

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE



**Tuesday, 28 November 2023**

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

**14:00**

New Shire Hall  
Alconbury Weald  
Huntingdon  
PE28 4YE

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

## **AGENDA**

**Open to Public and Press**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

- 1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**  
*Guidance on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/cc-conduct-code>*
- 2. Minutes - 10 October 2023 and Minutes Action Log** **1 - 16**
- 3. Petitions and Public Questions**

### **DECISIONS**

- 4. Regional Director - Department for Education** **17 - 22**
- 5. Finance Monitoring Report October 2023** **23 - 56**

<b>6.</b>	<b>Transport Transformation Progress Report</b>	<b>57 - 68</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Draft Small School Strategy</b>	<b>69 - 86</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022-23</b>	<b>87 - 118</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>A Review of Methodology for Estimating Demand for Education Provision arising from New Housing Developments</b>	<b>119 - 130</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Corporate Performance Report</b>	<b>131 - 180</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Agenda Plan, Training Plan and Committee Appointments</b>	<b>181 - 204</b>

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The Children and Young People Committee comprises the following members:

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

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## Children and Young People Committee: Minutes

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Time: 2.00pm – 3.55pm

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

Present: Councillors D Ambrose Smith, M Atkins (Vice Chair), M Black, A Bradnam, P Coutts, C Daunton, B Goodliffe (Chair), J Gowing, A Hay, J King, T Sanderson, A Sharp and P Slatter

Co-opted Member: Canon A Read

### 165. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Bulat, substituted by Councillor M Black, Councillor S Hoy, substituted by Councillor J Gowing, Councillor M McGuire, Councillor S Taylor, substituted by Councillor T Sanderson, Councillor F Thompson, substituted by Councillor P Coutts and Dr A Stone.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 166. Minutes – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and Minutes Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved as an accurate record, subject to clarification of the trend over time in the number of children and young people in the Council's care referenced at minute 159. **Action required**

Some actions had not been updated since the last meeting, and the Chair asked that this should be done. The minutes action log was noted. **Action required**

### 167. Petitions and Public Questions

Public questions were received from Liz Day and Antony Carpen, both local residents. A copy of the questions and written responses are attached at Appendix 1.

Mrs Day's question was heard at Item 7: Special Educational Needs Service and Safety Valve Programme Updates (minute 171 below refers).

## Key decision

### 168. Supported Accommodation Services for Young People in care aged 16+ [KD2023/70]

The Committee was invited to endorse the re-tendering of a contract for supported accommodation services for young people in care aged 16+, and to delegate responsibility for awarding and executing the contract and any extension periods to the Executive Director for Children, Education and Families.

Supported accommodation had previously been referred to as unregulated accommodation, and had become the subject to increased attention in recent years. In 2020 there had been around 3000 providers nationally, and in Cambridgeshire this sector offered support to around 15% of the Council's children in care population. A new process was being introduced to regulate this sector and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 Ofsted would begin inspecting providers. Officers proposed re-tendering now to ensure that all of the Council's contracts were legally compliant with the new standards. The aim of the service to allow young people to become more independent while living in supported accommodation and to make a smooth transition to independent adulthood remained unchanged. All providers used by the Council would be required to register with Ofsted.

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

- asked whether any of the lots included live-in support. Officers confirmed that some accommodation would provide live-in support.
- sought more information about the support available to separated migrant children. Officers explained that this was a shifting population, with young people moving on as they turned 18 and others arriving. The majority of separated migrant children were aged 16-17. Those coming into care at this age were more likely to be offered a place in supported accommodation rather than a foster home to support the development of independent living skills.
- asked about the number of young people in supported accommodation in Cambridgeshire by district. Officers offered to provide this information outside of the meeting. Action required
- asked whether the Government grant would be sufficient to cover on-going costs. Officers stated that the amount each local authority received was determined using a calculation based on the children in care population and the number of young people aged 17 and under living in county. There would be on-going registration costs each year for providers for Ofsted registration. It would be for each provider to decide how to implement the new regime, and some might require support. Whilst it was hoped that costs would not increase too much it should be expected that any additional costs to providers would be passed on to the Council as the purchaser of services. As more providers registered with Ofsted over time it was anticipated that competition should drive down the cost. The aim was to achieve a spread of locations across the county, and it was hoped to stimulate the market to offer places where they were needed.

The Chair endorsed a request that officers report back on the new arrangements to provide assurance that all was going well. **Action required**

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

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the re-tendering process for this contract.
- b) delegate responsibility for awarding and executing a contract for the provision of Supported Accommodation Services pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Agreement for young people in care aged 16 and 17 years old, starting 1st April 2024 and extension periods to the Executive Director for Children, Education and Families.

## Decisions

### 169. Finance Monitoring Report for August 2023

The format of the finance monitoring report attached at Appendix 1 had been revised to show both gross and net figures. The main overspend was on the children in care placement budget. The overspend of around £4.4m on the dedicated schools grant (DSG) aligned with the original safety valve submission.

The Department for Education (DfE) had recently advised of an error in national pupil calculations which had resulted in a reduction of around £4m in the overall level of funding available to Cambridgeshire. Officers were currently working through schools budgets and a report would be brought to the committee in January for decision, following consultation with the Schools Forum. Cambridgeshire was currently 136<sup>th</sup> out of the 149 Local Authorities for its per pupil funding.

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

- asked what could be done to address the overspend on the children in care placement budget. Officers stated that the Council must provide support where this was needed, but that the service was working with the market to reduce the highest cost placements and looking at cheaper provision.
- asked about the Integrated Front Door. Officers explained that there had not yet been a separation from Peterborough City Council with this provision. Process mapping had identified a better, more agile process for responding when a concern was shared about a child and it was hoped that introducing this would support better decision-making and help divert children away from statutory services.
- asked about agency staffing levels. Officers reported an improvement in the number of permanent staff in place over the previous year's figures, with a reduction to around 30% agency staff. By December there would be a permanent leadership

team in place in the Children, Education and Families Directorate and the new social worker academy was launching in November which would be growing a cohort of newly qualified social workers and supporting international social workers arriving at the start of 2024.

The Finance Monitoring Report for August 2023 was noted.

## 170. Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update

The Committee was advised of the importance of the Council engaging with the issue of Early Years (EY) funded entitlement and the expansion of wraparound provision. This would include deciding how to respond to the Chancellor's announcement about investment in EY care. There were high aspirations around the roll out of the programme, and it would represent a significant change with every child aged between 9 months and 3 years given access to free childcare. This would create a significant increase in the number of eligible children and the type of care they would need at a time when the childcare sector was already under pressure to meet demand. It was important to note Government aspirations for wraparound care for primary school aged children, as this would represent another significant challenge. There would be start-up funding available, but this would not be on-going. Officers were clear about the need to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and recipients of pupil premium payments and were working hard to support the sustainability of the sector, but were still seeing settings close. The sufficiency duty would fall on the local authority, so officers were keen to develop the workforce to meet the new age profile of funded provision. Officers would report back to the committee as the situation evolved to take members' views.

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

- asked about recent closures of EY settings. Officers explained that EY settings faced two key challenges: workforce, as it was a minimum wage role for many EY practitioners, and the difficulty in keeping the provision financially viable given the requirements around adult to child ratios. Officers were monitoring the situation locally, but there was relatively little they could do. The Chair expressed thanks to those providers who had stepped in when contracts had been handed back.
- asked how sure officers were that there was sufficient provision available. Officers stated that the Council's duty was around sufficiency, not the actual provision of services. Its role would be to identify barriers to growth and how to meet need. There was a need for clarity around demand as EY care was optional. The Council was providing training to try to grow the workforce, but the Committee needed to be aware of the level of challenge.
- asked whether feedback was being provided to district councils about factoring in houses big enough to offer EY care in new developments, and whether schools were being built big enough to offer wraparound provision. The Director of Education confirmed that officers were working closely with district council colleagues and that all schools now being built by the Council had wraparound provision space included.

Much wraparound provision happened off-site, so there was a role for the Council in stimulating that market.

- noted the knock-on effects on school cleaning and maintenance of having school buildings operational for longer hours to accommodate wraparound provision.
- asked about the role of the voluntary sector in meeting the increased demand for EY and wraparound provision. Officers stated that the voluntary sector was seen as a key partner and that the Council was keen to work with all interested parties.
- noted that the provision of wraparound care could be a good selling point for a school, but that it needed to be financially self-sustaining. Officers confirmed that the Council could not subsidise this provision.
- asked whether the Council offered any business advice to EY settings. Officers confirmed that advice and guidance on sustainability and support was provided as part of the offer from the Council's EY team. Information on how to access this was available on the Council's website, and a link to this would be shared with the committee. Action required
- asked about the potential implications for those families in receipt of benefits. The Director of Education offered to look at what the proposals would mean for groups on different incomes. Action required
- welcomed the proactive approach being taken by the Education team.
- noted the complexity of the issue and the resourcing and capacity challenges which lay ahead. In this context they asked how this would be progressed in terms of risk management by the Committee, potential regional variations in access and quality of provision and whether reports would be provided as the situation evolved to examine where it was working and not working. The Director of Education stated that the sufficiency aspect geographically was key. It was probably possible to predict where there would be challenges, and he was happy to provide a report on that, focusing on geography. Action required

Committee members noted and commented on the information outlined in the report.

## 171. Special Educational Needs Service and Safety Valve update

The Committee was advised that officers were working with the Department for Education (DfE) to develop a sustainable budget for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services. This was based on a local transformation programme and national policy changes, as many of the challenges faced in Cambridgeshire were replicated nationally. The greater complexity of need being seen created a significant challenge.

The Committee heard a public question from Liz Day. A copy of the question and written response are attached at Appendix 1. There were no questions of clarification from committee members.

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

- welcomed the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education of a new special school in March offering 210 places, and a social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) special school in Gamlingay for young people aged 11-16. This represented significant capital expenditure by Government of £50m+. A member asked about the revenue implications for the Council of running these schools. Officers stated that local provision avoided the need for children to be placed away from home which offered better outcomes for children and better value for money. Parents had been made aware of the new provision which would be available locally, but the Council would not insist on moving children from their existing provision if they were settled. Officers would work with parent and carer forums on this.
- spoke of the need to provide early support, and to ensure that every school had a supported SENCo. The Director of Education agreed that the role of the SENCo was critical. The Council had a team to support and develop this group, and there was a new national qualification for SENCOs. Cambridgeshire was an inclusive county with the number of children with education, health and care plans (EHCPs) placed in mainstream schools higher than many areas. There was also a focus on support for those children and young people with additional needs below the threshold for EHCP support.
- asked whether the education team needed to be strengthened or provided with additional resources to deliver the additional safety valve and early years work. The Director of Education stated that his team was receiving good corporate support, including creating some new roles, but that challenges remained in some areas such as recruiting educational psychologists and caseworkers. He was working closely with the S151 Officer to ensure compliance with the Council's statutory duties.
- asked about the delivery of a new special school in Waterbeach New Town. Officers stated that there was no special school planned for Waterbeach at the current time. [Note: Following the meeting, the Director of Education clarified that the Section 106 Agreement for Waterbeach New Town West site included the provision of a special school located on the west side of the development. The terms of the Section 106 Agreement stated that the special school would be subject to a SEND Review that would take place between 2,000 and 3,500 occupations. The latest trajectory indicated that 2,000 occupations would not be reached until 2030 or 2031. On that basis, it was unlikely that a new school would be built until the early to mid-2030s. Given the timescale, this new school was not included in the safety valve application recently submitted to the Department for Education and was not included in the current work to implement this.]
- noted the steady increase in the number of EHCPs issued between 2018-2023 and asked whether these numbers were likely to stabilise. Officers stated that this was one of the issues which had been considered as part of the safety valve work. Growth was mainly being seen in the number of EHCPs being issued to support children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs or were

autism-related. All the Local Authority (LA) could do was to try to plan for the increased demand and respond to it. The situation was similar in other LAs. The proportion of children with SEND was growing faster than the population increase, and these figures could be provided outside of the meeting. **Action required**

- noted that a key element of the EHCP process was hearing the voice of the family and the child.

The Committee noted the updates provided on SEND in the County, SEND Transformation and Safety Valve Agreement.

## 172. Preparation for Children's Inspection Readiness Activity

The Council was last subject to an Ofsted inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) in January 2019, where the judgement was 'Requires Improvement'. Cambridgeshire's Youth Justice Services were inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation in August 2023, and its report would be shared with the Committee when received. The Council was also subject to inspection of its special educational needs and disability (SEND) services by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, with the last inspection taking place in March 2017. It was expected that the next visits would be for a full ILACS inspection and a SEND inspection, and preparation for these was being built into business as usual.

Two engagement meetings were held each year, with a self-evaluation conducted ahead of these against the inspection standards. Improvement boards had been established for social care and SEND, with a focus on improved timeliness and better evidenced decision-making at the integrated front door, putting the child's voice at the centre of planning, ensuring that there were clear and well understood pathways for children at risk of exploitation, improving workforce stability and improving quality assurance processes and the timeliness of education, health and care plans (EHCPs). The Department for Education (DfE) had funded Essex County Council (ECC) to work as an improvement partner and officers welcomed the full system diagnostic being carried out for each social care team which would give a view on their strengths and areas for development. The Council's own self-evaluation and the independent review by ECC would be completed by the end of the year, by which time the permanent senior leadership team would be in place.

Members emphasised the importance of regulatory visits and asked about member involvement in the inspection preparation process. Officers stated that the outcomes of the self-evaluation work and independent review by ECC would be shared with members once complete. **Action required**

It was resolved to note the preparations for future Government inspections of children's services, as detailed in the report.

### 173. Children and Young People Committee Agenda Plan, Training Plan Committee Appointments and Local Authority School Governor Nominations

The Committee was advised of changes to the agenda plan, as listed below.

A member briefing was suggested on the role of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), and the Council's statutory responsibilities. It was noted that one committee appointment to SACRE remained vacant, and that it was not quorate if elected member representatives did not attend. **Action required**

On being proposed by Councillor Atkins, seconded by Councillor Slatter, it was resolved unanimously to appoint Councillor Goodliffe as the Committee's representative to the Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the following changes to the published committee agenda plan:
  - i. Small Schools' Strategy – added to November committee
  - ii. Childrens Residential Strategy Options Paper – removed from November committee
  - iii. Business Planning – deferred from November committee to January.
- b) Note the possible addition of training around business planning.
- c) Appoint Councillor B Goodliffe to the Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB).
- d) Note local authority school governor nominations and appointments April to July 2023.

(Chair)

Children and Young People Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Item 3: Petitions and Public Questions

	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Question/ comment:</b>
1.	Antony Carpen Local resident	<p>The Chair of the CYP Committee responded to my PQ at Cambridge City Council's East Area Committee on Citizenship Studies GCSE for Cambridgeshire. See <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7rguMwVj00&amp;t=57m20s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7rguMwVj00&amp;t=57m20s</a> for the question, and the response by Cllr Goodliffe.</p> <p>I also tabled a question about citizenship studies in the lifelong learning sector to the Combined Authority, and their response is in the responses document on the <a href="#">Combined Authority website</a>.</p> <p>With only 145 students in Cambridgeshire having taken the GCSE in Citizenship Studies in 2022, what assessment has the County Council made of the distribution of places across the county that offer Citizenship Studies GCSE? Please could I urge the County Council to lobby the academy chains across the county to work together and employ some specialist teachers that could cover more than one school in order to make the GCSE in Citizenship Studies available.]</p>
	<b>Response from:</b>	
	Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair, Children and Young People Committee	<p>Thank for you raising this concern.</p> <p>We encourage all secondary schools to offer as wide a breadth as possible of subjects for all pupils. This is however in a context of teacher shortage, financial constraints and an accountability framework which places greater focus on a limited number of subjects. All secondary schools in Cambridgeshire are part of academy trusts, but we will certainly pass on the helpful suggestion you make around sharing specialist teachers across a trust or local area.</p>

Item 7: SEND Service and Safety Valve update

	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Question/ comment:</b>
2.	Liz Day Local resident	<p>Information within the report is aspirational in wording towards improving SEND Support as early as possible in the educational journey of children and young people, with special educational needs and disability. I am totally in support of that sentiment. I do hold concerns that there is zero mention of statutory requirements under the Children's and Families act that the local authority hold significant responsibility and therefore outcomes including Key Performance Indicators towards achievement</p> <p>The report updates on implementation of work streams agreed as part of the Safety Valve Deal, shows a strong bias towards monitoring of financial sustainability, as detailed within the Local Government act. I totally agree that financial sustainability is essential and important to well managed local government and education for children and young people in the local area. It is a huge concern to me that there are priorities within the conflict between these two statutory acts and the Department for Education has pushed pressure onto the local authority to accept the Safety Valve Deal, as a way to resolve an increase in a deficit budget of the Designated Schools Grant found in the High Needs Block Fund. The only budget that seemingly has been allowed to accrue an accumulated deficit over time. The fact there has been an accumulated deficit during several years and since the inception of the Children's and Families act would suggest there has consistently been insufficient funding provided to the local authority to adequately fund demand for support by a demographic that has protected characteristic under the Equality act. That really is poor management of resources and intentionally underfunding causing ongoing detriment and harm to many thousands of children and young people.</p> <p>The report suggests that increase in demand has been largely due to schools pushing for Education, Health and Care assessments with a view of securing the legal document known as and Education, Health and Care plan. That details specific needs and how to meet those needs in a suitable and accessible way. To game the system to secure more funding.. There is not statistical data included that shows that premise to be true or otherwise. As a peer supporter to many families of children and young people within the local area and beyond and from feedback within my networks, I can can confidently state that no parent carer supports schools to make spurious formal requests for EHC assessments to secure additional funding for educational settings. All parent carers will be focused on securing an accessible and suitable</p>

	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Question/ comment:</b>
		<p>education that meets their child's needs adequately. As it states within the law (C&amp;Fa). Schools often appear ill equipped to attend to their part in the process. Examples are available upon request.</p> <p>My question is how are the Local Authority going to meet it's statutory requirements under that detailed within the Children's and Families act?</p>
	<b>Response from:</b>	
	<p>Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair, Children and Young People Committee</p>	<p>Thank you for your time in addressing the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p>All our services aim to meet the requirements of both the Children's and Families Act and the SEND code of practice. Both Officers and Members have been clear the programme supporting the Safety Valve arrangements will continue to meet our statutory duties. The Safety Valve process is a financial programme which supports improvement in SEND service delivery including transformation and efficiency measures. The deal agreed was proposed by Cambridgeshire County Council and the workstreams contained within it were designed locally to meet the needs of our children and young people and all stakeholders that work within SEND. The focus is on early intervention and local delivery and not to deny any child or young person the support they need.</p> <p>In terms of funding, the County Council has made many representations over an extended period, including meeting with Ministers, for further funding for SEND in Cambridgeshire to reflect our unique challenges. These have been unsuccessful, but the recent Green Paper on SEND and the response in the SEND and Alternative Provision action plan both reference a further reform of SEND funding. We will continue to make representations on the low level of funding.</p> <p>You referenced in your question the challenges of funding and schools using the education, health and care plan (EHCP) process to secure further funding. This is just one of the areas we believe has led to an increase in our EHCP numbers. Our observation here relates to the low level of funding for Cambridgeshire Schools and school leaders have told us they would like more resources to provide support for all children with SEND earlier as this could avoid the</p>

	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Question/ comment:</b>
		<p>need for statutory process. The current level of budget challenges means that more children are being referred into statutory assessment. Cambridgeshire is 136<sup>th</sup> out of the 149 Local Authorities for its level of funding. This has a significant impact on the schools notional SEND funding to support early work with children with additional education needs, support for those at SEND support and to meet the element 1 and 2 of funding for an EHCP. We are working hard with schools to improve practice in SEND through aspects of our work (and safety valve deal) including the Ordinarily Available toolkit.</p> <p>The County Council is fully committed to meeting all its statutory processes and it welcomes the additional investment the Safety Valve process brings to develop new provision and move towards a more sustainable funding position.</p>

## Children and Young People Committee Action Log

**Purpose:**

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

### Minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2023

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

158.	Implementation of a Post 16 Provision Framework	M Purbrick	Officers would be reminded of the need to explain acronyms and technical terms in public reports.	20.11.23: Officers have been reminded of this by the Executive Director.	Completed
159.	Draft Residential Services Strategy	B Relph	Asked how long children and young people in the County’s care were spending in residential homes.		

162.	Children, Education and Families Directorate Risk Register	M Purbrick	To provide further information around anticipated numbers of students at the new social work academy.	20.11.23: Data forecast shared electronically with committee members.	Completed
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## Minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

166.	Minutes 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 and Minutes Action Log	M Purbrick	The minutes of the meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved as an accurate record, subject to clarification of the trend over time in the number of children and young people in the Council's care referenced at minute 159.	27.10.23: Data on numbers of children in care circulated electronically to committee members for information.	Completed
166.	Minutes 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 and Minutes Action Log	M Purbrick	Some actions had not been updated since the last meeting, and the Chair asked that this should be done	20.11.23: All actions under review.	
168.	Supported Accommodation Services for Young People in care aged 16+	T Parker	Asked about the number of young people in supported accommodation in Cambridgeshire by district. Officers offered to provide this information outside of the meeting.		
168.	Supported Accommodation Services for Young People	T Parker	The Chair endorsed a request that officers report back on the new arrangements to provide assurance that all was going well		

	in care aged 16+				
170.	Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update	J Lewis	Asked whether the Council offered any business advice to EY settings. Officers confirmed that advice and guidance on sustainability and support was provided as part of the offer from the Council's EY team. Information on how to access this was available on the Council's website, and a link to this would be shared with the committee.	20.11.23: Early Years and Childcare settings have access to a full range of set up and ongoing leadership, business and governance support advice and guidance. There is a small sustainability grant available when settings can demonstrate they are at immediate risk of closure but have a sustainable future if gap funded. The full support offer is available on the Learn Together site. <a href="https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire-early-years-and-childcare/business-and-governance">https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire-early-years-and-childcare/business-and-governance</a>	Completed
170.	Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update	J Lewis	Asked about the potential implications for those families in receipt of benefits. The Director of Education offered to look at what the proposals would mean for groups on different incomes.	20.11.23: Links with DWP have been made and a full report will be available on the impact of families accessing benefits in January 2024.	Completed
170.	Early Years Funded Entitlement and Wraparound Expansion Update	J Lewis	Noted the complexity of the issue and the resourcing and capacity challenges which lay ahead and asked how this would be progressed in terms of risk management by the Committee, potential regional variations in access and quality of provision and whether reports would be provided as the situation evolved to examine where it was working and not working. The Director of	20.11.23: We are at initial stages of modelling and are working to understand parental choice, willingness to expand given that no financial information is available from the DfE to date. A full position statement will be presented at the January CYP meeting.	Completed

			Education stated that the sufficiency aspect geographically was key. It was probably possible to predict where there would be challenges, and he was happy to provide a report on that, focusing on geography.		
171.	Special Educational Needs Service and Safety Valve update	J Lewis	The proportion of children with SEND was growing faster than the population increase, and these figures could be provided outside of the meeting.	20.11.23: From January 2018 to January 2023, the pupil population in Cambridgeshire schools grew 8%. In the same period, the number of children with Education Health and Care Plans grew by 83%.	Completed
172.	Preparation for Children's Inspection Readiness Activity	M Purbrick	The outcomes of the self-evaluation work and independent review by ECC would be shared with members once complete		
173.	Agenda plan, training plan and appointments	J Lewis	A member briefing was suggested on the role of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), and the Council's statutory responsibilities.	20.11.23: The briefing will be organised for the Spring term and added to the member training calendar.	Completed

## Regional Director – Department for Education

To:	CYP Committee
Meeting Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
From:	Executive Director of Children, Education and Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Outcome:	The Committee requested the Regional Director attend to update on key issues relevant to Cambridgeshire and answer questions relevant to their responsibilities.
Recommendation:	Note the background contents of the report to aid the discussion in the meeting around the Regional Director's role and his oversight of educational and social care outcomes in Cambridgeshire.
Voting arrangements:	No vote required

### Officer contact:

Name: Jonathan Lewis  
Post: Service Director - Education  
Email: [Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## 1. Background

- 1.1 During the last year, members of the Children and Young People (CYP) Committee and Spokes have requested the attendance of the Regional Director (formally the Regional School Commissioner) to attend the CYP committee to share an update on their responsibilities, including academy schools.
- 1.2 The agenda item is intended to be a discussion around the role of the Regional Director (RD) and their work with schools in Cambridgeshire. It is hoped the chance to meet with the Regional Director will give the Committee members a better understanding of their role and how it operates in a mixed environment of educational delivery. This report has been prepared by officers to give background on the role and the RD will provide a verbal overview of their responsibilities in the meeting.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The role of the Regional Director is to act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. Regional directors work locally across children's social care, SEND, schools and area-based programmes to improve outcomes for children, families and learners. Their main focus is on academy schools, but they also have a wider remit for all aspects of education and social care.
- 2.2 Nationally, there are 9 regions covering the East of England, East Midlands, North West, North East, South East, London, South West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber. These are aligned to Local Authority boundaries and the East of England covers the following local authority (LA) areas –
  - Bedford
  - Cambridgeshire
  - Central Bedfordshire
  - Essex
  - Hertfordshire
  - Luton
  - Norfolk
  - Peterborough
  - Southend-on-Sea
  - Suffolk
  - Thurrock
- 2.3 Regional directors' main responsibilities include:
  - addressing underperformance in schools, academies, children's social care and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services, offering support, and where necessary intervening, to deliver rapid improvement.
  - taking decisions on academy sponsor matches and significant changes to academies.

- deciding on new free schools (including the final decision in local authority free school presumptions).
- taking decisions on the creation, consolidation and growth of multi-academy trusts (MATs).
- supporting local authorities to ensure that every local area has sufficient places for pupils.
- delivering across a number of key programmes by building the department's presence locally through working closely with stakeholders, local authorities, MATs, Ofsted, and other local government departments.
- making sure local needs inform policy development.
- leading the response to area wide special educational needs (SEN) inspections, ensuring effective challenge and support to enable areas of weakness to be remedied quickly.
- taking the lead on ensuring there is an appropriate response to safeguarding cases arising in academies in their region, working closely with local authorities and Ofsted.
- promoting financial health in the academy trusts and free schools sectors.
- leading on ensuring strong governance in academy trusts – this does not include financial governance issues as they are overseen by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
- delivering across a number of key programmes emerging from the schools white paper, the SEND and AP (Alternative Provision) green paper, and from the care review.
- deciding on changes to admission arrangements where the Secretary of State has agreed a limited derogation to support fair access.
- deciding on applications for an exemption from providing a “broadly Christian” daily act of collective worship, which can be replaced with collective worship that reflects the faith background of the academy’s pupils and the population the academy serves.

2.4 More details on the regional directors’ responsibilities in relation to schools can be found here - [commissioning high quality trusts](#) and [regional directors decision making: 2022](#)

2.5 Each regional director is supported by an [advisory board](#) which advises on academy related decisions. Advisory board members provide a source of challenge and insight to the Department for Education (DfE) on academy-related decisions. Advisory Board members are not decision makers. The terms of reference for advisory boards can be [found here](#). Advisory board members help inform the decision making process by providing opportunities for DfE regional directors and the wider DfE regions group to draw on their sector experience. They may also provide advice based on their particular areas of expertise, such as trust governance, school improvement and school budget management.

2.6 Each board are made up of up to 8 members:

- 4 elected by local academy headteachers
- 2 appointed by regional directors
- 2 are co-opted with the agreement of DfE ministers

2.7 The constitution of the East of England group is as follows

Elected members

- Tim Coulson (Unity Schools Partnership)
- Clare Flintoff (ASSET Education)
- Sarah Skinner (South Suffolk Learning Trust)
- Josephine Valentine (Danes Educational Trust)

Appointed members

- Mark Farmer (Bridge Academy Trust)
- Alistair Kingsley (Hamptons Academy Trust)

Co-opted members

- Lawrence Chapman (SENDAT)
- Brian Conway (St John the Baptist MAT)

2.8 Of the members of the East Advisory Board, only one school is represented in Cambridgeshire via the Unity School partnership.

2.9 Officers work closely with colleagues from the DfE across a wide range of issues. There is a positive relationship although there can be challenges around roles and responsibilities in areas such as complaints, safeguarding and outcomes.

### 3. Alignment with ambitions

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

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

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

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

Effective working with schools and trusts can lead to better educational outcomes and improved life chances.

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

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

Both the RD and the LA have a shared objective of strong educational outcomes for Cambridgeshire. Effective challenge and support across all educational settings are undertaken by both organisations.

## 4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.7 Public Health Implications

Education and Health are intricately linked. Locally, improving outcomes for children is one of the 3 ambitions of the Joint ICS Health and Wellbeing strategy. The Director of Education is joint SRO for 'Priority 1: Ensure children are ready to enter and exit education, prepared for the next phase in their lives' and action is co-ordinated through the Family Hubs Board and School-aged Health Improvement Partnership.

- 4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation:

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

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

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

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

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

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?  
Yes or No  
Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

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

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

If a Key decision, have any Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?  
Yes or No  
Name of Officer: N/A

## 5. Source documents

### 5.1 [The Regional Director's Role](#).

## Finance Monitoring Report October 2023

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

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

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

Recommendation: Committee are asked to note the report.

Voting arrangements: No vote required.

Officer contact:

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

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Finance Monitoring Reports (FMR) are produced monthly, except for April, by all services. They report on a range of financial information to enable a view of each service's financial position to be taken.
- 1.2 Budgets for services are agreed by Full Council in the business plan in February of each year and can be amended by budget virements. In particular, the FMR provides a revenue budget forecast showing the current projection of whether services will be over or underspent for the year against those budgets.
- 1.3 The detailed FMR for Children, Education and Families (CEF) is attached at Appendix A. As noted previously the budgets within Appendix 1 are now being shown gross and net, to provide details of any income or grant funding associated with each policy line, and to align with the presentation within in the business plan.
- 1.4 The table below provides a summary of the budget within CEF, with further detail being available in Appendix 1:

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Net Budget 2023/24 £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
11,855	Children, Education and Families - Non-DSG	128,845	67,902	10,670	6.5%
4,418	Children, Education and Families - DSG	0	-4,523	4,418	0.0%

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

- 1.5 The table below provides a summary of the budgets within the Adults and Public Health FMR which come under the responsibility of the Children and Young People Committee (CYP):

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Net Budget 2023/24 £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
0	Children's Commissioning - Staffing	1,234	738	59	4.7%
<b>0</b>	<b>Adults, Health and Commissioning Total</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
0	Children 0-5 PH Programme	7,392	4,329	0	0.0%
0	Children 5-19 PH Programme - Non Prescribed	1,814	1,008	0	0.0%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Net Budget 2023/24 £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
0	Children Mental Health	341	-20	-11	-3.1%
0	Drug & Alcohol Misuse – Young People	415	197	-20	-4.8%
0	Children's Weight Management	350	0	0	0.0%
0	Childrens Integrated Lifestyles	169	60	0	0.0%
<b>0</b>	<b>Children Health Total</b>	<b>10,481</b>	<b>5,574</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

## 2. Main Issues

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

## 3. Alignment with ambitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 4. Significant Implications

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

- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas:
  - 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.  
Status: Neutral
  - 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.  
Status: Neutral
  - 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.  
Status: Neutral
  - 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.  
Status: Neutral
  - 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:  
Status: Neutral
  - 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.  
Status: Neutral
  - 4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.  
Status: Neutral

5. Source documents

5.1 None.



Service: Children, Education and Families  
 Subject: Finance Monitoring Report – October 2023  
 Date: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Agenda Item No. 5 – Appendix 1

## Contents

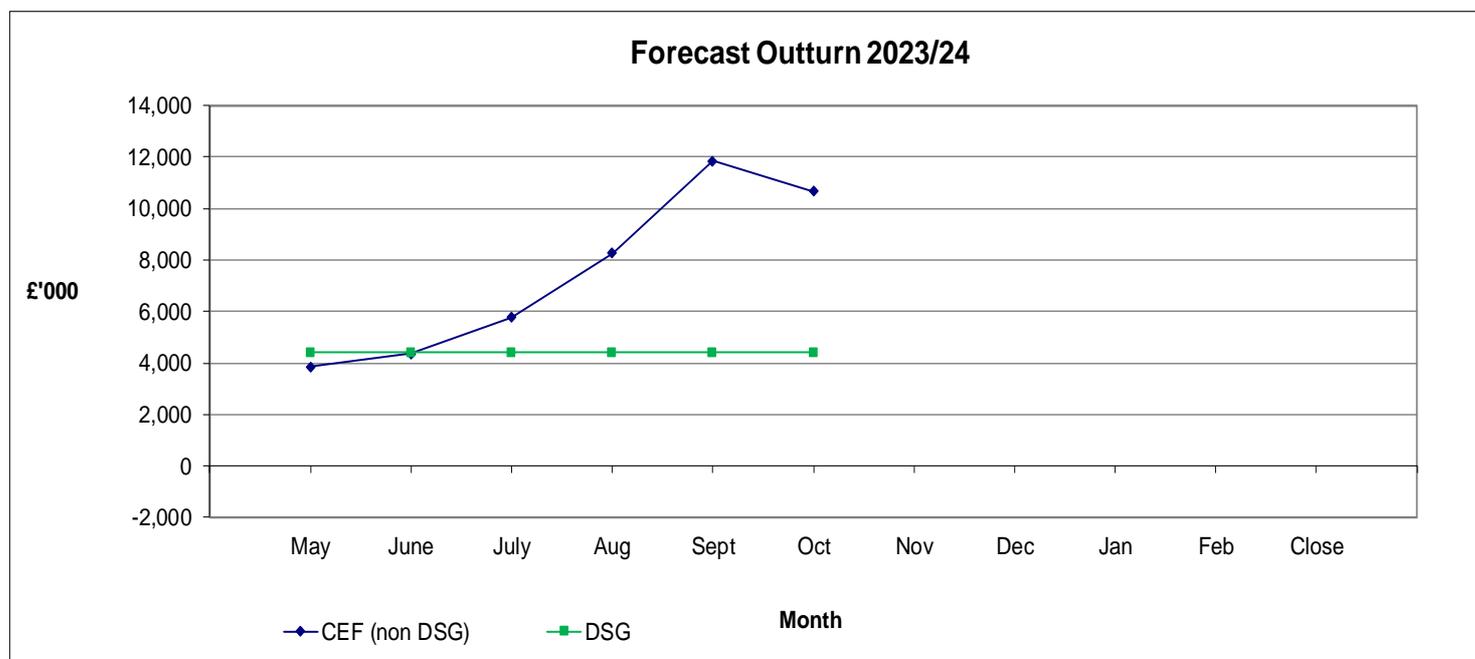
Section	Item	Description
1	Revenue Executive Summary	High level summary of information and narrative on key issues in revenue financial position
2	Capital Executive Summary	Summary of the position of the Capital programme within Children, Education and Families
3	Savings Tracker Summary	Summary of the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

# 1. Revenue Executive Summary

## 1.1 Overall Position

At the end of October 2023, Children, Education and Families is projected to be £10.670m overspent on core funded activities and £4.418m overspend on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) activities.

## 1.2 Summary of Revenue position by Directorate



### 1.2.1 Childrens, Education and Families – Non DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Directorate	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
6,002	Commissioning	29,236	-2,336	26,900	16,182	5,752	19.7%
1,542	Children & Safeguarding	69,323	-14,383	54,940	34,227	1,286	1.9%
4,311	Education	64,611	-18,225	46,387	20,275	4,265	6.6%
-0	Executive Director	619	0	619	370	-0	0.0%
0	Mitigations	0	0	0	0	-633	0.0%
<b>11,855</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>163,788</b>	<b>-34,943</b>	<b>128,845</b>	<b>71,054</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
0	Schools	0	0	0	-3,152	0	0.0%
<b>11,855</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>163,788</b>	<b>-34,943</b>	<b>128,845</b>	<b>67,902</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

## 1.2.2 Children, Education and Families – DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)  £000	Directorate	Gross Budget  £000	Income Budget  £000	Net Budget  £000	Actual  £000	Forecast Outturn Variance  £000	Forecast Outturn Variance  %
0	Commissioning (DSG)	245	0	245	-184	0	0.0%
5,418	Education (DSG)	115,334	-1,716	113,617	61,361	5,418	4.7%
<b>5,418</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (DSG)</b>	<b>115,579</b>	<b>-1,716</b>	<b>113,862</b>	<b>61,177</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
-1,000	Schools (DSG)	490,248	-2,689	487,559	96,417	-1,000	-0.2%
0	Financing (DSG)	0	-601,421	-601,421	-162,117	0	0.0%
<b>4,418</b>	<b>Total (DSG)</b>	<b>605,827</b>	<b>-605,827</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4,523</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

## 1.3 Significant Issues

The overall position for Children, Education and Families non-DSG budgets to the end of October 2023 is a forecast overspend of £10.670m. The figures include budget rebaselining adjustments approved at Strategy and Resources Committee in July.

**Children in Care Placements** – A reduced forecast of £5.737m is now being reported against Children in Care Placements, this reduction is a result of step-downs in high-cost placements to bring young people into sustainable placements that are at a more manageable cost. We still currently have a small number of young people in very high-cost placements which is causing a significant weekly pressure against the budget. If forecast to year-end, these placements would leave us in a significant overspend position, and whilst the service is working hard with relevant agencies to secure placements at more manageable costs, it is proving extremely difficult to secure appropriate regulated placements for these young people, due to a combination of complexity of need and a saturated external market. This has led to an increase in the length of some of the very high-cost placements being forecast, which has worsened the forecast overspend position. This position is being carefully monitored and the service is working hard to control cost where possible, including the weekly complex placement meeting to track all unregulated and high-cost placements and ensure all agencies are working towards more suitable, stable and cost-effective placements for these children. We are also continuing our market engagement with our providers to develop more cost-effective arrangements for current and future children needing placements.

**Children and Safeguarding** – A revised net forecast overspend of £1.286m is now being reported across Children and Safeguarding. Continuing high levels of agency staffing covering vacancies, along with additional agency project teams are being offset by unallocated budget and unused Social Care Grant reserves from previous financial years, as well as underspends on fostering and adoption allowances.

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

**Education** – A net forecast overspend of £756k is now being reported across Education (excluding Home to School Transport). As a result of delays in implementing a new ICT service, the proposed efficiency savings of £223k are now unlikely to be delivered until the 2025/26 financial year. The ICT

Service is now also reporting an increased pressure of £126k due to reduced income from schools. SEND Specialist Services are reporting a forecast of £500k across the Education Psychology (EP) service and SEND Head of Service. The EP service is experiencing a continuing increase in demand for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) which cannot be met from within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. We have seen a 24% increase in the number of requests for assessments for SEND. The SEND Head of Service pressure is a result of additional speech and language therapy costs and back care training costs. Both service areas are in discussion with relevant health organisations around performance and responsibility for payment.

**Home to School Transport** – A revised forecast of £3.508m is now being reported across the Home to School Transport budget lines.

There are increasing concerns around the home to school transport budget areas following the summer procurement rounds, which, due to lack of supply in the market, saw between 7% and 8% uplifts on the same route previously. This inflationary impact continues to be a live issue for the delivery of home to school transport. Alongside this, recent admissions data shows that growth of children and young people with SEND will continue to rise above what is forecast, therefore creating a higher demand for more complex routes, such as solo travel.

Work is underway to determine the financial impact of the unprecedented levels of in-year applications into the county which will not have been factored into the budget setting last year given the timing of the applications. Equally, the summer Year 7 secondary school place allocation round saw 5% higher retention of pupils from Primary into Secondary on previous years transfer rates. The impact of this has meant pressure on secondary school places and consequently more young people are being placed in schools over 3 miles from their home address and therefore eligible for transport. This information has been built into business planning to ensure budget setting is appropriate in the context of current demand.

Various cost saving exercises are currently taking place, such as optimising the use of our fleet and working with other external providers, to minimise overspends and create a more sustainable market.

**Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)** – Appendix 1b provides a detailed breakdown of all DSG spend within Children, Education & Families Services. The budget figures are net of recoupment for academies and High Needs place funding.

Due to the continuing increase in the number of children and young people with an EHCP, and the complexity of need of these young people, the overall spend on the High Needs Block element of the DSG funded budgets has continued to rise. At the end of 2022/23 there was a net DSG overspend of £11.94m, which when added to the existing DSG deficit of £39.32m resulted in a revised cumulative deficit of £51.262m.

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

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

## 2. Capital Executive Summary

At the end of October 2023, the capital programme forecast underspend is zero. The level of slippage and underspend in 2023/24 is currently anticipated to be £8,389k and as such has not yet exceeded the Capital Variation Budget. A forecast outturn will not be reported unless this happens.

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

## 3. Savings Tracker Summary

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

## 4. Technical note

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

- Grants that have been received by the service, and where these have been more or less than expected.
- Budget movements (virements) into or out of the directorate from other services, to show why the budget might be different from that agreed by Full Council.
- Service earmarked reserves – funds held for specific purposes that may be drawn down in-year or carried-forward – including use of funds and forecast draw-down.

## 5. Key Activity Data

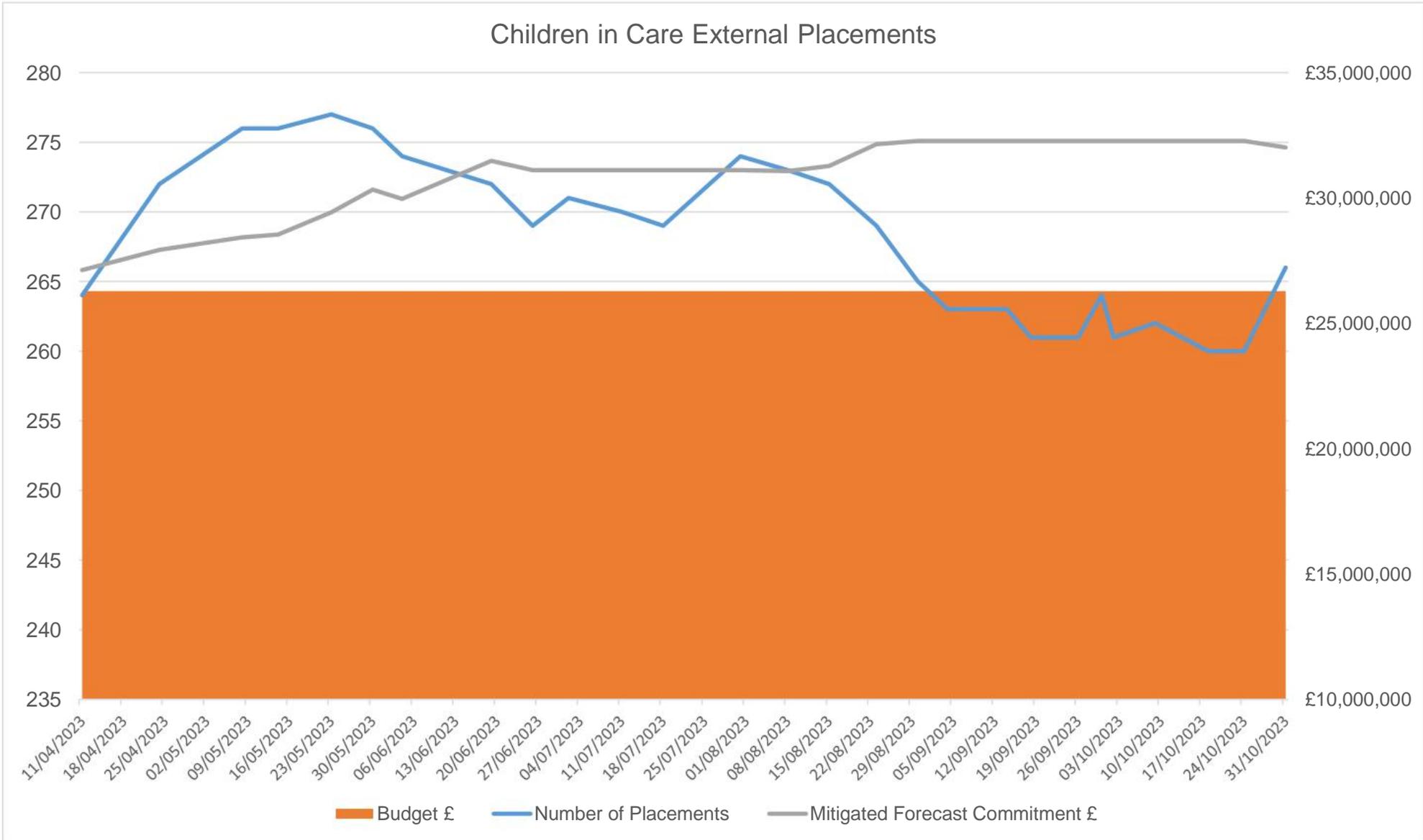
5.1 Key activity data to the end of October **2023** for **Children in Care Placements** is shown below:

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (October 2023)				FORECAST OUTTURN		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements October 2023	Yearly Average	Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted no. of placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Residential – disability	4	£874k	52	£3,277	4	4.01	£764k	£3,654	0.01	-£110k	£377
Residential - secure accommodation	2	£1,449k	52	£8,538	2	2.43	£3,498k	£30,622	0.43	£2,050k	£22,084
Residential schools	6	£509k	52	£1,632	6	5.79	£513k	£1,680	-0.21	£3k	£47
Residential homes	51	£10,922k	52	£4,118	44	46.34	£11,641k	£5,636	-4.66	£719k	£1,517
Independent Fostering	174	£8,153k	52	£901	169	166.84	£8,091k	£989	-7.16	-£62k	£88
Tier 4 Step down	2	£449k	52	£4,318	0	0.23	£31k	£2,232	-1.77	-£419k	-£2,087
Supported Accommodation	18	£2,264k	52	£6,302	32	28.85	£7,796k	£8,899	10.85	£5,532k	£2,597
16+	5	£81k	52	£310	7	5.23	£103k	£326	0.23	£22k	£17
Supported Living	2	£373k	52	£3,588	2	1.76	£571k	£13,483	-0.24	£198k	£9,895
Mitigations required	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	-£986k	£0	-	-£986k	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>£26,285k</b>			<b>266</b>	<b>261.48</b>	<b>£32,022k</b>		<b>-2.52</b>	<b>£5,737k</b>	
In-house Fostering	163	£4,119k	56	£450	163	147.25	£3,705k	£448	-16.04	-£414k	-£2
In-house fostering - Reg 24	31	£334k	56	£190	31	34.09	£345k	£186	2.66	£11k	-£4
Family & Friends Foster Carers	18	£341k	52	£364	13	12.12	£400k	£588	-5.87	£59k	£224
Supported Lodgings	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	£19k	£0	0.00	£980k	£0
Growth/Replacement							£73k		0.00	£73k	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>£4,832k</b>			<b>209</b>	<b>194.66</b>	<b>£4,542k</b>		<b>-23.93</b>	<b>-£275k</b>	

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (October 2023)				FORECAST OUTTURN		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements October 2023	Yearly Average	Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted no. of placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Adoption Allowances	87	£1,113k	52	£246	74	75.65	£851k	£216	-11.20	£-262k	£-31
Special Guardianship Orders	298	£2,319k	52	£150	283	281.42	£2,076k	£141	-16.74	£-244k	£-8
Child Arrangement Orders	52	£422k	52	£156	41	42.36	£314k	£142	-9.73	£-107k	£-13
Concurrent Adoption	2	£22k	52	£210	0	0.00	£k	£0	-2.05	£-22k	£-210
Growth/Replacement							£336k	£0	0.00	£336k	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>£3,876k</b>			<b>398</b>	<b>399.43</b>	<b>£3,576k</b>		<b>-39.72</b>	<b>£-300k</b>	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>£34,993k</b>			<b>873</b>	<b>855.57</b>	<b>£40,141k</b>		<b>-66.17</b>	<b>£5,162k</b>	

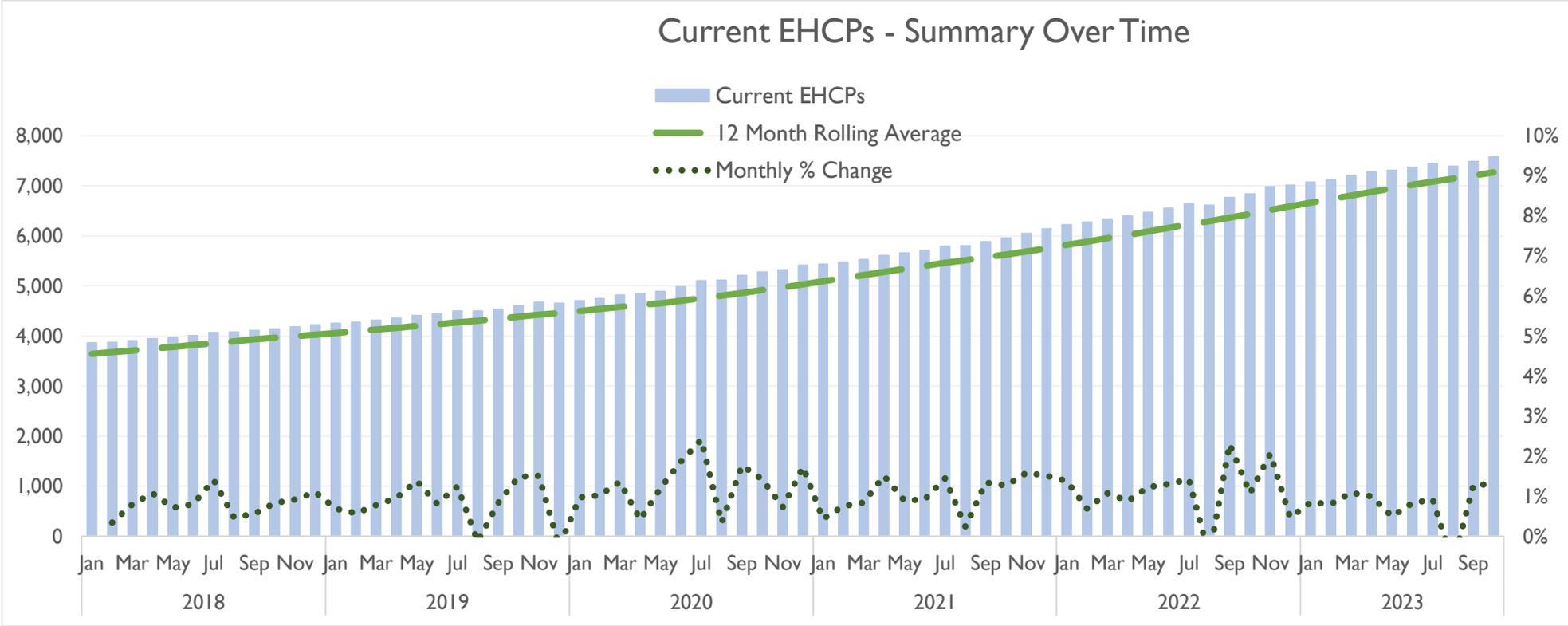
NOTES: In house fostering payments fund 56 weeks as carers receive two additional weeks payment during the summer holidays and one additional week each for Christmas and birthday.

### Children in Care External Placements



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

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



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

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Director of Commissioning</b>								
5,987	CYP	Children in Care Placements	28,601	-2,316	26,285	16,302	5,737	22%
15	CYP	Commissioning Services	635	-20	615	-120	15	2%
<b>6,002</b>		<b>Director of Commissioning Total</b>	<b>29,236</b>	<b>-2,336</b>	<b>26,900</b>	<b>16,182</b>	<b>5,752</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Director of Children &amp; Safeguarding</b>								
-520	CYP	Strategic Management - Children & Safeguarding	2,707	0	2,707	1,827	-520	-19%
0	CYP	Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	3,801	-540	3,260	1,831	-0	0%
0	CYP	Fostering and Supervised Contact Services	10,197	-327	9,870	5,702	-275	-3%
-0	CYP	Corporate Parenting	10,304	-7,014	3,290	4,731	0	0%
1,637	CYP	Integrated Front Door	4,833	-345	4,488	4,217	1,956	44%
340	CYP	Children's Disability Service	9,077	-832	8,245	5,885	340	4%
-0	CYP	Support to Parents	2,191	-2,019	172	-1,667	-0	0%
0	CYP	Adoption	6,104	-668	5,435	2,674	-300	-6%
85	CYP	Legal Proceedings	2,050	0	2,050	1,185	85	4%
-0	CYP	Youth Offending Service	2,822	-1,381	1,441	922	-0	0%
-0	CYP	Family Safeguarding	5,351	-173	5,178	1,901	-0	0%
-0	CYP	Targeted Support Service	9,886	-1,083	8,803	5,019	-0	0%
<b>1,542</b>		<b>Director of Children &amp; Safeguarding Total</b>	<b>69,323</b>	<b>-14,383</b>	<b>54,940</b>	<b>34,227</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>2%</b>

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Director of Education</b>								
223	CYP	Strategic Management - Education	1,277	-119	1,158	2,205	223	19%
-31	CYP	Early Years Service	3,270	-2,383	887	971	-1	0%
-22	CYP	School Improvement Service	2,298	-1,371	927	397	-43	-5%
0	CYP	Virtual School	2,077	-1,618	459	516	0	0%
59	CYP	Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)	2,335	-2,411	-77	-183	42	54%
-0	CYP	Cambridgeshire Music	1,709	-1,734	-25	373	-0	0%
98	CYP	ICT Service (Education)	5,645	-5,945	-300	-405	126	42%
-71	CYP	Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	4,596	-605	3,991	3,045	-71	-2%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>								
500	CYP	SEND Specialist Services	4,718	-173	4,545	2,587	500	11%
0	CYP	High Needs Top Up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0%
19	CYP	Alternative Provision and Inclusion	-13	0	-13	183	-0	0%
<b>519</b>		<b>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total</b>	<b>4,704</b>	<b>-173</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>11%</b>
<u>0-19 Place Planning &amp; Organisation Service</u>								
-80	CYP	0-19 Organisation & Planning	1,724	-1,019	705	403	-58	-8%
0	CYP	Education Capital	287	-103	184	-4,353	37	20%
2,305	CYP	Home to School Transport - Special	21,381	-580	20,801	9,126	2,202	11%
46	CYP	Children in Care Transport	1,951	-5	1,946	748	46	2%
1,264	CYP	Home to School Transport - Mainstream	11,357	-160	11,197	4,660	1,260	11%
<b>3,535</b>		<b>0-19 Place Planning &amp; Organisation Service Total</b>	<b>36,700</b>	<b>-1,866</b>	<b>34,834</b>	<b>10,584</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>4,311</b>		<b>Director of Education Total</b>	<b>64,611</b>	<b>-18,225</b>	<b>46,387</b>	<b>20,275</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>9%</b>

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Executive Director</b>								
0	CYP	Executive Director	618	0	618	370	-0	0%
0	CYP	Central Financing	1	0	1	0	0	0%
<b>0</b>		<b>Executive Director Total</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Mitigations</b>								
0	CYP	Additional Social Care Grant	0	0	0	0	-633	0%
<b>0</b>		<b>Mitigations Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-633</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>11,855</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>163,788</b>	<b>-34,943</b>	<b>128,845</b>	<b>71,054</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Schools</b>								
0	CYP	Schools Financing	0	0	0	-3,148	0	0%
0	CYP	Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	-4	0	0%
<b>0</b>		<b>Schools Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>11,855</b>		<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>163,788</b>	<b>-34,943</b>	<b>128,845</b>	<b>67,902</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>8%</b>

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

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Director of Commissioning</b>								
0	CYP	Commissioning Services	245	0	245	-184	0	0%
<b>0</b>		<b>Director of Commissioning Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>-184</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Director of Education</b>								
0	CYP	Early Years Service	2,225	0	2,225	973	-0	0%
0	CYP	Virtual School	150	0	150	0	0	0%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>								
0	CYP	SEND Specialist Services	7,412	-309	7,103	4,396	0	0%
0	CYP	Funding to Special Schools and Units	43,362	0	43,362	17,821	0	0%
0	CYP	High Needs Top Up Funding	35,739	0	35,739	17,438	0	0%
0	CYP	SEN Placements	16,877	-1,175	15,702	11,310	0	0%
0	CYP	Out of School Tuition	5,035	0	5,035	2,457	0	0%
0	CYP	Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,538	-117	7,421	4,485	0	0%
5,418	CYP	SEND Financing – DSG	-5,619	0	-5,619	303	5,418	96%
<b>5,418</b>		<b>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total</b>	<b>110,345</b>	<b>-1,601</b>	<b>108,743</b>	<b>58,210</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>5%</b>
<u>0-19 Place Planning &amp; Organisation Service</u>								
0	CYP	0-19 Organisation & Planning	2,214	-115	2,099	2,177	-0	0%
0	CYP	Home to School Transport - Special	400	0	400	0	0	0%
<b>0</b>		<b>0-19 Place Planning &amp; Organisation Service Total</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>-115</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>5,418</b>		<b>Director of Education Total</b>	<b>115,334</b>	<b>-1,716</b>	<b>113,617</b>	<b>61,361</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>5,418</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>115,579</b>	<b>-1,716</b>	<b>113,862</b>	<b>61,177</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>5%</b>

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee		Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Schools</b>								
0	CYP	Primary and Secondary Schools	446,592	0	446,592	76,310	0	0%
-1,000	CYP	Nursery Schools and PVI	41,165	-2,689	38,475	20,147	-1,000	-3%
0	CYP	Schools Financing	2,492	0	2,492	-40	0	0%
0	CYP	Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>-1,000</b>		<b>Schools Total</b>	<b>490,248</b>	<b>-2,689</b>	<b>487,559</b>	<b>96,417</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Financing</b>								
0	CYP	Financing DSG	1,951	-603,372	-601,421	-162,117	0	0%
<b>0</b>		<b>Financing Total</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>-603,372</b>	<b>-601,421</b>	<b>-162,117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>4,418</b>		<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>607,777</b>	<b>-607,777</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4,523</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Appendix 2 – Service Commentaries on Forecast Outturn Position

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

### 1) Children in Care Placements

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
28,601	-2,316	26,285	16,302	5,737	22%

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

### 2) Strategic Management – Children & Safeguarding

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
2,707	0	2,707	1,827	-520	-19%

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

### 3) Fostering and Supervised Contact Services

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
10,197	-327	9,870	5,702	-275	-3%

We are now forecasting an under spend of £275k against foster carer allowances for in-house carers. This is predominantly due to a lower number of children placed with in-house carers than was anticipated when the budget was set.

#### 4) Integrated Front Door

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
4,833	-345	4,488	4,217	1,956	44%

54% of vacancies within the assessment services are currently filled by agency workers and talks to the budget pressures. We anticipate mitigating these costs with the recruitment of International Social Workers and AYSE's (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment). The previous service structure was not sufficient to meet the demand, and in January 2023, the assessment service had over 270 out of date assessments, and caseloads over 35. To address these issues 2 project teams were agreed initially for 13 weeks then extended for a further 13 weeks to support the service to address the backlog. The additional capacity provided by the project teams, (at enhanced rates), ceased in August and September. Additional agency staff have been recruited at normal rates until November within East and Hunts team to replace the project teams whilst the current service structure is reviewed. The initial mapping work in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is complete and subject to change to reflect the demand in the system. The current data can't be validated as the system process doesn't support the practice; this is being reviewed. The volume of work within MASH continues to be high and further solutions are being considered to manage demand. Once data is confirmed as accurate, we can determine the workflow to inform the size of the assessment service.

#### 5) Children's Disability

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
9,077	-832	8,245	5,885	340	4%

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

## 6) Adoption

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
6,104	-668	5,435	2,674	-300	-6%

We are forecasting an under spend of £300k against adoption allowances and SGO allowances, this is due to a lower number of children in these placement types than anticipated at the time the budget was set.

## 7) Legal Proceedings

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
2,050	0	2,050	1,185	85	4%

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

## 8) Strategic Management – Education

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
1,277	-119	1,158	2,205	223	19%

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

## 9) ICT Service (Education)

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
5,645	-5,945	-300	-405	126	42%

Summer work, which usually represents a significant proportion of yearly income, has significantly dropped from last year as schools hold back on their spending due to external economic conditions. Also, school build projects have been put on hold or delayed, which has affected the services ability to generate income. Various strategies and marketing exercises are being explored to reduce this under-recovery.

## 10) SEND Specialist Services

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
4,718	-173	4,545	2,587	500	11%

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

## 11) Home to School Transport – Special

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
21,381	-580	20,801	9,126	2,202	11%

See below.

## 12) Home to School Transport – Mainstream

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
11,357	-160	11,197	4,660	1,260	11%

There are increasing concerns around the home to school transport budget areas following the summer procurement rounds, which, due to lack of supply in the market, saw between 7% and 8% uplifts on the same route previously. This inflationary impact continues to be a live issue for the delivery of home to school transport. Alongside this, recent admissions data shows that growth of children and young people with SEND will continue to rise above what is forecast, therefore creating a higher demand for more complex routes, such as solo travel.

Work is underway to determine the financial impact of the unprecedented levels of in-year applications into the county which will not have been factored into the budget setting last year given the timing of the applications. Equally, the summer Year 7 secondary school place allocation round saw 5% higher retention of pupils from Primary into Secondary on previous years transfer rates. The impact of this has meant pressure on secondary school places and consequently more young people are being placed in schools over 3 miles from their home address and therefore eligible for transport. This information has been built into business planning to ensure budget setting is appropriate in the context of current demand.

Various cost saving exercises are currently taking place, such as optimising the use of our fleet and working with other external providers, to minimise overspends and create a more sustainable market.

## 13) Mitigations

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
0	0	0	0	-633	0%

Additional Social Care Grant to be transferred from Adults. Subject to approval.

#### 14) SEND Financing – DSG

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
-5,619	0	-5,619	303	5,418	96%

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

#### 15) Nursery Schools and PVI

Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actuals £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %
41,165	-2,689	38,475	20,147	-1,000	-3%

Forecast underspend as per Safety Valve management plan.

## Appendix 3 – Capital Position

### 4.1 Capital Expenditure

Original 2023/24 Budget as per Business Plan £000	Committee	Scheme Category	Total Scheme Revised Budget £000	Total Scheme Forecast Variance £000	Budget Carried-forward 2023/24 £000	Budget Re-phasing 2023/24 £000	Revised Budget for 2023/24 £000	Actual Spend (October) £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (October) £000
44,312	CYP	Basic Need - Primary	130,160	0	805	-35,805	9,312	966	-1,410
104,100	CYP	Basic Need - Secondary	211,776	-1,500	-140	-19,291	84,669	32,916	-5,674
1,904	CYP	Basic Need - Early Years	7,367	0	548	-1,772	680	307	0
3,855	CYP	Adaptations	10,024	0	-183	-1,117	2,555	1,492	-338
3,250	CYP	Conditions Maintenance	27,304	0	805	54	4,109	999	-1,572
780	CYP	Devolved Formula Capital	7,793	0	2,474	-7	3,247	0	0
13,915	CYP	Specialist Provision	46,396	0	2,592	-4,891	11,616	7,411	605
1,050	CYP	Site Acquisition and Development	1,050	0	0	0	1,050	10	0
750	CYP	Temporary Accommodation	9,250	0	0	0	750	533	0
850	CYP	Children Support Services	7,500	0	0	0	850	0	0
-22,448	CYP	Capital Variation	-54,565	0	0	4,622	-17,826	0	8,389
1,425	CYP	Capitalised Interest	6,958	0	0	-182	1,243	0	0
-1,729	CYP	Environment fund Transfer	-3,499	0	0	0	-1,729	0	0
<b>152,014</b>			<b>407,514</b>	<b>-1,500</b>	<b>6,901</b>	<b>-58,389</b>	<b>100,526</b>	<b>44,635</b>	<b>0</b>

There are ten schemes with significant variances (>£250k) either due to changes in phasing or changes in overall scheme costs to be reported this month.

Ref	Service / Committee	Commentary vs previous month	Scheme	Scheme Budget £m	Budget for 2023/24 £m	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Cause	Commentary
1			Basic Need - Primary					
1a	CEF CYP	Prev Month	Kennett Primary School	10.12	5.8	-0.80	Phasing	Slippage due to later start on site than expected due to skylarks still nesting. Ecologists to confirm birds have left. Delay to start on site from 14.08.23 to 04.09.23 and completion 30.08.24 to 20.09.24.
1b	CEF CYP	New	Ermine Street Primary, Alconbury, Phase 2	4.08	1.5	-0.50	Phasing	Scheme estimated to start on site January 2024. Project will now be a steel frame rather than CLT (cross laminated timber panels). Steel has a longer construction period and expected costs incurred this financial year will be reduced.
2			Basic Need - Secondary					
2a	CEF CYP	New	Darwin Green (North West Fringe) secondary	34.7	0.33	-0.28	Phasing	Scheme delayed due to planning application appeal for the housing on phase 2 and 3 of the development. Appeal not likely to be heard until January 2024. Work will continue on MS1 and discussions ongoing with developer to work around planning delay to maintain school programme and 2026 opening
2b	CEF CYP	New	Alconbury Weald secondary and Special	74.8	29.0	-0.5	Phasing	Slippage on the Secondary school element. £1m was budgeted for design work this financial year. Design work delayed as work is ongoing to confirm who will undertake the delivery of the project
2c	CEF CYP	New	Northstowe secondary, phase 2	53.45	22.50	-3.50	Underspend Slippage	The receipt of milestone 4 report shows £1.5m saving on original estimate due to risk contingencies including those built in for price volatility. £2.1m slippage as groundworks and superstructure works appear to be slower than originally expected.
2d	CEF CYP	Prev Month	Witchford Village College	1.38	1.33	-1.29	Phasing	Slippage due to planning application progressing slower than anticipated. Planning expected in December with works not starting until 2024/25
4			Adaptations:					
4a	CEF CYP	Prev Month	William Westley Primary	0.35	0.34	-0.34	Phasing	This project is being reviewed to establish whether it can be delivered in an alternative way to meet the need for places across the wider area, including whether it can be combined with other planned capital projects in the wider Sawston, Duxford and Hinxtton (Genome Campus) area. Revised delivery expected to be 2027.

Ref	Service / Committee	Commentary vs previous month	Scheme	Scheme Budget £m	Budget for 2023/24 £m	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Cause	Commentary
5			Conditions					
5a			Conditions, suitability & Maintenance	4.14	4.14	-1.572	Slippage	Number of schemes delayed due to contractors being unavailable, and discussion on scope of work needed. £500k committed to match fund energy schemes and heat decarbonisation plans but which will not be taken forward this year as bids for de-carbonisation grants were not successful.
			Specialist Provision					
8a			Samuel Pepys Special School	10.72	5.00	1.00	Slippage	Expected £1m additional spend, due to land purchase, furniture and fittings and IT expenditure occurring ahead of original schedule.
8b			Enhanced Resources Bases	2.29	0.675	-0.375	Slippage	Initial progress on suitable schemes is slower than originally expected. One scheme stopped due to school withdrawing.

## 4.2 Capital Variations Budget

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

### 4.3 Capital Funding

Original 2023/24 Funding Allocation as per Business Plan  £000	Source of Funding	Budget Carried- forward 2023/24  £000	Budget Revisions 2023/24  £000	Revised Budget for 2023/24  £000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (October)  £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (October)  £000
2,259	Basic Need	2,627	0	4,886	4,886	0
3,800	Capital maintenance	805	55	4,659	4,659	0
780	Devolved Formula Capital	2,474	-7	3,246	3,246	0
0	Schools Capital	0	0	0	0	0
62,275	S106 contributions	0	-13,160	49,115	48,046	-1,069
16,588	Other Specific Grants	-1,467	0	15,121	15,121	0
0	Other Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
0	Other Revenue Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
67,338	Prudential Borrowing	2,463	-45,053	24,748	25,817	1,069
-1,026	Prudential Borrowing (Repayable)	0	-224	-1,250	-1,250	0
<b>152,014</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>6,901</b>	<b>-58,389</b>	<b>100,526</b>	<b>100,526</b>	<b>0</b>

## APPENDIX 5 – Technical Note

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

Grant	Awarding Body	Amount £'000
<b>Grants as per Business Plan</b>		
Public Health	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)	454
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	Home Office	6,581
Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	Department for Education (DfE) / Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)	1,875
Supporting Families	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	1,881
Pupil Premium - Virtual School	DfE / ESFA	1,358
RSS Therapeutic Hub	DfE / ESFA	1,000
Cambridgeshire Music Hub	Arts Council	942
Youth Offending Good Practice Grant	Youth Justice Board	699
Staying Put	DfE / ESFA	285
Personal Advisor Support to Care Leavers & Homelessness	DfE / ESFA	163
Recovery Premium - Virtual School	DfE / ESFA	159
Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant	Police & Crime Commissioner	127
Local Authority (LA) Delivery Support Funding	DfE / ESFA	112
Turnaround Programme 2022-2025	Youth Justice Board	109
Non-material grants (+/- £160k)	Various	412
<b>Total Non-Baselined Grants 23/24</b>		<b>16,157</b>
Financing DSG	DfE / ESFA	113,784
<b>Total Grant Funding 23/24</b>		<b>129,941</b>

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

Directorate	Grant Total £'000
Children & Safeguarding	11,515
Education	4,642
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,157</b>

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

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

	Period	£'000	Notes
<b>Budget as per Business Plan</b>		<b>344,317</b>	
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	-249,866	People Services restructuring into Children, Education & Families (CEF) and Adults, Health & Commissioning (AHC)
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	-915	Post BP, pre initial budget load adjustments
Commissioning Services	Apr	860	Commissioning Services (shown within CEF rather than AHC)
Children's Disability Service	Apr	8,245	Children's Disability Service (shown within CEF rather than AHC)
LAC Placements	Apr	25,724	LAC Placements (shown within CEF rather than AHC)
Schools Financing	Apr	-20	Transfer final postage budget to centralised postal cost centre
SEND Specialist Services	Apr	-26	Transfer funds for place planning business analyst post to Business Intelligence
Youth Offending Service	May	12	Budget Correction 2023-24 - Pay award element
Strategic Management - Education	May	115	Redistributing central funding for Childrens decoupling
Executive Director CEF	May	334	Splitting Executive Director Budget for Childrens & Adults decoupling
LAC Transport - Home to School	June	240	23/24 Budget resetting PV approved by S&R at July 2023 meeting
LAC Placements	June	561	LAC Placements (shown within CEF rather than AHC) - Budget resetting PV impact
Safeguarding; Children's Centres Strategy; and PSHE	June	-254	Adjust PH income budget to match amounts to be transferred under PH MoU
Children's Centres Strategy and Executive Director CEF	June	-285	Budget for 23/24 funding from PH reserves
Home to School Transport	July	4	Staffing Budget Corrections - Adults and Childrens Transport
Executive Director CEF	Aug	-15	Moving Budget for ADASS Regional costs to Adults from Childrens- Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
Multiple Directorates (all)	Aug	-185	Executive Assistant and Personal Assistant restructure
<b>Budget 23/24</b>		<b>128,845</b>	

### 5.3 Children, Education and Families Earmarked Reserve Schedule

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2023/24 £'000	Movements 2023/24 £'000	Q2 Balance £'000	Year End Forecasted Balance £'000	Reserve Description
Adoption	763	0	763	663	Funding to cover CCC legacy adoption costs following transition to a Regional Adoption Agency.
Early Help District Delivery Service – North & South	141	0	141	0	Historical project funding for youth projects to be applied in 2023-24.
Strategic Management - Children & Safeguarding	465	0	465	0	Residual Social Care Grants
Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	308	0	308	108	Local Safeguarding carry forward amount. Annual contributions from internal and external bodies.
Support to Parents	42	0	42	0	Family Hub – Historical project Funding
Youth Offending Service	153	0	137	0	Funding to provide ongoing support to the SAFE Team
0-19 Organisation & Planning	65	0	65	55	Art Collection Restoration Fund. Providing cultural experiences for children and young people in Cambridgeshire
Home to School Transport	426	0	426	283	To cover cost of programme of work to deliver savings in Social and Education Transport
Cambridgeshire Music	94	0	94	0	Reserve to support required works to former School building to make suitable for service
Outdoor Education	47	0	47	0	Reserve to support replacement of equipment

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2023/24 £'000	Movements 2023/24 £'000	Q2 Balance £'000	Year End Forecasted Balance £'000	Reserve Description
Virtual School	12	-12	0	0	Reserve to support identified redundancy cost.
Strategic Management - Education	174	0	174	117	Reserve to support identified redundancy and costs associated with an employment issue.
Pools and Contingencies	256	0	256	59	Schools absence and contingency schemes
Schools Financing	64	0	64	0	Residual school facing grants
Schools	2,694	0	2,694	2,591	Thomas Clarkson Building Schools for the Future PFI and Pilgrim Pathways carryforward
<b>TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES</b>	<b>5,704</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>5,692</b>	<b>3,876</b>	

(+) positive figures represent surplus funds.

(-) negative figures represent deficit funds.

## Transport Transformation – Progress Report

To:	Children and Young People Committee
Meeting Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
From:	Executive Director Children, Education and Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Outcome:	<p>The Committee will have oversight of the progress made in the implementation of the Transport Transformation Strategy one year on.</p> <p>The Committee will understand the areas of further focus that Officers intend to focus on in the coming year.</p>
Recommendation:	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) endorse progress made towards the outcomes identified in the Transport Transformation Strategy.</li><li>b) agree to a review of safer walking routes, with a view to bring a proposal to committee in March 2024.</li><li>c) endorse the partnership working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority in relation to shared public bus routes.</li></ul>
Voting arrangements:	Co-opted members of the Committee are eligible to vote on this item.

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# 1. Background

## 1.1 Statutory Responsibilities

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

The Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements they consider necessary to facilitate the attendance at school for 'eligible children'. Eligible children are categorised as;

- those who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school as a result of mobility issues associated with their Special Education Need and/or Disability (SEND)
- those living outside of statutory walking distance (beyond 2 miles if below the age of 8 or beyond 3 miles if aged between 8 and 16)
- some children in receipt of free school meals
- children of parents in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credits
- some post-16 students
- children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to their nearest suitable school because of the nature of the route is deemed to be 'unavailable' (unsafe) to walk

## 1.2 Discretionary Powers

Local authorities also have discretionary powers to go beyond their statutory duties and to provide transport for children who are not entitled to free transport. In doing so, they must consult with parents and must act reasonably when determining their travel policy.

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

## 1.4 Current Picture

The Children and Young People (CYP) Committee adopted the [Transport Transformation Strategy \(Item 5 refers\)](#) in November 2022 with a view to influence and create impactful changes to the way the council delivers on the above statutory duties.

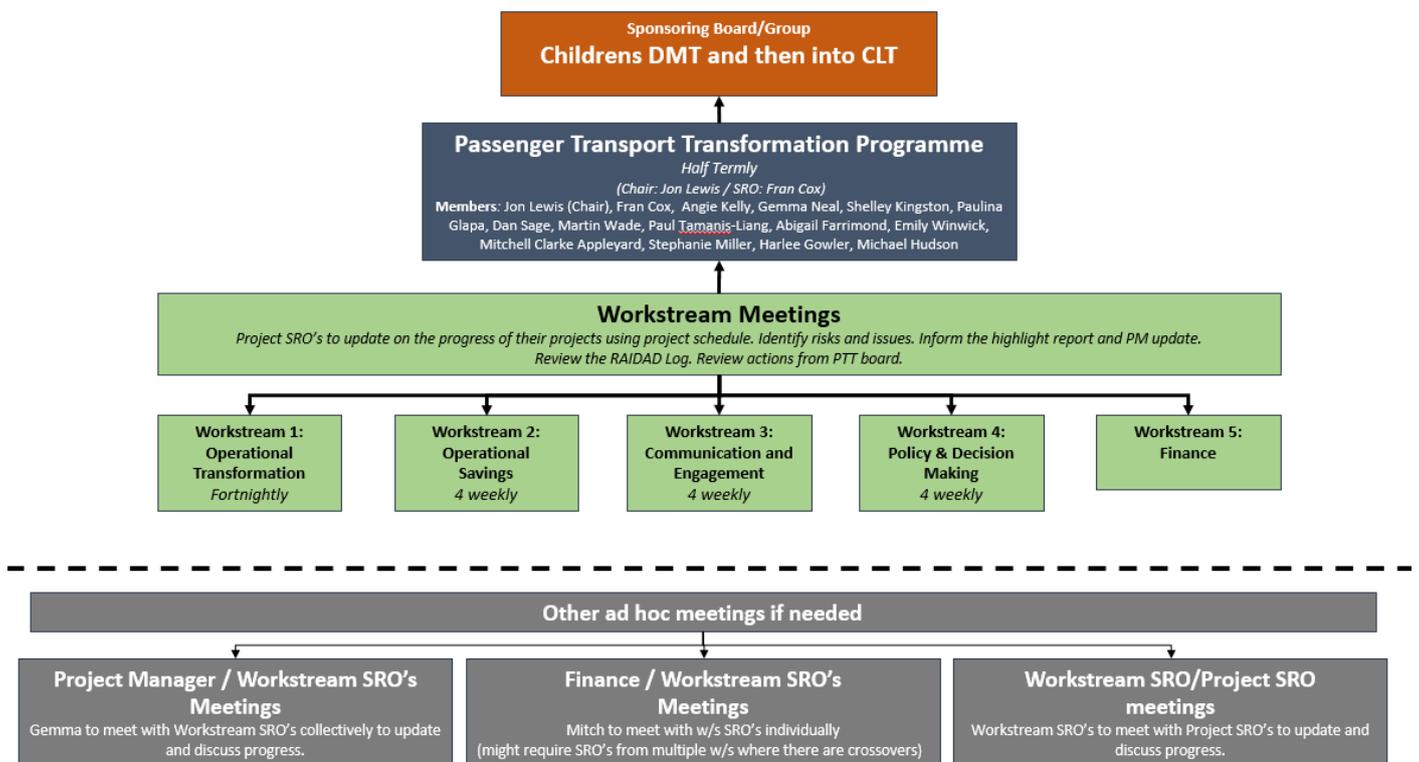
1.5 The Strategy has been in place for one year and the purpose of this report is to detail the progress and activity that has taken place in that time.

## 2. Main Issues

2.1 The transformation programme that sits under the strategy has 5 workstreams:

- Operational Transformation
- Operational Savings
- Communication and Engagement
- Policy and Decision Making
- Finance

2.2 The programme is governed by programme board which oversees all activity on a half termly basis. The details of the governance arrangements are outlined below.



### Operational Transformation

2.3 This workstream aims to diversify the council's route to market to mitigate the evidenced fragility and uncertainty of the transport providers as reported on last year. Whilst contract hand backs have reduced this year, these still occur, making the sole use of private hire operators unwise.

2.4 A number of key projects have been explored this year. These have included the reintroduction of the use of community transport through our approved dynamic purchasing system (DPS) framework. In terms of working with Community Transport, in addition to FACT having been approved to bid for routes on the DPS there is an intent to approach other community operators within Cambridgeshire to ascertain their interest in providing Home to School Transport and joining the DPS. A number of other delivery mechanisms

have been explored including partnership with the NHS Ambulance Service as well as working with special provisions to consider how they may be able to provide transport as part of their offer. The alternate transport model, which includes whole school contracts, devolved budget and the school transport self-delivery model, is still under investigation, and may present opportunities for diversifying the current transport offer and take pressure off the market. However in a context where partner agencies including schools and blue light services are under a tremendous amount of pressure already, there is no appetite to take on additional responsibilities or risk.

- 2.5 A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and the council's Business Intelligence team to review the data around the contracted home to school bus network and match to the current public bus network to ascertain the feasibility to integrate routes. The CPCA has identified two public bus routes where they believe that there is the highest probability that integration would be achievable. Work is ongoing, but if successful integration of routes could take place by August 2024.
- 2.6 This approach would not only deliver a tangible saving to the council per student, but it would improve the commercial viability of some of the bus networks providing a more resilient service for all members of the public. Should this approach be successful, the council and CPCA are keen to explore how this approach might be widened across the bus network.
- 2.7 Alongside the above, work has intensified from a service perspective around supplier and market engagement. The new operating structure has allowed for more capacity for officers to undertake meaningful engagement with our existing transport providers. All intelligence gained from engagement sessions is being processed and where appropriate fed back into DPS adjustments. An example of this is mileage variation.

### Operational Savings

- 2.8 Work is ongoing to seek operational savings within the routes that are currently delivered. This has included clean sheet reviews with the special school providers, and a constant critical review of high-cost single occupancy routes. This review is done in partnership with parents, schools, and officers within the transport service, and requires careful engagement and thoughtful consideration given to successfully transitioning students into shared arrangements. Many of these routes represent a significant saving for the council, but reduction also contributes to other targets, such as reducing the number of vehicles on the road, and the promotion of independence for our children and young people that use our service. Much of the policy, management of resources and communication and engagement work has a direct impact on both project areas.
- 2.9 A review has also been undertaken of routes to out of county placements. Given the current limited number of special school places in county it has been concluded that there are no options to consolidate any of these routes at the current time. That being said, there are a significant number of new places in the pipeline and all parents of a child in a special school have been written too to seek their views on moving their child's placement to a provision closer to their home when it is available. Understandably we have not had a high uptake from parents on this approach as children and young people will likely be settled in placement.

- 2.10 Very positively we have launched our volunteer driver scheme, both for members of the public and staff at the council. This offers volunteers who have the appropriate DBS and insurance in place, the opportunity to undertake school trips and be paid mileage.

### Communication and Engagement

- 2.11 Feedback from parents made it very clear that to improve our service delivery, we needed to improve our external and internal communications. Revised application forms have been developed alongside improvements on the website and information shared with parents.
- 2.12 Equally, internal communications with both SEND services and social care services have been developed to ensure that frontline workers who are working with families and discuss transport are fully briefed on eligibility and the processes around application. An engagement officer has been recruited to provide a consistent focus on this aspect of our customer service to ensure we are continually listening to our service users. Officers are also developing a transport eligibility engagement plan to ensure that relevant information provision is shared with children, young people and families at key points within their education journey, whether that be when applying for a mainstream school place, or when exploring school options as a part of the statutory assessment process.
- 2.13 In addition to this, the website is undergoing a redesign. Available information has been updated to reflect recent policy changes however, this new design will ensure that this information is streamlined, easily accessible and user friendly for all our service users.

### Policy and Decision Making

- 2.14 The Committee will be aware of the full-scale policy review that was undertaken in the Spring, with new policies being adopted this September. Easy Read versions of the policies have been developed and are available on the website. This will ensure all service users are able to access and understand the policies.
- 2.15 A critical aspect of the Transformation has been the development and implementation of revised decision making and governance processes. Previously decisions made around eligibility were held at officer level, whereas this has now all moved to senior officer level to ensure consistency and robust decision making against the new policies.
- 2.16 The improved forms that have been developed have allowed for greater depth of information to be present when making decisions. Amended appeal processes have also been created and will be implemented through the Autumn Term to ensure parents have an appropriate right of appeal.
- 2.17 New placement processes in SEND will be implemented in the winter, allowing for transport officers to be present at the point of placement discussion. This will allow for conversations around the appropriateness of transport and type offered. Personal Budgets and parental mileage will be offered where appropriate before the consideration of a high-cost taxi. Through this process, officers will have a greater understanding of the forecasted growth and presenting levels of need which will be channelled back into the commissioning strategies outlined in workstream 1.

## Finance

- 2.18 Whilst it was not the sole focus of the Transport Transformation Strategy to generate savings, it was an identified outcome given the increasing pressure the statutory delivery of transport is having on the council financially. Last year's outturns are included below for context:

Budget Area	22/23 Budget	22/23 Actual	Variance
Transport Mainstream	9,748,842	10,480,053	731,211
Transport Special	17,744,352	19,645,827	1,901,475
Transport Children in Care	1,629,623	2,122,063	492,440
<b>Passenger Transport</b>	<b>29,122,817</b>	<b>32,247,943</b>	<b>3,125,126</b>

- 2.19 Whilst much of the pressure which is still present this year is due to increased demand, complexity of the service users and inflation, it was felt that the above activity should have some financial impact.
- 2.20 A savings tracker has been developed with a view to understanding and logging the impact that the activity of the strategy is having.
- 2.21 An overview of the savings logged to date can be found at Appendix 1. There is some concern that despite exploration, some of the activity which was intended to deliver a saving has not been possible (for example, out of county placements). However, it is too early yet to see the impact of the revised policy and governance arrangements for decisions, and it is anticipated that this will have a positive impact in terms of saving.
- 2.22 The current in-year position is reflected below.

Budget Area	23/24 Net Budget	23/24 Forecast	Forecast Outturn
Transport Mainstream	11,197,354	12,457,434	1,260,080
Transport Special	21,201,100	23,403,507	2,202,407
Transport Children in Care	1,946,137	1,992,137	46,000
<b>Passenger Transport</b>	<b>34,344,591</b>	<b>37,858,078</b>	<b>3,508,487</b>

- 2.23 This inflationary impact continues to be a live issue for the delivery of home to school transport. Alongside this, the growth of children and young people with SEND continues to rise above what is forecast.
- 2.24 Work is underway to determine the financial impact of the unprecedented levels of in-year applications into the county which will not have been factored into the budget setting last year given the timing of the applications. Equally, the summer Year 7 secondary school place allocation round saw 5% higher retention of pupils from Primary into Secondary on

previous years transfer rates. The impact of this has meant pressure on secondary school places and consequently more young people are being placed in schools over 3 miles from their home address and therefore eligible for transport.

### Safer walking routes

- 2.25 Addressing childhood obesity is seen as the most pressing Public Health issue. In Cambridgeshire around 19% of Reception children have an unhealthy weight, this increases to around 32% in Year 6. Active travel encourages children along with their families to be more active which will not only contribute to healthy weight but also their overall health. Obesity is associated with a range of poor physical and mental health outcomes. There is evidence that children who have an unhealthy weight are very likely to retain it into adulthood.
- 2.26 In line with the agenda to promote active travel, and as part of the transport policy review, 10 routes were noted as being currently assessed as unsafe for walking but showing potential for becoming safe on reassessment. It is officers' opinion that with a thorough review of all routes currently deemed unsafe, there will be more routes that might be made safe with some additional investment.
- 2.27 This additional investment may range from landscaping, through to the implementation of a zebra crossing or increased lighting. Officers would like to propose a full-scale review of all unsafe routes to conclude what capital investment may be needed to make the route safe. This information will be matched against the current cost of transport and the environmental impact of the requirement of a vehicle route rather than a cycle/walking route through a triple bottom line analysis.
- 2.28 Officers propose that the outcome of this review should be brought back to the Committee in March 2024 with further recommendations regarding how to take this piece of work forward.

## 3. Alignment with ambitions

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

The report above sets out the implications for this ambition in 2.7

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

The report above sets out the implications for this ambition. The entire strategy and all activity undertaken as a result aims to improve travel to school for our children and young people, promoting sustainable methods of transport at every opportunity.

- 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

There are no significant implications within this category.

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

The report above sets out the implications for this ambition. The entire strategy and all activity undertaken as a result aims to promote independent travel to school wherever possible.

3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

There are no significant implications within this category.

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

The report above sets out the implications for this ambition in 2.2.

3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

The report above sets out the implications for this ambition. The entire strategy and all activity undertaken as a result aims to enable children and young people to access appropriate educational provision.

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

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes  
Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

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

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

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

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

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? Yes  
Name of Officer: Val Thomas

## 4. Source documents

- 4.1 [CYP Committee report 29.11.22 - Item 5 - Transport Transformation](#)

## Appendix 1 Savings Tracker

As of 3 October 2023

Transformation Investment into Savings	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
Investment Budget	54,000	161,000	161,000	107,000	483,000
Actual spend to date	57,388	30,835			
Forecast spend	57,388	140,605	161,000	107,000	465,993
Variance from budget (+ overspend)	3,388	-20,395	0	0	-17,007

Savings Summary	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
Total Savings Target	-50,000	-401,000	-582,000	-171,000	-1,204,000
Identified savings to date	-43,421	-206,532	-53,234	0	-303,186
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	6,579	194,468	528,766	171,000	900,814

Detailed savings breakdown	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
<b>Alternative Methods of Transport</b>					
<b>Self-Delivery Model – In Toto</b>					
Savings target	0	0	0	0	0
Identified savings to date	0	0	0	0	0
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CPCA Partnership</b>					
Savings target	0	0	0	0	0
Identified savings to date	0	0	0	0	0
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	0	0	0	0	0

Detailed savings breakdown	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
<b>Workstream 2: Operational Savings</b>					
<b>Recruitment scheme for casual and volunteer drivers</b>					
Savings target		-30,000	0	0	-30,000
Identified savings to date		0			0

Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)		30,000	0	0	30,000
<b>Review of high-cost single routes (SEND)</b>					
Savings target	-50,000	-100,000	-100,000	0	-250,000
Identified savings to date	-10,612	-94,068	-7,061	0	-111,741
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	39,388	5,932	92,939	0	138,259
<b>Clean sheet reviews</b>					
Savings target	0	-101,000	-312,000	-171,000	-584,000
Identified savings to date	-32,809	-70,575	-17,973		-121,357
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	-32,809	30,425	294,027	171,000	462,643
<b>Consolidation of out of county placements (SEND)</b>					
Savings target	0	-100,000	0	0	-100,000
Identified savings to date	0	0	0		0
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	0	100,000	0	0	100,000
<b>Review of PTBs</b>					
Savings target	0	0	0	0	0
Identified savings to date	0	-3,122	-1,635	0	-4,758
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)	0	-3,122	-1,635	0	-4,758

Detailed savings breakdown	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total
<b>Workstream 4: Policy &amp; Decision Making</b>					
<b>Management of transport demand and decision-making review</b>					
Savings target		-70,000	-170,000		-240,000
Identified savings to date		-38,766	-26,564		-65,330
Savings not possible (No walking distance policy change)		25,826	18,447		44,273
Savings not possible (No withdrawal of free transport to low income SEND pupils)		65,333	46,667		112,000
Variance from savings plan (+ under recovery)		31,234	143,436		

No savings identified in business case					
<b><u>Workstream 1: Operational Transformation</u></b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Workstream 3: Communication and Engagement</u></b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Workstream 5: Finance</u></b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

## Draft Small School Strategy

To:	Children and Young People Committee
Meeting Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
From:	Executive Director of Children, Education and Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Outcome:	The Council will have a clear framework to work within when supporting and challenging the smallest schools across Cambridgeshire to be educationally and financially sustainable.
Recommendation:	The Committee is asked to endorse the Small Schools Strategy (which includes the school closure process) set out in Appendix 1 to this report for immediate adoption and implementation.
Voting arrangements:	Co-opted members are eligible to vote on this report.

Officer contact:  
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Email: [Rachael.pinion@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rachael.pinion@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01223 715694

## 1. Background

- 1.1 At Children and Young People's (CYP) Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 officers committed to bringing forward a policy on small schools for the Committee's consideration. This was followed at CYP Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 by a request from Cllr Gardener for a report exploring how rural schools could be kept open.
- 1.2 At CYP Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 officers committed to reflect on the closure of Great Gidding Primary School, to report on the lessons learned from the Great Gidding closure process and to report on how the consultation process could be improved.
- 1.3 At Children and Young People's Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Cllr Gardener asked for officers to be invited to prepare a report to examine the impact of the closure of Great Gidding on children, staff and parents and how those effects could be mitigated in the future. Officers also committed to tracking the progress of Great Gidding's pupils and to bringing this information back as part of a future report.
- 1.4 This report looks to address these points.

## 2. Main Issues

### 2.1 Small Schools Strategy

The draft Small Schools Strategy found in Appendix 1 of this report is a policy which seeks to create a sustainable future for Cambridgeshire's small schools. Cambridgeshire currently has 65 maintained small schools who serve 9779 primary aged pupils, ranging in size from 61 pupils to 210 pupils (the upper limit for Cambridgeshire's working definition of a small school). They face several unique challenges to their sustainability:

- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Recruitment and retention of governors
- Falling/fluctuating pupil numbers
- Education quality
- Sustainable budget setting

2.2. The draft Small Schools Strategy details how officers have now assessed each of Cambridgeshire's maintained small schools against a list of criteria including:

- learning outcomes
- learning progress
- leadership and governance
- catchment forecasts
- pupil forecasts
- number on roll versus capacity
- local housing development
- suitability and condition of school buildings and their sites
- finance – forecast budget deficits and timings

2.3 Based on their overall score the schools have been sorted into Red, Amber and Green categories. These scores will be updated on an annual basis as new information is published.

- 2.4 Officers have met with school leaders to discuss these scores and will explore potential actions with schools to increase their sustainability. A list of potential options is provided in Appendix 2 of the strategy. Officers recognise that what may work for one school may be detrimental to another and that exploration of options in partnership with other schools within the local area is key.
- 2.5 The Local Authority has been working closely with all maintained schools to look at options around sharing costs and different models of sustainability including shared procurement, shared roles and centralised purchasing. These discussions will continue around our review of small schools and the pressure on budgets is across all schools.
- 2.6 As requested, the strategy also details a draft consultation process for school closure based on the learning from the Great Gidding process.
- 2.7 Lessons learnt from the consultation process run to determine whether or not to close Great Gidding  
Officers from the Great Gidding project group and working groups have given feedback on their lessons learnt from the closure process of Great Gidding.

#### Pre- Stage 1 consultation period

- Before the first Committee meeting officers need to brief Councillors on the statutory process and provide an opportunity for them to ask questions so that the process and background are fully understood.
- The first Committee report to CYP needs to clearly detail the options already explored by schools, officers and Governing Body before recommending a move to consult on closure. The school action plans detailed in the draft Small Schools Strategy could provide evidence for this. The report also needs to ask Councillors for suggestions and ideas before asking for approval to move to the next stage.

#### Stage 1 consultation period

- Parental contact information and consent to use their personal email for correspondence should be sought by officers at the onset of the consultation process so that there is a clear line of communication between parents and officers.

- 2.8 Officers also believed there were several operational aspects which could be improved:
- Seek specialist education legal advice and commission this at an early stage in the process.
  - Set a clear communications strategy from the start with key dates.
  - If there are vacancies in the Governing Body officers need to ensure the Governors are actively recruiting to these.
  - Admissions, Transport and SEND officers should be part of the process from the initial stages.
- 2.9 To ensure these aspects would be addressed if the closure process is required again a proposed governance chart (see Appendix 3 in the draft Small Schools Strategy) has been written to ensure the correct officers are involved from the project outset.

## 2.12 Impact of the closure of Great Gidding on children, staff and parents

To assess the impact of the closure on the children of Great Gidding school a questionnaire was sent to all 34 children who were on roll when the consultation was launched (the Year 6s were not included) in the 2023 summer term. There were 22 pupil response to this questionnaire. The results from this are generally positive:

- 86% of pupils either always or most of the time enjoy going to their new school.
- 72% of pupils always feel safe at their new school.
- All pupils have made at least one or two new friends at their new school.
- 95% of pupils feel they have an adult at their new school that they can talk to if something is worrying them.
- 95% of pupils know the next steps for their learning.

This questionnaire was then sent again to all 34 children who were on roll when the consultation was launched (the Year 6s were not included) in the 2023 autumn term. There were 11 pupil response to this questionnaire. The results from this are also generally positive:

- 73% of pupils either always or most of the time enjoy going to their new school.
- 50% of pupils always feel safe at their new school.
- All pupils have made at least one or two new friends at their new school.
- 91% of pupils feel they have an adult at their new school that they can talk to if something is worrying them.
- 90% of pupils know the next steps for their learning.

2.13 A separate questionnaire was also sent to the children's new teachers in the summer term. There were 24 teacher responses to this questionnaire. A summary of these responses are below:

### Transition

- 75% of teachers felt that transition arrangements were effective.
- 58.3% of teachers felt they did not have sufficient information from teachers at Great Gidding to support their new pupils effectively. Many commented they were sent no information about the children from Great Gidding and that they would have found assessment data and current working levels useful.

### Support and wellbeing

- Teachers responded that on average parents from Great Gidding are engaging really well with their new schools, pupils enjoy coming to school, have settled well and have made positive friendships.
- The average score for responding to 'the pupil approaches an adult for support when needed' was still high (7.38) but was the lowest of all the scores in the support and wellbeing section.
- The written responses for the support and wellbeing section were varied and seemed to be dependent on each child's individual circumstances.

### Progress and attainment

- 41.7% children are working at or above expectations for their age group.
- 58.3% of children are working below expectations for their age group in some areas or for all areas.
- 41.7% of teachers have concerns about the progress the children have made.

- The written responses suggest that many of the concerns are around writing, reading and maths.

This time next year officers will report on whether or not Great Gidding pupils have made expected progress across the 2023-24 academic year.

- 2.14 Due to data protection issues the survey on the impact on staff was delayed. It is currently being undertaken. The results of this will be brought to Committee once it is completed.
- 2.15 A questionnaire was also sent to parents in the autumn term to assess the impact of the closure on parents.
- 83% of parents found their wellbeing was impacted negatively when Great Gidding was being considered for closure
  - Once their child was offered a new school place this changed to 16% being positively impacted, 67% neutrally impacted and 16% negatively impacted.
  - Once their child was attending their new school 33% of parents found their wellbeing positively impact, 66% neutrally impacted and none negatively impacted.
  - 16% of parents found their daily routines have been positively impacted by their child's move to a new school, 50% neutrally impacted and 33% negatively impacted.

### 3. Alignment with ambitions

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

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

- Supporting small schools to remain open will likely to require additional investment into school buildings. Small schools generally have older buildings which will need to be modernised.

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

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

- By supporting small schools to remain open the Council is avoiding additional travel for some pupils.

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

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

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

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

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

- There is an expectation that schools will provide access to and use of the school's accommodation for activities for example sporting, cultural, outside of school hours. Therefore, keeping small schools open and sustainable will continue to allow a community focal point in small communities.

- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive  
The report above sets out the implications for this ambition in paragraph 2.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Resource Implications

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

- Schools revenue funding is allocated from the Dedicated Schools Grant so the financial health of an individual school does not directly impact on the Cambridgeshire County Council revenue budget. However, many of the small schools are forecasting a significant deficit budget in the next three years. As a result if the schools are unable to set a sustainable budget and recover any cumulative deficit there could be revenue implications for the local authority in future years.
- Keeping some small schools open will likely keep the impact on school transport revenue neutral. If small schools were to close these costs may increase.
- Keeping Cambridgeshire's small schools open means potentially missing the opportunity to dispose of an asset, gain a receipt and support CCC's capital programme.

- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications  
A completed EQiA for the Small Schools Strategy is attached.  
There are no significant implications within this category.

- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications  
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- A workshop on drafting the small schools strategy with small school leaders was held in the summer term. Workshops have been held this Autumn to share the small school ratings with school leaders. Further engagement with school leaders, governors and local members will be carried out this academic year.

- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement  
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The relevant Local Members will be involved as changes detailed in school action plans are consulted on.

#### 4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

#### 4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

##### 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Status: Negative

Explanation: The strategy will mean that the Council will be committed to education the same numbers of children in more buildings, therefore likely carrying more surplus capacity. Some of Cambridgeshire's smaller schools are in older accommodation which has had little investment and will require considerable investment to make them energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

##### 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: Having schools in local communities can encourage sustainable travel habits. However, small schools with falling rolls can attract out of catchment pupils who access the school generally in a car.

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

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The Small School Strategy will not impact on this implication.

##### 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The Small School Strategy will not impact on this implication.

##### 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Status: Negative

Explanation: The small school strategy proposes keeping more older buildings open which are likely to be less efficient with water use.

##### 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: Having schools in local communities can encourage sustainable travel habits. However, small schools with falling rolls can attract out of catchment pupils who access the school generally in a car.

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

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The Small School Strategy will not impact on this implication.

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

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes  
Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

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

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

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

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

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

If a Key decision, have any Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?  
Not a key decision.

## 5. Source documents

5.1 None.

## Cambridgeshire County Council’s Small School Strategy

September 2023

As part of Cambridgeshire County Council’s vision to “create a greener, fairer, more caring Cambridgeshire” one of the central ambitions is to ensure “children and young people thrive”. This strategy looks to achieve this ambition in our smallest schools across Cambridgeshire.

Our definition of a small school is one with at least a 4-11 age range and a Published Admissions Number of 30 or less, or an infant or junior school with numbers on roll of less than 210. This does not include new schools where numbers are forecast to grow over time. Small schools play a significant role in Cambridgeshire’s educational landscape.

### **Five key facts about Cambridgeshire’s children, young people and our smallest schools**

1. Cambridgeshire is home to 52,945 primary aged children, 7.8% of Cambridgeshire’s total population.
2. There are 210 infant, junior and primary schools in Cambridgeshire. 109 are classed as small schools. 65 of these are maintained and 44 are academies.
3. Out of the maintained 65 small schools, 49 are designated as rural schools by the Department of Education.
4. 9,779 primary aged children are currently educated in Cambridgeshire’s maintained small schools.
5. Cambridgeshire maintained small schools are currently graded 8% (18%) outstanding, 89% (70%) good, 3% (9%) requires improvement and 0% (3%) inadequate (national averages in brackets).

Our small schools can offer an outstanding education, be highly valued by parents and play a defining role in the local community. However, the very nature of small schools mean they face several unique challenges to being educationally and financially sustainable.

### **Challenges facing our small schools today:**

1. Recruitment and retention of staff
  - Small schools can struggle to attract and retain staff. Staff are often required to fulfil several roles, for example the Headteacher often carries out caretaking duties and teachers work in mixed year group classes. There are also often less opportunities for promotion and typically staff are more experienced (therefore more expensive to pay).
2. Recruitment and retention of governors
  - It can be difficult to recruit and retain governors with the skills required to govern a small school effectively, particularly in rural areas. Often types of rural employment can adversely affect people’s willingness or confidence to volunteer.
3. Falling/fluctuating pupil numbers
  - Birth rates have fallen from a peak in 2012. Therefore, some schools have falling rolls and a small school’s organisation and funding is disproportionately

affected by this. In many Cambridgeshire villages only low levels of development are included in Local Plans, this coupled with increasing house prices discourages families moving into these villages and results in pupil numbers declining as the populations of these villages age.

- Small schools often organise with mixed age year groups. This can be difficult to organise, particularly in year groups Reception to Year 2 due to Infant Class Size Legislation. It can also mean the school's Published Admissions Number doesn't reflect how the school is organised. Consequently, pupils may be admitted through the appeals process requiring the school to change organisation to a less cost-effective way. There is some evidence that mixed age teaching is less popular with parents and teachers and there are challenges in designing a curriculum for mixed age classes.
4. Education quality
- It has been evidenced that the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) introduced in 2019 is more challenging for smaller primary schools. Small primaries are five times more likely to be inadequate<sup>1</sup>. Nationally, no small school was rated outstanding in new EIF between Sept 2021 and June 2022 and 10 small schools received an 'inadequate' judgement.
5. Sustainable budget setting
- As funding is allocated on a per pupil basis small schools' budgets are particularly sensitive to small movement of pupils.
  - The current national funding formula (NFF) only allows funding to be allocated via factors defined within the NFF. As a result, there is no flexibility to subsidise smaller schools.

Faced with these challenges this strategy looks to set out how Cambridgeshire County Council will work with our small schools to assess any need for change, what changes may be required and if so, how these are implemented.

### **Small school guidance**

The Department of Education hasn't published any guidance specifically on small schools. However, in 2019 they published a research report entitled "Running rural primary schools efficiently"<sup>2</sup>. South Gloucestershire Council published in June 2020 a "Small Rural Schools Strategy"<sup>3</sup>. The Church of England published "Embracing Change: Rural and Small Schools" in 2018<sup>4</sup>. Findings from these sources have been used to inform this strategy.

### **Guiding principles**

Our guiding principles that will be used to inform our decision making when change is required are to:

- prioritise the needs of the children
- support the work, well-being and development of headteachers and staff

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<sup>1</sup> [Ofsted: Small primaries 5 times more likely to be inadequate \(2022\) Tes Magazine](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Running small rural primary schools efficiently \(2019\) Department for Education](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Small Rural Schools Strategy \(2020\) South Gloucestershire Council](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Embracing Change: Rural and Small Schools \(2018\) Church of England](#)

- fully understand the local and community context by seeking the views of parents, carers and the community

### **Assessment of schools**

To assess the vulnerability of our small schools officers have assessed each school using the following information:

- learning outcomes
- learning progress
- leadership and governance
- catchment forecasts
- pupil forecasts
- number on roll versus capacity
- local housing development
- suitability and condition
- forecast budget deficits
- forecast budget deficit timings

Schools can score a maximum of three points in each of these categories. See Appendix 1 for the scoring criteria. These scores will be updated on an annual basis. Schools have then been rated with either a red, amber or green status.

### **Sharing school assessments**

Officers have met with clusters of similarly rated schools during the 2023 autumn term to discuss their rating and how this has been compiled. At these cluster meetings school leadership teams and governors have been given a results sheet with their rating broken down.

Below are the specific actions officers will work through with each small school in Cambridgeshire dependent on their current rating.

### **Actions**

#### Red rated schools

These are Cambridgeshire's most vulnerable small schools, likely to have education standards concerns, immediate and forecast budget deficits and declining pupil numbers.

- Senior officers and school leadership team will write a formal plan detailing the issues and next steps to take. The options in Appendix 2 will be considered when writing this plan.

#### Amber rated schools

These are small schools likely to have an issue in one or two of the key assessment areas.

- Senior officers, place planning officers and the school leadership team will look at the areas with issues and work together to see if any of the options in Appendix 2 would be appropriate for further exploration.

#### Green rated schools

These are small schools likely to have been assessed as having good educational standards, stable pupil numbers going forward, and sustainable budgets forecast.

- Schools will be asked to consider the options in Appendix 2 and whether they feel any of the options would be appropriate for further exploration.

### **Desired outcomes**

#### Red rated schools

Any crisis situations will be averted, and all suitable options are explored to ensure the school is sustainable. Success would mean that within two years these schools move to an Amber or Green rating.

#### Amber rated schools

Amber rated schools will be able to consider the options pertinent to their school's areas of risk. Success would mean that within two years these schools move to a Green rating.

#### Green rated schools

Green rated schools will be able to monitor their risk factors on an annual basis and explore which options may be beneficial for their school. Success would mean staying consistently with a Green rating.

### **When does a school move from Red status to at risk of closure status?**

The Council agrees that schools which are looking to move to a permanent two-class structure would be at risk of closure. At this point officers would detail all the options that have already been explored and consider whether it is necessary to move to the first stage in the statutory process below.

Due to the reasons set out below the Council considered a two-class structure as not educationally viable.

The challenges posed by a two-class structure are enormous in terms of:

- a) the responsibilities which would fall to just two teachers in terms of leadership (including curriculum leadership), safeguarding, training and development, health and safety, finance/budgeting and the role of SENDCo in addition to full time teaching responsibility.
- b) risk jeopardising the pupils' entitlement to a broad curriculum offer and risk poor educational outcomes particularly for pupils at KS2 as:
  - a class across all four KS2 year groups would require a bespoke curriculum for the school and potentially for the individual children
  - the teacher (who may be the headteacher) would have to have extensive knowledge of the KS1, KS2 and year 7 curriculum.
  - planning would need to take account of the sequence and progression of learning across three curriculum frameworks.
  - the developmental needs, physical and emotional maturity and level of independence of the pupils across this age range vastly differ.

### **School closure consultation process**

If a school is deemed as being at risk of closure then officers are required to use the DfE statutory process for closing maintained schools<sup>5</sup>. The process consists of five stages and is outlined below. This process will need to be updated if the DfE change the statutory process.

<b>DfE Statutory Process</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stage 1: Consultation</b></p> <p>It is a statutory requirement to consult any parties the proposer thinks appropriate before publishing section 15 proposals to close a maintained school</p> <p>It is for the proposer to determine the nature and length of the pre-publication consultation. It is best practice for consultations to be carried out in term time to allow the maximum number of people to respond.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stage 2: Publication</b></p> <p>A statutory proposal should be published within 12 months of the initial consultation period being completed. This is so that it can be informed by up-to-date feedback.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stage 3: Representation</b></p> <p>Must be 4 weeks long</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stage 4: Decision</b></p> <p>A decision must be made within a period of 2 months of the end of the representation period</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decision Publication</b></p> <p>The decision must be published within one week of making the decision.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stage 5: implementation</b></p> <p>Less than 3 years (unless there is a good reason for a longer timescale)</p>

If the proposed school has rural school designation the Council must consult the following groups during Stage 1 of the process:

- the registered parents of the registered pupils at the school
- any district council for the area in which the school is situated
- any parish council for the area in which the school is situated

The Council must then consult the following groups during Stage 3 of the process:

- pupils at the school
- the governing body at the school
- teachers and other staff at the school;
- the registered parents of registered pupils at the school
- any district council for the area in which the school is situated
- any parish council for the area in which the school is situated
- if a proposal involves, or is likely to affect, a school which has a particular religious character, the appropriate diocese or relevant religious authority
- the trustees of the school
- any local authority likely to be affected by the proposal, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils;
- the governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected;
- parents of any pupils at other schools who may be affected by the proposal including, where appropriate, families of pupils at feeder primary schools;

<sup>5</sup> [Opening and closing maintained schools \(2023\) Department for Education](#)

- any trade unions who represent staff at the school, and representatives of any trade union of staff at other schools who may be affected by the proposal;
- MPs whose constituencies include the school that is the subject of the proposal or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposal.

The consultations with these groups would be run in various forms, for example: social media updates, in person and online engagement sessions, website landing page, letters and emails to parents and parish, district and county councillor briefings.

Appendix 3 details the governance structure, officers, project and working groups required to run this process effectively.

### **Presumption against the closure of rural schools**

The DfE also detail that decision makers are required to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. This presumption is applicable to 49 of Cambridgeshire's maintained small schools.

### **Moving forward**

This strategy will be reviewed on a biennial basis to ensure that it is increasing the educational and financial sustainability of the smallest schools across Cambridgeshire.

Officers will update Members and Schools Forum on a biennial basis with a progress report to Children and Young People's Committee.

As work is undertaken case studies will also be added to future versions of this strategy to allow others to access practical examples of change.

## Appendix 1: Scoring matrix for small school assessment

Scoring criteria	1	2	3
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report Expected Standards in Reading, Writing and Maths are above or not significantly different to national.	Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report Expected Standards in Reading, Writing and Maths show significant negative progress in only one area.	Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report Expected Standards in Reading, Writing and Maths show significant negative progress in more than one area.
<b>Learning progress</b>	Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report Progress scores are significantly above or not significantly different to national across Reading, Writing and Maths.	Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report progress scores for Reading, Writing or Maths show significantly significant negative progress in only one area.	Ofsted Inspection Data Summary Report progress scores for Reading, Writing or Maths show significantly significant negative progress in more than one area.
<b>Leadership and Governance</b>	Ofsted rating Good or Outstanding for leadership and management or/and Overall Ofsted rating of Good or Outstanding And No letters of concern or final warning notices have been issued.	Overall Ofsted rating of Good or Outstanding and The school have been issued a letter of concern by the Council.  In cases of most recent inspection being Section 8: Ofsted have identified that a full Section 5 inspection may downgraded the current 'Good' rating. Or Ofsted have identified leadership and management actions	Ofsted overall grade is Requires Improvement or Inadequate or/and Leadership and management has been rated Requires Improvement or Inadequate by Ofsted. Or/and The school has been issued a final warning notice by the Council.
<b>Catchment forecast</b>	No concerns identified. Forecasts remain stable and reflect the school's PAN / are above the school's PAN.	Some concerns identified. The school will need to continue to attract some children from out of catchment to maintain numbers on roll.	Serious concerns identified. Forecasts show a decline in pupil numbers and/or At least 50% of children coming from out of catchment OR 10 or fewer children within catchment area.
<b>Pupil roll forecast</b>	No concerns identified. Forecasts remain stable and reflect the school's PAN / are above the school's PAN.	Some concerns identified. Pupil numbers close to school's PAN.	Serious concerns identified. Forecasts show a decline in pupil numbers and/or consistently below PAN.
<b>Number on roll v capacity</b>	NOR compared to school capacity. Up to 10% surplus places.	NOR compared to school capacity. 10-15% surplus places.	NOR compared to school capacity. More than 15% surplus places.
<b>Housing development</b>	Significant housing development within the next 5 years.	Some housing development within the next 5 years.	No housing development planned / Minor housing development planned which is not likely to impact on pupil numbers.
<b>Suitability &amp; Condition</b>	No concerns identified. Suitability and condition issues have not been raised.	Some concerns identified. Investment minimal.	Serious concerns identified. Suitability and condition issues will need to be addressed.
<b>Budget position</b>	All budgets positive	Any deficit budgets forecast are less than £100,000	Any deficit budgets are over £100,000
<b>Budget timeframe</b>	Positive budgets forecast	Whilst deficit budget is forecast, it is not until 2025 onwards.	Forecast deficit budget within next 2 years.

## **Appendix 2: Potential options for small schools looking to be more sustainable**

Potential options for increasing a school's viability are listed below. This list is not exhaustive, and we welcome further ideas for inclusion. We understand that each small school's position is unique and that what could work well for one school could have a negative impact at another. Therefore, a tailored approach which fully considers each school's current position and local context will be taken drawing on the options below.

### Academisation

Schools can convert to academy status either through joining a multi academy trust or by becoming a stand alone academy.

### Amalgamation

School amalgamation is either the closure of two (or more) schools and the opening of a new school or the closure of one (or more) schools and then enlarging/changing the age range/transferring the site of an existing school to accommodate the displaced pupils.

### Explore options which will increase the school's income

Review whether there is the option to lease excess space to a third-party provider.

### Hard federation

A federation is defined in law as two or more maintained schools (including nursery schools) operating under the governance of a single governing body. The schools can be from different phases and have different statuses, e.g., a community and a foundation school, but non-academies cannot federate with academies. The governing bodies of each school looking to start / join a federation must agree on the decision to federate.

### Local Authority led Multi Academy Trust

This is currently not an option but may be an option in the future.

### PAN reduction at the small school

Consult to reduce the PAN at the small school so that the PAN can be set to reflect in-catchment demand / trend in pupil numbers in recent years and allow a more suitable class organisation.

### PAN reduction at nearby schools

Assess demand across schools within a local area and reduce that of a school nearby.

### PAN re-organisation

10 of our small schools have PANs which are not conducive to mixed year class structures. Schools should consider changing their PAN to 15 for two-year mixed age group classes and to 10 for three-year mixed age group classes.

### Review catchment areas

An assessment of the catchment areas of the small school and nearby schools could show that adjusting catchment areas would increase pupil numbers at the small school.

School restructure

Ensure that structure and responsibility is appropriate for the size of the school. There may be posts which are no longer required, or that could be combined; either through consultation, or in time, as staff leave.

Work with district councils during their Local Plan preparation

The 0-25 place planning team and senior education officers will work with district councils to promote catchment areas where development would be beneficial to a small school's pupil numbers.

DRAFT

### Appendix 3: Governance structure for consultation process for closing a small school

**School Closure Consultation Governance Structure**  
*(SRO: Director of Education / SRO: Assistant Director –  
Education Planning and Inclusion)*

**Project Group**

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Members:** Director of Education, Assistant Director – Education Planning and Inclusion, Project Manager, Place Planning Manager, Place Planning Reps, Place Planning Business Support, School Improvement Advisor, Strategic Admissions Manager, Strategic Passenger Transport Manager, Education Capital Rep, HR Rep, Schools Finance Team Rep, Communications Manager, Property Services Rep, Strategic Assets Rep, Property Compliance Rep

**Members to be invited if and as needed:** Reps from EPM, Reps from Diocese (if a church school)



**Working Group**

**Frequency:** Weekly

**Members:** Director of Education, Assistant Director – Education Planning and Inclusion, Project Manager, Place Planning Manager, Place Planning Reps, HR Rep, Schools Finance Team Rep

*If it is agreed a school would close this group would cease and move to the property group to undertake decommissioning works*



**Property Group**

**Frequency:** Weekly

**Members:** Director of Education or Assistant Director – Education Planning and Inclusion, Project Manager, Strategic Assets Rep, Facilities Manager, Client Property and Resources Manager

## Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23

To:	Children and Young People Committee
Meeting Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
From:	Executive Director: Children, Education and Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Outcome:	Provide a summary of information shared with the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee in 2022/23, including a review of key performance information.
Recommendation:	The Committee is recommended to:  a) Agree the report and areas of development listed for Corporate Parenting in 2023/24.
Voting arrangements:	Co-opted members of the Committee are not eligible to vote on this report.

Officer contact:

Name: Catherine Isaacs  
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# 1. Background

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee for Cambridgeshire has been in existence since 2017. It is a well-established Sub-Committee and is regularly attended by Council Members, Council Officers and representatives from Cambridgeshire Foster Carer Association. In that time, it has developed and changed into its current formulation of a thematic approach to key areas of activity. These are: placements and care planning; health and education of children in care; and those that have had a care experience.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to provide the Children and Young People Committee with an overview of the work carried out by the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee 2022-23. The report addresses the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee over the last 12 months and the impact the Sub-Committee has had in delivering on its objectives.
- 1.3 The meeting format changed in 2021 to thematic and has worked well in enabling Council Members to focus on key areas of Council and partnership activity in more depth, offering scrutiny and challenge to Council Officers. The Sub-Committee is ambitious in its aspirations for Children in Care and Care Leavers and supports the needs and aspirations through a more in-depth review of three key themes. These are Education, Health and Placements. The meetings rotate to ensure all subject matters are reviewed regularly.
- 1.4 In the past year, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have separated. This has not affected the running of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, or its focus which continues to be the children and young people of Cambridgeshire, their families and their carers.
- 1.5 Reporting Mechanism and Work Programme – The Sub-Committee has three informal and three formal meetings per year. The purpose of these are to enable children and young people to attend the informal meetings without the intrusion of this being a public meeting. The three informal meetings enable children who are in care and those that have left care to jointly chair the meeting alongside the Sub-Committee Chair. In doing so the Sub-Committee takes a strong interest in understanding those who have experience of being in care and those who have left care, their views of the service and how best to improve it. The formal meetings include the voice of Foster Carers who are recruited by Cambridgeshire Fostering Service. Their voice and views have enabled the Sub-Committee to understand more fully their aspirations for Children and Young People along with feedback on the service. At each meeting, monthly performance data called the Scorecard (attached as Appendix) is reviewed by the Sub-Committee. This enables Members to scrutinise in more depth any issues related to the performance of the Council in its responsibilities to promote and be aspirational in its outcomes for Children in Care and Care Leavers. The Chair remains as Councillor Anna Bradnam and Vice Chair Councillor Michael Atkins. Links exist to Participation and Promoting the Views of Children with Care Experience. The Sub-Committee listens directly to the views and feedback from Children and Young People relating to their experiences. Children and Young People

share their achievements with Council Members along with how they are influencing the delivery of services for Children in Care.

## 2. Main Issues

### 2.1 Summary of reports reviewed by Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee 2022/23

- 2.1.1 A dip sample of Review Health Assessments – The overall quality of the cases reviewed was found to be good, and in all cases the Health Action Plans and Leaving Care Health Assessment/Passport felt personal to the individual child/young person. There were improvements in performance compared to the previous year's audit, including the number Review Health Assessments (RHAs) completed face to face, birth and family history available, and completion of growth measurement. It identified that ongoing partnership work is required to enable improvements around accessing routine dental care and improving the number of strengths and difficulties questionnaires (SDQs) completed by foster carers and returned to the Children in Care Health Team so that they are available at the health assessment. This work is supported by the Children in Care Health Team Lead Nurse, who is pivotal to supporting the recommendations of the audit.
- 2.1.2 The process and some audits of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire used by the health service during their Health Assessments, and by education and children's social care – if the scores are elevated, they are discussed at the personal education plan (PEP) and at the Children in Care review.
- 2.1.3 The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service in the previous year – there were 592 children in care that year. The IRO service held 1,655 Child In Care Reviews during the year, and timeliness of these reviews remained excellent. Children and families' feedback reflected positively the IROs use of their skills to amplify the voice of the child in Care Planning. IROs use of the Escalation Protocol remains fully embedded across the service and evidences the IROs oversight of care planning for children.
- 2.1.4 The Siblings Together Forever Project – brings together siblings who have been separated through care for a short residential multi-activity trip at Grafham Water.
- 2.1.5 The work of the Participation Team in the previous year – whose role is to promote the voice of children and young people in care by offering a variety of opportunities for engagement and feedback, and ensuring action is taken as a result of that feedback. They offered a summer participation programme; an art challenge; children in care committee; meeting with corporate parents. They attend interviews and support recruitment of a range of roles and undertake "youth inspections" of some services in the county.
- 2.1.6 The Care Leaver Forum (CLF) presented their project – a performance-based project to give young people in care the opportunity to build confidence and

skills in this area, by the end of the summer. Care Leavers designed and facilitated a workshop at the Virtual School Conference in late June.

- 2.1.7 Virtual School Annual Report – their role encompasses supporting children in to the best possible school at transition point; offering advice support and training and trauma responsive approaches in schools; the Virtual School employ a PEP Champion who provides training and support to social workers and designated teachers; used Pupil Premium to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best educational outcomes for children in care; worked to develop positive working relationships with Multi Academy Trusts; attendance continued to be impacted by Covid-19 but was being closely monitored; no children were permanently excluded; and the children’s educational attendance and achievements were summarised.
- 2.1.8 Regional Adoption Agency Report 2021/2 – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough matched 58 children, placed 65 children and supported 69 children to be adopted. 40 prospective adoptive assessments were commenced, and 42 adopters were approved.
- 2.1.9 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption and Permanence Panel Report – in 2021/22, 44 mainstream adoption approvals and 6 early permanence dual approvals were achieved. The overall quality of adoptions reports is good. The quality of Child Permanence Reports continued to vary but Panel noted that there had been an improvement over the year. Areas for development included making sure that CPRs included a clear narrative of the child’s journey; consistent inclusion of parents’ views and post adoption contact plans; in particular, contact with siblings and Social Workers progressing actions recommended from panel.
- 2.1.10 Children in Care/Care Leavers in Education, Employment and Training (EET) Promotion Action Plan Update – the DfE figure for 19 to 21-year-old care leavers in EET was 49% for 2021, with an East of England average of 52%. There was an improvement in performance of 5% from 2020. A range of activities are undertaken to promote Education, Employment and Training for Care Leavers.
- 2.1.11 The report of the Cambridgeshire Fostering Service and Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association – The Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association (CFCA) meet regularly and gather the views and experiences of foster carers. The Chair and Vice Chair meet with the Head of Service for Fostering regularly. They have established a Fostering Recruitment Ambassador to support recruitment activities for foster carers. There had been work to develop their Mentoring Scheme to support all new foster carers. Support Groups for carers were running face to face. They have developed a Feedback Loop system with the Fostering Service to create forums to hear feedback from the foster carers. There had been work about setting up Junior ISAs and Trust Fund accounts.
- 2.1.12 As of March 2023, there were 163 registered foster carers to Cambridgeshire County Council.

2.1.13 Health Report – 23 of 88 Initial Health Assessments (26%) were completed in timescales (within 20 days of becoming accommodated) for in County Placements and 4 of 79 Initial Health Assessments (5%) were completed in timescales for out of county placements. The cause of the delay was delayed consent and referral forms from children’s social care, and carers, and children not being able to attend the initial appointment offered to them. For children out of county, capacity to complete the appointments will have had an impact. There is a designated nurse to support in developing practice in this area. For Review Health Assessments, these are completed in the child or young person’s home with a specialist nurse and for children placed in county 231 out of 248 assessments were completed in time (93%). Children and young people were clear that they prefer an in-person appointment. Strength and Difficulty Questionnaires (SDQs) are completed as part of the health assessment process. For children in care living in Cambridgeshire who experience a mental health difficulty, they can be referred by a professional to YOUNited which is a range of mental health services. Post covid, supporting children to register with the dentist is really challenging.

## 2.2 Key practice areas

### 2.2.1 Statistics about Children in Care

There were 646 children in care at the end of March 2023, which is an increase of 14 from March 2022. 86 of them are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. The increase in children in our care is partly due to Cambridgeshire County Council accommodating more Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children from 8% of our looked after children population in 2021/22 to 13.3% in 2022/23.

## 2.3 Statutory Visits

In 2022/23, 78% of our visits to children in care took place at the statutory timescale of every 6 weeks (or at 8 or 12 weeks for children who have been looked after for more than a year and where the IRO has agreed this). Our service ambition for 2024/25 will be to aim for at least 90% of visits taking place every 6 months.

### 2.3.1 Placement Stability

- a) Progress has been made in relation to key performance areas that we have to report to the government in our annual returns with regard to placement stability for children in our care.
- b) The first measure is focused on short term placement stability and considers children who have experienced three or more placements (so two or more moves) in the past year. Last year, 51 (7.9%) of our children experienced three or more placements. This is lower than the national average of 10% of children in care experiencing three or more placement moves.

- c) The second measure is long term placement stability and relates to children who have been in our care for more than 2.5 years and have been in the same placement for at least 2 years. Last year, 162 out of 233 children (69.5%) achieved long term placement stability. This is in line with the national average of 71% of children achieving long term placement stability.

### 2.3.2 Placement Sufficiency

Placement sufficiency continues to be a local and national challenge. This has resulted in some children in our care in 2022/23 being in unsuitable placements, including placements that are not regulated by Ofsted; children aged under 12 being in residential placements; and children and young people experiencing a high number of placement moves. Our placements service are leading on a placement sufficiency strategy that includes a focus on placements within Cambridgeshire, appropriate commissioning of residential placements, and a housing pathway that supports our 16- and 17-year-olds to develop independent living skills.

## 2.4 Areas for development

The Corporate Parenting Service in Cambridgeshire has been through a significant amount of change in the last year, with the decoupling from Peterborough City Council and a number of changes in senior leadership. This has impacted on the functioning of the service and the new Interim Director for Corporate Parenting has been leading on improvement plan work across the service.

Key areas of focus and development that have been identified are:

- 2.4.1 Caseloads are currently very high with an average of 20 children per Social Worker (excluding newly qualified Social Workers). To allow best practice for the children in our care we would hope to have a maximum of 15 children per Social Worker as this would allow them to have the time and capacity to undertake more in-depth direct work and life story work.
- 2.4.2 We have an increasing number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) across all of children's services. Our UASC children and young people require very particular interventions including the potential need for age assessments, support around their asylum claims, support in relation to the trauma they have experienced in their home country and their journey to the UK. Consideration is being given as to whether a UASC specialist team needs to be created in order to develop a specialist team in the Corporate Parenting service which can develop best practice for these children and young people.
- 2.4.3 Permanency planning is an area of weakness in the service, particularly for children and young people where the plan is long term foster care. There is a

plan to review Permanence Planning across the whole of Children’s Services and develop an agreed strategy in this area.

2.4.4 Placement stability is an area of concern – work is being undertaken to build in early identification of placements at risk, so that support can be put in at the earliest possible point.

2.4.5 Children on care orders placed with parents or with family and friends’ carers – a review of all of these arrangements will take place in the upcoming year.

## 2.5 Children Leaving Care

### 2.5.1 Care Leavers on their 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday:

	21/22	22/23	Difference
LA In-Touch	94%	87.8%	- 6.2%
Engaged in EET	74%	57.1%	- 16.9%
Living in Suitable Accommodation	92%	83.3%	- 8.7%

### 2.5.2 Care Leavers on their 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday:

	21/22	22/23	Difference
LA In-Touch	91%	91.9%	+ 0.9%
Engaged in EET	54%	55.1%	+ 1.1%
Living in Suitable Accommodation	86%	86.9%	+ 0.9%

*\*Cambridgeshire SSDA903 Looked After Children Summary 22-23 (SN and regional data is not yet published for comparison)*

## 2.6 Key Strengths and Progress

There has been significant improvement in the Leaving Care Service over the last 12 months focusing on recruitment and retention. By 30 October 2023 there are no vacancies within teams (previously 29% vacancy rate) supporting stability in the service, and a shared understanding and work towards achieving the improvements that need to be made to ensure improved outcomes for our young people. Example includes securing further DfE Rough Sleeper funding for the dedicated Homeless Prevention Personal Adviser Role.

### 2.6.1 Other developments and impact:

- a) Reconnecting with care leavers we had lost touch with; efforts have been made (and continue) developing purposeful relationships. This is reflected in caseloads largely remaining unchanged (current 27.1/ full time equivalent (FTE), 6 months ago 27.9/FTE).
- b) Improved and launched our Staying Put offer (Sept 23) broadening post 18 accommodation options.
- c) Strengthened our Higher Education Offer to ensure an equitable offer to young people.
- d) Developed the business case to support an uplift in the care leaver Local Offer, reducing social inequalities.

- e) Talking Therapies via Stop Breathe Think (12-month initiative) providing direct access to counselling services with no wait list.
- f) Progressed Mentor Programme for care leavers aged 18+.
- g) Developed Education, Employment and Training Empowerment Forum to bring practitioners together with partners who can support EET planning from 16-25 years.
- h) Strengthening quality in Pathway Planning with a bespoke annual training schedule for Leaving Care, including Pathway Planning, Housing for Young People, Mental Capacity Act, understanding benefits to ensure a consistent approach in how we support our young people and baseline knowledge and skills across the Leaving Care workforce.
- i) Joint Housing Protocol to provide clear guidance and framework for practitioners and key partner agencies with a working group to inform future developments (to be approved at Departmental Management Team).
- j) Improving systems and processes to support day to day practice, including reporting on young people aged 21-25 years closed to service but whom we need to offer annual in-touch.
- k) Management oversight and working restoratively with teams to improve our in-touch and quality of relationships. In addition to the SSDA903 data, weekly performance clinics take place and routine case discussions to review all young people we are not in touch with, live in unsuitable accommodation and are NEET, to explore how we can adjust our practice to improve outcomes. As an example, in April 2023 we were in-touch (face to face) with 58.8% of our young people aged 16-25 years (all eligibilities), by October 2023 this has increased to 76.7%. In the same period 70.9% of young people aged 16-25 years (all eligibilities) were living in suitable accommodation, by October 2023 this has increased to 92.4%.

#### 2.6.2 Areas we are developing:

- a) Review of our establishment to ensure care leavers have the right support at the right time giving space to develop caring and meaningful relationships.
- b) Promoting voice and influence, complimenting the work undertaken by the Participation Teams, we are undertaking our own consultation with key groups amongst our care leavers to ensure our improvement plan aligns with the experience of our young people; this includes parents and parents to be, young people in custody, and our separated migrant young people.
- c) Developing 'Welcome to Leaving Care' frequent event for young people and their carers.
- d) Adjusting the Pathway Plan and review format to improve experience and quality.
- e) Quality Assurance and in-house dip-sampling alongside monthly management audits.

- f) Monthly Team Manager led Pathway Plan review meetings to support and upskill practitioners.
- g) Improving pathways into Adult Services.
- h) Expanding Housing Options and support post 18 years.

2.6.3 Recommendations:

<i>Area to address</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Who by</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
We do not have a Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2022-25	Corporate Parenting Strategy to be written and encompass Children in Care, Children Leaving Care, and Fostering, Special Guardianships and Adoption.	Brian Relph, Executive Director, supported by Catherine Isaacs, Head of Corporate Parenting	To be presented at the next Corporate Parenting Board
Unaccompanied and Separated children (UASC) are currently receiving support across the whole of children's services and the offer can be inconsistent.	Review of our offer to our UASC and whether the service would benefit from the creation of a specialist UASC team.	Brian Relph, supported by Catherine Isaacs and Louisa Kay (Service Manager, Leaving Care Service)	Within 3 months
We do not have an up to date leaving care offer.	Review Leaving Care Offer so that we have a clear formal offer for young people aged 16+.	Catherine Isaacs and Louisa Kay	Within 2 months
Our performance for initial and review health assessments is poor in terms of completing them on time.	Review of current system involving Corporate Parenting and Health to take place.	Catherine Isaacs and Health colleagues	Within 2 months
Permanency planning for children in our care can be weak, particularly for children where the plan is long term foster care.	There is a review of Permanence Planning taking place across all of Children's Services. This should lead to Permanence Protocol for the whole of Children's Services.	Heads of Service across Children's Services	Within 3 months.

Many of our children and young people have increasingly complex mental health needs, and this impacts on all aspects of their lives.	We have an excellent clinical team that are able to offer a varied range of consultations and interventions. The clinical team to be clear about what their offer is to children, young people, their carers, their families and their Social Workers.	Vanessa Kinsey-Thatcher, Clinical Lead for Corporate Parenting.	Within 2 months
Our ability to recruit and retain good quality Social Workers is challenging in Cambridgeshire Children in Care Service.	There will be a Children's Service wide review of pay and conditions that the Children in Care service will feed into.	Martin Purbeck Executive Direction and Tapiwa Julius, Principle Social Worker	Within 3 months
There are not always timely, child-based assessments for children in our care.	A review of guidance about when assessments should be completed, and which assessments are needed will be undertaken. The aim is for there to be agreed policies across Children's Services for guidance about when assessments will be done.	Catherine Isaacs	Within 3 months

### 3. Alignment with the Council's ambitions

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

There are no significant implications for this priority.

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

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

There are no significant implications for this priority.

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

The recommendations outlined in this report should support the development of practice for children in our care and leaving our care to meet this priority.

### 3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

The recommendations outlined in this report should support the development of practice for children in our care and leaving our care to meet this priority.

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

The recommendations outlined in this report should support the development of practice for children in our care and leaving our care to meet this priority.

### 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

The recommendations outlined in this report should support the development of practice for children in our care and leaving our care to meet this priority.

## 4. Significant Implications

Not applicable

## 5. Source documents

### 5.1 None





## **Post Adoption and Special Guardian Support Pathway**

At Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption we provide a range of services aimed to offer the right level of support at the right time for our adoptive and SGO families.

We support children traumatised by their experiences to feel safer and more secure within their families with a focus on attachment and we have relationships are at the heart of what we do.

We offer support that will empower families to be able to support themselves with the right knowledge, skills, and tools.

### **Universal Services – Information, Signposting & Training**

There are various parts of our service that is open to all.

- Supporting Post Box contact
- Advise on managing contact
- Supporting birth families with accessing counselling
- Signposting to relevant and helpful groups and organisations
- Support groups for our families
- Information about adoption support
- Summer picnics for our adoptive and SGO families
- Wide range of information resources

### **Advice & Support**

We have a duty Social Worker who you can contact for advice and support. They take time to listen and understand your situation to help you to think about where support can be accessed - family & friends, peer support or community universal services including school, health, safeguarding or Early Help services.

Just contact our duty worker on 01480 379679 or email us at:

[AdoptionandSGO.SupportDuty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:AdoptionandSGO.SupportDuty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

### **Assessment of Need & Support**

If having spoken to our duty worker further support is needed, we can arrange for social worker to be allocated to complete an assessment of need. There is simple referral form to complete so we can understand your perspective from the outset. We aim to allocate families

to a Social Worker as quickly as possible but there can be a wait of up to two months as busy times. Whilst waiting, our duty Social Workers are able to offer advice and support.

The assessment will be an opportunity to discuss with an allocated Social Worker the challenges being faced, to reflect on what may be going on and why, and together consider the presenting adoption and SGO support needs.

Following assessment, a plan of support will be drawn up and may include support from universal services as well as therapeutic support from the Adoption Support Fund. The social worker will guide you through the process of finding a provider and setting up the support. Once the therapeutic support is in place, you will not have an allocated social worker, however you are able to contact us at any time through the duty social worker.

If it is felt that your family need specific support from the team, we will continue to have a social worker for you and your family. Such support may include therapeutic parenting support, therapeutic Life Story Work, 1-1 support with a child and co-ordinating support with other professionals.

## **Contact**

We offer a Post Box Contact service for letter contact between adopted children and their birth family. The Post Box Team can be contacted on:

- Cambridgeshire Local Authority Post Box Service:
  - [PostBox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:PostBox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
- Peterborough Local Authority Post Box Service:
  - [Peterborough.Postbox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Peterborough.Postbox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

We can provide advice and support around other types of contact– please contact our duty social worker and they can help you with the next steps.

## **Crisis Support**

Unfortunately, the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Team are unable to offer immediate support to families in a crisis. We are able to offer support and guidance and will work alongside other professionals who are supporting you as a family however this can not be immediate.

You are able to access support from Children’s Social Care and to access such support please contact them via phone:

- 0345 045 5203 (9-5pm Monday to Friday) – Cambridgeshire
- 01733 864170 or 01733 864180 (9-5pm Monday to Friday) – Peterborough
- 01733 234 724 (out of hours)

Alternatively you can contact them via email on [referralcentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:referralcentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

You are also able to access urgent mental health need please immediately call your local CAMHS provider and request an urgent assessment. Further information can be found at

<https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/service-detail/service/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs-63/>

Additionally, you can contact the contact the CPFT's First Response Service by calling NHS 111 (option2).

## **Suggested Resources**

While you are waiting, you may find the following services/information helpful:

- PAC-UK advice line - 020 7284 5879 or [emailadvice@pac-uk.org](mailto:emailadvice@pac-uk.org). They can offer help and advice regarding all matters relating to adoption whether you are an Adoptee, a Birth Parent, or an Adopter.
- You may also be interested in accessing support the National Association of Therapeutic Parents <https://www.naotp.com/>
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Offer website may help direct you to sources of support all families are entitled to such as the Disability Team or Early Help <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/about-cambridgeshire-s-local-offer>
- For advice and support around therapeutic approaches we recommend first looking at the Beacon House website <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/resources/> and researching Brené Brown on YouTube specifically around shame and empathy.
- Adoption Uk - [Adoption UK Charity](#)



# Cambridgeshire SSSDA903 Looked After Children Summary

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Includes historical and national performance comparison.

# Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables

	England	SNs	East of England	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction		Numerator	Denominator
	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22				2022-23			
<b>Placement 1:</b> Children looked after at period end with three or more placements during the year	10%	11%	10%	Low	9.0%	12.0%	7.9%	↓	51	646
<b>Placement 2:</b> LAC in care at least 2.5 years at period end living in their current placement for at least 2 years	71%	69%	70%	High	71.0%	70.0%	69.5%	↓	162	233
<b>Placement 3:</b> Percentage of LAC at 31 March placed outside LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live.	16%	23%	20%	Low	35.0%	33.0%	30.5%	↓	197	646
<b>Adoption 1:</b> Percentage who ceased to be looked after who were adopted	10%	10%	12%	High	14.0%	19.0%	7.8%	↓	15	192
<b>Adoption 2:</b> Percentage who ceased to be looked after because of a special guardianship order	13%	14%	8%	High	7.3%	11.1%	14.1%	↑	27	192
<b>Leaving Care 1:</b> The percentage of children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday	79%	88%	84%	High	x	100.0%	76.2%	↓	77	101
<b>Leaving Care 2:</b> The percentage of former relevant young people aged 19-21 who were in education, employment or training	55%	58%	56%	High	49.0%	54.0%	55.1%	↑	211	383
<b>Leaving Care 3:</b> The percentage of former relevant young people aged 19-21 who were in suitable accommodation	88%	89%	88%	High	84.0%	86.0%	86.9%	↑	318	366
<b>Leaving Care 4:</b> The percentage of former relevant young people aged 19-21 who were in higher education	7%	3%	7%	High	3.0%	5.0%	5.0%	–	19	383

# Children looked after at 31 March

	England 2021-22	SNs 2021-22	East of England 2021-22	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction 2022-23		Numerator	Denominator
LAC at 31 March					x	x	646			
LAC at 31 March per 10,000	70.0	56.0	50.0		x	x	47.0		646	
<b>LAC at 31 March by legal order</b>										
Interim care orders	20%	16%	17%	Lower	16.0%	16.0%	15.3%	↓	99	646
Full care orders	58%	57%	56%	Higher	58.0%	60.0%	52.6%	↓	340	646
Freed for adoption	x	x	x		x	x	-		0	646
Placement order granted	5%	6%	6%		9.0%	x	7.3%		47	646
Accommodated under S20	17%	22%	21%	Lower	17.0%	17.0%	24.8%	↑	160	646
Detained on child protection grounds in LA accommodation	x	0%	x		x	x	-		0	646
Youth justice legal Statuses	x	0%	x		x	x	-		0	646
<b>LAC at 31 March by placement</b>										
<b>Foster placements</b>	70%	69%	71%	Higher	74.0%	77.0%	72.1%	↓	466	646
Concurrent planning foster placements							2.6%		12	466
Foster placements with relative(s) or friends(s)							9.2%		43	466
Foster placements confirmed as permanent (long term)				Higher			25.1%		117	466
Placed for adoption	3%	3%	3%		3.0%	1.0%	2.0%	↑	13	646
Placement with parents	7%	5%	3%		1.0%	2.0%	0.6%	↓	4	646
Other placement in the community	2%	4%	5%		-	-	-	-	0	646
Children's homes, secure units and hostels	16%	19%	17%	Lower	21.0%	20.0%	24.9%	↑	161	646
Other residential settings	1%	2%	1%		x	x	-		0	646
Residential schools	x	0%	x		x	x	0.2%		1	646
Other placements	1%	1%	x		-	-	0.2%	↑	1	646

<b>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children</b>	7%	8%	10%		9.0%	8.0%	13.3%	↑	86	646
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**LAC at 31 March by Gender**

Male	56%	58%	58%		56.0%	59.0%	61.9%	↑	400	646
Female	44%	42%	42%		44.0%	41.0%	38.1%	↓	246	646

**LAC at 31 March by Age**

Under 1	5%	5%	5%		4.0%	5.0%	2.9%	↓	19	646
1 to 4	14%	12%	11%		11.0%	11.0%	11.9%	↑	77	646
5 to 9	18%	17%	16%		16.0%	14.0%	12.8%	↓	83	646
10 to 15	39%	40%	40%		41.0%	46.0%	40.7%	↓	263	646
16 and over	25%	27%	28%		27.0%	24.0%	31.6%	↑	204	646

**LAC at 31 March by placement location**

Under 20 miles and inside LA boundary	49%	50%	44%		31.0%	37.0%	31.9%	↓	206	646
Under 20 miles and outside LA boundary	23%	13%	14%		11.0%	11.0%	11.9%	↑	77	646
Over 20 miles and inside LA boundary	4%	6%	11%		13.0%	12.0%	12.1%	↑	78	646
Over 20 miles and outside LA boundary	16%	23%	20%		35.0%	33.0%	30.5%	↓	197	646
Distance not known or not recorded	4%	4%	7%		2.0%	1.0%	13.6%	↑	88	646

### LAC at 31 March by placement provider

Own provision (by the Local Authority)	46%	42%	49%		41.0%	44.0%	39.2%	↓	253	646
Other Local Authority provision	1%	3%	1%		x	2.0%	2.9%	↑	19	646
Other public provision (e.g. by a PCT etc.)	x	1%	x		x	-	-	-	0	646
Private provision	38%	40%	43%		52.0%	49.0%	52.9%	↑	342	646
Voluntary/third sector provision	7%	10%	3%		5.0%	4.0%	4.2%	↑	27	646
Parents or other person with parental responsibility	7%	5%	3%		1.0%	2.0%	0.6%	↓	4	646
Placement Provider not Reported	1%	2%	x		-	-	0.2%	↑	1	646

### LAC at 31 March by ethnicity

White	73%	78%	74%		80.0%	81.0%	73.1%	↓	472	646
Mixed	10%	9%	10%		9.0%	9.0%	7.9%	↓	51	646
Asian or Asian British	5%	3%	3%		x	x	5.1%		33	646
Black or Black British	7%	4%	6%		5.0%	4.0%	5.6%	↑	36	646
Other ethnic groups	4%	4%	6%		3.0%	3.0%	8.0%	↑	52	646
Other	1%	2%	x		x	x	0.3%		2	646

## Children who started to be looked after during the year

	England	SNs	England	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction 2022-23		Numerator	Denominator
Children starting a LAC episode during the period (no duplicates)					149	195	247	↑		
Children starting a LAC episode per 10,000 children	26.0	21.6	18.0		11.0	15.0	18.0	↑	247	

### Gender

Male	60%	60%	62%		56.0%	62.0%	68.4%	↑	169	247
Female	40%	40%	38%		44.0%	38.0%	31.6%	↓	78	247

### Children starting a LAC episode by age

Under 1	17%	17%	17%		26.0%	19.0%	13.8%	↓	34	247
1 to 4	15%	16%	13%		15.0%	20.0%	13.4%	↓	33	247
5 to 9	15%	16%	13%		10.0%	16.0%	14.6%	↓	36	247
10 to 15	27%	27%	26%		14.0%	26.0%	24.3%	↓	60	247
16 and over	25%	25%	30%		36.0%	19.0%	34.0%	↑	84	247

### Children starting a LAC episode by category of need

Abuse or neglect	58%	55%	56%		52.0%	54.0%	45.7%	↓	113	247
Child's disability	2%	4%	2%		4.0%	4.0%	1.6%	↓	4	247
Parents illness or disability	2%	3%	3%		x	x	1.6%		4	247
Family in acute stress	7%	11%	9%		7.0%	10.0%	11.3%	↑	28	247
Family dysfunction	11%	16%	8%		7.0%	10.0%	2.4%	↓	6	247
Socially unacceptable behaviour	2%	3%	2%		x	x	0.4%		1	247
Low income	x	0%	-		-	x	-		0	247
Absent parenting	18%	17%	20%		27.0%	21.0%	36.8%	↑	91	247

**Children starting a LAC episode by legal order**

Interim care orders	33%	29%	32%		44.0%	45.0%	32.4%	↓	80	247
Full care orders	1%	1%	1%		x	-	0.8%	↑	2	247
Freed for adoption					x	x	-		0	247
Placement order granted	x	0%	x		-	-	-	-	0	247
Accommodated under S20	54%	59%	56%		50.0%	49.0%	58.3%	↑	144	247
<b>Detained on child protection grounds in LA accommodation</b>	11%	10%	x		<b>4.0%</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>7.7%</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>247</b>
Police protection and in LA accommodation	9%	8%	7%		4.0%	4.0%	4.9%	↑	12	247
Emergency protection order	2%	3%	2%		-	x	2.8%		7	247
Child assessment order and in LA accommodation	x	0%	x		-	-	-	-	0	247
<b>Youth justice legal Statuses</b>	x	1%	2%		<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>0.8%</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>247</b>
Accommodated on remand or committed for trial	2%	1%	2%		x	x	0.8%		2	247
Accommodated under Police and Criminal Evidence [PACE] act	x	0%	-		-	-	-	-	0	247
Supervision order with residence requirement	x	0%	-		-	-	-	-	0	247

# Children who ceased to be looked after during the year

	England	SNs	East of	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction 2022-23		Numerator	Denominator
Children ceasing to be LAC during the year (and not coming back into care during the period)					220	243	192	↓		
Children ceasing to be LAC during the year per 10,000 children	26.0	19.5	18.0		16.0	18.0	14.0	↓	192	

NB: the DfE definition for LAC starts and LAC ends do not mirror each other, ie they can't identify the increase/decrease in LAC.

## Reason left care

Adopted - consent dispensed with	10%	10%	12%	High	14.0%	19.0%	7.8%	↓	15	192
Died	x	0%	x	Low	-	-	0.5%	↑	1	192
Care taken by another LA	3%	0%	1%		x	-	0.5%	↑	1	192
Returned home to live with parents or relatives as part of care planning process	18%	14%	11%	High	4.0%	7.0%	3.1%	↓	6	192
Returned home to live with parents or relatives not as part of care planning process	4%	5%	4%	Low	x	x	5.7%		11	192
Left care to live with parents, relatives or other person with no parental responsibility	6%	9%	10%		10.0%	6.0%	13.0%	↑	25	192
Residence order / Child arrangement order granted	4%	4%	3%	High	4.0%	4.0%	4.2%	↑	8	192
Special guardianship order	13%	14%	8%	High	7.3%	11.1%	14.1%	↑	27	192
Moved into independent living (with support)	12%	13%	13%		21.0%	14.0%	9.4%	↓	18	192
Moved into independent living (with no formalised support)	3%	5%	5%		11.0%	10.0%	6.8%	↓	13	192
Transferred to residential care funded by adult social services	2%	3%	3%		3.0%	3.0%	2.6%	↓	5	192
Sentenced to custody	1%	0%	1%	Low	x	-	0.5%	↑	1	192
Accommodation on remand ended	x	1%	1%		x	-	1.0%	↑	2	192
Age assessment determined child was 18 or over	1%	1%	1%		-	x	1.0%		2	192
Child moved abroad	x	0%	x		x	-	0.5%	↑	1	192
Aged 18 and remained with current carers	-	-	-		-	-	12.5%		24	192
Care ceased for any other reason	11%	11%	16%		10.0%	7.0%	16.7%	↑	32	192

**Gender**

Male	58%	58%	60%		59.0%	56.0%	60.9%	↑	117	192
Female	42%	42%	40%		41.0%	44.0%	39.1%	↓	75	192

**Age**

Under 1	5%	6%	5%		x	4.0%	5.7%	↑	11	192
1 to 4	21%	20%	20%		17.0%	21.0%	20.8%	↓	40	192
5 to 9	12%	11%	8%		10.0%	13.0%	9.9%	↓	19	192
10 to 15	14%	13%	12%		7.0%	9.0%	10.9%	↑	21	192
16 and over	47%	49%	54%		x	49.0%	52.6%	↑	101	192

**Duration of latest period of care**

Under 2 weeks							3.1%		6	192
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks							2.1%		4	192
From 8 weeks to under 6 months							15.6%		30	192
From 6 months to under 1 year							27.1%		52	192
From 1 year to under 2 years							21.4%		41	192
After more than 2 years							30.7%		59	192

## Children looked after during the year

	England 2021-22	SNs 2021-22	East of England 2021-22	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction 2022-23		Numerator	Denominator
Looked after during the year (excluding short breaks) per 10,000	92.1	73.9	66.7		x	x	60.9		838	
Looked after during the year under short breaks per 10,000	0.7	0.0	0.4		x	x	0.1		2	
New placements made during the year					x	x	561			
New placement under 20 miles and inside LA boundary	48%	50%	43%	High	33.0%	37.0%	33.3%	↓	187	561
New placement under 20 miles and outside LA boundary	21%	11%	12%		10.0%	9.0%	16.2%	↑	91	561
New placement over 20 miles and inside LA boundary	5%	8%	12%		12.0%	14.0%	11.9%	↓	67	561
New placement over 20 miles and outside LA boundary	16%	19%	19%	Low	32.0%	29.0%	25.7%	↓	144	561
New placement not recorded or not known	11%	14%	14%		14.0%	10.0%	12.8%	↑	72	561

### Reason for change of placement

Change to/ Implementation of care plan	35%	34%	26%		27.0%	20.0%	26.5%	↑	105	396
Resignation or closure of provision	1%	2%	1%		x	1.0%	0.3%	↓	1	396
Allegation (s47)	1%	1%	x		x	x	-		0	396
Standards of care concern	1%	1%	2%		x	3.0%	0.8%	↓	3	396
Approval removed	x	0%	x		-	-	-	-	0	396
Carer requests placement ends due to child's behaviour	10%	13%	15%		27.0%	25.0%	24.5%	↓	97	396
Carer requests placement end other than due to child's behaviour	6%	9%	8%		4.0%	7.0%	5.8%	↓	23	396
Child requests placement to end	4%	6%	4%		4.0%	2.0%	3.5%	↑	14	396
Responsible/Area authority requests placement to end	2%	2%	1%		2.0%	x	1.5%		6	396
Change in the status of a placement only	17%	15%	17%		12.0%	11.0%	9.8%	↓	39	396
Custody arrangement					x	x	-		0	396
Other	23%	28%	26%		22.0%	31.0%	27.3%	↓	108	396

## Care Leavers - status on their 19th to 21st birthday

	England	SNs	East of	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction 2022-23		Numerator	Denominator
Having a birthday in the year (excludes those who have subsequently died or returned home for 6 months)					346	364	383	↑		
<b>Contacts between local authority and care leaver</b>										
In touch with care leaver	92%	92%	92%	High	88.0%	91.0%	91.9%	↑	352	383
Young person refuses contact	1%	1%	1%		x	x	0.3%		1	383
Young person no longer requires services	2%	3%	2%		x	x	0.3%		1	383
Not in touch with care leaver	5%	14%	4%		x	8.0%	7.6%	↓	29	383
<b>In education, employment or training</b>	55%	58%	56%	<b>High</b>	49.0%	54.0%	<b>55.1%</b>	↑	<b>211</b>	<b>383</b>
In higher education i.e. studies beyond A level	7%	3%	7%	High	3.0%	5.0%	5.0%	–	19	383
In education other than higher education	23%	24%	25%	High	26.0%	26.0%	32.9%	↑	126	383
In training or employment (including apprenticeships)	26%	27%	24%	High	20.0%	23.0%	17.2%	↓	66	383
<b>Not in education, training or employment</b>	38%	35%	38%	<b>Low</b>	45.0%	40.0%	<b>37.1%</b>	↓	<b>142</b>	<b>383</b>
illness / disability	7%	8%	7%		4.0%	6.0%	6.0%	–	23	383
other reasons	26%	22%	26%	Low	37.0%	30.0%	27.7%	↓	106	383
pregnancy or parenting	5%	5%	4%		4.0%	4.0%	3.4%	↓	13	383
<b>Local Authority does not have information</b>	7%	7%	7%	<b>Low</b>	6.0%	5.0%	<b>7.8%</b>	↑	<b>30</b>	<b>383</b>

Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (excluding 'gone abroad', 'deported' and 'residence not known')	88%	89%	88%	High	84.0%	86.0%	86.9%	↑	318	366
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#### Accommodation generally deemed suitable

With parents or relatives	10%	10%	11%		12.0%	9.0%	10.7%	↑	39	366
With former foster carer	9%	8%	8%	High	8.0%	6.0%	5.2%	↓	19	366
Foyers and other accommodation providing EET support	2%	7%	2%	High	7.0%	5.0%	6.6%	↑	24	366
Supported lodgings	4%	7%	6%	High	3.0%	5.0%	6.3%	↑	23	366
Ordinary lodgings	1%	2%	2%		5.0%	4.0%	5.2%	↑	19	366
Semi-independent transitional accommodation	18%	13%	19%	High	22.0%	22.0%	27.0%	↑	99	366
Community home or other form of residential care	3%	4%	4%		3.0%	4.0%	5.5%	↑	20	366
Independent living	36%	38%	32%		19.0%	24.0%	18.6%	↓	68	366

#### Accommodation generally deemed unsuitable

Emergency accommodation	1%	1%	1%	Low	x	x	0.3%		1	366
Bed and breakfast	x	0%	x	Low	-	-	-	-	0	366
In custody	3%	2%	3%	Low	3.0%	3.0%	1.4%	↓	5	366
No fixed abode / homeless	1%	2%	1%	Low	4.0%	3.0%	1.1%	↓	4	366
Other accommodation	3%	4%	5%	Low	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	↑	15	366
Local Authority does not have information	7%	6%	5%	Low	5.0%	5.0%	8.2%	↑	30	366

#### Accommodation excluded from suitability

Deported	x	0%	-		x	-	-	-	0	366
Gone abroad	x	0%	x		-	x	0.3%		1	366
Residence not known	1%	1%	2%		4.0%	5.0%	4.4%	↓	16	366

## Care Leavers - status on their 17th & 18th birthday

	England	SNs	East of	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	Prediction 2022-23		Numerator	Denominator
Having a birthday in the year (excludes those who have subsequently died or returned home for 6 months)					137	126	98	↓		
<b>Contacts between local authority and care leaver</b>										
In touch with care leaver	94%	93%	95%	High	88.0%	94.0%	87.8%	↓	86	98
Young person refuses contact	x	0%	x		-	-	-	-	0	98
Young person no longer requires services	1%	0%	1%		-	-	-	-	0	98
Not in touch with care leaver	5%	9%	3%		12.0%	6.0%	12.2%	↑	12	98
<b>In education, employment or training</b>	66%	71%	66%	<b>High</b>	61.0%	74.0%	<b>57.1%</b>	↓	<b>56</b>	<b>98</b>
In higher education i.e. studies beyond A level	4%	x	4%	High	x	7.0%	11.2%	↑	11	98
In education other than higher education	48%	49%	51%	High	40.0%	56.0%	39.8%	↓	39	98
In training or employment (including apprenticeships)	15%	17%	11%	High	x	11.0%	6.1%	↓	6	98
<b>Not in education, training or employment</b>	28%	27%	29%	<b>Low</b>	30.0%	20.0%	<b>30.6%</b>	↑	<b>30</b>	<b>98</b>
illness/ disability	3%	x	3%		x	x	6.1%		6	98
other reasons	22%	22%	24%	Low	28.0%	17.0%	23.5%	↑	23	98
pregnancy or parenting	2%	0%	2%		x	x	1.0%		1	98
<b>Local Authority does not have information</b>	6%	7%	4%	<b>Low</b>	9.0%	6.0%	<b>12.2%</b>	↑	<b>12</b>	<b>98</b>

Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (excluding 'gone abroad', 'deported' and 'residence not known')	90%	91%	90%	High	88.0%	92.0%	83.3%	↓	80	96
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#### Accommodation generally deemed suitable

With parents or relatives	13%	14%	13%		13.0%	13.0%	13.5%	↑	13	96
With former foster carer	19%	21%	17%	High	8.0%	9.0%	9.4%	↑	9	96
Foyers and other accommodation providing EET support	3%	11%	2%	High	5.0%	x	4.2%		4	96
Supported lodgings	7%	13%	8%		7.0%	6.0%	4.2%	↓	4	96
Ordinary lodgings	1%	0%	1%	Low	x	x	3.1%		3	96
Semi-independent transitional accommodation	31%	25%	36%		39.0%	30.0%	36.5%	↑	35	96
Community home or other form of residential care	4%	6%	4%		x	10.0%	1.0%	↓	1	96
Independent living	9%	11%	6%	Low	11.0%	6.0%	7.3%	↑	7	96

#### Accommodation generally deemed unsuitable

Emergency accommodation	x	1%	1%	Low	-	-	1.0%	↑	1	96
Bed and breakfast	x	0%	x	Low	-	-	1.0%	↑	1	96
In custody	2%	1%	2%	Low	x	-	1.0%	↑	1	96
No fixed abode / homeless	x	0%	x	Low	x	-	1.0%	↑	1	96
Other accommodation	3%	0%	4%	Low	x	7.0%	4.2%	↓	4	96
Local Authority does not have information	6%	6%	4%	Low	9.0%	6.0%	12.5%	↑	12	96

#### Accommodation excluded from suitability

Deported	0%	0%	-		-	-	-	-	0	96
Gone abroad	x	0%	x		-	-	-	-	0	96
Residence not known	x	0%	1%		x	6.0%	2.1%	↓	2	96

## Outcomes for children looked after

Children looked after who were missing or away from placement without authorisation	Good is	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Prediction			Numerator	Denominator	
					2020-21	2021-22	2022-23			
Missing incidents during the year		533	756	438			↓			
Children looked after having a missing incident	11%	11%	13%	Low	12.0%	11.0%	10.9%	↓	91	838
Average number of missing incidents per child	6.3	5.2	6.2		5.2	8.1	4.8	↓		
Going missing more than once during the year				Low	x	x	6.7%		56	838
Missing at year end					0.0	0.0	0	–		
Away from placement without authorisation incidents					0.0	0.0	0	–		
Children looked after having an absent incident	2%	1%	1%	Low	-	-	-	–	0	838
<b>Offending</b>										
Convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year (10 and above)	2%	3%	2%	Low	-	3.0%	2.3%	↓	8	346
<b>Substance misuse</b>										
Identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year	3%	4%	3%		-	-	-	–	0	447
Received intervention for their substance misuse during the year	43%	23%	44%		-	-	n/a		0	0
Offered intervention for their substance misuse but refused it during the year	38%	35%	12%		-	-	n/a		0	0
<b>Healthcare (for those in care 12 months on 31 March)</b>										
Number of children whose immunisations were up to date	85%	81%	85%		54.0%	53.0%	52.6%	↓	235	447
Number of children who had their teeth checked by a dentist	70%	68%	74%		30.0%	56.0%	67.6%	↑	302	447
Number of children who had their annual health assessment	89%	85%	88%		89.0%	90.0%	89.3%	↓	399	447
Number of these children whose development assessments were up to date (LAC 12+ months and aged 5 or younger at 31 March)	89%	95%	93%		71.0%	88.0%	69.4%	↓	34	49

### Strengths and difficulties questionnaire

Children looked after for at least 12 months aged 4 to 16 with an SDQ score	77%	71%	76%	High	47.0%	51.0%	76.5%	↑	263	344
Average score per child	14	15	15	Low	14.1	14.9	15.1	↑		
Banded "Normal"	50%	46%	46%		49.0%	41.0%	43.7%	↑	115	263
Banded "Borderline"	12%	14%	13%		10.0%	16.0%	14.4%	↓	38	263
Banded "Cause for Concern"	37%	40%	40%	Low	42.0%	43.0%	41.8%	↓	110	263

## A Review of Methodology for Estimating Demand for Education Provision Arising From New Housing Developments

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

From: Executive Director: Children, Education and Families

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: Councillors will:

- a) have a clear understanding of the purpose of child yield multipliers, how they are derived and the use to which they are put in planning education provision so that the Council meets its statutory place planning duties whilst minimising risk
- b) be able to approve the adoption of the revised child multipliers with immediate effect.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised child multipliers set out in Table 3 in paragraph 2.8 and Table 5 in paragraph 2.11 with immediate effect to better inform the planning and funding of early years and school places.

### Officer contacts:

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# 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is responsible for planning, reviewing and commissioning educational services, including new schools. It has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility who is of school age and whose parents want their child to be educated in the state funded sector. In addition, the Council has a responsibility to provide sufficient early years and childcare provision.
- 1.2 In order to inform and plan appropriately for early education and school places in response to new housing developments, the Council requires forecasts of likely numbers of children who will live in those developments. The planned response to larger developments usually involves the establishment of new schools and sufficient land to accommodate buildings and outdoor space. These requirements feed into the planning process and form the basis either for negotiation with developers as part of a S106 Agreement or to support the Council's case for its infrastructure requirements to be funded via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 1.3 The multipliers used to forecast the numbers of children for a given number of new homes were last revised and approved by Children & Young People's (CYP) Committee in December 2017. As a result of the previous review:
  - the general multiplier for the primary age range (age 4 to 10) was increased from 25-35 per 100 dwellings to 30-40; and
  - the detailed multiplier was reduced for the number of children expected to live in 3 and 4- bedroom market properties but increased for the number in social-rented properties.
- 1.4 Given the current and projected level of growth in the County a review of the multipliers is recommended to take place every three to five years. In June 2021 CYP Spokes agreed to delaying a full review of child yield multipliers until 2021 census data became available.
- 1.5 The monitoring of recent new developments in Cambridgeshire suggests that the general multipliers for primary-aged children and some of the detailed multipliers needed to be reviewed again. This paper sets out the reasons for, and outcome of this latest revision.

# 2. Main Issues

## 2.1 Methodology

Forecasting the number of children that will live in a new development is a complex, evidence-led process. The Council's Business Intelligence Service (BIS) has developed a methodology over many years, based on:

- analyses of school census data
- local surveys of new developments
- whole population analysis such as local population estimates and, where relevant the national census and GP registrations

This data is then applied to a selection of recent case studies for new developments in the area. In this case, Alconbury Weald and Northstowe.

2.2 In August 2023, the Department for Education published updated guidance for local authorities on securing developer contributions, alongside new guidance on estimating pupil yield from housing development, and a dashboard containing pupil yield factors for all local authorities. Officers have incorporated this data into their analysis.

2.3 Together these sources indicate the average number of children that might be expected to live in individual properties, depending on the number of bedrooms and tenure. However, while some key variables, for example, dwelling size and tenure mix can be factored into forecasts, there remain many intangibles to do with location and design, the state of the housing market and government policy that affect the types of people and households attracted to live in a particular development. As new developments settle and mature, so do their populations, meaning that infrastructure needs to evolve over time.

2.4 The multipliers are broken down into two categories. Where the housing mix is unknown a general multiplier is applied. Where a detailed mix is known a detailed multiplier is used.

### 2.5 General Multipliers

When discussions with a developer begin, the intended housing mix may be unknown, unfixed or known in broad terms only. In these situations, it is necessary to apply a “general multiplier” range that indicates the lowest and highest number of children that might reasonably be expected to live in the development.

2.6 The Council’s general multiplier ranges for 100 dwellings are currently:

- 20-30 pre-school aged children (0 - 3 years)
- 30-40 primary age children (4-10 years)
- 18-25 secondary age pupils (11-16 years)

For planning purposes, BIS officers advise greater use is made of the full range rather than a single mid-point figure, particularly during early discussions. At all points it is important to be clear that any child forecast is based on a set of assumptions regarding the nature of the proposed development. If these assumptions change so too will the child forecasts. Whilst a multiplier range is proposed for calculating child yield, for the purpose of calculating developer contributions where a detailed housing mix is not yet known, the top end of the range must always be used to guarantee that the Council can cover its statutory obligations regarding the provision of early years and school places.

### 2.7 Detailed Multipliers

Where a detailed housing tenure mix and dwelling size is known it is possible to forecast the number of children that might be expected to live in different types of dwellings based on the number of bedrooms and whether they are market or social rented properties. For example, 100 three-bedroom market properties would be expected to house around 20 primary-aged children compared to around 80 primary-aged children from 100 three-bedroom social rented properties. During planning for education provision on new developments there is the requirement for more detailed modelling as information on tenure and house / bedroom size becomes available. The data from the new development surveys (NDS) support this work by feeding in information on the pupil yield for different sizes and tenures of housing, enabling a standard model to be built.

## 2.8 Proposed changes to the primary-age general multiplier

The analysis of the School Census data indicates that the general multiplier of 30 – 40 children aged 4 -10 per 100 dwellings is too high in some cases. Most notable is that the pupil yield from the two Cambridge developments, Trumpington Meadows and Great Kneighton, is much lower than the current multiplier. Tables 1 and 2 show the primary multiplier broken down into Cambridge and non-Cambridge developments. They show an average of 26 for Cambridge and Cambridge Fringe developments and 36 for developments in other districts. Therefore, it is proposed that the primary multiplier for districts excluding Cambridge should remain unchanged at 30-40 and a new multiplier for Cambridge and Cambridge Fringe should be introduced at 20-30.

**Table 1: Primary School Census Data: Developments in East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire**

Site	Children per 100 homes 2019/20	Children per 100 homes 2020/21
Alconbury Weald	33	32
Northstowe	40	34
Godmanchester Bridge	33	36
Brampton Park	50	51
Bassenhally Farm	33	35
Ely North	29	22
<b>Average</b>	<b>36</b>	

**Table 2: Primary School Census Data: Cambridge City and fringe**

Site	Children per 100 homes 2019/20	Children per 100 homes 2020/21
Trumpington Meadows	28	26
Great Kneighton	24	25
<b>Average</b>	<b>26</b>	

**Table 3: Current and proposed general multipliers (number of children per 100 dwellings of unknown size)**

Age Group	Current	Proposed
0 to 3	20-30	20-30
4 to 10 Cambridge and fringe	30-40	20-30
4 to 10 Rest of the county	30-40	30-40
11 to 15	18-25	18-25

2.8 Proposed changes to the detailed multipliers

A few changes are proposed to the detailed multipliers. The current multipliers merge 1- and 2-bedroom properties into one value, using the same multiplier for each. Government Continuous Recording (CORE) of lettings of sales in social housing in England showed an average of just one child per 100 dwellings living in 1-bedroom dwellings in Cambridgeshire in 2017-2021. As very few children live in 1-bedroom properties, it is proposed that the multiplier for all 1-bedroom dwellings should be zero.

- 2.9 The current multipliers also classed shared ownership dwellings as “affordable”. The 2021 Census definitions that accompany the topic summary TS054 on housing tenure classes shared-ownership homes as owner-occupied, therefore it is proposed that shared-ownership homes should be treated with the same multiplier as market housing.
- 2.10 The NDSs for Northstowe and Alconbury showed 12.5 primary-aged children per 100 dwellings for 2-bedroom market and 60 for social-rented homes therefore the 2-bedroom multipliers have been increased to 15 for market/shared ownership and 60 for social-rented housing. The NDSs showed an average multiplier of 48 children per 100 dwellings for 4-bedroom market homes therefore the detailed multiplier has been increased to 45.
- 2.11 The general multiplier for age 11 to 15 year-olds has not been changed. However, the NDSs showed a multiplier of 13.75 per 100 2-bedroom homes, therefore the multiplier for 2-bedroom market homes has been raised to 15. The NDSs also showed 66.7 children per 100 dwellings for 3-bedroom social-rented homes, hence the detailed multiplier has been raised to 60. Because it is not logical for there to be more children generated from market 2-bedroom dwellings than social-rented homes, the detailed multiplier for 2-bedroom social rented homes has also been increased to 15 to match the market multiplier.

**Table 4: Current Detailed multipliers (number of children per 100 dwellings of given size)**

Age Group & Bedrooms per Dwelling	Market			Affordable		
	1/2	3	4+	1/2	3	4+
0 to 3	10	20	35	40	60	70
4 to 10	5	20	40	15	80	120
11 to 15	0	15	30	0	40	90

**Table 5: Proposed Detailed multipliers (number of children per 100 dwellings of given size) Developments in East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire**

Age Group & Bedrooms per Dwelling	Market				Affordable			
	1	2	3	4+	1	2	3	4+
0 to 3	0	10	20	35	0	40	60	70
4 to 10	0	15	20	45	0	60	80	120
11 to 15	0	5	15	30	0	15	60	90

**Table 6: Proposed Detailed multipliers (number of children per 100 dwellings of given size) Developments in Cambridge and Cambridge Fringe**

Age Group & Bedrooms per Dwelling	Market				Affordable			
	1	2	3	4+	1	2	3	4+
0 to 3	0	10	20	35	0	40	60	70
4 to 10	0	8	20	45	0	30	60	100
11 to 15	0	5	15	30	0	15	60	90

## 2.12 Outcome

These revised multipliers generate a pupil yield much closer to the actual yield than the previous ones when applied to seven development sites in the county.

2.13 The use of the proposed revised multipliers will enable the Council to anticipate ongoing implications that will need to be managed in terms of education place planning. On developments where negotiations are at an early stage, or yet to begin, for example on the Cambridge North site, the revised multipliers set out in 2.11 above will be used.

## 2.14 Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)

The Council has a multiplier for SEND pupils that 1% of the child population aged 4-15 will attend a special school. Because of the small numbers this generates, it is applied to the largest developments only. However, because there is evidence that the proportion of children with SEND is increasing, it is recognised that there is a need to review this multiplier. There are plans to do this within the next year.

## 2.15 Post-16 Places

Officers continually monitor post-16 provision in Cambridgeshire. The last study in 2022 confirmed that there are sufficient places in the current sixth form/further education (FE) college/sixth form college system to meet anticipated future demand. The market for post-16 places works differently compared to mainstream school places with young people able to travel far greater distances to access provision. There is also a wider 'market' in operation with specialist courses and subjects on offer. Therefore, it is much harder to justify developer contributions for a specific locality. The Council only seeks places for the largest developments where a new secondary school is identified and local sixth form places will be required.

## 3. Alignment with ambitions

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

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

- Accurate forecasting ensures that the correct level of locally based infrastructure will be delivered. This reduces the need to travel by car or bus and is the basis for sustainable development.
- The Council will provide infrastructure using contributions secured through planning obligations. This will be delivered to its own Carbon reduction standards.

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

The implications are the same as set out in paragraph 3.1.

### 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

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

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

- Accurate forecasting ensures that the correct level of locally based infrastructure will be delivered. This reduces the need to travel by car or bus and is the basis for sustainable development.

### 3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

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

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

- There is an expectation that schools will provide access to and use of the school's accommodation for activities for example sporting, cultural, outside of school hours.
- Schools are community assets and help to support the creation and development of new communities.

### 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

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

- New schools and school extension are designed and equipped for 21st century learning including providing high quality early years provision in new primary schools, should maximise educational opportunities for children.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Resource Implications

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

- Opening a new school or extending an existing one is expensive. In addition to the capital investment, the Council is responsible for all pre-opening start-up costs in respect of new basic need schools, including diseconomy of scale costs, funding for which may be needed over several years. The pre-opening and diseconomy costs are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant, so although are a cost, they are effectively being subsidised by all other schools in Cambridgeshire rather than core funding.
- Given this burden of revenue expenditure, the Council will only consider commissioning new schools where there is no possible alternative.
- It is, therefore, essential that where new educational infrastructure is to be funded externally, that officers can evidence robustly to developers the Council's education infrastructure requirements.
- Up-to-date and credible forecasting tools, such as child yield multipliers are essential to avoid exposing the Council to the risk of a capital funding shortfall and insufficient developer contributions requiring additional Council borrowing. On the other hand, if the forecasts are too high there is the danger of providing too many places.

#### 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

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

- The Council delivers the capital projects where new schools are commissioned under the presumption process and these schools are designed and built under its framework arrangements.
- If the Council wishes to 'self-deliver' schools approved under the central free school programme, the DfE requires a completed business case for each project. If the business case is not approved, or the Council decides against making a case for self-delivery, the DfE takes on full responsibility for delivery of the new school under their framework. Procurement will work with the client to ensure that any procurement is carried out in a value for money and compliant manner.

#### 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

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

- Developers are only required to fund the level of new places required to mitigate the impact of their developments. If the Council's child yield multipliers do not reflect accurately the situation in the County, there is a risk that education capital projects will be under-resourced.

#### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

- The Council is committed to ensuring that children with SEND can attend their local mainstream school where possible, with only those with the most complex and challenging needs requiring places at specialist provision. All new schools includes specific SEND places to allow for greater inclusion.

- As part of the planning process for new or extended educational provision, local authorities must also undertake an assessment of the impact, both on existing educational institutions locally and in terms of impact on groups of pupils, from an equality perspective.

#### 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

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

- All new school projects, whether initiated by the Council or via the central DfE process, are subject to a statutory process which includes public consultation requirements.
- The Council also undertakes consultation when proposing school expansion projects.

#### 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

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

- Officers involve the local Member(s) when proposing and undertaking projects related to provision of school places.
- The Trust or Voluntary Aided (VA) school sponsor who will run any new school are required to carry out a consultation with the community in which the school will be sited. In addition, officers encourage school sponsors appointed through the central free school programme to engage with the local Member(s).
- Local Member and CYP Spokes are also invited to be part of the assessment panel when the Council undertakes the presumption process to identify a sponsor for a new school.
- A seminar for members of the CYP Committee was run on 28 September 2023.
- The Growth and Development Team will notify relevant District Planning Managers of the change, to inform the town planning process and future S106 contributions

#### 4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet points set out details of the significant implications identified by officers:  
It is Council policy that schools:

- should be sited as centrally as possible to the communities they serve, unless location is dictated by physical constraints and/or the opportunity to reduce land take by providing playing fields within the green belt or green corridors.
- should be sited so that the maximum journey distance for a young person is less than the statutory walking distances (3 miles for secondary school children, 2 miles for primary school children).
- should be provided with Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs) and all-weather pitches (AWPs) to encourage and support wider community use.
- All new building projects have to carry out their own Health Impact Assessment.
- New schools put pressure on Public Health services such as the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), Vision Screening, School Nursing, Healthy Schools service, School-aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) etc.

#### 4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas:

##### 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

###### Neutral Status:

New schools, and school expansions, will be delivered in line with the Council's own standard around energy efficient and low carbon buildings and achieve an 80% reduction in planned energy use, they will still result in increased energy demand overall, but on balance, this is a neutral status.

##### 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

###### Neutral Status:

Schools on new developments are located to be accessible by walking and cycling. Where greater distances are involved, through the provision of transport services to students who are eligible through its transport assistance policy the council is able reduce environmental impacts by shifting travel out of individual vehicles and into mass transit options, which can improve carbon and air quality outcomes. Where families express a preference to attend a school outside their catchment they are encouraged, where possible, to travel by sustainable means including public transport.

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

###### Neutral status:

The planning applications for education infrastructure projects include landscape designs and will be in line with planning policy to create some green space. Any trees removed and replanted as part of site clearance will be addressed through the planning application process and will be in line with current policy and will be amended to reflect future policy changes such as Bio Diversity Net Gain.

##### 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

###### Neutral Status:

Waste generated by new schools will be subject to normal recycling facilities being provided on site. Other services operating from the school, e.g. early years provision by a third party, will adhere to policies on recycling

##### 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

###### Neutral Status:

The planning application for education infrastructure projects will be submitted in line with planning policy. There are statutory consultees within this which includes the Council's floods team. The design will be challenged if policy is not adhered to.

##### 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

###### Neutral Status:

The planning application for education infrastructure projects will be submitted in line with planning policy. Air Pollution will be addressed as part of this process.

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

###### Neutral Status:

Any new school proposal is designed to deliver education provision in the local community but will also facilitate community activities, for example sport and other activities by

community organisations through the school's letting policy. The services provided are not specific to climate change, however local provision makes access easier.

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

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes  
Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

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

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

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

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes  
Name of Officer: Jon Lewis

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

If a Key decision, have any Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?  
Yes or No  
Name of Officer:

## 5. Source documents

5.1 [Securing developer contributions for education \(DfE November 2019\)](#)

5.2 [Estimating demand for education provision arising from new housing developments \(revision of methodology\) \(CYP Committee Paper 5 December 2017\)](#)



## Corporate Performance Report

To:	Children and Young People Committee
Meeting Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
From:	Executive Director for Children, Education and Families
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Outcome:	To provide the committee with performance monitoring information.
Recommendation:	To note and comment on performance information and take remedial action as necessary.
Voting arrangements:	No vote required.

Officer contact:

Name: Richard Springbett  
Post: Governance and Performance Officer  
Email: [Richard.springbett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.springbett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# 1. Background

1.1 In February 2022, the Council adopted a Strategic Framework and Performance Management Framework. The Performance Management Framework sets out that Policy and Service Committees should:

- Set outcomes and strategy in the areas they oversee.
- Select and approve addition and removal of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for the Committee performance report.
- Track progress quarterly.
- Consider whether performance is at an acceptable level.
- Seek to understand the reasons behind the level of performance.
- Identify remedial action.

1.2 This report provides an update on the development of the performance management framework for the Committee to enable it to fulfil its role as outlined above.

1.3 The report covers the last two financial quarters, up to the end of September 2023.

1.4 The full report for Quarter 1 is within Appendix 1. The full report for Quarter 2 is within Appendix 2. The contain information on:

- Current and previous performance and the projected linear trend if applicable.
- Current and previous targets. Note, not all indicators have targets. This may be because they are being developed or the indicator is being monitored for context.
- Red / Amber / Green / Blue (RAGB) status.
- Direction for improvement. This will show whether an increase or decrease is good.
- Change in performance. This shows whether performance is improving (up) or deteriorating (down).
- The performance of our statistical neighbours. This is only available, and therefore included, where there is a standard national definition of the indicator.
- Indicator description.
- Commentary on the indicator.

1.5 The following RAGB statuses are being used:

- Red – current performance is 10% or more from target.
- Amber – current performance is off target by less than 10%.
- Green – current performance is on target or better by up to 5%.
- Blue - current performance is better than target by 5% or more.
- Baseline – indicates performance is currently being tracked 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, however data collection and target setting are still in development.

## 2. Main Issues

2.1 Current performance of indicators monitored by the Committee for Q2 is as follows:

Status	Number of Indicators	Percentage of total indicators
Red	10	50%
Amber	3	15%
Green	4	20%
Blue	1	5%
No target	2	10%

## 3. Alignment with ambitions

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

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.3 Health inequalities are reduced

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

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

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

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

There are no significant implications for this ambition.

3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

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

- The indicators proposed here provide an overview of performance in key priority areas, to enable appropriate oversight and management of performance.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

#### 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

#### 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

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

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

#### 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

#### 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

#### 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

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

Positive/neutral/negative Status: There are no significant implications within this category.  
Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? No  
Name of Financial Officer: N/A

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

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

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?  
No  
Name of Officer: N/A

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?  
No  
Name of Officer: N/A

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? No  
Name of Officer: N/A

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?  
No  
Name of Officer: N/A

If a Key decision, have any Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?  
No  
Name of Officer: N/A

## 5. Source documents

### 5.1 None



Produced on:

17 July 2023



# Performance Report

## Quarter 1

### 2023/24 financial year

Children and Young People Committee

Governance & Performance  
Cambridgeshire County Council

[governanceandperformance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:governanceandperformance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## 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%	↓	27.3%	27.1%	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.

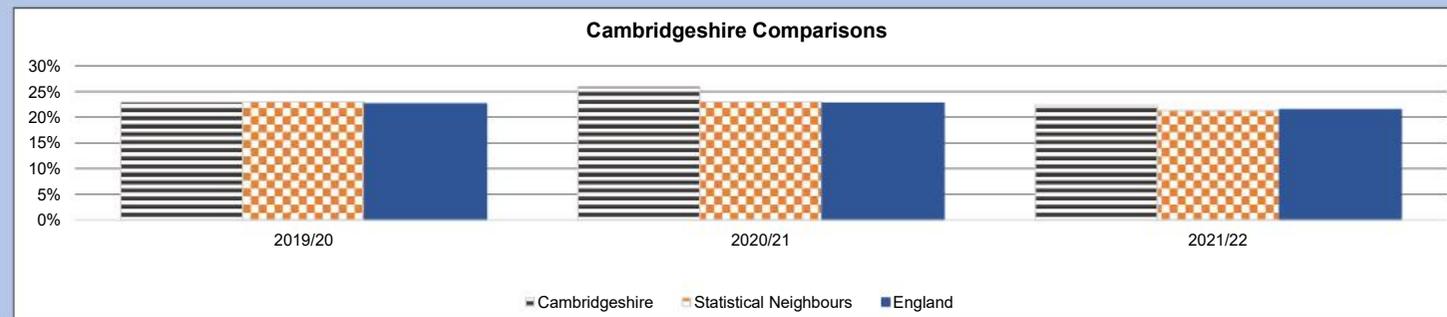
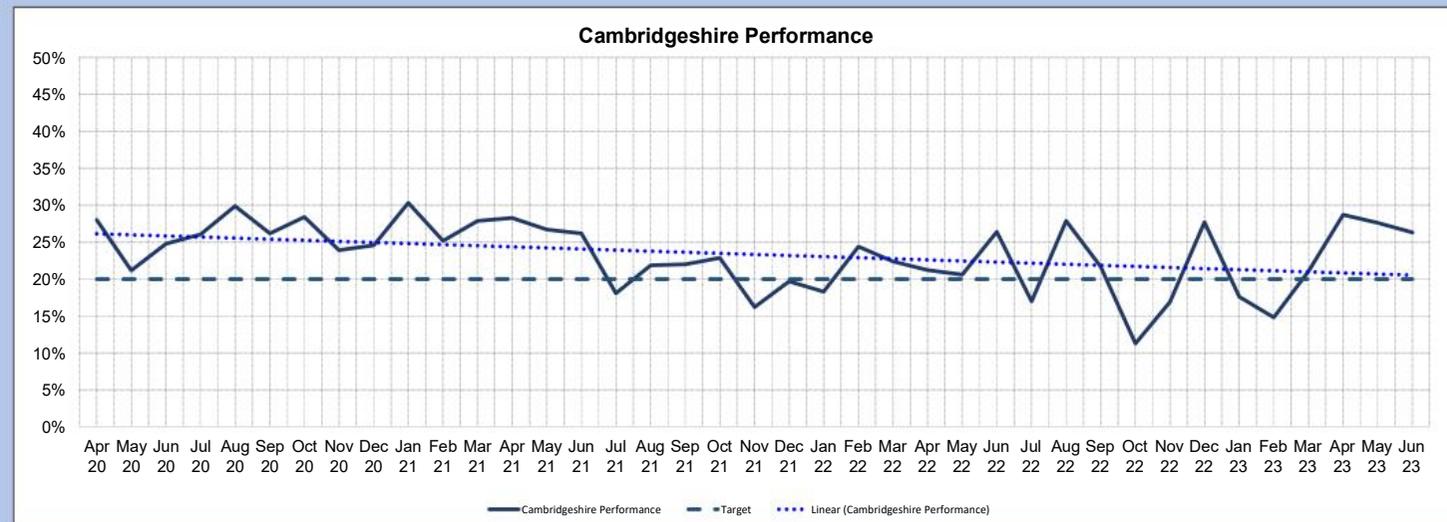
Sources: Department for Education; Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT); Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence Team.

**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 trend of increasing numbers of re-referrals since 2019. While they are above target, the indicator is only just above statistical neighbour averages. Cambridgeshire re-referral rates have actually been too low in recent years.

There is a balance where when a re-referral rate is too low, this indicates that cases are being kept open for too long. A re-referral rate that is too high, may indicate that cases have been closed too early. Where there have been changes in the way the service works with children, it can also take time for these to be understood by partner agencies. This can sometimes result in re-referrals of children that do not reach social care thresholds. That being said, this indicator should not continue to increase. We are reviewing children re-referred to ensure that this is not an area of concern.

**Actions**

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
21.1	↓	20.8	22.8	Improving

Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating
38.1	42.1	<b>Green</b>

**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.

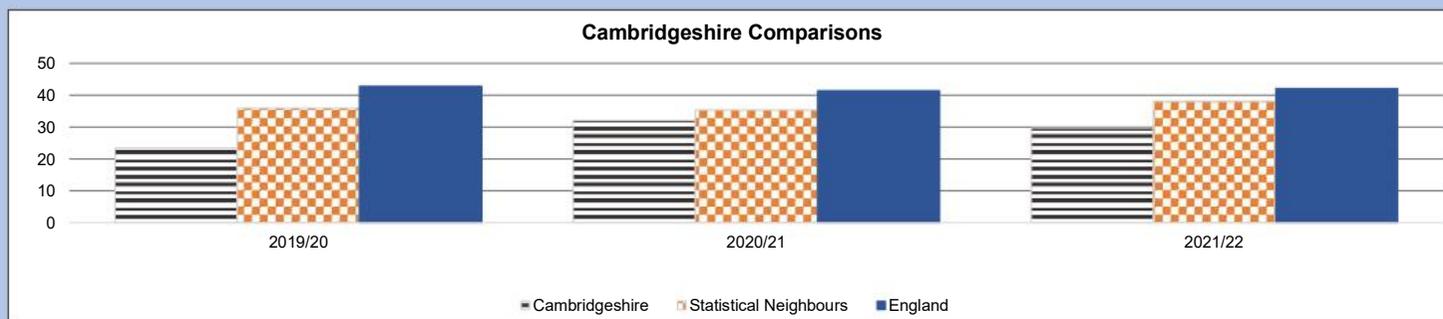
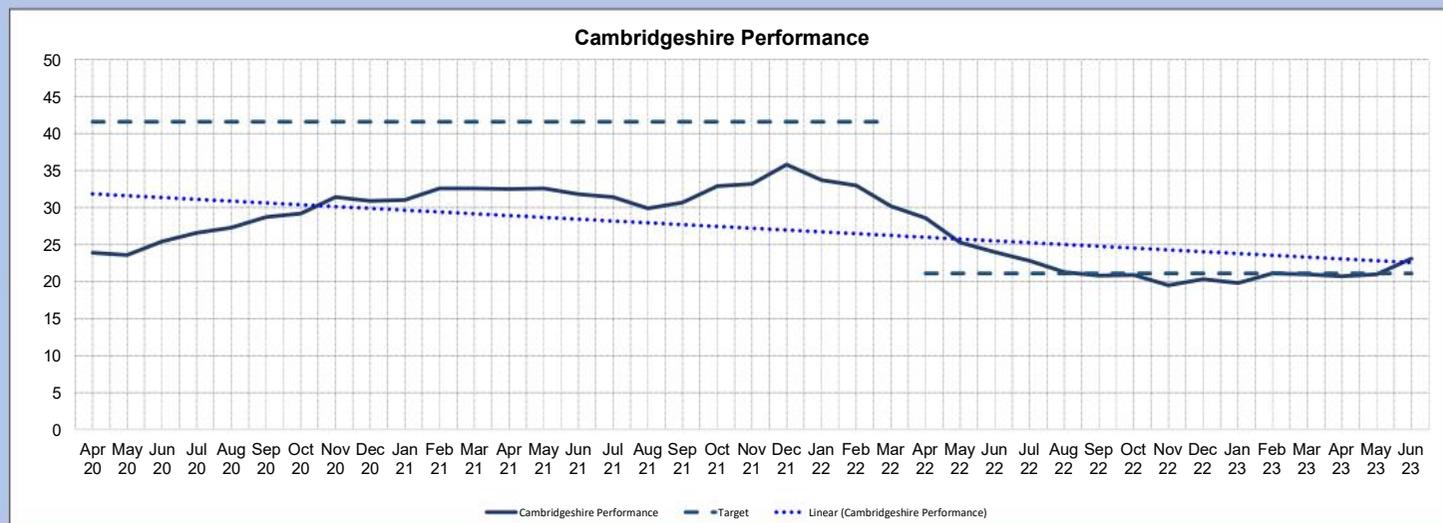
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Childrens Team.

**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**

We are taking action to review all children subject to Child Protection Plans. As a result, the rate is reducing and is now already below the statistical neighbour average. This shows good performance. Child Protection Plans should only be in place for children at risk of significant harm, and where parents are not engaging or making progress in addressing issues. We should see this rate further decrease in Cambridgeshire as Family Safeguarding becomes established.

**Actions**

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

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
40.0	↓	48.5	48.6	Improving
<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.

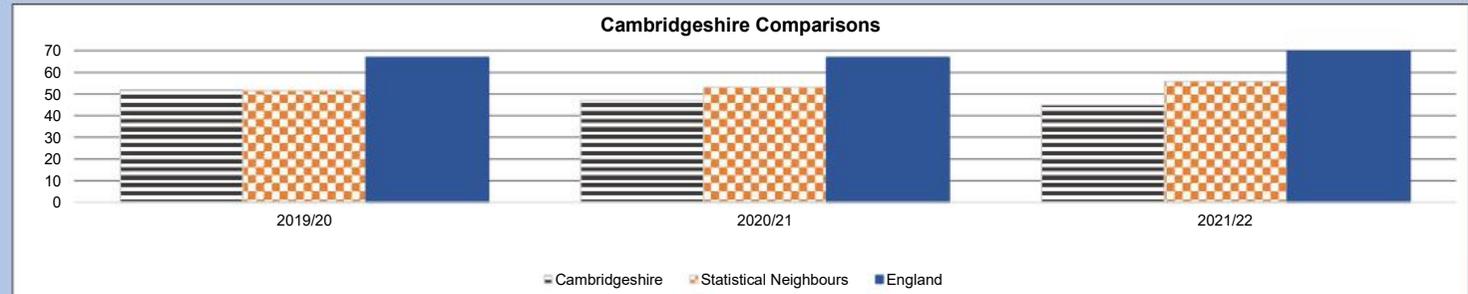
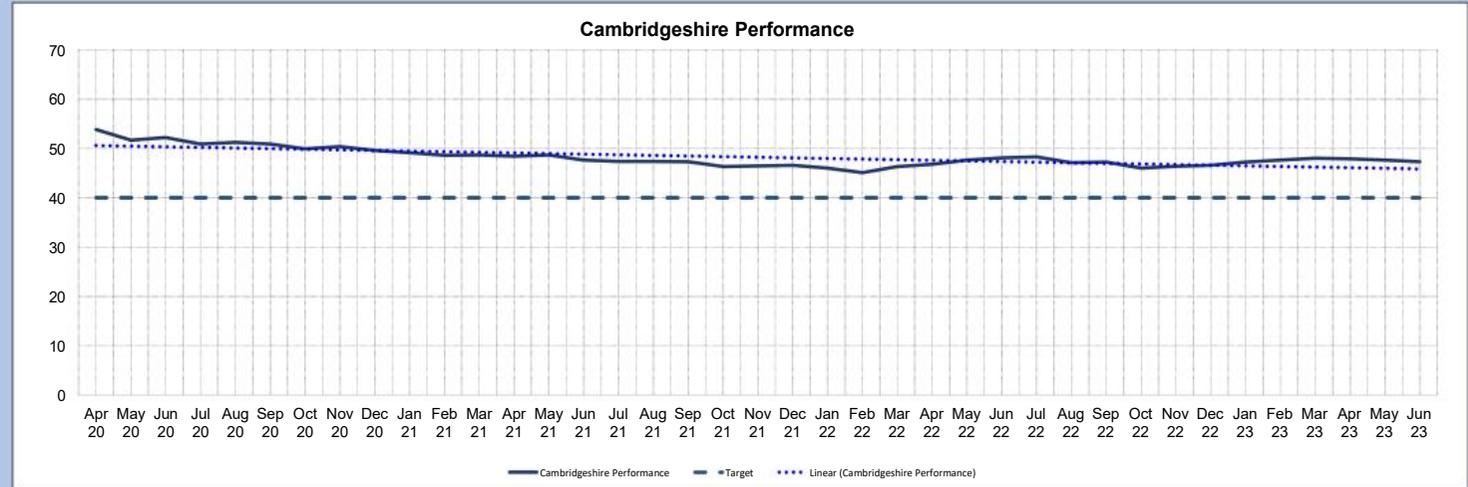
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence; Children's Team

**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**

Numbers of children in care remain higher than they should be. The restructure of children's services is addressing this, along with the implementation of Family Safeguarding in the county.

The number of Children in Care is on a downward trend. The rate is now below the statistical neighbours and England average. We expect there to a continued reduction over the longer term. However, there is a potential impact from the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result of the lockdown, completing the work needed for children to leave care has been taking longer. There are also concerns that increased difficulties faced by families may increase the risk of children coming into care. It is too early to assess the full implication of Covid 19. However, our current expectation is that numbers will continue to decline, but potentially at a slower rate.

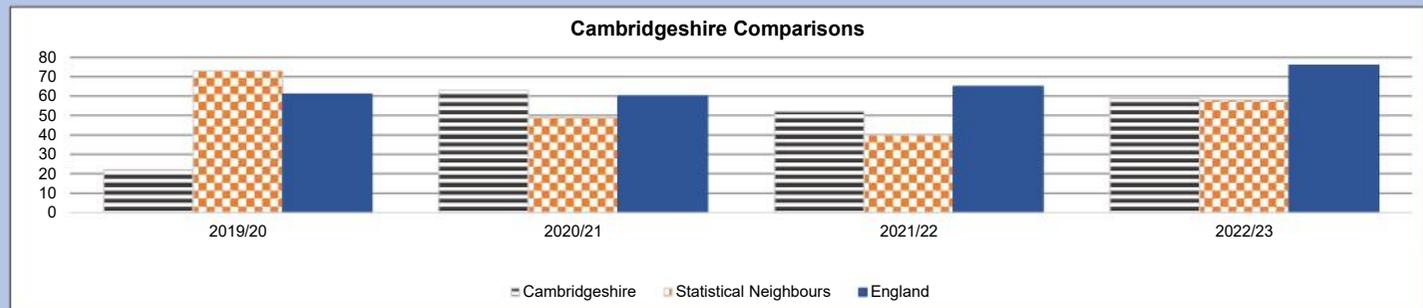
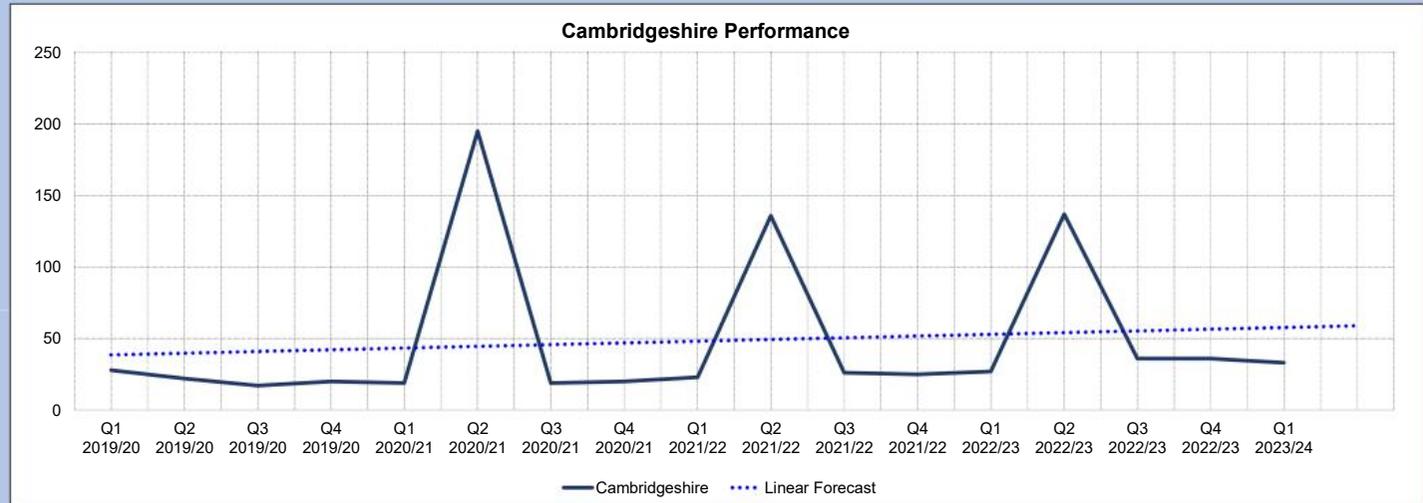
**Actions**

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	<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.

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 rates are normally higher due to the September roll up. In the system, all young people move up from Year 11 to year 12 to year 13 etc in that month and are automatically given the status of unknown at the start of the new academic year. Client Researchers add the situation of a young person once this becomes known. In 2020/21 the Q2 rate was higher than previous years. This was mainly caused by an increased number of unknowns (271 in 2020/21 compared with 4 in 2019/20). The reason for this is a reduced capacity within the Client Researchers (long term sickness) and difficulty and delay in getting data from schools/colleges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was resolved in Q3.

The proportion of young people with SEND who are NEET or Unknown per 10,000 of the population is on an upward trend, though it remains below the rates for England.

**Useful Links**

- [Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAI/T\)](#)
- [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)

[Return to Index](#)

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.

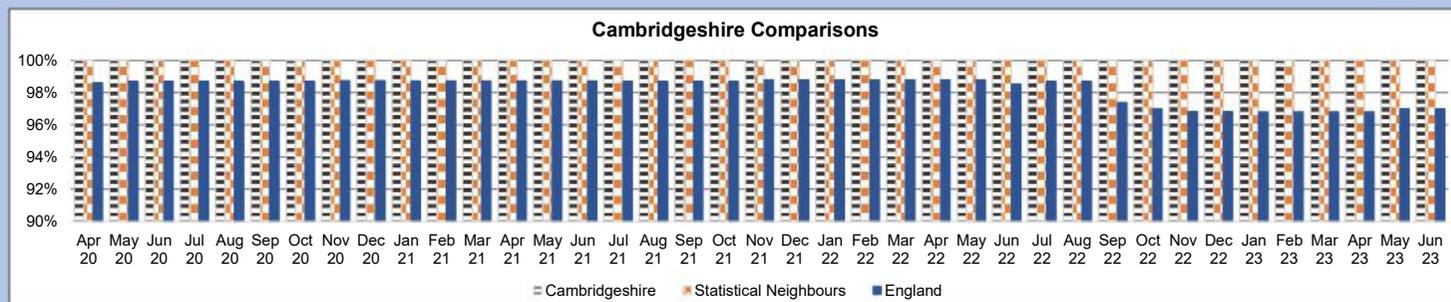
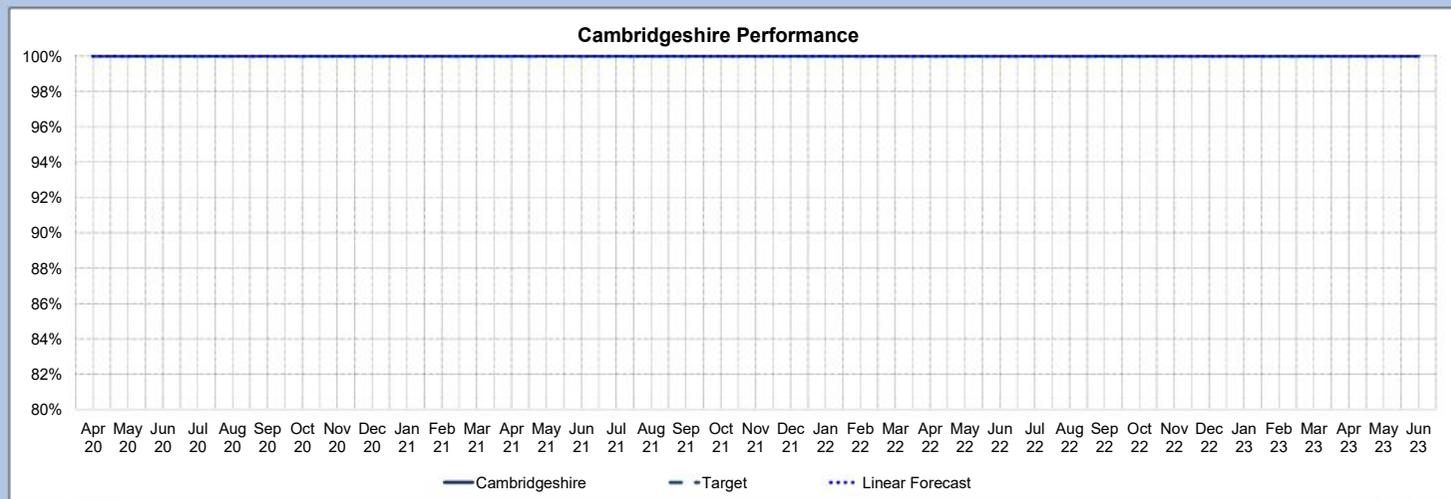
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**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.

Due to the COVID pandemic there were no Ofsted inspections between March 2020 and September 2021, with some inspections under the education inspection framework restarting on 4 May 2021. Any slight fluctuations in the data during the pandemic are due to delayed publication of reports or changing pupil numbers in schools.

**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%		<b>Amber</b>

**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:

$(X/Y) \times 100$

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.

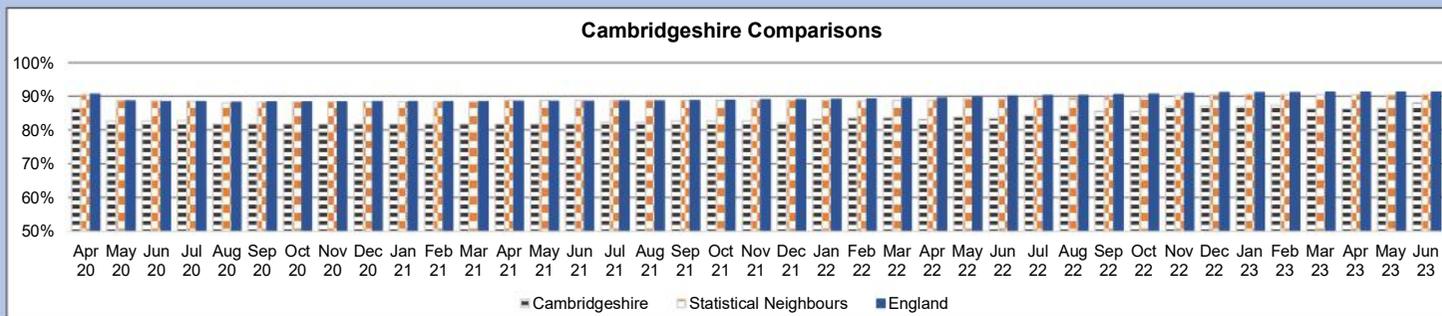
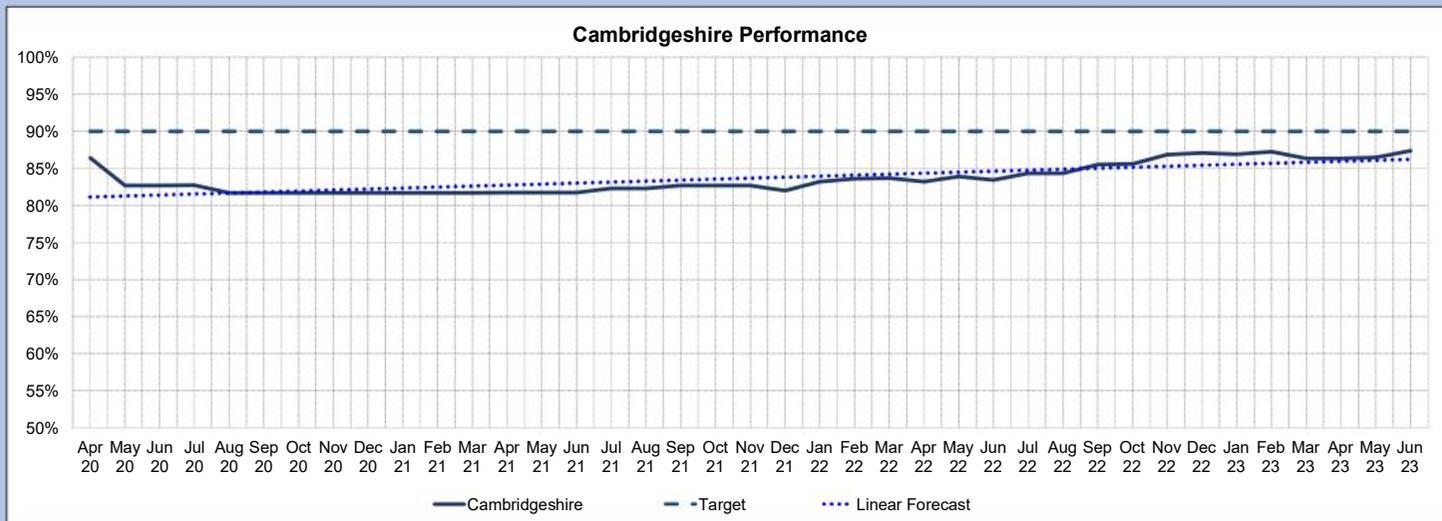
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

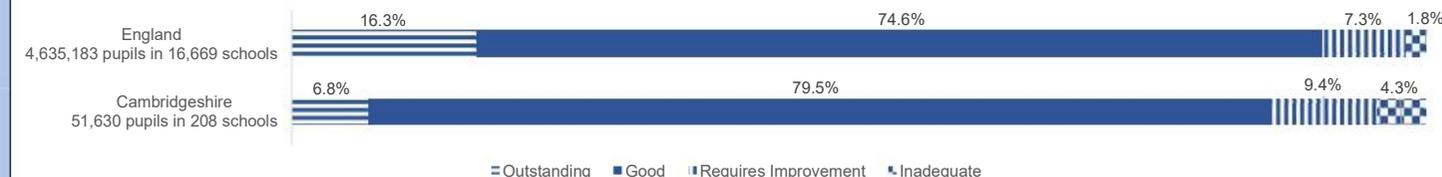
[Local Authority Interactive Tool \(LAIT\)](#)

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



**Commentary**

From September 2021, previously exempt outstanding schools are now part of the schedule of the inspectorate. Due to the COVID pandemic there were no Ofsted inspections between March 2020 and September 2021, with some inspections under the education inspection framework restarting on 4 May 2021. Any slight fluctuations in the data during the pandemic are due to delayed publication of reports or changing pupil numbers in schools. When inspections resumed after the COVID pandemic the education inspection framework was different, with increased expectations, therefore it is not a like for like comparison. The chart below show that in primary we have an increased number of good schools against the national picture.



**Actions**

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.

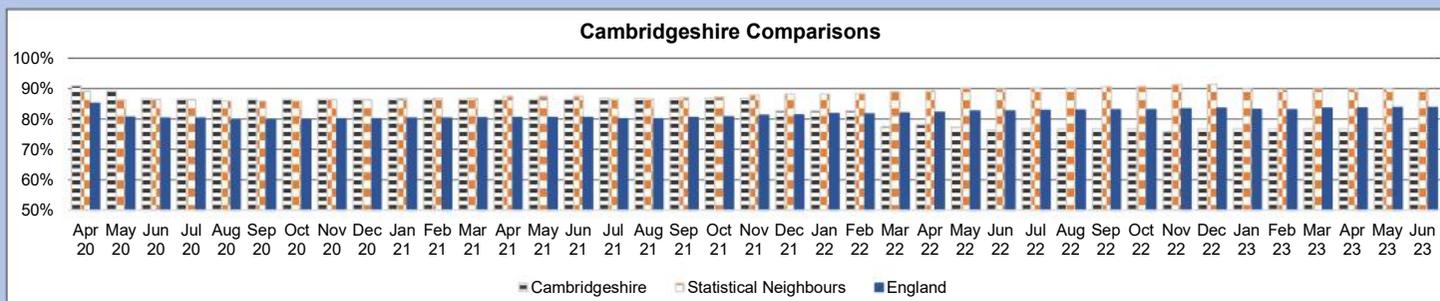
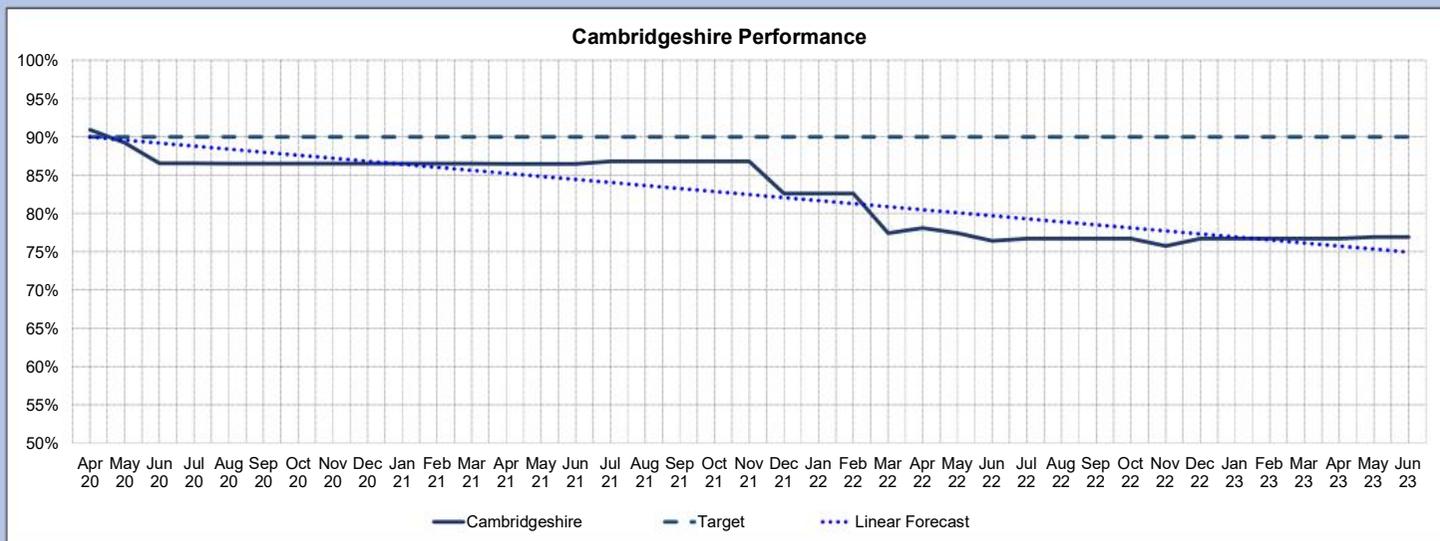
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**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**

Due to the COVID pandemic there were no Ofsted inspections between March 2020 and September 2021, with some inspections under the education inspection framework restarting on 4 May 2021. Any slight fluctuations in the data during the pandemic are due to delayed publication of reports or changing pupil numbers in schools.

When inspections resumed after the COVID pandemic the education inspection framework was different, with increased expectations, therefore it is not a like for like comparison.

The chart below show that secondary does have a larger proportion of outstanding schools which is a risk with raised expectations in the new framework and outstanding inspection now resuming.



**Actions**

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
100.0%	↑	87.8%	87.5%	Improving
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b>		<b>England Mean</b>		<b>RAG Rating</b>
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.

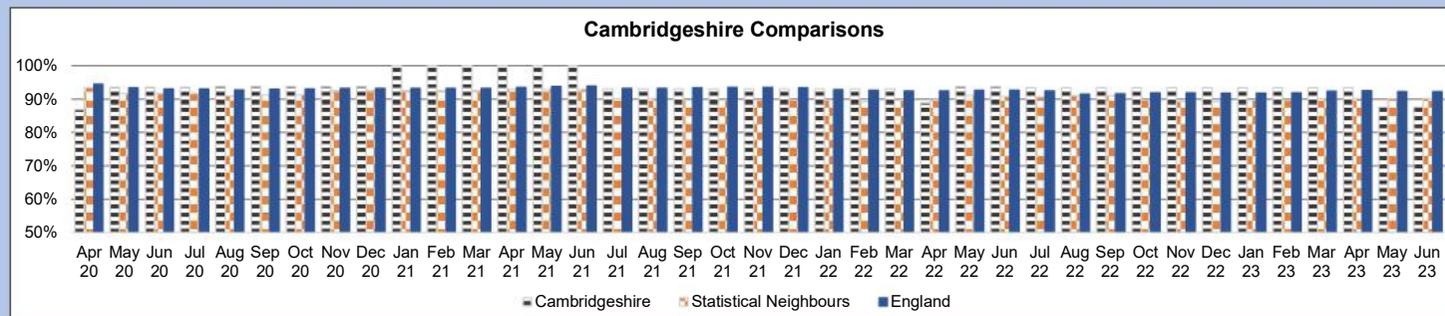
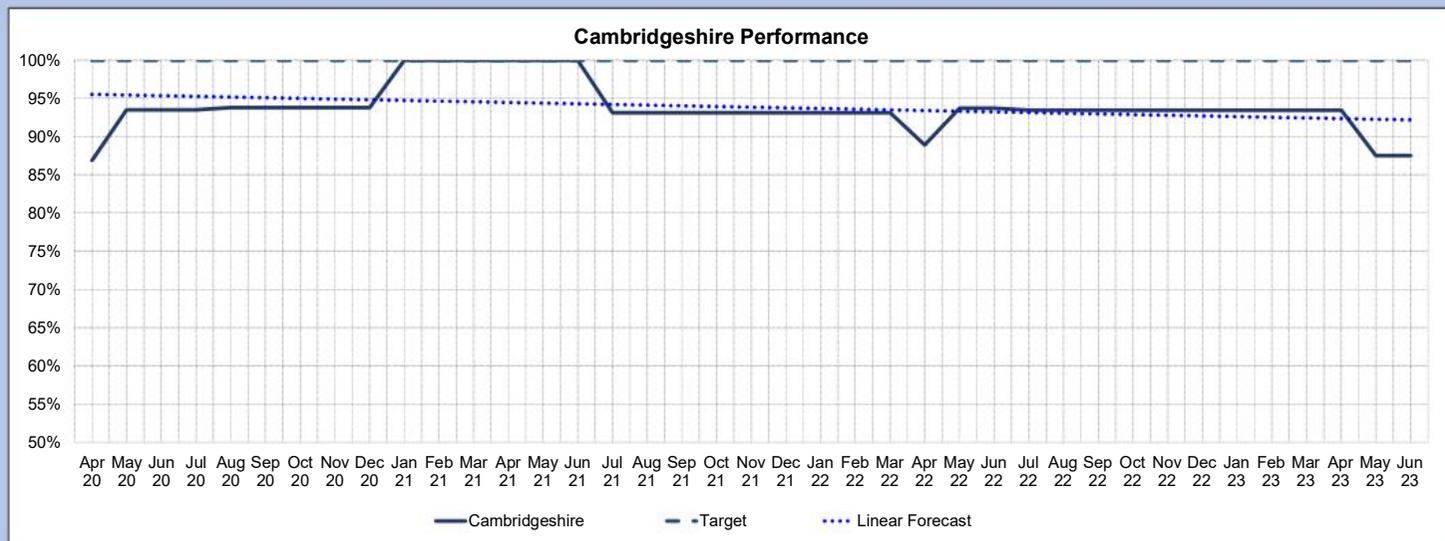
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**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 12 state funded special schools in Cambridgeshire. Ofsted have judged three to be Outstanding, six to be Good and one as Inadequate. Two schools are yet to be inspected and are excluded from the key performance indicator calculation.

The school graded inadequate was inspected in 2019 and from 01/01/2021 it has become an academy. It has not been inspected since changing to an academy. Of the two schools not yet inspected, both opened since the start of the COVID pandemic in April 2020 and September 2021.

Due to the COVID pandemic there were no Ofsted inspections between March 2020 and September 2021, with some inspections under the education inspection framework restarting on 4 May 2021. Any slight fluctuations in the data during the pandemic are due to delayed publication of reports or changing pupil numbers in schools.

**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 <span style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px;">Amber</span>

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

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

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

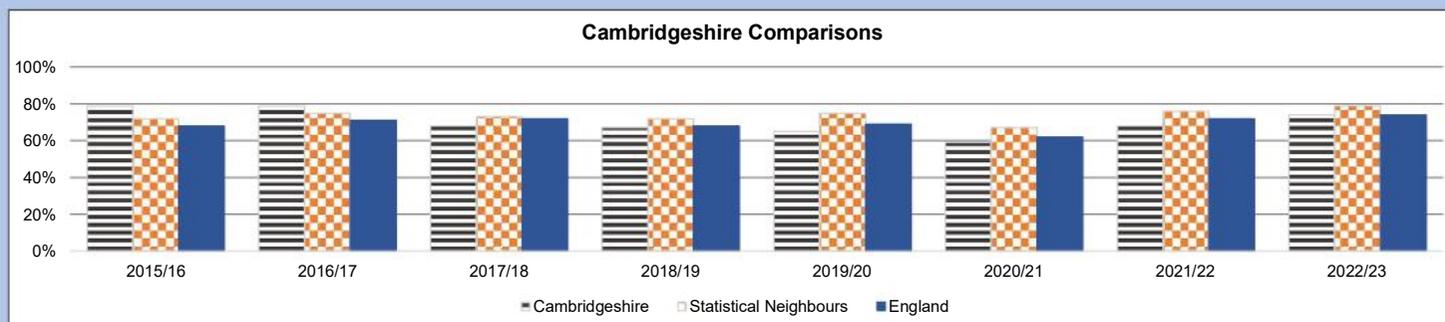
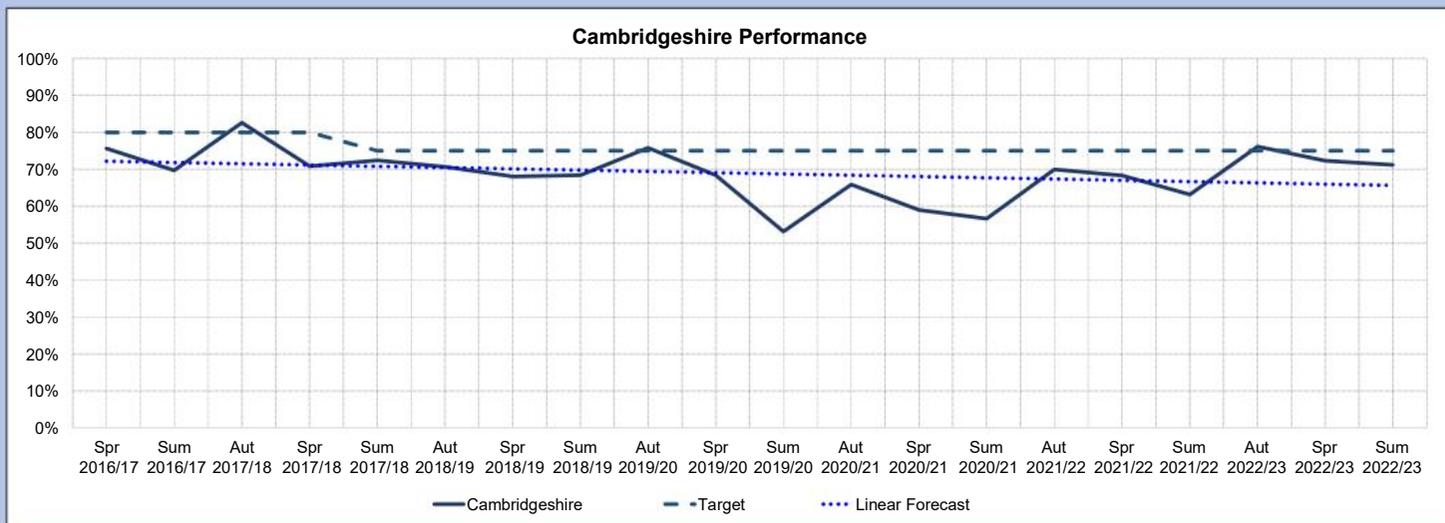
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

**Actions**

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
25.0	↓	43.0	40.0	Declining
<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.

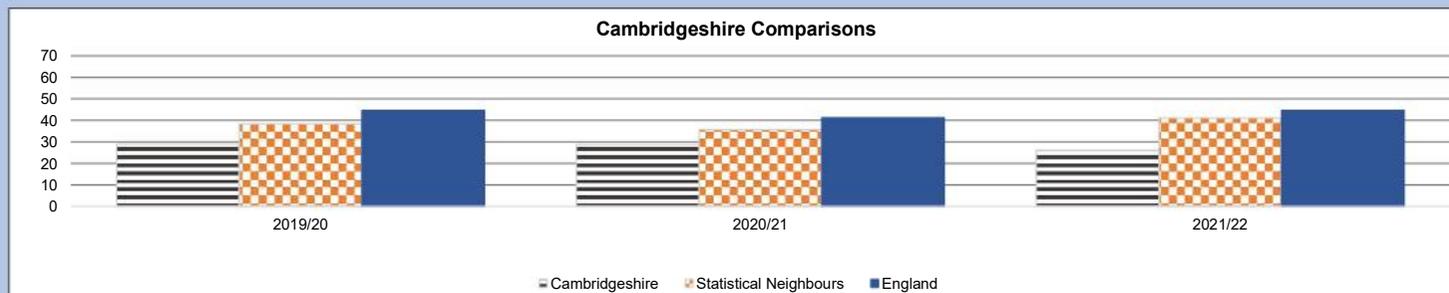
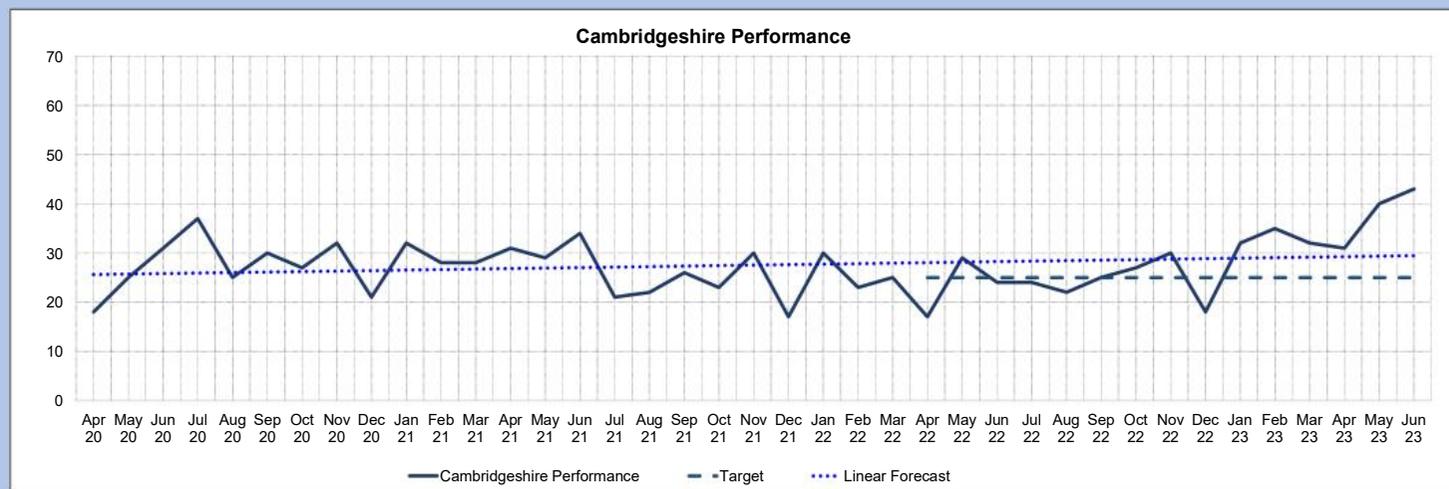
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence; Children's Team

**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 most recent performance for this indicator needs to be assessed in the context of schools closing due to the Covid 19 lockdown. This resulted in a very significant, initial, drop in numbers referred. It is encouraging that this number increased as the lockdown continued. This shows, despite the closure of schools, agencies and other parties were still able to identify vulnerable children and young people.

**Actions**

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
21.0%	↓	29.1%	28.0%	Declining
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b>	<b>England Mean</b>	<b>RAG Rating</b>		
24.6%	23.3%	<b>Red</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:

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

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.

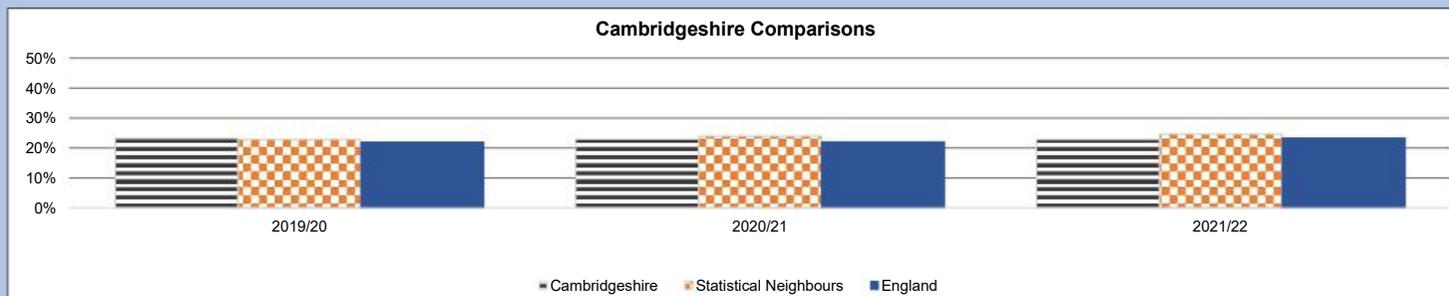
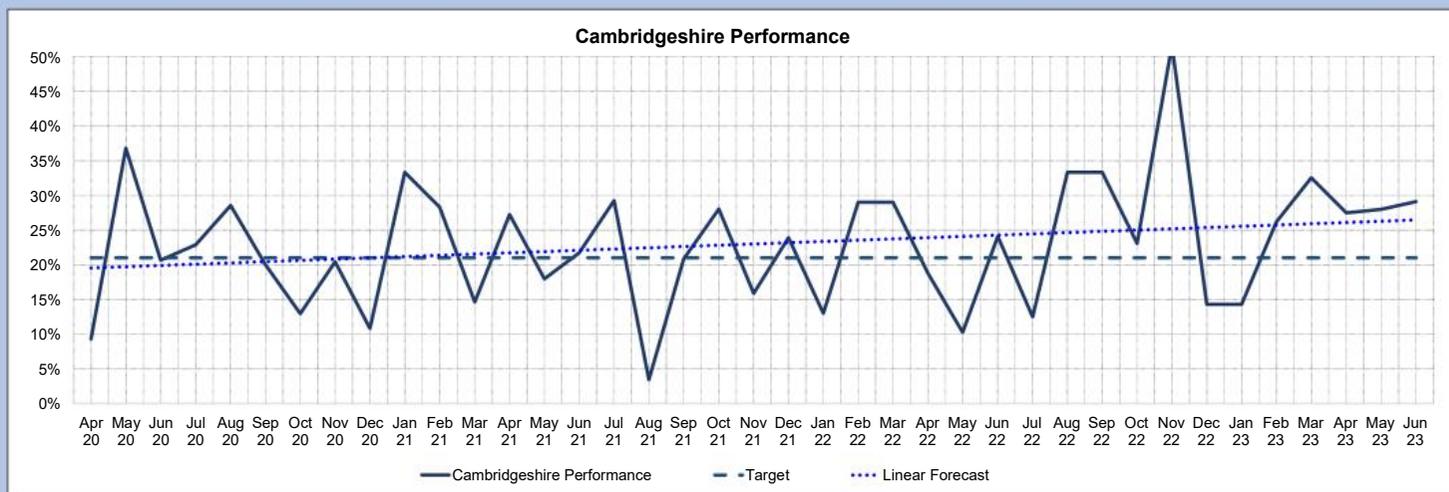
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence; Children's Team

**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**

In quarter 4 2019/20, 12 of the 86 Child Protection Plan registrations were re-registrations within 2 years. The rate of second or subsequent Child Protection Plans is below target. It is also below the statistical neighbours and England Average.

**Actions**

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
3.9	↓	5.5	3.0	Declining
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b>	<b>England Mean</b>	<b>RAG Rating</b>		
1.0	1.2	<b>Red</b>		

**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.

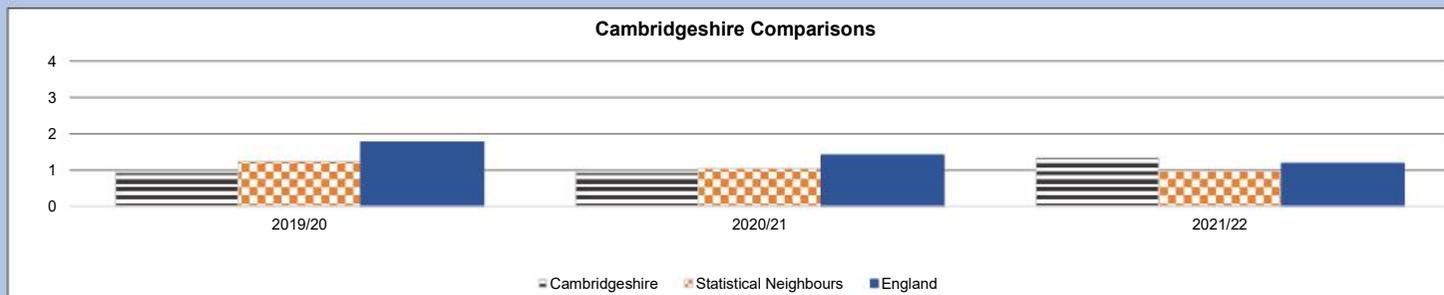
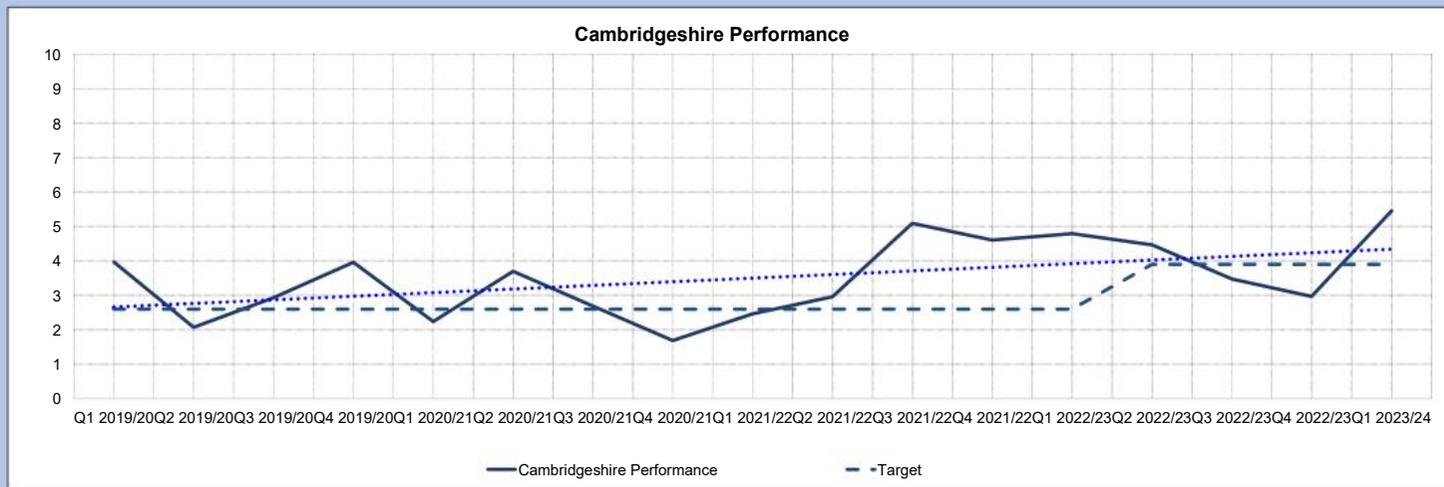
Sources: Ministry of Justice; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence; Children's Team

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system is on a downward trend. Performance has been strong during the last 12 months. This is notable when comparing ourselves against statistical neighbours and the England average. Cambridgeshire has embedded partnership arrangements to support the Prevention and Community Resolution programme. This programme supports intervention with young people early. This has seen a positive impact on the performance for this indicator.

Please note, that retrospective recording can cause retrospective updates of previous figures. The figures included on this report as the most up-to-date figures at time of publication.

**Actions**

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

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

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.

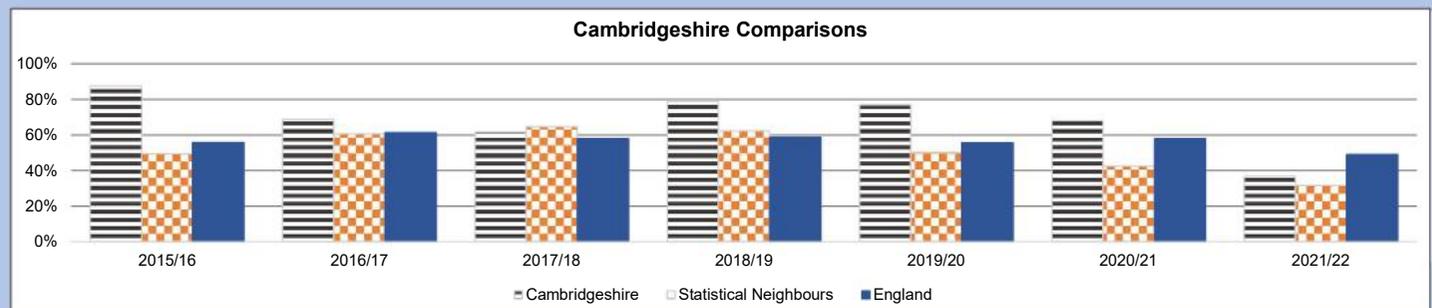
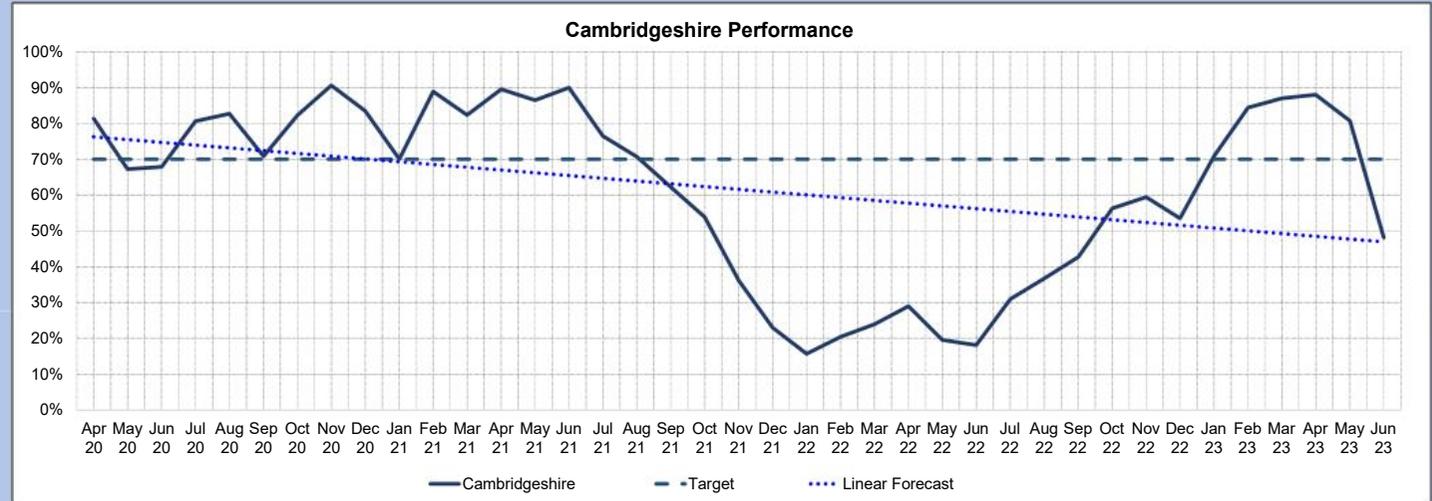
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**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**

Though Cambridgeshire had a high proportion of assessments in timescale in 2015/16 increasing numbers of plans have impacted on this and the percentage completed in timescale reduced to 69% in 2016/17. There was a significant increase to 79% in 2018/19 and this was almost sustained in 2019/20 at 77%. In 2020/21 there was a drop to 68% and this drop has continued into 2021/22.

Though the monthly figures fluctuate the annual figure remains above both the England average and our statistical neighbour average.

The DFE data for 2021/22 will be released in June 2023.

**Actions**

Indicator 129: Number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, or Unknown, every 10,000 of population

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

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	<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.

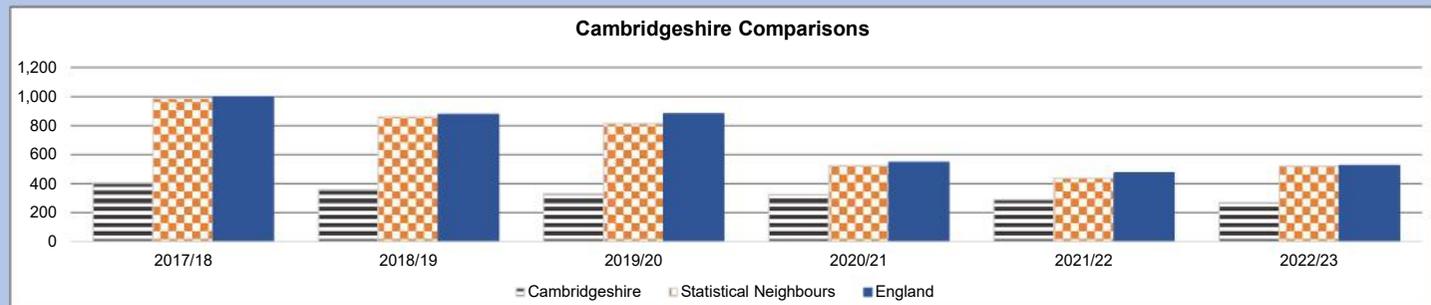
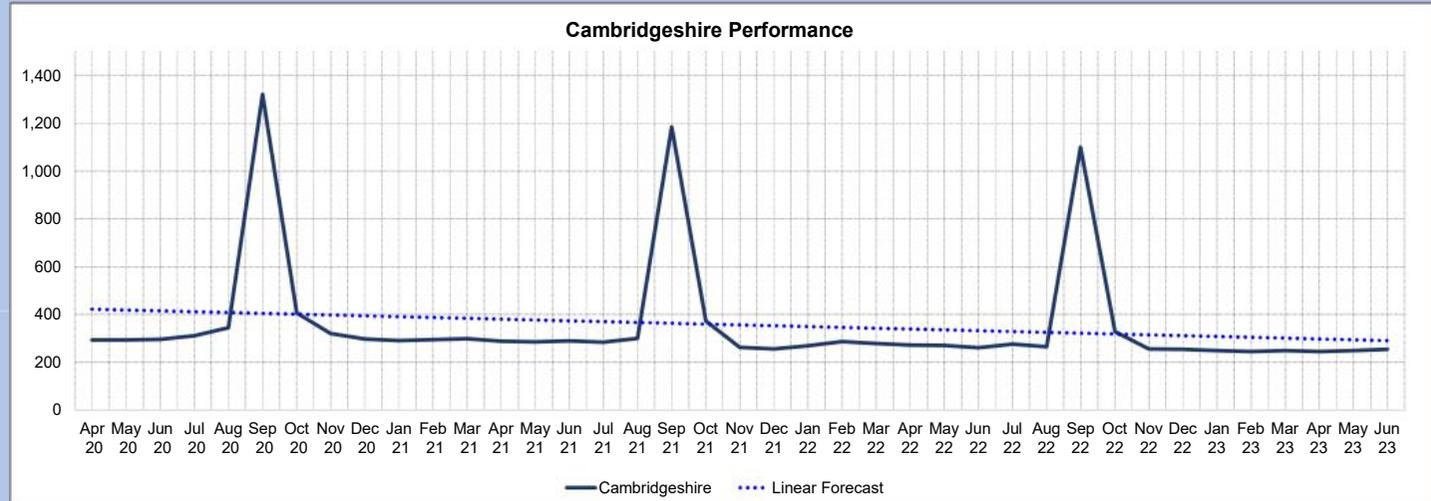
The data for September 2023 will not be available from NCCIS until November 2023; population estimates prior to 2022-23 were based on the ONS population estimate but there has been a delay in releasing these figures so for 2022-23 population estimates are based on the 2021 census.

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

**Useful Links**

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

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



**Commentary**

September rates are normally higher due to the September roll up. In the system, all young people move up from Year 11 to year 12 to year 13 etc in that month and are automatically given the status of unknown at the start of the new academic year. Client Researchers add the situation of a young person once this becomes known.

In 2020/21 the rate was higher than previous years. This was mainly caused by an increased number of unknowns (1614 in 2020/21 compared with 163 in 2019/20). The reason for this is a reduced capacity within the Client Researchers (long term sickness) and difficulty and delay in getting data from schools/colleges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was resolved in the October figures.

**Actions**

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:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

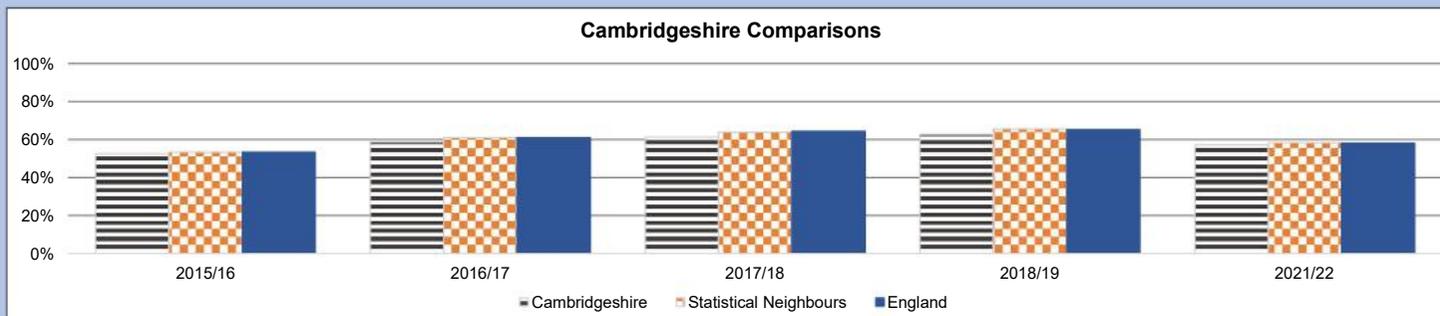
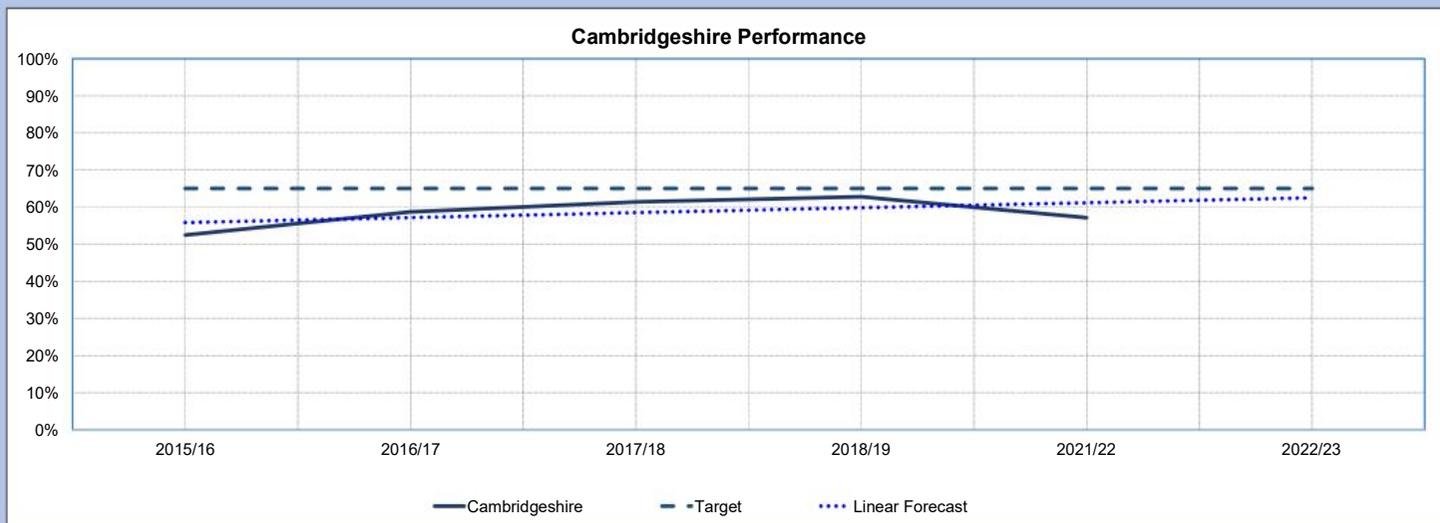
Where:

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 Business Intelligence: Education Team.



**Commentary**

The 2019/20 and 2020/21 national curriculum assessments did not take place due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**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.

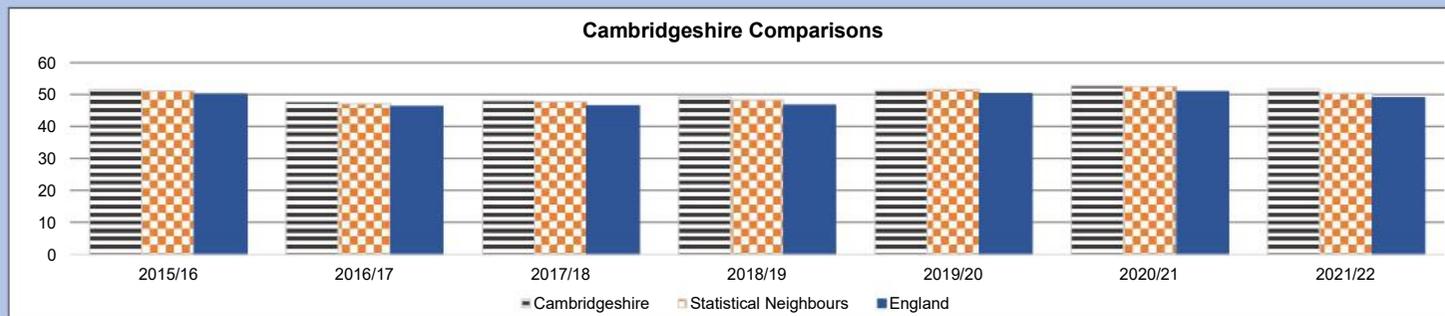
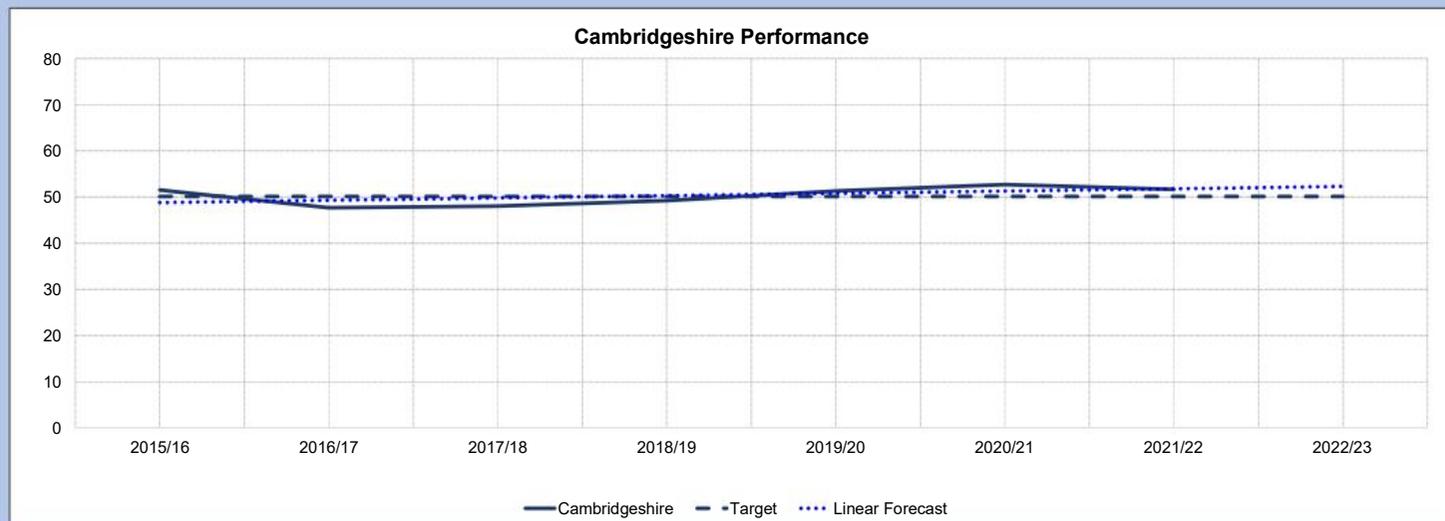
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**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**

Cambridgeshire's average attainment 8 figure is currently above the national average and the statistical neighbour average. The 2021/22 figure is above target.

There was much disruption to the 2019/20 and 2020/21 national curriculum assessments due to the COVID 19 pandemic which means the results for these years will not be directly comparable with previous years, however they are included here for information.

**Actions**

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

**Indicator Description**

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

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

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

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

X = The number of enrolments classed as persistent absentees.

Y = The number of enrolments.

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

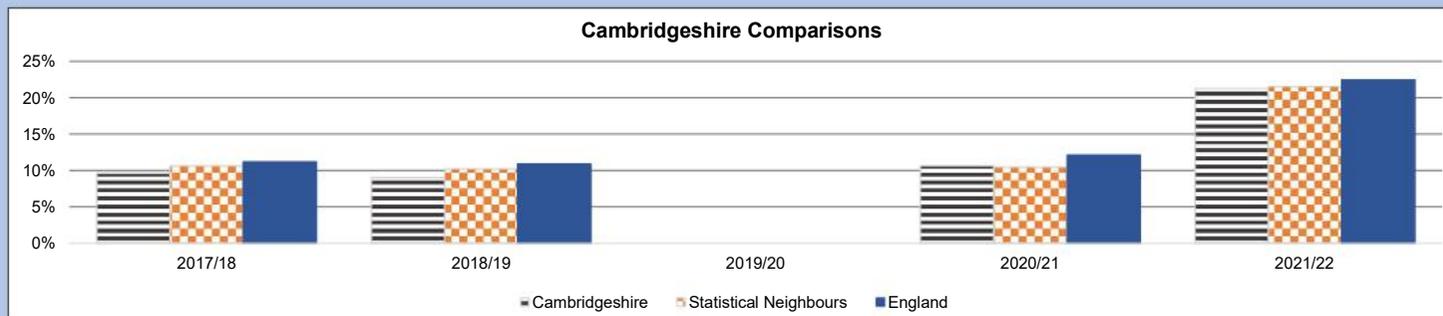
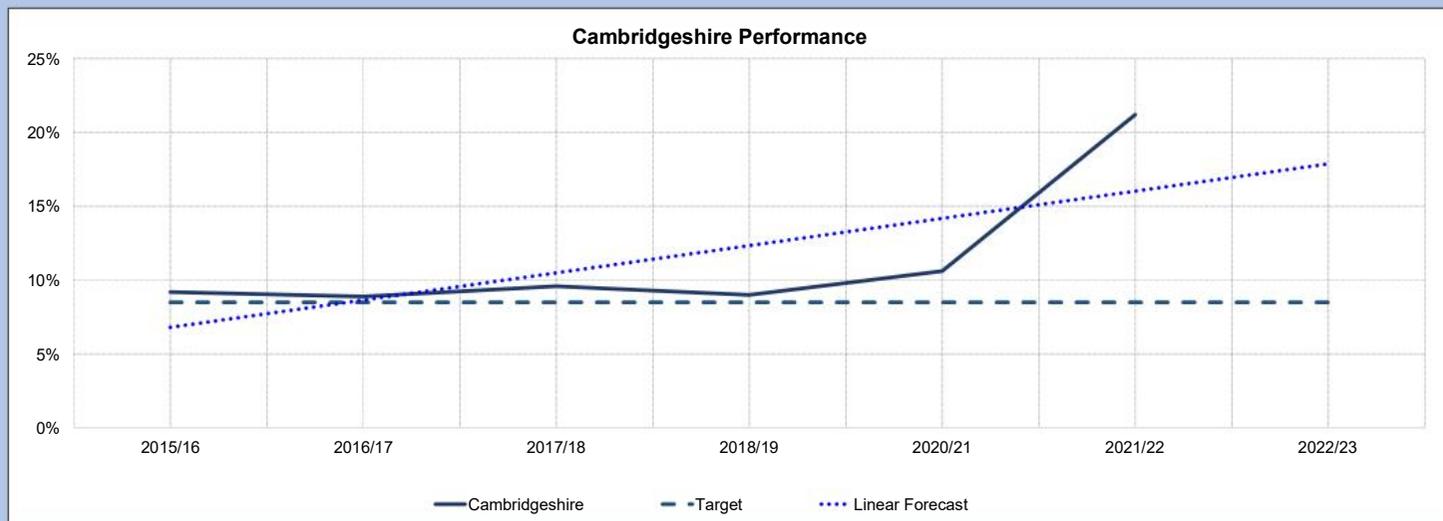
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

Absence statistics for the 2019/20 academic year were not released due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

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

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

**Actions**

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. The summer has provided the chance to reflect on the self assessment tool. 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:

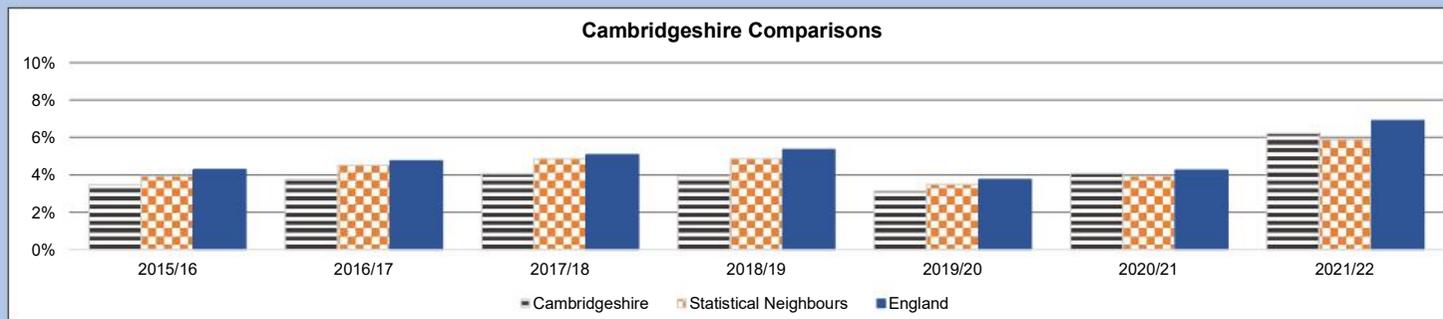
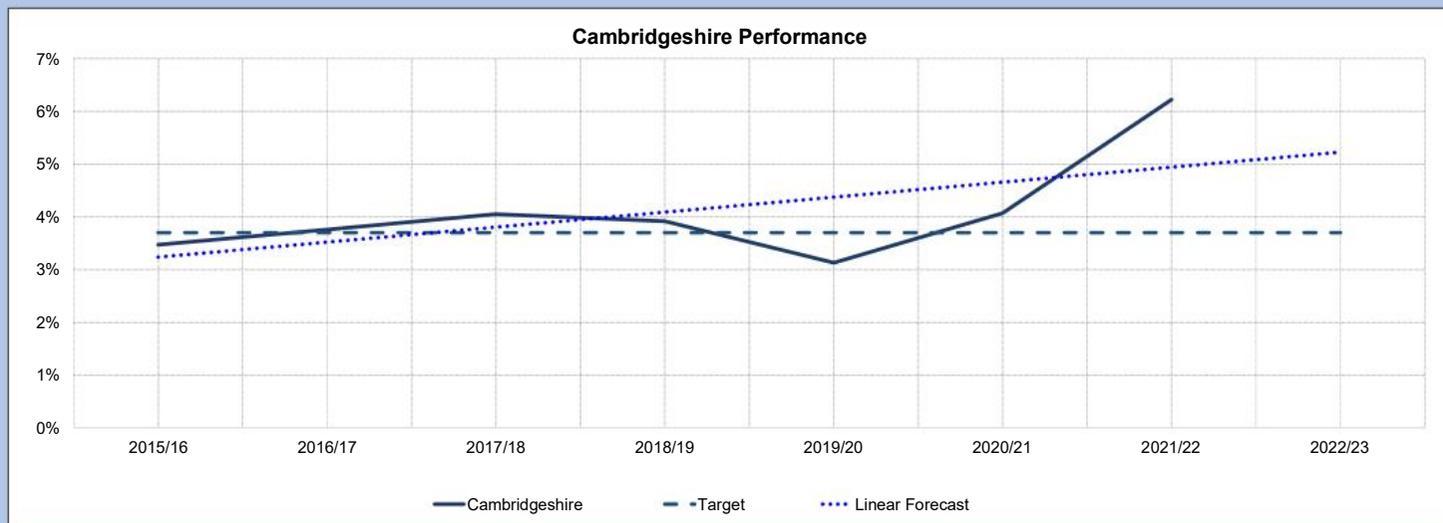
$$(X/Y) * 100$$

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 Business Intelligence: Education Team.



**Commentary**

Although Cambridgeshire successfully dropped below the target to 3.13% during the 2019/20 year, it increased to 4.07% during the 2020/21 year. This is above the statistical neighbour average but below the national average.

Please note that from the 2019/20 publication of this data, the DFE have changed terminology from 'fixed term exclusions' to 'suspensions'. Both the dataset, collection and methodology remain the same as in previous years and it is only the terminology which has been changed.

The data for 2021/22 is due to be released in July 2023.

**Useful Links**

[Department for Education Statistics: Exclusions](#)

[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
93.0%	↑	94.8%	95.0%	Declining

Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	RAG Rating
92.3%	92.5%	Green

**Indicator Description**

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

This measure is expressed as a percentage.

Calculation:

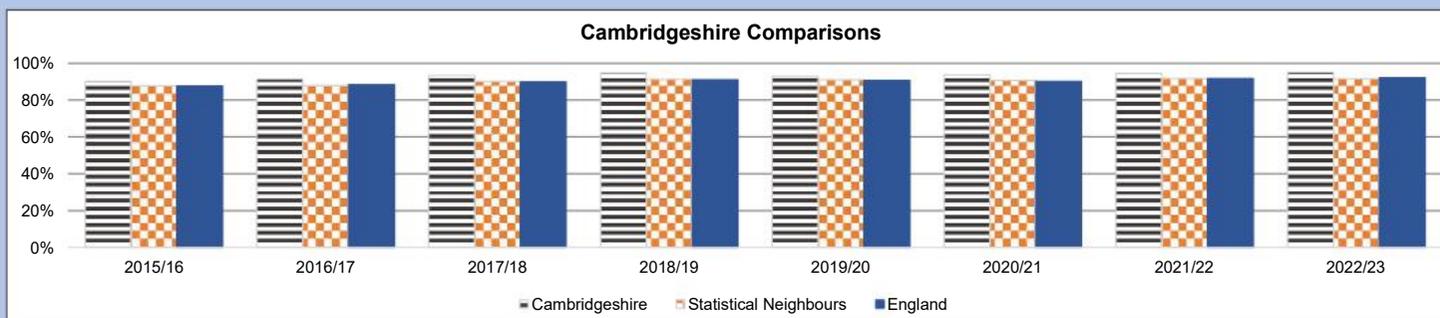
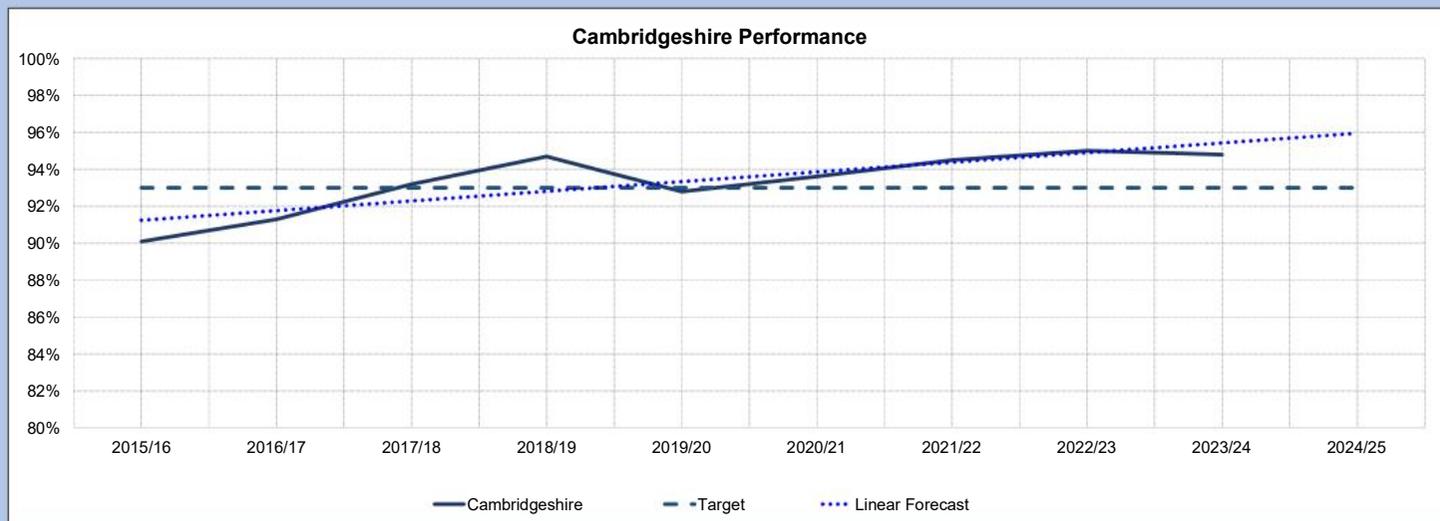
$$(X/Y) * 100$$

Where:

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

Y = The number of applications received.

Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.



**Commentary**

A total of 6483 applications were received for the academic year 2022/23. This means a increase of 135 applications for a primary school place from the previous year. The local authority were able to allocate 94.5% of pupils a place at their parents' first choice school. This is an increase from 93.6% in the 2021/22 academic year.

4.0% of applications were offered their second choice, while 0.6% of applications were offered their third choice. The number of children not receiving one of their top three choices increased from 1.0% to 1.2% (79 pupils).

**Useful Links**

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

[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
91.0%	↑	86.5%	89.7%	Declining
Statistical Neighbour Mean		England Mean		RAG Rating
85.5%		82.6%		<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.

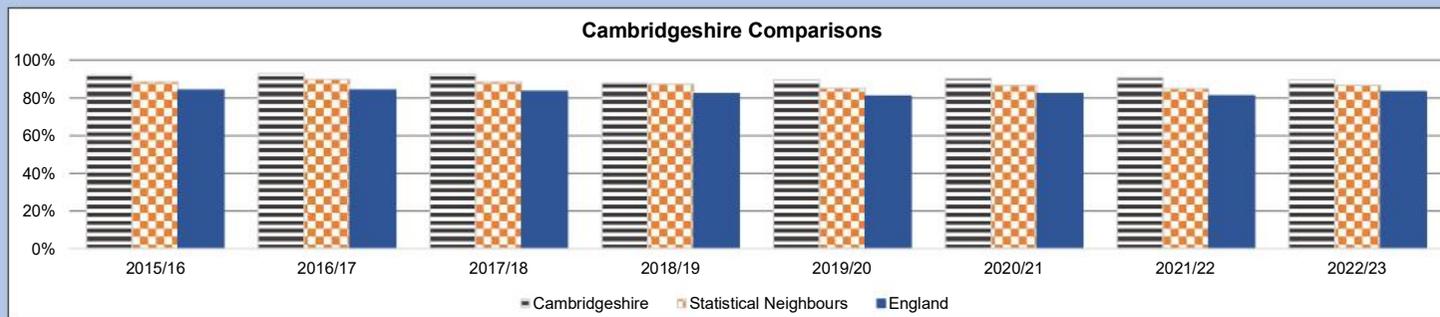
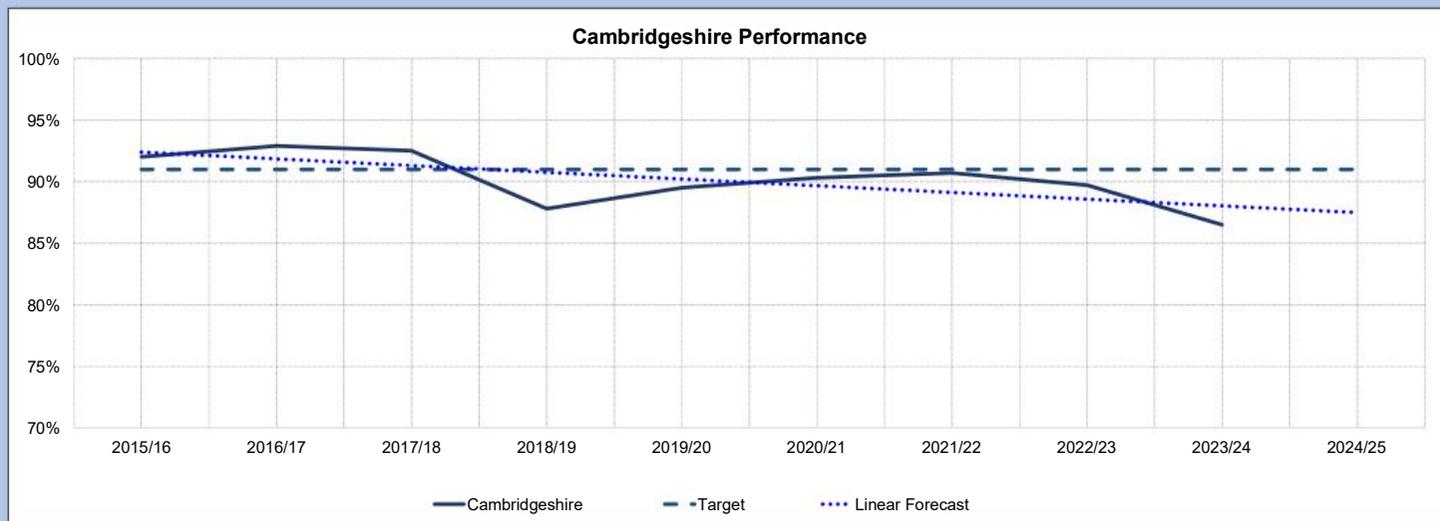
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Business Intelligence: Education Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

For the 2022/23 academic year the local authority received a total of 6752 applications for secondary school places. This means an increase of 130 applications for a secondary school place from the previous year. The Local Authority were able to allocate 6054 applications to their first choice school. This is 89.7% of pupil applications, a decrease from 90.7% in the 2021/22 academic year.

5.5% of applications were offered their second choice, while 2% of applications were offered their third choice. The percentage of children not receiving one of their top three choices has stayed at 2.9% although the number of children this impacts has increased slightly from 193 children to 197 children.

**Actions**

Produced on: 17 November 2023



# Performance Report

## Quarter 2

### 2023/24 financial year

Children and Young People Committee

Governance & Performance  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
[governanceandperformance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:governanceandperformance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## 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%	↓	27.3%	27.1%	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.

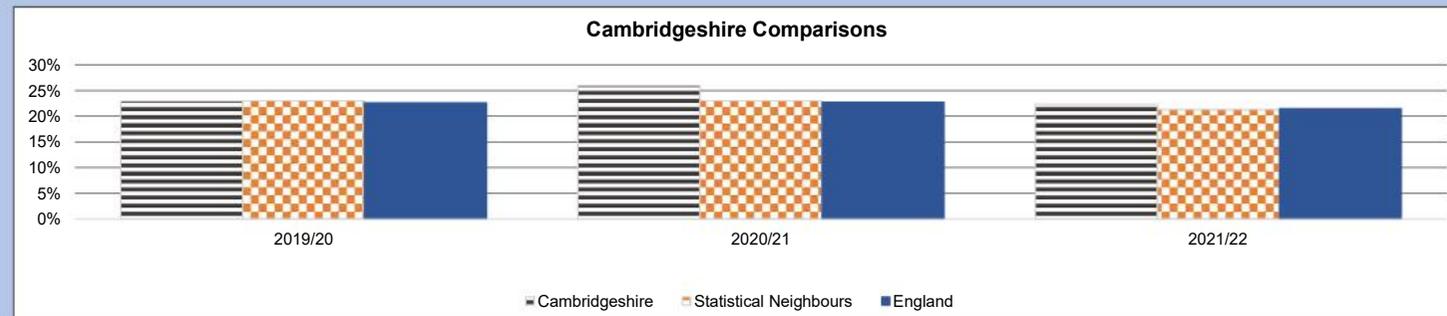
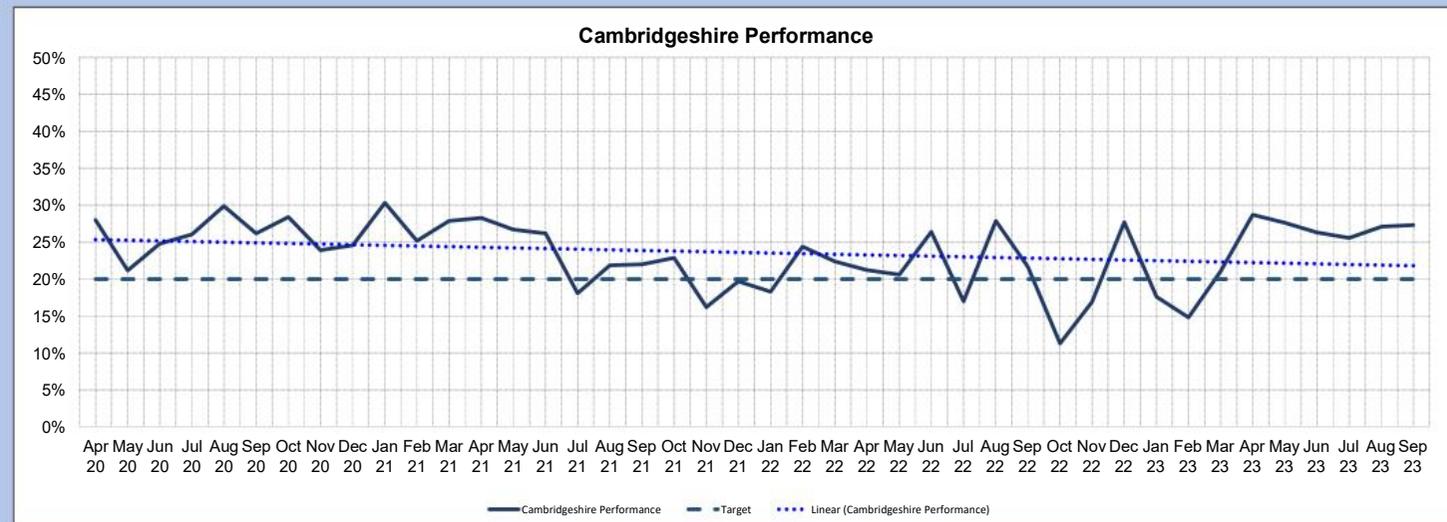
Sources: Department for Education; Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT); Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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 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	England Mean	RAG Rating
38.1	42.1	Green

**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.

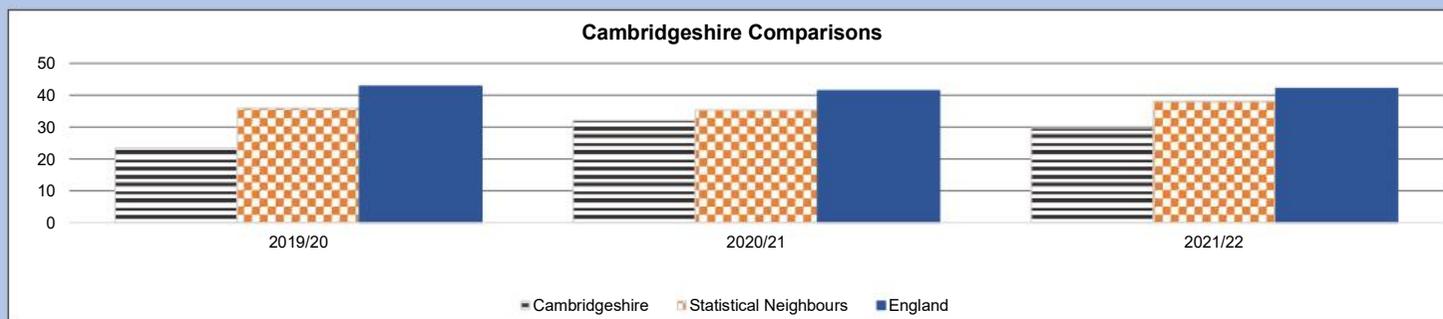
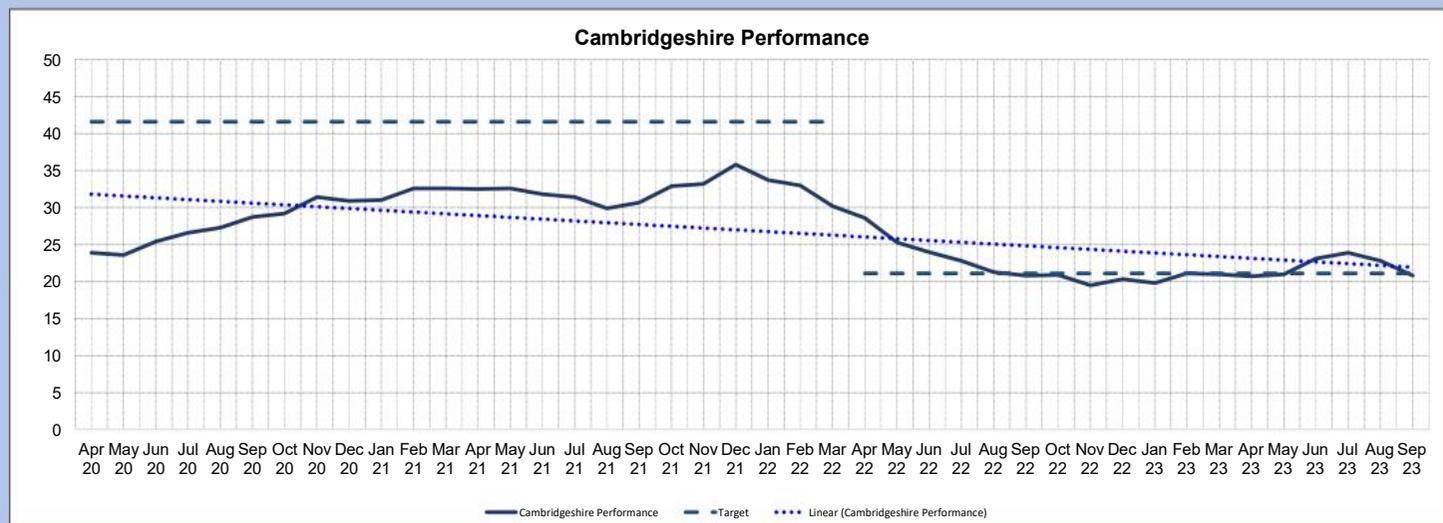
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Month	Previous Month	Change in Performance
40.0	↓	48.5	48.6	Improving
<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:

- 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.

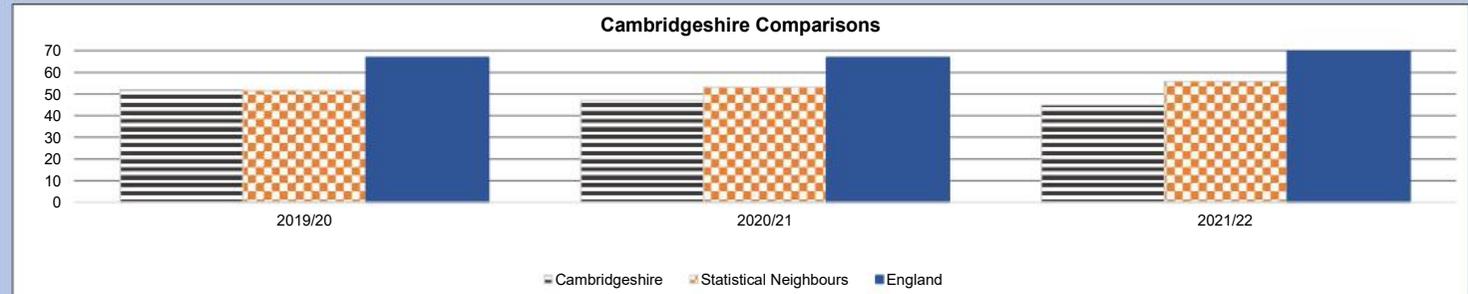
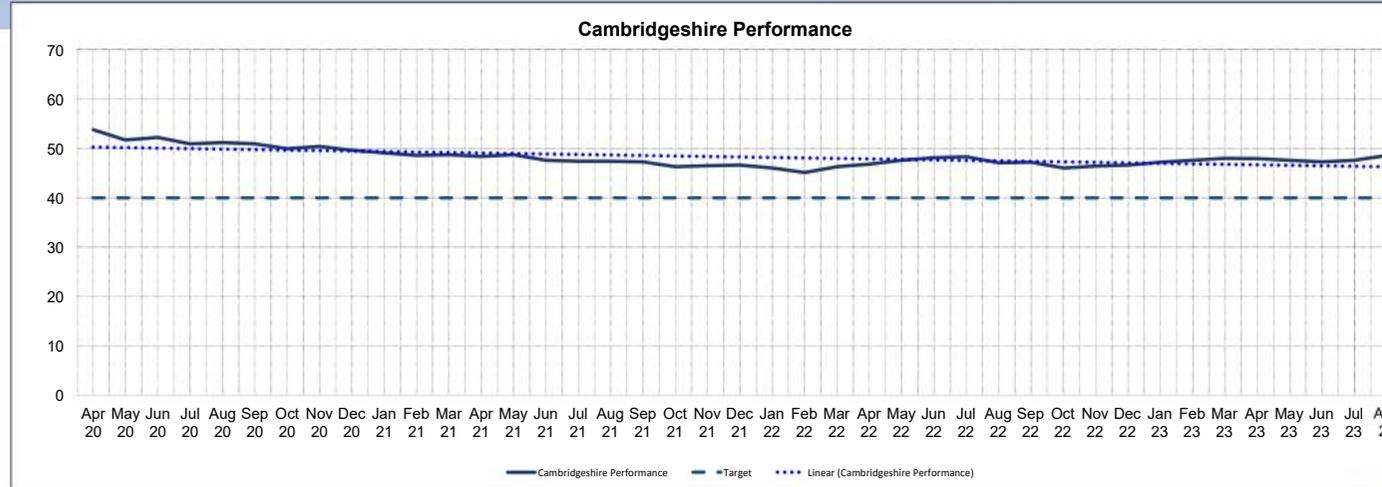
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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**

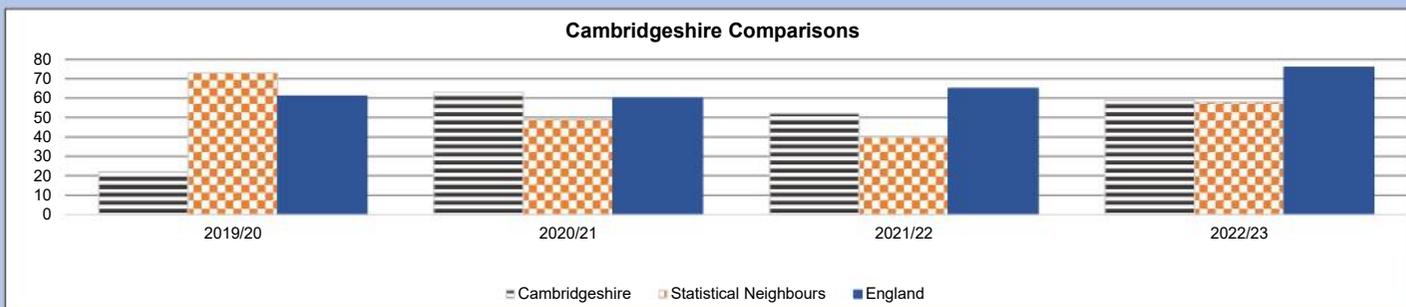
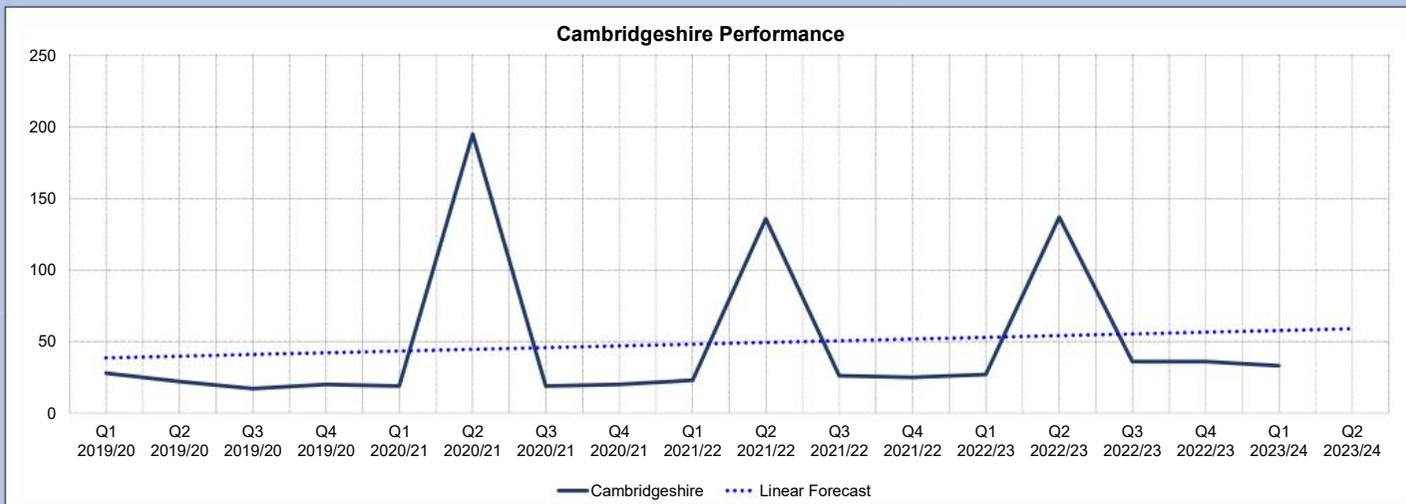
The service has set up a placements panel to track cases and ensure children do not drift in the care system. We are refreshing our sufficiency strategy and creating a board to oversee it to deliver a range of placement choice to assist children to have their needs met and move through the system. The 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
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b>	<b>England Mean</b>	<b>RAG Rating</b>		
58.0	76.0	<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.

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 \(LAI/T\)](#)
- [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)

[Return to Index](#)

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.

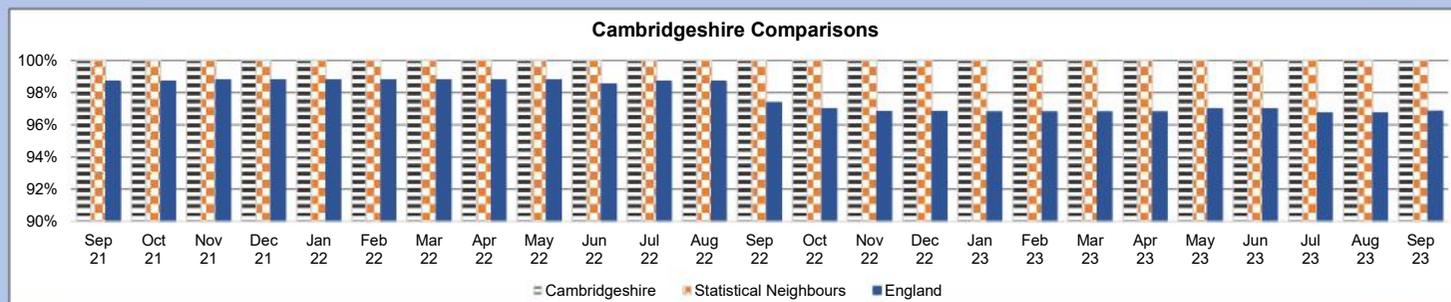
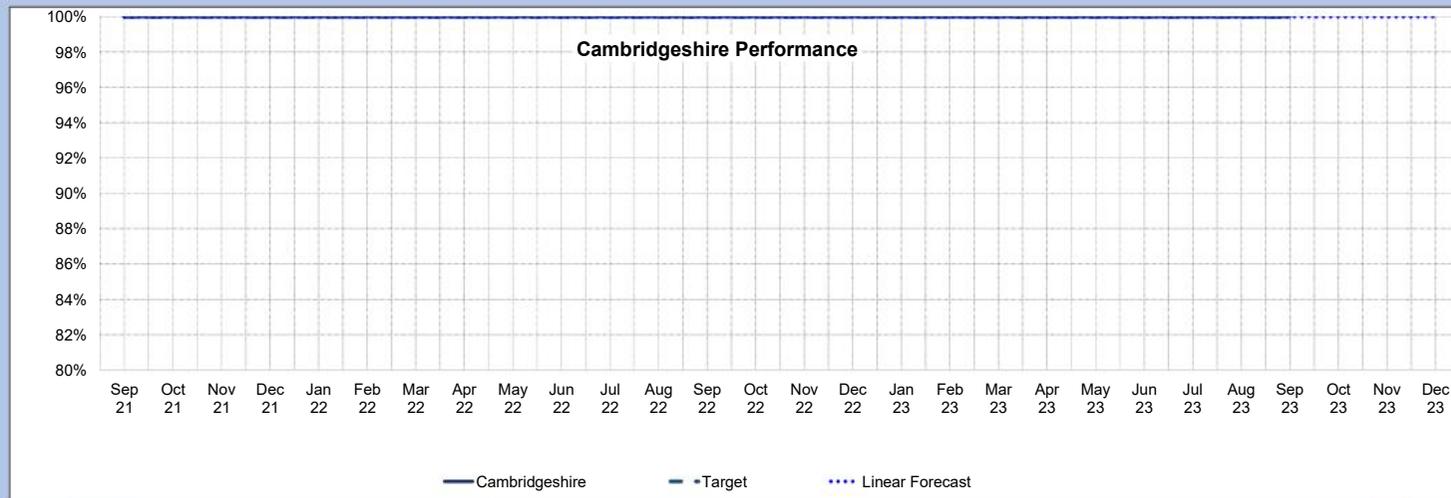
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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%		<b>Amber</b>

**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.

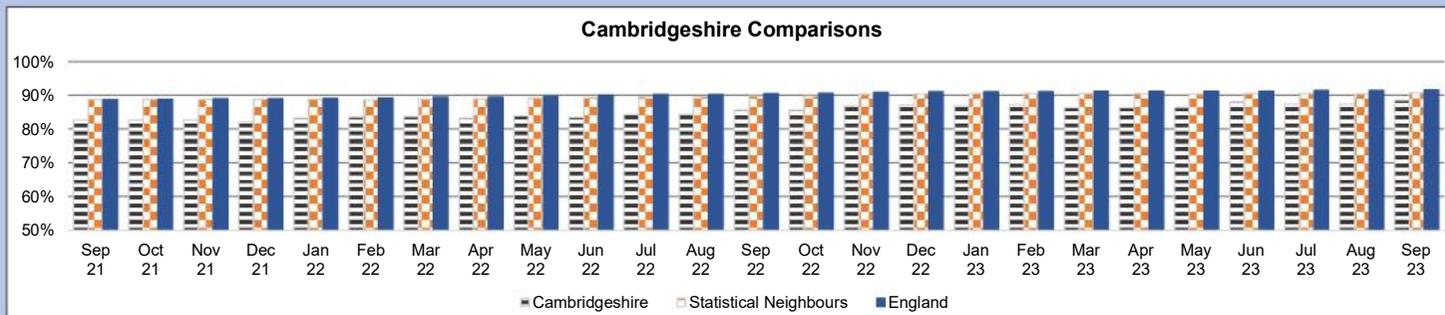
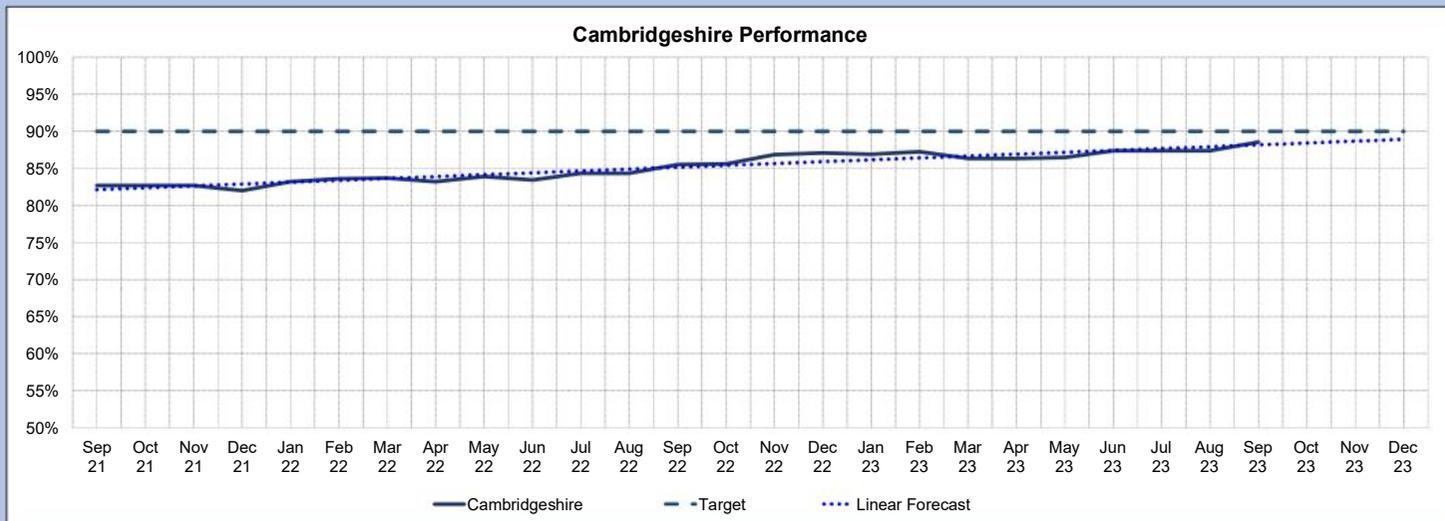
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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.

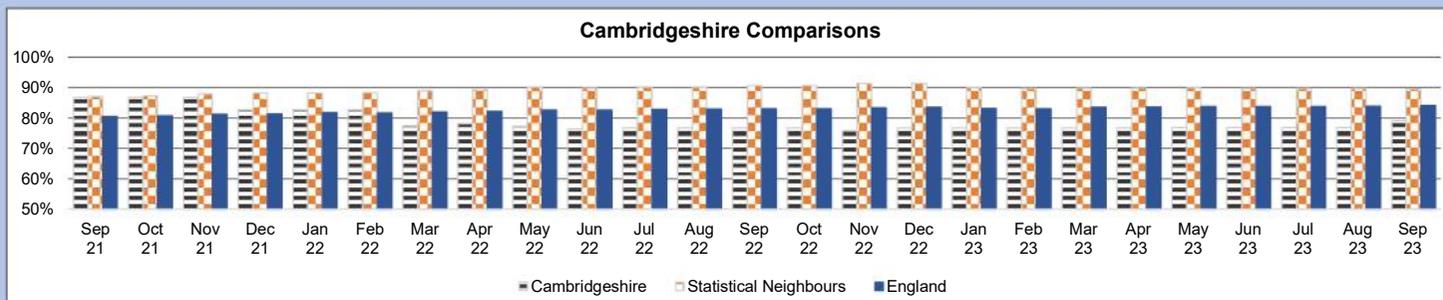
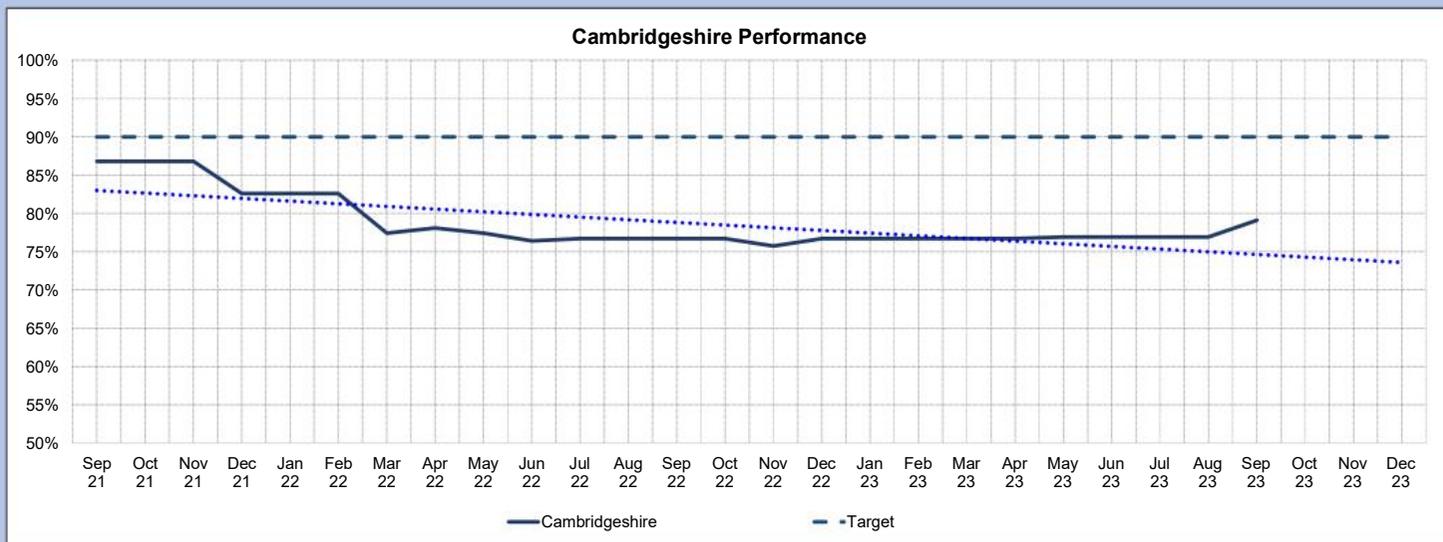
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b>		<b>England Mean</b>		<b>RAG Rating</b>
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.

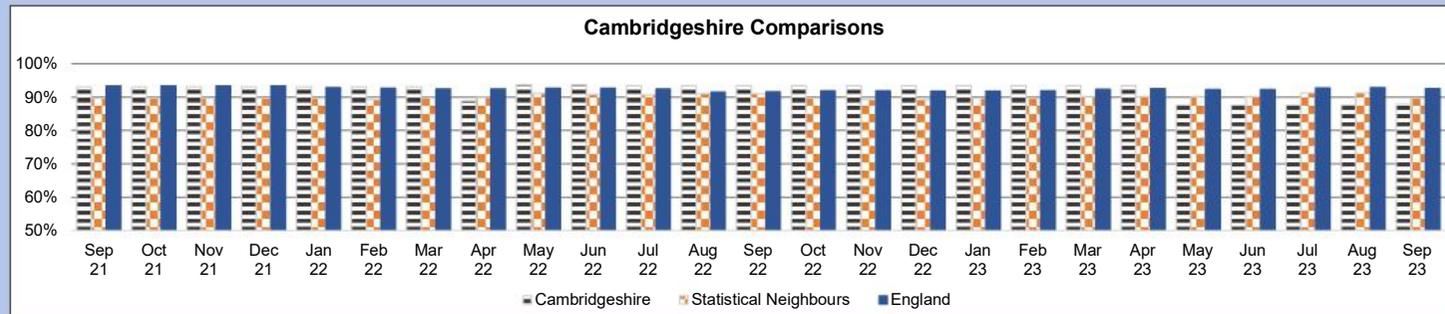
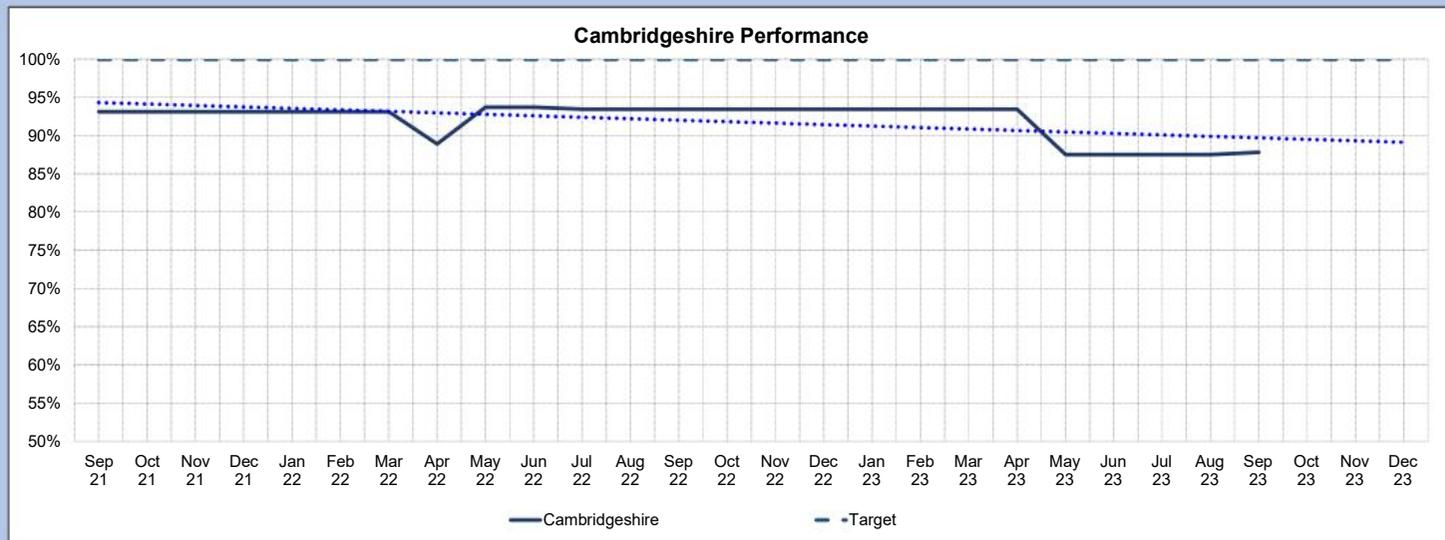
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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**

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

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

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

**Indicator Description**

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

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

Calculation:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

Where:

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

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

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

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

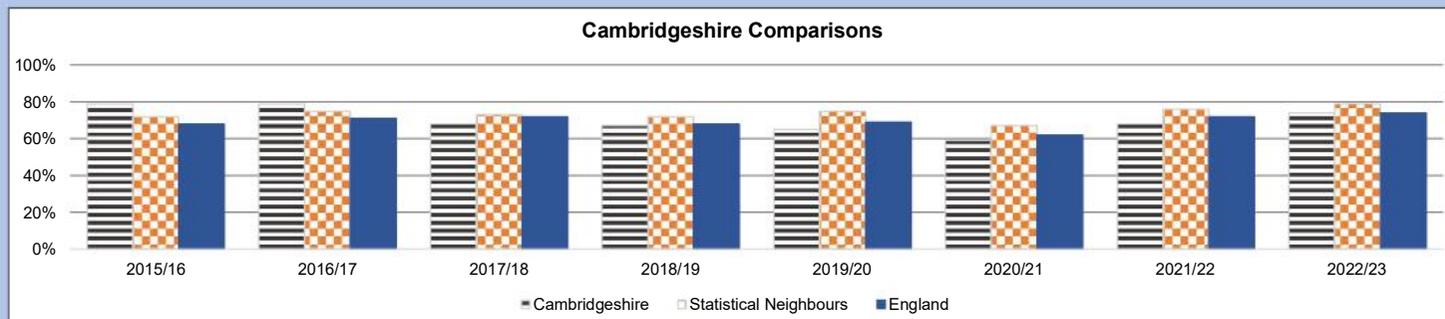
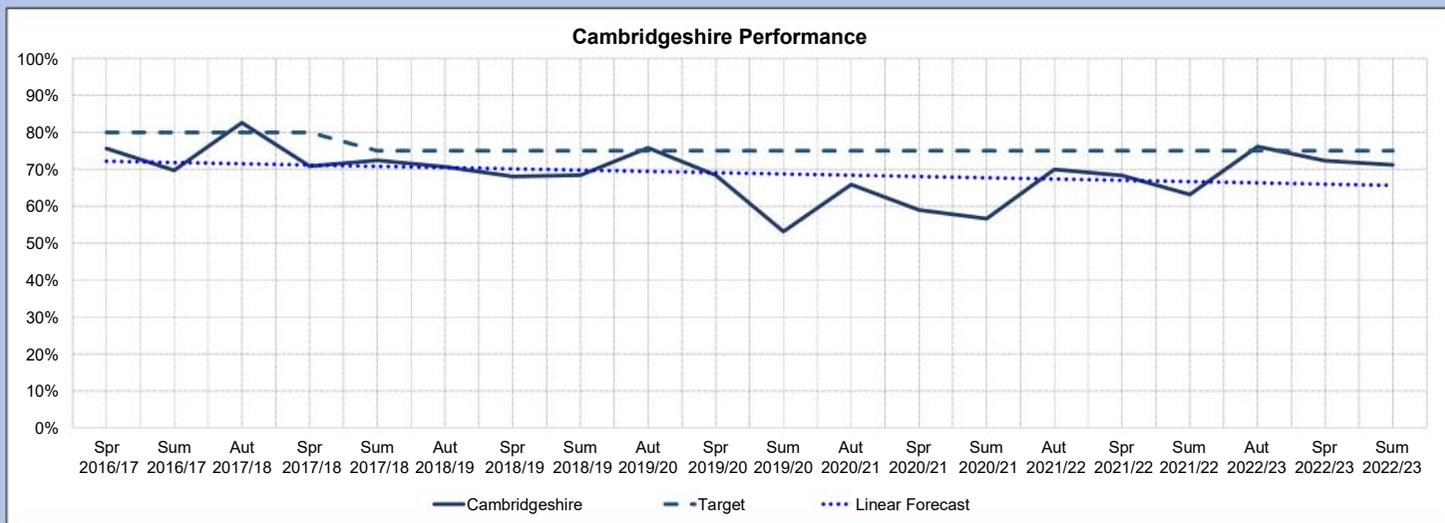
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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.

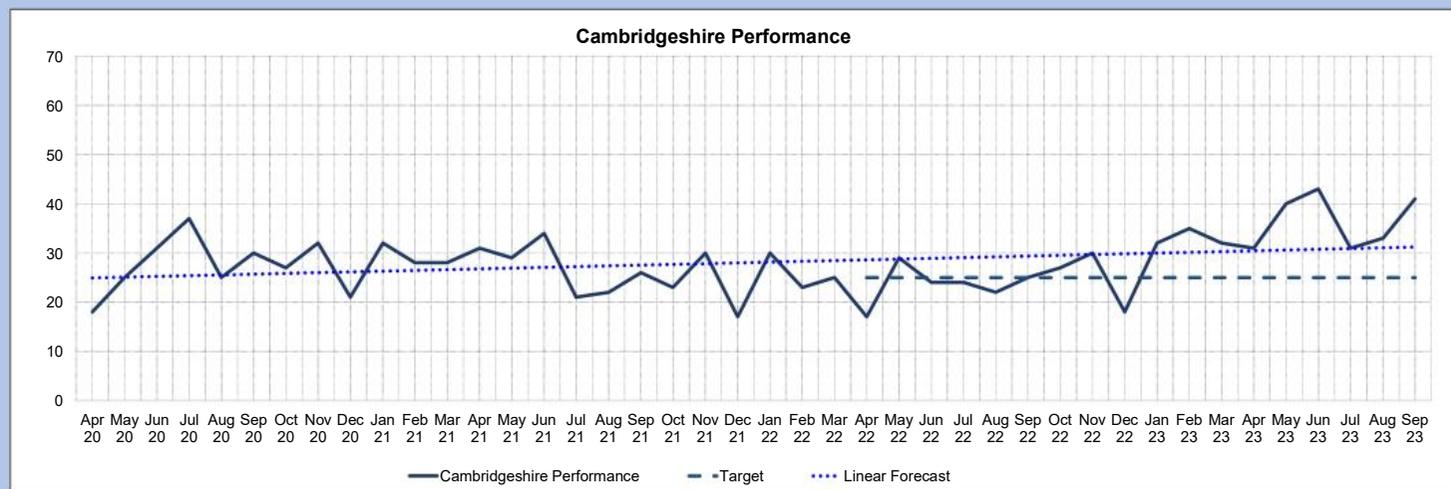
- The service has identified a number of barriers including -
- Families unsure how to use their free entitlement code when they receive it or not aware they can use the code with a childminder.
  - Settings not offering places to children under a given age e.g. 2 years 6 months or 2 years 9 months, 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				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Statistical Neighbour Mean</th> <th>England Mean</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>41.1</td> <td>44.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean	41.1	44.8	<b>RAG Rating</b> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Red</div>		
Statistical Neighbour Mean	England Mean							
41.1	44.8							



**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:

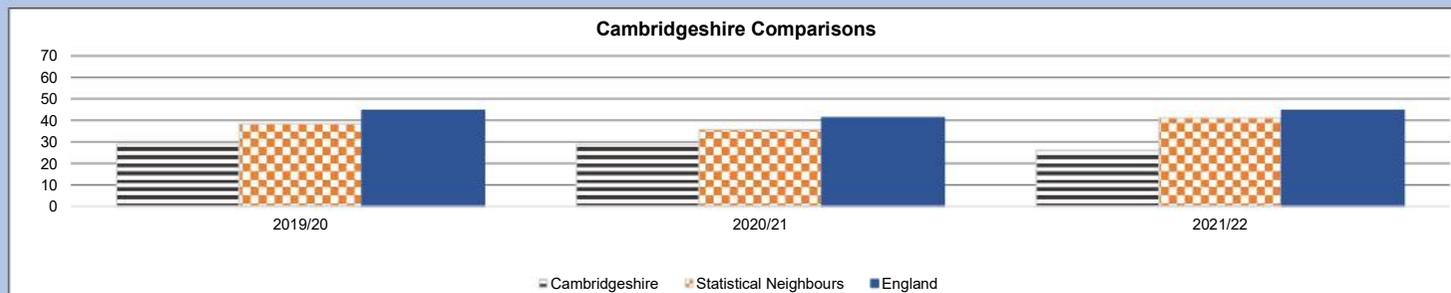
$$(X/Y) * 10,000$$

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.



**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.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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

**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
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b>	<b>England Mean</b>	<b>RAG Rating</b>		
24.6%	23.3%	<b>Red</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:

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

Where:

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

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

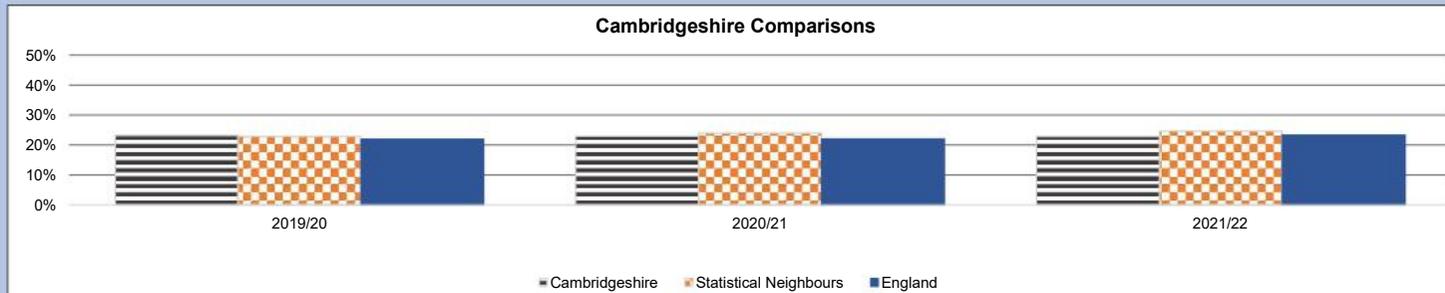
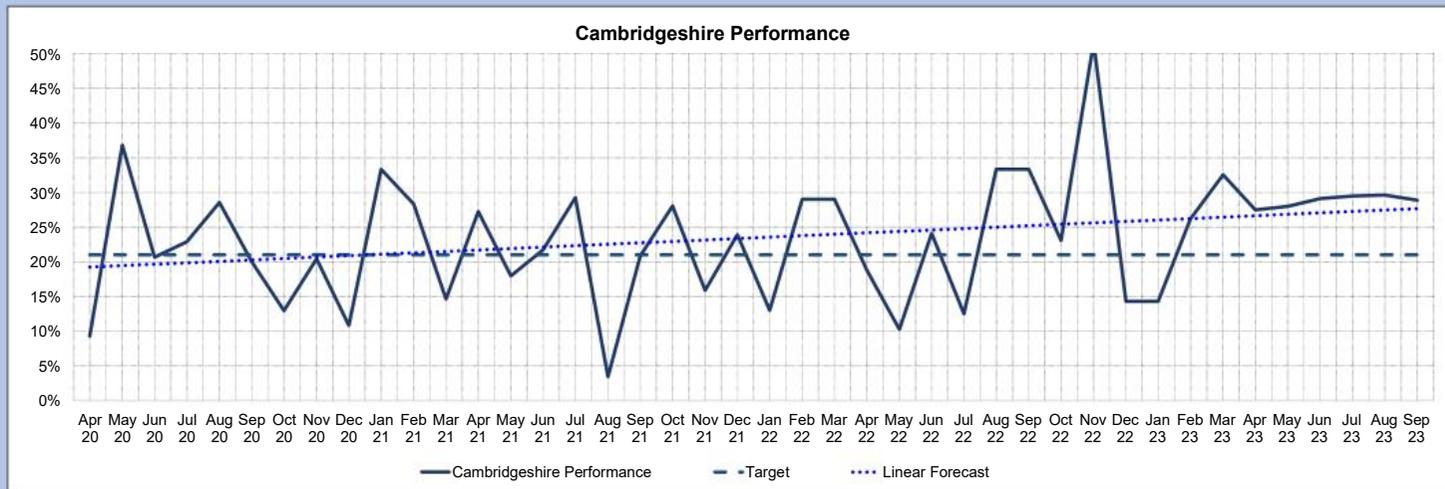
Sources: Department for Education; LG Inform; Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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



**Commentary**

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

**Actions**

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

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

[Return to Index](#)

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 <span style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">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:

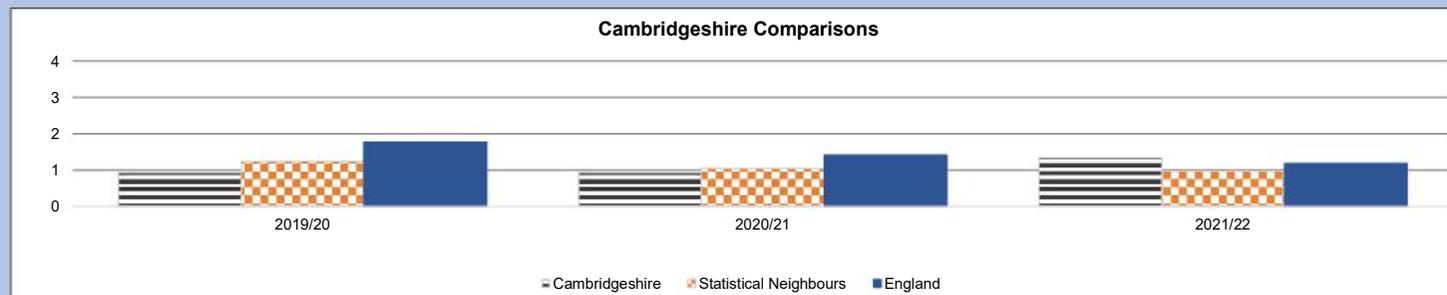
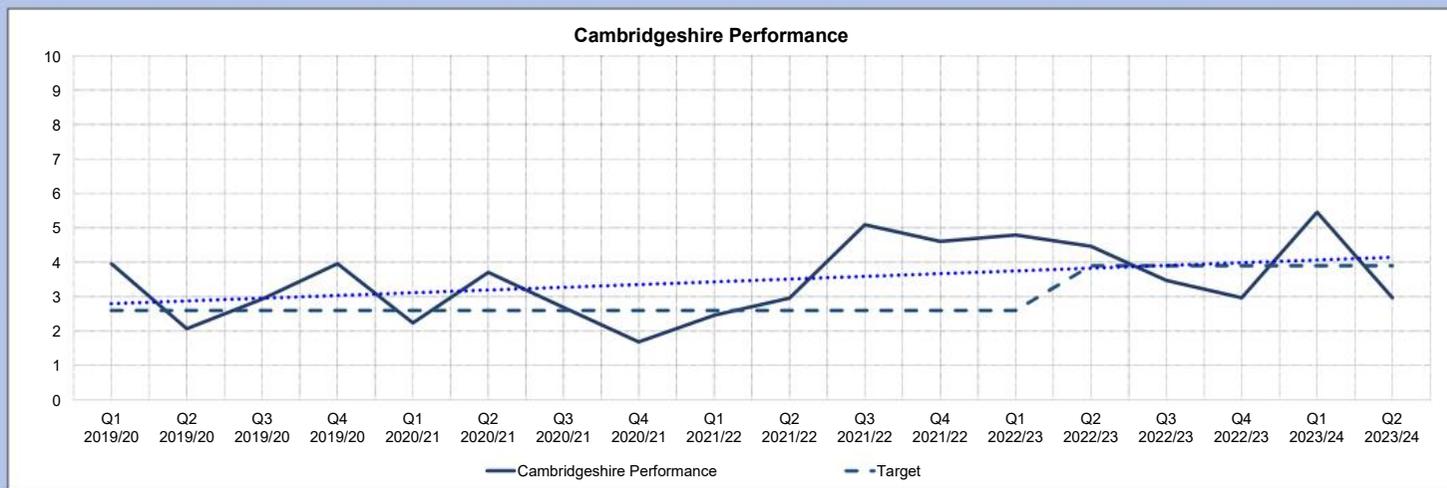
$$(X/Y) * 10,000$$

Where:

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

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

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



**Commentary**

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.

**Useful Links**

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

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

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

**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.

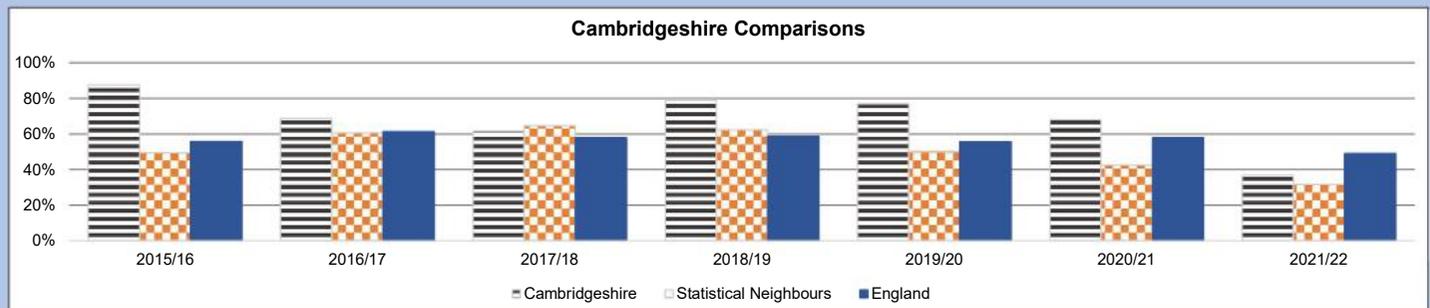
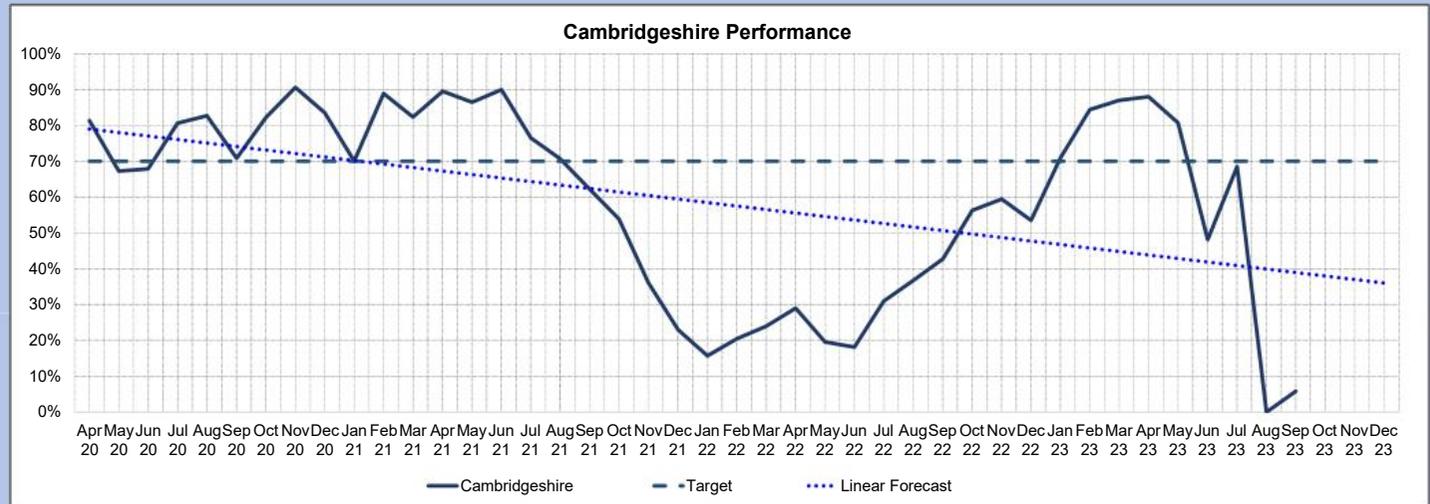
The Cambridgeshire County Council target of 70% was set in June 2018. This was when this indicator was included in corporate performance reporting. Before this, no target was set.

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

Indicator 129: Number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, or Unknown, every 10,000 of population

[Return to Index](#)

November 2023

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	<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.

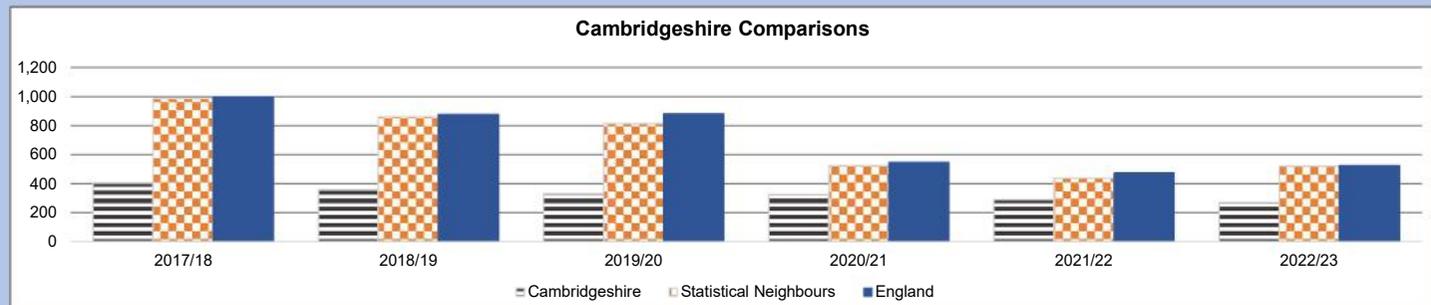
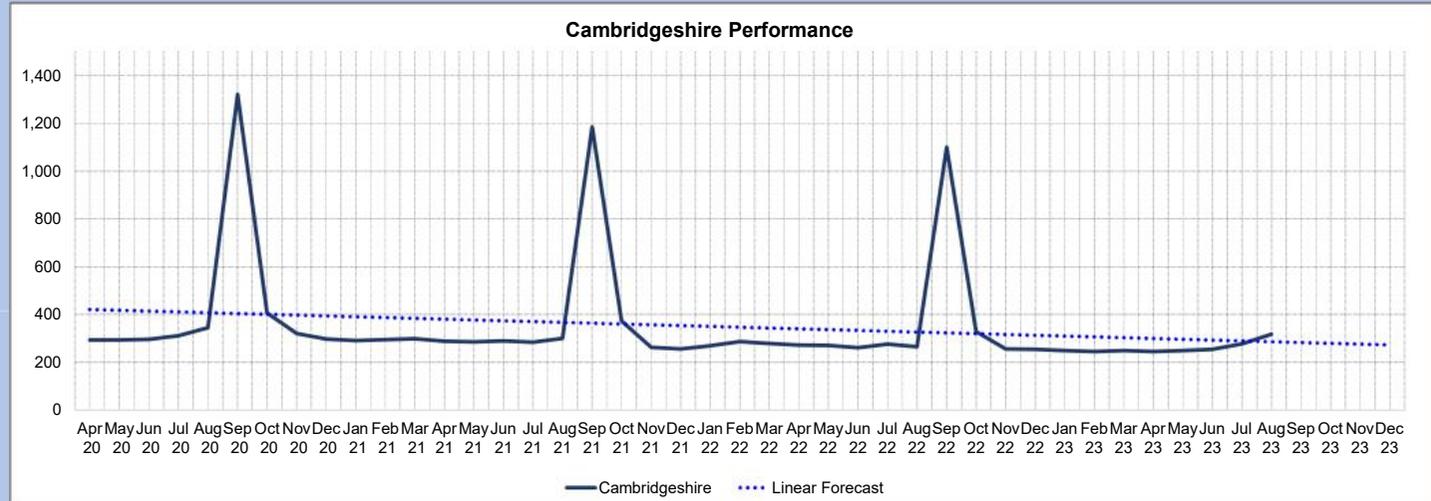
The data for September 2023 will not be available from NCCIS until November 2023; population estimates prior to 2022-23 were based on the ONS population estimate but there has been a delay in releasing these figures so for 2022-23 population estimates are based on the 2021 census.

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:

$$(X/Y)*100$$

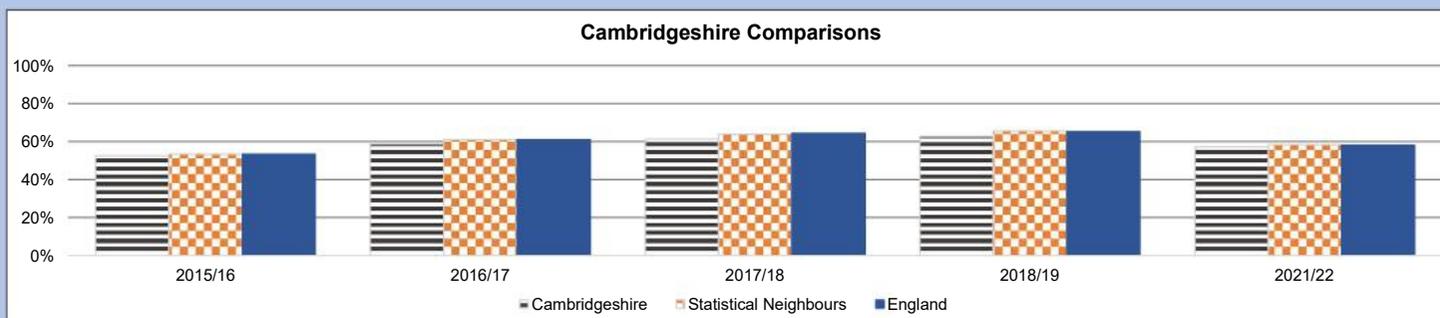
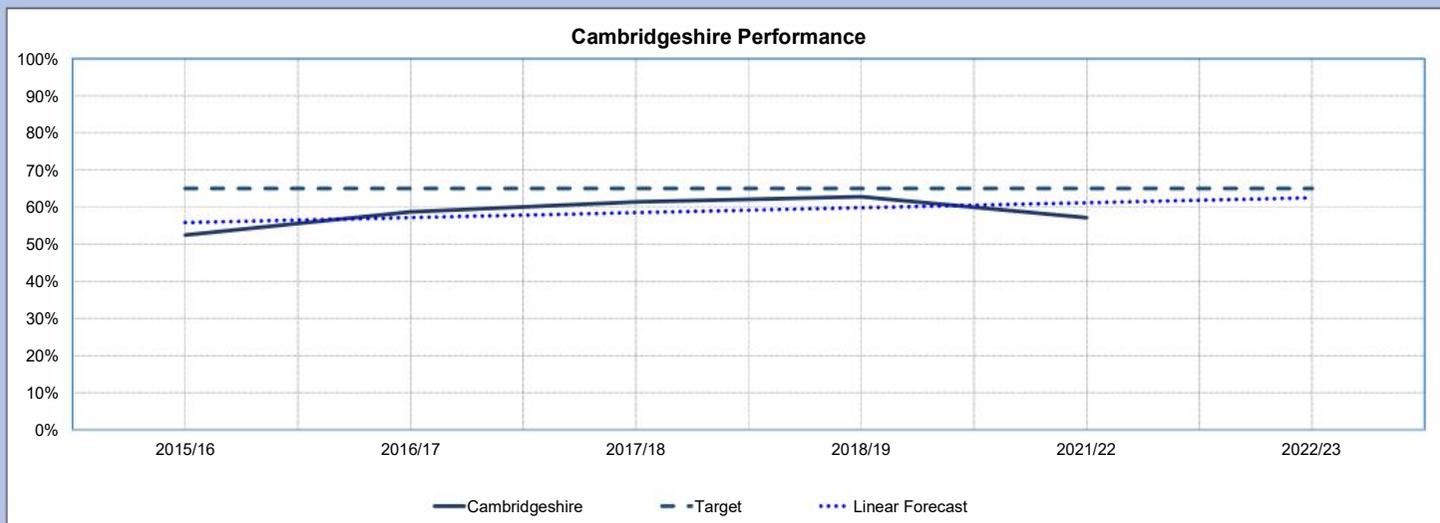
Where:

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.

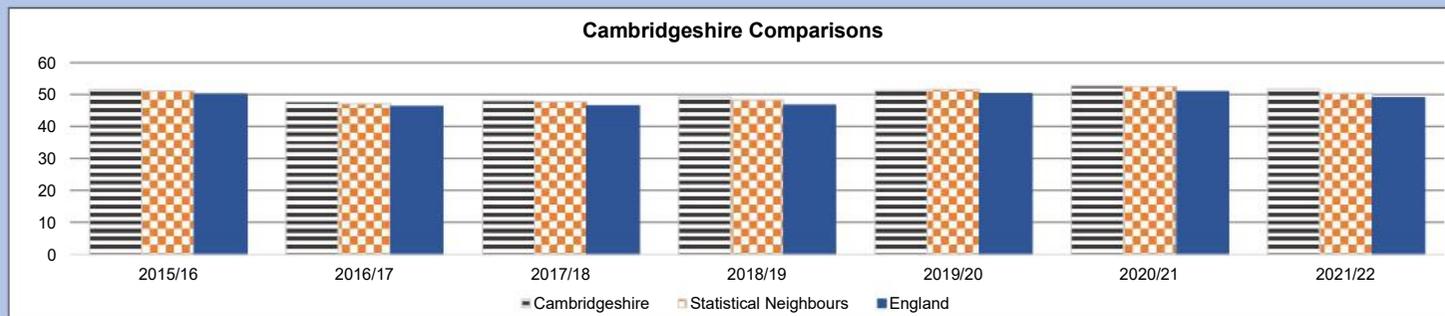
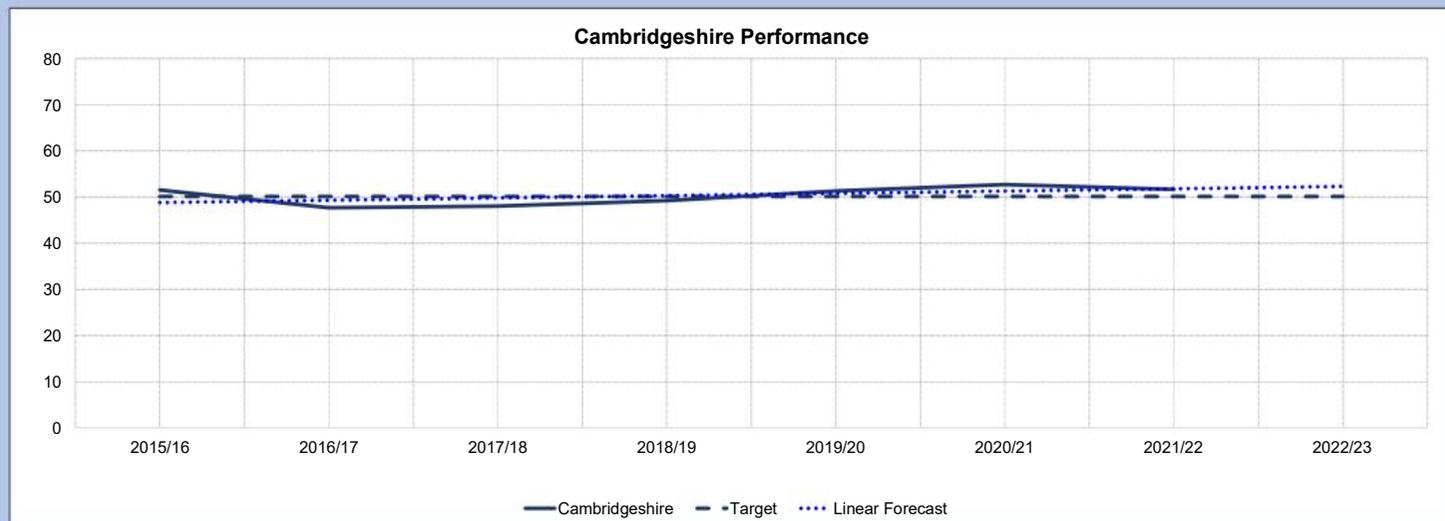
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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
<b>Statistical Neighbour Mean</b> 21.3%		<b>England Mean</b> 22.5%		<b>RAG Rating</b> <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.

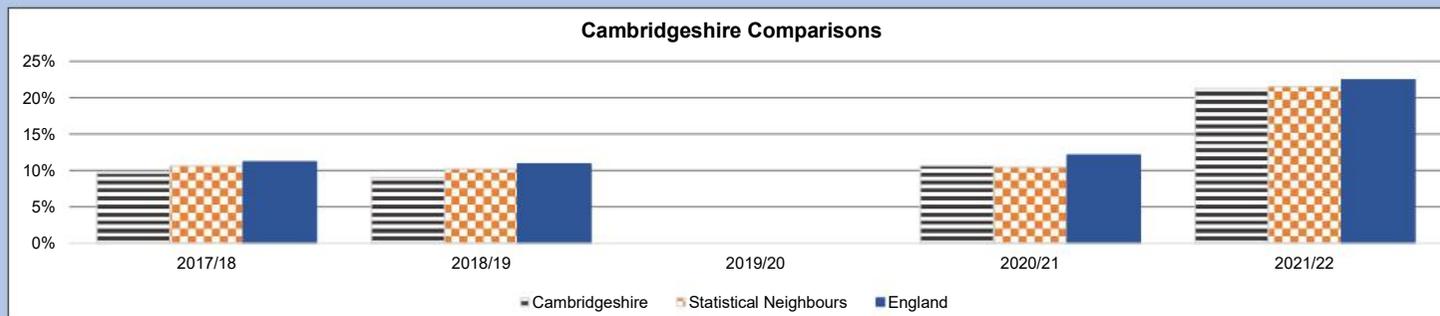
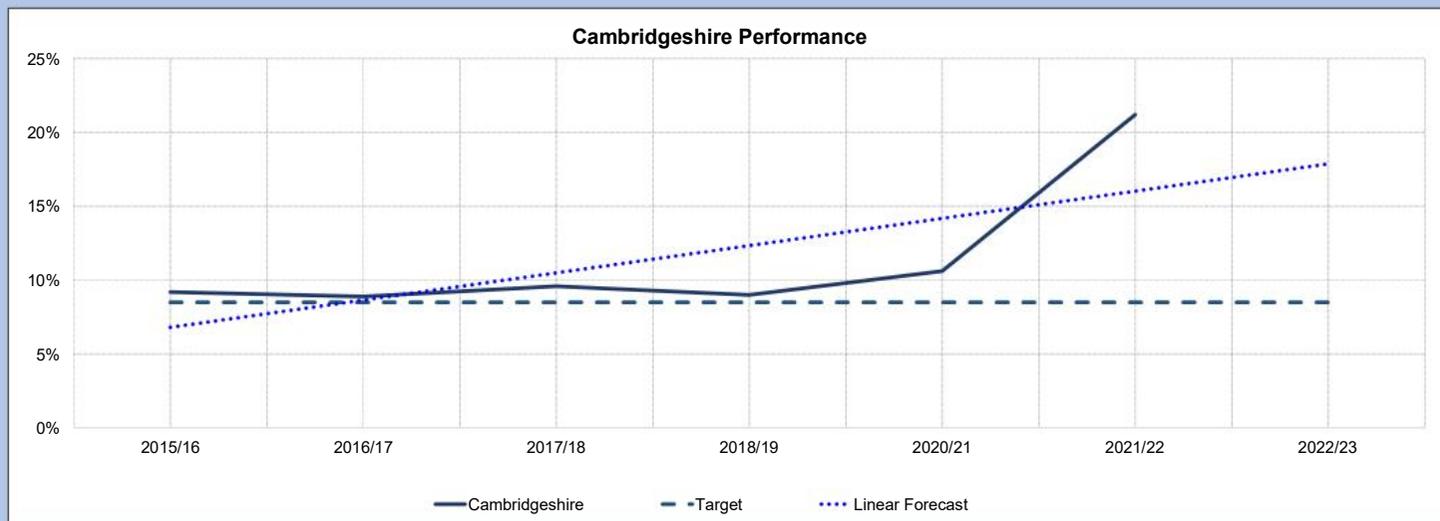
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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.

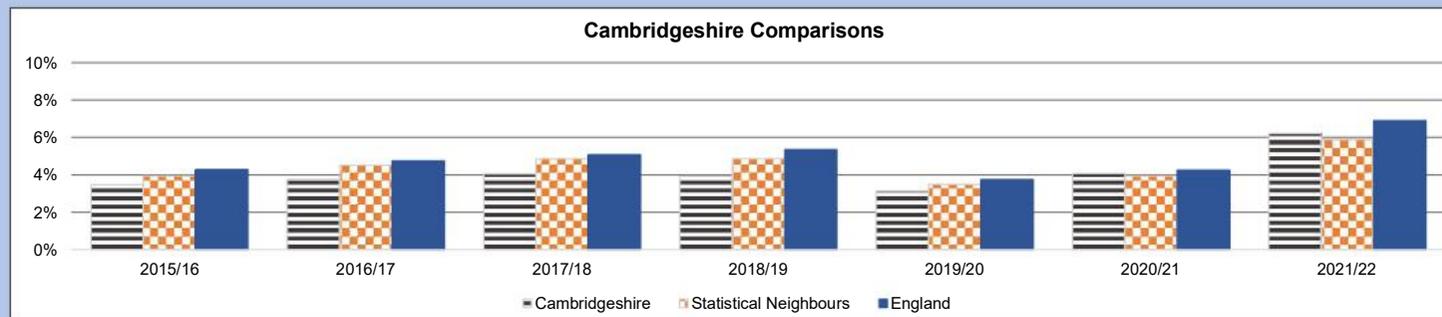
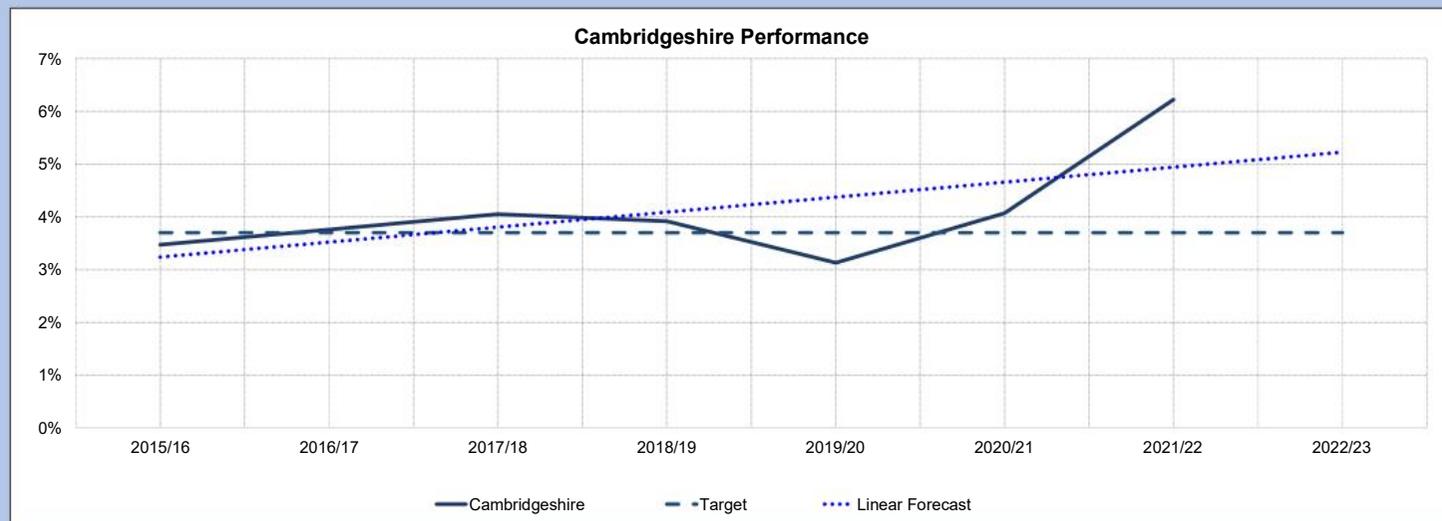
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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		England Mean		RAG Rating
92.3%		92.5%		<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.

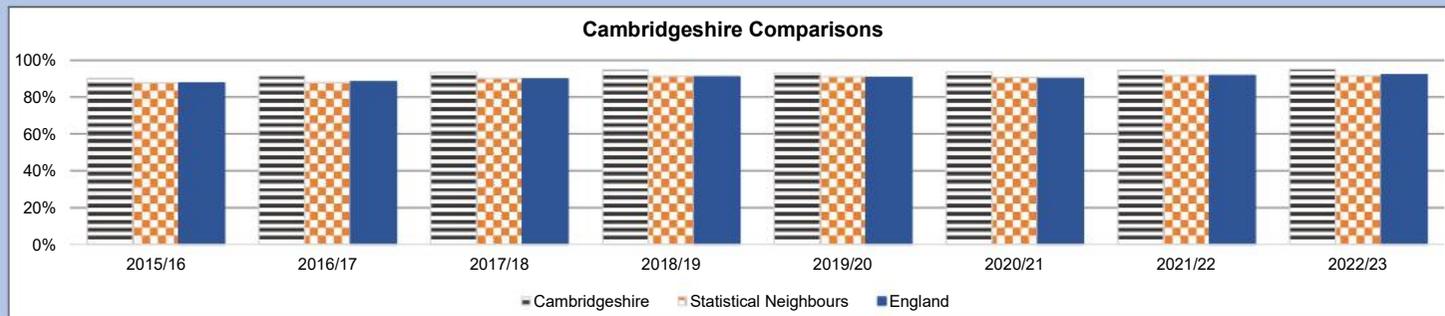
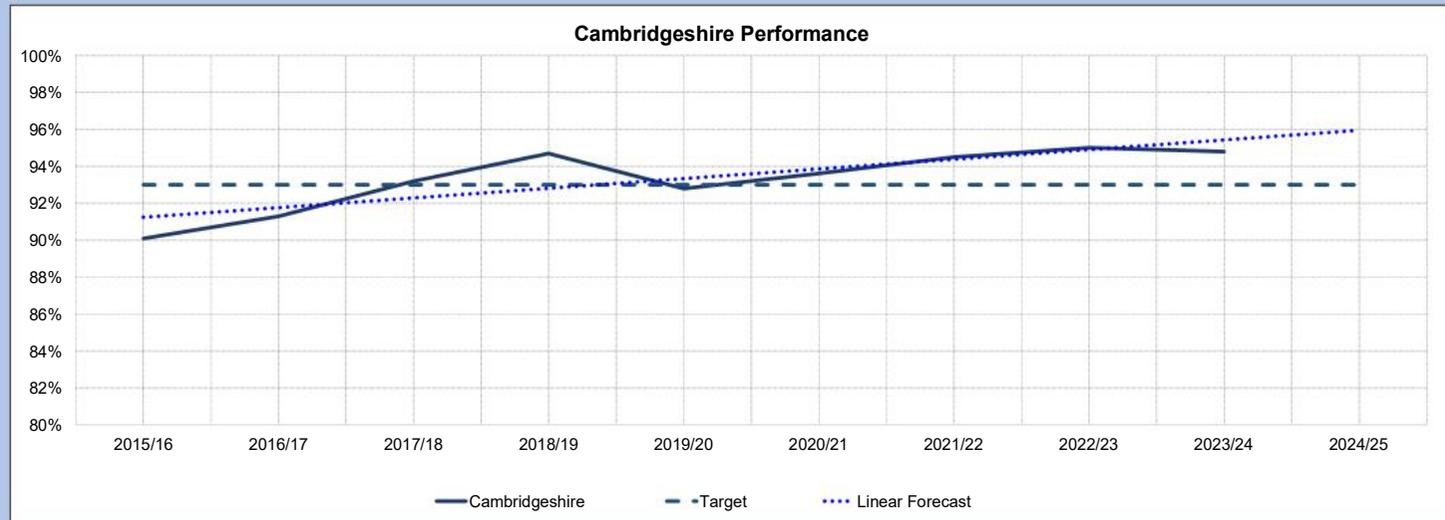
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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		England Mean		RAG Rating
85.5%		82.6%		<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:

$(X/Y) \times 100$

Where:

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

Y = The number of applications received.

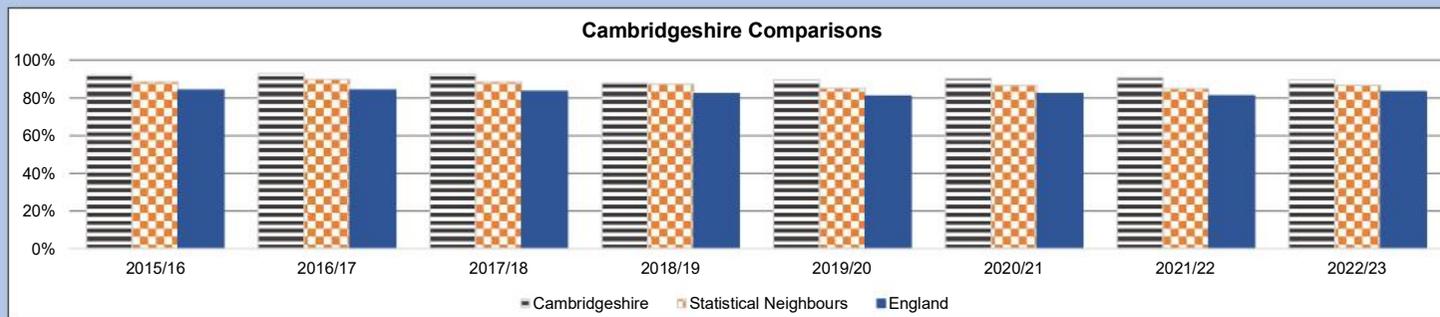
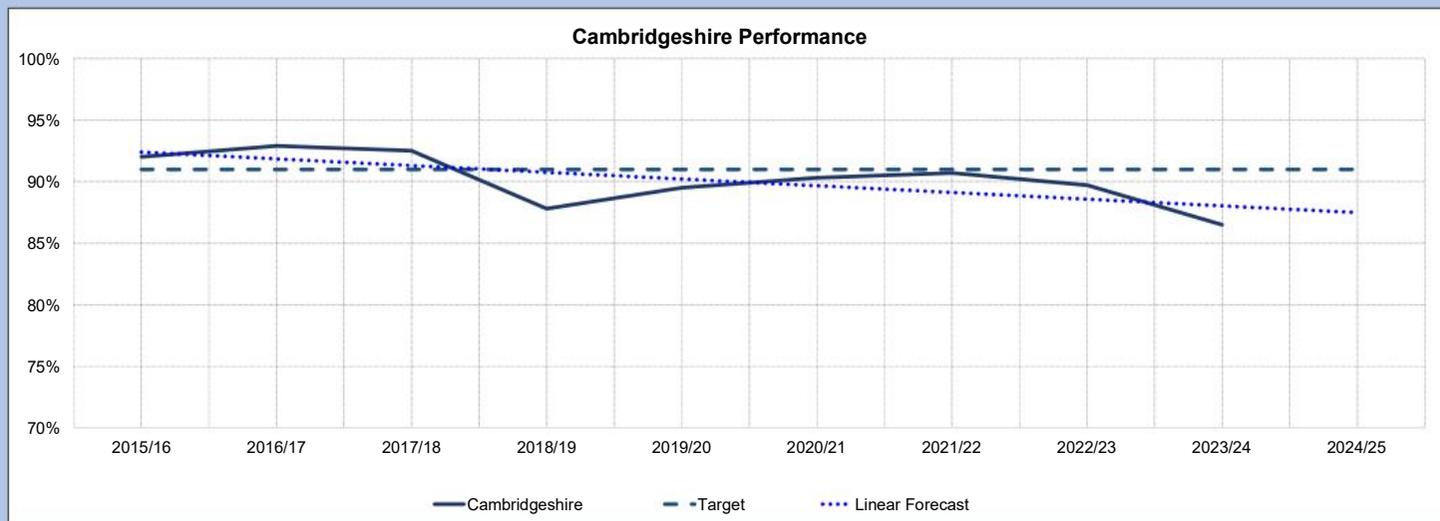
Source: Cambridgeshire County Council Policy, Insight & Programmes Team.

**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.

## Children and Young People Committee Agenda Plan

Published: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Updated: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Notes

The definition of a key decision is set out in the Council's Constitution in Part 2, Article 12.

\* indicates items expected to be recommended for determination by full Council.

+ indicates items expected to be confidential, which would exclude the press and public.

The following are standing agenda items which are considered at every Committee meeting:

- Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log
- Agenda Plan, Training Plan and Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

28/11/23	1. Finance Monitoring Report October 2023	M Wade	Not applicable	16/11/23	20/11/23
	2. Transport Transformation Progress Report	F Cox	Not applicable		
	3. Small Schools Strategy	F Cox	Not applicable		
	4. Quarterly Performance Report (Q1/2)	R Springbett	Not applicable		
	5. Regional Director – Department for Education	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	6. Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23	C Isaacs	Not applicable		
	7. Regular Review of Methodology for Estimating Demand For Education Provision Arising From New Housing Developments	F Cox/ Alan Fitz	Not applicable		

16/01/24	1. Schools and Early Years Revenue Funding Arrangements 2024/25	J Lewis	KD2024/003	04/01/24	08/01/24
	2. Children's Independent Advocacy Services for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	H Andrews	KD2024/013		
	3. Young Carers Service Tender	H Andrews	Not applicable		
	4. Determined Admissions Arrangements for the 2024/2025 academic year	F Cox	Not applicable		
	5. Educational Outcomes	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	6. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable		
	7. Business Planning - Scrutiny and overview of Children and Young People Committee Proposals	M Purbrick/ C Townsend	Not applicable		
12/03/24	1. Finance Monitoring Report	M Wade	Not applicable	29/02/24	04/03/24
	2. Recommissioning of the Healthy Child Programme	H Gregg	KD2024/011		
	3. Working Together – School Attendance	K Beaton	Not applicable		
	4. Quarterly Performance Report (Q3)	R Springbett	Not applicable		
	5. School Uniform Costs	J Lewis	Not applicable		
	6. Risk Register	D Revens	Not applicable		
[16/04/24] Reserve date				[04/04/24]	[08/04/24]

Please contact Democratic Services [democraticservices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) if you require this information in a more accessible format



### Children and Young People (CYP) Committee Training Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information contact [Emma Nederpel](#)



## Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People Committee

### Appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

1. The Committee is invited to note the following changes to memberships since the last meeting:
  - i. Cllr P Slatter has replaced M Atkins as a member of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. Cllr Atkins has been appointed a substitute member of the Sub-Committee.
  - ii. Cllr M Atkins has replaced Cllr B Goodliffe as a non-voting observer on Cambridgeshire Schools Forum. This change was made by the Executive Director for Children, Education and Families under delegated authority on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023, in consultation with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair.
2. The Committee is invited to appoint a new Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee in place of Cllr Atkins, from within the Sub-Committee's available membership:
  - Cllr A Bulat
  - Cllr A Hay
  - Cllr M McGuire
  - Cllr P Slatter
3. The Constitution and Ethics Committee requested on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 that all Spokes review the advisory groups and panels relating to their areas and recommend to the relevant policy and service committee whether they should continue. CYP Spokes reviewed the Committee's appointments on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, and recommends that the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) should be discontinued. Spokes also asked whether the Cambridgeshire Culture Steering Group should remain within its remit, or if would fit better with the work of the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee (COSMIC). This is being explored.

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
<p><b>Cambridgeshire Culture Steering Group</b></p> <p>The role of the group is to give direction to the implementation of Cambridgeshire Culture, agree the use of the Cambridgeshire Culture Fund, ensure the maintenance and development of the County Art Collection and oversee the loan scheme to schools and the work of the three Cambridgeshire Culture Area Groups. Appointments are cross party.</p>	4	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr M Atkins (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr A Bulat (Lab)</li> <li>3. Cllr C Daunton (LD)</li> </ol>	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Matthew Gunn Head of Service, Cambridgeshire Music</p> <p>01480 373830 <a href="mailto:matthew.gunn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">matthew.gunn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB)</b></p> <p>The Cambridgeshire SEND Executive Board (CSEB) supports collective accountability for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities to achieve outstanding outcomes within Cambridgeshire.</p>	3	<p>1*</p> <p>*Chair of the Children and Young People Committee</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab)</li> </ol>	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee</b></p> <p>The Sub-Committee has delegated authority to exercise all the Council's functions relating to the delivery by, or on behalf of, the County Council of Corporate Parenting functions, with the exception of policy decisions which will remain with the Children and Young People Committee.</p>	6	n/a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr A Bradnam (LD) – Chair</li> <li>2. Cllr A Bulat (Lab)</li> <li>3. Cllr A Hay (Con)</li> <li>4. Cllr M MacGuire (Con)</li> <li>5. Cllr P Slatter (LD)</li> </ol> <p>*The Chair and Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee are selected and appointed by the Children and Young People (CYP)</p>	<p>Richenda Greenhill Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>01223 699171 <a href="mailto:Richenda.greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Richenda.greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
			Committee from within the Sub-Committee's membership.	
<p><b>Educational Achievement Board</b></p> <p>For Members and senior officers to hold the Children, Education and Families directorate to account to ensure the best educational outcomes for all children in Cambridgeshire.</p>	3	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr M Atkins</li> <li>2. Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab)</li> <li>3. Cllr S Taylor (Ind)</li> <li>4. Cllr S Hoy (Con)</li> </ol>	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers)</b></p> <p>The Joint Committee provides an opportunity for trade unions to discuss matters of mutual interest in relation to educational policy for Cambridgeshire with elected members.</p>	2	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vacancy</li> <li>2. Vacancy</li> <li>3. Vacancy</li> <li>4. Vacancy</li> <li>5. Vacancy</li> <li>6. Vacancy</li> </ol> <p><i>(appointments postponed pending submission of proposals on future arrangements)</i></p>	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</b></p> <p>To advise on matters relating to collective worship in community schools and on religious education.</p> <p>In addition to the three formal meetings per year there is some project work which requires members to form smaller sub-committees.</p> <p>The SACRE Constitution calls for the appointment of four elected</p>	3 per year (usually one per term) 1.30-3.30pm	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillor A Bulat (Lab)</li> <li>2. Councillor S King (Con)</li> <li>3. Councillor P Slatter (LD)</li> <li>4. 1 vacancy (Con)*</li> </ol>	<p>Amanda Fitton SACRE Adviser</p> <p><a href="mailto:Amanda.Fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Amanda.Fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representatives	Contact details
<p>members based on political proportionality.</p> <p>SACRE meetings require the presence of an elected Member in order to be quorate.</p>				
<p><b>Virtual School Management Board</b></p> <p>The Virtual School Management Board will act as “governing body” to the Head of Virtual School, which will allow the Member representative to link directly to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board.</p>	<p>Termly</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1. Councillor B Goodliffe (Lab)</p>	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994 <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Edwina Erskine Business Support Officer – Administration Services Team Cambridgeshire’s Virtual School for Looked After Children (ESLAC Team)</p> <p>01223 699883 <a href="mailto:edwina.erskine@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">edwina.erskine@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>

# Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People's Committee

## Appointments to outside bodies, partnership liaison and advisory groups

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

Name of body	Meetings per year	Reps appointed	Representative(s)	Guidance classification	Contact details
<p><b>Cambridgeshire Schools Forum</b></p> <p>The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum exists to facilitate the involvement of schools and settings in the distribution of relevant funding within the local authority area</p>	6	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr M Atkins (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr C Daunton (LD)</li> <li>3. Councillor S Taylor (Ind)</li> </ol>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Tamar Oviatt-Ham Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>01223 699715668</p> <p><a href="mailto:Tamar.Oviatt-Ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Tamar.Oviatt-Ham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>East of England Local Government Association Children's Services and Education Portfolio-Holder Network</b></p> <p>The network brings together the lead members for children's service and education from the 11 strategic authorities in the East of England. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give councils in the East of England a collective voice in response to consultations and lobbying activity</li> <li>• provide a forum for discussion on matters of common concern and share best practice</li> <li>• provide the means by which the East of England contributes to the work of the national LGA and makes best use of its members' outside appointments.</li> </ul>	4	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr B Goodliffe (Lab)</li> <li>2. Vacancy</li> </ol>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Cinar Altun</p> <p><a href="mailto:Cinar.altun@eelga.gov.uk">Cinar.altun@eelga.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>F40 Group</b></p> <p>F40 (<a href="http://www.f40.org.uk">http://www.f40.org.uk</a>) represents a group of the poorest funded education authorities in England where government-set cash</p>	As required	1 +substitute	<p>Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Lab)</p> <p>Substitute: Vacancy</p>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Jonathan Lewis Service Director: Education</p> <p>01223 727994</p> <p><a href="mailto:Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a></p>

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allocations for primary and secondary pupils are the lowest in the country.					
<p><b>Safeguarding Children Partnership Board</b></p> <p>Safeguarding Partnership Boards have been established by Government to ensure that organisations work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. In Cambridgeshire this includes Social Care Services, Education, Health, the Police, Probation, Sports and Leisure Services, the Voluntary Sector, Youth Offending Team and Early Years Services.</p>	4	1	<p>Councillor Bryony Goodliffe (Lab)</p> <p>It is a requirement that the Lead Member for Children's Services sits on the Board.</p>	Other Public Body Representative	<p>Joanne Procter Head of Service Children and Adults Safeguarding Board</p> <p><a href="mailto:Joanne.Procter@peterborough.gov.uk">Joanne.Procter@peterborough.gov.uk</a> 01733 863765</p>
<p><b>March Educational Foundation</b></p> <p>Provides assistance with the education of people under the age of 25 who are resident in March.</p>	3 – 4	1 For a period of five years	Councillor John Gowing (Con)	Trustee of a Charity	
<p><b>Needham's Foundation, Ely</b></p> <p>Needham's Foundation is a Charitable Trust, the purpose of which is to provide financial assistance for the provision of items, services and facilities for the community or voluntary aided schools in the area of Ely and to promote the education of persons under the age of 25 who are in need of financial assistance and who are resident in the area of Ely and/or are attending or have at any time</p>	2	2	<p>1 Cllr Whelan (LD) 2 Cllr Coutts (LD)</p>	Trustee of a Charity	

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attended a community or voluntary aided school in Ely.					
<b>Shepreth School Trust</b> Provides financial assistance towards educational projects within the village community, both to individuals and organisations.	4	1	1. Councillor P McDonald (LD)	Trustee of a Charity	
<b>Trigg's Charity (Melbourn)</b> Trigg's Charity provides financial assistance to local schools / persons for their educational benefit.	2	1	Councillor S van de Ven (LD)	Unincorporated Association Member	

For noting only:

<b>Fostering Panel</b> Recommends approval and review of foster carers and long term / permanent matches between specific children, looked after children and foster carers. It is no longer a statutory requirement to have an elected member on the Panel, but all county councillors are encouraged to consider whether this is something for which they might wish to be considered. More information is available from <a href="mailto:Michaela.Berry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Michaela.Berry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>  Appointees are required to complete the Panel's own application process.	2 all-day panel meetings a month	1	Appointees:  1. Councillor S King (Con) 2. Councillor A Hay (Con)	Brian Relph  Interim Service Director for Fostering, Regional Adoption and Specialist Young People's Services.  <a href="mailto:Brian.Relph@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Brian.Relph@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
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