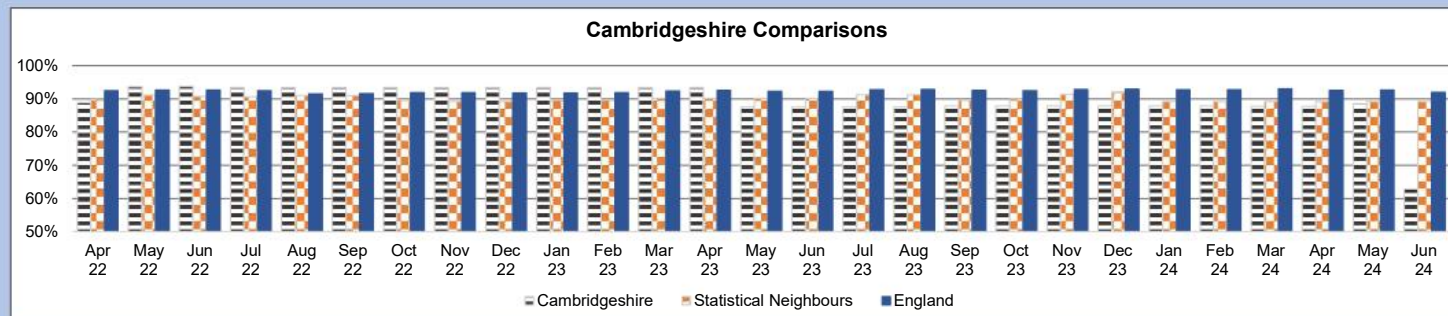
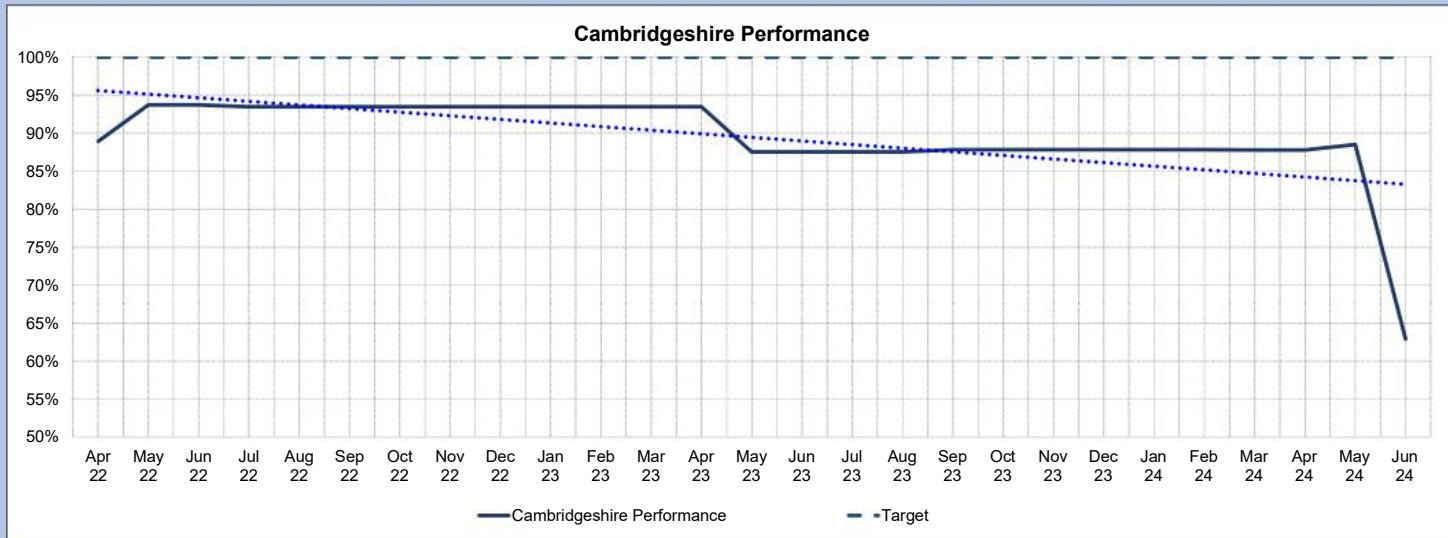
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

There is strong work between special schools in Cambridgeshire. One school, which is requires improvement, has recently moved Trust and is making positive progress towards 'good'. The one school from 2019 that has a legacy judgement of 'inadequate' has since been reinspected in January of this year. The improvements resulted in a judgement of requiring improvement overall with good in 3 of the 4 areas.

**Actions**

| Target                              | Direction for Improvement | Current Term          | Previous Term | Change in Performance  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--|
| 75.0%                               | ↑                         | 78.9%                 | 74.6%         | Improving  |
| Statistical Neighbour Mean<br>78.4% |                           | England Mean<br>74.8% |               | RAG Rating<br><div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">Blue</div> |

**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.

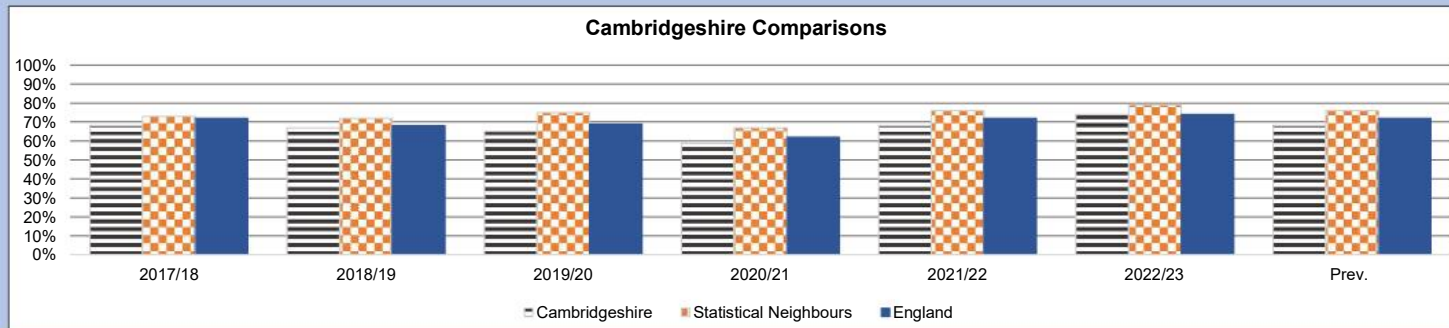
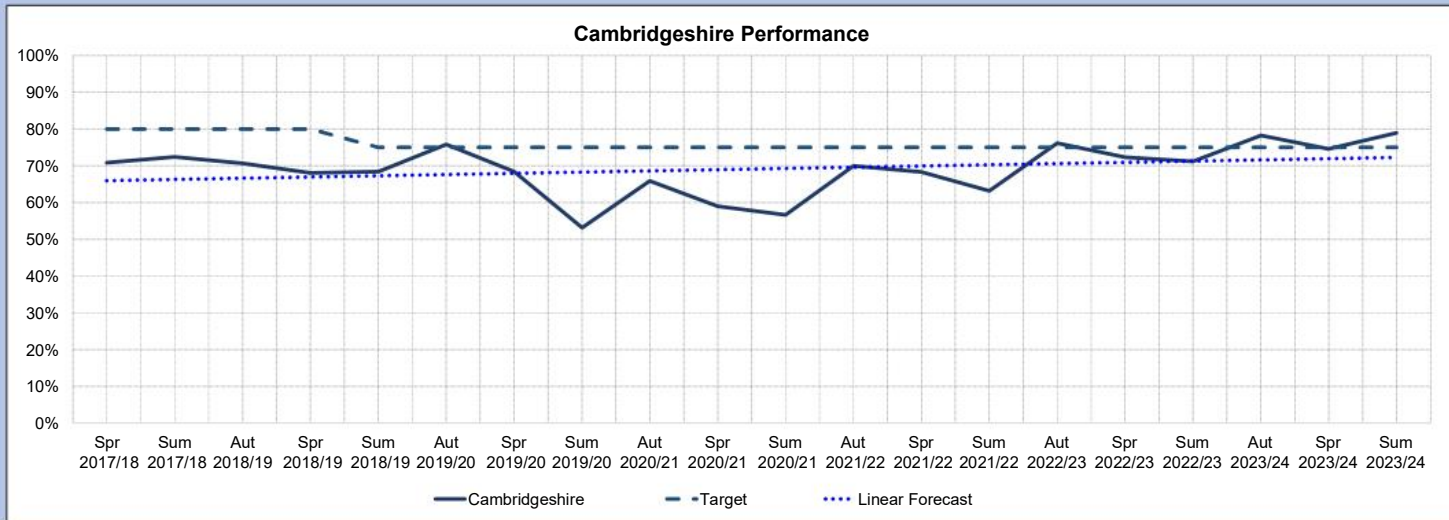
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

The proportion of families taking up their two-year funded offer (due to disadvantage) is increasing, however there are barriers to accessing provision (some families are unsure how to use their free code, some settings do not offer places until children have attained a minimum age and DWP data doesn't match data held by CCC meaning we are unable to let families know of eligibility)

The current percentage of children taking up Funded Two places in Cambridgeshire is 73.2%, which is slightly below the national percentage of 74.8%. In comparison to our statistical neighbours Cambridgeshire remains 8th out of 11 (improved from 10th out of 11 in 2021). The number of children eligible for two-year-old funding due to disadvantage has fallen since 2022, and whilst our take up rate is lower than national it is increasing and the gap between Cambridgeshire and National has narrowed by 2.4% in the past five years.

The expansion of 15 funded hours to two year olds of working families, starting in April 2024 had minimal impact on the take up of Funded two places due to disadvantage. There has been a slightly lower take up in Summer 2024 of funded two places (802 as opposed to 822 in Summer 2023), however this is in line with the decrease in eligibility and shows that funded 2 places do not seem to have been impacted by the expanded working two offer.

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.

**Actions**

| Target                            | Direction for Improvement | Current Month     | Previous Month | Change in Performance |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 25.0                              | ↓                         | 44.0              | 50.0           | Improving             |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b> | <b>England Mean</b>       | <b>RAG Rating</b> |                |                       |
| 41.1                              | 44.8                      | <b>Red</b>        |                |                       |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

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

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

Calculation:

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

Where:

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

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

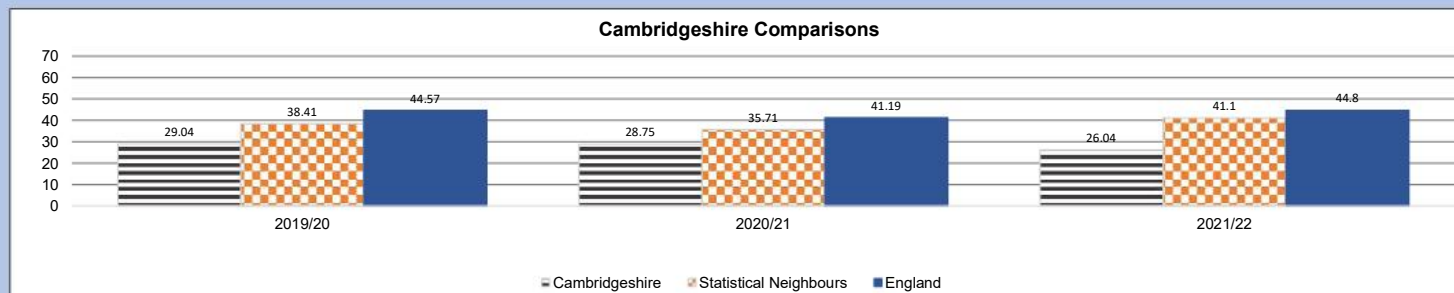
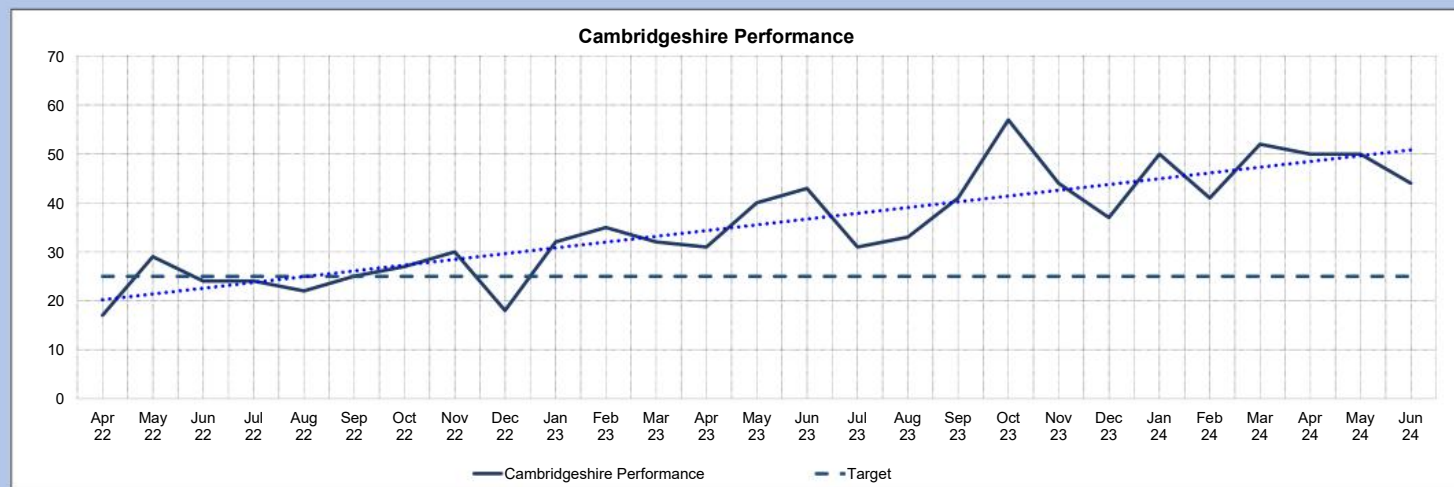
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

The number of referrals in the last 3 years have been stable but high in comparison with statistical neighbours. The statistical mean for neighbours is 41.1 whilst we had 44.0 in the month of July and 50.0 in August 2024. A lot of work has taken place in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in order to improve partner agencies decision-making. Focussed work has taken place on sharing of information and streamlining of the referral process, which has included refreshing the MASH manual and threshold document. We are beginning to see the improvement in the work undertaken by the MASH as a significant number of cases are progressing to early help for support where safeguarding intervention is not required.

**Actions**

MASH have streamlined the referral process and this remains under constant review. Rejection of contacts with no consent is now embedded in the practice. MASH Manual has been formerly agreed and signed off by the Safeguarding Board and implemented. A revised threshold document is under review by the partnership. Work with partners to reinforce the need to obtain consent is ongoing. The identification of support for low level needs is transferred directly to the Early Help Hub.



Indicator 117: Proportion of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time

[Return to Index](#)

September 2024

| Target                            | Direction for Improvement | Current Month     | Previous Month | Change in Performance |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 21.0%                             | ↓                         | 8.9%              | 6.9%           | Declining             |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b> | <b>England Mean</b>       | <b>RAG Rating</b> |                |                       |
| 24.6%                             | 23.3%                     | <b>Blue</b>       |                |                       |

**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:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

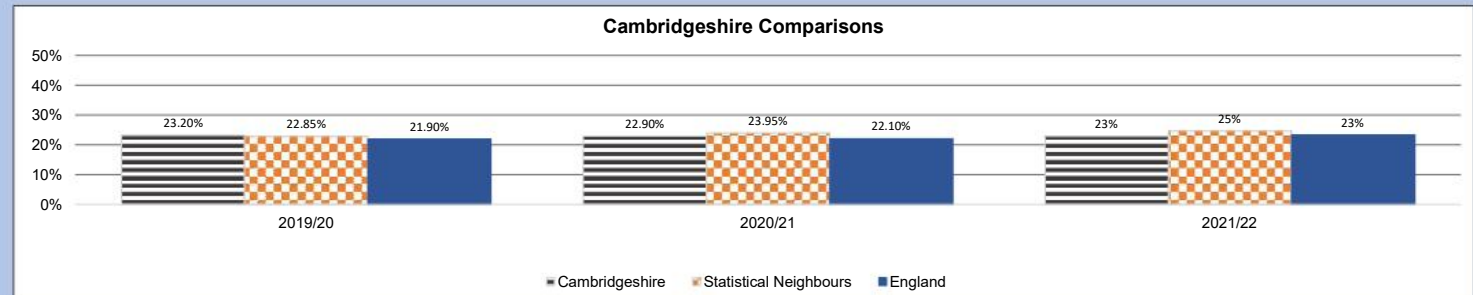
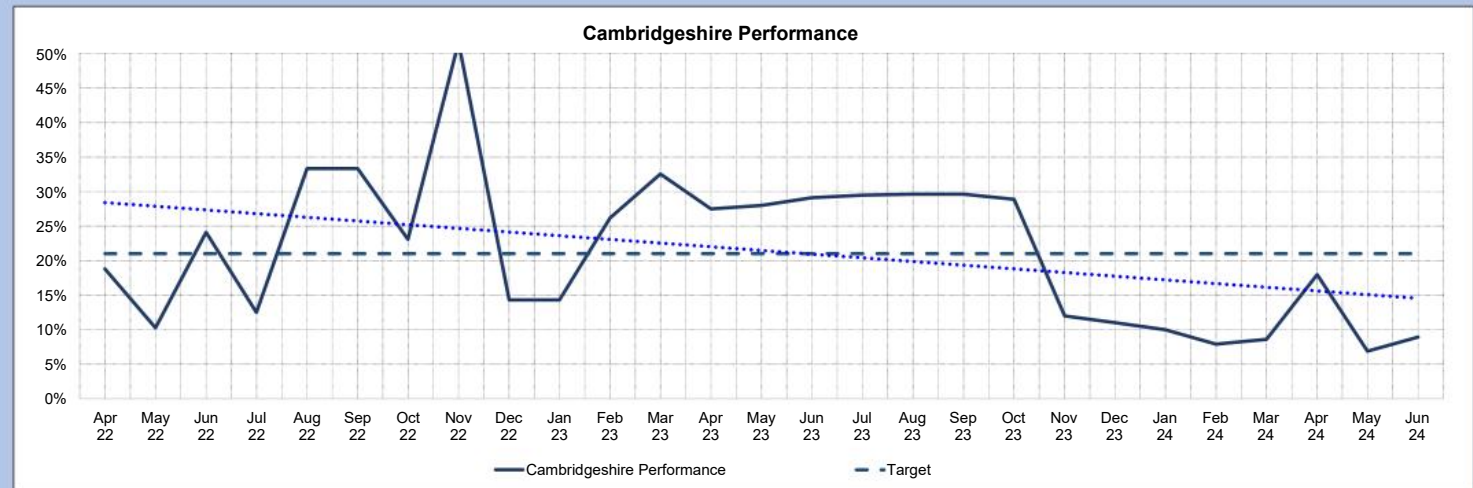
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

The number of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second period spiked in October 2023 but reduced to comparable levels during November and December 2023 and January and February 2024. At the end of Quarter 4 there was an increase in the number of children made subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second time. This number spiked further during April and reduced during May and June.

When comparing with statistical neighbours the rate of repeat Child Protection Plans for Cambridgeshire children is in the higher mid-range.

Work continues to review repeat periods of Child Protection. Findings show during Quarter 1 the shortest period of time children were subject to a Child Protection Plan before step down was 6 months and the longest period of time children were subject to a Child Protection Plan before step down was 16 months. A review of children's journeys will continue to help understand reasons for repeat Child Protection.

**Actions**



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

[Return to Index](#)

September 2024

| Target            | Direction for Improvement         | Current Quarter     | Previous Quarter  | Change in Performance |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 3.94              | ↓                                 | 1.59                | 3.83  | Improving             |
| Cambs Mean Yearly | Statistical Neighbour Mean Yearly | England Mean Yearly | RAG Rating  |                       |
| 15.9              | 13.2                              | 16.1                | <span style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px;">Blue</span> |                       |

**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:

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

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.

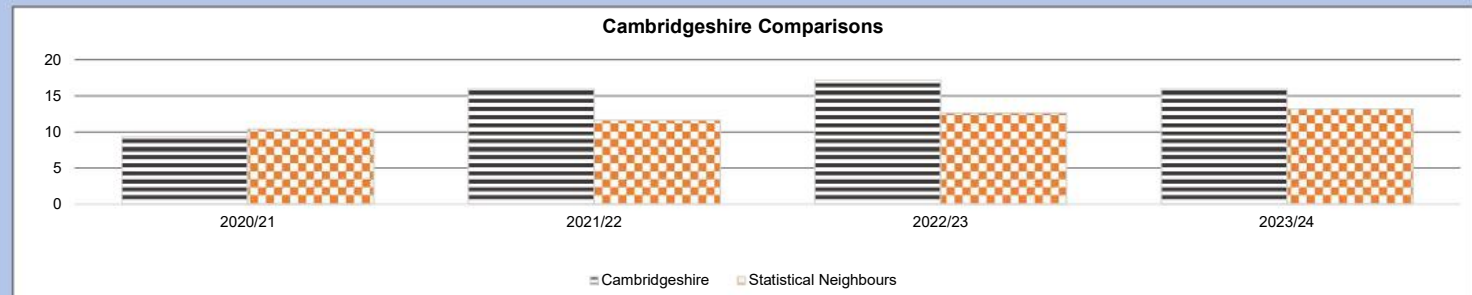
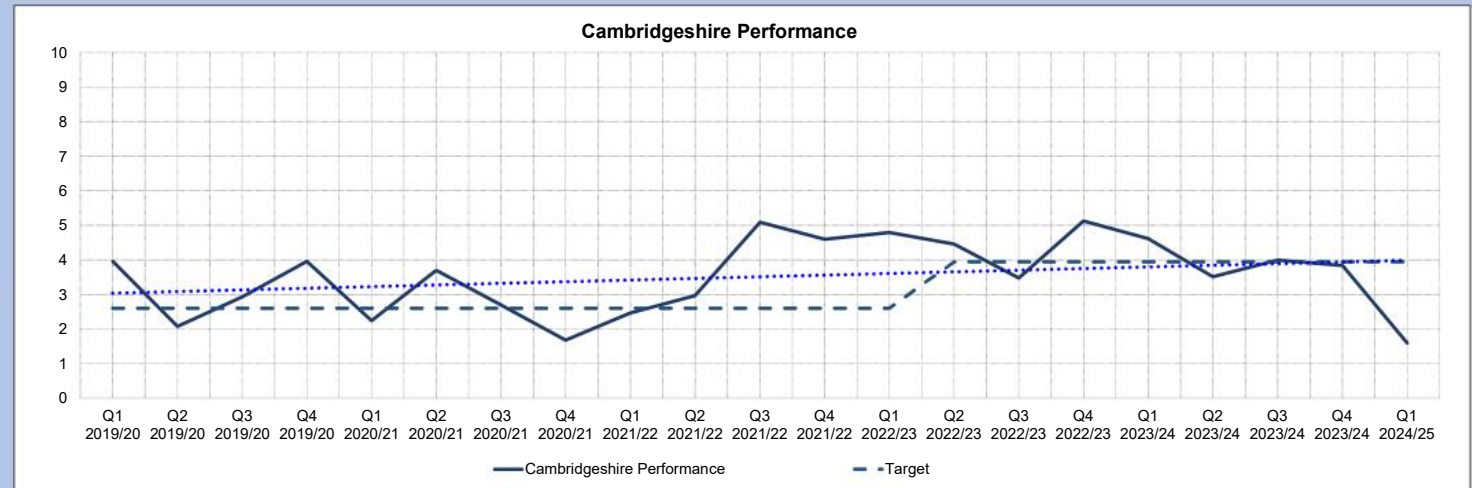
Sources: Ministry of Justice; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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**

There has been a very significant decrease this quarter from last quarter and overall Cambridgeshire's figures remain similar to regional and national comparators. The Youth Justice Service have received Turnaround funding for 2 years to deliver targeted prevention work through the Diversion Support Team / Turnaround work that specifically focuses on prevention activity. The team started delivering interventions at the start of last financial year, this earlier intervention with young people at high risk of becoming involved in offending will have directly positively impacted the FTE performance measure. An evaluation of the DST / Turnaround is currently being carried out locally and nationally and the initial findings are extremely positive with focussed intervention so far leading to very few young people going on to offend. This financial year there have been two additional DST posts set up from police Hot Spot funding which is in place just for this financial year. This has been providing significant additionality to the prevention and diversion work. The reduction in FTEs is also linked to a greater use of diversion of young people to informal outcomes through the Out of Court decision making panel following the new Youth Justice Board Case Management Guidance on the use of Out of Court Disposals. This work continues following the recent HMIP inspection of Youth Justice with greater focus on earlier interventions managed jointly with the Constabulary as part of updated working and processes.

**Actions**

The greatest challenge is that the funding for the Diversion Support Team through Turnaround and Hot Spot policing is ending in March 25 as it is fixed term. It is hoped that this may be extended from Government following the general election but this is very uncertain in the current national economic climate. This would be a huge loss as the impact of the DST is very profound across Children's Services and partner agencies, and impact being able to deliver skilled and targeted interventions to those at risk of offending. Funding is being explored for this as a priority as the loss of this team would be very negative for this whole area as well as the performance measures themselves. The current picture of Local Authority funding does mean though that it is highly unlikely that there will be additional funding from this source. There was some funding potentially allocated within the core YJS budget but currently this is earmarked to be removed as part of 10% reductions of the LA contribution to the YJS budget, meaning that there is no alternate funding available at this time. It is expected that there will be some challenge from the YJ Management Board in relation to the proposed budget reductions though the board have limited direct influence around LA decision making in this regard. Following the recent HMIP inspection there has been a particular action plan priority on Out Of Court work which makes up the majority of Youth Justice interventions now. Extensive work has taken place on updated protocols and processes which allows for a much more effective and 'Child First' approach to this work. The updated policies and processes are now approved and in place leading to a more coherent

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

[Return to Index](#)

September 2024

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

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$(X/Y) \times 100$

Where:

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

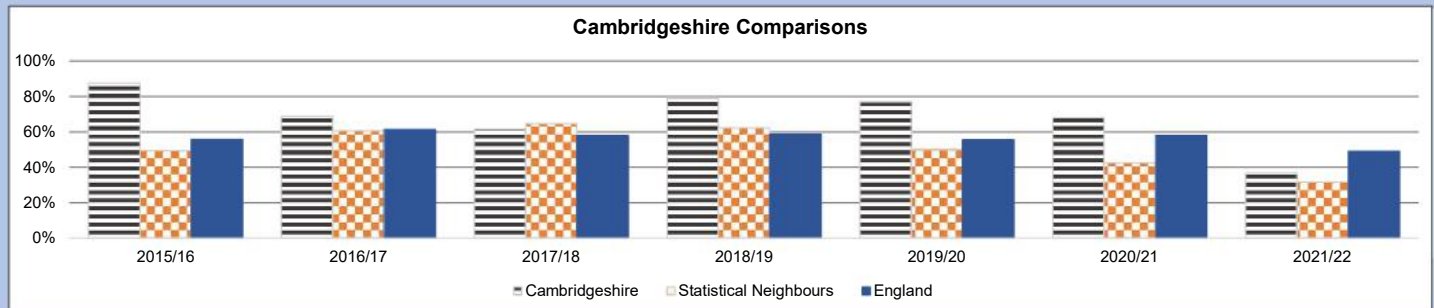
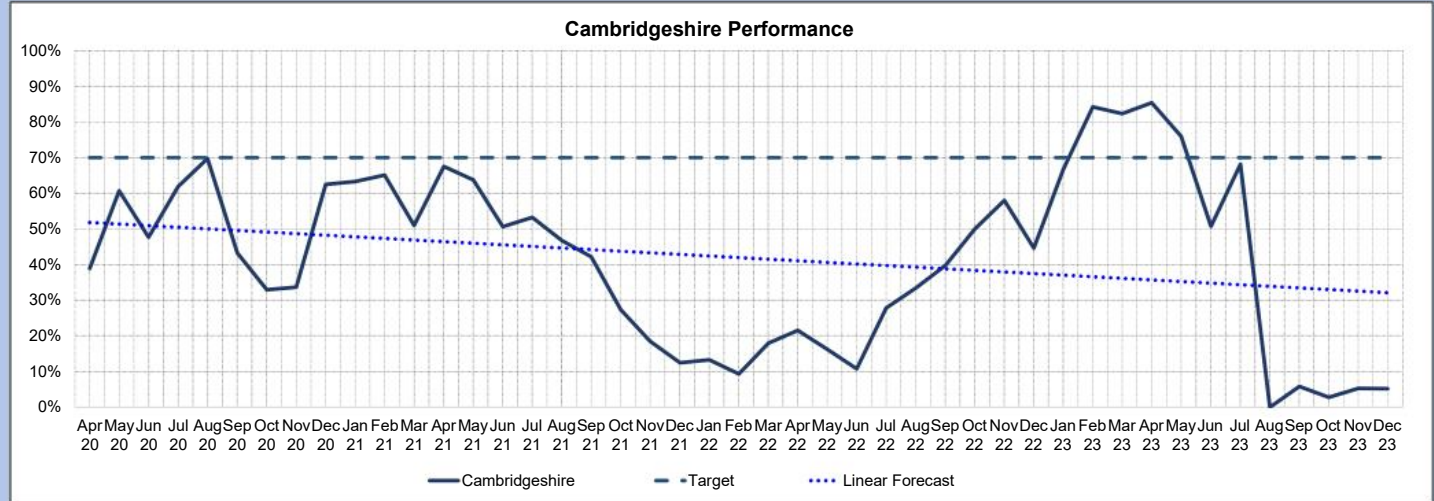
Y = The number of Education, Health and Care plans assessments issued within the month.

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

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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



**Commentary**

Following the introduction of the Impulse Nexus system, which went live on 13 May 2024, there was a phase of data migration which concluded in August and any remaining migration work has been moved onto small works briefs to be monitored by the Education Systems Programme Board.

Work is now being undertaken to build reporting functionality linked to the new system. A further update will be provided to this committee in the next iteration of the quarterly performance report due in January 2025.

**Actions**

| Target                     | Direction for Improvement | Current Month     | Previous Month | Change in Performance |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Contextual                 | ↓                         | 326.0             | 327.0          | Improving             |
| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean              | RAG rating        |                |                       |
| 578.0                      | 539.0                     | <b>Contextual</b> |                |                       |

**Indicator Description**

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

Calculation:

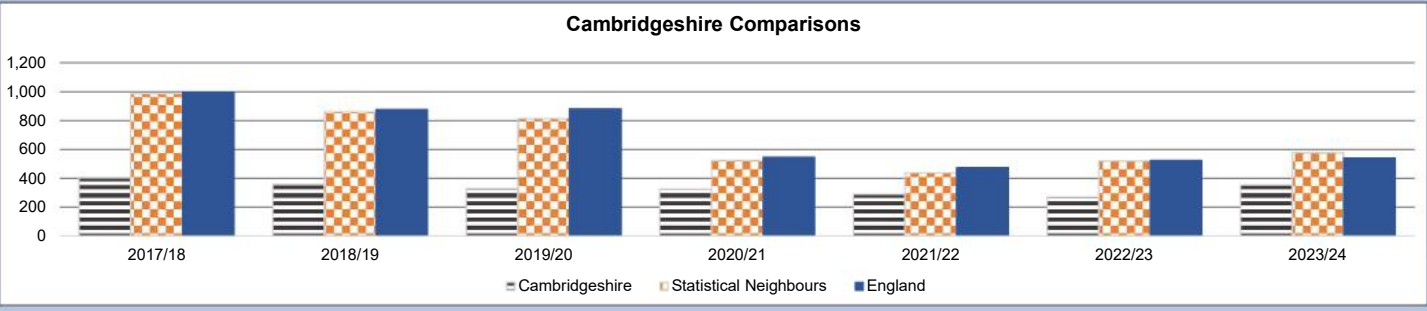
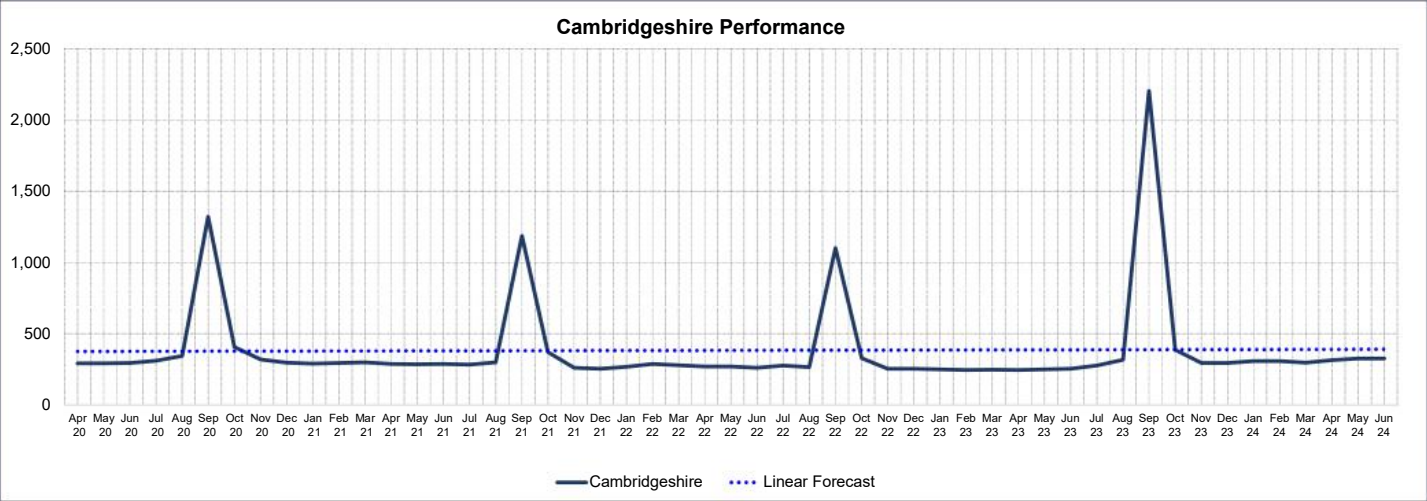
$(X/Y) * 10,000$

Where:

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

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

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



**Commentary**

The number of young people with a situation of NEET or not known in June 2024 was 481 making a % of 3.6%. This is a slight reduction from previous month, however is a slight increase from the last quarter in March 2024 by 16 young people. It is usual for this time of year for NEET figures to increase slightly as young people start to consider what they may go on to do in September and September Guarantee processes kick in around support for that. In comparison with local and statistical neighbours (5.5% and 5.8% respectively) Cambridgeshire's result is better than those averages which is largely due to the very low numbers that are not known and the great work of our client researchers tracking our young people. Cambridgeshire's NEET figures over the last few years have stayed stable, however the figures this year have increased slightly. Other local authorities are also reporting on increases of NEET figures as well. There has been a number of alternative training provisions and funding stopping for providers from central government over the last few years and this has had an impact on the NEET figures. The strategy that is being developed includes a key strategic objective to identify more provision for young people who cannot attend mainstream further education provision.

**Useful Links**

- [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 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 65.0%                      | ↑                         | 57.9%        | 58.0%         | Declining             |
| Statistical Neighbour Mean |                           | England Mean |               | RAG Rating            |
| 58.9%                      |                           | 59.8%        |               | Red                   |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

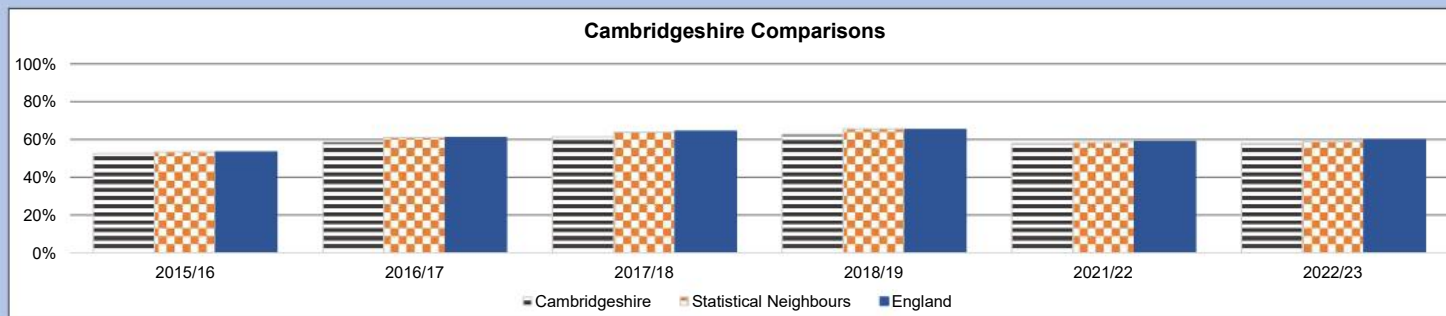
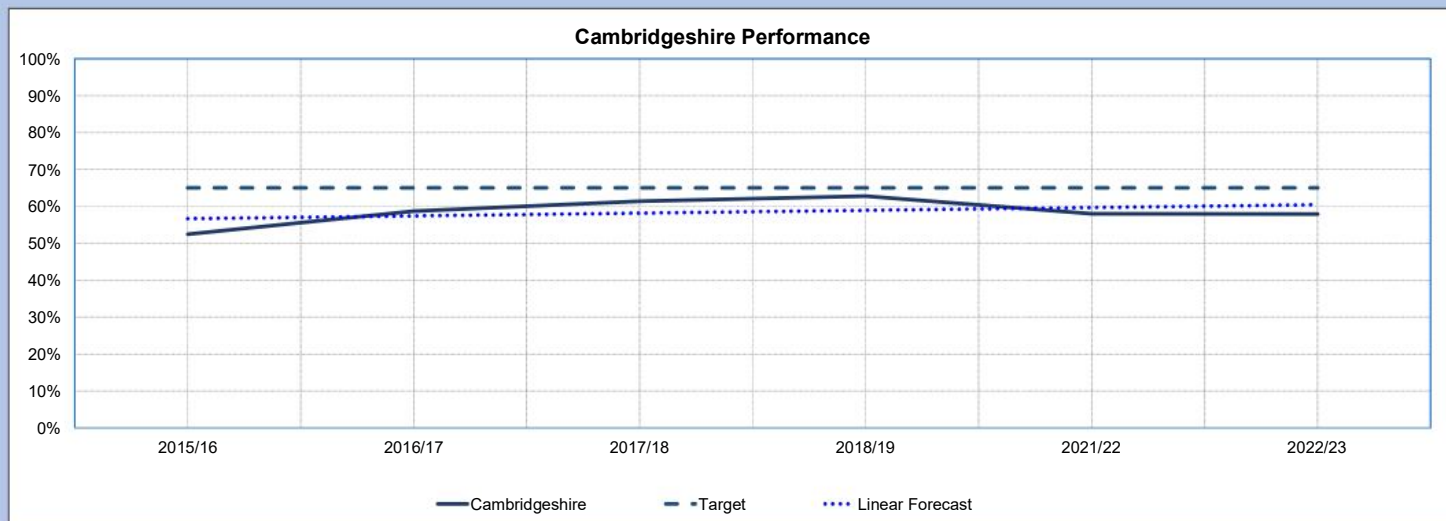
$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.



**Commentary**

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

**Useful Links**

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

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

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

**Actions**



| Target | Direction for Improvement | Current Year | Previous Year | Change in Performance |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 50.1   | ↑                         | 48.7         | 51.7          | Declining             |

| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean | RAG Rating |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 47.9                       | 46.4         | Amber      |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$X/Y$

Where:

X = The sum of all pupils Attainment 8 scores

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

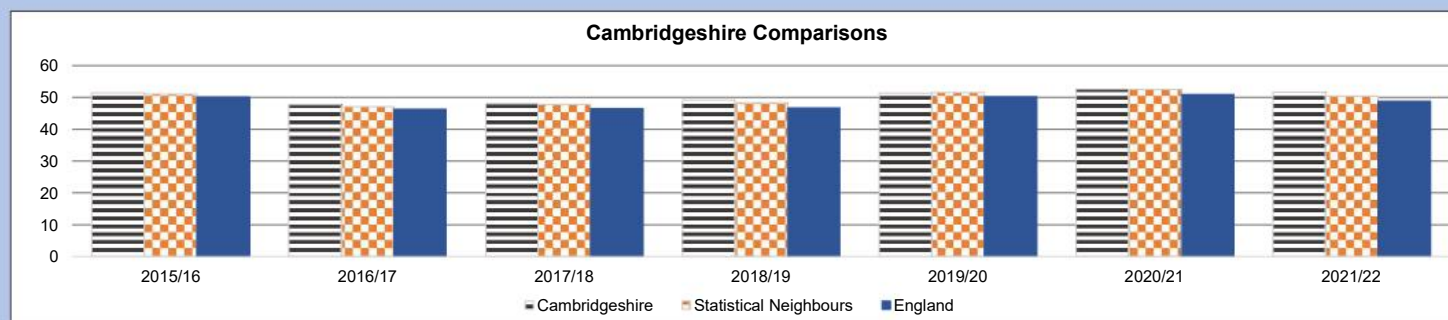
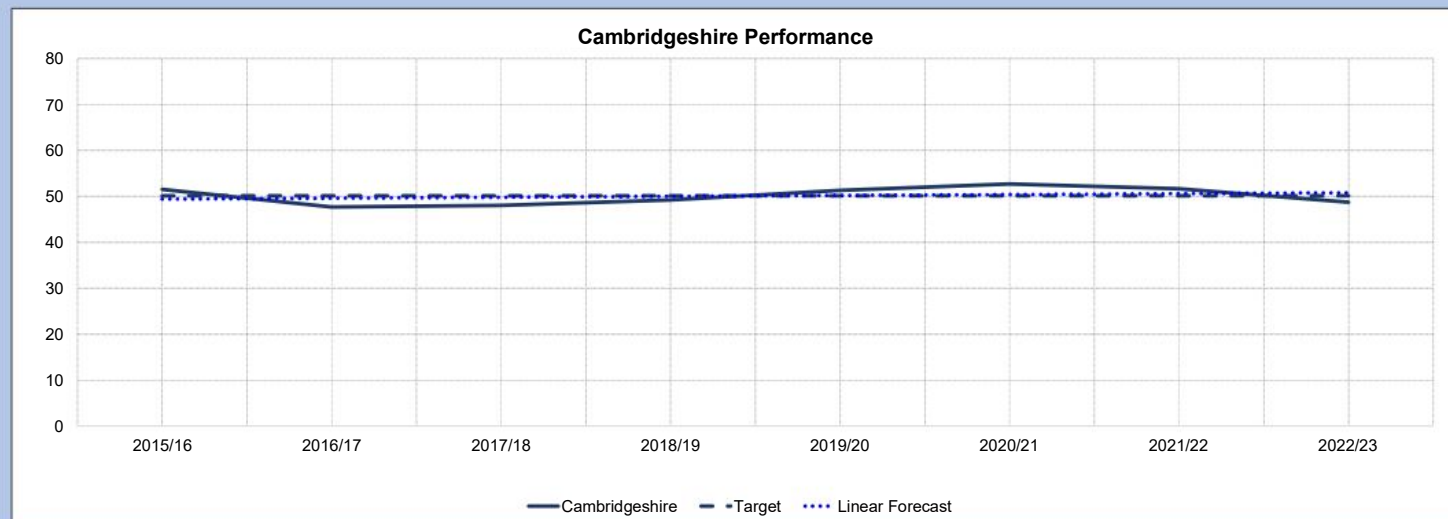
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

Although the KS4 outcomes are below the target set, Cambridgeshire have maintained the position above its statistical neighbour and the national overall percentage. There is still further work to do and the service continue to work with the secondary heads and CEO's to improve the provision further.

**Actions**



Indicator 132: Percentage of persistent absence (All children)

| Target | Direction for Improvement | Current Year | Previous Year | Change in Performance |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 8.5%   | ↓                         | 18.5%        | 21.2%         | Improving             |

| Statistical Neighbour Mean | England Mean | RAG Rating |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 21.3%                      | 22.5%        | Red        |

**Indicator Description**

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

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

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

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

X = The number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees.

Y = The number of enrolments.

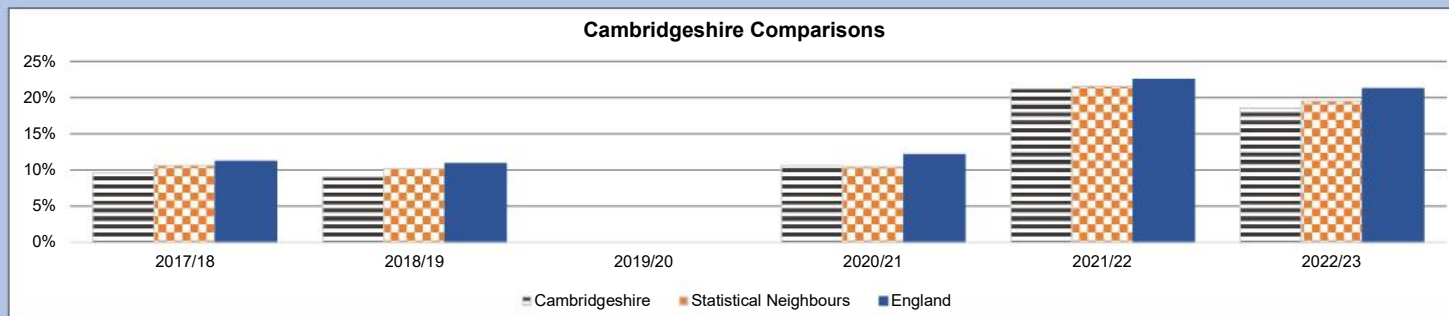
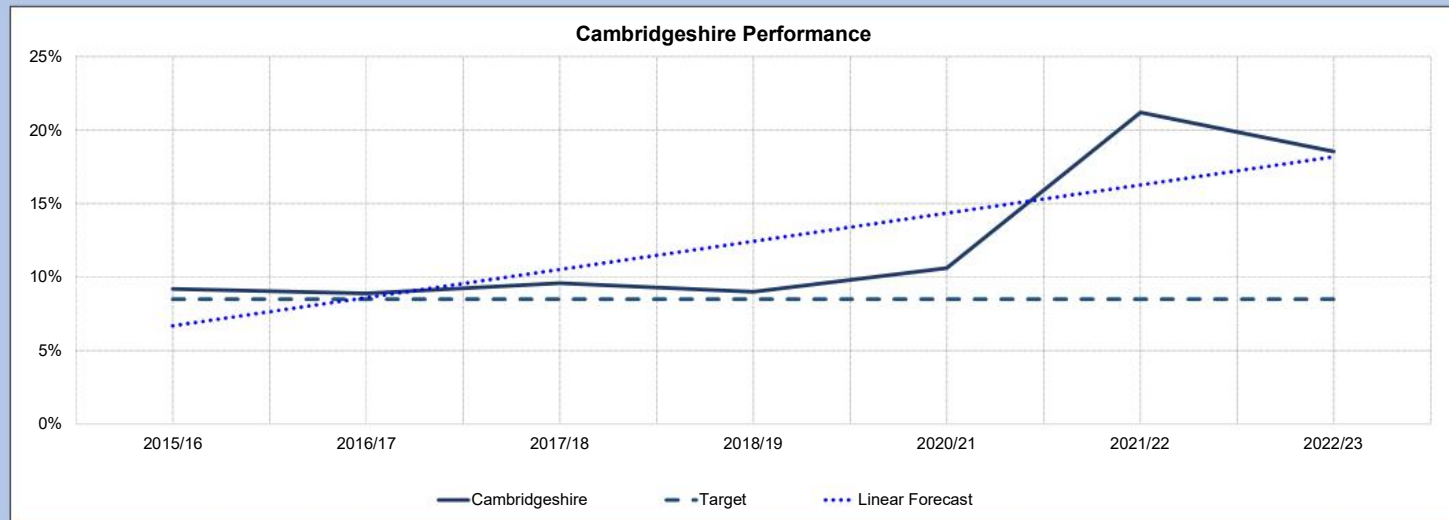
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

Persistent Absence rates = 21.2 % Cambs 22.7% England (most recent full year data 21/22) Nationally the impact of COVID still evident. Contributing to the PA levels are levels of children and Young People presenting with Emotional School Based Avoidance exerting pressures on the school systems. Working in partnership with Public Health has provided funding that provides schools with preventative tools to better engage pupils and families increasing levels of attendance. Disadvantaged pupils still represent higher levels of PA. The Cambridgeshire Attendance Service are working on a tool kit to focus on the attendance levels of pupils in special schools. Although CCC across the board performs in line with our statistical neighbours and above the English National performance - we do have poorer outcomes for our pupils @special schools.

**Actions**

- Working together to improve school attendance issued August 2024. This new guidance sets out the following expectations for LAs to:
- Rigorously track local attendance data to devise a strategic approach to attendance that prioritises the pupils, pupil cohorts and schools on which to provide support and focus its efforts on actions to unlock area wide barriers to attendance.
  - Have a School Attendance Support Team which provides the following core functions free of charge to all schools (regardless of type):
    - Communication and advice: regularly bring schools together to communicate messages, provide advice and share best practice between schools and trusts within the area.
    - Targeted Support Meetings (TSMs): hold regular conversations with schools, using school attendance data to identify pupils and cohorts at risk of attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils with poor attendance. Agree targeted actions and access services for those pupils.
    - Monitor and improve the attendance of children with a social worker through their Virtual School
    - Legal intervention: take forward attendance legal intervention (using the full range of parental responsibility measures) where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.

Indicator 133: Percentage suspensions (All children)

| Target                                    | Direction for Improvement | Current Year                | Previous Year | Change in Performance   |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---|
| 3.7%                                      | ↓                         | 7.9%                        | 6.2%          | Declining   |
| <b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b><br>8.1% |                           | <b>England Mean</b><br>9.3% |               | <b>RAG Rating</b><br><div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">Red</div> |

**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.

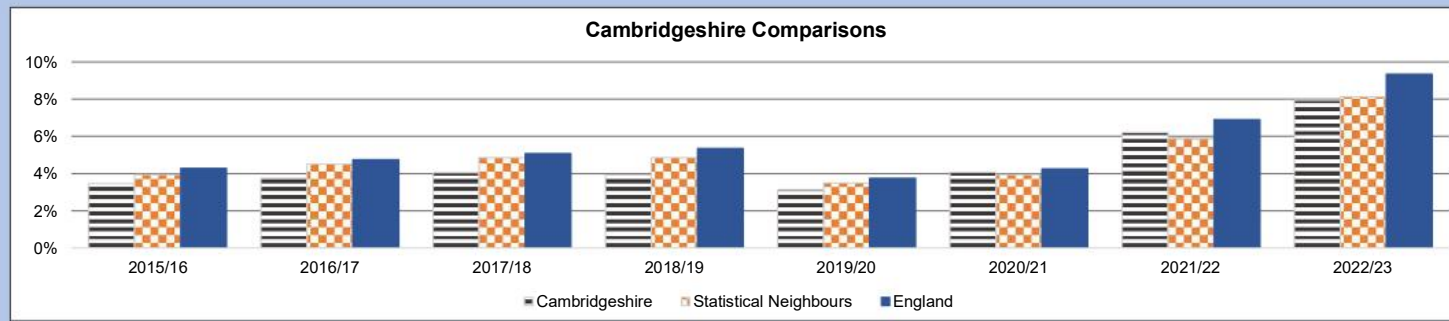
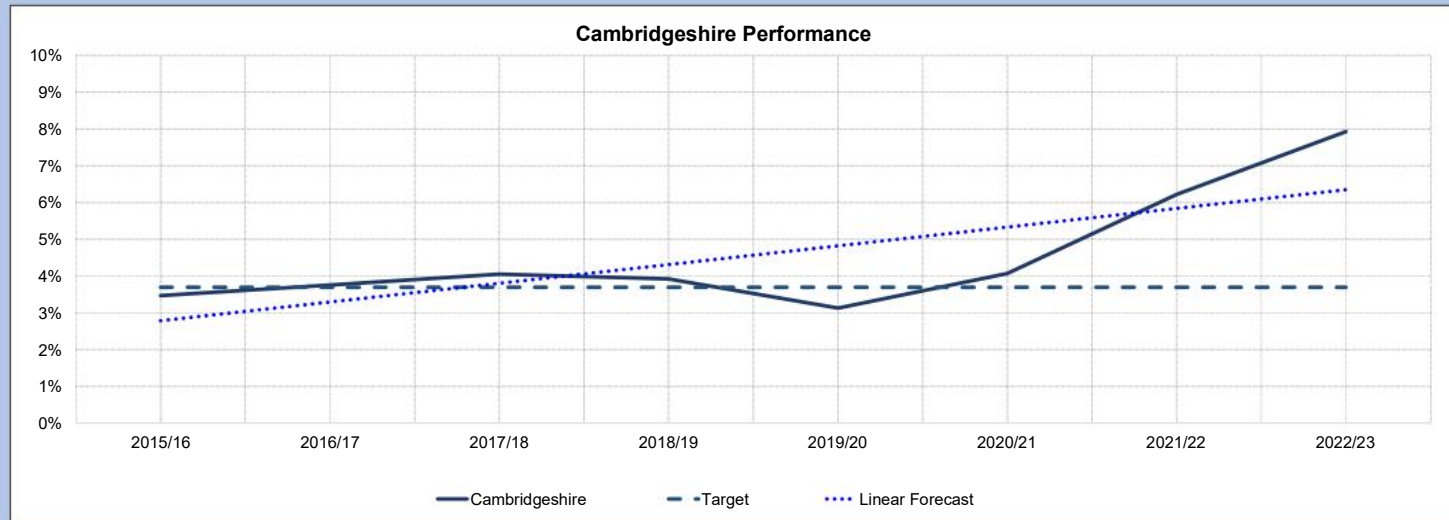
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

[Department for Education Statistics: Exclusions](#)

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

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



**Commentary**

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

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

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

**Actions**

| Target                     | Direction for Improvement | Current Year | Previous Year | Change in Performance |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 93.0%                      | ↑                         | 95.9%        | 94.8%         | Improving             |
| Statistical Neighbour Mean |                           | England Mean |               | RAG Rating            |
| 93.0%                      |                           | 93.2%        |               | <b>Green</b>          |

**Indicator Description**

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

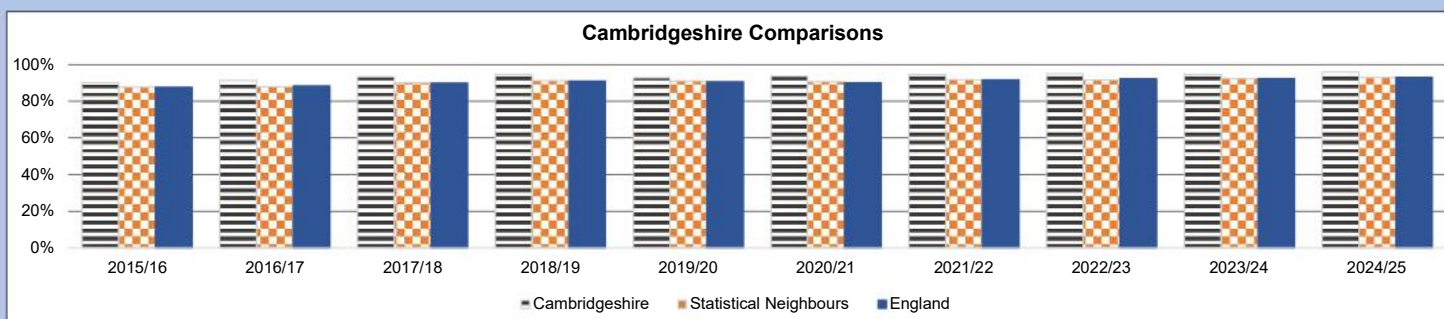
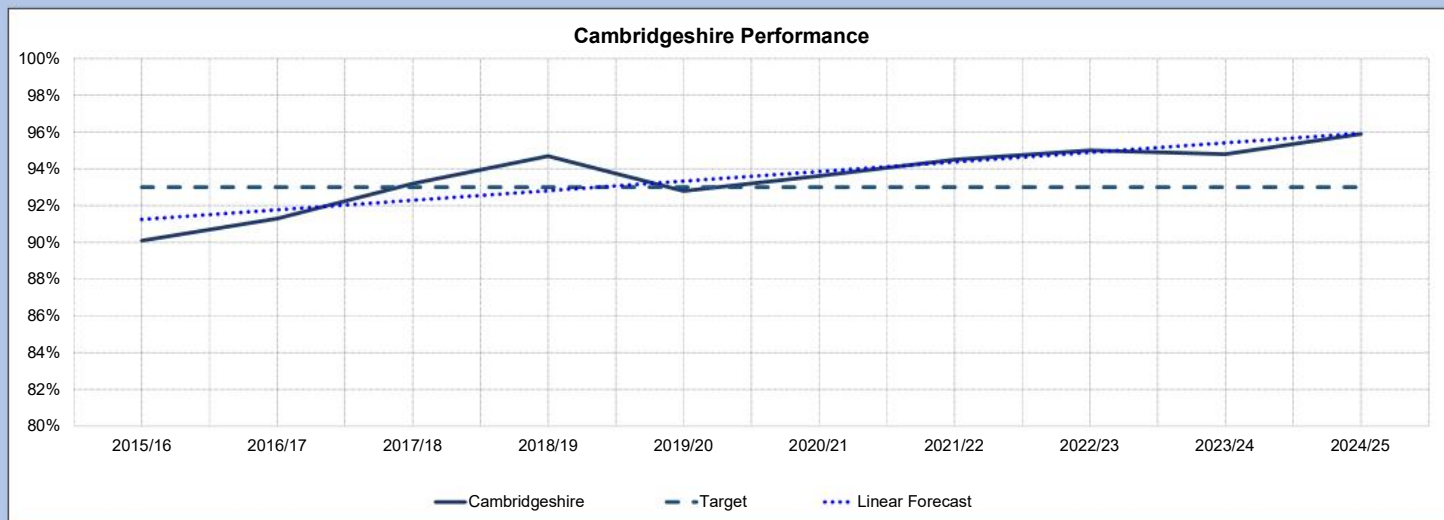
$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

Y = The number of applications received.

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.



**Commentary**

The proportion of Cambridgeshire children offered a place at their first choice primary school in September 2024 has risen again. A total of 95.9 per cent will be going to their preferred school – up from 94.8 per cent last year and the highest percentage since 2021. The proportion offered a place at their first, second or third choice school has also risen – from 98.7 per cent last year to 99.1 per cent this year. This means only 0.9 per cent (58 pupils) have been allocated places at other schools, down from 1.3 per cent (84 pupils) in 2023. This year saw a slight fall in the total number of applications for a primary school place – from 6457 in 2023 to 6418 this year.

**Useful Links**

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

**Actions**

| Target                     | Direction for Improvement | Current Year | Previous Year | Change in Performance |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 91.0%                      | ↑                         | 87.1%        | 86.5%         | Improving             |
| Statistical Neighbour Mean |                           | England Mean |               | RAG Rating            |
| 85.6%                      |                           | 82.9%        |               | <b>Amber</b>          |

**Indicator Description**

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

Y = The number of applications received.

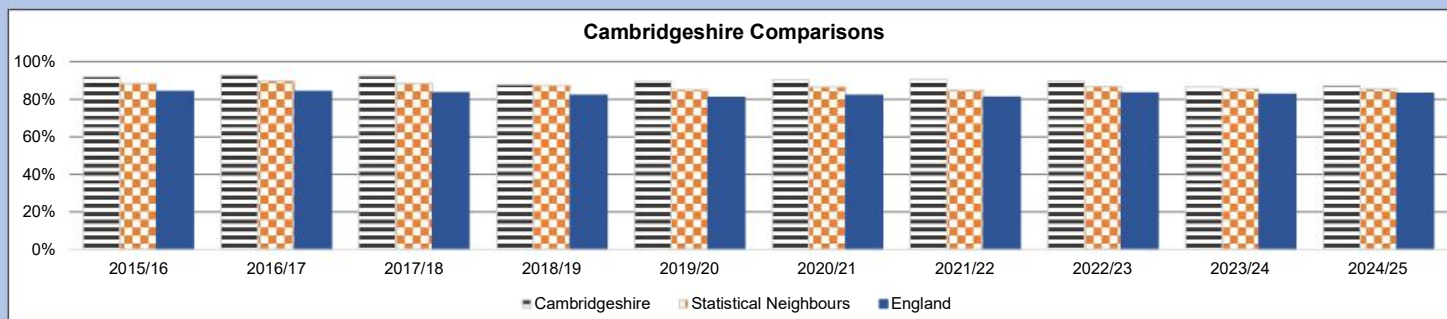
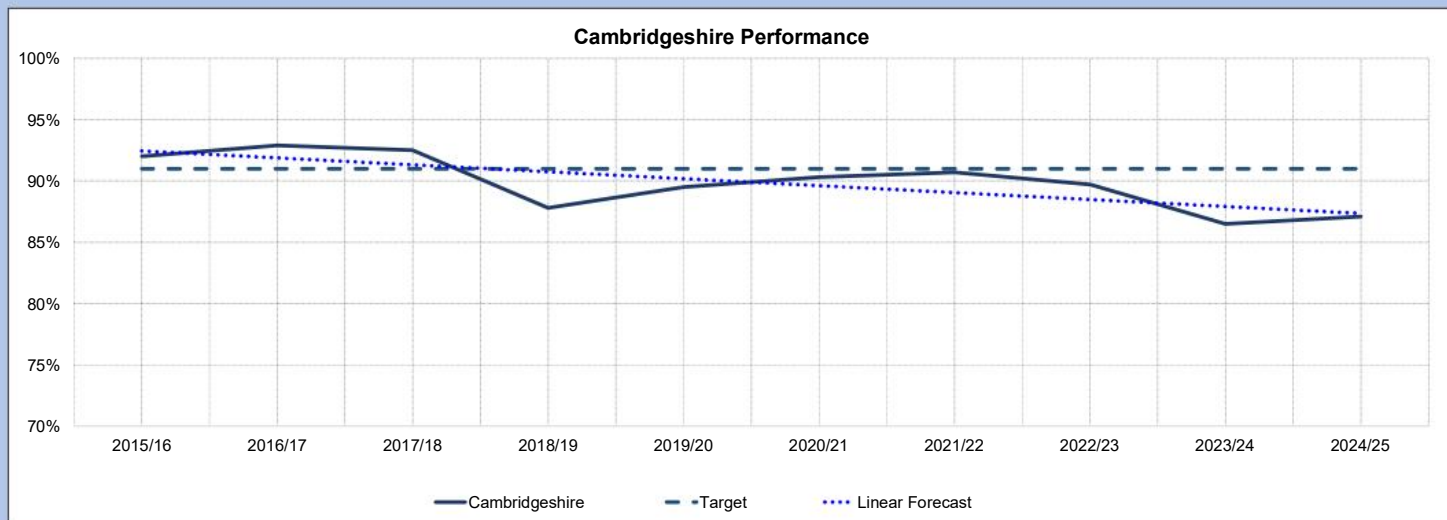
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

A greater percentage of Cambridgeshire students received their first choice secondary school compared to September 2023. A total of 87.7 per cent were offered a place at their first choice school – up from 87.1 per cent last year. The proportion offered a place at their first, second or third preference school also rose – from 95.4 per cent in 2023 to 95.6 per cent in 2024. The total number of places offered were fewer than last year – 7224 compared with 7413.

**Actions**